Wet weather drenches state

Jacob Adelman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - Falling thunderstorms brought new waves of rain on Sunday to California, following days of drenching weather and heavy mountain snowfall and raising fears of mudslides and flooding.

The worst of the storm was over, and Monday promised to bring a spell of clear weather, forecasters said.

"Things will start to die down as the night goes on," said National Weather Service forecaster Ryan Kittell.

Up to 3 inches of rain had fallen by early afternoon in valley and coastal areas since late Friday, with about 4 inches in the mountains, forecasters said. Wind gusts of 30 to 50 mph were reported in some areas.

Officials said the rain brought a threat of serious slides on hill-sides stripped of vegetation by January 28, 2008

MUSTANG DAILY

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Obama's win by a large margin in South Carolina could indicate a change in the Democratic party. page 4

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Celebrity blogger Perez Hilton brought his silly antics to Cal Poly for a disappointing yet fun show. page 6

ONLINE

Go online to view an interactive guide, timeline, gallery and more for Poly Canyon Village. mustangdaily.net

TODAY'S WEATHER

Chance of Rain

High 53°/Low 34°

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FROM hardware to homes

Five of the nine buildings will be available to sophomore students by fall 2009. Students can apply now through Housing and Residential Life.

Cary Conrado
MUSTANG DAILY

Amid the buzz about the addition of Starbucks to the University Union, the possible Recreation Center expansion and various construction projects around campus, Poly Canyon Village quietly awaits in the corner, slowly taking the form of what will be a significant on-campus housing complex in a matter of months.

The complex, which can house 2,700 students in its nine high-rise buildings, is now accepting applications for fall 2008.

The project started in March 2005 and will cost the university an estimated $300 million by the time it is finished.

Five of the nine buildings, which can hold approximately 1,500 residents, will be available for move-in by fall, as well as part of the new parking structure.

"We're hoping to have all nine buildings open by summer of 2009," said Preston Allen, the director of Housing and Residential Life.

Poly Canyon Village is set up much like the Cerro Vista Apartments, with 80 percent of the apartments containing four private bedrooms with two bathrooms. All apartments come furnished with a weekly custodial service and will cost about $690 per month.

"It's an absolutely beautiful complex with views of the sunset and the hills. The hardest part is trying to convince you to actually go class," Allen said.

Poly Canyon Village will feature hiking trails, a pool, study facilities, a post office, a market, a recreation center and conference rooms. Cal Poly is also introducing Peet's Coffee, Einstein Bros. Bagels and Jamba Juice in the complex as well as a central plaza for entertainment.

"We'll work with (Associated Students Inc.) to bring events to Poly Canyon Village," Allen said. "We really want students to have an enhanced living experience. We want to fully integrate students into campus life and get them involved. Hopefully we can create a positive environment that is a win-win for the students, campus and the community."

Students living off campus are hoping to benefit from the grand opening of Poly Canyon Village as well. The addition of 618 on-campus apartments promises to reduce the competition for housing in San Luis Obispo as well as alleviate absentee voting convenient for college students

Shannon Boren
MUSTANG DAILY

With all the time spent between classes, work and extracurricular activities, staying active in politics can fall to the wayside. Simply put, college students are busy, and this is where vote-by-mail ballots come in.

Absence voting works to simplify what can sometimes be a difficult and daunting process for voters. The number of people voting by mail has been steadily growing since the late 1970s, with 46 percent of voters in San Luis Obispo County registered absentee in 2006.

"It's basically just more convenient," Julie Rodewald, the San Luis Obispo County clerk-recorder. "When faced with really long ballots, it's nice to fill them out at your leisure in your home. With weather like we've been having, a lot of people don't want to drive out in the rain to vote."

But for the college community, there is an added bonus.

"Students who want to vote but don't want to drive back to their home counties find it convenient because they can fill out their ballot wherever they are," she said. "It's easy, it's really the only other way to do it."

