Super Tuesday: who will you choose?

Juliet Williams
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — California is poised to shed its also-ran status and become the kingmaker in Tuesday's coast-to-coast presidential primary.

The nation's richest delegate prize grabbed last-minute attention from the campaigns of all the major candidates, as both Republican and Democratic contests remain up for grabs.

It's just the type of spectacle Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger hoped for when he and state lawmakers moved California's presidential primary from June to February this year.

Although California is one of 24 states holding primaries or caucuses on Tuesday, the spotlight is clearly on the nation's most populous state, where 370 Democratic and 170 Republican delegates are in play.

Republicans John McCain and Mitt Romney added last-minute campaign stops in California on Monday and Tuesday, while Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama sent high-profile surrogates to campaign on their behalf.

"The world is looking at California as a big player in the decision-making," Schwarzenegger told reporters Monday in Los Angeles. "That's exactly what we intended."

Former President Bill Clinton swept the state for a second straight day Monday on behalf of his wife, emphasizing her experience and knowledge over rival Obama, whose momentum has led to a dead heat in the Democratic primary.

"You know she can deal with any crisis that comes up. You know she is confident and strong," he told a diverse crowd of about 1,000 at the state fairgrounds in Sacramento.

He said his wife was best positioned to enact health care reform, promote clean energy, create jobs and improve education.

Clinton's appearances came after a weekend Field Poll showed his wife had lost her double-digit lead over the Illinois senator. Obama's campaign got a job of celebrity power on Sunday, when Oprah Winfrey energized a rally attended by 9,000 people in Los Angeles and Maria Shriver added her endorsement.

The same Field Poll showed nearly one in five Democratic voters was still undecided at the end of last week.

Among them was 53-year-old Judy Arnold o f Sacramento, a Democrat who was worried about Clinton's electability against Sen. John McCain if the Arizona senator wins the Republican nomination.

"I respect her a lot, but I want somebody who can really win," Arnold said. "I'm on the fence. Hillary has the experience, and I think she can get it done ... I don't know what to do."

Obama supporters, buoyed by Shriver's surprise weekend endorsement, stuck to low-key phone banks and get-out-the-vote operations.

Meanwhile, the Field Poll showed McCa in's lead widening over former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, although 15 percent of voters remained undecided in that contest.

Romney rearranged his travel schedule to appear at a rally in Long Beach on Monday night before returning to the East Coast for Election Day. McCain planned a stop at

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A procastinator's guide to the propositions

Aaron Gaudette
MUSTANG DAILY

With so much attention given to the upcoming presidential primary, it's easy to forget about the other things on the ballot the propositions.

After all, "Super Tuesday" is the largest primary holding in American history and will involve 24 states with 57 percent of all pledged Democratic party delegates and 41 percent of all Republican party delegates at stake.

However, aside from the presidential contest, voters will also be asked to vote on Propotions 91 through 97, which concern a variety of different issues.

Proposition 91: This proposition was qualified in 2006 as a means to prevent the governor and state legislature from using gasoline taxes for non-transportation purposes.

Since then, however, proponents of this measure have accomplished this proposition's goals with the passage of Proposition 1A in November 2006.

Thus, this proposition is no longer needed, but was included on the ballot because it already qualified.

For: There was no argument given in favor of this proposition.

Against: Proposition 1A was passed by an overwhelming 77 percent by voters in November 2006. State politicians in Sacramento can no longer use gas tax dollars for non-transportation purposes. Proposition 91 is no longer needed.

Proposition 92: It establishes a system of independent public community college districts in the state constitution; requires minimum levels of funding for school districts and community college districts to be calculated separately using different criteria, sets community college fees at $15/unit per semester and limits future fee increases; and establishes formulas for allocation by legislature.

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Details revealed in local murder case

Patrick Barbieri  
MUSTANG DAILY

A young woman who witnessed her friend’s murder testified about the event in court last week.

Last December, Joshua Houlgate, 36, was found dead in the Cal Poly’s Melville Home Park in San Luis Obispo after suffering a single gunshot wound to his chest. The victim’s brother Chad Westbrook, 35, and Patrick Wollett, 18, both of San Luis Obispo, are charged with murder and assault with a deadly weapon. They appeared in court last week for a preliminary hearing.

The witness, Sarah Lonsinger-Rey, 24, was an intimate friend of Houlgate and was staying at Wollett’s trailer at the time of the incident.

She testified that she and a group of friends, including the defendants, had been using methamphetamine and alcohol and in the hours leading up to the incident.

