Grand Slam! Cal Poly alumnus Ozzie Smith donates $1 million for stadium

By Melissa Geisler and Christine Rombouts Daily Staff

Cal Poly officials, community leaders and Ozzie Smith revealed plans for future athletic facilities, athletic improvements and expected costs at a press conference Tuesday.

What Cal Poly hopes to accomplish with an estimated $19.4 million price tag is the building of a new baseball/softball complex, four athletic and recreational fields and three multipurpose fields, a new football/soccer stadium, the renovation of Mott Gym, new picnic areas and new parking spaces.

The estimated cost of the first phase, which includes the construction of the baseball/softball complex and recreational fields, is $7.4 million. The 2,500-seat baseball/softball complex is expected to include: The Ozzie Smith Baseball Stadium, a new softball stadium, baseball and softball practice fields, covered batting and pitching tunnels, a press box, alumni room, a press entrance and four V.I.P. boxes. Cal Poly Director of Athletics John McCutcheon said the new facilities will be "state of the art" and will become one of the best Division I facilities in the nation.

The second phase of the project is the construction of a football/soccer stadium, which will have a seating capacity of 10,125,000 and include 1,000 chair-back seats, a press box and six V.I.P. suites. Its estimated cost is $8 million.

Improvements will eventually be made to Mott Gym and the track field. The gym will be renovated into a 3,700-seat concourse area with lobbies at both ends of the gym, V.I.P. boxes, luxury seating and concession stands. Fans will enter on the ground level but the court will be below ground. The estimated cost is $4 million.

"We think there are some special things that we can accomplish with Mott Gym," McCutcheon said.

The need for the renovation was sparked by the admission of Cal Poly into the Big West conference, starting in September 1996, which requires the campus to have a 5,000-seat capacity arena.

"We made a commitment to the Big West to improve by the '98-'99 year," McCutcheon said.

Officials say they are trying to anticipate the needs of the university in 10 or 20 years. Cal Poly is working with the City of San Luis Obispo, county school districts, alumni and other private donors to fund the project.

Settle said Cal Poly has the support of the city because there is a critical need to provide the community with recreational fields.

"I believe the project will be as successful as the Performing Arts Center is to date," Settle said.

Officials don't know when they will break ground or how long construction will take. But, Associate Athletic Director of Advancement Chuck Shupper said that they would like to have the baseball stadium completed by the time Cal Poly enters the Big West.

Construction will not begin until more funding is secured, but officials indicated they secured $1.7 million in cash and pledges, including $1 million that Smith has donated. State funds are not available.

Jay Holovanci dumps his "Rush is Right" shirt when he learns the truth about the man with half his brain tied behind his back.

By Melissa Geisler

It's not every day that people come up to you and ask to name a stadium after you.

St. Louis Cardinal shortstop and Cal Poly alumnus Ozzie Smith announced a commitment of $1 million toward the building of new athletic and recreational facilities and the renovation of Mott Gym.

Cal Poly dedicated the future site for the baseball stadium as "The Ozzie Smith Stadium" in his honor, according to Robin Baggett, cochair of Capital Campaign.

"We can be proud that one of the greatest shortstops of all time has his name on a stadium in San Luis Obispo," Baggett said.

Smith, the honorary cochair of the capital campaign which has so far raised $1.7 million, said he was deeply moved by the dedication.

"It's not every day that people come up to you and ask to name a stadium after you," he said.

Inducted into the Cal Poly Athletic Hall of Fame as a charter member in 1987, Smith played for the Mustangs from 1974-77 until he was drafted by the San Diego Padres in 1977. He was later traded to the St. Louis Cardinals.

Smith said the financial impact of committing such a large amount of money is not a big problem.

"I think everyone has to give something back," he said.

See SMITH page 3
The City Fire Department is putting together a video for public service purposes. They are seeking historical film footage of early San Luis Obispo City Fire Department activities. For more information, call Digital West Productions at 546-8200.

Upcoming

A seminar titled "The Importance of Mentors and Collecting Your Letters of Recommendation" is being offered Feb. 1 at 11 a.m. in Science north, room 201. Special guest speaker, Heidi Hamlen, D.V.M.,

The Physics Colloquium is hosting a discussion called, "Physics, Nature and the Environment" Feb. 1 at 11:10 a.m. in building 52, room E-45.

Engineering and computer science students are invited to attend a career seminar on Feb. 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in building 26, room 103. Ernest & Young, Silicon Graphics, Cisco Systems and TRW will be attending.

