

**UCSB'S HISTORIC RUN TO
THE COLLEGE WORLD SERIES:
A day-by-day timeline brings
back the memories**

Vol 4 • Issue 1
Summer/Fall 2016

DARE

The Official Magazine of UCSB Athletics



**UCSB Athletics Hall of Fame
adds five new inductees**

**Three Gauchos teams won
Big West titles during an
unprecedented 27 hour span
in the spring**

**These were the "lightning strike"
moments that shook UCSB
Athletics in 2015-16**

**TWO GAUCHOS REPRESENT
UCSB AND USA AT THE
RIO OLYMPICS**



MEN'S BASKETBALL

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Join us as we recount UCSB Baseball's epic 23-day road trip through Nashville, Louisville, and Omaha filled with triumphant walk-offs, anxious rain delays, late-night final exams, big-time upsets, and some of the most significant moments in Gaucho history. Feature on page 19-23.



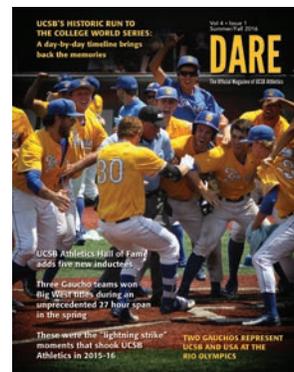
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DARE

SUMMER/FALL 2016

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DARE MAGAZINE SUMMER/FALL 2016

ON THE COVER

Sam Cohen is greeted at home plate after his amazing walk-off grand slam home run put UCSB into its first College World Series.

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FALL 2016: A LOOK AHEAD



THIS FALL WILL MARK THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA FOR UCSB MEN'S WATER POLO, as the team will compete for the first time ever in the Gold Coast Conference. Though it's a new name, the schedule will look familiar, as most of the conference teams previously competed with the Gauchos in the MPSF, including Long Beach State and UC Irvine.

The team will officially open the GCC era on Thursday, Oct. 6 at Pepperdine and will come home a week later to face San Jose State.

The Gauchos finished last season ranked No. 7 in the country, which was the program's 10th consecutive top-10 final ranking, all under head coach Wolf Wigo who will be entering his 12th season.

UCSB will be returning its second leading scorer from last season in Shane Hauschild who netted 39 goals and was also second on the team with 17 assists. The attacker – who will be entering his junior campaign – was also the MPSF Freshman of the Year in 2014.

UCSB MEN'S WATER POLO

THE 2016 VERSION OF UCSB CROSS COUNTRY won't look too much like its predecessor as both the Gaucho men's and women's teams will look to replace their top runners from teams that won the title and finished second, respectively.

The defending champion men's team will be led by senior Adam Avila who finished 13th at the Big West Conference championship meet in 2015. In addition, senior George Baier, junior Carlos Guijarro and redshirt junior Austin Lay will be expected to make major contributions.

On the women's side, longtime head coach Pete Dolan will look to senior Kelsey O'Connell, junior Jenna Hinkle and sophomore Sabrina Janes. O'Connell and Hinkle finished 13-14 respectively at last year's Big West Championship meet.



UCSB CROSS COUNTRY

THE UCSB WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM SURPRISED SOME IN 2015 by going 13-6-1 overall and tying for the Big West regular season championship with a 6-2 league record. The 2016 version of the Gauchos, however, was selected to finish second by the Big West coaches and actually received a pair of votes to finish first.

UCSB returns a strong core of players, fueling the optimism. Forward Mallory Hromatko was named First Team All-Big West as well as Freshman of the Year after tallying team-highs of nine goals and six assists for 24 points.

Forward Amanda Ball, midfielder Chace Schornstein and defender Sydney Fuertes, each an all-conference second teamer in 2015, are also back, as are forward Jessica Parque and midfielder Sydney Magnin, who joined Hromatko on the Big West All-Freshman Team.

Paul Stumpf, who enters his 18th season at the helm of the Gauchos, has put together a challenging schedule that includes home games against St. Mary's, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, UNLV, Utah State and St. Francis.



UCSB WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM



WITH NINE RETURNERS AND THE NATION'S 24TH RANKED RECRUITING CLASS, THE UCSB WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM will take on a challenging slate in 2016. Now in her fourth season at the helm, head coach Nicole Lantagne Welch will

guide the Gauchos through a schedule that includes five matches against 2015 NCAA Tournament teams.

Looking at the home slate, the team will host its annual tournament in the Thunderdome from Sept. 2-4, as they will host trio of top-50 RPI teams from a year ago, including preseason No. 25 Colorado State.

Just three weeks later, the Gauchos will open their conference schedule at home against powerhouse Hawai'i on Friday Sept. 23.

UCSB returns senior middle blocker and team captain Phoebe Grunt along with her fellow All-Big West honorees junior Chanel Hoffman at outside hitter and sophomore Emilia Petrachi at defensive specialist.

For the third time in four years, the Gauchos collected a nationally ranked recruiting class, which will bring offensive firepower to the team. Along with All-Americans Rowan Ennis – who set her school's record for career kills – and Megan Rice – who led her team to a Division I Championship – the Gauchos will also welcome a new setter in Wisconsin transfer Hannah Juley.

UCSB WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

THIS YEAR'S EDITION OF THE UCSB MEN'S SOCCER TEAM will be looking to follow up on a 2015 season that was successful by just about any measure, resulting in a Big West regular season championship, a trip to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament, and a ninth consecutive attendance title.

Even with the departures of wide attackers Geoff Acheamong and Ismaila Jome, who both turned pro, the Gauchos still boast enough offensive firepower to rival any program in the country.

Leading the charge is All-American and two-time Big West Offensive Player of the Year Nick DePuy who last year led all players nationwide with 15 regular season goals. Still relatively new to the forward position, DePuy has an excellent shot in his senior season at Rob Friend's school-record of 20 single-season goals.

Beside him is an experienced core featuring All-Region midfielder Kevin Feucht, slick forward Ahinga Selemani, and play-making midfielder Josue España.

The back line will have less experience, but features plenty of talent in Randy Mendoza, Jeff Quezada, Sam Strong and newcomers Kyle Perno, Mateo Restrepo Mejia, and Lamar Batista.

With a proven, experienced midfield corps, one of the nation's most lethal strike-partnerships in DePuy-Selemani, and a defensive group eager to prove itself, UCSB is in position for another noteworthy and productive season in 2016.

UCSB MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

2015-16 Gaucho Highlights



THE UCSB MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY won its second consecutive Big West Championship. Bryan Guijarro was named Athlete of the Year and Pete Dolan was named Coach of the Year. UCSB advanced to the NCAA West Regional while Guijarro and Anthony Ortolan also advanced to the NCAA Championship meet.