According to her testimony, the group drove from a bar to Wollett’s trailer early in the morning. Shortly after, she and Houlgate woke up and were engaged in a sexual activity, and were lying in the living room before being attacked by the defendants, who were wielding blunt metal objects, she said.

“We were laying down on the mattress, talking, listening to music, and then we started getting hit with metal bars or pipes,” said Lonsinger-Rey, who reports being struck several times and suffering broken bones in her foot and a contusion in her forearm.

She said after the assault stopped, Houlgate tried to escape through a sliding glass door. It was then, according to the witness, that Westbrook pointed a shotgun and shot Houlgate at point-blank range.

“The witness testified to being awake for four days straight prior to the incident.

The defense also questioned why the witness initially told police she did not know what happened but later alleged that she saw Westbrook shoot Houlgate.

“I loved Patrick as a friend. At first I was very conflicted,” the witness asserted. “Later I realized that Josh wasn’t coming back. He was my friend, and Chad killed him.”

Lonsinger-Rey later confirmed that she did not actually see Wollett injure the victim but confirmed that he was “one of the attackers.”

According to her testimony, Lonsinger-Rey was at one point engaged with Wollett’s brother but broke off the engagement before becoming involved with Houlgate. Prosecutors suggested that Wollett and Westbrook attacked Houlgate because of his relationship with Lonsinger-Rey.

One officer testified that a witness told him that Wollett said he “felt like he was being disrespected in his house” and that “someone was going to die tonight.”

Both defendants have plead not guilty to their charges.

Houlgate is a 1995 graduate of Cal Poly and the son of retired Cal Poly philosophy professor and local political activist Laurence Houlgate. Throughout the testimony, Houlgate’s parents could be seen in the audience wiping tears from their eyes.

Wollett’s defense attorney Gregory Jacobson said during the closing argument, “There is no evidence that my client did anything against the victim. According to the prime witness (Lonsinger-Rey), he was there but did nothing.”

Judge Ginger E. Garrett ordered both defendants to continue to be held on all charges without bail.

The matter was set for further arraignment on Feb. 26.

Veritas

Muslim Association, InterVarsity SLO, Asian-American Christian Fellowship, and Navigators.

“The purpose of the Veritas Forum is not to discover what religion is, but to understand what truth is and what it means to be human,” said Lindsay DeKlotz, a child development major and the event’s co-coordinator. “It’s a cool place for students to come to learn about truth through all aspects of life and to really ask the hardest questions of life.”

The forum will be comprised of speakers presenting various topics throughout the week, including “Evolution vs. Atheism,” “Near Death Experiences and the After-life,” and “The Resurrection Argument that Changed a Generation of Scholars.” Each event includes 45 minutes of lecture and 15 minutes for questions and answers afterward.

Well-known philosopher Alvin Plantinga will lead a discussion called “Science and Religion: Why Does the Debate Continue?” Many philosophy majors at Cal Poly have to read books written by Plantinga, DeKlotz said.

The theme of the Veritas Forum is the religious panel that will be discussing the differences between Christianity, Judaism and Islam. There will be a representation of each faith to lead the panel and answer the questions from audience members. This event will take place at 8 p.m. Wednesday in Chumash Auditorium.

Dr. the professor Ali Shaban will represent Islam at the California Men’s Colony. Completing the panel and representing Christianity is Gary Habermas, a philosopher and theology professor at Liberty University.

“I hope (the forum) opens up lines of thought and dialogue that are not typically present in the classroom,” volunteer coordinator and mathematics senior Sedriq Mart said. “The university has been founded on exploring truth in all forms, and I think it has lost a lot of focus, particularly on things like religion and the meaning of life. A lot of questions that are really important are not really answered anymore.”

On Tuesday, there will be an art tent in the University Union displaying photographs, sculptures, graphic art and paintings. Inside the tent, there will also be coffee, live music, baked goods and couches for students to continue discussions related to the Veritas Forum.

Thursday night features the Veritas band and dance show in Spanos Theatre at 7 p.m. Performances include the Pat Little Band and Lauren Sexton.

There will be a student film festival held at 3 p.m. Saturday in the Business building room 213. Students made films on their own search for the truth.”

The Veritas Forum will conclude with a discussion over coffee in the Swanom Center. The Swanom Center is located inside old Pacifico Elementary on the corner of Slack Street and Grand Avenue in room 302. There is said the event is "a place for people who still have questions about the talks or want to learn more; they can go to the (Swanom Center) library and get information about it and talk to the students about it.”

This nationwide event began at Harvard University in 1992 and was created by a student.
Propositions

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Tuesday, February 5, 2008
VOTE

to community college districts that otherwise wouldn't receive revenue through community college apportionment.

