

SUNDAY Sports

APRIL 29, 2018

MAKING A MOVE

Kevin Kisner, left, and Scott Brown charge to the top of the leaderboard at the PGA's Zurich Classic / **B3**

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Mark Patton

Gauchos work for Hall pass

You need a master key to gain entry to the UCSB's Athletics Hall of Fame. It's the one that's labeled "devotion."

That's what unlocked Hall of Fame careers for the five who received Gaucho inductions on Saturday at the Lobero Theater: basketball player Orlando Johnson, track athlete Barbara Nwaba, water polo star John Anderson, and volleyball coaches Kathy Gregory and Ken Preston.

ORLANDO JOHNSON secured an actual key. He got it after telling Thunderdome manager Donnell Dixon how badly he wanted to make it to the NBA.

Dixon took him into his office, handed him a key to the arena door, and said, "When they call your name in New York, and you get drafted in the NBA, you give me that key back."

"We shook on it," Dixon recalled, "and he said, 'That's a promise ... Let's do this.'"

Johnson worked so hard at the game that he wound up setting UCSB's all-time scoring record. But all that work wasn't just for him.

"He just refused to let the team ever have a bad practice," former coach Bob Williams said. "If we were having a down practice, he was the one who changed that, he was the one who set the tone."

"And that's what kept that group alive and allowed them to achieve back-to-back, NCAA appearances. When we got to the stage of the Big West Tournament, other coaches in the league would talk about how Orlando's eyes would light up when he got it going."

The fire in those eyes would flare even in pickup games. Teammate Jon Pastorek recalled how they were once getting "waxed pretty good" by a few players from other schools.

"Orlando called a team meeting in the middle of this pick-up, and I can't repeat to you what he said, but he got after us pretty good," he said. "He just let us know that it wasn't OK."

"It didn't matter if it was a Big West championship game against Long Beach State or a random pickup game, he demanded greatness not only from himself, but out of us, as well."

Johnson achieved greatness despite a childhood that had been rocked by the murder of his mother.

With "all the things you went through in life, to accomplish this is a testament of who you are as a person," said James Powell, another former teammate, during Saturday's induction.

Johnson kept his promise to Dixon in the process, ringing his doorbell with key in hand a few weeks after his selection as the No. 36 pick in the 2012 NBA Draft.

"All he says is, 'Here you go,'" Dixon recalled.

BARBARA NWABA announced her lofty dreams, as well. A copy of the senior class picture that she handed to University High track coach Aguida Kelly came with a vow: "On the back," said Kelly, she wrote, "Don't worry, Agu — you're going to see me in those Olympics."

The vision hadn't changed by the time she arrived at UCSB. "I remember the first

Please see **PATTON** on **B3**



SAIL BOAT RACING

A Race to Remember

Ivia Closset, left, and Ava Aufderheide sit in the stern of the J24 class boat Pi during last week's Santa Barbara Yacht Club Wet Wednesday.

DENNIS MORAN / NEWS-PRESS



DENNIS MORAN / NEWS-PRESS

The J24 entry Young Fools, left, cuts through the Santa Barbara Channel during last week's Wet Wednesday event.

BIG WEST BASEBALL



UCSB starting pitcher Stevie Ledesma worked six solid innings in Saturday's Big West game against UC Riverside at Caesar Uyesaka Stadium. He allowed one earned run and got out of a big jam in his final inning of work in the Gauchos' 14-2 victory over the Highlanders. VIC NEUMANN / NEWS-PRESS

UCSB controls home win

By GERRY FALL
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Stevie Ledesma didn't allow a hit until the fourth inning on Saturday.

By then, his UCSB baseball teammates had begun their hit parade that ended in victory lane.

Ledesma tossed six solid innings and got plenty of offensive support from Tommy Jew, Clay Fisher, Drew Williams and others in a 14-2 win over UC Riverside at Caesar Uyesaka Stadium. UCSB clinched the three-game series following Friday's 9-8, 12-inning victory, and kept pace in the Big West Conference with first-place Cal State Fullerton, which beat UC Irvine, 5-3.