To use the vote-by-mail system, one must be a registered voter and fill out a

see Voting, page 2

see Housing, page 2

see Storms, page 2

Students armed themselves with umbrellas to shield themselves against last week's heavy rainfall. A series of storms hammered San Luis Obispo with gusty winds and numerous power outages in the area.
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State Briefs

RICHMOND (AP) — A man is in critical condition after gunfire erupted from a sedan that pulled up alongside his car on a Richmond freeway.

Police said the victim was shot three or four times Sunday afternoon while driving east on Interstate 80.

Richmond police Lt. Michael Hooker said a woman and a toddler also in the victim's car suffered no injuries.

The vehicle came to a stop in the middle of the freeway after the shooting. The victim was airlifted to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek.

BARSTOW (AP) — The Air Force plans to destroy an abandoned military bunker in the Mojave Desert, where a teen couple were killed execution-style earlier this month.

Linda Geissinger, a spokeswoman for the Air Force's Real Property Agency, said it's awaiting clearance from the San Bernardino County district attorney's office to demolish the bunker by the fall.

The bunker sits on the former Hawes Auxiliary Army Airfield. It has been abandoned since the mid-1980s and has become a graffiti-scarred hangout for youths.

Eighteen-year-old Christopher "Cody" Thompson and his 16-year-old girlfriend Bodhisattva Sherzer-Potter were shot at the bunker on Jan. 3.

ANTIOCH (AP) — An Antioch man burned in a fire that started when a suspected drunken driver crashed into his house has been released from the hospital.

Police said they arrested Ferry Franklin on suspicion of driving under the influence after he tried to flee the scene just before 5 p.m. Saturday.

The crash snapped a gas meter and started a fire in the car that spread to the house.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "No Country for Old Men," emerged as the Oscar favorite Sunday by taking top honors for overall cast along with Javier Bardem's supporting-actor prize at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, the lone gathering of A-list stars in an awards season hobbled by the writers' strike.

Daniel Day-Lewis of "There Will Be Blood" and Julie Christie of "Away From Her" won the lead-acting honors, also giving them a boost to win the same trophies at the Oscars on Feb. 24.

"Sea kayaking. I was just thinking about that this morning."
— Nicole Balvanz, biology junior

"I haven't gone line dancing yet."
— James Perryman, general engineering freshman

"I'd like to go surfing."
— Stephen Marshall, kinesiology freshman

"I'd like to have a Mardi Gras block party this year."
— Dave Moller, materials engineering junior

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Obama says landslide win in South Carolina marks a turn in party history

Charles Babington

Democratic Barack Obama said Sunday that his landslide win in South Carolina's presidential primary marks a turn in political history, showing that a black candidate can appeal to voters of all colors and in all regions.

The Illinois senator told a raucous South Carolina crowd of more than 9,000 that his big victory Saturday disproved the old notion "that if you get black votes, you can't get white votes," and vice versa.

"We're going to write a new chapter in the South, we're going to write a new chapter in American history," he said during his 64-minute speech to a capacity crowd at the University of Alabama at Birmingham basketball arena. The crowd was roughly two-thirds black and one-third white.

Earlier Sunday he made a similar argument, responding to comments by former President Clinton that some interpreted as an effort to diminish Obama's win Saturday over Hillary Rodham Clinton. Bill Clinton noted that Jesse Jackson won the South Carolina primary in 1984 and 1988.

Obama resisted being drawn into a spat with the Clintons, even though he says they are part of a political past the country is ready to leave behind.

"I think that Bill Clinton did important work back in the 1990s," he said. "The question is, now we're in 2008, and how do we move it forward to the next phase?"

"I think that in the '90s, we got caught up in a slash-and-burn politics that the American people are weary of," Obama said.

"Now that is not the Clintons' fault," he said on ABC's "This Week.

Obama declined to directly condemn Clinton for urging that the Democratic Party officially recognize delegates awarded to the winner of Tuesday's largely ignored Democratic primary in Florida. Clinton said she will travel to Florida on Tuesday.

