Athletes given second shot at Poly admission

By April Pack

SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

In the process of applying for colleges, a rejection letter would certainly be received with a sense of disappointment. It can be a shock to some, a surprise to others, but for most, that letter is the final word and a sign to cut ties with that institution.

At Cal Poly, though, recruited athletes are granted second chances for admission. If a recruited athlete is not accepted through a regular application process at Cal Poly, then he or she may then be re-evaluated through the "athletic process." The athletic process begins with a signed recommendation from the coach for an athlete's admission.

"We wouldn't have an athletic department without special admissions," said Dina Oakland, Academic adviser for the athletic department.

Academic profile to be re-evaluated, said Walter Harris, associate director of admissions' recruitment. After the coach signs his approval, all of the student's paperwork, including transcripts and documentation, is reviewed again by the athletic director, a faculty representative, and then finally, by the director of admissions who makes the final decision on the acceptance of the athlete.

In the process, that student's grades and paperwork stand alone and are not compared to the other applicants. A recruited athlete can only go through the process if he or she has first met the California State University minimum requirements.

"We wouldn't have an athletic department without special admissions," said Dina Oakland, academic adviser for the athletic department.

But, the luxury doesn't stop there. Harris said student athletes also get a longer application deadline than the rest. While most students need to get their application in by November, athletes have until July 1. Harris explained this is because the NCAA guidelines do not allow coaches to begin recruiting athletes until closer to July.

Although everyone has to meet the CSI grade requirement, the average GPA of Cal Poly athletes indicated that they are provided leniency in this area also.

Harris said that in fall 2000, students accepted to Cal Poly had an average GPA of 3.62 and average SAT score of 1,165. Student athletes accepted the same year had an average GPA of 3.2 and test scores of 1,212.

"This GPA is still slightly under the rest, but it is still competitive," Harris said.

Oakland said schools such as Fresno and Sonoma State have an advantage over Cal Poly for athletic recruitment because they let in lower GPAs. Even if the standard is lower for athletes here at Cal Poly, it is still high in comparison to other state schools.

Oakland said that Cal Poly also tries to maintain its standard by the "Golden Four" rule. This was established by the Cal Poly admissions for transfer students. The rule states that before transferring, a student must have completed math, critical thinking, speech and English, with a C or better.

"This kills us," Oakland said.

She explained that not many students get good advice while they are at junior college and so many have not had the basic requirements for transferring.

The rule also states that a student cannot take the "Golden Four" in the summer before they transfer. Oakland said this causes problems for recruitment because a lot of athletes will wait until the summer to take one of these classes.

"They know that a lot of coaches have completed to admissions, saying that the rule is not fair. Oakland explained that Cal Poly's high standard is often a hindrance, "but it keeps Cal Poly what it is." She explained that it would dilute academic excellence otherwise.

The women's volleyball team is a good example of this. The team has a cumulative GPA of 3.1, and they have made the NCAA tournament practically every year. Oakland said. The women's soccer team has also won the tournament in the past. However, Alex Crozier, soccer head coach, said that meeting Cal Poly's GPA standard is still limiting in some aspects.

"We try to do a thorough enough job and get a large enough pool that there are going to be athletes with good grades in that pool," he said.

Cretier explained that in the past he has not recruited good athletes with poor grades and later played against those people. Cretier said this is frustrating because those students cannot get into Cal Poly.

"Just look at the Big West Conference; our academic standards are higher, so to be successful, we just have to work a little harder," he said.

Some teams that have had lower cumulative GPAs are wrestling and football, Oakland said. He said this is attributed to the "culture" of the teams.

"Quality breeds quality," Oakland said. She explained that this has to do with the priority of the coaches in who they recruit.

Oakland said that the football team's grades have gone up considerably in the last year with the hiring of a new coach. He meets with the players every day and puts more emphasis on academics. Oakland said that this can only make their lives easier, and she is anticipating a turnaround in the team's playing and academics.
Balancing soccer and school is an art to be mastered, athlete says

By Cory Dugan
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

Student-athletes come in and out of Cal Poly a dime a dozen, but nobody ever really attempts to find out what is behind the glory. What makes these athletes tick? What drives them to become the person they are and what are they taking from Cal Poly that will enhance their life?