Ledesma (5-2) earned his second consecutive victory by limiting the Highlanders to one run on seven hits

14
2



TODAY'S GAME

Who: UC Riverside at UCSB
Where: Caesar Uyesaka Stadium
Time: 1 p.m.
Broadcast: UCSBGauchos.com
Pre-Game: 12:50 p.m.

with six strikeouts and two walks over six innings.

His best work might have been his final two innings, when UC Riverside scored just one run after two big threats. The Highlanders loaded the bases with two outs in the fifth and didn't score, and had a run in and second and third with no outs in the sixth, and failed

Please see **GAUCHOS** on **B3**

Crew has departing member take command of final sail

By DENNIS MORAN
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

This is how memories are made: Ava Aufderheide made the cleanest start her first time skippering a Wet Wednesday sailboat race.

"Let the record show that we are currently winning!" the excited Aufderheide said with a laugh, as she steered the the J24 class Pi right to the start line — just as the countdown came to zero.

"I'm going to remember this moment forever!"

The race start is tricky. Cross the line too early, and you have to circle around and start over again. Too late, and other boats might get the jump on you.

It is a drama played out weekly at the Santa Barbara Yacht Club's Wet Wednesday spring series.

Racing against Svenja and Young Fools in the J24 Fleet last Wednesday, Pi held the lead over the upwind leg of the course, lost it at the turn, regained it during the downwind run, and lost it again at the last turn.

Pi came in a competitive third, but Aufderheide won the frequent praise of Pi owner Vicente Saborio. He also advised on the experience needed to get the inside track on the turns.

"She's doing awesome," Saborio said during the race.

Aufderheide, 27, an event planner originally from Washington state, has crewed on Pi for about a year, learning the ropes of racing the frisky, 24-foot boats from Saborio, who is on the board of the Santa Barbara Sailing Club.

Now she is leaving — moving to London — and she was handed the tiller in honor of her last Wet Wednesday race. Still modestly considering herself a "novice," she clearly relished the experience.

Pi's international five-person crew has other stories of young people who came, saw the sea and wanted to sail. To learn, they sought crew opportunities through the Sailing Club, and in their case, they found Pi.

And they found a warm, enthusiastic mentor in Saborio, who feels there is a missing generation in sailing. He wants to make sure it's restored here, because if you don't sail here, well, that's a shame.

"If you live in Santa Barbara, if you don't go sailing you're missing the main point of living in Santa Barbara," he said.

"And one of the biggest opportunities that this club offers is to go sailing in an affordable way."

His crew members "seized the opportunity" as soon as they came to town, taking advantage of the club's

Please see **SAILING** on **B3**

Yankees' early blast roughs up Angels

REUTERS

ANAHEIM — The New York Yankees exploded for 10 runs in the first two innings and cruised to their eighth win in a row, an 11-1 rout of the Los Angeles Angels

on Saturday night at Angel Stadium.

During the streak, New York's longest since an eight-game string last April, the Yankees have outscored their opponents 62-17.

Aaron Judge and Miguel Andujar had three hits apiece, and Gary Sanchez, Neil Walker and Gleyber Torres chipped in with two each in New York's 14-hit attack.

It seemed to be overkill for Yankees starter Masahiro Tanaka (4-2), who gave up just one run on two hits and two walks in six innings, striking out nine.

Zack Cozart's third homer of the season leading off the fifth inning accounted for the Angels' only run.

Chasen Shreve (seventh inning) and A.J. Cole (eighth and ninth) combined to hold the Angels scoreless for the final three innings to finish it off for the Yankees, who will go for the sweep on Sunday.



USA TODAY

Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge slides past Angels catcher Martin Maldonado to score a run in Saturday's victory.

The Yankees had only three hits in the first inning off Angels starter Garrett Richards (3-1), who had not lost in his first five starts this season. But New York took advantage of Angels miscues to score five runs.