"All the candidates made a pledge that we would campaign in the early states and we would not campaign in Florida and Michigan," Obama said.

"I will abide by the promises I made."
We're joining forces to fight off extraterrestrial invaders who have brought us to the brink of destruction. But do you think we'll see the rest of the trilogy? Will we ever get to witness yet another epic feat this new futuristic menace? Will audience members be alive to witness the epic battles involving man and beast and cheesy dialogue.

Brian McMullen is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily columnist.

What does 'epic' mean anymore, Hollywood?

Hollywood is out of control right now. Ever since the era of computer-driven special effects began, we've been seeing epic movie after epic movie. But you gotta wonder, how will this escalation of epic-ness end?

We saw epic war movies like "Troy" come and go and deserve us by showing thousands of ships carrying men with stupidly long hair to battle. Then "Lord of the Rings" and "300" changed the game to the point where no movie is truly epic unless 14,000 gorillas, 2,000 giraffes and 9,000 thin fight side-by-side with humans. Basically, the escalation of epic-ness has reached the point of inter-species combat, and Hollywood is going ape-shit with it.

We've got "Chronicles of Narnia," "The Golden Compass" and now "10,000 B.C." — the tale of a caveman who fights against elephants, dinosaurs and armies of thousands in civilizations that probably never existed. Hollywood, please, you want me to believe it's 10,000 B.C. and this dude is speaking fluent English and fighting dinosaurs?

"Epic" used to mean Will Smith saving the world from aliens (in "Independence Day"... who thought I was talking about "Men In Black")? It also used to mean a lamp, a vacuum, a radio, an electric blanket and a toaster embarking on a journey to reunite with their owner. Have we forgotten about the epic qualities of "The Brave Little Toaster"?

Hollywood needs to be stopped for our safety. Escalating the epic-ness we're currently experiencing might be harmful to the human heart. Can a person survive witnessing humans and animals joining forces to fight off extraterrestrial invaders who have brought animals from their planet to fight earth's greatest warriors in an all-out bloodbath until one man, alien, animal or alieanimal is left? Oh, did I mention it's also Armageddon and a mad scientist has cloned dinosaurs and set them free?

A hero will rise from our ranks and, of course, at some point in the film, call out to the rival leader, saying something like "Before this day is over, you will be dead" or "I will see you on the battlefield," only this time he says it to a 4-foot-tall tiger-lizard that has 18,000 tentacles made out of pure energy. And lava.

And then halfway through the movie, when the love story is getting played out, the zombie invasion hits. But these aren't your ordinary zombies. Well, they were until the vampires and werewolves came and bit them all. Now they're zombie-wolves.

At this point in the film, at least two audience members' hearts have exploded, but that's not enough for Hollywood. Just when you think the movie is over and all the aliens, alieanimals and zombie-wolves are dead, a time warp opens up and robots from the year 2012 appear, ready to lay waste to our survivors. Can our hero defeat the majority of his allotted 45 minutes talking about his horse life, specifically his wife, her pregnancy and their two girls.

"Find someone you can sleep next to without throwing up — and marry them," Papa advised the audience, explaining that the most they can hope for is to find someone they tolerate who tolerates them back.

He also spent time poking fun at himself — specifically his weight, his baldness (including the fact that his head makes him eat spicy food) and the size of his head (which he playfully claimed was the same size as third grade as it is now).

Topics like dieting, working out and religion took up the rest of Papa's routine.

"What if God didn't intend for us to eat the animals?" he asked the crowd rhetorically. "He must have been pretty freaked out when we started."

Papa had the audience hooked from his first joke to his last and carried a long round of applause before exiting the stage.

"I liked the first gag," said Scott Coffman, a warehouseman for Cal Poly. "You could tell half liked the first guy, half liked the other."

Both comics are late-night talk show regulars and have had specials on Comedy Central. Papa opened for Jerry Seinfeld's comedy tour and had his own NBC sitcom entitled "Come to Papa" in 2004, which only ran for four episodes.

