Controversial speaker tells MLK Jr.'s 'real' message

Whitney Diaz
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Controversial black conservative Mason Weaver returned to Cal Poly on Wednesday night to speak to students about Black History Month.

In the audience, sitting front and center, was San Luis Obispo Mayor Dave Romero who listened intently as Weaver told students about the "real" message of Martin Luther King Jr.

"The civil rights movement was a movement of freedom," Weaver said. "All Dr. King wanted was to participate in the American dream. As we study Black History Month, I think we're losing sight of his message."

Weaver said that King dreamed of "indifference" when it comes to the color of a person's skin, which is not what is happening today.

"As the president of the National United Freedom Alliance (NUFA), Weaver encourages independence and freedom through social and economic means. With a political science degree from UC Berkeley, he is infamous for sparking debate and dissension among his audience. He argues that government programs like welfare and affirmative action create too much dependence in the black community, and in turn creates another invisible "plantation."

Cosponsored by Associated Students Inc. and the Office of Student Affairs, the free event was hosted by the Cal Poly College Republicans.

"We are truly honored to host Mason Weaver in celebration of Black History Month," said Christina Weaver.

see Weaver, page 3

College giving up sharply—especially to wealthy schools

Justin Pope
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prosperous alumni helped make 2006 a record fundraising year for colleges and universities, which hauled in an all-time high of $28 billion — a 9.4 percent jump from the year before.

There were increases across the board, but as usual it was the already wealthy who fared best. Stanford's $911 million was the most ever collected by a single university, and raised the staggering possibility of a billion-dollar fundraising year in the not-too-distant future.

"There was a set of ideas and a set of initiatives that the university is undertaking that people wanted to invest in," said Martin Shell, Stanford's vice president for development. "This is an unbelievably generous response from an unbelievably philanthropic set of alumni, parents and friends."

Nationally, donations from alumni rose 18.3 percent from 2005, according to new figures being released Wednesday by the Council for Aid to Education. Alumni donations account for about 30 percent of giving to higher education. Giving from other groups, such as corporations and foundations, increased by much smaller amounts.

Survey director Ann Kaplan said the strong economy played a role, but universities also were asking more aggressively as part of formal fundraising campaigns.

"Colleges are making a good case for support," Kaplan said. "The level at
Change
continued from page 1
dance; however, those numbers have been growing since then. This year, SCS expects about 250 people to attend.
Started in 2003 by Students for Social Change, a sort of subdivision of the community service group, Change the Status Quo seeks to raise awareness of current social issues and change them. The event will provide a forum in which passionate people can discuss their ideas for changing the world, and, in the process, motivate others to seek change as well.
To do this, a variety of campus clubs will present workshops, led by students and professionals alike, focusing on selected topics.
"We don't focus on one issue; we like to let the student clubs choose the issues important to them," Mastache explained. "As this year's tagline shows, we are trying to motivate the students on our campus to group together and make sweeping social changes."
And this can be done through a variety of means, she said.
Full-quarter, Mastache and other SCS organizers emailed campus clubs, informing them of the event and its goals. Interested clubs are responsible for conducting their own workshops and, are given leeway to determine workshop topics and presenters.
This year's 24 workshops will focus on a diversity of topics, including queer journalism, global warming, human sex trafficking and homelessness in San Luis Obispo, to name a few.
"The amazing thing about the conference is how inspired people feel when they leave the conference. I want people to feel inspired to know that they have the power to change," said Angela Kramer, a political science sophomore and organizer for the Pride Center's workshops.
Despite the differences in topics and issues discussed, Mastache said, everyone involved will be working toward the same overall goal at the conference.
Ultimately, SCS and the clubs involved hope to get students involved locally, showing them that these issues are not merely theoretical. The idea is that students can do something, they just have to act locally, Mastache said.
More information, including a schedule and detailed workshop descriptions, can be found at www.stanfordlife.calpoly.edu/CSQ. To register, visit the SCS office in the University Union, room 217.