An error by Cozart at shortstop and a passed ball on a third strike by catcher Martin Maldonado contributed to the Yankees' onslaught, which included RBI doubles by Sanchez and Andujar.

In the second, the Yankees kept

Please see **ANGELS** on **B4**

UCSB’s bid for BWC women’s tennis title ends

NEWS-PRESS STAFF REPORT

After battling for nearly five hours, the UCSB women’s tennis team run of three straight Big West Tournament titles came to end Saturday in a 4-3 loss to Hawaii in the semifinals at Indian Wells.

Tied at three, the deciding point came down to a singles match between the Gauchos’ Amanda Atanasson and the Wahine’s Marina Hrubá, won by the latter by a 2-6, 7-6 (5), 7-5.

After winning the doubles point, UCSB added singles wins by Stephanie Yamada and Natalie Da Silveira. The Gauchos’ Palina Dubavets at No. 1 singles lost against Hawaii’s Petra Melounova, 6-0, 1-6, 6-2.

The Gauchos end their season at 12-13 overall, and 7-1 in the Big West. Dubavets and Da Silveira, the 42nd ranked doubles team in the nation, are expected to receive a bid to compete in the NCAA doubles bracket.

For the first time since 2015, UCSB will not advance to the NCAA tournament as a team.

WOMENS SOFTBALL

UCSB 9-1, CSUN 5-8

The Gauchos got two RBIs each from

Genesis Ramirez, Rayna Cohen and Maci Fines to lead an 11-hit attack to win in the first game, before host Northridge came back to force a doubleheader split.

Sierra Altmeyer and Fines went 3-for-4 in the first game, including a double for each. Starter Felisha Noriega got the win.

In the second game, Northridge took control early with a five-run first inning. Down 7-1 in the sixth, the Gauchos got on the board with an unearned run by Alyssa Lazatin on a throwing error.

The Gauchos are 18-29 overall and 5-9 in the Big West. They end the weekend series against the Matadors today, starting at 1 p.m.

PREP BASEBALL

SANTA BARBARA 5, NEWBURY PARK 4

The Dons spotted the Panthers a 4-0 lead before coming back to take the nonleague game at Newbury Park.

Santa Barbara cut the Panther lead in half with a two-RBI single by Bryce Warrecker in the fourth.

Scott Feldman held the Panthers in check for the last three innings and the

Dons rallied for three runs in the bottom of the seventh. Nick Dallow drove in the winning run, finishing the day 2-for-4 with a double.

Santa Barbara resumes league play Tuesday at home against Ventura.

ORCUTT ACADEMY 5, BISHOP DIEGO 3 (8)

The Spartans rallied for two runs in the top of the eight to beat the host Cardinals in a nonleague game.

Gabe Arteaga singled in a run in the first inning for Bishop Diego, and David Gladish and Hamilton Finerock also had RBIs. The Cardinals had four hits for the game, while Orcutt got 11.

Bishop Diego is now 11-6 overall, and remains 6-0 in Tri-Valley League play.

CARPINTERIA 2, SANTA YNEZ 0

Warrior left-handers Chase Mayer and Noah Nuño combined on the shutout in a nonleague game at John Calderwood Field, and the Carpinteria defense played error-free ball for the second game in a row.

Nuño singled in the fourth and was knocked in on a double by Toby Spach, who

scored from second on an RBI groundout by Dominic Sturdivan.

The Warriors return to Tri-Valley League play next week with two against Nordhoff, at home Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

THOUSAND OAKS TOURNAMENT

The Dos Pueblos Chargers got consecutive four-hit shutouts by Talia Bloxham and Allison Speshyock in winning identical 4-0 decisions against Warren and Chaminade.

In the first game, the Chargers scored three runs in the fifth, first by consecutive hits by Allison Gasper and Nova Sin-skul, and then a two-run homer by Sierra Laughner. In the sixth, Lauren Gerken hit a two-strike pitch over the left field fence for her first career home run.

