State universities prepare for enrollment crush

San Diego State becomes first state university to limit number of students it will accept

By Anamere Cervantes
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO - As colleges across California prepare for a coming enrollment crush, San Diego State University became the first urban campus in the state system Thursday to limit the number of students it will accept.

The purpose of the measures outlined by SDSU President Stephen L. Weber - which take effect in fall 1998 - is to avoid the long lines and crowded classrooms that exemplified life during the 1980s on California State University's largest campus.

The curbs could serve as a model for other CSU campuses as the state confronts the so-called Tidal Wave II, a student population surge created by children of baby boomers who are hitting college age and the rising migration of people to California from others states and countries.

"This is a long-term public policy issue for California - how we will accommodate more people as we begin to go into Tidal Wave II and how we will manage that growth in the foreseeable future," Weber said in a news conference on campus.

San Diego State will continue to accept most students by making sure their grades and test scores meet CSU enrollment guidelines. But up to 20 percent of its admissions will come from a pool screened by supplemental factors, including family income, place of residence, leadership abilities and race.

"The latter is necessary to maintain racial and ethnic diversity," Weber said. Proposition 209, approved by voters last year, forbids race-based preferences in state university admissions. But it has been stalled in court.

"We are obliged to follow the law of California," Weber said. "But at this point, Proposition 209 is not the law of California."

With 31,000 students this year, San Diego State's enrollment has risen 9 percent since 1993 compared to 4.7 percent for the other 22 CSU campuses, said Ethan Singer, associate vice president for academic affairs.

"The campus can accommodate about 2,000 more students to reach full capacity, Weber said. He attributed San Diego State's popularity to the region's improving job market and economic prospects.

"As the community prospers, we do, too," he said.

Two smaller campuses, California Polytechnic University-San Luis Obispo and Sonoma State University, have already used selective measures to control enrollment growth, Weber said.

ASI looks to next week, discussion of fee raise

By Dawn Kalmar
Daily Staff Writer

Wednesday night's ASI Board of Directors meeting could be called the calm before the storms. Last night's debate over a two-and-a-half hour debate. Next week's agenda is already full and will include debate on the ASI budget, on-campus parking changes and initial steps toward a fee increase during the next academic year.

However, Wednesday night's meeting was unusually short with little discussion or debate and no major controversy. A resolution to support U.U. programs was introduced to the board. If passed, this would start preparation and conversation about increasing fees next year in response to inflation.

According to ASI Executive Director Soncia Lilly, by 2000, the U.U. will not be able to operate at its current level.

This referendum would not automatically implement a fee increase, it would only start consideration of one. However, students are traditionally not given the opportunity to vote on increases for inflationary reasons.

"There's concern that if the U.U. doesn't get a fee increase, with inflation, a lot more programs will be cut," Sean McGowan, vice chair of the board said before the meeting.

Although McGowan wasn't present at Wednesday's meeting, he said he was interested to hear how the board reacted to the resolution.

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Poly planners looking for funding from alumni
By Emily Brodsky
Daily Salf Writer
In a short meeting Wednesday night, the Poly Plan Steering Committee expressed hope to fund projects which will not receive adequate money, if any, from the Poly Plan due to the fiscal increases.

Bill Boldt, vice president of University Advancement, spoke to the group regarding the committee's plan to send the proposed projects to the related college or department's advancement directors, who can, in turn, try to find donors to meet these needs.

This can be addressed project by project, and we can try to attract private support by matching the projects with appropriate donors," Boldt said.

"We, according to Boldt, the Cal Poly Advancement System has begun to seek out alumni for donations. The computer lab in the Business Advancement Office, for instance, received funds from alumni to match what the school could give.

Cal Poly's future in fund raising lies in alumni and parent donations, Boldt said.

Parent giving is higher at Cal Poly than at all other CSUs and most U.C. schools. Boldt credits this to the "search by doing" commitment at Cal Poly, making students industry-ready the day they graduate.

The committee also asked Boldt about the possibility of privately funding need-based scholarships, which would free up more Poly Plan money for projects.

Boldt said that, from his experience, scholarship money is often the easiest to raise, though it has never really been promoted at Cal Poly.