The types of questions are often pondered by Cal Poly students. As engineering student Steven Garcia typically said, "I usually just read the sports section to figure out who won and lost, and it would be nice, though, to see what lies behind these athletes."

Cal Poly student-athlete Josh Pasek has been wanting to answer these questions. Pasek, who plays soccer for Cal Poly, said he wants to know for more than just a great career. To him, being a successful soccer player for Cal Poly is about more than just doing well on the field; it has much more importance for his education.

"I know for more than just a great career would benefit from. With Cal Poly's business program being such a high profile major, it is important to keep my priorities in line for me to succeed in college," he said.

Pasek said he has made a commitment not only to the soccer team, but also to his education.

The reddish freshman and business sophomore from Sacramento discussed his long-term career goals and how he will go about achieving them.

Pasek said he has always had an interest in business since he was a child. Not long ago, he was looking into which school that would best suit him for his business-oriented attitude and a school his soccer career would benefit from. With Cal Poly's business program being such a high profile major, his decision to come here was not really that difficult.

He found with the combination of being recreation to play soccer at Cal Poly and the opportunity to be a part of one of the best business schools in the state was the best fit for him.

"Business is power," Pasek said. His attitude of determination will help him gain that "power."

After Cal Poly, Pasek said he plans to open his own restaurant in either Los Angeles or San Francisco. He is uncertain of the style of restaurant he wants, but what he promises is that it will be cutting edge and something needed in the area. Pasek said he has always wanted to live and work in a big city.

"Coming from Sacramento, I always felt a big city suited my life style and attitude," he said. "Opening a restaurant in one of these cities has always been a dream of mine."

Even though soccer is extremely important to Pasek, he said he understands that the hard work he puts into his sport is the same hard work he will have to put into his education in order to succeed professionally.

Pasek said it is very difficult to juggle both school and athletics.

"During season has got to be the hardest, we have road games that start on Thursday and sometimes don't get back until Sunday night," he said. "So you can forget about Friday classes and if you don't get home until Sunday night, all you want to do is go to bed, so homework is pretty inconsistent."

He noted this procedure of travel is pretty consistent among most sports at Cal Poly. He does feel a little better that other athletes are going through the same struggles he is. He explained how important the schedule of classes is to make it easier for athletes to survive during their sport.

Pasek gave the majority of his counseling and scheduling credit to Cal Poly athletic adviser Dina Oakland. Oakland, who has counseled athletes at Cal Poly for two years, seems to have won the trust of all the athletes at Cal Poly. Pasek said she is helpful and understanding of student needs and knows the stresses all athletes face. Pasek said she is just doing her job.

"It's nice to know someone is there just to make sure you're on track and not dragging your feet, Dina helps us keep on our toes," he said. "Having to worry about both classes and athletics is a very difficult task which I have yet to accomplish."

Pole dean joins U.S. government

Cal Poly will soon conduct a national search to select a new permanent dean for the College of Agriculture, pending current Dean Joseph Kent's expected confirmation as U.S. undersecretary of agriculture.

Polydean is currently serving as managing dean of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and will act as interim dean through June 30, 2002, or until a new dean is permanently installed.

Women's center offers new services

After officially dissolved its corporate status last summer, the newly formed Women's Community Center (WCC) in San Luis Obispo — formerly titled Women's Resource Center (WRC) — will celebrate its first full year of operations this month with the addition of new resources and services available to women in San Luis Obispo County, including legal advice.

With the assistance of the San Luis Obispo Bar Association Family Law Section, the WCC will now provide one-on-one legal advice for women getting divorces who do not have an attorney. Clinic sessions will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 5:30 p.m. at 1009 Morro St. Ste. 201 in San Luis Obispo.

