California Energy Commission commends solar decathlon team

Holly Burke

The Cal Poly Solar Decathlon team was recognized Jan. 18 by The California Energy Commission for its efforts in sustainable building and energy conservation. The team took third place overall in the competition last fall in Washington, D.C. In subcategories, Cal Poly received first place in energy efficient appliances, first place in energy efficient lighting and also earned second place in architecture.

Eighteen colleges participated in the international competition including: University of Colorado, Denver and Boulder; Universidad de Puerto Rico; Cornell University; and Universidad Politecnica de Madrid. Cal Poly was the only university from California to participate.

The competition required the schools to build a house that was powered only by the sun. Students drove the partially constructed house in a truck to Washington, D.C. The first night they were allowed to begin building at midnight and the team continued working until 10 a.m.

A team of Cal Poly students were praised by the California Energy Commission for the solar-powered house that they built and drove to Washington, D.C. to participate in the 2005 Solar Decathlon. See Decathlon, page 2

Standardized tests may decide funding

Hallie Grossman

TODAY'S WEATHER

High 64°

Low 41°

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — With recent talk that standardized testing could be looming on the horizon for college students, some fear the next step will be a No Child Left Behind at the post-secondary education level.

The Commission on the Future of Higher Education is stepping up its efforts to change the face of higher education. The possibility of attaching federal funding to high-stakes tests for public universities has drawn both caution and criticism.

Commission Chairman Charles Miller said in recent years there has been growing concern that college students are not getting the education they need.

The committee thinks that standardized testing could re-focus universities on student progress and make sure they learn the things they need to.

"There is evidence of slippage in college," Miller said. "Employers are saying they need certain skills, and sometimes people graduating don't have them — they are saying this is not what we want from a college education."

In recent years, there has been increasing pressure from the public and the government to push for accountability in higher education. Bob Reason, research associate for the Center for Economic Policy Research, author of "Beyond Accountability," said in a statement released Thursday. "In bad years, student enrollments decline and access is restricted."

California assembly votes to limit fee increases

Alex Zaman

BERKELEY, Calif. — The California State Assembly passed a bill Thursday requiring all public colleges in California to adhere to a mandatory student fee policy. The bill — proposed by Assemblymember Carol Liu, D-Los Angeles, Canada Flintridge — passed with a 45-10 vote last week, establishing a ceiling on student fee increases across the board by limiting hikes to 8 percent annually.

"Essentially, the bill is to get a predictable policy for student fees, so it can allow for families to better prepare for the cost of higher education."

Student fees fluctuate widely based on the condition of the budget," said Liu in a statement released Thursday. "In bad years, student enrollments decline and access is restricted."

The bill states that University of California fees should not exceed 40 percent of the overall costs of education, including textbooks, housing and other living expenses. "Student fees fluctuate widely based on the condition of the budget," said Liu in a statement released Thursday. "In bad years, student enrollments decline and access is restricted."

Subsequently, the bill is to get a predictable policy for student fees, so it can allow for families to better prepare for the cost of higher education."

Candidce Chung

spokesperson for Assemblymember Carol Liu

The legislation also suggests that budget decisions should be made in a timely fashion to give families enough time to prepare financially, without the threat of unexpected increases.

"We need to protect against wild fee hikes, so students and parents can estimate what they will be paying," Chung said. "I definitely think that we can afford it. Students should never be put in a position to have to pay the state's portion of the education."

Some students said, however, that they oppose the bill because they feel that fee increases need to be completely eliminated rather than standardized.

"The UC Student Association is opposed in principle to any type of fee increase," said Alex Zaman, spokesperson for Assemblymember Carol Liu.

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Decathlon
continued from page 1
Awards were given in architecture, dwellings (how marketable the house is), comfort, appliances, hot water, energy balance and several other categories.

"(The Solar Decathlon) is a chance to promote solar energy," said Nicholas Holmes, an architecture senior who participated in the project. "Solar-powered houses can function well and be affordable."