Marc Maron, who had a small role in "Almost Famous" and was featured in an HBO Comedy Showcase, joked that he could fill half a theater anywhere in the country.

"If ever I do another HBO special, it's going to be 'Marc Maron: Almost Sold-Out.'"

Travel more, spend less

Mica Vincent

Two comedians, two different sets

Marc Maron never managed to capture the entire audience's approval. However, those who did laugh at his jokes usually clapped and holstered as well, despite the fact that the comedian went close to half an hour over his allotted 45 minutes.

"It was definitely two very different styles of humor," said Scott Coffman, a warehouseman for Cal Poly. "You could tell half liked the first guy, half liked the other."

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Comedians Marc Maron (left) and Tom Papa (right) performed at the Cohan Center Saturday night to mixed audience reviews.

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"If ever I do another HBO special, it's going to be 'Marc Maron: Almost Sold-Out.'"
Jessica Ford  
**MUSTANG DAILY**

When celebrity blogger Perez Hilton visited Cal Poly Thursday, I expected a night filled with juicy gossip and nonstop laughs. Instead, I was left with Perez’s life story and endless promotional plugs for his upcoming projects.

Now don’t get me wrong, the entire event wasn’t a bust. Things picked up when Perez played an exclusive clip of his unreleased song “My Penis” and proceeded to dance around the Chumash stage. (Yes, he’s also an aspiring musician and his song really is called “My Penis.”) His pop/dance/techno song was quite catchy and how could you not like a song with lyrics like, “My penis is scandalous?” “Hot Mess,” should be just as amusing (I think it’s safe to say “Hot Mess” is a probably a tribute to the equally unravelling Britney Spears.)

I believe Britney pays Perez’s bills, and I’m pretty sure he would have to agree. Perez said he “lives for the Spears family” and believes Britney is “in a category all her own.” When asked if he preferred Britney or Lindsay Lohan by an audience member, Perez replied, “I like Britney Spears more. She’s good for business.” (Good for business! She is your business!)

The only celebrity gossip Perez really discussed during the night was Avril Lavigne’s hatred for him, John Mayer’s apparent porn fetish, John Travolta and Dolly Parton’s sexual preference, an encounter with Tara Reid when she was supposedly “drunk and on bong,” and Zac Efron’s makeup collection.

I do have to admit that this blogger/actor/musician/comedian/motivational speaker/record label owner/pop culture enthusiast/ Madonna worshipper has defied the odds by turning his blogging into a lucrative career. PerezHilton.com apparently receives millions of hits a day. The idea for the Web site began as just a bulletin on the social networking site Friendster. Perez claimed he did not have to agree. Perez said he “lives for the Spears family” and believes Britney is “in a category all her own.” When asked if he preferred Britney or Lindsay Lohan by an audience member, Perez replied, “I like Britney Spears more. She’s good for business.” (Good for business! She is your business!)

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The former struggling actor, who appeared on one episode of “The Sopranos” (and only had two lines), is now supporting himself by bagging celebrities and scooping the tabloids. Although throughout the event Perez claimed he did recruiting himself, he let it slip that his sister helps him and that he recently hired another girl. Perez said he receives a lot of e-mails from his friends with insider information, helping him keep his Web site up to the minute with “celebrity juice.”

Allegedly, Mario Armando La-vandauro, Jr. (a.k.a. Perez Hilton) is such a big deal in the Los Angeles scene that he has to go by a “character” name because of death threats from Clay Aiken fans. (If he really receives threats from Clay Aiken fans, I don’t think he has to worry.) He said “Perez” is not what he is actually like, but that having this alter ego allows him to be more outrageous. Perez revealed he exaggerates things to get a rise out of people, which is exactly what has made him famous.