Fundraising
continued from page 1
which they can receive contributions will have something to do with the economy, but they have to be out there asking for it.
Stanford had about 300 full-time fundraising employees asking for money in 2006, finishing up one formal campaign early in the year and starting another. It was a demonstration of how fundraising campaigns, like political ones, now run virtually full-time.
Still, the timing did give Stanford annual numbers an artificial boost, because more money tends to be collected at the beginning and end of such campaigns.
The C&E survey contains good news for a number of schools with small endowments that saw large percentage jumps, such as Wagner College in New York and the University of La Verne in California—both of which raised about $10 million and more than doubled 2005's collections.
But in absolute dollars, the wealthiest institutions still dominate — and are expanding their lead. Last year, the top 10 fundraising universities collected 16.3 percent of all gifts, or $4.6 billion, compared to 14.7 percent in 2005. The top 20 institutions accounted for more than a quarter of all fundraising.
Stanford was followed by Harvard, which raised $995 million, then Yale ($433 million) and the University of Pennsylvania ($409 million). All of the biggest fundraising schools are large research institutions with medical schools that typically attract private support for research from well beyond their alumni base.
Rounding out the top 10 were Cornell, Southern California, Johns Hopkins, Columbia, Duke and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which was the top fundraiser among public universities, raising $326 million.
The elite fundraisers typically get money from a higher percentage of alumni, but the real difference comes from a small number of mega-gifts. About 40 percent of Stanford's total came from just 10 donations. Shell said, the largest of which was $100 million from alumnus and real estate developer John Arrillaga.
The university's latest campaign aims to raise $4.3 billion over five years. Stanford charges $43,361 this year for tuition plus room and board, but said it provides full financial aid for students who need it, and does not charge families with annual income under $45,000.

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Mr. Jones is a former intern at the Cal Poly Student
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students. Currently, the campus is using an outreach program at schools serving low-income students in order to increase student diversity. Currently, the campus is using an outreach program at schools serving low-income students in order to increase student diversity.

President Baker has an outstanding leadership team, despite turnover resulting from the then provost Paul Zingg moving to Chico as president, the vice president of advancement departing for UC Riverside and the vice president of administration retiring.

Replacement administrators have been equally strong and effective.

This has required a constant flow of information of what employers want of graduates and provide a source of monetary and in-kind support.

Previous surveys have determined that faculty and student leaders. When meeting with groups or individuals, he is always well prepared. Despite a busy travel schedule, his very able office staff and vice presidents keep business flowing and communication open.

In order to be a better neighbor in the small town of San Luis Obispo, President Baker oversaw construction of on-campus housing for 800 students. A large residential village for another 2,700 students is underway. In order to attract and retain new faculty, a 69-unit housing project was completed.

Fund raising has been highly successful at Cal Poly. A five-year capital campaign, called the Centennial Campaign, had a public number of $225 million. When the campaign ended, $264 million had been raised. These funds will result in 20 endowed faculty chairs and other benefits for Cal Poly's learning enterprise.

Dr. Baker has an easy personality. He is calm, ethical and honest, thoughtful and intelligent, a planner, and an advocate for students. He puts students first.

The goals flowing from the 2002-03 review have been accomplished. These were: to be more visible on campus, to address the housing dilemma for new faculty and for students, to attain a more diverse student body, to increase Cal Poly's reputation by leveraging the "learn by doing" model and try to assist the CSU system where Cal Poly has expertise.

President Warren Baker discussed this review and established the following goals:

February 2007

Open Letter to the Cal Poly community:

During the fall 2006 term, a three-year review of Warren J. Baker, President of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) was conducted. The review took the form of collecting and summarizing letters from a selection of the campus and external community members. The review concluded on January 23, 2007, with discussion of the review by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees and I appreciate the contributions of those who worked with us on this review.

Criteria established by the Board of Trustees in 1984, and updated in 1994 and 2001, were used to assess the performance of President Baker and the progress of the institution. These measures included the overall management of the institution, relations on campus and within the system, educational leadership and community relations, major achievements of the campus and the president, and personal characteristics of the president. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community representatives were invited to submit written comments responding to the trustees' criteria.

The review confirmed that Dr. Baker continues to be an outstanding president for Cal Poly. He is trusted and well-regarded for his judgement. He leads the campus with energy, enthusiasm and dedication. Dr. Baker is a constant advocate for innovation. Realizing that State support does not fully fund the Cal Poly "learn by doing" model of small classes and laboratory experiences, Dr. Baker has sought industry support, aggressive fund raising and finally asked the students to accept a fee increase to sustain the Cal Poly mission. 92 to 96% of Cal Poly graduates over the past decade are either in jobs related to their degree studies or in graduate school within a year of graduation.