University President Warren Baker explained that this was due to relatively low fees in the past. "Scholarship money wasn't seen as a priority because fees were so low," he said. "Historically at Cal Poly, and in the CSU system, donors thought money would be more useful in other areas."

Bolt agreed that money could be raised for scholarships if an incentive program was created for the donors, since they have generally been more concerned with fund raising to benefit academic programs. Due to the decentralized advancement plan established over the last two years, deans, directors and faculty are responsible for establishing the fund-raising efforts and marketing the educational programs in their college.

Nine full and part-time college and unit advancement staff and five university advancement specialists have been hired during this time to aid the colleges and the university in fund raising.

Other topics on the agenda included an update on the proposal review for 1997-1998 Poly Plan projects. According to Asst. President Steve Mcath, out of more than 300 projects originally proposed for funding, the college committees have narrowed this number down to about 30 to 40 projects.

A number of these projects have also gone through some budget restructuring so that Poly Plan money can be used most efficiently. These proposals must now go to the deans of each college, with final action expected soon.

Also at this meeting, the funded projects will be announced at the final steering committee meeting of the year on June 11 at 5 p.m.

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Poly budget stew includes court ruling, tax cuts, schools
By John Howard
Associated Press
SACRAMENTO - A $86.7 billion draft state budget speedily emerged from the Democrat-run Legislature Thursday, but before Republicans vowed to fight for tax and welfare cuts if the final version is drawn up by a two-house conference committee.

The 27-1 vote sent the bill to the Assembly, where that house's version of the budget is to be considered on Friday.

"If this was the final version of the budget, there wouldn't be a single Republican vote for this," said Sen. Jim Brulte, R-Rancho Cucamonga. "The Fog Republicans voted for the spending plan - but only as a courtesy, Brulte said, "to keep the process going to the conference committee."

"We told our members and we will expect this budget in its final form to have some kind of tax cut," Senate President Pro Tem Bill Lockyer, D-Hayward, the leader of the Senate and the second most powerful state political after the governor, suggested that the budget wrangle may be prolonged.

"It would be nice if we could conclude by the end of June," he said.

By law, the Legislature is supposed to approve a budget and send it to the governor's desk by June 15. The new fiscal year begins July 1.

A conference committee is scheduled to convene next week to reconcile the differences between the two spending plans, then send a final version back to the floors of each house.

Just hours before the Senate's action, a Republican assemblyman proposed a personal income tax cut that would exempt families from paying taxes on their first $22,500 income - or $11,100 of income for singles.

The $1.2 billion plan would assist working families by increasing their level of personal exemptions, cutting their average tax bill by about $150. Assemblyman Tom McClintock, R-Simi Valley said of his proposal.

"It would knock a million and a half taxpayers right off the income tax rolls," McClintock said. Money to pay for the cut would come from new revenues "that we didn't even know we had until two weeks ago," he said.

Adding to the uncertainty over budget was a decision Wednesday by the state Supreme Court that a $36 billion to the California Public Employees Retirement System which it took during the recession to balance its books.

It wasn't clear how or when the state would cover the amount, and the ruling injected new controversies into an already crowded schedule already clouded with disputes over welfare changes, prison funding, aid and education spending.

"The upshot of the high court's action is that the state has an obligation of $3.36 billion. What is not clear at this point is when, and how much the state would cover the amount," said most powerful state politician after the governor, and Republican Locke, D-San Diego, said of his proposal.

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Public meeting hears small number concerned with area code change

By Christine Spane
Daily Shiff Writer

San Luis Obispo residents seem to be unconcerned about proposed changes in long distance dialing. Nine people attended a public meeting Wednesday night which explained options for dividing the Central Coast into new area codes. Although the meeting was scheduled for two hours, the room was clear well before the first hour.

The Central Coast is due for an area code change sometime in 1998. The Federal Communications Commission has said that the state is running out of telephone numbers and within eight years the 805 area code's seven-digit numbers will be fully subscribed.

This is due in part to population increases but there has also been an explosive growth in the use of pagers, cellular phones, fax machines and computers modems in California.