THE GAUCHO MEN'S SOCCER TEAM won the Big West regular season championship and advanced to the NCAA Tournament where they won their first round match against South Carolina. Tim Vom Steeg earned his fifth Big West Coach of the Year honor while Nick DePuy was named the league's Offensive Player of the Year and Geoffrey Acheampong became the fourth consecutive UCSB first-year player to win Freshman of the Year honors.



THE UCSB WOMEN'S WATER POLO TEAM won its first Big West Championship ever, led by Tournament MVP Samantha Murphy and Big West Coach of the Year Serela Kay. The Gauchos advanced to their first NCAA Tournament ever.



After advancing to its first NCAA Tournament in 20 years, the **GAUCHO WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAM** won its first postseason match ever, a 4-3 thriller over the University of Kansas. UCSB won its first Big West championship since 1996 and its seventh overall. Also, the 20th ranked doubles team of Palina Dubavets and Stefani Stojic advanced to the NCAA Championships and won their first round match.



THE GAUCHO MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM won 19 games, including the second longest winning streak in school history at nine in a row. They also advanced to the postseason for the second straight season, the fifth time in the last seven years and the sixth time in the last nine seasons. Head coach Bob Williams won his 300th game at UCSB.

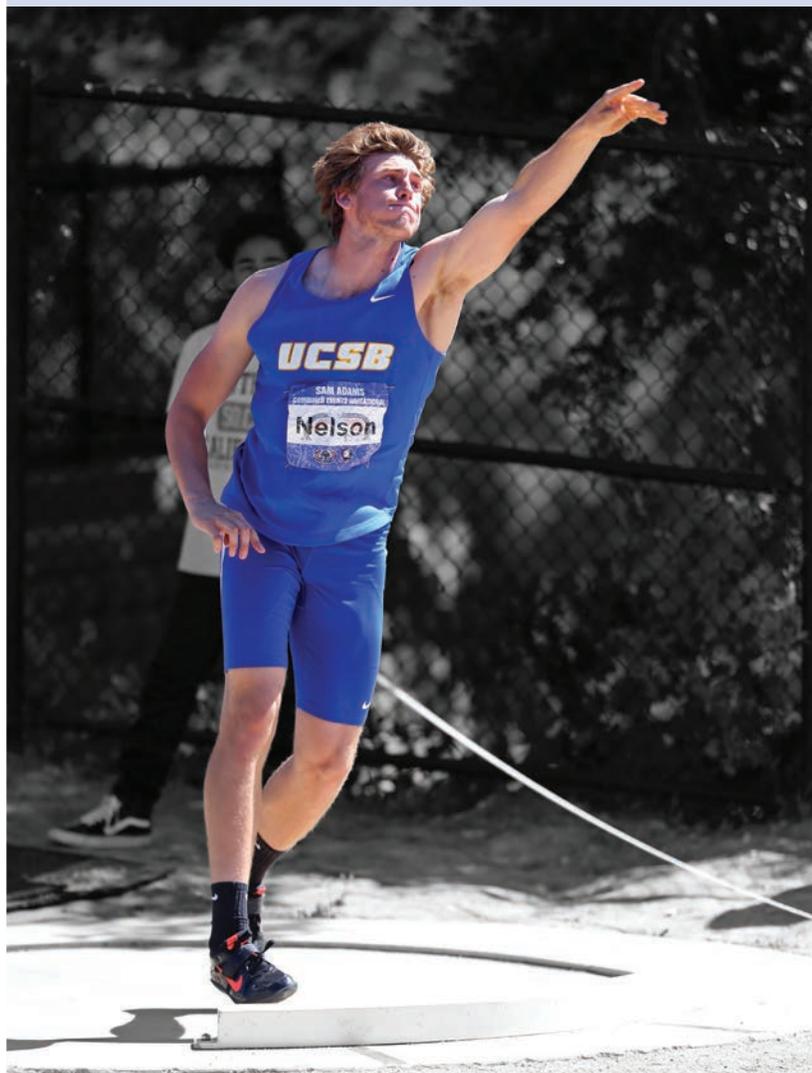


THE GAUCHO MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM, led by All-American setter Jonah Seif, won 20 matches for just the second time in the past 25 years and was ranked as high as No. 6 nationally. With a first round win over No. 4 Stanford, UCSB became the first lower-seeded team since 2011 to win a match in the MPSF Tournament. They battled back from a 2-0 deficit but ultimately fell in five games to top-ranked BYU in the MPSF Semis.

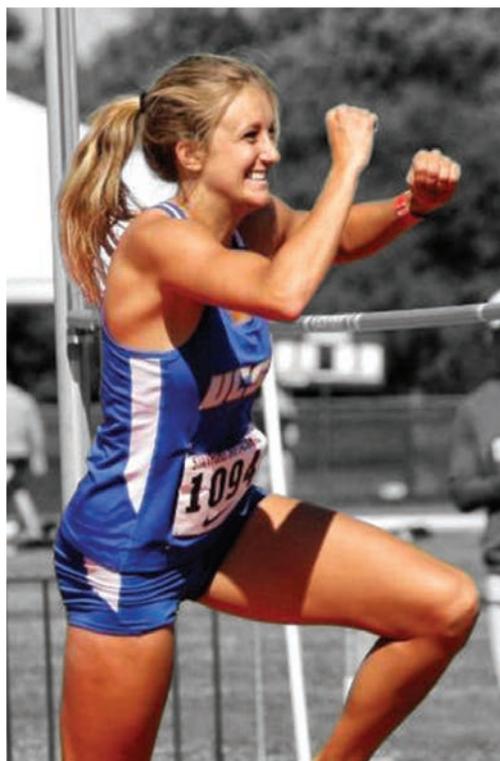




UCSB's Tyler Nelson won the **BIG WEST MEN'S DECATHLON** title with a final score of 7,220, 22 points better than the second-place finisher.



THE UCSB BASEBALL TEAM punched its ticket to its first ever College World Series after it bookended the Regional/Super Regional rounds with walk-off bombs. First in their Nashville Regional opener against Washington, Austin Bush belted a walk-off homer in the bottom of the 14th to put UCSB in the winner's bracket. But somehow that towering smash was topped just over a week later when freshman catcher Sam Cohen reached Gaucho immortality with a pinch-hit, walk-off grand slam to send UCSB to Omaha.



BOTH GAUCHO TRACK AND FIELD TEAMS finished second at the Big West Championships. The teams combined to win several individual conference titles.



THE GAUCHO GOLF TEAM

finished third at the Big West Championship Tournament and sophomore Brandon Bauman won the individual title, just the third UCSB player to do so and first since 2001. Bauman was named Big West Player of the Year after a season that saw him win three tournaments and finish in five top-fives.



