Sweet spot for surf shop

Mollie Helmuth
MUSTANG DAILY

There’s a new surf shop in town and it’s worth checking out even if you’re not into surfing. San Luis Surf Co., also known as SLO Surf, has moved in on the corner of Morro and Higuera streets.

Co-owners Anthony Randazzo Jr., Tim Cowan and Nate Ditmore are not strangers to the business or culture of surfing. Randazzo, 33, of Atascadero, has been surfing for 22 years and got into retail with the aspiration to “share the stoke” with anyone he comes across.

The shop, like its owners, has a very local feel. “We wanted to get back to the roots of local surfing,” said Randazzo, who graduated from Cal Poly and started his own board bag company, Perfect Conditions, 10 years ago. Ditmore and Randazzo teamed up six years ago to start the Morro Bay Surf Co., and San Luis Surf Co. is their newest venture.

“We strive to be involved in the community,” Randazzo said. “Werun camps, we have special needs surf camps, we sponsor junior teams, everything we can.”

The final player is “surf retail legend” Tim Cowan, who managed Wavelengths in Morro Bay for 20 years before teaming up as co-owner of San Luis Surf Co.

Randazzo, Ditmore and Cowan feel that they can offer unique retail service because they all grew up in the area. “Between the three of us, we know everyone in the area, we know the buying patterns, we know the waves.” Randazzo said.

The shop carries 200 of the best surf board brands as well as name-brand quality equipment. They also have an impressive selection of sunglasses, sandals and as well as plenty of clothing to browse through. Monitors on the walls play surf videos and the vibe is eccentric beach-chic.

High school senior Ryan Corruble, 17, was visiting San Luis Obispo for the weekend to check out Cal Poly. The surfing scene is imperative to Ryan’s university choice, and he visited several surf shops in downtown San Luis Obispo to get a feel for it.

“SL Surf was awesome, the guys were really helpful,” said Corruble, who has been surfing since he was 9 years old. “They were telling me stuff about the waves here and where I should go next.”

The owners believe that personalized service is important, no matter what the customer is shopping for. “We are service-oriented, whether it’s for a T-shirt or a surfboard. We feel that that’s important, no matter what the customer is buying.” kandazzo said.

In an effort to deviate from the mainstream surf scene, San Luis Surf Co. carries more local merchandise as well as “edgier” products than competitors. Some of their clothing has locally designed silk-screening and they carry KR surfboards, shaped locally. However, they also carry well-known brands such as Rusty and Lost.

“The Central Coast has some of the most consistent waves in the world,” said Randazzo, who lived in Hawaii for three years and appreciates Central Coast surfing even more because of San Luis Surf Co.

They stay open until 9 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays. When checking it out, come prepared with any questions you might have because they’ll be answered by some of the most knowledgeable guys in town.

Poly alum injured in Mojave Desert airport explosion

Megan Priley
MUSTANG DAILY

Testing of a propulsion system for a new space tourism vehicle at a Mojave Desert airport resulted in an explosion that left three workers dead and three others injured July 26.

Yeginy Mikialovich Gm, better known to his friends as Gm, graduated from Cal Poly in 2008. The 26-year-old who graduated with a master’s degree in aeronautics was one of the few injured in the explosion.

Chelsie Romulo, a friend of Gene’s, started a facebook group in his honor. The group, titled “Gene,” shows overwhelming support from friends and family along with updates on his progress.

“His injuries were a fractured leg and a lot of scrapes in his upper body that caused a lot of swelling,” Romulo said. “The news in the IFJ told me that the swelling had gone down significantly.”

Romulo also mentioned Gm had a concussion and the most damage was done to his lungs, which have been severely burned from nitrous oxide. Gm has been put on a respira-

“Gene is awake but groggy, tired and the doctors have ordered him not to talk in order to allow his throat a few more days to heal,” Romulo said.

Romulo said doctors do not want to work on any of his other injuries until his lungs are stable.