The graduation rate at Cal Poly makes it the leader in the CSU. Besides the curriculum driving students to take a full course load and graduate on time, students enter Cal Poly better prepared than those at most CSU campuses. President Baker created advisory boards composed of industry leaders for each of the colleges. Advisory boards provide a constant flow of information of what employers want of graduates and provide a source of monetary and in-kind support.

In planning for the future of the university, Dr. Baker is leading a $500 million construction effort—some State funded, some donor assisted and one project—the Bonderson student projects building—was entirely donor funded.

Dr. Baker is committed to diversity in employment and in students. Increasingly, more women faculty have been hired, although the number of ethnic minority faculty has changed little. Passage of Proposition 209 caused a set back in the once increasing trend in student diversity. Until then, the admissions process included a component that gave recognition to ethnic minority students. Currently, the campus is using an outreach program at schools serving low-income students in order to increase student diversity.

President Baker has an outstanding leadership team, despite turnover resulting from the then provost Paul Zingg moving to Chico as president, the vice president of advancement departing for UC Riverside and the vice president of administration retiring. Replacement administrators have been equally strong and effective.

President Baker has had a good rapport with faculty and the academic senate over the years of his presidency. He supports improvement of faculty teaching skills and faculty research. Dr. Baker is available for meetings with college deans, faculty leaders and student leaders. When meeting with groups or individuals, he is always well prepared. Despite a busy travel schedule, his very able office staff and vice presidents keep business flowing and communication open.

Dr. Warren Baker contributes to the CSU. He serves on the Information Technology Steering Committee, a collective bargaining advisory group, the Presidents' Council on Industry, CSUPERB (a biotechnology initiative), CI-CORE (a marine science and coastal observing effort), and AR1 (our agriculture research initiative). Besides the president serving on system committees, his administrative team members frequently volunteer for system service.

In order to be a better neighbor in the small town of San Luis Obispo, President Baker oversaw construction of on-campus housing for 800 students. A large residential village for another 2,700 students is underway. In order to attract and retain new faculty, a 69-unit housing project was completed.

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President Warren Baker discussed this review and established the following goals:

1. Continue the effective model presidency.

2. Continue the concerted activities to attain greater diversity among faculty and students.

3. Refer CSU eligible applicants who are not admitted to other CSU campuses.

4. Explore whether there is simple architectural or landscape solutions to create a theme that unifies the campus.

5. Continue the aggressive fund raising efforts and successes.

6. Continue to assist the Chancellor's Office and the CSU system in system affairs.

In conclusion, Dr. Warren Baker is a very effective president for Cal Poly. The results of this periodic review are notable and extremely positive. He has strong leadership skills that benefit Cal Poly and the California State University system. Dr. Baker has much credibility with his presidential colleagues in the CSU system. Cal Poly and the CSU system will benefit from Dr. Warren Baker's continuation as President of Cal Poly.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Charles B. Reed
Chancellor

CBA/write
Chuck Norris to throw down at Throwfest

Amanda Retzer

Mix together some cheesy Chuck Norris jokes, 2,000 pounds of clay, a couple of live bands and free ceramic madness and you've got Throwfest 2007, the pottery marathon hosted by the Craft Center beginning today at noon.

The Craft Center will be covered with clay for 24 hours as everyone from first-time throwers to pottery professionals will have a chance to try their hand at ceramics. It is free to learn and participate and there is a $5 glazing and firing fee for anyone who would like to take their crafts home.

Besides having dozens of ceramic spinners and over 2,000 pounds of clay donated by Blue Rose Studios in Arroyo Grande, the Craft Center will also have many forms of entertainment to keep crafters amused: cue the Chuck Norris entrance.

"With all the Chuck Norris jokes floating around everywhere, we wanted to play off of that and a whole ninja theme," said Matthew Burch, a student manager and program and special events coordinator at the Craft Center. "We will have two projectors and a TV constantly showing all kinds of ninja DVDs."