"It’s a great experience, fantastic for any student who wants to get involved," said Austin Quigley Peña. "It was one of the very few ways to get hands-on work with a mechanical engineering student involved with the project. "It’s not just the (United States), but offers a world of prospective and is world-expanding," said Robert Kennewell, president of the College Architecture Media Lab, room S-370

"We’ve identified this as a breakthrough type of test," Miller said. "We’ve developed a test that will mark a new era for higher education institutions, in which the test would be useful for public universities."

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Funding
continued from page 1
For the Study of Higher Education and a Penn State assistant professor, said:

"The commission had no formal proposals, one recommendation gaming teams is the Collegiate Learning Assessment, which measures an institution’s quality of education.

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"We’ve re-established the relationship between the state and students, and there is more of an emphasis on education," she said.

The bill now faces approval by the the state senate in the coming months. If successful, the legislation may be enacted as early as January 2007.

Fees
continued from page 1
To the extent the universities are unable to increase fees to address revenue shortfalls, this bill creates indeterminable, but significant, fiscal pressure on the General Fund," the state report said.

Chung, however, said she believes that the state can afford such a fee policy because the state has recently reprioritized higher education in its budget.

The bill comes just weeks after Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger pledged to halt fee hikes for 2006-07, allocating $75 million in his budget proposal to rescinding the increases passed by the UC Board of Regents in November.

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**Favourites**

**Song:** "I Wish I Had an Angel" by Nightingale

**Musical genre:** Dark metal

**Pastime:** Making and modifying all sorts of things like computers, jewelry and wood.

**Time of day:** Midnight to 1 a.m., because the Internet's the fastest then.

**Quote:** "We don't have to think alike to love alike."

**If You Could…**

- go anywhere, where would you go and why?
  To Denmark to see the birth place of Hans Christian Andersen.

- meet anyone, who would it be and why?
  The Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh because his writings have inspired me to be mindful.

- have any superpower, what would it be and why?
  Time travel, because you could do anything.

**WHO SAID THAT?**

I had an epiphany a few years ago where I was out at a celebrity party and it suddenly dawned on me that I had yet to meet a celebrity who is as smart and interesting as any of my friends.

- Moby

The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.

- Eleanor Roosevelt (1884 - 1962)

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**Wordly Wise**

**Sang-froid:** Coolness in trying circumstances.

**Interregnum:** The interval between two reigns; also, any breach of continuity in an order.

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**BREAKING NEWS**

**UPDATED AT THE SPEED OF COLLEGE LIFE**

**W H O  S A I D  T H AT ?**

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**Kona’s Deli**

*Home of the Surfin’ Sandwich!*

**Voted Best SLO Sandwich Runner Up by New Times and #1 in January 2005’s Mustang Daily!**

**Close to campus!**

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**Store Hours**

Mon-Sat 10:30-7pm
Sun: 10:30 - 5pm

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**Breaking News**

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**Hometown: Laguna Hills • Major: mechanical engineering**

**Name:** Kevin Sill

**State**

**SANTA MARIA (AP) —** Allegiant Air is now ferrying passengers between Santa Maria and Las Vegas.

There were 148 people aboard Friday night’s inaugural flight, the first direct flight between the two cities in decades. The flights will operate twice a week between Santa Maria Public Airport and McNamar International Airport in Las Vegas.

The flight included a Elvis impersonator and a Las Vegas stripgel, who greeted customers and posed for photos before boarding the 15-seat MD-80 jet.

**PISMO BEACH (AP) —** Someone is trying to kill a landmark 100-year-old Monterey cypress tree.

Police said someone drilled holes in the 100-year-old landmark — one of three large trees in Pismo Heights park. Experts said the tree is slowly dying.

**RIVERSIDE (AP) —** Black students at the University of California, Riverside, and California State University, San Bernardino, want administrators to hire more black faculty members, saying they feel isolated on campus.

They also want more black students on the campuses and say more should be done to make sure blacks earn degrees.

**National**

**DALLAS (AP) —** Exxon Mobil Corp. posted record profits for any U.S. company on Monday — $10.7 billion for the fourth quarter and $36.13 billion for the year — as the world’s biggest publicly traded oil company benefited from high oil and natural-gas prices and solid demand for refined products.