Gm’s parents, Mikial and Irena Gm, have also requested, in the interest of their son’s health, that visitors be restricted until Gene’s condition has improved.

Gm’s brother, Vitaliy Gm, spoke out about his younger brother’s accident in an online interview with Kero 23 News. He was unable to report the exact details of the explosion, a mystery that remains, but stated that his brother is doing quite well.

Vitaliy informed the media that Gene was “pursuing the dream of his life to work for an aerospace company.” He also professed that his brother understood the risks of working in the aeronautics industry.

On the positive side, Vitaliy acknowledged how glad he was that the accident happened here in America instead of somewhere else.
**Public access Channel 2 debate reaches mediation**

**Jesse Over**

San Luis Obispo City Council members voted 5-0 on July 3 to cut the amount of money requested for broadcasting equipment by the SLOCOPA public access television station to $4,000. The station had asked for $15,918.

The council members also requested that the Channel 2 public access board members mediate, with minority producers to rewrite bylaws to guarantee more public access.

The issue came to a head when minority producers, in conjunction with the Bearce family, Ron and Leslie, and Christma, 32, explained to the council that diverse shows had failed to air because of priority spots, designed to promote diversity and culture for viewers, were being filled with lower priority religious producers.

“They’ve been saying on these shows that everybody but them follows Satan if people do not follow their religious belief,” Ron Bearce said. “We don’t object to them saying this, but they are up for themselves — it’s not diverse. And they think burning Hermes’ statues on public access will solve the minority problem.”

The board members are calling these minority producers “ghost producers.” The Bearce family has nearly 1,000 people on local television, many of these shows created by minority producers, so by using the “ghost producer” label, the SLOCOPA board members can now pull minority programs by claiming these shows were created by the Bearce family, and not by minority producers.

“What everyone is caught up in now is fake accusations that minority shows are what they call ghost producers,” Ron Bearce said. “He is the one who is doing this, as well as all those named ghost producers’ wanting to sell our family’s name and fake what has happened.”

The board has implemented new policies and procedures and are enforcing them, said newly elected SLOCOPA board member Monetta Matte. The board passed a new rule limiting an organization, which includes a family to only two shows, whereas the old rule said each individual is allowed two shows.

According to Matte, the Bearce family has seven shows so they were obviously affected and upset by the rules.

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**Criterium continued from page 1**

"This is truly a spectator sport," Mohseni said. "People are continuously amazed by criteriums’ technical turns, blazing speeds and intensely competitive participants. A successful rider will be able to dive into a tight corner at high speeds, leaving the rider over at a gravity-defying angle, then power out of the turn and instantly set up for the next." The last San Luis Obispo Downtown Criterium was organized by the Cal Poly Whirlwheels in 2001, and was discontinued after business owners took their concerns to the San Luis Obispo Downtown Association. A vote was taken and the race was killed.

"The problem then was that the race was held by a different director each year," Mohseni said. "There was little communication between the organizer and the businesses. We have an overall plan that encompasses consideration between the businesses, so there’s an event management, which incorporates consideration of the businesses.”

"I have nothing against the race,” said Jim Moyer, a store owner for 28 years. "I shop from downtown, but I don’t think they had the correct idea of how the race should be run." However, the first City Council-appointed mediation meeting between SLOCOPA board members and the Bearce family took place July 30. Though what went on during the two-and-a-half-hour meeting is deemed confidential, Ron Bearce said in a July 31 News Times article: “It was exhausting but worthwhile.” It was the first time producers were able to sit down with these board members without being interrupted.

"Public access should be about diversity and it seems they should be encouraging diversity,” City Council member Matt Brown said. “But it seems like the new SLOCOPA board limits their agenda and they personally want to promote their views.”

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**Explosion continued from page 1**

“If this would have happened in Russia, most likely he wouldn’t have received this level of care,” he told Kero 23 News.

After the explosion, CBS News reported that a Kern County Medical Center official said two people died at the scene and one later died at the hospital after surgery.

Of the three injured, two were in critical condition and one was in serious condition.