Former **UCSB WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD** star Barbara Nwaba won the 2015 U.S. Outdoor Heptathlon title with the sixth-highest score in history. She also won the Gold Medal at the USA Indoor Championships in the pentathlon, going on to finish sixth at the IAAF World Indoor Championships.

THE UCSB WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM was the Big West regular season co-champion and won 13 games, the most since 2004. Paul Stumpf was named Big West Coach of the Year and Mallory Hromatko was named Freshman of the Year. Hromatko, Sydney Fuertes and Amanda Ball were all named to the NSCAA All-Region Team.



THE UCSB MEN'S TENNIS TEAM won its second straight Big West championship and its 10th overall. The Gauchos advanced to their 12th NCAA Tournament, including their ninth under Big West Coach of the Year Marty Davis.

ALL GAUCHO REUNION Hall of Fame Induction



During the last weekend of April, thousands of UCSB graduates crowded Santa Barbara for the university's annual All Gaucho Reunion. Most made their way back to their alma mater to reconnect with old friends and reminisce on the glory days of college.

But for a select few, their glory days weren't just remembered... they were immortalized.

On Saturday April 30, UCSB Athletics added five new members into its Hall of Fame during a ceremony at Santa Barbara's historic Lobero Theatre.

That night, national champions, record setters, an all-star, and even a United States Congressman were recognized for their time as student-athletes when they each made history.

ALL-AMERICAN

The first inductee was Marcie Fuller who was a three-time All-American freestyle swimmer and led the program to an unprecedented four consecutive Big West Conference titles. She remains among the best freestylers in school history and currently ranks 10th in the school record book with a 23.40 time in the 50 freestyle in 1987, which was at the time the program's best mark.

HISTORY MAKERS

This fall will mark the 10th Anniversary of UCSB men's soccer capturing its first NCAA Championship, so it was only fitting that the team was also inducted into the Hall of Fame in the same year. During that historic postseason run, the Gauchos – an at-large team – won five consecutive games, including road victories at No. 1 SMU and Old Dominion. But of course those wins could not match the final game of that run, when the Gauchos battled the blistering cold and national seeded UCLA and emerged victorious with a 2-1 decision in St. Louis.





Pictured L to R: Michael Young, Marcie Fuller and Jared Huffman

PUBLIC SERVANT

Being recognized as this year's Distinguished Gaucho Award winner was Jared Huffman, a three-time All-American setter for the nationally ranked men's volleyball team from 1984-86. After graduating magna cum laude from UCSB, Huffman went on to play for the USA Volleyball Team in 1987 when the team was ranked No. 1 in the world. After he completed his playing career, he went on to attend and graduate cum laude from Boston College Law School. Now, Huffman finds himself on Capitol Hill, serving his country as a United States Congressman representing California's second district. Since being elected in 2013, he has been a leader in issues involving the environment.

TRAIL BLAZERS

Nowadays, men's volleyball is perpetually ranked among the nation's top 10 year after year. But with all the success the modern Gaucho teams have had, today's student-athletes are standing on the shoulders of the program's pioneers who put UCSB men's volleyball on the map, which is why the 1974 Gaucho men's volleyball team was inducted into the Hall of Fame. In 1974, the boys from Isla Vista won the United States Volleyball Association national championships in the collegiate and open divisions and also finished second at the NCAA Championships. With a team comprised of several All-Americans and U.S. National Team members, it was still an obvious choice who would speak on the team's behalf at the ceremony, head coach and AVCA Hall of Famer Rudy Suwara.

THE ALL-STAR

Rounding out the Hall of Fame Class of 2016 was Michael Young who had the best professional career of any Gaucho baseball player. Though his list of accomplishments on the field is lengthy with seven All-Star selections, a batting title, and a Gold Glove winner, one cannot overlook what he did away from the diamond during his professional career, as he was named the MLB Man of the Year twice. He joined the elite company of Baseball Hall of Famer John Smoltz and Jim Thome as the only players to ever win the award two times. As a Gaucho, Young was an All-Big West outfielder but later made the transition to shortstop. He didn't mind the change of scenery and went on to earn five of his all-star selections at that position in the majors.



27 HOURS IN SPRING

When an intercollegiate athletics program wins a couple conference championships in a year, it is generally cause for celebration.

When an intercollegiate athletics program wins three conference titles in a year, it's been a good year.

When an intercollegiate athletics program wins three conference titles over the course of 27 hours, it's virtually unprecedented.

On April 30 and May 1, over a span of just 27 hours, three UC Santa Barbara athletics programs added Big West Conference championships to their respective resumé's.

Over those two days in the spring, Gaucho teams claimed Big West Tournament championships in men's and women's tennis as well as women's water polo.

For Marty Davis's men's tennis team, which was seeded No. 1 in the 2016 tournament, winning a league crown is old hat. It was UCSB's second in a row, third in the last four years, ninth under Davis and 10th overall.

The women's tennis team, on the other hand, had not won a Big West championship or advanced to the NCAA Tournament in two decades until Simon Thibodeau's second-seeded Gauchos accomplished the feat on the final day of April.

For the UCSB women's water polo team, under the guidance of second-year head coach Serela Kay, it was the first championship and NCAA Tournament berth in school history.

And while Kay's hoisting of the women's water polo trophy was the school's improbable third championship celebration in 27 hours, the journey to the trifecta began three days earlier on an usually temperate morning in the Coachella Valley.



► Warming Up

On Thursday April 28, the second-seeded women's tennis team opened its conference tournament play with No. 7 UC Davis on a 78-degree day at Indian Wells. The Gauchos cruised to an easy 4-0 victory, which proved to be the first of UCSB's two shutouts that day, as the men's tennis team pummeled No. 4 UC Irvine 4-0 later that afternoon.

For the women, they would move on to the semifinals, while the men punched their tickets into Saturday's championship bout with rival Cal Poly.



► Water Polo Makes a Splash

Friday belonged to the women's teams, and CSUN coincidentally was the victim in both matchups. First, the tennis team continued its roll through its bracket with a 4-1 win in the morning, while the water polo team handed the Matadors their school's second postseason loss of the day with a more than convincing 8-4 victory.

While Gaucho tennis fans celebrated their team's second straight trip to the Big West championship match, the conference was shocked by Hawaii's 4-3 upset of defending champion Long Beach State, resulting in the first UCSB/UH matchup of the weekend.

Back at Campus Pool, Samantha Murphy was locked in and laid the foundation for her MVP weekend with her first hat trick of the tournament.



► Doubling-Up on Titles

It was Championship Saturday at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden with first serve for both the men and the women set for 9 a.m.