The results exceeded Wall Street expectations and Exxon shares rose, but some lawmakers expressed outrage at the industry’s latest profit surge, renewing calls for a windfall profits tax and increased investment in alternative fuels.

**WASHINGTON (AP) —** Time is running out for liberals trying to block Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito. Senators planned to vote Monday on whether to shut down a filibuster attempt aimed at keeping the conservative judge off the nation’s highest court.

**HOUSTON (AP) —** Jury selection began Monday in the trial of former Enron Corp. chair Kenneth Lay and Jeffrey Skilling with a federal judge warning a pool of about 100 not to use the closely watched case to exact vengeance for the company’s epic implosion four years ago. “I can assure you this will be one of the most interesting and important cases ever tried,” U.S. District Judge Sue Lake told potential jurors.

**International**

**CAIRO, Egypt (AP) —** Al Qaida N.2 Ayman al-Zawahri said in a videotape aired Monday that President Bush was a “murderer” and a “failure” because of a deadly U.S. airstrike in Pakistan targeting the bin Laden deputies, and he threatened a new attack on the United States.

**ESTERHAZY, Saskatchewan (AP) —** Rescuers retrieved all 72 central Canadian potash miners who were trapped underground by a fire and survived until Monday by using oxygen, food and water stored in subterranean emergency chambers.

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) —** With a new general in charge, the U.S. military’s plans to fight Iraqi insurgents are expected to emphasize improving Iraqi security of life, rather than killing or capturing guerrillas.

Army Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, who became commander of Multi-National Corps Iraq last week, said he would employ across Iraq many of the strategies he used to quell uprisings in Baghdad in 2003 and 2004.

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**Cal Poly**

**Name:** Kevin Sill • **Year:** Junior

**Hometown:** Laguna Hills • **Major:** Mechanical Engineering
ABC News co-anchor Woodruff, cameraman seriously injured in Iraq explosion

David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — ABC News anchor Bob Woodruff, seriously hurt by a roadside bomb in Iraq, has shown signs of improvement and may be airlifted to the United States as soon as Tuesday, the network's news president said Monday.

A hospital official said body armor likely saved the journalist's life.

Cameraman Doug Vogt, also hurt in the explosion, is in better shape than Woodruff but doctors were pleased with how both handled the transfer to a U.S. military base in Germany, said ABC News President David Westin.

"We have a long way to go," Westin said. "But it appears that we may have some distance from yesterday.

Vogt was filming a stand-up report with Woodruff and both were standing in the open hatch of an Iraqi military vehicle when the bomb went off. They underwent surgery in Iraq before being flown to Germany.

"They're both very seriously injured, but stable," said Col. Bryan Gamble, commander of the Lindenhof Regional Medical Center in western Germany. He said both men were heavily sedated and under the care of the hospital's trauma team.

Their body armor likely saved them, "otherwise these would have been fatal wounds," Gamble said.

Woodruff, the co-anchor of "World News Tonight," had serious head wounds and broken bones, and

In this TV image released by ABC, news anchor Bob Woodruff, center, talks with U.S. soldiers Sunday in Iraq.

Vogt also suffered head injuries, ABC News said. The network said the men's wives were at the hospital and talking with doctors Monday.

Former "NBC Nightly News" anchor Tom Brokaw said Monday that he had spoken with Woodruff's wife, Lee.

"The doctors had told them once they arrived that the brain swelling had gone down. In Bob's case, that had been a big concern. Yesterday they had to operate and remove part of the skull to relieve some of the swelling," Brokaw said on NBC's "Today" show.

The doctors didn't know for sure whether shrapnel penetrated Woodruff's brain, but they were removing additional shrapnel from his neck area, Brokaw said. He said Woodruff's family had also learned more details about the explosion from witnesses.

"Immediately after the explosion he turned to his producer and said 'Am I alive?' and 'Don't tell Lee,' and then he began to cry out in excruciating pain," Brokaw said. "Woodruff and Vogt, an award-winning cameraman, were embedded with the 4th Infantry Division and traveling in a convoy with U.S. and Iraqi troops near Taji, about 12 miles north of Baghdad when the device exploded. An Iraqi soldier also was hurt.