The explosion took place at a Scaled Composites facility at the Mojave Air and Space Port. Scaled Composites workers, Todd Fbren, 33, Eric Blackwell, 38, and Glen May, 45, were killed in the explosion.

It occurred as they and other workers were conducting a routine cold-flow test of the oxidizer system for SpaceShipTwo spacecraft.

Scaled Composites is an aerospace development company founded 25 years ago by Burt Rutan; the aerospace engineer who designed the first plan to fly nonstop around the world without refueling. Rutan graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, in 1965 and received the President’s Medal of Excellence from Cal Poly President Warren Baker in 2005.

CNN reported that Rutan said the blast occurred during a test involving nitrous oxide that was flowing through fuel injectors.

Rutan, who was on site during the time of the accident, said they believed the test to be completely safe and that the idea itself is explored.

SpaceShipTwo is a small carbon fiber craft which is designed to carry two passengers up to 65 miles above the earth, traveling at a speed averaged at 12,000 mph.

While entering the edge of space, passengers will experience weightlessness for about 15 minutes.

One ride in the spaceship is being built for Virgin Galactic, Richard Branson’s space tourism company, and has an estimated ticket price of $200,000.

In a 2006 report, Branson told CNN, “What we’re trying to do is make space travel affordable and fun. Two years from now we’ll be starting to take ordinary people into space.”

The Scaled Composites firm has not let the value of their employees’ lives go unnoticed.

They have set up a Scaled Family Support Fund to help the families of its employees in the wake of the accident.

“All three families of the guys in the hospital are staying at the same hotel courtesy of Scaled Composites, although I believe another company now owns them.” Romulo said. “The company director came to the hospital to give his condolences to all the families.”

All donations can be sent to the Scaled Family Support Fund in care of Scaled Composites at 1624 Flight Line in Mojave, CA, zip code 93501.

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**Completing the grid so that every row, column, and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.**

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Local chapter of A011 wins award

Jennifer Logan

Alpha Omicron Pi at California Polytechnic State University was honored with a prestigious award at an International Convention held June 27 through July 1 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Named after one of the organization's four founders, the Jesse Wallace Hughan Award is Alpha Omicron Pi's most prominent and highly recognizable award for college chapters. The award honors one college chapter every two years at the Alpha Omicron Pi convention.

The award was accepted by Chi Pi chapter president Amy Marsland at the 2007 Alpha Omicron Pi convention.

"We are a unique group of girls who enjoy spending time together and who want to build ourselves with the ultimate college experience," said Marsland. "Our sorority is a bond of support to help us get through all of the ups and downs that Cal Poly provides. Chi Pi is so proud to be recognized for all of our hard work."

The award is selected from the top distinguished chapters of Alpha Omicron Pi.

"We follow a 'Standards of Excellence' guideline and many rules and obligations," Marsland said. "We obtained 100 percent for the past two years to receive ruby level, which is the highest level. Then from that group of Alpha Omicron Pi chapters, we apply for the JW Award with letters of recommendation from many campus officials as well as chapter advisers.

Chi Pi and its members have received many awards in the past. Among their awards include the Strike Out Arthritis Award for their philanthropy, the Waterford Award in 2005, Most Improved Recognition in 2006, Mr. Pantryman 2007, Alpha Pi Ruby Level 2007, and two JW Awards.

The Chi Pi chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi was founded in 1985. Alpha Omicron Pi was founded in 1897 at the Barnard College of Columbia University in New York City. Alpha Omicron Pi has more than 133,000 initiated members in 183 college chapters and over 135 alumnae chapters across the United States and Canada. Alpha Omicron Pi is an international women's fraternity promoting friendship for a lifetime, inspiring leadership, scholarship, and service, excellence in scholarship and learning, and developing leadership skills through service to the university, community, and world.

"The women of the Chi Pi chapter are truly deserving of this distinguished award because of their complete dedication to their university, local community, philanthropy, and sisterhood," said Melanie Lampertz, executive director of Alpha Omicron Pi in a press release.