The California Code Administration (CCA) has been assigned to recommend new area code boundaries to the Public Utilities Commission which has the final say in determining which counties will get new codes.

At the meeting, CCA Coordinator Doug Hescox presented four possible options for the area code split.

State Sen. Jack O'Connell (D-San Luis Obispo) has urged the public to get behind a proposal to keep the 805 code in San Luis Obispo County.

O'Connell stated in his letter that it makes sense to keep this region's area code the same since it functions as a cohesive unit.

Of the five options only one other option called for the retention of the 805 area code in San Luis Obispo County. It recommended keeping the current area code in Kern, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties and assigning a new one to Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

None of the proposed changes would affect tolling rates.

Avila Beach resident Farrah Warren said that she wants to retain the 805 code from San Luis Obispo to Los Angeles because she frequently calls friends and relatives there.

Mary Chambers of Paso Robles said she is in favor of Alternative 5B.

"The North County is growing so fast I think it would be more favorable to retain the 805 area code there," Chambers said.

Chambers also said that it would be costly to replace stationery and inform business clients of the change.

"Non-profit groups and small businesses would be affected if there was a change," she said.

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Barbara County and Ventura County will have new area codes to be assigned to Kern and Los Angeles counties.

O'Connell's representative, Tom Jones, read a statement from the senator at the meeting. The statement supported Area Code Alternative 5B. This is an east-west geographical split, with the west section retaining the existing 805 area code.

The announcement will focus on the safety programs and fund-raising efforts to keep the programs affordable next year.

The featured 1960s theme will include waitresses on roller-skates, a soda fountain, food booths, a disc jockey and mock rock performances -- "bad but goodie" routines from movies like "Grease."

Debby Brothwell, co-director of Safe-SLO Nonprofit, said they're hoping to raise $20,000 to $30,000 to keep the program running.

Most of the money will be raised through sponsors of the mug-a-thon and a silent auction.

More than $1,000 in gifts were donated for the silent auction. These include a three-night stay in a Mammoth hotel.

The driver was traveling at average speeds of 70 mph, said CHP Sgt. John Martinez.

The two left tires of the car were punctured by spike strips set by the CHP a few miles from the U.S.-Mexico border which punctured the two left tires, authorities said.

Driving on the rims, with pieces of tires disintegrating behind him, he pressed on toward the border until traffic near the San Ysidro International Port of Entry slowed him down.

As he attempted to cross over the median, the car became stuck. The man emerged from the vehicle, throwing his weapon on the ground, Martinez said.

A trained police dog wrestled him to the ground until authorities were able to restrain him.

Industrial technology senior Glen Johnson helps the Industrial Technology Society push its cheap, sweet treats during the hot U.U. Hour Thursday afternoon.

Freeway chase ends peacefully

By Deb Riedimann
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO - A 120-mile freeway run for the border ended peacefully Thursday afternoon, as an alleged bank robber pulled over and surrendered to authorities.

The man, who allegedly held up the Great Western Bank in Long Beach, hopped in his getaway car at about 1:45 p.m., and led authorities on a south bound chase until 3:25 p.m. The California Highway Patrol said.

"It appears he's wanted for armed robbery," said CHP spokeswoman Julie Page.

Home-schooled 13-year-old wins National Spelling Bee

By Del Nickelman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Convinced she was about to win the National Spelling Bee, 13-year-old Rebecca Seiflin shouted each letter of her last word into the microphone "o-u-n-y-m" and raised her arms high.

"Noah," she screamed Thursday before balancing the trophy cup atop her head. The home-schooled teen-ager from Brooklyn, N.Y., placed eighth in the Scripps Howard-sponsored contest last year, but this year she was the champ, beating out Prem Murthy Trivedi, 11, of Howell, N.J.

"I knew I could figure it out," Seiflin said of "eunomy," as defined as an appropriate name for a person, place or thing.