The Women's Studies Potluck is taking place Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. at Dr. Shown Burn's house. For directions and information, call 756-1525.

Due to the excessive demand, not all items submitted to the Agenda section will be printed.

***Please submit information at least three days prior to the event***

Poly Reps link to the community

By Peggy Critin

They are probably the first people prospective students meet on campus, no, not the cashiers at El Corral. They are Poly Reps, and they are more than just fact-laden campus tour guides. They are 30 links between prospective students, current students and alumni.

Cosponsored by the Alumni Relations Office, Admissions Office and the Student Affairs Division, Poly Reps are an honorary public relations organization composed of current students. "We have a wide range of people and personalities," said mechanical engineering senior Christina Parr. Poly Reps were started in 1986, with the hope of promoting the university to prospective students, increasing awareness of the benefits of Alumni Association membership, and representing the student body at a variety of events, like Homecoming.

"Nothing beats firsthand information," said Poly Reps Advisor Cindy Bennett-Thompson. "It's also great for alumni to have a connection to current Cal Poly students."

In addition to planning events at Homecoming, Poly Reps help organize Parents' Days and the "Apple Polysher," which is a banquet honoring a special staff member. Poly Reps inform prospective students by making presentations at area high schools and community colleges and by serving on panels to discuss student life.

Some of the benefits of being a Poly Rep are meeting hundreds of new people, developingcontacts, broadening public relations skills, and having fun with Poly Reps help link the campus to prospective students and promote Cal Poly at various events, such as Homecoming.

See REPS page 8
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1996

Career Symposium

Preparation Workshops for Job Fair

Attend this informative workshop at Career Services in Room 224:

Panel: Careers in Consulting, Thursday, February 22, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Staff Dining Room B, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Panelists: Careers in Consulting, Thursday, February 22, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Preparation Workshops for Job Fair

Preparing for a Job Fair, Thursday, February 15, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Staff Dining Room B, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

or Monday, February 19, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

SMITH: Alumnus’ future goal in project uncertain

From page 1

Although Smith said his future role in the project is uncertain, he did admit it will allow him to come back to Cal Poly more than he has in the past.

Smith encouraged everyone to get involved with the project, and said the building of the stadium will be a lasting example of what can be accomplished after years of hard work.

“This is an example of what can happen if you set goals,” he said. “I have worked hard to be a good citizen and make a difference in others’ lives.”

“I hope my contributions will touch numerous children in the community,” Smith added.

Chris Rombouts contributed to this article.

Thursday, February 22, 1996
10:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Chumash Auditorium
All Majors Welcome

Career Symposium Confirmed Companies

Career Symposium Confirmed Companies

Thursday, February 22, 1996
10:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Chumash Auditorium
All Majors Welcome
Policy Box

Letters to the editor and commentaries are welcome. Send them to dpillsbu@oboe, fax them to 756-6784, or mail them or bring them in to Graphic Arts Bldg. 226, Cal Poly, CA 93407. Make sure you include your name, major, year and phone number.

Letters should be less than a page double-spaced. Commentaries should be around two pages double-spaced. We reserve the right to edit for length, clarity, obscenity or plain knobby-mindedness. Have a nice day.

Randy Gehlen is a financial management senior.

I'm making a prediction now, and you know I'm always right. I'm predicting that in the '96 Presidential election, Clinton will be revealed as a space alien, planted here by gay martians with hopes to rule the world...

Randy Gehlen is a financial management senior.

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The second step is getting control of your spending. This doesn't mean that you can spend money on yourself, it's just recognizing where your money is being spent. First, write down all of the expenditures you must make every month and set them off against your monthly income. Keep it simple. If your spending is more than your income, you need to trim those expenditures. Maybe go out only on Friday night, instead of Friday and Saturday.

Another important part of your financial plan should be tackling your credit card debt. If you carry large credit card balances you are probably paying a huge sum of money in interest payments that could be kept in your pocket. I had a friend tell me the other day that he paid over $700 in interest charges on his credit card balance, payment of which was set to be made each month. Wouldn't it be nice to have that amount in a savings account instead? So include a credit card payment that is more than the minimum payment in your monthly budget, and get those credit cards paid off.

It is a good idea to completely pay off your credit cards before you begin the next step. Credit card interest can make a huge dent in the difference between what you pay by savings accounts that you will be saving your salary for. Once you have no zero balance on your cards it is very important to maintain it. Pay off those credit cards every month.