Chi Pi plans on hosting their International President, Susan Danko, at their Alpha Omicron Pi Day 2007 — style — on Oct. 6.

"Receiving the award means that we are the strongest and most successful chapter in all of Alpha Omicron Pi," Marsland said. "It is a great honor."

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are grateful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com.
**Live music + farms = Ditty Bops**

Mollie Helmith

It’s the golden hour, and the warmly lit Windrose Farm in Paso Robles is filled with anticipation for the eccentric band, Ditty Bops, to perform.

Guests sit on lawn chairs or spread out on blankets with wine glasses in hand. The sun has begun to set against the picturesque red fir trees, silhouetted black cedars reaching the rooftop. Sleep can be heard from the surrounding pastures and dragonflies buzz lazily in the grass. It smells like roses and plants, but in a good way.

Nicole Robertson, 24, an astrologer with her guests, chiming amably and making sure everyone has gotten food. "Ditty Bops" is easy to spot in her cowboy hat, which looks quite appropriate on him. The couple has lived in Windrose since 1996, and Bill has worked in an agricultural property in the North County since 1962.

"The purpose is to inform our friends of the whole state of sustainable local agriculture. The Ditty Bops are a sense that allows us to reach out to our friends with the spirit of the earth and speak to that fundamental issue," Bill said.

As Bill takes the stage, he is wearing a mood ring. The moon and wind chimes, everyone but the sheep “sings” down. "I think that will be our song for life," he said to the applause.

The Spencers held the event to promote organic, sustainable eating and serve only locally grown food from their farm. "We will be back," Bill said. "We are not really good at this, but we’d rather be there than not there at all," Bill said.

After his introduction, and to the delight of the audience, the Ditty Bops started their set. Spanky’s drumming, Alices’s DeWald’s bagpipes and Amanda Barrett’s (amtadis) take the stage backed by a small folk band. "I’m still turning my guitar, and I have a chill in my teeth," Barrett said as she smiled in her captured audience.

The girls set the tone for their show when, during the first song, Barrett ste bar-ett stepped into the audience and asked if anyone would be willing to dance back. When one man nervously obliged, she deemed him "Eduardo the Brave Dancer," and the man surprised even the band by showing off his solo moves throughout the entire song.

As twilight fell on the farm, the folk songs intertwined with the girls’ melodic voices and their audience seemed to put the “temporal world” behind them.

The Ditty Bops brought their folk pop sound to Windrose Farm in Paso Robles on Aug. 1 in the first stop on their tour in support of sustainable agriculture. Last year, the eccentric pair toured the country on bicycles (right). For this year’s tour, they’ve switched it up with a bio-diesel van.

**Astrologer finds meaning in stars**

Jesse Over

Local astrologer Harry Farmer, 62, is shown at home with two of his dogs. Farmer began practicing astrology in the 1970s and continues to broaden his knowledge at conferences. On Thursdays in July, he hosted astrology readings at Coalesce Bookstore in Morro Bay.

The Ditty Bops brought their folk pop sound to Windrose Farm in Paso Robles on Aug. 1 in the first stop on their tour in support of sustainable agriculture. Last year, the eccentric pair toured the country on bicycles (right). For this year’s tour, they’ve switched it up with a bio-diesel van.

"I don’t know about you guys, but I’m really looking forward to global warming You too? This is a song for you," DeWald said casually as they began their song "Waking Up in the City.”

There was never a dull moment during the show. The Ditty Bops brought out a puppet made of pops to dance amongst the audience during "Your Head’s Too Big" and pulled audience members up to participate in songs, while Barrett kept introducing new instruments, including a washboard and several toy noisemakers. "If you want to play with the audience, they get their attention, because they could be next," Barrett said. The festive ship also seemed to put the crowd into a strange mood, introspective yet light-hearted.

Nutrition senior Hannah Espeled had heard of the band and their cause before the event. "I just thought this whole event was really cool," Espeled said. "Not only do I love the Ditty Bops, but the fact that they’re doing this sustainable farming tour is amazing because that is something that I also care about very much.

