SPORTS NEWS

SPORTS ROUNDUP

SOCCER
- The Cal Poly men's soccer team finished the season 7-10 overall and 4-2 in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation. The Mustangs captured the Metlife Classic Tournament in San Diego in September with wins over San Diego and UC Santa Barbara. Senior Danny Hill and freshman James Newton scored both Mustang goals in Cal Poly's 2-0 win over 18th-ranked USD, while goalkeeper Greg Connell was named tournament MVP.

- The women's soccer team went 15-6 overall and finished second in the Big West Conference, with a 5-1 league mark. Junior Gina Oceguera led the Mustangs with 13 goals and 32 total points in 1997, the second-highest total in both categories in school history. She was named Big West Player of the Year at the end of the season, and coach Alex Crozier was named Co-Coach of the Year for the second time.

VOLLEYBALL
- The women's volleyball team wrapped up its best season in years with a 17-11 record, and advanced to the Big West Conference tournament second round with a 3-0 win over Idaho. Sophomore Karl DeSoto was named to the All-Conference first team, and freshman Melanie Hathaway was named to the conference's second and all-freshman teams.

CROSS COUNTRY
- The men's and women's cross country teams had a strong fall season. The men's team captured the title of the Cal Poly Invitational by edging out UC Berkeley 43-40, while the women's team gave a solid performance at the Stanford Invitational, with senior Lori Fancon placing 13th overall in a field that included many of the nation's best runners.

FOOTBALL
- The Mustangs, under first-year coach Larry Welsh, went 10-1 and finished the season ranked 16th in Division I-AA, although they weren't selected to participate in the NCAA playoffs. A near-perfect passing game and a powerful running game contributed to one of the nation's best offenses, with quarterback Alii Abrew finishing the season as the nation's top-ranked passer, and running backs Antonio Warren and Craig Young rushing for more than 1,000 yards each.

- The Mustangs jumped out to the best start since 1975 this season, winning seven straight, including a road win at Division I-A New Mexico State, where kicker Alan Beilke booted a 34-yarder in overtime to lead the Mustangs to the win. And Beilke would later be the hero again on Nov. 8, when he kicked a 50-yard field goal with no time left on the clock, to give Cal Poly a dramatic 20-19 win at Montana State.
Mott Gym to offer improvements

A renovation of Mott Gym, including new seating, concessions, and other improvements, is expected to be completed for the 1998 basketball season.

The remodel was requested by the Big West Conference when Cal Poly was accepted to that conference, and also reflects the university's desire to improve its athletic facilities to a level more suitable for NCAA Division I competition.

The anticipated cost will be approximately $1.2 million. The private funds will be raised through a combination of major gifts, associated with various recognition opportunities within the facility, and the sale of up to 800 chair-back seats.

Prime seats from which to cheer on the Jeff Schneider-led competitive Mustangs can be reserved for a specific number of years with the seat option program. The cost is $750 per seat (plus an annual Stampede Club membership fee of $500). The seats are reserved for five or six years, depending on the payment plan chosen.

For additional information, call the Athletic Advancement Office at 805/756-7194 or 805/756-2144.
Sports complex construction to begin this spring

Groundbreaking is set this spring for a multi-purpose sports complex to include baseball and softball stadiums and six general-purpose recreation and practice fields.

The $9 million complex is funded by student body recreation fees and private donations.

New academic and support buildings on campus have squeezed out recreational space that was already in short supply because the play areas were originally designed for a student body half the size of the university's current 17,000.

With open spaces shrinking on campus over the past six-plus years, outdoor recreational activity has been reduced by about 50 percent, the university estimates. Lacking campus resources, student clubs and organizations have tended to overuse facilities in the nearby community.

The new sports complex will provide open fields for intramural and recreational sports while making space available for intercollegiate team practice and competition in baseball, softball, and soccer. The university's football squad will also practice in the area.

Three champs named to Hall of Fame

A former head football coach and athletic director, and two alumni — one recognized for his boxing skills, the other for his football prowess — are new members of Cal Poly's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Joe Harper served as head football coach from 1968 to 1981 and as athletic director from 1968 to 1973. He is the winningest coach in Cal Poly football history, with 96 wins in 14 seasons.

Frank Loducca (CRSC '58) is remembered as one of the university's all-time greatest boxers. He was the Pacific Coast Invitational champion, a two-time NCAA finalist, and the Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Conference Champion during the late 1950s.

Dana Nafziger (BUS '82) was a three-time All-California Collegiate Athletic Association selection in football and a First-Team All-CCAA selection in 1976. He finished his Cal Poly career with 63 receptions for 882 yards and six touchdowns.

Burger King scholarship awarded to Cal Poly senior

Matt Oliver, an ecology and systematic biology senior, was presented with a 1997 Burger King Football Scholarship during Cal Poly's final home game against Sacramento State. The university received a $10,000 donation to the school's general scholarship fund in Oliver's name.

For the third straight year, Burger King donated a total of $1 million to general scholarship funds in honor of college football seniors who maintain high academic standards, excel on the field, and are actively involved in the community.