The most important part of your budget is establishing a savings plan. "Pay yourself first" is often the phrase that is used. Decide on a dollar amount and put it in a savings account every month. It doesn't have to be much, just put something aside. You will be surprised how quick cash will add up.

You can make it really easy on yourself by making your savings plan automatic. Have your bank automatically take your monthly savings amount from your checking to your savings account. You won't even have to be sure that you deduct it from your check register.

Once you have paid off all of your credit card balances, and you have two or three months worth of money set aside, you can proceed with the steps.

So, please, fellow Cal Poly students, follow these four simple steps and be on your way to financial self-mindfulness. Have a nice day.

James D. Hemvans, Editor in Chief
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Erin Martin, Art Editor
Kristin Kennedy, Opinion Editor
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I'm making a prediction now, and you know I'm always right. I'm predicting that in the '96 Presidential election, Clinton will be revealed as a space alien, planted here by gay martians with hopes to rule the world...
They shoot hoops, too

Football season is over at Penn State, but that hasn't quieted talk about a national championship.
NFC slowly losing dominance

BY DAVE GOLDBERG
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

TEMPE, Ariz. — The Dallas Cowboys' struggle to beat Pittsburgh in the Super Bowl could be a sign that the NFC's dominance is slowly coming to an end after a dozen straight NFL titles.

"Free agency promotes parity," coach Barry Switzer said Monday as he talked about the Cowboys' 27-17 win a day earlier.

That's parity between conferences as well as parity among teams.

After all, the AFC has as many Super Bowl winning coaches (Bill Parcells and Jimmy Johnson) as the NFC (Switzer and George Seifert). And the Steeler's Bill Cowher enhanced his standing as the game's best young coach by outmaneuvering the more talented Cowboys and almost winning.

Moreover, the Dallas victory, giving Switzer the Super Bowl for the Cowboys, could be the first step toward a trend.

And it gets worse next season for the Cowboys.

They have seven defensive starters who are free agents.

One cornerback, Kevin Smith, is recovering from an Achilles tendon injury; another, Deon Sanders, could miss part of the season playing baseball, and a third, Brown, is likely off postseason performances against Green Bay and Pittsburgh to triple his $500,000 salary.

Bill Johnson, who loves to play quarterback yet, or go shopping for someone else, Harbaugh perhaps?

Some of the answers may lie with Leigh Steinberg, the agent to free agency and William Floyd to injury. The Niners did when it lost Ricky Watters and a third. Brown, is likely off.

And unless Troy Aikman, who had a career another step back, just as last year's winner, San Francisco, did when it lost Ricky Watters to free agency and William Floyd to injury. The Niners already are in a panic mode. Sanders has been thrown those interceptions to Brown, the NFC garnered.

In fact, next season may be decided in the two months following the Feb. 15 start of free agency, when teams must weigh their price for a player against how much they'll have to allocate for him under the cap, which will probably be $38 million and $40 million.

So:

— Will Johnson turn Miami into Valley Ranch East, attracting such Cowboy free agents as Brown, Darren Woodson, Russell Maryland and Derrin Smith to South Florida to join Dan Marino?

— Will the Colts re-sign Jim Harbaugh, who had a career-healing season playing baseball and got Indianapolis to the AFC title game?

— Will the 49ers find their running back in Rodney Hampton of the Giants, who has five straight 1,000-yard seasons and provides the consistency and drive that Derek Loville lacks? Might Johnson, who loves north-south running backs like Hampton, try to hire him to Miami?

— Will the Steelers bring O'Donnell back; turn to Kordell Stewart, who's not ready to play quarterback yet, or go shopping for someone else, Harbaugh perhaps?

— Will the 49ers find their running back in Rodney Hampton of the Giants, who has five straight 1,000-yard seasons and provides the consistency and drive that Derek Loville lacks? Might Johnson, who loves north-south running backs like Hampton, try to hire him to Miami?

And unless Troy Aikman, who had a career another step back, just as last year's winner, San Francisco, did when it lost Ricky Watters and a third. Brown, is likely off.

And unless Troy Aikman, who had a career another step back, just as last year's winner, San Francisco, did when it lost Ricky Watters and a third. Brown, is likely off.
January 31, 1996

Camby's return brings back chemistry for Massachusetts

BY MARYANN HUDSON

AMHERST, Mass. — A chilling wind howled through the campus of the University of Massachusetts before dawn, but by the time afternoon rolled around, 3,000 students and alumni in this picturesque Northeast community felt the cold.