For this 2004, the state legislature raised community college fees from $55 unit per semester to $36, resulting in 300,000 fewer Californians attending community college. This proposition would lower fees and mandate they stay low, and would be paid for by the excess revenue community colleges generate. This proposition would also lock into our state constitution a guarantee for minimum funding.

Against: This proposition has no accountability requirements to ensure that the mandated money gets into community college classrooms, and mandates taxpayer spending without a way to pay for it. The legislature will either have to raise taxes or cut into other needed programs, such as public schools and healthcare, to generate the revenue needed. This proposition also erects a spending formula for community colleges into our state constitution, which is already plagued by too many spending formulas.

Proposition 93: It reduces the total amount of time a person may serve in the state legislature from 14 years to 12 years, but allows the total amount of years to be served in either house or a combination of both. Also, it provides a transition period to allow current members of either house to serve a total of 12 consecutive years in the house that they're currently serving, regardless of any prior service in another house.

For This proposition strikes a balance between the need to elect new legislators with fresh ideas and the need for experienced legislators with expertise in solving the complicated problems facing California. Current law only allows for three two-year terms in the senate and two four-year terms in the house; this proposition reforms term limits by allowing legislators to serve their duration in either house, giving them more opportunities to concern themselves with policy because they won't be worrying about what office they run for next.

Against: This proposition is a scam that would actually lengthen term limits and would corrupt the term-limit structure. The proposition contains a loophole that benefits 42 incumbent politicians by letting them serve more time in office when they would otherwise be term-limited. Some politicians under this proposition would be able to serve up to 20 years in office. This proposition is funded with millions of dollars in special interest money and is backed mostly by incumbent politicians.

Propositions 94 to 97: These early the amendment to the existing gaming compact between the state and Pechanga, Sycuan, Agua Caliente, and Moapaue Indian tribes, allowing each to operate thousands of additional slot machines. Propositions require additional annual payment and percentages of revenue generated ranging from $20 million to $42.5 million, to the state. The proposition omits certain projects from the California Environmental Quality Act and provides for Tribal Impact Environmental Impact Reports.

For: These propositions would help generate additional hundreds of millions of dollars for the state at a time when the state is facing a budget crisis. These agreements were negotiated by the governor and approved by bipartisan majorities in both houses of the state legislature. These propositions increase the amount of slot machines that can be maintained by tribes with gaming land in San Diego and Riverside counties, and negotiate additional protections for the environment and local communities with casinos sharing in costs of law enforcement and fire protection services. Casinos employees would also be allowed to unionize. Against: These are legislative giveaways that equal one of the largest expansions of casino gambling in U.S. history. These propositions give unfair control of over one-third of the state's Indian gaming to just four of California's 108 Indian tribes, which would economically devastate smaller tribes. These propositions contain language that guarantees any of the revenue to our schools and would actually hurt the environment with language that does not mirror California's Environmental Quality Act. Tribes themselves, rather than an independent auditor, would be allowed to determine what amount of revenue is subject to sharing with the state. These propositions are simply an example of the rich making themselves richer.

The information in this article was compiled from www.sos.ca.gov as well as various other voter guides.

Election
continued from page 1

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

A woman prepares ballots for the upcoming election above and a polling booth hosts a voter during an earlier primary.

A San Diego airplane hangar Tuesday, where he will be joined by Schwarzenegger.

The governor also played the role of a volunteer on Monday during a stop at a McCain campaign office in Gardenia, a Los Angeles suburb.

There, he accepted a cell phone and made a personal pitch to a voter on the senator's behalf, then told reporters he had just spoken to a Democrat who agreed to support the senator.

"All I have to do is convince my wife to do the same thing," Schwarzenegger quipped.

He called McCain, whom he endorsed last week, "a man of great character, great inner strength."

The governor also joined in last-minute campaigning on behalf of ballot initiatives that until recently had attracted little attention, appearing with Democrats at a Los Angeles rally in favor of Proposition 93.

That measure would cut the number of years state lawmakers could serve in office from 14 years to 12, but would allow them to spend all 12 in one house of the Legislature.

The change would allow 34 lawmakers who otherwise would be termed out of the Assembly or Senate this year to stay in office for another four or six years.

Weekend polls showed the measure was slipping out of favor, while support was growing for a slate of gambling initiatives that would add up to 17,000 slot machines to four Southern California Indian casi...
State Briefs

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Two skiers were in good condition Monday after being plucked from the snowy Sierra Nevada mountains, where they had been missing for two days during a winter storm.

