Meet Cal Poly's freshman volleyball sensation
Page 3

A look at Mustang football coach Andre Patterson
Page 4

Catch up on the women's soccer season
Page 7
Cal Poly has two cheerleading teams.

The first shows up to the big fan-packed games and has custom-made uniforms and pompons. The second is a team of two, a husband and wife.

Rena and Herb Metras, married for more than 50 years, have homemade uniforms, pompons and signs. Rather than perform fly-high stunts, the two perform their own unrehearsed routine.

"We're actually having a ball," Rena said. The couple have been coming to Cal Poly games for about three years. Before that they were cheering for the Blues, a local semiprofessional baseball team. It was only because of a mistake that they started cheering for Cal Poly.

The Metras' came to cheer on the men's baseball team one day but, when they got to the stadium they realized they had made a mistake, the team was out of town. Rather than go home, they stayed to watch a women's softball game.

"We got hooked," Rena said. Now the announcers recognize and call them "Super Fans."

At first she cheered in sweats until one day when it was 94 degrees in the shade. She thought if she had to wear shorts, "I might as well wear something appropriate," she said. That's when she made her green and gold skirt.

The couple said they try to come to the games that don't have as many fans, especially the women's games.

"We want to a men's basketball game and they have everything there," Herb said. "We went to a women's game and they didn't have anything." Although Herb coached in the Babe Ruth League, neither played sports or cheered while they were in school.

"I was very shy in high school," she said. But when asked if she's shy now she is adamant.

"Oh no, not any more. I came out of my shell...I guess I'm kind of rambunctious," she said with a chuckle.

All their cheering and support has not gone unnoticed. In fact, last year the couple was invited to the annual awards ceremony for Cal Poly athletes where they were asked to lead a cheer. More than that, Rena said she gives the teams little pep talks now and then.

Cheering means a great deal to the two.

"When we don't have it, we miss it. It's just nice to be around young people, it makes you feel younger. At this stage in our lives it means a lot," Rena said.

Cheering means a great deal to the two.

"When we don't have it, we miss it. It's just nice to be around young people, it makes you feel younger. At this stage in our lives it means a lot," Rena said. The only time the couple does miss a game is when they are dancing in one of their ballroom performances in Los Angeles.

All this and yet neither went to Cal Poly, but they have lived in San Luis Obispo for more than 47 years.

As honorary Mustangs, the two hope they are helping keep up the fans' spirits.

"Hopefully we are helping keep up the (athletes') self esteem and spirit," Rena said.

They build the fans' spirits too.

"We try to get the fans excited. If they get involved they have a good time then they come back and you get bigger crowds. Even if I have a handful of people and I can get them to yell, it's OK," she said.
Towering above the court, she is poised, ready to strike the ball and crush it down on her opp­onents. She strives to save it from hitting her side of the court. She does it all with a smile.

Freshman Kari DeSoto, 6-foot, 3-inch tall, stands as the tallest Cal Poly women’s volleyball player ever. She is a middle blocker from Yorba Linda, Calif., who uses her talent to simply have fun.

DeSoto, 18, played softball most of her life, but found her niche in volleyball during her freshman year at Esperanza High School.

“Volleyball is much faster than a lot of games, especially at middle blocker,” DeSoto said. “You are involved in almost every play. Either you are going up to block the ball or hit the ball on the opposite side.”

In 1995, DeSoto aided her high school team in winning the Desert Classic title. DeSoto, hitting .320 in her senior season, was also one of six named to the all tournament team when she led her club team to Far Western’s Championship in Berkeley.

“I was really excited with the entire team,” DeSoto said. “Playing club volleyball for three years in high school gave me the ability to evaluate and respond consistently getting better every day.”

DeSoto is first in blocks per game (1.32) and fifth in hitting percentage (.320).

“I liked coming in and having someone on the team,” DeSoto said. “This is a good team and we have a lot of potential.”

DeSoto, like her teammates, is quick to roll over and sacrifice herself to reach the ball in time to save the play. When DeSoto somersaults she always pops right back up for the next point.

“Kari is showing great strength in the front row all the way around,” Schlick said.

“Kari is a definite advantage in her playing. When she stands flat on the floor, her height can reach above the net. She said her height has more advantages than disadvantages, and after all, it is helping her pay for her education.”

“I was standing around a lot and I felt very tall,” DeSoto said. “But then I thought, you know what, I really like it.”

Standing above everyone else, DeSoto is always looking to slam the ball to the other side of the net. DeSoto often sends the other team tumbling for the ball. She will correct her serving skills and she will continue to improve,” Schlick said. “Her hair has done a very good job for us.”