Initially formed in 1975, the WCC aims to provide a place for women to find employment, childcare and housing resources. It also presents seminars and workshops to women in the community and maintains a staffed telephone and one-line call center for women who have diverse concerns. For more information about the WCC, please call 544-9113.

CSUs lead the way in student diversity

The University (CSU) campuses, including Cal Poly, led the pack for minority students, with the bachelor's degree students' numbers in the 1999-2000 academic year.

Five CSUs were listed on Black Issues in Higher Education magazine, CSU Fullerton (7), San Jose State (6), CSU Long Beach (9), San Diego State (10) and CSU Los Angeles (11), were the CSU schools that ranked the highest among the 14 that made the national list. Though Cal Poly, CSU Fullerton fell toward the middle with a rank of 15, it was second to just among the list of CSU schools, only beating CSU San Bernardino, which ranked 58.

Outstanding top rankings also include Los Angeles, placing first in awarding education degrees to minority students, and Fullerton, placing second in awarding community degrees and third in awarding business management and administration service degrees.

The CSU system is currently one of the most diverse higher education institutions in the nation with minority enrollment at 31 percent — more than twice the national average for four-year public universities. According to the system, half of all bachelor's degrees and one-third of master's degrees awarded in California are from the CSU system.

Briefs continue on page 7
Cuesta students bring reality-based TV to SLO

By April Pack
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

T's ... "Big Brother." It's ... "Survivor." No ... it's "Rush."

"Rush" is the newest reality-based show to hit television. And guess what? It's a local program, directed by Cuesta student Bo Wich.

It began as casual conversation in a broadcast communications class at Cuesta College. Four students, Wich, Shaun Scott, Mike Silva and Erin Tomaselli, came together and said, "Let's do more."

"More" meant taking the knowledge they had learned in class and pushing it a step further. Wich, the show's producer and director, had access to video equipment and knew an executive producer from a previous job who was willing to front money for a TV show. That was all it took — five weeks of meetings and only $4,200 to work with, the students created a reality-based TV show, but with a twist.

The group took everything they liked from existing reality TV shows to create "Rush." Wich said that they wanted a large number of contestants, and they liked the elimination factor because "that's what creates drama, and that's why people watch."

The next step was getting the contestants. This was done in April by setting up video cameras for open auditions at Farmers Market in downtown San Luis Obispo. From a pool of 100, nine Cal Poly and Cuesta students (five men and four women) were chosen to compete.

Wich said that they were going to make "Rush" different from ordinary reality-based TV shows. Instead of having the contestants vote one another off, Wich and his crew decided that they were going to make "Rush" different from ordinary reality-based TV shows. Instead of having the contestants vote one another off, they decided to create mental and physical challenges called "Determination Rounds," where there was a clear-cut winner every time. The winner then became the "Determination," the contestant who had the power to vote another challenger off. This continued until there was only one contestant left.

The last remaining person won a three-day cruise to Ensenada, Mexico.

The first episode aired on July 8 with two competitions. The first was a one-question quiz, and whoever answered correctly first, became the "Determination." The winner was Jonathan, a fine arts major at Cuesta, who then voted off Ryan, a Cal Poly business major. The remaining eight contestants then sailed off on a fishing charter to Avila for a contest to catch the longest fish.

Anna, a recent graduate of Cal Poly, was the winner in the second competition. And, without surprise, the show ended with Anna saying, "My decision is..." without finishing the sentence.

Anna said she was surprised that the show ended with her winning because she was going to be on the show because Tomaselli and everyone around her laughed hysterically when she did the act.

Cambria, a Cal Poly kinesiology counselor and a contestant, said that there wasn't "drama" between any of the opponents. Cambria said she thought the creators of the show were disappointed at this since "these types of shows are cast for drama." In contrast, she said that it was all gone chasing each other on through the entire taping.