Patrick Frost, 35, and Christopher Gergasi, 32, both of San Francisco, were spotted by a Placer County Sheriff's Department helicopter in the Five Lakes Creek drainage, about seven miles from the Alpine Meadows ski resort.

The pair suffered "really minor, minor" frostbite after being exposed to the weather for two days, hospital spokeswoman Janet Davis said.

PALO ALTO (AP) — Two-year-old twin girls that were formerly conjoined at the chest and abdomen are back at home in Costa Rica.

Yarelis and Fiorella Rocha-Arias were separated by surgery at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford in November and flew back home today.

The girls arrived in the Bay Area in July and began receiving weekly injections of special salt water into balloons placed under their skin. The procedure stretched the skin to compensate for the holes stirgeons cut into their abdomen.

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The Fellowship Hall
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Suicide attack underscores Israel's fears border breach with Egypt to be exploited

Laurie Copans
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Palestinian bomber blew himself up Monday in Dimona, a desert town near Israel's nuclear reactor, killing an Israeli woman and wounding 11 people in the first suicide attack inside Israel in a year.

Police killed a second attacker after a doctor found a suicide vest while treating him for wounds suffered in the blast. The attack fueled Israeli fears that Gaza militants would exploit a border breach with Egypt to sneak into Israel. Militants claimed the bombers entered Israel through the porous Egyptian border, about 35 miles from Dimona, and said more militants were entering Israel waiting to strike.

In Gaza, gunmen fired in the air and relatives of the bombers passed out sweets to celebrate the bombing.

An offshoot of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement claimed responsibility, threatening to complicate recently revived peace talks.

Abbas condemned the violence from his West Bank stronghold. Israeli officials said peace talks with Abbas would continue, but vowed to push forward with the country's military campaign in Gaza, which is controlled by the Islamic militant Hamas. Hours after the bombing, an Israeli aircraft attacked a car in Gaza, killing a senior militant who was involved in rocket attacks on Israel.

Speaking to parliament, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel is facing a "constant war" against Gaza militants. "This war will continue. Terrorism will be hit. We will not relent," he said.

While Palestinian militants have carried out dozens of suicide bombings since 2000, Monday's attack was the first in Dimona, a working class town of 37,000 in the Negev desert that houses Israel's nuclear reactor. The explosion took place in a shopping center about six miles from the facility.

Israeli officials dismissed suggestions the reactor might have been the target. The facility, where atomic weapons are believed to have been developed, is heavily guarded, enclosed by a 10-foot tall barbed-wire fence and located a mile and a half down a road that is closed to the public. Israel neither admits nor denies it has nuclear arms.

The force of the blast left a surreal scene of strewn flesh and scattered clothing and furry drippings from a bomb-laced car.

An Israeli police explosives robot removes clothing from the body of a suicide bomber in Dimona.

Then police officer Kobi Mor rushed to the scene, where he said he found the bomber on the sidewalk with his explosive belt visible.

"I saw him move his hand toward the belt, I fired and his belt fell," Mor told Channel 10 TV. "Two and a half minutes later he lifted his hand again, toward the belt, and I knocked down and fired four bullets to the center of his head."

Israeli TV stations repeatedly broadcasted footage of the shooting, calling Mor the "hero of the day" and showing the would-be bomber as he lay on the sidewalk, slowly moving his hand toward his misdirection.

Police awarded Mor a certificate for bravery and gave him a promotion.

Israeli media said 11 people were wounded in the blast.

Israeli authorities had been on high alert since Hamas militants were spotted in the sections of the Gaza-Egypt border wall Jan. 23. The breach, aimed at easing an Israeli and Egyptian blockade of Gaza, allowed hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to cross into Egypt.

Egypt managed to seal the border Sunday. Egyptian officials had no immediate comment on the Dimona bombing.

A Zaka paramedic service volunteer cleans the bloodstains at the scene in Dimona.

Jewish aircraft attacked a car in Gaza, killing a senior militant who was involved in rocket attacks on Israel.

"There was a great explosion and a great ball of fire came toward us," said Dovid Dahan, 58, who was wounded in the blast. Dahan, who uses walker because of a hip injury, had just finished his morning coffee at a cafe when the bomb went off about 6 feet away.

"I saw him (the bomber) fall. I was hit, but I held on to my walker. My clothes were covered with his flesh," said Dahan, speaking at a hospital in the nearby city of Beersheba. A bloody bandage covered his eye, and his earrings were lodged inside his chest and the swollen left side of his face. A leg and arm were also injured.