Schlick said. “You are involved in almost every play. Either you are going up to block the ball or hit the ball on the opposite side.”

Above: Middle blocker Kari DeSoto goes for a spike during last week’s game against Santa Clara. DeSoto leads the Big West with a 1.32 blocks per game average. Right: DeSoto listens intently to coach Steve Schlick during a timeout. Daily photos by Dawn Kalmar

DeSoto’s teammates look at her as a reminder to try to win, but to enjoy the game as well.

“Kari is rad,” freshman outside hitter Jessica Roden said. “She makes everybody on the team smile and laugh. She makes practice more fun.”

Roden said she is grateful to have a fellow freshman friend like Kari on the team, so they can share experiences for their entire time at Cal Poly.

“Kari is a great friend,” Roden said. “I am really glad Kari and I have the chance to be friends for at least four years.”

By seeing DeSoto play with intensity, the team becomes stronger, Roden said.

“She is inspirational because she does so well on the court,” Roden said.

DeSoto said her success on the court is done out of admiration for the game.

“I love blocking,” DeSoto said. “I just like playing because I think it is fun.”

DeSoto and the team look to improve their record as they strive to reach the Big West tournament.

“It’s really fun to have the chance to play top teams,” Schlick said. “It gives us the chance to learn what’s required to compete at that level.”
Mustangs face Aggies in Homecoming showdown

By Greg Manifold
Daily Sports Editor

The Cal Poly football team is in the midst of a novel. When the Mustangs face U.C. Davis on Saturday, they will write Chapter Nine, and when it's all said and done they hope the chapter will be worth remembering.

**Football**

Kickoff for the Homecoming game is set for 1:30 p.m. at Mustang Stadium and Cal Poly will be looking to improve its 3-5 record.

"The football season is a long season. It's real important that players understand that each week has its own individual path," said head coach Andre Patterson. "So it's like a chapter in a book."

Patterson doesn't like to look back over the chapters Cal Poly has already written this season.

"Once you've written a chapter, you've got to move on to the next chapter. You can't go back and rewrite the last one," Patterson added. "It's already in ink and you've already sent it to the printer, there's nothing you can do about it. It's gone."

"So whether you think about it now and it wasn't very good or it was great, you've got to go on to the next chapter. You can't go back and rewrite the last one," Patterson said. "After we play Sac State we'll be able to know if we wrote a best seller, an average book or if we've written a flop."

So far this season, plot deals with a whole of injuries and high caliber opponents.

A plethora of Mustangs have been injured this season. Running back Antonio Warren had to redshirt this season because he broke his right arm suffered early in the season. In all, seven produced starters at the beginning of the season are out with injuries.

Of top of that, of Cal Poly's eight first teams, six have been nationally ranked at one time or another this season.

"We have had some injuries that have handicapped us during the season, but on a positive note a lot of young guys have been able to step up and play and improve," Patterson said. "In the long run that will help the future of this program. Ninety percent of the team will be returning next season."

Despite the injury-riddled season, the Mustangs have still put together several standout chapters in their novel.

The Mustangs out-passed Idaho, the No. 1 passing team in Divison I-A coming into the game. Cal Poly almost escaped with a victory after it tallied 30 points in the first half, before eventually losing 38-33.

Against St. Mary's, running back Mark Abrew connected with teammate during the Mustangs 41-14 victory over Central Washington. Abrew has completed 48 of 80 attempts for 661 yards.

"I'd like them to know the type of character and pride that this team has," Patterson said. "I think if they don't have a chance to see how hard this team has played with their \'Never say die\' attitude, it would make them proud they're Mustangs."

Cal Poly fullback Keith Ecklund said the team will have to do the right things to come away with a victory Saturday.

"Defensively, we need to focus on doing the little things right and not having turnovers," Washington said. "Defensively we need to get after their offense."

U.C. Davis has won four of its last five games to give it a 4-3 record on the season. Aggie quarterback Mark Grish has connected on 133 of 232 passes for 1,949 yards.

Cal Poly will use two quarterbacks against Davis, which it has done much of the season. Patterson will rotate playing time between Ali Ahre and Tate Ecklund. Ahre has completed 107 passes of 206 attempts, while passing for six touchdowns. Ecklund has completed 52 passes of 106 attempts for one touchdown.

For those alumni returning to Cal Poly who haven't seen or heard about the Mustangs this season, Patterson wants them to know what kind of heart his team has.

"I want them to know that this team has a different story, with a much better ending. In 1994, he led the Mustangs to the American West Conference championship, guiding them to a 7-4 record. Named \"Coach of the Year\" for his work, he also helped the team rank fifth in the country in rushing defense."