Alert! According to the creators of the show, "Rush" is scheduled to air on four consecutive Sundays at 1:30 p.m. on KSBY channel 6. The final episode will air Aug. 5.
By Kat DeBakker
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

I would consider myself to be fairly tolerant when it comes to poorly done handicapped jokes. I would consider myself fairly tolerant humor when the disfigured house caretaker (Elliott) attempts to serve the students dinner, but this is the first and last scene in the movie that could be considered even vaguely humorous.

Directed by Keenan Ivory Wayans and written by a group of seven, "Scary Movie 2" stars his brothers Shawn and Marlon as well as Anna Faris, Regina Hall, Tim Curry, Chris Elliott, Kathleen Robertson and Tori Spelling.

A plot sequence for this movie is virtually nonexistent, replaced instead by nearly 80 minutes of cheap pop-culture references and unimaginative rip-offs...

A plot sequence for this movie is virtually nonexistent, replaced instead by nearly 80 minutes of cheap pop-culture references and unimaginative rip-offs from movies such as "Dude, Where's My Car?" and "Charlie's Angels" — movies that should not have been made in the first place, let alone referenced.

The first segment of the film is a pathetic attempt to parody a scene from "The Exorcist" but is saturated with clichés such as misbegotten clergymen and profane yuppie.

The action then shifts to a group of two-dimensional college students who are thrown together in a haunted house for a class supposedly designed to study their sleep patterns. Curry plays their terminally boring professor, and David Cross plays his wheelchair-ridden assistant.

The only thing scarier than the fact that this movie was released is the fact that people are actually going to see it.

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Top, (from left to right), Kathleen Robertson, Chris Elliott, Marlon Wayans and Regina Hall star in Scary Movie 2.
Bottom, James Woods and Natasha Lyonne act out a parody of a scene from "The Exorcist."
Poly athletics feeling black and blue

Here's the thing about sports. For every athlete who wins, there are many more who lose.

For every celebration, there is much more disappointment.

At Cal Poly this past year, the Mustangs, more often than not, found themselves on the losing end of the previous two sentences.

And instead of a year filled with championship memories, many Mustangs are left with black-and-blue recollections of aggravating defeats.

What might-have-beens have become burned.

Baseball edged the .500 mark by taking two from UCSB in the final series of the season, while the men's tennis team barely broke even with an 11-11 record.

The football team has been consistent, but three straight 3-8 seasons wasn't exactly what Athletic Director John McCarthy was looking for in Mustang Stadium. And things haven't been much better in his own zone, with the men's basketball team hasn't recorded a winning season since 1996.

So why the losing trend in those particular programs?

Some point the finger at the athletes.

Some point it at the coaches and others at the crop of athletes Cal Poly has to choose from.

Funds, facilities and even academics could hold a winning tradition.

Let's face it, Cal Poly isn't the easiest school to get accepted to on the West Coast.

And once you get here, it's anything but a cakewalk, especially when your No. 1 priority is getting your team in the win column for the first time this century.

All of this in the school's mission statement doesn't say one word about athletics:

"As a predominately undergraduate, comprehensive, polytechnic university serving California, the mission of Cal Poly is to discover, integrate, articulate, and apply knowledge. It does this by emphasizing teaching, engaging in research, participating in the various communities, local, state, national, and international, with which it pursues common interests, and where appropriate, providing students with the unique experience of direct involvement with the actual challenges of their disciplines in the United States and abroad."

Sure, athletics contribute to the college "experience," but if an athlete has skills and they can make the grades, they're going to Stanford, not San Luis Obispo.

Then there's funding.

Cal Poly doesn't receive as much funding as Stanford does, but that doesn't mean the Mustangs can't compete in its own conference.

Less-funded programs like cross country, women's soccer and volleyball all won conference championships last year.

Yet, Cal Poly still finished seventh in the race for the Big West Conference Commissioner's Cup — presented to the institution with the best overall results in the conference's 18 sponsored sports.

So how can Cal Poly overcome the agency of defeat?

That's what the Mustangs aim to figure out this upcoming school year, and turn those black-and-blue memories back into green and gold again.