The highlight of the night (seco­nd to the “My Penis” song, of course) was the video Perez made from onstage showing all of his Cal Poly fans screaming and doing the wave. He actually posted the video on his Web site shortly after his Cal Poly visit. If you desire to further the fame of the self-proclaimed “media whore,” check out the minute-long video (http://per­ezhilton.con/2008-01-25­six­degree­of­zac­quisha), pay to see his upcoming movie (coming out later this year), or buy his songs when they are finally released on iTunes.
It may be unclear to viewers why NBC is trying to resurrect a show about spandex-wearing goliaths, as some of its best ideas are left forgotten. Nevertheless, the network is attempting to recreate a glorious past that we were sure was all but lost—an era when men were men, women were women, and silver spandex was set up the show around the idea of a David and Goliath battle set in a futuristic land of gym mats and techno, they too could overcome any odds.

In the end, the show is not madness; it is simply, like it or not, "American Gladiators."

The new "American Gladiators" proves that what's bigger isn't always better.
I work hard for my grades. I always have. If anything, my studying and efforts in the classroom have taught me the value of applying oneself and the success that can follow.

However, it seems I am a dying breed. A recent educational program has caught the attention of the media, students and myself. The Atlanta-based pilot program called "Learn by Earn" is paying students to study. For 88 an hour, selected eighth-graders and eleventh-graders will spend two days a week in a special tutoring program. Those chosen for the program are students with high potential but low academic performance.

The invention of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, the "Learn by Earn" program aims to create a positive learning environment and improve the study habits of poorly performing students. Those in support of it argue that the United States is falling behind in education (true), that other countries such as China and India are producing students with higher skills in math and science in particular (true) and that school systems doing nothing about it are a disservice to the young population (true). But I don't think a check every two weeks is the right answer.

By paying students to learn, they are, in essence, being bribed for success. What kind of message does this send to those students not asked to participate in the program because they already are hard workers in their studies?

People constantly label our generation and the generations younger than us as egocentric youth. We have grown up thinking we are "special," receiving trophies for our efforts, and not working hard even matter anymore or must everything come with a prize?

I am interested in seeing what happens in Atlanta. I do think "Learn by Earn" will be effective to a certain extent. Students being paid to study will study and in turn will receive higher grades, but their perceptions of education as well as their own power and intellect will be tested without the monetary benefits available to their peers.

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All I have to ask is, where is my check?

Taylor Moore is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily current events columnist.
Trading: Laying out all the cards on the table

"If you can’t spot the sucker in the first half-hour at the table, then you are the sucker."

Now, I have probably watched "Rounders" one too many times because I take that quote to heart, even when it comes to fantasy basketball. It always hurts when a first-round pick gets hurt or a fantasy sleeper doesn’t pan out (*cough* Bargnani *cough*).

All of these problems can add up and make you look like the sucker in front of your friends, but there is no need to panic. It is only the midway point in the season and a lot can be done through trades. Here are six simple rules to trading that will help you avoid looking like Tracy McCarry with yet another early first-round exit:

1) Find the person who is desperate to make a trade. Don’t bother wasting your time with the team that has won 73 percent of its games—there is little chance that the owner will break it apart. You will find the desperate ones a few spots back from playoff contention.

2) Huge contracts and media attention mean absolutely nothing in fantasy basketball. Just because Tony Parker is an NBA Finals MVP and is making $10.5 million this year doesn’t make him better than José Calderón when it comes purely to statistics. In fact, Calderón beats Parker in every statistical category except points (which shouldn’t be your main concern from a point guard, anyway).

So next time you Google “Calderón” and it doesn’t result with two million Web pages involving Eva Longoria, use that to your advantage.

3) Fantasy basketball is a multiple-category statistical game. Remember that points, rebounds and assists are worth just as much as turnovers and shooting percentages. So try to find the person in your league that only looks at the "appealing" categories like points per game and offer guys that are only good at those few stats, and can hurt in other places such as percentages and turnovers—guys like Carmelo Anthony, Ben Gordon, Shaquille O’Neal and Zach Randolph.