Saturday afternoon inside Mullins Center, Marcus Camby, perhaps the best college basketball player in the nation, warmed the hearts of a sellout crowd of 9,493 by returning to play for the first time since he mysteriously collapsed two weeks ago.

With a trademark dunk midway through the second half and an amovbed move afterward that he said came from Shawn Kemp, Camby thrilled the crowd and the many returnees in a 72-47 UMass Atlantic 10 Conference victory over St. Bonaventure. It is the Minutemen's 18th consecutive victory. They remain the only undefeated team in the nation.

And here Camby was worried his return would mess up the team's chemistry.

"I'm actually relieved, maybe after today you guys (the media) will leave me alone," said Camby, not exactly joking. "It's good to show the world there is truly nothing wrong with me."

Camby, who missed four games, started at center and played 26 minutes. He led the team with 19 points, nine blocks—which tied a five-year-old school record—and seven rebounds. But his game didn't really come together until the second half, when he made 12 of 15 shots through baskets and blocked four consecutive shots.

A four-foot jumper from the corner gave Camby the 1,000th point of his three-year career.

"Once I hit that shot, I thought, I'm back, I'm back,"

Camby said.

But even Camby had his doubts before the game began. He was concerned because after a week of tests at the UMass Medical Center doctors still don't know what caused him to lose consciousness for 10 minutes before a game against St. Bonaventure in Olean, N.Y., on Jan. 14.

"I'm confident going back on the court, but I still have my doubts... You know it when you know it," Camby said.

He was concerned because his mother, Diane, who attended the game, has been concerned. "I've been a little on edge," she said.

He knew that his collapse sparked memories of Hank Gathers and, especially in this part of the country, former Boston Celtic Reggie Lewis, both of whom collapsed once again while playing basketball, recovered, then collapsed again and died of heart disorders.

Camby had thought about this more than once before doctors ruled out his heart.

Tyronn Weeks, Camby's roommate, had also agonized about it.

"I knew Gathers, so it was the first thing that popped into my head," said Weeks. "I just went to sleep, got up around the corner from Gathers in the Raymond Basin Projects in Philadelphia. "I never talked to Marcus about it, because I didn't want to put anything in his head about Hank."

But the relief Saturday from Camby's successful return extended to teammates and family to the UMass students and alumni. His triumph heralded the end of the pain and nervousness that has plagued this campus for the past two weeks when it suffered not only the scare of Camby's collapse, but the death of another popular athlete.

"For days before Camby lay unconscious, Greg Mentor, a UMass swimmer, collapsed in the arms of his coach after finishing the 100-yard freestyle event."

"He was sitting next to me on the sidelines and we were both watching the breast stroke event talking about how the event wasn't going so well for us," said his coach, Russ Yarworth. "Suddenly he says, 'Oh my God, Russ,' and slumped against the wall."

He's back: Marcus Camby made his return against St. Bonaventure and is recovering from heart problems.

ISIDE THE NCAA

Eastern Michigan in Top 25
for first time at Division I

By HARRY ATKINS

YPSILANTI, Mich. — Good news travels fast, even from Ypsilanti. Congratulations were pouring in from around the world early Monday, including a fox News Poll.

At the center of all this attention is Eastern Michigan University. The Eagles (15-1) are ranked for the first time since 1972-73 as the best college basketball team before the 1974-75 season. They broke into No. 23 in this week's Associated Press poll.

Massachusetts (18-0) remains No. 1. The Minutemen, the only unbeaten team in the nation, received 59 of 63 first-place votes and 1,571 points from the national media panel. That was 62 points more than Kentucky, the second ranked team in the nation since UMass moved to No. 1.

Kansas, Connecticut and Cincinnati again followed Kentucky. Eastern Michigan is ranked 25th for the first time.

"First, you have to believe in yourself," Braun said. "We want our players to compete. I'm a competitive person. We're always challenging our players to be better than they are."

Earl Boykins and James Head are two good examples of that.

Boykins is a 5-foot-7 sophomore who weighs 135 pounds after a big meal. Boykins has started all 45 games since arriving. He spark a six-game winning streak,

"We don't play to be ranked," Braun said. "We play to win championships. But if we get ranked, that's a nice reward. It will be good for recruiting, that's for sure. You'd better believe this is going to all our recruits!"