Something happens to the Gaucho men's tennis team when it arrives at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden to compete in the Big West Championships. In a way, they kind of take ownership of the place and 2016 was no different.

UCSB entered this year's tournament having won two of the previous three titles and six of the 12 contested at Indian Wells, more than any other program in the league.

As the No. 1 seed, the Gauchos received a first round bye in the tourney and after blanking UC Irvine 4-0 in the semifinals, they were set to take on their Central Coast rivals, Cal Poly, in the championship match. Santa Barbara easily secured the doubles point to take a 1-0 lead into the singles competition.

Teague Hamilton made it 2-0 as he swept the Mustangs' Sreyas Kolachalam at No. 6, 6-1, 7-5. Freshman Nicolas Moreno de Alboran wasn't far behind as he defeated Garrett Auproux, 7-5, 6-3 to put the Gauchos within one point of the title.

Cal Poly's Axel Damiens saved his team for the moment, beating Cody Rakela at No. 5, but another freshman, Anders Holm, topped Josh Ortlip 6-1, 2-6, 6-1 at No. 4 to give UCSB its second straight title, third in four years and seventh in 13 at Indian Wells. The relatively quick win and awards ceremony on the upper

courts at Indian Wells allowed the Gaucho men's team to race over to the lower courts where the No. 2 seeded women's team was battling Hawaii.

The Gauchos took a 1-0 lead when they won two out of three doubles matches. Playing in the No. 3 slot, Amanda Atanasson and Lou Adler won the decider with a 6-4 win.

Santa Barbara completed the sweep from the bottom up as it won, in order, at No. 6, No 5 and No. 4 singles.

Natalie Da Silveira was first off the court as she defeated Paulina Petriskova 6-2, 6-0. Playing at No. 5, Atanasson swept Klara Pribylova 6-4, 6-4. Jaimee Gilbertson won a hard fought match at No. 4, 7-5, 6-4, clinching the 4-0 win and the program's first Big West crown since 1996.

While the tennis teams defeated their opponents by a combined score of 8-1, women's water polo needed late-game heroics to down a team they had not beaten in six seasons.

After No. 2 UC Irvine scored the final two goals of regulation to tie the game at 6-6, the Gauchos solidified their defense and held the Anteaters scoreless through three overtime periods. With Irvine's offense quelled, Samantha Murphy put an end to the marathon of a game with a golden goal 1:23 into the eighth period, sealing UCSB's trip to the championship matchup with reigning champion Hawaii.

► Third Time's a Charm



As April came to a close, the Gaucho tennis teams made their way back from the desert with two championship trophies in tow with a third on the way. Of course that one was already on campus. On Sunday May 1, the women's water polo team put Saturday's thriller behind it and crushed Hawaii 11-5 after Murphy finished off her remarkable weekend with her third three-goal hat trick in three days. Murphy was the obvious choice as the tournament's Most Valuable Player after tying a tournament record with nine goals. Also getting in on the scoring party was her fellow senior, Lauren Martin, who found the back of the net three times as well.

When the final buzzer sounded, the team finally let out the excitement they had been holding back for most of the second half and celebrated their first ever championship by throwing Head Coach Serela Kay into the pool. Assistant Coach Sierra Peltcher didn't need that much convincing and gladly jumped right into the pool to join her team. And as the players and coaches posed for selfies with the trophy, wet hair and all, the Gauchos completed a picture-perfect 27 hours for UCSB Athletics.

LIGHTNING STRIKE MOMENTS

In Sports, History Can Be Made in a Flash, Like a Bolt of Lightning.

Whether it's a booming swing of a bat or a golden goal dealt perfectly into the back of the net, these are the "where were you when?" moments that are forever etched in our memories.

For UCSB, those moments came in the Thunderdome when Carrick DeHart and the men's basketball team upset a Larry Johnson led UNLV team or in Beijing where Jason Lezak clinched the USA a gold medal with his come from behind anchor leg of the 4x100 relay in the 2008 Olympics.

Gauchos fans have been treated to many of those electrifying moments, but perhaps the 2015-16 year provided more of those than any year before. So let's take a look back on the year that was and answer the question "where were you when lightning struck?"



Men's Water Polo

10/31/2015 | Campus Pool | Santa Barbara, Calif.

It was senior day at Campus Pool for the men's water polo team, so it was fitting that a senior would deliver a thrilling game winner in front of a rambunctious home crowd. After calling a timeout with 19 seconds in regulation, the Gauchos took possession and wound the clock down until Derek Shoemaker beat the buzzer with a scorching game-winner, that sealed the victory and sent fans and the Gaucho bench into a frenzy. Shoemaker provided the exclamation point on not only an exciting game for the Gauchos, but also a historic one as his fellow senior Chris Whitelegge recorded 11 saves that day to become UCSB's all-time saves leader.



Men's Soccer

11/22/15 | Harder Stadium | Santa Barbara, Calif.

The UCSB men's soccer program has made a custom of hosting NCAA Tournament games, but this year's matchup with South Carolina brought one of the best shots in recent memory. After outshooting the Gamecocks in regulation, the Gauchos had nothing to show for it as the clock struck zero in a scoreless draw. But in overtime, Ismaila Jome was gifted an opportunity for the game-winner after a clearance went straight to him. Playing 30 yards away from the goal, the left-footed Jome saw two defenders covering his left, so he cut right and curled a shot with his off foot into the top right corner of the net, sealing a trip to the Sweet Sixteen for the Gauchos.



Women's Water Polo

4/30/2016 | Campus Pool | Santa Barbara, Calif.

UC Irvine would be the victim of another Lightning Moment at Campus Pool, this time during the Big West Women's Water Polo Tournament. After skating by CSUN in the opening round the day before, the Gauchos were matched up with a rested Anteaters team that was coming off a first round bye. But both teams would find themselves exhausted after battling to a gritty 6-6 draw through seven periods of play. Now in their eighth period of play, and second in sudden death, the would-be tournament MVP Samantha Murphy delivered her signature moment of the weekend with a bullet of a golden goal from the left wing.



Baseball

6/3/16 | Hawkins Field | Nashville, Tenn.

UCSB's historic run through the NCAA postseason would not have been possible if it were not for a pair of extra inning home runs in their first game of the Nashville Regional. Devon Gradford delivered the first in the 12th as a response to Washington's unearned run from the top of the frame. Two innings later, Austin Bush blasted a walk off jack to right field and was mobbed by his teammates when he emphatically jumped onto home plate.



Baseball

6/12/16 | Jim Patterson Stadium | Louisville, Ky.