Money corrupts the true essence of athletics

America loves sports. Newspapers devote entire sections to them. Some TV stations cover nothing but sports, and there are innumerable fan clubs devoted to the teams who play them.

Unfortunately, money has become an overriding and corruptive force in many sports, particularly college athletics. The only thing America seems to love more than sports is money, and these two loves are often intertwined. Money-related motives such as bets, the push to earn maintenance as a necessary evil, and I agree with the statement that a little help gets a long way.

But the integrity of the sports themselves is often compromised. Money corrupts the true essence of athletics. As a predominately undergraduate, comprehensive, polytechnic university for academics, it is unjust that athletes should be given scholarships based on physical prowess while those who have worked to amass an array of extracurricular activities and good grades often get nothing.

An article from Penn State listed the amount of money spent on athletics versus academic scholarships. A study done by the University of Cincinnati, as reported in the article of 648 Division I men's basketball and football players, indicated that 16.5 percent had gambled money on other college sporting events, 3.7 percent had gambled money on a game in which they had played and 8.5 percent received money from a gambler.

Another big problem associated with college sports is betting. The National College Athletic Association Web site devotes a large section condemning the activity, reporting that it "cheapens the integrity of college sports." An article on the site reported that the FBI estimated that $2.5 billion was illegally gambled on the 1995 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship, second only to the Superbowl.

"It is unjust that athletes should be given scholarships based on physical prowess while those who have worked to amass an array of extracurricular activities and good grades often get nothing."

Letters to the editor

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Letters to the editor should be typewritten, signed and submitted to: mustangdaily@hotmail.com. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.
Cal Poly coaches experience rough times

By Jason Brennan
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

Recent openings for Cal Poly coaching positions have filled due to lackluster seasons put out by three different teams. Men's basketball, men's tennis, and the football program are under new leadership going into the 2001-02 season. Though each situation is different, the overall consensus within the athletic department was that each program was in need of a new philosophy to bring more wins in the near future.

Lamy Webb did not have his contract renewed after three seasons as head football coach. Webb produced three straight 3-8 seasons. But he did manage to guide his players to a very respectable graduation rate, which is a responsibility that is stressed in all Cal Poly coaching jobs.

"Even though there was a lot of people who disagreed with Webb's coaching techniques, he still managed to graduate on time," said Jason Sullivan, Sports Information Director.

Chen Eppright stepped down as head coach for Cal Poly's men's tennis team during the 2001 season. Sullivan said Eppright left because of personal reasons.

His unexpected leave gave Athletic Director John McCutchion the undesirable task of finding a new coach within a short period of time.

The real problem lies in the hands of MONEY.

continued from page 2

indoor track and field), which have 44 participants each. The football team has nine paid, part-time coaches and one head coach. Football is also the largest revenue at Cal Poly, bringing in $167,706 this past year.

According to Title Nine, a federal law, male and female athletics programs at schools must have a proportion of participants and funding that reflects the sex ratio. Of Cal Poly's 14,376 undergraduate students, 55.6 percent are male and 44.4 percent are female. Of those undergraduates, 453 are active in teams that are run by the Athletics Department (some athletes participate in multiple team sports). Of those athletes, 55.3 percent are male and 44.7 percent are female. Men's teams received $2.5 million this year and women's teams received almost $1.6 million. Of the slightly over $4 million that is allocated by gender to the teams, the men's teams received 61.5 percent and the women's teams received 38.5 percent this year.

The goal

McCutchion said that he thinks intercollegiate sports provide great resources and opportunities for the students, they provide athletes with scholarships, support community members on the campus and are a central rallying point for alumni.

"We see ourselves as a diverse entity, we compliment the overall mission of the university," McCutchion said.

But not everyone at Cal Poly agrees with investing millions of student dollars in athletics.