The Throwfest revolves around the theme "If you can Chuck it, you can throw it, and in the front of the Craft Center, a huge banner lists 55 different Chuck Norris jokes, including some like "Bullets dodge Chuck Norris" and "Giraffes were created when Chuck Norris uppercutted a horse."

Other forms of entertainment include a Johnny Cash cover band, the Cal Poly jazz band and an open mic for anyone who wants to grab an instrument and play.

There will also be a variety of creativity contests going on throughout the 24 hours of throwing.

"There will be all different kinds of contests like who can throw the biggest pot and who can throw a pot without hands," Burch said. There are also competitions for different skill levels of throwers as well as a competition where throwers are blindfolded. These contests will take place from midnight to 1 a.m.

Anticipated peak hours are between 7 p.m. and 2 a.m., the general time period when the bands will be playing, Burch said. Then it will most likely pick up again around 9 a.m. when families start to come in.

Any clay or pots that don't become fired will be mound ed back up and recycled for later use.

The money raised from the pots will be glazed and fired, along with any donations made, will go towards the Denise Waters Art Scholarship fund, an award that has been associated with the Throwfest ever since its start in 1998.

"If you want to play off of the Throwfest theme, contact Matthew Burch at (805) 756-6379 or drop by the Craft Center in the University Union.

A schedule of entertainment and contests is also available at the Craft Center.

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Smith to be buried in Bahamas alongside son

Anna Nicole Smith will be buried in the Bahamas, alongside her dead son, it was announced Thursday after a tearful judge left the decision up to the attorney for the model's baby daughter.

Richard Melvin, the court-appointed lawyer for 5-month-old Dannielynn, announced the plans not long after a judge gave him control of Smith's final resting place. He gave no timeframe for the burial.

Circuit Judge Larry Seidlin steered a surprise middle course in a dispute that became more urgent by the day when the medical examiner warned that Smith's body was rapidly decomposing.

"Who is entitled to custody of the remains of Anna Nicole Smith?" Seidlin wrote in his ruling. "There can be only one proper and equitable answer to that question, Dannielynn, Anna Nicole Smith's only child, heir and next of kin."

The ruling came a full two weeks after Smith died at a Florida hotel at age 39 of still-undetermined causes. Smith's estranged mother wanted her buried in her native Texas, while Smith's boyfriend wanted her laid to rest in the Bahamas.

The judge, who choked up frequently and sometimes blubbered as he explained his decision, compensated and gave custody to Melvin.

"I want her buried with her son in the Bahamas," he said through tears. "I want them to be together."

Smith's boyfriend, attorney Howard K. Stern, had been hunched over a table with his hands folded as he listened to Seidlin's ruling and wiped away tears afterward. Smith's mother, Virgie Arthur, covered her eyes.

Outside court, Stern joined Arthur and Smith's closest friend and photographer Larry Birkhead before dozens of reporters, and helped to work together on funeral arrangements.

"It's a family affair. You guys can go home," Krista Barth, the attorney for Stern, told reporters.
Student maestro to conduct at CP Town and Gown

Hayley Bramble

The Cal Poly Wind Orchestra and the San Luis Obispo Wind Orchestra will team up for the first time for the Town and Gown Musical Extravaganza Sunday at Arroyo Grande’s Clark Center at 3 p.m.

The phrase “Town and Gown” represents the pairing of the community orchestra, the “town,” with the university orchestra.

The annual winter concert will feature multiple guest conductors, including, music junior Amanda Yoshimizu. It is uncommon that students, especially undergraduates, possess the skill to conduct an orchestra, said William Johnson, who conducts Cal Poly’s wind orchestra and wind ensemble, and Cal Poly’s new associated director of bands, will also guest conduct two pieces for the wind orchestra.

“Arirang” is a series of Korean folk songs, and “And Can it Be?” which was written in response to the Columbine High School shootings.

William Johnson, who conducts Cal Poly’s wind orchestra and wind ensemble, will hand over the baton to his student this Sunday at the Town and Gown Musical Extravaganza in Arroyo Grande.

Christopher J. Woodruff, Cal Poly’s new associated director of bands, will also guest conduct two pieces for the wind orchestra. Woodruff, who plays trumpet, recently moved to the central coast from Pennsylvania, where he taught for six years. His pieces will open and close the performance.