A 1983 graduate of the University of Montana, Patterson was excited at the thought of coming to Cal Poly to coach.

"I felt that coming here and trying to mold this program into a successful football program would be a great challenge," he said. "The biggest thing that brought me here was San Luis Obispo and the academic reputation of this University."

And he is happy to be here. Collecting an overall record of 15-15, Patterson is more than pleased with how far this program has come.

"I'm very lucky in my opinion, obviously it's a prejudice opinion. I have the best players in the world to coach," he said. "I have great young men and great people. But they're not just good people, they're legitimate student athletes and that goes a long way for me."

Even though the game of football is very important to Patterson, he takes pride in the fact that nothing is more important to him than his players.

"The only reason I do this job is for my players," he said.

He continued by explaining how he will do everything possible to make his players successful students, to help them be successful athletes and help them to grow into men.

"Don't view myself as being a successful coach based on wins and losses. I know my success on whether I'm graduating my players," he said.

One thing Patterson likes to do, on the field, for his team is a little something that takes place on game days. Prior to each match, he goes around and touches every one of his players while they're stretching because he doesn't know whether they are going to leave that game healthy or not.

"I want them to know that I'm there with them, and I'm by their side," he said.

As for the future, Patterson is excited about what lies ahead for the squad.

"My vision is to one day take this team to the Division I-AA playoffs and to one day play in and win a National Championship," he said. "I think that's a reasonable goal for this program and I think the players and coaches want to go out there and make it happen."

By Megan Lehtonen
Daily Sports Writer

Cal Poly football hasn't been the same since the arrival of head coach Andre Patterson three years ago.

After only two years in San Luis Obispo, Patterson has made a name for himself within the community, not only as a coach, but as a prominent caring, exciting and motivational individual.

This year, for the first time in program history, Cal Poly football is a Division I-AA Independent. But due to an injury plagued season, Cal Poly's current record is mere 3-5, with only three games remaining in the season.

Patterson has a far different view than your average coach might have during a struggling season.

"I'm patient, but I'm not that patient," he said. "We wanted to be a playoff team this year and we're going to work next year to be a playoff team. We want to make it happen as soon as we can."

His first year at Cal Poly was a different story, with a much better ending. In 1994, he led the Mustangs to the American West Conference championship, guiding them to a 7-4 record. Named \"Coach of the Year\" for his work, he also helped the team rank fifth in the country in rushing defense.

A 1983 graduate of the University of Montana, Patterson was excited at the thought of coming to Cal Poly to coach.

"I felt that coming here and trying to mold this program into a successful football program would be a great challenge," he said. "The biggest thing that brought me here was San Luis Obispo and the academic reputation of this University."

And he is happy to be here. Collecting an overall record of 15-15, Patterson is more than pleased with how far this program has come.

"I'm very lucky in my opinion, obviously it's a prejudice opinion. I have the best players in the world to coach," he said. "I have great young men and great people. But they're not just good people, they're legitimate student athletes and that goes a long way for me."

Even though the game of football is very important to Patterson, he takes pride in the fact that nothing is more important to him than his players.

"The only reason I do this job is for my players," he said.

He continued by explaining how he will do everything possible to make his players successful students, to help them be successful athletes and help them to grow into men.

"Don't view myself as being a successful coach based on wins and losses. I know my success on whether I'm graduating my players," he said.

One thing Patterson likes to do, on the field, for his team is a little something that takes place on game days. Prior to each match, he goes around and touches every one of his players while they're stretching because he doesn't know whether they are going to leave that game healthy or not.

"I want them to know that I'm there with them, and I'm by their side," he said.

As for the future, Patterson is excited about what lies ahead for the squad.

"My vision is to one day take this team to the Division I-AA playoffs and to one day play in and win a National Championship," he said. "I think that's a reasonable goal for this program and I think the players and coaches want to go out there and make it happen."
Running back Antonio Warren was supposed to shoulder the rushing responsibilities for the Mustangs this season, but with him injured, it gave newcomer Craig Young a chance to shine.

Craig Young doesn't want to be like everyone else. The 20-year-old Cal Poly running back isn't your typical football player or your typical college student.

He doesn't like having people watch him. He doesn't like it when the press wants to talk to him— and not the rest of his team.

He's not a showboat. He doesn't like it when people over-celebrate in the endzone and take all the credit for themselves.

Instead, he is a shy, humble young man who doesn't have much to say about himself. But, he is willing to talk for hours about how great the Mustangs offensive line is or how much his mom means to him.