After the event, the Ditty Bops signed autographs, chatted with guests and sold merchandise, including their brand new 2004 "Bikini Calendar" which would contradict their old-fashioned vibe if it were a typical bikini calendar. The calendar features images of the duo in retro bikinis and clearly parodies the standard idea of such a calendar. After seeing their show, it is perfectly suitable.

"We’re just staying out in the field tonight," Barrett said once the crowd subsided. "We have sleeping bags.

The band, who met the Spencer at a farmers’ market in Santa Monica, planted lettuce and herbs they bought from the couple in a portable garden in their van. "It’s great to come and see where it’s growing," Barrett said. "We’ve wanted to do this here for a long time.

The Ditty Bops were off to Connecticut next month to continue their tour and aim to end with a performance at New York City’s Farm Aid on Sept. 9.

**Get More**

Check out mustangdaily.net for an audio slideshow featuring Farmer.
SambaDá spices up Sweet Springs Saloon

Jesse Over

If sound could capture the air of a season, then the percussion-driven dance music of SambaDá is the soundtrack theme that should be played around a bonfire, naked in the moonlight, and then without notice the sound effortlessly juxtaposes the sensual by way of a tribal beat. SambaDá flows between funk, Latin, jazz, Flamenco, tribal and carnival-style sounds that beg for a conga line led by Chiquita banana.

Together for more than 10 years, SambaDá has deservingly secured its unique voice among the club circuit. The group took form in 1997 in Santa Cruz, led by Brazilian vocalist-guitarist Papinha Godinho. Not long after, the band became a local favorite with its high-energy vibe and danceable beats.

About two years ago, with the addition of Brazilian dancer Dunstane de Hora, a member of the Be Aye (House of Life) music group since she was 6, the band has brought African rhythms, samba, funk, hip-hop and rock into its potent mix.

In addition to these two Brazilian members, SambaDá includes five Americans: saxophonist Anne Stafford of Sonoma County; bassist Kevin Dorn and percussionist Marcel Menard, both from the Los Angeles area; drummer Gary Kehoe from Minnesota; and percussionist Will Kahn, a native of Bolinas, Calif.

“Let’s Get Stoned”

Correction: Last week’s Mid-State Fair article incorrectly identified one of Bob Dylan’s songs. It is “Let’s Get Stoned.”

SambaDá threw down Afro-funk, Brazilian and hip-hop beats, among a mix of other genres. July 28 at Sweet Springs Saloon in Los Osos.

Kevin Dorn and percussionist Marcel Menard, both from the Los Angeles area; drummer Gary Kehoe from Minnesota; and percussionist Will Kahn, a native of Bolinas, Calif.

What we really want to do is create a message of tolerance and awareness of all people,” Kahn said.

“We’re trying to get people to listen to us who might not listen to Brazilian music,” he said.

“Brazil is very ethnically diverse, and the music reflects the various cultures. We’re about breaking barriers and making music that makes people want to dance.”
Jennifer Iangan

It is an undeniable truth. Speeding kills. In the wake of the recent Cal Poly student reportedly speeding and losing control of his vehicle, killing himself and three others, I can’t help but recall many of my “close encounters” with high-risk speeders.

During regular quarters, for four days a week, I drive to Cal Poly on the stretch of Highway 1 from Morro Bay to San Luis Obispo and back, which I like to refer to as “The Gauntlet.”

For some reason, during the time when Cuesta College is in full session, I find myself in the hands of a seemingly aggressive and unforgiving speeder more often. This is the most common scenario I encounter. As I look in my rear-view mirror to get a glimpse of this annoying person who is tailgating me and urging me to grab from the gutter, I see a Cuesta College parking permit hanging on his mirror. When he finally passes me, he takes off, weaving in and out of both lanes, cutting people off, disregarding the safety of himself and many others sharing the road.