Woodruff said all the pieces in the concert were very different, but they “still wanted to put together a program that is going to be entertaining for our audience.”

Among the noteworthy pieces of the performance are “Ghost Train,” inspired by an American legend, and “And Can it Be?” which was written in response to the Columbine High School shootings.

“It’s very moving,” Johnson said of the piece adding that it’s full of tension and terror. “It’s terrifying to listen to at times.”
Learning to say more than 'ciao'

They say that children are capable of retaining any language taught to them under the age of 5. Well, one morning in August 2006, I woke up in Florence, Italy, realizing that I knew nothing more than how to say "ciao." Alone at the age of 20 in a foreign country, briefly angry with my family for not forcing me to learn another language as a child, I decided to take advantage of my situation and live with Italians.

Little did I know that for a number of reasons, this would be the most challenging, but best decision I have ever made. Although the idea was easy to come up with, the question was how to go about finding a place to live with the evident language barriers. I first turned to the Cal State Program, which provided a map of Florence to find posted advertisements for wanted roommates. Getting lost repeatedly, I managed to go into a pizzeria in which students posted rooms and apartments for rent.

Over a course of three days, my vocabulary had already increased to about twenty words, including, "rent," "noon," and "no." With these words, I was also able to make an ad for myself: "a desperate, lost American girl in search of Italian students to live with." I even bought local magazines with listings of ads wanting to read about Italians, increasingly angry with my people who barely see the paper in front of them. So what can we do to get to the Sudoku or the juicy news? Talk about the privileged elite. Most importantly, how to make friends grow fast until I eventually found myself hanging out more with my roommates and their Italian friends than with other American students.

Though it was becoming easier to speak Italian and easier to understand, there were definitely moments that the Ianguage barrier came back in full effect, such as the time my American friends and I decided to go to a Ben Harper concert, misunderstanding the operating hours of the train station, leaving us wandering the streets of Rome until 6 in the morning. My roommates still tease me about it.

I have been all over Europe, and have even stepped foot in Africa on recent adventures to Morocco, and though I still have four months left abroad, I know that living with Italians has become the best decision I have ever made. It is because I live with Italians that I am able to follow current political events in the European Union, able to understand what took place in the past, and, most importantly, how to make progress!

They care more about world events than the average American, and have made me realize that compared to them, I know nothing about my country. I had to go to the doctor on one occasion, and was able to learn better expressions to use to explain my particular pain.

I have connections with their friends from back home, too, allowing me to have places to stay in London, Spain and Poland. They laugh at me, yet teach me the correct way to say them as to not embarrass myself out in the real world. Make sure you really pronounce that "L" in "cal-" and "ciao"! Do you know what I mean if you come to Italy.

These little examples of my life here are just a few of the countless things that have convinced me to live with Italians or any native to the country of choice! Language-learning for the attempt at a new language, my choice of music and wearing Rainbow sandals is the toughest I get from my roommates to help me assimilate. Already I know it's going to be hard to say goodbye to them when I have to return home. Until then, however, pasta and more pasta, Basta! Ciao ragazzi!

STAFF COMMENTARY

Hey Cal Poly students, you're getting ripped off again

We've all seen the boring headlines: "Student fees increase again" or "Teachers on strike," and most recently "Top execs get raise." Who in their right mind would want to read about budgets, increases and administration? If we're not journalism major and a reporter on the Mustang Daily staff, I'd probably skip right over any kinds of articles to get to the Sudoku or the juicy letters to the editor.

Believe it or not, these issues are actually important and relevant because they are affecting students, teachers and our back accounts, but it's not surprising that many students look past them. So what can we do to catch the attention of affective and informed readers?

I propose that we use sensationalized, capitalized, bold, italicized, underlined, wherever-it-takes-font to capture student eyes. The front page should read:

"HEY, CAL POLY STUDENTS, GETTING RIPPED OFF AGAIN SO GET OUT YOUR DAMN CHECKBOOKS!"

or how about: "THE BIGGEST WITH THREE BENZES AND A PISMO BEACH HOUSE IS GETTING 10,000 MORE BUCKS A YEAR! Maybe that would be enough to feel student eyes away from the headline Anna Nicole Smith or the "Brinney's Baddie" cover story. So if I have caught your attention, then let's all get our wallets out and start counting the dollars because it's that time once again. Student tuition fees will increase 10 percent this year if Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's new state budget is passed (very likely). Sure, why not? Students are paying more and more each year, as an amount that has doubled since 2002.