4) Do not live in the past. Find the person who drafted Vince Carter, Tracy McGrady or Jermaine O’Neal in the second round (or even the person that drafted Steve Francis and Shaquille O’Neal with one of their tenth-round picks) and offer them another fading superstar for an up-and-coming player that has already more than proved himself this year (for example, guys like Brandon Roy, Rudy Gay and Deron Williams).

5) Don’t low-ball the other person. This is one of the most important rules, and most of us know how it feels getting excited about a trade offer, only to open it up and see that you were offered Grant Hill and Raymond Felton for Deron Williams and Paul Pierce.

If you propose trades like this it sends a message that you think the other person is an idiot, and the only response you will get is an even worse counter-offer.

6) Think ahead: I agree that Tim Duncan and Steve Nash are some of the best, but when it comes down to playoff time and their real teams are locked up at the top of the Western Conference, they aren’t nearly as valuable. The Spurs bench their players toward the end, and older guys with nagging injuries like Nash play fewer minutes so that they can be ready after the regular season.

Hopefully these rules can help you reach the top of your league, so that you can feel “so proud and good, strong enough to beat the world.” Nevermind what I said before — there is no way “Rounders” can be overwatched.

Dmitry Bisk is an animal science senior and a Mustang Daily sports columnist.
Benfield, Sorensen lead way over Waves

Cal Poly women win home finale despite being under the weather

Rachel Glas
Monterey, Calif. —

The Cal Poly women's swimming and diving team fought illness and cold weather Saturday to edge Pepperdine 157-143 at the Anderson Aquatic Center. The two schools split the matches, each winning eight of 16 events.

"We went in today to win races, not to kill ourselves. And we did just that," Cal Poly head coach Tom Milich said.

Because the Waves have no men's swimming and diving team, it was the only all-women meet of the year for the Mustangs.

After starting out by losing the medley relay, Cal Poly rebounded in the 1000-yard freestyle when freshman Gloria Benefield easily won with a time of 10 minutes, 29.2 seconds. Pepperdine's Loriann Mark came in second with a time of 10:41.53.

Benefield won on to win the 200 butterfly and place second in the 100 butterfly.

"If not for her being sick, it probably would have been a win," Milich said of Benefield's second-place finish.

Benefield was also part of Cal Poly's winning team in the 400 freestyle relay. The second swimmer to go, Benefield pulled her team from second place to first with a split of 25.65 seconds.

Team captain Stacey Sorensen and sophomore Erin Musgrave, the third and fourth swimmers, respectively, kept the team ahead.

They won by more than five seconds.

Sorensen also had an eventful day individually.

After coming in third place in the 100 backstroke, she rebounded to win the 50 freestyle and the 100 freestyle. She also had the fastest split in the 400 freestyle relay with a time of 24.56 seconds.

Freshman Karin Schleicher was also a double-winner. She took top honors in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:56.27 and also won the 200 individual medley with a time of 2:11.31.

"The meet went pretty well," Sorensen said. "It was hard with lots of girls being sick, but we pulled through."

Milich agreed about the team's performance in spite of the compromising circumstances.

"We did well," he said. "We had a lot of sick kids but we did what we needed to do."

UC Santa Cruz at Nevada at noon Saturday.

For the Mustangs' lineup possibly being the absence of freshman wing Clark, who posts team highs of 9.2 points and 3.6 assists per game.

The Tigers also have hit the glass better than anyone else in the conference.

The Mustangs rebounded at San Jose State last week and were hoping to do the same against Nevada.

Clark, who posts team highs of 9.2 points and 3.6 assists per game.

"We still scored that many points, while three others added at least 10 points in the win."

One of those contributors, sophomore guard Lorenzo Keeler, started for just the third time this season.

As the clouds moved in and obscured the sun, they held our own Saturday to improve to 2-1 in conference play.

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"If not for her being sick, it probably would have been a win," Milich said of Benefield's second-place finish.