IN TOP 25

USA TODAY TOP MEN'S TEAMS

1. Kentucky (25-1) 1070 pts.
2. Tennessee (24-1) 902 pts.
3. Wisconsin (22-2) 746 pts.
4. Connecticut (20-3) 626 pts.
5. Cincinnati (18-4) 618 pts.
6. Arkansas (19-5) 615 pts.
7. Florida (16-7) 536 pts.
8. Northwestern (16-7) 515 pts.
9. Perm  St. (14-2) 361 pts.
10. Perm  St. (14-2) 351 pts.
11. Iowa (16-7) 281 pts.
15. Wisconsin (13-2) 220 pts.
16. Arkansas (14-2) 156 pts.
17. Arizona (17-3) 117 pts.
18. Minnesota (13-4) 111 pts.
20. Seton H aR (10-7) 98 pts.

USA TODAY TOP WOMEN'S TEAMS

1. Tennessee (24-1) 1070 pts.
2. Connecticut (20-3) 902 pts.
3. Cincinnati (18-4) 626 pts.
4. Georgia (18-6) 477 pts.
5. Kansas (19-4) 467 pts.
7. Arizona (15-3) 452 pts.
10. Perm  St. (14-2) 361 pts.
11. Perm  St. (14-2) 351 pts.
12. Iowa (16-7) 281 pts.
16. Seton H aR (10-7) 98 pts.
17. Tennessee (24-1) 82 pts.
18. Connecticut (20-3) 79 pts.
19. Cincinnati (18-4) 77 pts.
20. Perm  St. (14-2) 76 pts.
For the past three decades, Penn State basketball has been overshadowed by Joe Paterno and his football program. But the 11th-ranked Nittany Lions no longer remain...
as he blocked another eight shots against Tennessee-Chattanooga three weeks later.

So, what's an offense without a good defense? For starters, it's not this Penn State team. A critical element to the Nittany Lion attack continues to be the aggressive and sometimes smothering defense.

This year, Penn State is limiting their opponents to an average of 61.5 points per game. They rank in the top 15 nationally in scoring defense, scoring margin, rebound margin and field goal defense.

"I really like them because they have no weaknesses that I can see," said Purdue Coach Gene Keady after his team's loss to Penn State. "At every position they've got smart kids that play hard."

Penn State had been undefeated until its Jan. 21 loss at Michigan. Dunn had more than a week to get his team ready for the Big Ten showdown with Michigan. Wolverine coach Steve Fisher knew what his team had in store when they would meet the now No. 14 Lions.

"It's a little bit surprising for anybody to be undefeated at this stage," coach Fisher said before the game. "Now that I've watched the film, I know why. The players know their roles. They play smart. They make good decisions. They have good perimeter shooting. It's very hard to beat teams that don't beat themselves, and they don't beat themselves."

The team can look to rewrite another piece of the ever-changing Penn State record book.

Donovan Williams stepped into the starting lineup after straining his Achilles tendon against Minnesota game, Lisicky's consistent output was missing for a while. However, reserve guard Donovan Williams stepped into the fray and posted nine points.

blocks records under his belt and has more blocks than eight Big Ten teams, while Lisicky and Earl look to shot their ways in as the season progresses.

The team can look to rewrite attendance marks as they go from the nearly 7,000 capacity of Rec Hall to the sell-out potential of a 13,000-seat Jordan Center. As one of their long list of victims has said, perhaps the best is yet to come from this group.

"It's a team that has nice balance," Keady said. "I don't see why they won't be in the top 10 when the season ends in the national rankings if they continue to play like they do now."

Don't look now, Penn State, is a sports editor at Penn State, is a sports editor at Penn State. He has the season and game image of Penn State as the Huckleback State or whatever playing team which had not faced a real team yet, as Wolverine Maceo Baston joked about before the contest.

"We beat a very good team," coach Fisher said.

Rather than find contentment amid the loss, Penn State was dusting off their newly tarnished record and thinking of what they must do to get back on the winning track.

"I don't care what the country thinks," Booth said. "We still lost."

"We've got to come in and win games like this," Dunn said.

"I'm not satisfied with the way we were playing now," Dunn said a day after the Michigan loss. "I'd be more satisfied if we were 14-0. I like to learn things by winning.