Later down the road, we usually end up at the same stoplight. Then I think, ‘What was all that effort for on his part?’ We both ended up at the same spot. So what if they are going to be late for class? If they are already late, speeding there won’t make them be on time! Is being in class on time more important than the safety of others and even themselves?

Barbie, Transformers: Make room for Jesus

Abby Schwinmer

VINDICATED

Barbies and the 90’s Beanie Baby craze were weird enough. But this past summer the children’s toy industry has really outdone itself.

Forget Barbie. Forget her skinny, white, glossy hair and her obnoxious, overly radiant smile. Move over Transformers, because soon kids will have the opportunity to play with something a little more, well, holy.

This month Wal-Mart will begin selling faith-based action figures. This new take on kiddie entertainment, a line known as “Tales of Glory,” is the brainchild of a religiously oriented toy company called One2believe.

In stores across the U.S., particularly in the South and Midwest, consumers will soon be able to purchase a “Sampson Spirit Warrior” or an “Esther Messenger of Faith” to occupy themselves during playtime. The company hopes to win what it has dubbed the “battle of the toy box.”

One2believe founder David Socha said, “If you go in a toy aisle in any major retailers, you will see toys and dolls that promote and glorify evil, destruction, lying, cheating.”

The debate over whether children’s toys have a poor influence on them is by no means new.

Action figures and video games have often faced criticism for sending violent messages to their young, impressionable consumers. And unrealistically proportioned dolls, decked out in designer fashions, have been blamed for cases of childhood anorexia and poor body image.

In fact, in 2003, Saudi Arabia actually banned the sale of Barbie dolls because, according to the Committee for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, they were a negative influence, “with their revealing clothes and shameful postures, accessories and tools (that) are a symbol of deca­dence and the de­pr­a­et­ed West.”

Sure, these faith-based toys might protect kids from the influence of the less holy, but can a talking Jesus action figure really push children along in their “spiritual journey?”

Admittedly, exposure to vio­lence might convince some children that it’s OK to resolve conflicts physically, and the oversex­uality of girls’ toys may distort their consumers’ concept of body image. However, introdu­cing “God-honoring” toys into the market will not solve these problems.

The truth is that, even if appropriate toys were phased out, children’s perceptions of the world around them will still be skewed. Just turn on the news and you will find it is impossible to prevent children from viewing disturbing images of wars, hear­ing malicious attacks on celebrity behavior or being promised sat­is­fying sex if they buy the products advertised in shaving cream and lingerie commercials.

While a “Jesus Loves Me” teddy bear might encourage moral and civil behavior to a small extent, the greatest influence on a child is undoubtedly the people they encounter in their daily lives.

Without an effort to maintain civil relationships, whether they are between family members, different religions or different countries, we will never be able to improve the state of the planet that the next generation will inherit. Rather than holding “Dazzling Date Barbie” accountable for the problems of the world, we need to examine our own behavior.

Send your opinions, rants and raves in 250 words or less to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

All published letters must include author’s name, year and major, and are subject to editing for grammar, style and spelling.
Bonds
topmutt.com/mustangnews

Cal Poly midfielder Barret Park moves the ball up field in a game against San Jose State on Sept. 26, 2006.

Men

Chris Crozier, 22, a senior striker on the Cal Poly men’s soccer team, said Wednesday, August 9, 2007, that the team’s goal is to be a big part of the upcoming season.

"If we get off to a good start, we have a lot of talent on our team," Crozier said. "We take each game one at a time and try to play our best against everyone who comes in the door."

Crozier said the team is already playing like they have the potential to be a big part of the upcoming season.

"We have the game one at a time and try to play our best against everyone who comes in the door." Crozier said. "We take each game one at a time and try to play our best against everyone who comes in the door."

Women

Carolyn, 22, a senior striker on the Cal Poly women’s soccer team, said Wednesday, August 9, 2007, that the team’s goal is to be a big part of the upcoming season.

"If we get off to a good start, we have a lot of talent on our team," Crozier said. "We take each game one at a time and try to play our best against everyone who comes in the door."