And sure, the state gave us a break last year, saying they wouldn't increase our fees because students come first. But that was an election year, and since the officials are now sitting pretty in their comfy office chairs, they don't need to please the people anymore. And we're footing the bill for it.

Fine, fine, we'll pay it if we had an actual say in the final decision. We'll send our parents the e-mail that says: Hey Mom and Dad, can you take an extra $252 out of your life savings so I can pay for the fees at school this year? I'll sacrifice that tub of butter and extra loaf of bread. Little Susie can do without her walkie talkies, too, right? Thanks for going into extreme debt and taking out numerous loans with interest rates that gouge holes through our roof just so we can go to an institute of higher education!

OK, I'll be mature about this. I'm going to a established, well-expect ed, successful university and I'm paying for a solid education that will lead me to a G.A. job. I can hardly dangle a couple extra buckas a quarter. But why does the CSU system seem so sneaky about it? It's guaran teed that more than 90 percent of students on campus have no idea that they will be paying hundreds of dollars more next year to go to school.

And the sky-high officials seem to like it like that.

I don't see any flyers or forums on campus that inform students about fee increases. Instead they put out complicated press releases with I'm-surprised-you-looked-written by higher administration that can barely see the paper in front of them because their noses are turned up so high.

Like I said though, I'll fork over the dough. But as I feel the crisp bills in my hand, I can't help but see them fall into a flapping of greedy hands. Why on earth would I feel this way? Maybe because at the same time that my fees are increasing, and at the same time that teachers are struggling with strikes and protests to boost their salaries, every CSU campus' president and top CSU executive are getting a raise. I've lost the will to nudge. THIS AMOUNTS TO $7 MILLION, PEOPLE. Sorry, but I don't want to go on the wherever-it-takes-font to capture your attention. But seriously, $7 million to people who are already getting paid well over $20,000 a year, along with car and house compensations.

Talk about the privileged elite. Oh, but I forget — we go to a public school where administration guarantees they are looking out for our well-being while spending tons of money on paying officers to give tickets to bicyclists who don't make complete stops at intersections on their commuter bikes. GETTING RIPPED OFF AGAIN SO GET OUT YOUR DAMN CHECKBOOKS!
Mustang softball team continues 25-game trip

The Mustangs (6-3), who posted a 3-2 mark at last week’s Louisville Slugger Desert Classic, open Palm Springs play Feb. 23 against UNLV (9-3) at 1 p.m. and Virginia (3-5) at 8:30 p.m.

Action continues Feb. 24 with a doubleheader versus No. 7 Northwestern (6-4) at 12:30 p.m. and Mississippi (3-7) at 3 p.m.

The Mustangs open against Northwestern will be Cal Poly’s second encounter with the Wildcats in as many weekends. The Mustangs upset Northwestern 6-2, Feb. 18, at the Desert Classic.

Cal Poly returns to San Luis Obispo following a Feb. 25 contest with Illinois-Chicago (2-3) at 9 a.m.

Cal Poly’s first and only appearance at the Palm Springs Classic came last year when the Mustangs posted a 2-3 mark that included a 9-4 victory against No. 23 Fresno State.

This season, Cal Poly will contest 24 total games against teams that participated in the 2006 NCAA Tournament.
Bettini takes Stage 4 in tour; Leipheimer holds 3-second lead

Cyclists race to the finish line down Monterey Street in San Luis Obispo in the Amgen Tour of California on Thursday. The fourth stage of the race was won by Italy’s Paolo Bettini (white jersey, center). Levi Leipheimer (yellow jersey, front left) maintained his overall lead by three seconds.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy’s Paolo Bettini, the reigning world road titleist, claimed a tight sprint victory and Levi Leipheimer of Santa Rosa maintained his overall lead for the fifth day Thursday in the fourth stage of the Amgen Tour of California in San Luis Obispo.

Bettini (Quick-Step/Inntergetic), competing in the United States for the first time in his career, surged in the final 100 yards to complete the 132.6-mile race in 5 hours, 5 minutes and 47 seconds.