At 14-1, this Penn State team could break through and be able to set up its own page in the Penn State record book. Already Booth has the season and game..."
INGLEWOOD - Magic Johnson returned to the NBA Monday from an off-season retirement by signing a contract with the Los Angeles Lakers for the remainder of the season. He was scheduled to debut against the Golden State Warriors at the Forum Tuesday.

He will be playing in his first NBA game other than exhibitions since June 12, 1991. He retired five months later, just prior to the 1991-92 season, after testing positive for the AIDS virus.

"He signed a contract...and sold his interest in the Lakers," said Johnson's agent, Leon Rosen, just before to practice at Loyola Marymount University. "He will be playing tomorrow, No. 32 will be back." Johnson's contract is reportedly worth $28.2 million.

There have been severaI aborted Johnson comeback since his original retirement, and several other speculative comebacks. But Johnson continuedly changed his mind and finally, last summer, said he would never return. But for Johnson, the word "never" has been a definite thing. Rosen said Johnson will decide following this season what he wants to do thereafter. July 3 will be 37 by the time the 1996-97 season gets under way.

"He'll continue in all his businesses," Rosen said. "His touring team will postpone its tour." Lakers coach Del Harris expressed excitement about Johnson's move.

"It's an exciting day, obviously, for everybody," Harris said. "There's no doubt the players are looking forward to playing with him on a real basis. The team's playing well and we expect to play even better.

Johnson likely will play power forward. He led the Lakers to five NBA championships during the 1980s as a point guard.

"He adds so much," Lakers guard Sedale Threatt said. "He can play five positions. I think teams will have to concentrate on him and, with the nucleus we already have, I'll make us the best team in the West."

Stars and Leafs swap centers

The Toronto Maple Leafs acquired center Dave Gagner from the Dallas Stars Sunday for center Benoit Hogue and left wing Randy Wood.

The Maple Leafs also let the New York Rangers select in either the 1996 or '97 Entry Draft, Gagner, 31, had 14 goals and 15 assists in 45 games with Dallas this season. In 680 career games, he has 250 goals and 303 assists and is fifth on the franchise's career scoring list.

Hogue, 29, had 12 goals and 25 assists in 44 games with the Maple Leafs this season after they acquired him last season in a trade with the New York Islanders. In 510 career games, he has 165 goals and 219 assists. Wood, 30, had seven goals and nine assists in 46 games this season and has 168 goals and 150 assists in 646 career NHL games with the Islanders, Buffalo and Toronto.

Center Mario Lemieux of the Pittsburgh Penguins was selected Monday the NHL's player of the week. Lemieux had five goals and four assists, highlighted by a shortened overtime goal to win one game and a five-point performance in another. Lemieux helped Dallas center Mike Modano (three goals, six assists), teammates, finishing goals Allan Bester (three wins and a 3.00 goals-against average) and Montreal forward Martin Rustinsky (five goals, five assists). It is Lemieux's fourth player of the week award this season and the 21st of his career. He is second only to Wayne Gretzky.

The struggling New York Islanders Monday called up highly-touted goaltender Eric Fichaud from Worcester of the American Hockey League. The Islanders also assigned goaltender Tommy Salo, left wing Andrew Vachon and right wing Danton Cole to Utah of the National Hockey League. The 20-year-old Fichaud was 13-15-6 with one shutout and a 2.93 goals-against average and a .913 save percentage for Worcester. He was acquired from Toronto last April in a trade for Benoit.

Occasionally, the sportswriter and the sportswriter may be one and the same.
Interleague play will bring back the fans to baseball

Disatisfaction with Major League Baseball and its strike of 1994-95, the same strike that cancelled the first World Series in baseball history, still lingers.

Fans showed their dissatisfaction during last season with a 20 percent drop in ticket sales. Many baseball purists just flat-out refused to show. But the league has now made a decision that will help baseball get back on its feet.

On January 19th, the baseball owners agreed on the beginning of interleague play. This would mean that teams in the American League and National League would have a limited schedule against each other.

This decision breaks a rule that goes back to the originality of the league, that the only time an NL team would play an AL team would be in the World Series.

This is an idea that should have come years ago. The San Francisco Giants, for example, haven't played the Cleveland Indians since the 1954 World Series. 3Com Park would sell out in a heartbeat if the new and improved Indians were going to come to town.

Looking to other professional sports, you see that the National Hockey League, the National Basketball Association, and the National Football League all have schedules that involve interleague play. The schedule makers might have some problems with it, but hey, what do those guys get paid to do anyway?