To have a walk-off homer in the playoffs is special, but to have two is unprecedented. While Bush continued on his home run tear through the postseason with four in five games, it was freshman Sam Cohen who provided the team's biggest hit with his walk off grand slam to send the Gauchos to the College World Series. After UCSB put three runners on through its first four at bats, the backup catcher came in to pinch hit against arguably the best closer in the country and first round draft pick Zack Burdi. With his devastating fastball that consistently hits triple digits, the lefty went ahead in the count 1-2. Then history happened. He dealt a change up that landed right in Cohen's wheelhouse, and the freshman took it for a ride down the right field line. Once it sailed fair, the Gaucho dugout erupted. On the ESPN broadcast, play-by-play commentator Mike Morgan said that Sam Cohen "could live for 100 years...he's never going to have a moment that's going to trump this one." While that might be true, there's no doubt that after 88 years of Gaucho Baseball, a 19-year-old freshman authored the greatest moment in program history.

UCSB's **Barbara Nwaba** Takes Her All-Around Greatness to the World Stage at the Rio Olympics

When did making the Olympics become a tangible goal for you?

This became a goal around my junior year at UCSB. That's when I started paying attention to how I was doing compared to everyone else in the events. But I really began to realize that I could do this after getting I finished fifth at the trials in 2012.

What track events did you compete in before the heptathlon?

In high school, I ran the 100, 200 and 400 and the two relays, and I also did the high jump and started doing hurdles my senior year.

When did you start doing the heptathlon?

It was my sophomore year and my coach Josh Priester suggested that I give it a shot. I told him about all the events that I did back in high school and he thought the heptathlon is something I should try.

When did you realize that you could excel in the heptathlon?

For me, the deciding factor was after my first heptathlon, which ended up being at an intersquad meet. We invited other schools, but they never showed up so four of us from UCSB competed against each other. And I ended up setting the school record that day, so that's when I knew.

What is your most challenging event?

Long jump. Just because the take off is so different compared to high jumping. I first started doing it my freshman year even though I was one of the high jumpers, and it took me a while to really learn the different take off compared to the high jump.

At this point in your career, how much is the heptathlon mental?

For me, I'd say it's a 60-40 split, 60 being mental. Whether you have a good or bad event, you have to learn how to what we call "park it". If you have a bad event, you don't want to waste your energy worrying about it when you have another event to do in a half hour. I've definitely learned how to mentally dial everything in and attack the moment that you're in.

What is your best event?

Definitely the high jump and I've felt that way ever since I started it freshman year. Now it's become one of my moneymakers and I've become so technically sound in it since then.

How many times have you competed internationally?

I would say four to five. The World Championships in Beijing, Germany twice, and Austria last year which was huge for me (Hypo Meeting in Gotzis). In Austria, I was competing against the world's best and some of the biggest names in the sport, people that I'd been reading about. Now I look at them as people because I competed with them in person. I know they're strengths and weaknesses, which I think will help me in Rio.

Were you surprised by the high scoring at the Olympic Trials?

It didn't surprise me at all. In 2012, I believe there were only three that scored over 6000 and I steadily watched them increase their scores over the year. I knew this was going to be a tough field, but I wasn't thinking that I needed 6400 to win. The Olympic standard was 5900 going in then they moved it to 6150 because of all the high scores. It's amazing how far the sport has come with all of the athletes stepping up their game.

What was the most crucial event for you at the Olympic Trials?

I'm used to feeling that my high jump would be a big event for me, but I knew I really had to separate myself that day. I knew I could clear six feet, but they really came to play and it pushed me to hit a PR.

What were your thoughts after clinching the title?

When I was coming through that last 100 meters, I was just trying to push myself to cross the line because I knew that's when I'd officially be an Olympian. So many thoughts were going through my head like, "do I feel different now?" But I just felt really happy when it happened and I felt a huge sense of relief. It was such a relief that everything went well and the dream really came true.

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Former UCSB star Barbara Nwaba will become the first female Gaucho track and field athlete to compete in the Olympics when she joins Team USA in Rio de Janeiro. After finishing fourth in the heptathlon at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials, Nwaba won the title at the 2016 Trials in Eugene, Ore., giving her the opportunity to represent her country at the highest level of competition.

Before she departed the U.S. for Brazil, we spoke to Barbara about her accomplishments and the opportunity in front of her.

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From In the Water to On the Water: Gaucho Maggie Hogan's Road to Rio

By MITCHELL CLEMENTS

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SANTA BARBARA, Calif. – A former Gaucho swimmer will be making her Olympic debut this summer, but you won't find her on the pool deck. She'll be out on the water, but instead of sporting a swim cap and goggles, Maggie Hogan will be representing the U.S.A inside an impossibly narrow kayak and gripping a double-bladed paddle.
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After a four-year swimming career as a Gaucho, Maggie made the improbable jump from being a distance swimmer to joining the U.S. national canoe/kayaking team, sports that don't even exist in NCAA athletics.

"In the U.S., kayaking is not like swimming where we're a powerhouse and we're producing athletes that are going through the collegiate system and the cream rises to the top," she said. "Our most successful athletes in the past have come from different sports and different backgrounds. They're learning that work ethic through different sports and they come in and apply it to kayaking."

For Maggie, that sport was swimming. Though just a walk-on at UCSB, Maggie's grit and leadership qualities caught the attention of her coaches and teammates, as she was voted as a two-year team captain.

"Maggie was an exceptional hard worker," her former head coach Gregg Wilson said. "She wasn't our fastest swimmer, but she was an excellent leader and her teammates recognized that." That signature work ethic paid off early in her career, as she penciled her name in the school record book as a sophomore with a 17:20.85 finish in the 1650 freestyle, which at that time was the seventh fastest time in program history.

"She's a tough kid," Wilson said. "She always had this sense of determination in her training, but she was always very upbeat and positive. She was great."

The feeling was mutual for Maggie.

"I think Gregg Wilson really represents everything that a team could be," she said. "I was a military brat and Santa Barbara was the 13th school that I had be enrolled in, and it was just such a phenomenal opportunity to start over with a bunch of incredible people and I enjoyed every second of that. Gregg got really good people on board, people that work hard, and people that show up and do the little things right...There was a lot of hard work in my swimming career, but we had a blast."



Serving as a storybook ending to her time with the Gauchos, she was part of a women's team that won the program's first Big West Championship in six years.

"We made relationships there that will last a lifetime. The girls that I swam with back then are still some of my best friends." Though she picked up kayaking later than those who she will face at the Olympics (internationally most athletes start training at around 12), Maggie proved to be a quick study in the sport. "The World Championships in 2005 and that was just my third race in the sport, so it happened very quickly," she said. "Unfortunately, there's not a whole lot of depth in the U.S., and I think that with my endurance background from UCSB I was able to get on board pretty quickly."