Gerald Ciolek (T-Mobile) of Germany was second in the stage and Juan Jose Hedo (CSC) of Argentina, the second stage winner, was third. Both had the same time as the winner.

Leipheimer (Discovery Channel), who assumed the race lead Sunday with his prologue win in San Francisco, finished 22nd in the main pack and kept his three-second margin over Jens Voigt (CSC) of Germany.

The stage began under overcast skies, and the riders faced heavy periodic rain for much of the first hour. The riders rode most of the day along the front and avoid gaps that might happen, “Leipheimer said. “I feel very confident and I think I’m the strongest rider in the race.”

Rory Sutherland (Health Net) of Australia remains third overall, trail­ling by 15 seconds.

Bettini, also the reigning Olympic mad race gold medalist, emerged near the front of the main pack as the cyclists approached the finish on a sharp left turn with about 300 yards left.

“I always like winning, but I didn’t really come here with a goal to win,” said Bettini, 22, a multiple Tour de France stage winner who’s claimed more than a dozen World Cup victories. “But yesterday on the climb, I knew had good legs.”

A pack of seven cyclists rode at the front of the race for most of the day and built up more than a three-minute margin. But the main group steadily narrowed the lead, and the field approached the final few miles together.

The eight-day, 639.2-mile race concludes Sunday with a stage to Bakersfield. Cal Poly enters with a dual meet record of 7-9 overall and 4-4 in conference.

Those records are somewhat deceiving, though, in that the Mustangs had several key wrestlers sidelined with respective injuries at different times in the season. They also suffered close losses multiple times, such as 21-19 at Oregon, 25-22 against Garden­Webb, 31-25 at Stanford and 26-18 at Arizona State.

Azevedo said Monday, though, that all but one of his wrestlers should be back this weekend. Among those returning from injuries is senior Matt Montes (knee), who is 18-6 and ranked 17th nationally at 197 pounds. Also competing will be senior 141-pounder Dave Robrem (10-5), who saw time out of the line-up earlier this season after recovering from arthroscopic knee surgery.

Azevedo said, however, that junior Chad Mendes (5-2), who began the season ranked No. 25 with 125 pounds, will still be sidelined with a severely hyperextended elbow.

Still, Cal Poly will bring a deep and experienced lineup that includes ninth-ranked 133-pound senior Darrell Vasquez (25-3), Montes and 12th-ranked senior heavyweight Cody Parker (16-5).”

“Hey’s figured it out,” Azevedo said of Vasquez, who has won eight straight matches. “He knows how to pace himself to a certain degree. He’s just ready to go. He has a senior mental toughness. He just says, ‘I’m ready to go, coach.’ He’s ready to go win the Pac-10 and win a national title. He’s excited for the team also.”

The top three finishers in each weight class automatically qualify for the NCAA Championships, which run from March 15 to 17 in Auburn Hills, Mich. Three wild cards for each division are also awarded.

“It’s definitely what we’ve been working for the past few months,” Azevedo said of the Pac-10 Championships. “Our goal has been to win the Pac-10 this year and qualify as many wrestlers as possible for the Pac-10, except for Chad Mendes. Everybody else will be back in there.”

Cal Poly is coming off a 21-18 Pac-10 win at UC Davis on Feb. 18. “It was a good win last Thursday,” Azevedo said. “Now we’re going to face off a win. It helps the morale and builds some momentum.”

Poly baseball team heads to Santa Clara for 3-game series

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Cal Poly (8-6), which has bounced back from a season-opening, five­game losing streak by winning three-game series against San Diego State, Nevada and Washington, visits Santa Clara (7-7) this weekend for a three­nonconference series at Stephen Schott Stadium.

First pitch Friday is set for 6 p.m. and the games Saturday and Sunday will start at 1 p.m. Santa Clara has beaten Cal Poly twice in three­game series each of the last three years to build a 35­29 advantage in the overall series, dating back to 1996. The Broncos posted 15­9 and 7­5 victories in the first two games of last year’s series in San Luis Obispo before the Mustangs salvaged a 3­2 win in the series finale.

Cal Poly beat visiting British Columbia 13­3 in an exhibition game Wednesday night and Santa Clara earned its record Monday with a 6­4 victory over Utah.