Opponents argue that this isn't the way baseball was intended. Well, that's true. But Major League Baseball wasn't intended to have wild card games, or cancelled World Series, or $7 million a year players, either. The purists must realize that baseball is a business that must change and adapt to compete with other sports.

Interleague play might be the decision that could pull the MLB out of its rut.

Most importantly, the change will bring fans back to the ballpark. Teams like Seattle, who only deal in the American League market, will bring the National League to its city. And the same with the Colorado Rockies and Detroit Tigers. Bringing in new teams will only expand the fan base that must exist for a franchise to survive.

It is true that we could be stuck seeing a game between the Padres and Brewers, but for every one of those, there will be a Dodgers vs. Red Sox or a White Sox vs. Cubs game. Traditional teams will finally fare off after so long.

As long as the Players Association agrees, (and all signs are that they will) interleague play will begin in the 1997 season. Each team will have 15 or 16 games per season against one division in the opposite league. The designated hitter rule is one point that the owners still haven't agreed on, but at the moment, the DH will still exist if the game is played in an American League ballpark.

Slowly, Major League Baseball is trying to win back fans that have left them. Interleague play should be a new attraction for fans, and coupled with two new teams in 1998, new professional baseball and its fans have something to look forward to.

Anthony Pedrottì is a Sporting Journal columnist. E-mail: apedrotti@sbc.calpoly.edu.

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Men's basketball team
Women's basketball team

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IN THE BLEACHERS
By Steve Moore

“How bout them Lakers? How bout them Rangers? How bout them Vikings? How bout them Bulls? How bout ...”
Where is the Big Man?

The men's basketball team has turned around its program despite missing an intricate a dominating center. But how far can they go missing a big man?

STORY BY FRANCO CASTALDINI

With nine wins and a .500 record, Cal Poly is no longer standing last in college basketball. But what was a radical rise through the first half of its second year of Division I has been halted.

After losing three out of its last four, Cal Poly is standing small, literally.

With first-year coach Jeff Schneider's fast-paced perimeter game — Cal Poly was able to survive without a big man, but only temporarily. The Mustangs are being submerged with bigger lineups.

Cal Poly has mustered victories by playing its full-court defense and trying to keep the ball away from the opposing team's center.

Not one player for Cal Poly is averaging double digits in rebounds. Damien Levesque leads the team in rebounds with seven per game.

It didn't take long for opposing coaches to realize there was no Marcus Camby, Jelani McCoy or Tim Duncan in this lineup. Despite all the concerns, Schneider's fast-paced perimeter game — Cal Poly was able to survive without a big man, but only temporarily.

The Mustangs cannot rely on its outsidering and does not appear to he in at least not playing on the floor. With their big man dressed up in suits, logging time on the bench, Cal Poly is being manhandled in the middle.

In last week's game against Loyola Marymount, the Lions' 6-foot-9, 260 pound forward Ime Udoka, after being held to just four points in the first half, became an unstoppable force in the second half finishing with 13 points and eight rebounds.

It doesn't take a genius to know Cal Poly relies on its outside game and penetrating drives to the hoop to score most of its points. And they don't get many second chances.

The Mustangs are surviving offensively, averaging 81.2 points a game, amongst the highest in the nation. Defensively, it's a different story. Teams are posting up and scoring easy baskets against the smaller players from Cal Poly.

Cal Poly is allowing teams to score an average of 79.2 points a game.

Games against Saint Mary's and Loyola Marymount — teams with centers who took advantage of Cal Poly inside — turned into losses because of the Mustangs' inability to defend against a bigger body.

Once the secret is out — a secret which isn't being well kept — that the way to beat Cal Poly is by playing a slower-paced, halfcourt game, utilizing bigger men posting up, the Mustangs will have to find a way to fill this void if they want to become a legitimate force in the Big West next year.

The Mustangs cannot rely on 6-foot-7 Levesque who has been forced to guard opposing teams' centers and defend larger bodies after game.

Even he knows it.

"We need a guy who is a big time rebounder," Levesque said. "We need one to contend with the big guys in the Big West...we don't really have a presence in the middle right now."

Where are their big man now?

David Sterlington, a 6-foot-8 walk-on who became an important part to Cal Poly's defense by giving Cal Poly more size in the middle, is gone after this year.

Sophomore center Chris Ott, who broke his thumb before the season started, has not attended practice in more than one month and does not appear to be in Schneider's plan for next year.