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Editors by Will Shortz

No. 0524

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Men's soccer team gets ready

Mollie Helmuth

The Cal Poly men's soccer team will kick off their 2007 season on Aug. 21 in an exhibition match against the nationally ranked NCAA playoff team California. The game is especially significant because it will mark one of the first athletic events to take place in the newly renovated Spanos Stadium and will host a youth soccer kickoff celebration.

Last year's team, one of the youngest in the nation, with 22 freshmen, finished at 7-8-4, which brought them close to the Big West Championship and set the record for lowest goals allowed by a Cal Poly team in history. This year head coach Paul Holocher expects his team to compete fiercely throughout the season for the Big West Title.

"We are young, very hungry and motivated, which should lead to an exciting season," Holocher said.

With a tough schedule coming up and the Big West Conference now ranked No. 5 out of 32 conferences in the country, Holocher's main priority will be to win games in the conference, leading the way to the NCAA playoffs.

Along with several returning players, this year will be the first with a fully recruited team from all over the country. Holocher said he expects to have around 15 new players that have all been selected and evaluated as players with the character, ambition and ability to help Poly become one of the best soccer programs in the nation.

"While this year's team is built with veteran players, this year will be the first season on Aug. 21 in an exhibition match against the nationally ranked NCAA playoff team California." It is the player's individual responsibility to make sure they are in shape when the season starts. - Alex Crozier

Women's soccer aims for conference crown

Megan Priley

The Cal Poly women's soccer team finished their 2006 season with a record of 10-7-3 and a fourth place finish in the Big West Conference.

The team will get their chance to claim the title this coming season, just how much they can endure once their 2007 season starts.

"In my 16 seasons here at Cal Poly, I think we are facing the most demanding pre-conference schedule that we have ever had," head coach Alex Crozier said.

Opening day will begin on the home field with two very challenging opponents, Dayton and the Arizona. But that's merely the beginning.

"We go on the road for three weeks playing six teams that have all been to the NCAA tournament," Crozier said. "Our last opponent before conference will be a home match against Santa Clara, which is typically ranked in the top ten nationally."

The Mustangs shouldn't have any problems proving that they have what it takes to win the conference during regular season, host the Big West Tournament, win that and go deep into the NCAA Tournament, all goals Crozier hopes will be accomplished this upcoming season.

"The Big West is a very competitive league and all of the teams are our competitors," said captain and starting goalkeeper Ali Tramel. "We will need to come out strong every game because each game could be the difference."

Tramel knows what it takes considering she started 29 of 20 games last season. She held an average of 19 saves per game. This will be Tramel's fourth season playing for Cal Poly.

"We have all offseason to prepare for the upcoming season," Tramel said. "In the winter we have running and weightlifting practice and during the spring we have regular practices. It is the player's individual responsibility to make sure they are in shape when the season starts."

Bonds finally reaches the top

Jamie McCandley

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO - For one spectacular moment, Barry Bonds and everybody cheering him could forget about the controversy surrounding his chase and appreciate the phenomenal feat that '06.

Nobody in the majors — not Hank Aaron, not Babe Ruth — has ever hit more home runs than the San Francisco star.

On Tuesday night, in his home ballpark, it didn't matter how many of them might have been fueled by steroids or performance-enhancers. Bonds hit the title of home run king like a prizefighter in victory, fists clinched — and then he took off. It was over at long last.

Bonds did it with a shot to the deepest part of the ballpark with one out in the fifth inning against Washington's Mike Bacsik.

Bonds sent the 840-pound fastball arcing high into the night, 435 feet into the right-center field gap. And then, the celebration began in force — fireworks, streamers, banners commencing the accomplishment, and even a party in McCovey Cove.

For Triton's Tramel, it was the absence of the commissioner and Hammertime Hank himself.

"I was very happy about that," Bonds said.

As for Aaron, he said all along he had no interest in being where he was, and no, the commissioner and Wide Right didn't mean nothin to Bonds, page 7.