She won $5,000 - which she plans to save for college - books and supplies.
The anti-Vandal

Friday, May 30, 1997

The anti-Vandal

journalism and disguises under the
this once: If a paper is meant to repre­
truth...GREAT! I am all for it! What a
spectrum of morality; if a paper exists
the best action figure and how stupid it
ing my glue stick and attacking plastic
was for ' That guy" to trade his Twinky
impressive job considering the condi­
paper which, all in all, does quite an
quality space, but at least I would
NAILS! Do what you gotta do, but be
into some cryogenic torpor, never to be
less politicians out there. We don' t need
speak out, dear students. You gotta
as I know where they' re coming from.
ists. I love to listen to opinions, so long
right!

This is more opinion, I admit. Let' s
pected by University Graphic Systems

The writing program emphasizes the
writing courses in one' s first year of education, the
writing teachers cannot be held responsi­
for students not passing a writing exam
two or three years down the line if the
students are not required to do any further writing.

In addition, some students are responsi­
ble for their own writing skills. In this
university, the classes that tend to require
writing are in GE&H areas C.1 and C.3. These
are the courses students put off tak­
ing until the last possible moment. Now,
I realize that part of this problem is the
result of too many students, too few classes
and not enough money to staff more clas­
s in these areas, and that's a whole differ­
ent issue that needs to be addressed.

Nevertheless, there are students who
put off any class that requires writing as
long as possible and then wonder why
they didn't pass the GWR.

The issue is far more complex than Mr.
Reenfo represents it. Writing is rarely rein­
fored beyond the level of first-year writing
classes except in other courses in the
College of Liberal Arts and, rarely, in other areas. Many students take what writing
courses are required and then put off tak­
ing any further courses until it comes
time to pass them or either taking them or
not graduating.

Finally, the writing program at Cal Poly
is a good one at entry level, dedicated, energetic
teachers who have studied both the theory
and practices of writing instruction and
have developed responsible processes
that check against grade inflation, at least in
writing classes.

David Kann
Director of Writing English Department

Cal Poly pumps out industry workers, not good writers

Editor

Here we are spring quarter and about to
turn out another fine crop of Cal Poly
graduates who are to make a difference in
the real world, where getting a job and
having a skill is more valuable than being
able to articulate yourself. All graduates of
this fine polytechnic institution at one
time or another must pass the eminence
Graduation Writing Requirement (GWR) to
prove a certain level of proficien­
ecy of the English language. More often
than not the GWR is passed on by stu­
dents until it is absolutely necessary to
take it. (Yeah! Yeah! I know, I know: I have
never ended my sentences in a preposition.) Sound
familiar to any of you seniors out there
right now in your last quarter taking
a class worrying about passing the GWR?
What does it all boil for a fourth­
year senior to write at a satisfactory level in
their last quarter? Why aren't we
taught these skills as freshmen?
Upside-down Curriculum: Cal Poly's
brilliant idea of quality of education that
sits right up there with making us choose
a major at the ripe old age of 17 or 18
without a double dose of experience. What
is an Upside-down Curriculum you ask? I can
provide you with a definition of the word
but I' ll take a stab at it: basically it's all
about taking your "core major classes"
first and getting proficient in a trade
(other than being able to read and write)
before engaging in the frivolousness of
"general education."
We don't really need
to know how to write until our last quar­
ter anyway. I am still left with the burn­ing
question: why? Doesn't why Cal Poly
incorporate basic English skills into every
class? I don't know.

I have heard more than once this quar­
ter from professors that the writing skills of
students are improving. All in suppos­
edly upper-division courses with mostly
seniors that can't write their names on a
wet paper bag, me included. Am I write,
or am I right, professors? Don't you
love to see improvements in your students' writing?
This letter is full of mis­
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Tolls on five San Francisco area bridges - the Bay Bridge, San Mateo-Hayward, Benicia-Martinez, Richmond-Dan Rafael and the Richmond Bridge - would rise by $2 to $8 over about eight years to raise $377 million.

San Diego area officials would have theoption of boosting tolls on the San Diego Coronado Bridge or tapping existing toll money to contribute $83 million for earthquake retrofitting.

Existing tolls from the Vincent Thomas Bridge in Los Angeles would generate $35 million.

Under the proposal, the other $675 million would come from state highway accounts, but not the main construction fund. Further legislation would also get $760 million from state bond funds approved by voters last year when they adopted Proposition 192.