Sophomore center Jim Croy, one of the four players kept from last year's team, has not provided much strength in the middle, averaging less than three points (2.3) and three rebounds (2.8) per game.

So what will Schneider do to strengthen his team? Will he wave his magic wand like he did last year and recruit a no-name center who develops into a dominating big man or will he continue to try and outrun and outshoot his opponents — a strategy which can take a team only so far.

Despite all the concerns, there remains a possible silver-lining in what is becoming a very gray cloud. Hidden away in Schneider's bench is a possible answer in red-shirt freshman Russ Bryden.

But any possible solutions he could bring to Cal Poly's big-man woes won't come until next year.

"There are times that I wish I had (Bryden) now," Schneider said. "He's going to give us as an excellent post defender."

"I don't think (he) realizes how good he can be."

The engineering major from Redlands, Calif., has looked impressive in practices, proving he can be a force in the middle with tremendous shot-blocking skills.

"My competitive game has raised our (recruiting) level to teams like Santa Clara." Schneider said. "Maybe I will offer the team the big man they need."

Will he be the answer or will Schneider look deeper to find more help in the middle?

"We'll get a big man," Schneider said. "I want a big man who can shoot it too."

His confidence to recruit players has grown in just a half a year coaching at Cal Poly.

Before he was trying to sell empty stadiums and the worst record in Division I. "Now we can go into anybody's home and say when we play at home it's going to be packed," Schneider said. "We've raised our (recruiting) level to teams like Santa Clara."

Following a disastrous first year in Division I, Cal Poly has proven they can play at this level. Now the question is can they rid themselves of their boyish features and become the big men in college basketball.

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Get that out of here: Junior forward Damien Levesque has been forced to take some of the load in the center, but Levesque cannot solve Cal Poly's lack of depth in the paint.
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L.A. Police Chief offers solution to misuse of 911 line

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The city’s 911 operators received 5 million calls last year — and 80 percent of them weren’t true emergencies, police Chief Willie Williams said.

Instead, the callers wanted general information — like directions to Disneyland, the time of openings, police Chief Willie Williams said.

"One, I couldn’t believe it — (was for) the best seating in the Coliseum," Williams said at a news conference Monday. "This ties up the 911 lines," Williams said. "It ties up the operators, because they all try to be professional in their response. It ties up someone who may have a true emergency trying to get in."

Operators try to personally answer each call in less than 10 seconds. Sometimes, callers will be put on hold and hear a recording until an operator can get to the call. In 1995, more than 325,000 callers hung up when the recording came on.

Williams said the city needs a new three-digit number that residents can call for non-emergency help.

According to Williams, the LAPD wants to provide a citywide, seven-digit number for non-emergency calls. But the department and Pacific Bell haven’t found a way to make the call cost-free.

The department may eventually compromise and use a toll-free 800 number, said Cmdr. Charles Carlson of the LAPD’s communications programs.

"The reason I don’t like it is there are too many numbers to dial," Carlson said. "But we may have to bite the bullet."

Since 1993, about $225 million in voter-approved bond money has been spent on upgrades to various systems. A new line, no matter how many digits it has, will cost more money.

Meanwhile, the City Council’s Public Safety Committee approved an LAPD request to add 16 emergency dispatch consoles — at a cost of $300,000 — for a total of 42. The City Council still must vote on the measure.

The city’s 911 system is the nation’s largest and has been considered inadequate since it was installed in 1984.
Greece, Turkey poised to battle over 10-acre islet

The islet of Imia is Greek. Defense Minister Gerasimos Arsenis insists Tuesday, "It is the responsibility of the armed forces to defend Greek territory, and they are in a position to defend it."

"We favor peace, but... this country doesn't have a single piece of stone to cede to other countries," countered Premier Tanss Ciller of Turkey.

Greece has sent seven ships to protect the island. Turkish and Greek fighter jets started their volunteer service at the 10-acre islet inhabited only by a small herd of goats.

Turkish and Greek fighter jets skirmished in the sky over the rocks Tuesday, twice engaging in air duels meant to chase out the other planes. They are both must heavily armed countries in the region.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman said Thursday that Turkish administration was urging both governments "to calm down and draw back."

"We think it's very important that both parties take a deep breath and talk about it and not engage in military demonstrations or threats or posturing," spokesman Glyn Dudas said.

That position was echoed by President Clinton, who said he urged the president and prime minister of Turkey and the new prime minister of Greece over the telephone to "move their forces away from that little island and to find a diplomatic solution."

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