A second attacker was discovered by Dr. Baruch Mandelberg, who rushed to treat the wounded. He said he spotted a critically wounded man whose head was moving, and opened his shirt to treat him.

"We saw an explosive belt," Mandelberg said. "We ran away."
Unwilling to leave anything to chance, both men hastily rearranged their schedules to make one more late-stop in California, the largest state, with 170 delegates.

After months on the road, the wear on the candidates was showing and the schedule strained human endurance.

McCain's voice was raspy, and at one stop, he struggled to control her coughing.

Romney had breakfast in Tennessee, was in Georgia at lunchtime, was touching down in Oklahoma at the dinner hour and was scheduled to arrive in California for a rally just before midnight local time.

All before flying through the night so he could attend the West Virginia state convention on Tuesday morning.

The Democrats were spending unprecedented amounts of money on television advertising. Records showed Obama and Clinton each spent $1.3 million last Wednesday morning.

But his task in several Southern states plus American Samoa, and 1,681 delegates.

The Northeast was their battle-ground for the day, an arc of states stretching from New Jersey and New York to Connecticut and Massachusetts. Apart from Clinton's home state of New York, the polls told a similar story in each — and in Missouri and California — with the former first lady trying to hold off Obama's late rush.

Obama's campaign was eager to claim the underdog's role. "Senator Clinton is certainly the favorite on Feb. 5, given the huge leads she has held in many of these contests throughout the course of the campaign and the political, historical and geographic advantages she enjoys in many of these states," Obama's campaign manager, David Plouffe, wrote in a memo to reporters.

A Clinton spokesman, Phil Singer, countered that the outcome on Tuesday is "likely to be close due to the proportional allocation of delegates under the Democratic party's rules." Even so, he said, "we expect to maintain our current overall lead in delegates on Feb. 6."
Bush’s $3.1 trillion budget to increase for military and deficit

Andrew Taylor
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The record $3.1 trillion budget proposed by President Bush on Monday would produce a huge jump in the deficit to $410 billion this year and $470 billion in 2009, the White House said, just shy of the record $413 billion set four years ago.

The deficit will grow at a 2.7 percent clip this year, far higher than congressional and private economists expect, and the administration’s $70 billion figure for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan is simply a placeholder until the next president takes office.

Bush’s lame-duck budget plan is likely to be ignored by Congress, which is controlled by Democrats and already looking ahead to November elections. His long-term projections are mostly academic since he’s leaving office next January.

The president forecasts a $480 billion surplus by 2012, keeping the alternative minimum tax, originally aimed at the wealthy, from being cut back or eliminated. Half of domestic programs will be cut back or eliminated. Half of domestic programs will be cut back or eliminated. Half of domestic programs will be cut back or eliminated.

IMPERATIVE

The president’s forecast of a $480 billion surplus by 2012, keeping the alternative minimum tax, originally aimed at the wealthy, from being cut back or eliminated. Half of domestic programs will be cut back or eliminated. Half of domestic programs will be cut back or eliminated.

Bush is leaving his successor an enormous fiscal dilemma. The deficit numbers will mean pressure to allow some tax cuts to expire, especially the 35 percent bracket for wealthier taxpayers, which will revert to 39.6 percent at the end of 2010 unless renewed.

Bush acknowledged during his address that despite his fiscal warnings and the administration’s efforts to keep the deficit to $410 billion this year, Bush is leaving his successor an enormous fiscal dilemma. The deficit numbers will mean pressure to allow some tax cuts to expire, especially the 35 percent bracket for wealthier taxpayers, which will revert to 39.6 percent at the end of 2010 unless renewed.

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President Bush, meets with members of his cabinet, Monday, Feb. 4 in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington.

National Briefs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inadequate security has left national icons such as the Washington Monument and the Statue of Liberty vulnerable, according to a government report on the U.S. Park Police released Monday.

The Interior Department’s inspector general accuses the Park Police of “an overall lack of commitment to its core security responsibilities,” citing chronic understaffing, with a lack of coordination and training.

“We found that despite having increased security and law enforcement responsibilities since the events of Sept. 11, 2001, USPP’s staffing levels are lower now than they were 6 years ago,” the report states.

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Thomas S. Monson, a leader who became known for his folksy storytelling as he ascended through church ranks, was introduced Monday as the 16th president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Monson, 80, succeeds Gordon B. Hinckley, who died last month at age 97. One of the last people to meet the deceased president, the Mormon church never names a successor until after his death. Hinckley was buried Saturday.

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A state lawmaker wants to ban restaurants from serving food to obese customers — but please, don’t be offended.