Like most Americans, Maggie wasn't introduced to kayaking at an early age. Her earliest memories of the sport only go back to 2004 when she was going through the San Diego Lifeguard Academy. At the time, the U.S. was trying to find athletes to compete in surf skiing at the upcoming Goodwill Games and against a field of more experienced athletes, Maggie went for it. "It was like an ocean triathlon, but the whole thing is over in like 20 minutes."

The race started on the beach and the athletes would swim out to a buoy and back to shore then run to get a paddle board, which they would take out to the buoys and back. "In Santa Barbara, a lot of people surf, so paddle boarding came easy to me," she said. "But running I couldn't help because, you know, swimmers and running..."

Though she felt like a fish out of water on land, Maggie found herself pacing ahead of everyone else midway through the race. "It was my first time competing in this event and by the time I was done with the paddleboard, I was winning!"

Then came the final circuit when she had to take a surf ski out into the water. She might as well have been trying to run to the buoy.

"I fell off eight times and lost the race," she said. "And I was so upset because all I had to do was stay in the boat and I would have won...thank goodness I had a swimming background!" Luckily for her, one of the guys in the academy was a coach for saltwater sprint kayaking who helped her learn how to keep a 20-centimeter wide kayak upright.

"To get the learning curve up a little bit, I got into the saltwater boat and learned the balance, and it took off from there." Though she took to the sport easily, Maggie doesn't consider her situation to be considerably special.

"I keep saying for this sport that if the U.S.A. could get 10 swimmers to join, we could dominate the world in eight years," she said. "I think the discipline that you learn in swimming you

definitely carry on, and these guys work tremendously hard and they are really good athletes. I think the two sports blend really well with each other."

It wouldn't be long until she was made an official member of the U.S. National Team in 2005 and started vying for her first trip to the Olympics. And while she did travel to Beijing in 2008, it was as a training partner not as a competitor.

"It was interesting because I was there, but at the same time I wasn't," Maggie said. "I obviously trained to be on the team and came very close, so I was heartbroken by the process, but you have to put those feelings aside and show up everyday with a smile on your face and give your teammate the best opportunity for her to succeed for the U.S."

"It definitely was an outsider's view on the games." To keep things in perspective, Maggie was still a fresh face in what is largely considered a mature sport. Most athletes who compete at the Olympic level in canoeing or kayaking start by age 12 and don't really master the sport for at least 8-10 years. After all, they're working with what Maggie calls "the most unstable boats on the planet."

"And I think the fact that I was so close after only three years was a huge incentive for me to keep going." Her next opportunity was London in 2012, but again Maggie was left on the outside looking in.

"It got political as sports can sometimes be." Two years later, after competing against top-tier competition for nine years, Maggie felt she had plateaued and was contemplating retirement. But one decision gave her career a much-needed second wind.

"I think as you get older and more mature as an athlete, you need a more scientific approach to your training," Maggie said. "I was in a slump and I decided to switch coaches." For her new coach, she chose Michele Eray, a 2008 Olympian for South Africa. Eray helped Maggie make history by winning a bronze medal at the World Championships, making her the first U.S. citizen to reach the podium in over 20 years. "The last time the U.S. citizen won a medal at the World Championships, it was in the men's K2 200 in 1995. I'm not sure the last time a U.S. woman had won."

That's because Maggie was the first American.

But despite the early success, an Olympic berth was never promised. Earning a spot in the games required her to compete in two rounds of competitions. The first was at the World Cup last August, but her partner suffered an untimely injury, sinking her chance of qualifying for the K2 races. This left Maggie no choice but to compete as a K1 athlete. Where the K2 competitions featured two paddlers in each kayak, the K1 was an

Maggie Hogan *(continued)*

individual event, reserved for only the top athletes in the sport. “For a swimmer, the 500 meter in kayaking is like doing the 200 meter free or sprinting 800 meters,” she said. “It’s right in between the power and speed events, so I really had to work on

my strength and power, but my endurance came pretty naturally to me because of my background as a distance swimmer.” Because of the limited number of spaces the Olympics has for canoe and kayak, athletes have to be among the best in their region, not just their country, to earn a spot. For the U.S., that’s the Pan American region, thus making April’s Pan Am Championships a make or break event for Maggie. And at age 37, she knew it would be her last race on U.S. soil.

“The lead-up to that was so stressful,” she recalled. “I knew that my ultimate goal was to make the Olympic team, so I didn’t peak 100 percent for that U.S. trial which was a huge risk that we took. Instead, I wanted to be 100 percent ready to go in May, but I knew that I would be facing girls that would be 100 percent ready to go in April, so that was very stressful. And my parents already bought tickets in May to watch me at the qualifiers, so if I didn’t get through that first step, my whole season would have been over.”

Maggie’s risk paid off and she won the U.S. Trials by 1.736 seconds.

“Thank goodness that worked out.”

With the Pan American Championships just three weeks away, Maggie felt the nerves early. “I usually feel nervous a day or two before, but this happened like two weeks before.”

To make matters worse, news of an athlete dropping out of the K1 500 fostered more nerves before the race.

“We had to race nine lanes with nine women, which means we didn’t have a heat or a semi to test the water against the other girls. It was one and done. So I went in there thinking that I can’t beat myself. I can’t get in there so nervous that I beat myself. And I was really worried about that.”

Anxious or not, Maggie came into race day with a clear idea of how things would go. She noted that the athletes from Mexico and Chile were always quick off the line and knew that she would be trailing them for the first 100 meters.

“It’s a little disheartening when you see someone ahead of you,” she said. “But I didn’t want to get upset about that.” With that in mind, Maggie knew her best shot would come in the final 250 meters, which traditionally is the part of the race where athletes start to struggle as their already overworked muscles begin to fatigue.

“Being a mile swimmer, I knew that I could handle that pain better than anyone. I just kept telling myself that I could do this.” Sure enough, Maggie’s strategy came to fruition, as she made her move in the final 250 meters and climbed her way into the front of the pack with only Canada’s Lisa Bissonnette – a 25-year old who has been paddling since she was 10 – to beat.

“I was closing in on her, but I just ran out of lane space.” Maggie came in second, losing just by .47 seconds, but since Canada had already qualified for Rio at the World Championships, the quota spot was passed to the highest finishing country that had not qualified yet, meaning Maggie was Rio bound.

