

Bocci Team Tests Positive for Viagra, Is Penalized by NCAA

■ Gauchos Must Forfeit League Win Over Friendship Manor

By MAXXX THRUST
Salad Tossers

Talk about getting stiffed.

In a long and hard season that has been marked by ins, outs, ups and downs, the UCSB bocci team was forced to swallow a bitter verdict from the NCAA after several Gaucho players tested positive for the wonder drug Viagra.

Santa Barbara (7-2, 0-2 "Big" West) must forfeit its conference win over the Blue Hairs of Friendship Manor, and the offending Gauchos must sit out the next six conference games as a result of the positive tests. The decision, the first of its kind in Division I athletics, did not sit well with several of the more hard-headed Gauchos, who felt they were violated by the ruling.

"I'm so worked up, I feel like my head is about to explode," UCSB Head Coach Richard Power said. "The NCAA was so hard on us, and for nothing. I think our record stands on its own, despite these infractions. And for them to stiff us like that, to bust our rears like that, is just ridiculous. I mean, come on. Give us a bone."

The suspensions of UCSB seniors Isaac Cox, Phillip McCrack and T.T. Boy penetrate the core of the Gaucho lineup, leaving the team without the strength it needs to come together and make a solid run at the playoffs. Instead, the pounding Santa Barbara has taken from the powers that be has left the Gauchos limp in the midst of their longest and hardest stretch

of the season.

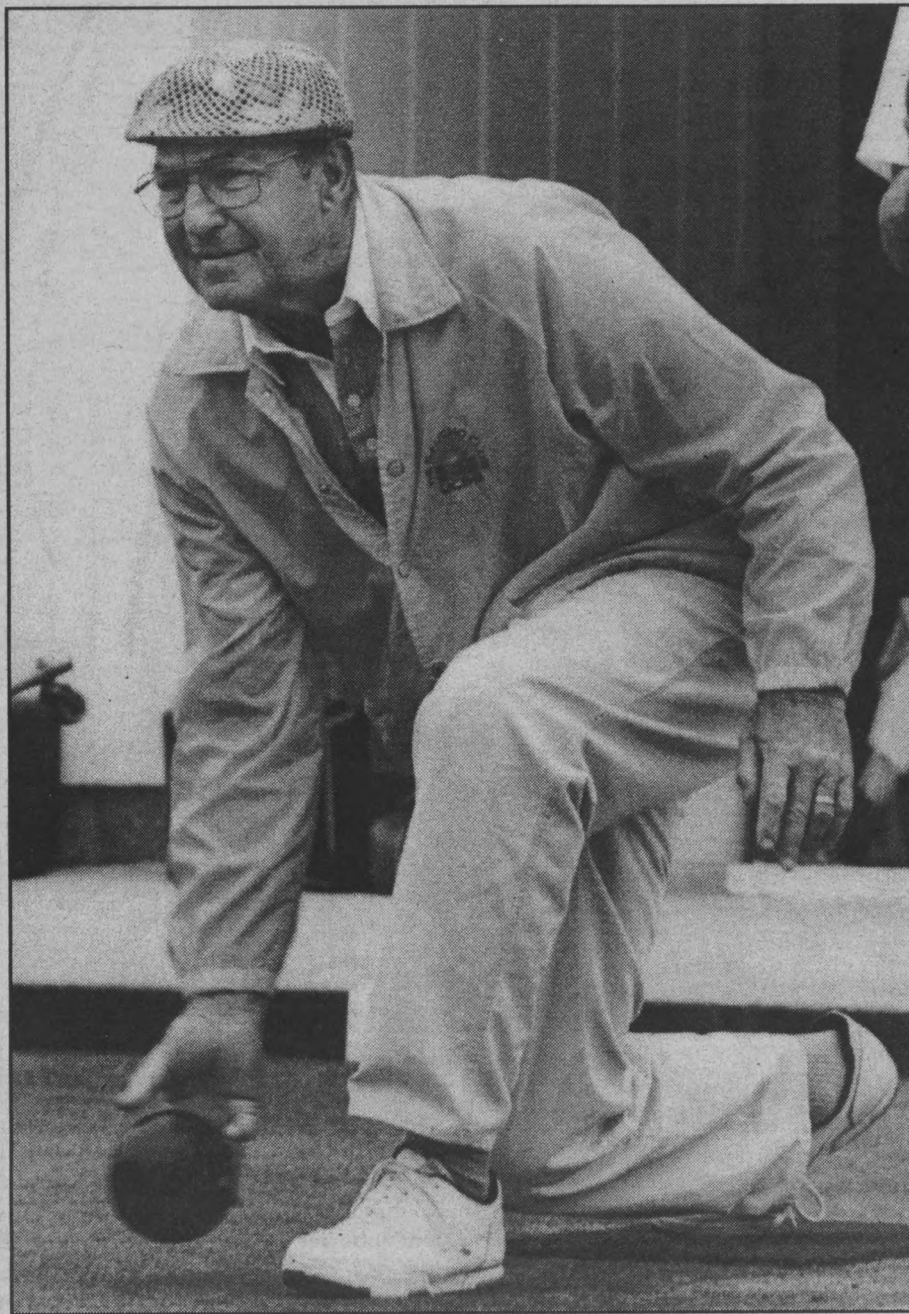
With only six games to go in the regular season, UCSB must stand tall for their final stretch of games, but it won't be easy. The Gauchos this weekend have road contests against perennial bocci powerhouses Miami and Florida. A sweep of the two games is mandatory if the Gauchos hope to have any real chance of getting to the NCAA playoffs. Despite this hard assignment, the Gauchos remain positive in their outlook.