“I was trying to shed a little light on the number one problem in Mississippi,” said Republican Rep. John Read of Gautier, who acknowledges that at 5-foot-11 and 230 pounds, he’d probably have a tough time under his shirt.

More than 30 percent of adults in Mississippi and an estimated one out of every four adults, according to a 2007 study by the Trust for America’s Health, a research group that focuses on disease prevention.

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A super-sized boom coming for telescopes

Seth Borenstein

A telescope arms race is taking shape around the world. Astronomers are drawing up plans for the biggest, most powerful instruments ever constructed, capable of peering far deeper into the universe — and further back in time — than ever before.

The building boom, which is expected to play out over the next decade and cost billions of dollars, is driven by technological advances that afford unprecedented clarity and magnification. Some scientists say it will be much like switching from regular TV to high-definition.

In fact, the super-sized telescopes will yield even finer pictures than the Hubble Space Telescope, which was put in orbit in 1990 and was long considered superior because in view was freed from the distorting effects of Earth’s atmosphere. But now, land-based telescopes can correct for such distortion.

Just the names of many of the proposed observatories suggest an arms race: the Giant Magellan Telescope, the Thirty Meter Telescope and the European Extremely Large Telescope, which was downgraded from the OverWhelmingly Large Telescope. Add to these three big ground observatories a new super eye in the sky, NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope, scheduled for launch in 2013.

With new giant telescopes, astronomers hope to get the first pictures of planets outside our solar system, watch stars and planets being born, and catch a glimpse of what was happening near the birth of the universe.

“We know almost nothing about the universe in its early stages,” said Carnegie Observatories director Wendy Freedman, who chairs the board that is building the Giant Magellan Telescope. “The GMT is going to see in action the first stars, the first galaxies, the first supernovae, the first black holes to form.”

When scientists look at a faraway celestial object, they are seeing it as it existed millions and millions of years ago, because it takes so long for light from the object to reach Earth.

Current telescopes are able to look back only about 1 billion years in time. But the new telescopes will be so powerful that they should be able to gaze back to a couple of hundred million years after the Big Bang, which scientists believe happened 13.7 billion years ago. That’s where all the action is.

“We hope to answer these questions: Are we alone in the universe? What is the nature of dark matter and dark energy in the universe?” said astronomer Henri Boffin, outreach scientist for the European Southern Observatory.

Two new technologies enable this extraordinary quest — one reliant on modern lasers and computing power and the other inspired by ancient Greek and Roman telescope.

The first is adaptive optics. It allows telescopes on the ground to get rid of the distortion caused when looking through Earth’s thick atmosphere into space.

Adaptive optics relies on a laser to create an artificial star, or a star that looks like fake stars, in the sky. Astronomers then examine the fake stars and use computers to calculate how much atmospheric distortion there is at any given time. They can then adjust the mirrors to compensate like a pair of eyeglasses. This technique is going from 36 segments in current telescopes to 492 segments with its new project.

In astronomy, the bigger the mirror, the greater the amount of light that can be grabbed from the universe. For the past decade and a half, the Keck has had the largest Earth-bound telescope, with mirrors nearly 33 feet in diameter.

However, three giant land observatories, proposed for construction within the decade, are going to dwarf those: the Giant Magellan Telescope. A partnership of six U.S. universities, an Australian college, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and the Carnegie Institution of Washington will place the telescope in Las Campanas, Chile, around 2016. The plan is for an 80-foot mirror. The Europeans are aiming for a 328-foot mirror.

The thirty Meter Telescope. The California Institute of Technology, the University of California and the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy are aiming for a telescope with a 98-foot mirror by 2018. No site has been chosen. The cost is about $780 million.

The European Extremely Large Telescope. A partnership of European countries called the European Southern Observatory already has telescopes in Chile and is aiming for a new one with a mirror of 386 feet, scaled back from initial plans of 328 feet. The Europeans are aiming for a 2018 completion, but have not chosen a specific location yet. The cost would be $1.17 billion.

Adapted optics worked first for smaller telescopes. But getting it to work for big observatories was a problem. The first successful use in large telescopes was in 2003 at the twin-telescope Keck Observatory in Hawaii, an effort that took nine years.

The second breakthrough involves technology that makes bigger mirrors possible. Instead of casting a giant mirror in one piece, which is difficult and limits size, astronomers now make smaller mirror segments and piece them together.

Keck scientist Jerry Nelson, now working on the Thirty Meter Telescope, pioneered this technique and said he got the idea from looking at how the Greeks and Romans tiled their baths. This technique is going from 36 segments in current telescopes to 492 segments with its new project.