In the second game, the Chargers scored their four runs in the seventh inning, capped by a two-run home run by Mykenzie Ramirez.

Dos Pueblos is now 14-7 overall and remain 6-2 in Channel League play. The Chargers host league leader Buena on Tues-

day at 3:30 p.m.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

LAGUNA BLANCA 3, PROVIDENCE 0

Finn Walker had seven kills and four aces and middle hitters Miles McGovern and Sam Stegall had six kills each to pace the Owls in a 25-20, 25-11, 25-6 sweep.

Laguna Blanca faces Besant Hill in Ventura on Monday.

WOMENS WATER POLO

CSUN 10, UCSB 9

UCSB’s Annie Mortimer scored the game-winning goal in the third sudden death period to lead the Gauchos over the Matadors in the fifth-place match at the Big West Tournament in Irvine.

Kate Pipkin, Sarah Kreiser and Sarah Snyder led UCSB with two goals apiece. In the cage, Kenzi Snyder and Becca Buck combined for eight saves.

The Gauchos finish the season at 16-13, and for next year will lose only one senior, Mortimer.

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GAUCHOS

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to get more.

Ledesma struck out Robert Cruz and Connor Cannon, and got Dylan Orick to bounce back to the box to end the sixth, and preserve a 4-1 lead. UCSB blew it open with six runs in the seventh and four in the eighth to set up a chance at its first three-game conference sweep today.

“Outstanding. He was outstanding,” UCSB coach Andrew Checketts said of Ledesma. “He was a little behind in the count early. His pitch count was up a bit because he had a lot of three-ball counts, but that sixth inning was something when he was able to shut the door.”

“He was able to strike those two guys out and then get the third out. That was awesome to see him in that competitive environment and be able to make those big pitches and clutch pitches.”

Checketts pointed out a big difference he sees between Ledesma as a starter this season and as a reliever last season.

“We’ve seen a lot of maturity out of him, and that’s something he struggled with a year ago out of the bullpen when it came to making those pitches,” UCSB’s seventh-year coach said. “To see him battle through that and do that and to smell a win and go out and get it, I thought that was a fantastic outing.”

Ledesma threw 113 pitches and used a low-90s fastball with a sharp-breaking slider to baffle Highlander hitters.

“I was just trying to throw my fastball at a good height and trying to throw my slider as hard as I was throwing my fastball,” he said. “I was just trying to throw strikes as much as possible.”

Ledesma and the Gauchos beat one of the best pitchers in the Big West this season.

Freshman right-hander Cole Percival entered the game with a 5-1 record and a 2.37 ERA in 57 innings. UCSB went to work against the son



VIC NEUMANN / NEWS-PRESS

UCSB infielder Drew Williams receives a low-five from third-base coach Eddie Cornejo after hitting a two-run homer in Saturday’s 14-2 victory over UC Riverside.

of former Angels closer and current UC Riverside coach, Troy Percival, in the first inning. Jew belted a one-out double and Fisher, the next batter up, singled him home for a 1-0 lead.

It was the start of a monster day for both.

Jew and Fisher each finished 4-for-4 and combined for seven runs batted in and six runs scored. Jew drove in five of the runs and is 8-for-9 for the series with seven RBIs following a 4-for-5 day on Friday.

Williams, a freshman who got the start at first on Saturday, delivered in a big way for Checketts with a two-run single in the third that gave UCSB a 3-0 lead, and a two-run homer in the seventh.

“I pulled the right name out of the hat,” Checketts joked when asked about Williams. ... “He definitely had some good at-bats and the big RBIs and the home run that helped us put it away.”

“He’s going to be a really good hitter. He’s going to be a good player, and I think there’s more power in there. ... He’s got a chance to be a pretty complete hitter by his junior year.”

Checketts and the rest of the Gaucho players and coaches received a big scare in the seventh, when third baseman Jason Willow was hit in the face by an 88 MPH fastball from Percival.