"I think the school is placing too much importance in athletics," said John Neill, an assistant professor at Cal Poly. "I think the better investment would be put more money toward our academic programs, which is something Cal Poly students actually excel at."

continued from page 3

Cal Poly considers not using the SAT exam

LONG BEACH (AP) — One of California State University's most well-known campuses is considering a plan that would ask incoming freshmen to take an achievement test rather than the SAT exam.

Under the proposal, California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo - the most selective of the CSU's 23 campuses - would ask applicants to take the ACT achievement test rather than the SAT.

"We basically think, we don't know, that it may be a better tool for both students and the university," said John Neill, an assistant professor at Cal Poly. "There's no way to study it unless you have a pool to look at," said Jim Maraviglia, Cal Poly's executive director of admissions and recruitment.

The proposal has been submitted to the campus president for approval, Neill said. A formal decision is expected later this month.

CSUL - the nation's largest public university system - guarantees admission to the top one-third of the state's high school graduates. Although standardized testing is not required for students with a 3.0 grade point average, many campuses require such test scores to be submitted because of overcrowding.

Under a statewide policy, all CSU campuses allow students to submit ACT or SAT scores. Nearly 93 percent of applicants submit SAT scores. The SAT tests a student's reasoning and basic aptitude; the ACT tests a student's achievement in English, reading, math and science.

While a handful of small, private colleges have dropped the SAT test in favor of ACT testing, Cal Poly is the first public campus in the state to say it would prefer the test over the SAT. Cal Poly received more than 19,500 applications last year to fill 3,600 freshman slots, said CSU spokesman Colleen Bentley.

Polys attracts more than 12,000 students, especially with practicing twice to three times a day," former Cal Poly wrestler Ryan Ballard said. "Summer quarter is a good time to make up lost units and is much more relaxed and is a less stressful atmosphere to learn in."

Ballard, who is taking summer school for the first time in his college career, said he is glad — even though he was never in the predicament to make up classes — this opportunity is open for athletes on this campus.

The consensus of most Cal Poly athletes is that the majority of Cal Poly students don't understand what the pressures and expectations of athletics face with academic demands during their season of play. Oakland strong-armed athletes not to push themselves during their season. She and Pasek both agreed that practicing and games aren't as stressful to athlete's schedules as the traveling is. Pasek said he is lucky if he gets in an hour of homework a night if any time at all.

"During the season it's hard to take more than 12 units, especially with practicing twice to three times a day," former Cal Poly wrestler Ryan Ballard said. "Summer quarter is a good time to make up lost units and is much more relaxed and is a less stressful atmosphere to learn in."

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"During the season it's hard to take
Behind the scenes with Barry Bonds

He sat on the black recliner in shorts and a T-shirt with a small bandage wrapped around his injured wrist. The arms that have dispatched 39 home runs were folded to his side in the clubhouse light, but that didn’t make them any less impressive.

After incurring his wrist the night before, Barry Bonds’ presence would not be felt in the San Francisco Giants line-up that day. But that wrist was on the minds of two of his teammates, who began serenading him in an off-key melody that would barely pass as song.

Livan Hernandez and Eric Davis were making up the words as they went along, and because of that, Bonds’ broad smile seemed higher than the clubhouse. As of the future Hall of Famer that the public rarely sees, he is chastised in the media for poor post-season performance and negative clubhouse attitude, but that attitude was nowhere to be seen.

Bonds’ eyes scanned the small room, looking from teammate to teammate, laughing at the continuing song. Hernandez moved toward him and began rubbing his wrist, either for good luck or to heal it. But before anyone else could touch his wrist, Bonds stopped cold.

No more playfulness. No more smile.

The song continued briefly before his teammates realized why he stopped. A group of six newspaper writers, myself included, were stared at briefly before Bonds got up and moved to another part of the room, out of view.

Bonds is arguably the most difficult player to interview in Major League Baseball, and the episode above is precisely why. As an interviewer, I strive to understand the person like few others do, to find a part of the person that people can relate to.

But Bonds won’t let that happen, because he has defined personas that he sticks within. When he is on the baseball diamond, he is Barry the MVP, the San Francisco Giant, the player fans come to Pacific Bell Park to see. Most has a family, so at home Bonds is the family man with his wife and children.