- Uneven movement on Hayward Fault

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - The south end of the Hayward Fault near Fremont is moving twice as fast as the northern end, causing scientists to wonder why the fault hasn't snapped in more than 100 years.

Scientists - many who agree that the Hayward Fault is among the most likely to have a quake as big as magnitude 7 in the next 30 years - have known for years that the earth has moved in mysterious ways in the Fremont area.

- Woman wounded in freeway sniper attack

SACRAMENTO (AP) - One woman was wounded in a shooting on Interstate 680 and involved the window of the auto's rear passenger seat if the car was hit.

Police did not know the identity of the woman or the shooter, but Beams said. He did not know in every round."

Also, the woman said she spelled 22 out the contest, calmly enunciating "the letter to her."

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SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - The south end of the Hayward Fault near Fremont is moving twice as fast as the northern end, causing scientists to wonder why the fault hasn't snapped in more than 100 years.

Scientists - many who agree that the Hayward Fault is among the most likely to have a quake as big as magnitude 7 in the next 30 years - have known for years that the earth has moved in mysterious ways in the Fremont area.

- Woman wounded in freeway sniper attack

SACRAMENTO (AP) - One woman was wounded in a shooting on Interstate 680 and involved the window of the auto's rear passenger seat if the car was hit.

Police did not know the identity of the woman or the shooter, but Beams said. He did not know in every round."

Also, the woman said she spelled 22 out the contest, calmly enunciating "the letter to her."

- Jittery or not, she spelled 22 correctly, including "expeet-

ends, the city would be allotted 4,000 acres in Lake Elizabeth, which may have second chance to qualify again next year. Next week, began to fall Thursday as the two-day competition dwindled on, spelled-by-speller, by-word-by-word, line-by-line. As the words became more difficult, the progress of the words got harder and more spelled were disqualified.

- Affordoble Health Reform say the health care services.

SACRAMENTO (AP) - Two bills on five San Francisco area officials would have the option of boosting tolls on the San Francisco Coronado Bridge or tapping existing toll money to contribute $83 million for earthquake retrofitting.

Existing tolls from the Vincent Thomas Bridge in Los Angeles would generate $35 million.

Under the proposal, the other $675 million would come from state highway accounts, but not the main construction fund. Further legislation would also get $760 million from state bond funds approved by voters last year when they adopted Proposition 192.
Police say body part is part of a woman's leg

Associated Press

LOS GATOS, Calif. — Los Gatos police on Thursday said the body part found in a trash bin is a portion of a woman's leg.

Police Capt. Jeff Miller said the leg apparently belonged to a Hispanic or light-skinned black woman who was younger than age 50. However, he declined to give details about how she may have died.

Authorities were tipped by a woman who discovered the part Wednesday afternoon while searching a bin in a small parking lot behind businesses in an industrial area of the city.

In addition to the leg, police found a man's athletic jacket and a woman's dress, blouse and panties. Police still did not know if there was a connection between the clothing and the body part.

And, on Thursday, police continued to check missing person reports and were conducting interviews, though Miller declined to say who they were talking to.

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1997

CRUSH from page 1

The new criteria would make it "somewhat" more difficult to gain admission to San Diego State, but the impact likely will not be felt for the first two years, Weber said.

Officials are determined not to return to the late-1980s when enrollment at the campus over­ looking Mission Valley topped 35,000, he said. Students could not get the classes they needed, classrooms were so crowded that some students had to sit on the floor and long lines were the norm in the admissions office, the bookstore and the library.

Aflecting mainly those living in the dorms. The other change would enforce parking rules from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week rather than the current 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday with no weekend enforce­ ment.

The administration asked for ASi's opinion on the changes, which will be used for their final consideration. Voting on the ASi budget will also take place next week because the board voted to postpone the vote to further discuss the bill.

SAFE-SLO from page 3

condo, a hand-carved jewelry box, a one-night stay and dinner at the Inn in Morro Bay and more.