Willow was squaring to bunt and had no chance to get out of the way

of the pitch. After lying face down for several minutes, UCSB’s medical staff was able to get the freshman infielder to the dugout, where Willow remained for the rest of the game.

“The best part about it is that he’s on his feet and still here (at the ballpark), and we didn’t have to rush him to the hospital,” Checketts said shortly after the game. “It doesn’t look like he’s got any kind of concussion symptoms, but he’s got a couple of teeth that are a little bit loose and a big fat top lip. Hopefully he’s going to be OK.”

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SAILING

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modest dues and finding boats to learn and work on.

“And now one of them, she just bought a boat.”

By that he means Ivia Closset, from Lyon, France, whose duty Wednesday was trimming the sails. She is a post-doctoral fellow at the Marine Science Institute at UCSB. Before she arrived in Santa Barbara in 2016, “I never set foot in a sailboat,” she said.

Now she owns one — she just bought the J24 Scallywag, a Wet Wednesday regular that comes with a crew. She will soon be competing with her mentor.

“Vicente taught me everything,” she said.

“This is the way you keep fleets alive,” he said. “You see somebody selling a boat, and you take over. If not, sailing dies, because nobody is buying new boats. There is no way you can keep the fleet alive. And that is very important.”

“We are so happy that she bought that boat, even if we lost her as a crew.”

Good, used J24 boats are modestly priced — about three or four grand can do it, Saborio said — and the Sailing Club’s lot close to the water offers inexpensive storage between outings, for a J24 and trailer about \$110-\$120 a month.

Saborio still has Chris Monnier, who came to town from Basel, Switzerland, for scientific research at UCSB, and Max Genchel, a civil engineer originally from Los Angeles.

Both seized the opportunity to learn from Saborio. Monnier said he’d sailed on lakes in his home country, but the ocean is “a totally different world.”

“He taught me everything,” Monnier said of Saborio. “I owe him a lot.”

“What I enjoy is that he trusts us, and that also inspires a lot of loyalty.”

Saborio, 48, a native of Mexico, first learned to sail in France in 1998, at the “mythic islands of Glenan” off the coast of Brittany. He earned a Ph.D. in urban planning from the University of Paris and the French Institute of Urbanism. He is an urban planning consultant, and he moved to Santa Barbara three years ago, bringing Pi (more formally known as TC) with him.



DENNIS MORAN / NEWS-PRESS

Chris Monnier mans the sails of the boat Pi during the Wet Wednesday event in the Santa Barbara Channel last week.

The J24 was once more popular here, and attracted some of Santa Barbara’s best sailors. It has lost some luster, Saborio said, and his explanation of why is accompanied by some laughter among crew members.

“Because it’s rough!” he said. “And the other boats, it’s so easy to sail. You’re just sitting, and ‘la la la la, I’m in heaven.’ And here (in a J24), every move, you have something to do.”

“You earn every turn, every move,” added Aufderheide. “It’s a little sadistic to be on this boat. You get a lot of bruises.”

Aufderheide will marry her English fiancé in London, and already she has taken the Royal Yachting Association’s Day Skipper course.

Saborio toasted Aufderheide over beers at the Yacht Club after Wednesday’s race.

“It was a privilege to sail with you,” he said.

“I’m so glad I hooked up with all of you,” she replied. “It was the highlight of my time in California.”

For more information on the Santa Barbara Sailing Club, go to www.sailsbse.com

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PATTON

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conversation that we had,” said then-Gaucha coach Josh Priestler. “She said she wanted to be an Olympian. We had countless conversations like that.

“Most people don’t truly understand what it takes to achieve that. But she worked and worked and just made it happen through this iron will.”

Nwaba wound up finishing second at the NCAA Championships in 2012. Three years later, she won the first of her three USATF titles, and in 2016 she won the Olympic Trials in Eugene, Ore. to punch her ticket to Rio de Janeiro.

Watching her “running around Hayward Field with the American flag” was an emotional experience for Tom FitzSimons, her Santa Barbara Track Club teammate.