"We can slide right in (to the playoffs)," junior Rosie Kweif said. "We can mount offensives that are unrelenting, and just pound and pound our opponents. It can be very painful for them, and sometimes we take them out for drinks afterwards because we feel guilty."

Even before the Viagra verdict, it has been a long time since UCSB has gone all the way in the NAAs. The Gauchos have wilted under pressure for the last five seasons, failing to rise to the occasion when the spotlight was on them. However, Santa Barbara consoles itself by realizing that these things happen to all teams, and anyone who competes on a regular basis is going to occasionally experience failure.

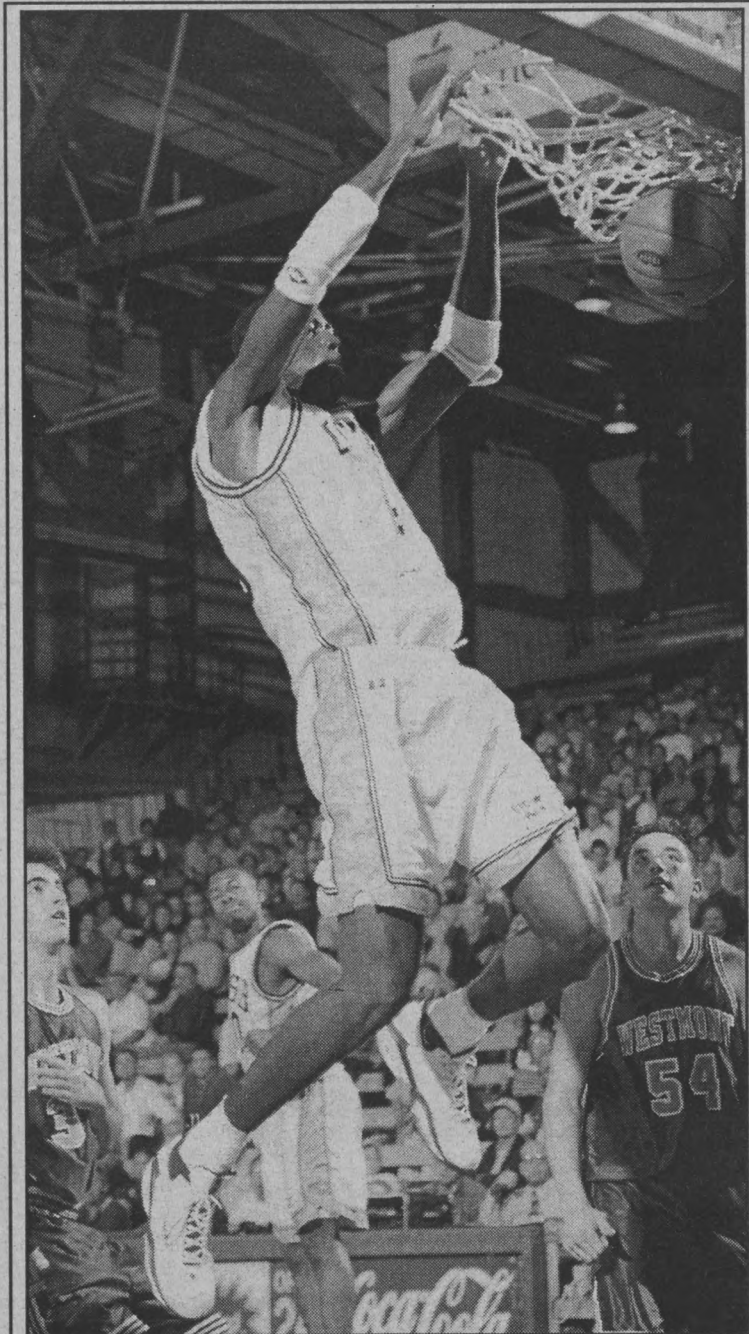
"We've been doing it all year long in practice," McCrack said. "We just need to perform when the pressure's on. If we just relax, take a few deep breaths and have confidence in ourselves, we'll be fine."

UCSB is on the road this weekend, but the Gauchos will return to Santa Barbara next Monday for a rematch with Friendship Manor.



REX THUMPER / Daily Nicas

MY PEE-PEE HAS BETRAYED ME! The UCSB Bocci team brought unforgivable shame onto itself and the University it represents when several Gauchos tested positive for Viagra.