"Doug was conscious, and I was able to reassure him we were getting them care. I spoke to Bob also and walked with him to the helicopter," said ABC senior producer Ken Fiksen, who had been working with Woodruff for the past two weeks.

Rice wants other countries to cut off aid to Hamas government

Anne Gearan
Washington Post

LONDON — The United States and its European allies have similar views about aid for a Hamas-led Palestinian government, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Monday as she tried to persuade other nations to cut off assistance to a government led by the hard-line group.

"Everybody is saying exactly the same thing," Rice said amid meetings with other diplomats on Hamas' startling election victory last week and its impact on Middle East peacemaking efforts. "There has got to be a peaceful road ahead. ... You cannot be on one hand dedicated to peace and on the other dedicated to violence. Those two things are irreconcilable."

Rice was meeting other members of the so-called Quartet of would-be Mideast peacemakers Monday. The group, which includes the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations, is already on record as saying "there is a fundamental contradiction between armed group and militia activities and the building of a democratic state."

"To say a Palestinian government must be committed to peace with Israel is at the core," Rice said. "You have to recognize Israel's right to exist."

Rice has ruled out any U.S. financial assistance to a government led by Hamas, which has carried out terrorist attacks against Israel and does not recognize its right to exist.

European Union foreign ministers on Monday called on Hamas to recognize the state of Israel, renounce violence and disarm. While EU officials are barred from contact with the Islamic militant group, which it considers a terrorist organization, the EU statement made clear that the EU would keep diplomatic channels open with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who is not a member of Hamas.

On Sunday, Rice said humanitarian help to the Palestinians, many of whom are poor and unemployed, is likely on a "case-by-case basis." She indicated that the administration would follow through on aid promised to the current, U.S.-backed Palestinian government led by Abbas.

In Gaza, a Hamas leader, Ismail Haniyeh, called on the international community to continue funding the Palestinian Authority.

"We assure you that all the revenues will be spent on salaries, daily life and infrastructure," he said at a news conference, addressing international concerns that aid would be used to fund violence.

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Through my evolving studies in art, with the camera as my medium, I have found that visually documenting people of diverse cultures is to me the most rewarding aspect.

With my vast interest in anthropology and my surface photography talent some years ago, it wasn't long before I naturally began to evolve into a photojournalist. I started to realize that my camera could be used for something more than just capturing images; it could be used as an instrument to convey the untold stories of life outside our borders. I find it truly fascinating the access my camera gains me into the lives of people who otherwise would have no connection with. I feel extremely privileged to be accepted by my subjects feeling my passion.

It's this artistic quest for capturing culture that has led me on my next "WIDE angle" assignment. With the beginning of the two-week celebration of the Chinese Lunar New Year, I realized I had the opportunity to document the largest celebration of a very intriguing culture. While avoiding clichés in my photography, I am constantly in pursuit of visual innovation. For this project I knew just right away a photo of a dragon or fireworks just wasn't going to work for me. I was looking for something different, a unique perspective.

After a good deal of research and preparation, I journeyed to northern California, deep in the heart of San Francisco. For three days I ventured through the streets of Chinatown, documenting and learning about the Chinese culture. The eve of the celebration landed on a Saturday, which happened to be the day all the locals do their shopping. People filled the streets and lines formed outside several markets while workers raced to prepare seasoned chickens and other traditional meals in high demand. Red banners were draped from balconies and the sound of firecrackers and shouting matches over bok choy echoed in the dense avenues. The rain came down but their spirits never did. Positive vibes radiated through the neighborhood as time transitioned into the Year of The Dog.

For the entire photo-essay visit www.mustangdaily.net.

David Frank
THE GREAT WOMAN [L] WORK

BOCA RATON, FL — Now here’s an oddball: A flick that splinters the ribs with riotous broad comedy and then — without hop-scotching a beat — pinches the chest ticker with genuine human emotion. I elevate its characters.

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POLITICAL COLUMN

Political conviction without political labels

January 31, 2006
Volume LXIX, No. 5 82006
Mustang Daily

printed by University Graphics Systems

"Surely it is the real sincerity."