At 3:30 p.m. children under 12 should leave the event because the mug-a-thon starts with mock muggings. The mock-muggings are not appropriate for children because they may seem real enough to scare them. Some gradu­ ates of the program have received sponsorship for perform­ ing a mock-mugging by de-escalat­ ing or fighting back.

"Nothing's choreographed. People are coming back to prac­ tice the skills they learned or to see how much they've retained," Tesoro said.

Other activities including a "Mugger's Sponge Toss" for kids will be available throughout the day.

More than 2,000 participants have graduated from the model mugging classes. Many of the graduates have prevented assault as a result of the training and some want the ability to overcome potential assaults.

Tesoro calls those who have been assaulted survivors, not vic­ tims.

"If they're alive, they've sur­ vived," she said.

Many graduates volunteer in classes and support the programs in other ways.

A core group of 20 to 50 volun­ teers keep the organization alive in San Luis Obispo. Most of them have daytime jobs or are students, but Tesoro works full-time as the executive director.

"It's her blood and 80-hour work weeks that keep this organi­ zation going," said Brothwell, who is also associate director for the budget and planning administra­ tive department at Cal Poly. "If she decided to be sane tomorrow, we wouldn't have this program in our community."

Brothwell took the first model mugging class in San Luis Obispo in 1987 and decided it was the most valuable thing she'd ever done and committed to volunteer­ ing her time and keeping the pro­ gram in the area so her daughter could take it. Her daughter is now 18 years old and a graduate of the model mugging basics class.

"Everybody and everybody's daughter needs to take this course," Brothwell said.

Also serving on the board of directors is Cal Poly economics senior Kelly Koettin.

"In the class you learn to go beyond your perceived limitations and do something you don't expect you could do," she said.

She graduated from the basic model mugging class in 1994 and volunteers as on the board of directors.

"As girls, we grow up to per­ ceive ourselves as someone who should be protected by a man, because we can be taken advant­ age of," Koettin said. "The program gets rid of those stereotypes and teaches you that you can pro­ tect yourself."

The anniversary celebration is located at the Self Defense & Empowerment Training Center at 209 Bonetti, off Prado road, five minutes south of downtown San Luis Obispo, and will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
In the Corrections Department's $3.8 billion budget proposal, Republican Gov. Pete Wilson. The Assembly version reduced the previous budget by about $55 million.

Most other changes by Senate and Assembly committees added to Wilson's proposals, offsetting the prison cuts with additional funding in other areas.

Both plans were bigger than the $82.2 billion budget which Wilson unveiled on May 15. Another subject of wide difference was a Wilson proposal to give back to the state's 58 counties $100 million of the $3.5 billion in annual property tax revenues which the state shifted away from them in the early 1990s.

Both Senate and Assembly Democrats matched Wilson's proposal for a $100 million shift, agreeing to negotiate a bigger shift later in the budget process. Republican pushed unsuccessfully to boost the shift by $348 million and negotiate between that amount and Wilson's $100 million proposal.

The Senate also quickly defeated a package of budget-linked amendments authored by conservative Republicans. These amendments would eliminate funding for abortions for poor women, halt late-term abortions and partial-birth abortions, require parental consent and eliminate more than one abortion per year for Medi-Cal recipients.

Among its most hotly contested provisions is a $190 million cut in the Corrections Department to eliminate some 1,300 administrative positions, mostly of them at the Sacramento headquarters. Overall, the Senate version cuts $390 million from the Corrections Department's $3.8 billion budget proposal by Republican Gov. Pete Wilson.

MUSTER BOFFO

by Joe Martin

Citizen Dog

by Mark O'Hare

What's a Crush??

Mound experts.

Stay informed. Read Mustang Daily.
Volleyball looks to experience and youth next season

By Stacey L. Johnston Daily Staff Writer

The Cal Poly women’s volleyball team is ready to serve up some surprises next season.

“We’re going to definitely win a lot more games. This year will be a big step up,” said middle blocker Trisha Jenssen. “I think we’re going to be a threat in the Big West. We’re going to surprise a lot of teams.”

Jenssen mentioned four goals that the team is striving for this year. “We want to improve our ranking in the Big West, beat Santa Barbara and other tougher teams, win tournaments in the pre-season and have a better record than last year.”