CANDY LOPES / Daily Nicas

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Corrections

In last Thursday's column, "Why Darryl Strawberry Will Spend His Afterlife Burning in Hell's Fiery Inferno," we referred to Mr. Strawberry as a wife-beating, child-abusing, bat-corking, opportunity-blowing, undeserving, arrogant, stupid, loser junkie alcoholic bonehead crackhead coke whore with no respect for himself, his life, baseball or those that love him.

Mr. Strawberry never was found to have corked his bat.

Nicas Sports regrets this error.


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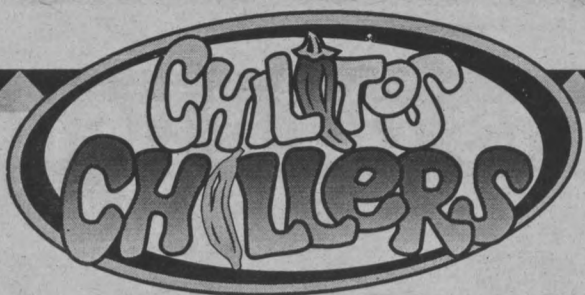
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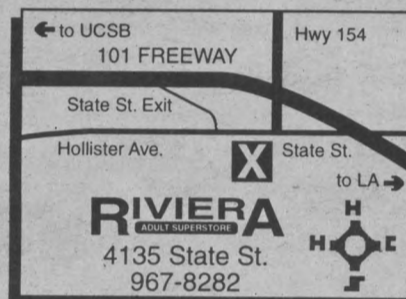
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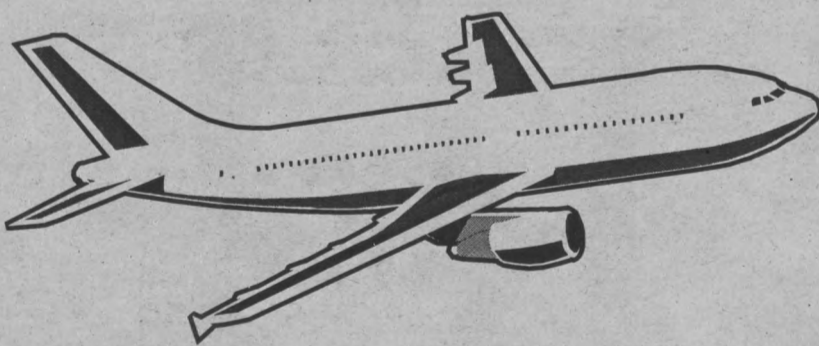
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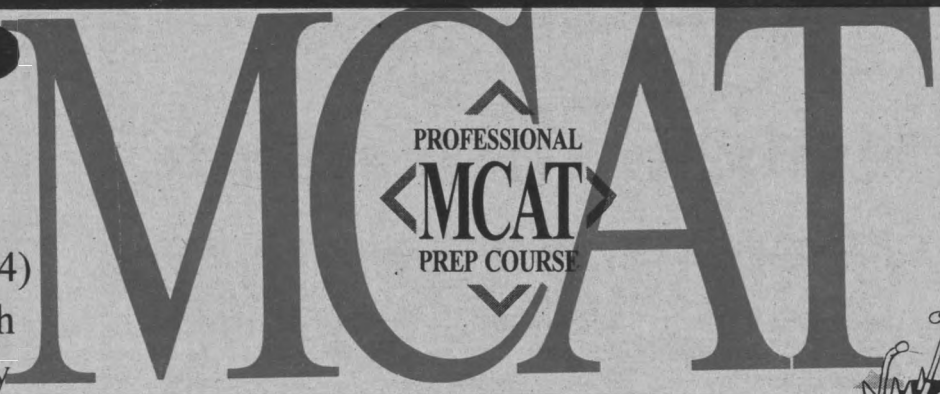
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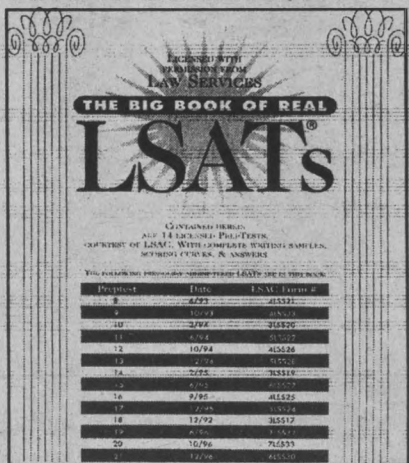
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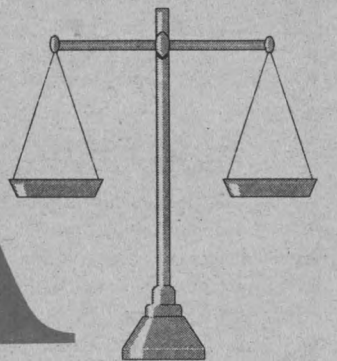
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