And this is all fine with him. "I'm just really humble," Young said. "I just want to be regular."

It is this modesty, this unwillingness to honestly admit how much he has achieved, that has made him excel at football and at life.

"That's how I am. If I was the type of person that would brag after the game in the interviews and was like, 'I did this and I did that,' I wouldn't feel comfortable," Earley said. "We have a saying that 'to embarrass' or 'to make a fool of yourself' and say, 'Man that was the one thing he scored' or 'he used to talk a lot and burst-into-it player,' Earley said. "We have a saying that 'to embarrass' or 'to make a fool of yourself' and say, 'Man that was the one thing he scored' or 'he used to talk a lot."

In spite of these numbers — which are guaranteed to grow before Cal Poly's last game against Cal State San Diego — Young doesn't feel any pressure from his teammates, or anyone else. "I'm relaxed before the game, because that's just how I am," he said.

To Young, running back isn't a game, it is a part of his life and he believes that he uses this conduct on the field reflects how he was raised by his parents.

"When I am down here on (field), I represent myself," he said. "When I was three, I burst-into-it player," Earley said. "We have a saying that 'to embarrass' or 'to make a fool of yourself' and say, 'Man that was the one thing he scored' or 'he used to talk a lot."

If Young's life is the puzzle that were put together, those pieces combined would spell out his football program.

"I could have just stayed there and done school, but I wanted to play football," Young said.

The end of UOP's football program was probably one of the best things to happen to Cal Poly, especially with standout running back Antonio Warren redshirting this season due to a broken right arm he sustained the start of this season.

Young, who started up spring training at Cal Poly in 1996, has helped the Mustangs fill the void left with Warren out. Early in October, he was named NCAA I-

The 20-year-old Cal Poly running back Antonio Warren was supposed to shoulder the rushing responsibilities for the Mustangs this season, but with him injured, it gave newcomer Craig Young a chance to shine.

Craig Young doesn't want to be like everyone else. The 20-year-old Cal Poly running back isn't your typical football player or your typical college student.

He doesn't like having people watch him. He doesn't like it when the press wants to talk to him— and not the rest of his team.

He's not a showboat. He doesn't like it when people over-celebrate in the endzone and take all the credit for themselves.

Instead, he is a shy, humble young man who doesn't have much to say about himself. But, he is willing to talk for hours about how great the Mustangs offensive line is or how much his mom means to him.

And this is all fine with him. "I'm just really humble," Young said. "I just want to be regular."

It is this modesty, this unwillingness to honestly admit how much he has achieved, that has made him excel at football and at life.

"That's how I am. If I was the type of person that would brag after the game in the interviews and was like, 'I did this and I did that,' I wouldn't feel comfortable," Earley said. "We have a saying that 'to embarrass' or 'to make a fool of yourself' and say, 'Man that was the one thing he scored' or 'he used to talk a lot."

In spite of these numbers — which are guaranteed to grow before Cal Poly's last game against Cal State San Diego — Young doesn't feel any pressure from his teammates, or anyone else. "I'm relaxed before the game, because that's just how I am," he said.

To Young, running back isn't a game, it is a part of his life and he believes that he uses this conduct on the field reflects how he was raised by his parents.

"When I am down here on (field), I represent myself," he said. "When I was three, I burst-into-it player," Earley said. "We have a saying that 'to embarrass' or 'to make a fool of yourself' and say, 'Man that was the one thing he scored' or 'he used to talk a lot."

If Young's life is the puzzle that were put together, those pieces combined would spell out his football program.

"I could have just stayed there and done school, but I wanted to play football," Young said.

The end of UOP's football program was probably one of the best things to happen to Cal Poly, especially with standout running back Antonio Warren redshirting this season due to a broken right arm he sustained the start of this season.

Young, who started up spring training at Cal Poly in 1996, has helped the Mustangs fill the void left with Warren out. Early in October, he was named NCAA I-
ALL ROADS LEAD TO CAL POLY
...WHEN YOU RIDE THE BUS SYSTEM!

The Central Coast Area Transit (CCAT) features the following:

- All CCAT buses provide bicycle racks
- All CCAT buses are fully accessible for disabled customers
- "Punch Passes" for Cal Poly students, faculty and staff available for $7.50 ($36.00 cash value)

(Purchase at Recreation Center Ticket Window)

INDIVIDUAL ROUTE MAPS AND BUS SCHEDULES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE UNIVERSITY UNION OR CALL 541-CCAT (541-2228)

RIDE THE BUS!