“Crossing the line, knowing that I won the berth was the biggest weight off my shoulders,” she said. “When I got to the dock, my mom was there, my coach was there, and I got to share it with my dad. It was one of the best moments of my life for sure. My coach is doing this without a salary and we haven’t been earning all year, so we’ve really risked so much to get things right this year. And when it happened, it was so incredible.” And how couldn’t it be? It was a long, 12-year journey to get to this point, but she never lost the same imposing grit and vigorous work ethic that turned her from a walk on to a two-year team captain in college.

“She was always a tough kid, and I’m so impressed that she stayed with this,” Wilson said. “And you know she’s really going to go for it in Rio because she’s already been going at it for a long time.”

With the Olympics less than a month away, Maggie will continue training at the Newport Aquatic Center where she will go through as many as four training sessions per day whether that’s paddling, conditioning, or lifting weights, a commanding regiment that is hardly new for the former walk on turned team captain.

Maggie’s long wait to compete in Rio will come to an end in a little less than a month, as she will take to the water one final time at Lagoa Stadium starting on August 15.

“She was always a tough kid, and I’m so impressed that she stayed with this,” Wilson said. “And you know she’s really going to go for it in Rio because she’s already been going at it for a long time.”

Miracles, Unlikely Heroes, Walk-Off Home Runs and the #ch0maha Hashtag: UCSB's Memorable Run to the College World Series (PAGES 19 - 23)

By ANDREW WAGNER

Over Andrew Checketts' first four years at the head of UC Santa Barbara baseball, the program made incremental steps each year towards becoming a national power.

It started in 2013 when the Gauchos, in just the second year of the Checketts era, were placed in the Corvallis Regional to end a 12-year postseason drought for the program.

UCSB took it a step further two years later in 2015, winning 40 games, earning the first No. 1 seed and Regional host appointment in program history, and having a school-record 11 players drafted or signed to pro contracts.

With so many players joining the professional ranks after the 2015 season – including seven of nine starters in the field and three of the team's four starting pitchers – a rebuilding year was expected in 2016 for UCSB, which was picked to finish fourth in the Big West.

The Gauchos went on to prove all those doubters wrong, accruing a 37-18-1 record in the regular season and earning a No. 2 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

However, nobody would predict what would happen next, as the Gauchos strung together five straight playoff wins – many in dramatic fashion – to win the Vanderbilt Regional and Louisville Super Regional en route to the first College World Series berth in program history.

UCSB would end up with a 6-2 postseason record, eliminating the No. 2 and No. 3 national seeds (Louisville and Miami, respectively) before bowing out in game nine of the College World Series in Omaha.

Join us as we recount UCSB Baseball's epic 23-day road trip through Nashville, Louisville, and Omaha filled with triumphant walk-offs, anxious rain delays, late-night final exams, big-time upsets, and some of the most significant moments in Gaucho history.

College World Series Timeline, June 1-12



JUNE 3

“ I was hunting for a fastball and when I got one, I was able to put a good swing on it. It’s definitely a moment I’ll remember forever.”

– So. 1B Austin Bush

JUNE 3

JUNE 6

JUNE 1

JUNE 2

JUNE 4

JUNE 5



Gauchos fly from Santa Barbara to Nashville to participate in Vanderbilt Regional

UCSB runs first postseason practice at Vanderbilt’s Hawkins Field

Austin Bush hits a walk-off homer in the bottom of the 14th inning to beat Washington in the first game of the postseason

Second game is rained out, Gauchos begin proctored final examinations

Bush homers again, Justin Kelly strikes out 7 in 2.2 IP to save 5-4 UCSB win over Xavier

UCSB routs Xavier 14-5 to win Nashville Regional, Bush named Tournament MVP



“ Winning the Regional is definitely a highlight of my career. We played up to our potential and played as a team. We turned ourselves into a good baseball team that achieved.”

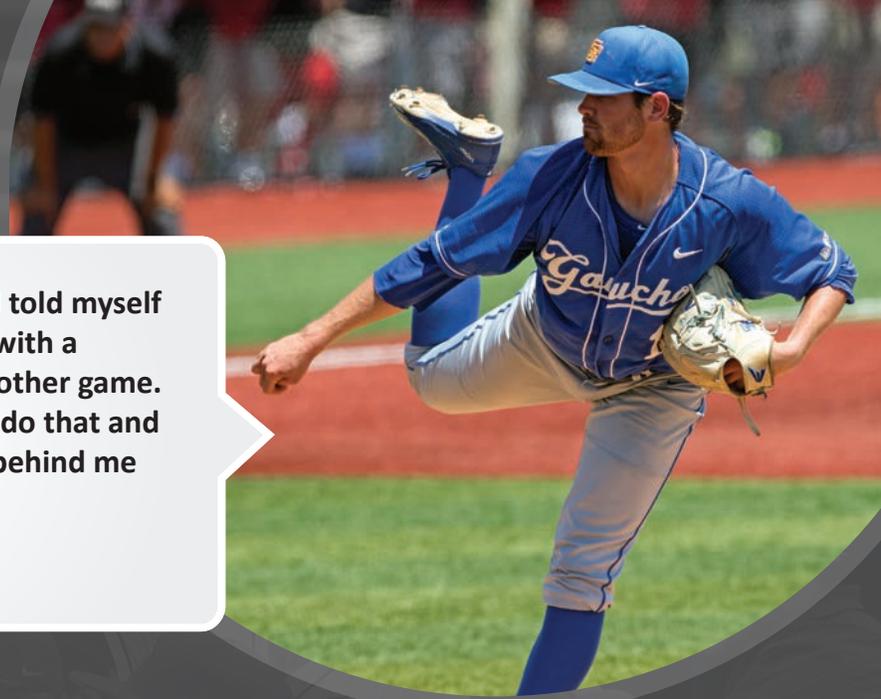
– HC Andrew Checketts

JUNE 6

JUNE 11

“ I just went out there and told myself I’m going to attack guys with a similar mentality as any other game. Thankfully, I was able to do that and my defense made plays behind me like they have all year.”

– Jr. RHP Shane Bieber



JUNE 11

JUNE 12

JUNE 7

JUNE 8

JUNE 9

JUNE 10



Gauchos bus from Nashville to Louisville

UCSB practices in Louisville

Gauchos practice again, final exams come to a close

Right before practice, Shane Bieber becomes first Gaucho drafted as Cleveland selects him in 4th round. of MLB draft

Bush hits 4th HR of postseason, Bieber solid as UCSB stuns Louisville for 4-2 win in first game of Super Regionals

Sam Cohen delivers the signature moment of UCSB’s postseason run, hitting a walk-off grand slam in the bottom of the ninth for a 4-3 win to send Gauchos to first ever College World Series



“ I didn’t realize until I touched home plate that I hit it out. That was my first walk-off, I still can’t believe it.”