Head coach Steve Schlick said the team will arrive to finish fourth in its division and in the top five overall for the conference. “Every time we step on the court we want to be competing as hard as we can,” Schlick said. “There are no games that are unimportant. We need to be pushing ourselves to the limit.”

He said that right now the team is better than it was in the fall, as it has been making great strides this spring.

Cal Poly finished its second season in the Big West Conference with a 7-10 record (14-16 overall) with wins over Cal State Fullerton and U.C. Irvine. The Mustangs also captured the Powerbar Invitational title in San Francisco last August. Cal Poly made it to the post-season for the first time, but lost to the University of Idaho in the first round of the Big West Tournament.

“Perhaps, as the old saying goes, the third time will be the charm. Now that we have a little experience playing the team, we’ll have a chance to be more competitive in the conference,” said outside hitter Jessica Roden. “I think a lot of the ‘elite’ teams are going to take us lightly and they shouldn’t. We’re going to surprise them,” said outside hitter Dana Black.

Predictions of success have been based upon the team’s com­petitiveness, experience and the addition of promising recruits. Roden said that the Mustangs “really click” and work well as a team.

Jenssen echoed Roden’s feeling on the competitiveness of the team and said the team is now ‘older’ and accustomed to the techniques of Schlick who came on board last season.

“We don’t have any bugs or trouble to work out,” she said. ‘Everybody knows their job and they’re able to execute at a higher level,” said Schlick.

Jenssen explained that because of the team’s experience, there will be healthy competition for positions among team members that will increase the level of play next season.

“No position is guaranteed,” she said.

Assistant coach Marlon Sano said that part of the team’s improvement is a result of their understanding of what the staff expects of them on the court, off the court and in the classroom.

“They understand court and off-court much better what is expected of them technically, and tactically and they’re able to execute at a higher level,” said Sano.

Schlick said, “Perhaps, as the old saying goes, the third time will be the charm.”

In particular, Sano expects two freshmen from last season to stand out as sophomores next year.

“The first person who comes to mind would be Kari DeSoto. She was second team All Conference in the Big West and was on the All-Freshman team,” Sano said. “We’re anticipating Jessica Roden to step up her role, not only physically, but in a leadership capacity.”

This will be especially important as Cal Poly loses three seniors Dana Black, Heather Lee and Colleen More.

“It’s always difficult when you lose people that have playing experience and excellent playing abilities,” Sano said, though he is enthusiastic about the three new players who will join the team.

Two have been recruited from high schools, near and far. Melanie Hathaway is from Righetti High School in Santa Maria and Cyndi Ekler is from Cypress-Fair High School in Santa Ana.

Steve Schlick is in his second season as head coach of the Mustangs.

Pitcher Irabu signs $12.8 million contract with Yankees

By Ronald Blum Associated Press

NEW YORK — The talking is over. Now Hideki Irabu finally will get his wish — to pitch for the New York Yankees.

The 27-year-old right-hander Irabu and his agent, Don Nomura, spent part of Thursday in New York to formally join the team. Irabu and his agent, Don Nomura, spent part of Thursday in New York to formally join the team.

The 27-year-old right-hander, who has 59-59 career record in Japan’s Pacific League with 1,111 strikeouts in 1,102 2-3 innings, will likely be assigned to the minors for a week or a month.

Depending on when injured Dwight Gooden is ready to return, Irabu could take the place of Gooden or Kenny Rogers in the Yankees’ starting rotation.

“I say why not,” said Yankees reliever Graeme Lloyd, an Australian native. “There are two sides to the story. Everybody looks at it as a guy who hasn’t thrown a pitch in North America when there are a lot of guys who have paid their dues in the minor leagues.”

“Then we’d have to give him $12.8 million if they didn’t think he was worth it. It’s a free market, and if somebody’s willing to pay it, I say why not.”

Irabu’s contract is vastly higher than those of other players not eligible for salary arbitration. After winning the AL Rookie of the Year award, Jeter is getting $540,000 this season.

“More power to him,” said Yankees reliever Graeme Lloyd, an Australian native. “There are