Benefield was also part of Cal Poly's winning team in the 400 freestyle relay. The second swimmer to go, Benefield pulled her team from second place to first with a split of 25.65 seconds.

Team captain Stacey Sorensen and sophomore Erin Musgrave, the third and fourth swimmers, respectively, kept the team ahead.

They won by more than five seconds.

Sorensen also had an eventful day individually.

After coming in third place in the 100 backstroke, she rebounded to win the 50 freestyle and the 100 freestyle. She also had the fastest split in the 400 freestyle relay with a time of 24.56 seconds.

Freshman Karin Schleicher was also a double-winner. She took top honors in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:56.27 and also won the 200 individual medley with a time of 2:11.31.

"The meet went pretty well," Sorensen said. "It was hard with lots of girls being sick, but we pulled through."

Milich agreed about the team's performance in spite of the compromising circumstances.

"We did well," he said. "We had a lot of sick kids but we did what we needed to do."

UC Santa Cruz at Nevada at noon Saturday.

For the Mustangs' lineup possibly being the absence of freshman wing Clark, who posts team highs of 9.2 points and 3.6 assists per game.

The Tigers also have hit the glass better than anyone else in the conference.

The Mustangs rebounded at San Jose State last week and were hoping to do the same against Nevada.

Clark, who posts team highs of 9.2 points and 3.6 assists per game.

"We still scored that many points, while three others added at least 10 points in the win."

One of those contributors, sophomore guard Lorenzo Keeler, started for just the third time this season.

As the clouds moved in and obscured the sun, they held our own Saturday to improve to 2-1 in conference play.

The Cal Poly women's swimming and diving team fought illness and cold weather Saturday to edge Pepperdine 157-143 at the Anderson Aquatic Center. The two schools split the matches, each winning eight of 16 events.

"We went in today to win races, not to kill ourselves. And we did just that," Cal Poly head coach Tom Milich said.

Because the Waves have no men's swimming and diving team, it was the only all-women meet of the year for the Mustangs.

After starting out by losing the medley relay, Cal Poly rebounded in the 1000-yard freestyle when freshman Gloria Benefield easily won with a time of 10 minutes, 29.2 seconds. Pepperdine's Loriann Mark came in second with a time of 10:41.53.

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UC Santa Cruz at Nevada at noon Saturday.
Don't mess with Megan

Cal Poly forward Megan Harrison was a 2006-07 All-Big West Second Team selection as a sophomore.

Cal Poly takes on Pacific on ESPN2

The Mustangs will host Stanford looking to build on second Big West win

Donovan Aird

Regardless of whether the Cal Poly men's basketball team can make good on its bid to exercise some demons tonight, the whole country will get to see it.

As part of "Big Monday," ESPN2 will nationally televise the Mustangs' Big West Conference contest at Pacific at 8 p.m., when they'll try to win their second game in 20 tries in Stockton.

"I don't think we're as excited about the TV part of it as we are the challenge of playing them," said Cal Poly head coach Kevin Bromley.

While Bromley emphasized the on-court focus of the game, he did speak favorably of the value in the national broadcast.

"It's really good for the conference," he said, adding that the 6,150-capacity Alex G. Spanos Center is the ideal venue to represent the Big West.

"We've had those discussions in coaches — if we're going to have (national) TV games, we've got to put our best facilities forward." Cal Poly's only win at the Spanos Center, a "tough place to play," Bromley said, came Feb. 15, 2004, 67-64.

Pacific has since beaten the Mustangs four times in a row there.

The Tigers (14-5, 5-1 Big West), who have won six of seven, are coming off of a 71-58 win at UC Santa Barbara on Thursday. Chad Troyer led them with 27 points.

Troyer, though, is second on the team in scoring, behind junior guard Steffan Johnson, who averages team highs of 15.4 points, 4.7 assists and 1.6 steals per game.

Junior forward Anthony Brown chips in 11.4 points and 7.1 rebounds per outing for the Tigers, while shooting 56.4 percent from the floor.

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