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Astronomers are in the early stages of an international building boom of super-sized telescopes that will play out over the next decade.

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The Giant Magellan Telescope. A partnership of six U.S. universities, an Australian college, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and the Carnegie Institution of Washington will place the telescope in Las Campanas, Chile, around 2016. The plan is for an 80-foot mirror. The cost is around $386 million.

The Thirty Meter Telescope. The California Institute of Technology, the University of California and the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy are aiming for a telescope with a 98-foot mirror by 2018. No site has been chosen. The cost is about $780 million.

The European Extremely Large Telescope. A partnership of European countries called the European Southern Observatory already has telescopes in Chile and is aiming for a new one with a mirror of 386 feet, scaled back from initial plans of 328 feet. The Europeans are aiming for a 2018 completion, but have not chosen a specific location yet. The cost would be $1.17 billion.

Astronomers are in the early stages of an international building boom of super-sized telescopes that will play out over the next decade.
A local band’s tribute to a reggae icon

Local reggae band Resination performed Saturday night at Downtown Brewing Co., paying homage to late musician Bob Marley.

Aaron Gaudette
MUSTANG DAILY

The spirit of Bob Marley Day was out in full force Saturday as San Luis Obispo County-based reggae band Resination paid homage to the great reggae artist with its own versions of Marley’s classic reggae jams.

Resination, accompanied by fellow reggae artists The Kicks, and openers Ras Danny and the Reggae Allstars, revisited many of Marley’s more well-known jams while flavoring its own spin to make the music unique.

“We’ve been doing the Bob (tribute) shows for about six to seven years now,” said Vance “Noche Man” Fahie, who does vocals and plays guitar for Resination. “It’s a tribute to a great reggae artist who really got the reggae movement off the ground.”

“It’s great to be able to take advantage of these opportunities and relay his positive message, especially since we love playing for the people of San Luis Obispo so much,” he added.

All bands that performed were more focused on the roots genre of dub reggae, known for recurrent melodic tunes and heavy bass tones that permeate the music.

And while Resination did not have a horns section when the band first formed in 1999, the later addition of trumpet and trombone elements significantly furthered the band’s sound in terms of being definitive dub reggae.

Ras Danny and the Reggae Allstars featured a saxophone as the band’s horn element, which is unusual for a roots band with such heavy dub influences.

The inner “dub-ness” of the band was easily discernible, however, as the band’s sound could easily be likened to that of dub legends such as Barrington Levy. Ras Danny even went so far as to play his own version of one of Levy’s tunes — “Shine Eye Girl” — in the midst of his set.

The spirit of Marley could be felt throughout the venue during each band’s set, with not only Resination but also the other two bands playing their own renditions of Marley’s songs such as “Waiting in Vain” and sing-along versions of “Stir it Up.” Ras Danny and other performing musicians could be seen wearing Bob Marley attire.

“It’s pretty obvious that we’re big Bob Marley fans, with or without the day,” remarked Patrick Pearson, Resination’s lead guitarist who also does vocals. “Regardless of any event, we’re still going to be the first people to listen to and perform his music.”

“And it’s sort of a lucky thing that Bob’s birthday comes at the beginning of Black History Month,” Vance added. “We’ve done a lot of Bob Marley events on the Central Coast, and it’s good to be able to integrate them with Black History Month, although I prefer to celebrate the month all year and throughout my life. It’s all about going out and gaining life experiences.”

Marley’s presence was undoubtedly felt most in Resination’s set, with the band performing such hits as “Iron Lion Zion,” “Zimbabwe” and “Lively Up Yourself” in a manner that left the crowd cheering for more.

The most notable twist that the band put on Marley’s music was the integration of solos for each respective band member during various portions of the set. Another significant spin was the transitions from song to song, which were infused with dub elements that made the
GET ‘LOST’

Emma Dressun

AFTER a nine-month hiatus, the hit ABC show “Lost” returned with the premiere of its fourth season on Jan. 31.

“Lost” is infamous for its addictive quality that keeps millions of viewers excited about seeing if the survivors of Oceanic Flight 815 will ever be rescued. Each episode brings up more questions about the mysterious island that keeps its viewers watching and guessing. This leads to viewer frustration over the lack of answers the show provides.

For those who do not watch “Lost” and have managed to escape the bombardment of promotions and commercials that ABC has been doing over the past two months, here is a recap of how season three ended: The survivors are under the impression they are going to be rescued, but there is evidence that the people triumphantly coming to the island claiming to be rescuers are not the people originally sent out to look for survivors.