“Barb’s impact is deeper than just as an athlete,” he said. “She’s a youth coach in Santa Barbara ... And though this phrase may be overstated at times, she really is a great athlete who’s an even better person.

“What she’s done on the track is very special, and I think there is more to come. But even if there isn’t, what she’s doing for the kids in this community right now is huge in itself.”

JOHN ANDERSON was already an Olympian when he arrived at UCSB in the fall of 1984, having competed for Team Canada in water polo at the Summer Games in Los Angeles. But he still had to prove himself to his new Gaucho teammates.

“He wasn’t the most physically intimidating, imposing person, and I think a few guys thought, ‘I can go after this new recruit and kind of take it to him.’” recalled Gaucho All-American Joe O’Brien. “It couldn’t have been further from the truth.”

Anderson wound up winning All-America honors during his two seasons at UCSB, in 1984 and 1985, while often playing the physically

demanding center position.

Former Gaucho coach Pete Snyder said he brought “that tough hockey mentality” with him from Canada.

“He just couldn’t be intimidated, regardless of who the competition is ... Regardless of how physical it got in there,” he said. “It never really seemed to bother John. He always seemed to keep his composure.”

Anderson wound up taking the 1985 Gauchos all the way to the NCAA semifinals.

“We were a no-name group of guys, and we really overachieved by playing with a tremendous spirit,” O’Brien said. “John had a certain way about him as a leader — it was something the guys would respond to.”

“He was competitive and had these high expectations ... it was intimidating in a positive way for the other guys.”

KATHY GREGORY took that same approach during her 38 seasons (1975-2012) as the women’s volleyball coach at UCSB.

“One day she is riding your you-know-what, and the next day she is hooting and hollering and praising your every move,” recalled former Gaucho star Erica Menzel Downing. “She’s a tough cookie but she has an eye for amazing talent, and she would push you and get the best out of you every time. ... Every time.”

Kathy Hanly played on her first Gaucho team and later became her playing partner on the pro beach tour when Gregory was earning her title as “The Queen of the Beach.”

“She was actually the queen of getting volleyball started in Santa Barbara,” Hanly said. “That first year at UCSB she said, ‘What do you mean you don’t play in the winter? ... That’s ridiculous. You should get down there every weekend.’

“We had one women’s court at that time, and we were lucky to get four women playing. Now there are six women’s courts and hundreds of women playing, and she started it all.”

Gregory’s grit was tempered by a wit that kept her players on their toes.

“Of course she was tough, everyone knows

that, but she was also hilarious,” former Gaucho star Heather Collins said. “She could balance everything and make it super-fun on and off the court while pushing you to be your best.”

She pushed the Gauchos to 27 NCAA Tournament appearances and 882 victories with a winning percentage of .681 — higher than any other coach in UCSB history.

KEN PRESTON’S intensity during his 30 years as men’s volleyball coach showed through with his almost maniacal approach to preparation.

David Rottman, an All-American on Preston’s NCAA finalist team of 1988, still recalls the befuddled look on the face of Hawaii’s coach after the Gauchos had beaten the Rainbow Warriors in the regionals that season.

“They were a very scrappy team, defensive as always, but ran a very quick offense with lobbs and insides, and we really hadn’t seen it before,” Rottman said. “But thanks to Kenny, we beat Hawaii. One of their coaches came up to me and said, ‘You guys played very well, but how did you know everything we were going to do?’

“I said, ‘That was Kenny ... He knew exactly what you guys were supposed to do, and I guess you did it.’”

Preston won 516 matches during his 30 seasons (1979-2008), but the victories he treasured most were those achieved by his players after volleyball.

“Ken picked players who were decent young men who were going to be positive influences on their community later,” said Steve Zelko, a Gaucho from the 1980s. “When people asked him, ‘What does your team look like this year?’ He always said, ‘Ask me in 20 years.’

They’re still looking pretty good after all these years.

Mark Patton’s column appears on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. Email: mpatton@newspress.com