Truth is my motivation; for ideological and political questions, it is simple. Now that I’ve got a “campaign” — rousing bag, I mean — columnar, I might mention, I’m afraid that I’ll become something I hate — not the label; I don’t want to be designated as the “liberal” columnist, I despise conformity, especially dead and counterfeit. My goal with this column is not to conform to normative labels; it is to be unconventional — to present issues in a raw form, and other forms of media politicking. Given our immensely diverse society, I find it disturbing that our “political spectrum” consists of only two colors: black or white — Republicans or Democrats, right or left. But I can assess 315 for my only choice for President is Tweedle Dum or Tweedle Dee. I tell you I digress. Since I’m skittish how well my label fits, it would be unethical to represent myself as something without first evaluating exactly what I believe this to be a liberal or a conserv­ative.

Regardless, the point is that I found myself asking a deeper question: What exactly does it mean to be a liberal or a conservative? I see two ways: We could give every single group in America a special day or month and give all other groups equal coverage or we could do away with months that focus on specific groups. The first solution could be equal in a sense, although it doesn’t seem to be very American. America has come a long way in its history. The struggle for equality (equality of opportunity and equality under the law, not to be mistaken for an equality of results) has been difficult for many groups. However, true equality comes when we are each judged by our personal merit as individuals. Instead of pointing out that this white guy Abraham Lincoln was a great president and this Jewish guy Albert Einstein was a great scientist, or this black guy Thurgood Marshall was a great Supreme Court justice, why don’t we say Abraham Lincoln was a great president, Albert Einstein was a great scientist and Thurgood Marshall was a great Supreme Court justice? I wouldn’t want to be remembered solely by what group I belonged to, nor would anyone else. When Black History Month began, blacks were seldom mentioned in our history books or classes, but times have changed. Just look at Cal Poly’s history department — we have courses that focus on American cultures, on struggles for equality, even when classes that are specific to African American history. When Black History Month began, good was to incorporate blacks into the overall pic­ture of American history. I think that this goal has been accomplished. I believe that if we want to take that final step toward equality Black History Month has to end.

Simply put, black history like Irish history, Italian history, Asian American history, Latina/o history, Indian history, Jewish history, Mormon history or, any history you can come up with, is all American history. I don’t think there should be a Black History Month just as I don’t think there should be a month set aside for any other group.

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Danielle Ayers-Stamper led the Mustangs at the Washington Invitational Saturday, winning the women's Pentathlon with a final score of 400 points by 89 points behind Ayers-Stamper, but got a score strong enough to qualify for the NCAA Championships as well.

Other Mustangs with strong performances included Deirdre Byrne, who finished fourth in the long jump event with a time of 4:45.26 in the one-mile run. Byrne's time was good for fifth place in the meet. Lauren Milkey ran well in the one-mile as well, running a personal-best outdoor time of 4:53.16.

Markita Berry finished in fifth in the high jump, with her best mark at 5.62m.

Sunday's results

The Mustangs competed in the University of Washington Open on Sunday and came away with a number of strong showings, led by the one, two, three finish in the 800 meter run at Deidre Byrne. Bridgette Sexton and Lauren Milkey finished in first, second and third to lead the Mustangs in an impressive day in Seattle.

Markita Berry won the one-mile event with a time of 5:13.48, narrowly edging out Hanni's Chuntelle Lan who finished with a time of 5:13.96. Atkinson won the event the day after finishing 20th in the Washington invite on Saturday in the 800m where she ran a time of 2:16.46.

Danielle Ayers-Stamper continued her great start to the 2006 season by winning the 60m hurdles event with a time of 8.07. Ayers-Stamper also had a strong showing in the high jump event, finishing fourth with her best jump being marked at 1.66 meters.

Sexton also competed in the 60m hurdles and performed well, finishing sixth, with a time of 9.36. Sexton competed in the high jump as well, finishing with height of 7.48 meters. Markita Berry excelled in the triple jump for the Mustangs, finishing second with a mark of 11.01 meters. Britney Smith, who was unscored, won the event with a jump of 11.12. Berry performed well in the 60 meter dash as well, finishing in sixth with a time of 8.14.