Route 7 Morro Bay, Los Osos, Cuesta College, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
Route 8 (Night service available) Morro Bay, Cuesta College Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
Route 9 (Saturday service available) San Miguel, Paso Robles, Templeton, Atascadero, Santa Margarita, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
Route 10 (Saturday service available) Santa Maria, Hancock College, Nipomo, Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly
Route 11 Baywood Park, Los Osos, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Route 12 (weekday connects to Rt. 7 at Morro Bay Park) (Saturday service available) San Simeon, Cambria, Cayucos, Morro Bay, Saturdays, continues to Los Osos, Cuesta College, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

For information on routes, fares and schedules call:

CAL POLY COMMUTER SERVICES
756-6680

SLO REGIONAL RIDESHARING
541-CARS
(toll free)

SLO Regional Ridesharing

Air Pollution Control District
County of San Luis Obispo

Internet site
www.rideshare.org
Mustangs meet Bruins Saturday

by Santa Clara. Reached the second round of the NCAA Division I men's soccer playoffs.

**Men's Soccer**

UCLA was able to escape with a narrow 2-1 victory at home, and reached the second round of the playoffs before being knocked off by Santa Clara.

This year the Mustangs and Bruins square off at Mustang Stadium this Saturday at 7 p.m. But with a 4-10-1 record (1-1-0 in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation), the Mustangs aren't playing for a chance to move on, instead they're playing for respect.

"The pride and tradition of UCLA soccer radiates," said Cal Poly head coach Wolfgang Gartner. "UCLA is the most successful team on the West Coast over the last 10 to 15 years."

"Contrary to last year, we will create a good number of scoring opportunities," Gartner added. "In this kind of a down cycle of a season, a win against UCLA will bring a bit of uplift to the whole team.

Last year when the two teams met, UCLA got 31 shots to Cal Poly's 1. This year, Cal Poly head coach Greg Connell kept the Mustangs in the game with 10 saves. On the other side of the ball, UCLA with a 13-3 overall record (4-0 in league), has already wrapped up the Pacific Division title of the MPSF. The Bruins will face the winner of the Mountain Division, U.C. Berkeley, with the winner receiving an automatic birth in the NCAA tournament. But UCLA isn't taking Cal Poly or its record for granted.

"Mustang Stadium is a tough place to play, the crowd is usually loud," said UCLA head coach Doug Schmid. "Cal Poly is a good team, things haven't bounced their way, but they're still a very dangerous team.

"They're dangerous since they're playing without pressure," Schmid added.

"Though a win over UCLA would give Cal Poly some vindication, it can't clean all that has happened this season.

"We failed to achieve what we wanted to achieve," Gartner said. "To some degree I should happen some of the blame or most of it.

"I insist on keeping an offensive line-up on the field, he added. "For the sake of trying to have an exciting soccer game. I feel bad for the team, because they're better than this."

Forward Clay Harry is a prime example of things not going the Mustangs' way, Gartner said.

"His season is synonymous with the team, he worked hard and did everything, put his soul out into the field, but backy bounces - he got none.

"We had plenty of luck last year," Gartner recalled. "Maybe it's an averaging-out of our luck last year. When you have it you get more, when you don't have it you get none."

It's been snowing in Boise, Idaho lately - a far cry from the brisk days in San Luis Obispo. The weather change and a new conference are a welcome challenge, however, for the men's and women's soccer teams.

**Cross Country**

The runners will compete Saturday in Boise at the Big West Conference championships. Boise State is the only conference school to be ranked nationally this team, and are thus the favorites to win this year's meet.

They have two very balanced squads and are favored to win, especially on their home course," said head coach Terry Crawford.

"We're the challenger and not the favorites. We expect to be the spoiler and see some upsets."

This season, Crawford said, is to cash in on the greatest challenge. "The pack concept is what the men's side has improved on the most.

"At the beginning of the season our top five runners were finishing in a minute and a half apart. We've worked that down to 35 seconds in our last meet," he said.

Thayer said he attributed the improvement to assistant coach Mark Conover who took over for previous coach Brooks Johnson who left Cal Poly in June. Conover was a 1988 Olympic marathoner and 1992 and 1996 Olympic trials qualifier.

"Our biggest improvement was that we've run a lot more mileage this year and are running as a team," Thayer said.

Sophomore Amber Robinson, said that the new conference is the greatest challenge.

"This is really exciting for us since last year's conference was pretty much a joke," he said.
Mustang Technology

$1298

El Corral Bookstore

$1409

WHO ARE YOU GOING TO CHOOSE?

One hour free installation and setup comes free with a purchase of a computer.

MUSTANG TECHNOLOGY INC.