– Fr. Catcher Sam Cohen

JUNE 12

College World Series Timeline, June 13-23



JUNE 17

“ The Opening Ceremony was one of the most memorable moments of the postseason run for me, being able to let everything about the experience sink in. It felt like time was standing still. It’s a moment I will remember for the rest of my life.”

– Sr. 3B Ryan Clark

JUNE 13

UCSB does the media rounds, with Cohen appearing on the Dan Patrick show and Andrew Checketts speaking live with Jim Rome

JUNE 14

Team flies to Omaha, Neb. for first ever College World Series appearance

JUNE 15

UCSB practices at Creighton, makes a team trip to the Omaha Zoo

JUNE 16

Gauchos perform community service at the Omaha Home for Boys, a center for at-risk youth

JUNE 17



UCSB participates in College World Series Opening Ceremonies at TD Ameritrade Park

JUNE 18



In CWS debut, UCSB falls 1-0 in epic pitcher’s duel between Shane Bieber and Oklahoma State’s Thomas Hatch



“ It’s been a very special ride. I think this group all cares for each other and we all have each other’s backs and we all love each other.”

– So. 2B JJ Munro

JUNE 18



JUNE 20



I don't get that opportunity without the guys getting on in front of me. I went up there, got something up in the zone, and it happened to find a hole. But it's an at-bat I'll remember forever."

– Jr. INF Ryan Cumberland

JUNE 20

JUNE 22

JUNE 19

JUNE 21

JUNE 23



Gauchos practice at Creighton

After an hour-long rain delay, UCSB erupts for four runs in the sixth to defeat and eliminate No. 3 Miami from the CWS. Ryan Cumberland had the biggest hit of the day, lining a two-run single down the right-field line for the go-ahead run

Gauchos have a team barbecue at Cooper Farm in Omaha

UCSB battles valiantly, but falls 3-0 to Arizona and is eliminated from the College World Series

After more than three weeks on the road, UCSB returns home to Santa Barbara



For these kids to get us here and receive this opportunity as a program is unique. At the end of the day all I could do was thank them for their effort, hard work, commitment, for representing the university the right way and playing hard."

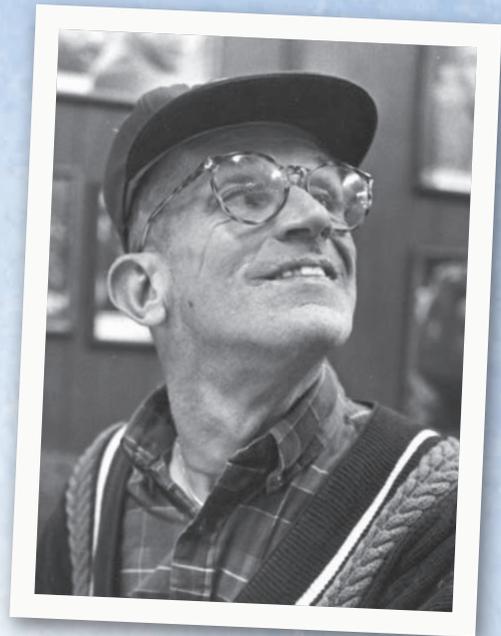
– HC Andrew Checketts

JUNE 22



FULFILLING Phil's Dream

Phil Womble joined the UC Santa Barbara athletics program as its historian in 1969, and while he became an ardent supporter of all Gaucho teams, there is little question of which team he holds dearest in his heart: baseball.



Phil Womble joined the UC Santa Barbara athletics program as its historian in 1969, and while he became an ardent supporter of all Gaucho teams, there is little question of which team he holds dearest in his heart: baseball.

For Phil, who has had cerebral palsy since birth, bonding with the UCSB baseball team was a natural. Baseball also helped create a special bond between he and his father.

One of the greatest memories of Phil's youth was listening to a Brooklyn Dodgers-New York Giants playoff game on the radio with his dad. The October 3, 1951, game at the Polo Grounds was won 5-4 by the Giants when Bobby Thomson hit a decisive three-run home run off of Dodgers' pitcher Ralph Branca in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Thomson's historic round tripper is still known as the "Shot Heard 'Round the World" and it was immortalized by play-by-play announcer Russ Hodges's call as he exulted "The Giants win the pennant! The Giants win the pennant! The Giants win the pennant!"

At the time of Thomson's home run, Phil was 15 years old. Nearly 65 years later, it was another walk-off home run in the bottom of the ninth that would give a 79-year old Phil an even greater thrill.

On June 12, 2016, freshman catcher Sam Cohen belted a Zack Burdi change-up over the right field fence at the University of Louisville's Jim Patterson Stadium for a grand slam home run, giving UCSB an improbable 4-3 come-from-behind victory over the Cardinals and a spot in its first NCAA College World Series. In his 47 years as the team's biggest fan, Phil Womble had no

greater wish than to see his beloved Gauchos play in college baseball's ultimate showcase in Omaha, Nebraska.

Sometimes dreams do come true.

"Right when I knew it was over, I went nuts and immediately had two thoughts," Phil said. "The Gauchos had never been to Omaha and it was absolutely great that they were finally going. Then I thought, 'I am in my 47th year with UCSB and my 80th year of life, and this was one of the most stunning and joyful things that I ever experienced. UCSB is finally going to Omaha and that's fantastic."



Former Gaucho baseball player and UCSB Athletics Hall of Fame member Bill Geivett was joined by many other former players in Omaha and there is no doubt each one was thinking about Phil Womble during the weekend.

"A lot of us really think of Phil as the heart and soul of the program," Geivett said. "You don't necessarily realize it when you're there, but as you get older and your perspective matures, you realize what he means to Gaucho baseball. You look at what Phil has overcome in his life and it's inspirational. Whether he is

physically in Omaha or not, he's always with those of us who have been part of the program and we know he'll be back home watching and going nuts."

Closing in on his 80th birthday on September 4, Phil was unable to make the trip to Omaha, but there is no doubt his presence was felt and he was certainly there in spirit even as he watched the games on television.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2016-17 HOME SCHEDULE

NOV 6 Cal State LA CAL STATE LA	NOV 15 P PEPPERDINE	NOV 20 NAU LUMBERJACKS NORTHERN ARIZONA	NOV 30 SANTA CLARA BRONCOS SANTA CLARA	DEC 14 <i>Ucla</i> BRUINS UCLA	DEC 31 Y YALE	JAN 14 UCR RIVERSIDE UC RIVERSIDE
JAN 19 LB LONG BEACH ST.	JAN 21 H HAWAI'I	FEB 2 F FULLERTON	FEB 4 UCD UC DAVIS	FEB 9 CSUN CSUN	MAR 2 UCI UC IRVINE	MAR 4 CP CAL POLY

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