Nikki Chase took third in the 400m, finishing with a time of 58.93, just missing Shannan Williams of S.E.T.A. who finished with a time of 58.89. Also competing in the 400m for the Mustangs was Lindsey McMains who finished with a time of 1:02.3.

With a score of 3956, the win qualifies Ayers-Stamper for the NCAA Championships, surpassing the required score of 3700 by 256 points and just missing the automatic score of 4000 by 96 points.

Ayers-Stamper closest competition was Kalinda McFadden of Oregon who finished over 100 points behind Ayers-Stamper, but got a score strong enough to qualify for the NCAA Championships as well.

The Mustangs competed in the Washington Invite on Saturday, winning the one-mile event with a time of 5:13.48, narrowly edging out Hanni's Chuntelle Lan who finished with a time of 5:13.96. Atkinson won the event the day after finishing 20th in the Washington invite on Saturday in the 800m where she ran a time of 2:16.46.
James Mellor

The start to the 2006 baseball season could not have been better for Cal Poly after sweeping No. 21 Fresno State at Baggett Stadium over the weekend.

Although the Mustangs looked anything but perfect, clutch performances resulted in three wins and none more dramatic than a Josh Lansford home run in the bottom of the ninth inning to win on Sunday.

However, the sweep of Fresno State is an appetizer of what is to come this season.

The Mustangs, who had the 18th toughest schedule in college baseball last season, will have a schedule of similar caliber for the 2006 season. Not only will Cal Poly face defending national champions Cal State Fullerton and perennially powerful Long Beach State, but San Diego State and World Series participants Oregon State have been added to this season's schedule.

"Every weekend wins are tough to come by, both conference and non-conference," Mustang coach Larry Lee said. "Big West baseball is ranked the fifth toughest conference in the country.

Lee will begin his fourth season at the helm of Cal Poly baseball. Last season, the team was unaccustomed to pitchers walking batters while guiding the Mustangs to their best finish since joining the Big West.

Cal Poly ended the season at 36-20 overall and 14-7 in the Big West, which put them at a tie for second place. Last year's team broke five all-time school records and produced three top 10 leaders in individual statistics.

Although Lee will be fielding a vastly different lineup, he is optimistic about this team's stronger throughout the lineup," Lee said. "Defensively, we should be comparable to last season."

However, after losing their No. 1 and 2 pitchers from last season, "the big question is can we match our pitching staff from last year," Lee said.

Lee said junior pitcher Gary Daley should be one of the best pitchers on the West Coast and should be a high draft pick into the professional ranks. "(We) look for big things out of him and he sets the tone for the weekend," Lee said.

The coach also mentioned Rocky Roquet as playing a strong role on the pitching staff.

"The makeup of the team is very good," Lee added. "They're very hard working... Now they have to create their own identity."

Key returning players will be Jimmy Van Ostrand, who will be switching to first base from the outfield, Brent Walker at second, Matt Cooper in the outfield and Lansford at third. Last season, Van Ostrand batted .345 with four home runs and 25 stolen bases, earning him honorable mention Big West honors.

"It's going to be a different look, obviously, but I'm looking forward to it," Van Ostrand said about making the change to first base. "I've been working there all fall, and I'm feeling fairly comfortable over there."

Solid newcomers to the Mustangs roster are junior Jacob Lusque, from Cypress College; sophomore Grant Denez, from San Diego State; and junior Matt Langas, from College of Mateo.

"They're going to be asked to step in right away and fill some pretty big shoes," Lee said. "They should do extremely well."

"We have a bunch of guys who are going to be good players," Van Ostrand said. "So we all just have to do what we can do individually and then our team will be all right."

And, yes, Cal Poly fans, beer will be sold at this season's games.

With a weekend sweep of No. 21 Fresno State, Cal Poly will undoubtedly move up in the latest national polls.

Next up is a trip to San Jose State where the Mustangs will play a three-game series against the Spartans.

All that remains is the Big West finals.