The rare times Bonds grants an interview, he stays within his baseball persona as not to allow anyone to see him outside it. He guards his personal life extremely close and should not be blamed for that, but the way he does it makes him come off as somewhat elusive.

After the game, he left the clubhouse without a word to the media, which was a complete contrast to every one of his teammates. Players were willing to answer nearly any question asked of them. But Ortiz, who shares seven strong innings for the Giants to earn the victory, was especially accommodating, staying available to every reporter who wanted to talk to him.

On my first trip to the Giants clubhouse, covering a game in the 1997 World Series, Bonds’ personal presence, but there was no such glimpse of Bonds. It’s a shame he doesn’t let that side out more often.

Matt Sterling is a former Mustang Daily sports editor and intern at the Santa Cruz Sentinel. E-mail comments to him at mmsterling@calpoly.edu

Mustang Stadium in for a makeover

No timetable put on project estimated between $8 and $10 million

By Erica Tower

Mustang Stadium will be getting a facelift — a procedure estimated to cost between $8 and $10 million. The proposed upgrade for the 67-year-old facility would provide 4,200 more seats, increasing stadium capacities from 8,500 to 12,700 people, which is the most expensive of 13 planned renovations to the stadium.

Additional seating would also allow the university to own the bleachers instead of having to lease them as it does now.

Other changes to the stadium would include the expansion of the field, new lighting, renovation of the locker rooms and the construction of a concession building.

Athletic Director John McCutcheon said he was excited about the opportunities that exist for the transformation of Mustang Stadium.

“Really, for our program and where we see the program in the future — at Division I-A, a 12,000-seat stadium would fit our needs,” he said.

Jason Sullivan, director of Sports Information, said that last year the football team drew an average crowd of 4,891 spectators, with the exception of the heavily promoted UC Davis game that brought 9,041 people to Mustang Stadium. This year the average attendance was lower than previous years.

“Part of the problem was the football team’s performance,” Sullivan said. “But the stadium improvements are intended to make it more fan friendly,” and the department expects a larger crowd.

First-year Cal Poly football coach Rich Ellerson said he was impressed with the athletic department’s commitment to improvement.

“(The renovation) is a huge piece to the whole puzzle and takes us in the right direction,” he said. “We want to be a nationally competitive program year in and year out, and this sends the right message to the community, recruits, players, coaches and the administration.”

The modernization of Mustang Stadium will not only benefit the football team. Widening the field will also be advantageous to both men’s and women’s soccer, as the existing field is too narrow to adequately accommodate their needs.

“This is a very worthwhile and much-needed renovation,” said Cal Poly President Warren Baker. “The stadium has supported many campus-wide activities over the years from athletic events to Commencement to the Centennial Celebration.”

The pending question remains not the opportunity and prestige the stadium renovation will bring, but how to raise the $8 million needed to complete the project.

The athletic department said the plan would most likely require private funding, as it is not anticipated that any state or student financial support will be available for construction.

Cal Poly students would likely oppose an increase in student fees aimed to fund stadium renovations, considering there already exceed the total money raised for the project as part of the university’s Centennial Campaign.

The department recently formed the Athletics-Centennial Council, made up of prominent campus and community donors that can help jum up fund raising efforts for the project.

Improvements to Mustang Stadium are the latest in a series of upgrades to many Cal Poly athletic facilities. Last year, the track was resurfaced, and the creation of a sports complex brought new stadiums for baseball and softball.

As for a brand new football stadium is concerned, McCutcheon said it was a proposition highly unlikely.

“A totally new stadium isn’t very feasible,” he said. “There really isn’t land available on campus, and if there is land, it would be on a fairly remote location.”

McCutcheon said students prefer the location, history and tradition of the current stadium.

The proposed costs for stadium renovation already exceed the total money raised for the sports complex by $2 million. There is currently no specific timetable for the renovation.