Like every episode, season three’s finale left fans guessing and speculating about what would happen next. Then, finally, the new season arrived.

The new episode opened right where the last one left off. A call has been made to the people who claim they are there to rescue the survivors, and they say they are on their way.

While some new cliffhangers are brought up in the first episode, the storyline remains somewhat the same. The “Hatchforward” addition opposes the past three years of flashbacks, adding an interesting twist. New viewers know where the characters ended up, and the show serves as the jumping point that points.

The writers are commendable for not falling into some of the more typical long-awaited presume pitfalls. All the characters are accounted for immediately, so the viewers don’t have to wonder what happened to exceptions for the first three weeks of the season.

But like all episodes, the present scenes leave many questions for season four. “Lost” has stuck to its usual ways of making fans think they might see the light at the end of the tunnel, then, as always, revealing the light to be nothing but an illusion.

For people interested in learning more about “Lost” or for fans who want a recap, all three seasons are available on DVD as well as for download on iTunes. Some episodes are even available for free online at ABC’s Web site.
When asked to describe a typical reggae band, you might picture a stereotypical group of Jamaican guys sitting on the beach, with their hair in dreads, smoking joints, singing about peace and love. This may be especially true if the name of the band is SOJA (Soldiers of Jah Army).

However, these men, who have played reggae for the past 11 years, didn't come from Jamaica. They are a group of guys from Washington, D.C., and the only thing about them that screams "We are a reggae band!" is that three of the five members have dreadlocks. But that's where their tie to the stereotype ends.

SOJA will be playing at 9 p.m. tonight at Mongo's, 359 West Grand Ave. in Grover Beach. Tickets are $12 in advance or $14 at the door.

Kenny Brownell explained the reasoning behind their music, and delved into personal issues with society and how music will affect the next generation.

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‘Persepolis’: a graphic novel for the pickiest of readers

Graphic novels are often passed over by traditional readers who prefer prose over pictures. However, French writer Marjane Satrapi comes out a comic that has attracted a whole new audience.

Through simple black and white pictures, “Persepolis” tells the story of a young girl growing up during the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Originally published in installments, the book was recently translated from French and combined into one volume by its English publisher Pantheon (famous for the Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel “Maus”). Through its many translations, people around the world have come to appreciate the integrity of a coming-of-age story set against the backdrop of intense modern history.

“Persepolis” follows the childhood and adolescence of its author, who was raised by liberal parents who encouraged her to learn and grow despite being a girl in an oppressive culture. Marjane discovers early on how to adapt herself within her culture and the rest of the world.

Out of a lifetime of harrowing circumstances comes a protagonist who refuses to become someone else at the whim of others, whether they are school teachers who punish her because her hair is fleeing beneath her veil or pompous military officers who threaten to arrest her for listening to free music.

Through the storyline might sound trite, the settings of war-torn Iran and dynamic 1980s Europe add perspective and depth to the story. The reader is shown exactly how an individual can refuse to succumb to the negative aspects of society and find her own way through the maze of history. Its simplicity conceals much depth.

Furthermore, the basic pictures add to the novel’s rich material. Instead of suffering through wordy explanation, the audience watches the novel happen, and each person is able to take away from it whatever he or she wants. The readers are witnesses to the characters’ history and world history at the same time; and there is no agenda, just a story.

“Persepolis” is the story of a real person, and we experience the bad times as well as the good. Marjane faces the violent death of loved ones under Iran’s Islamic regime, suffers intense loneliness after moving to Europe, and has to come to terms with bad decisions, even ending up homeless at one part of the novel.

She’s a real person, not a perfect protagonist. In spite of her intelligence, she makes stupid decisions, her loyal passions sometimes turn cruel, and her resilience is often clouded by hopelessness. Nevertheless, she is always genuine. The reader will attach his or herself to Marjane’s character and will always carry hope for her.

Even those not familiar with (or inclined to pick up) graphic novels will find a way to love this book. It reads easily and clearly, and most won’t realize that it is not composed in straight prose. The book has also spawned a film, which was recently nominated for the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature. —perhaps proof of its ability to appeal to a wide range of audiences. All in all, it’s a captivating story and a quick read that will gain the affection of even the pickiest of book lovers.

Emile Egger is an English major and Mustang Daily book columnist.

In “Persepolis,” French author Marjane Satrapi tells her story of growing up during Iran’s Islamic Revolution, dealing with the pains of adolescence during Iran’s war with Iraq and reconciling her past as a young adult in Vienna.

BASKETBALL SHOOTOUT

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FREE registration at bigwest.org

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Winner of shootout has a chance to WIN $5,000 at next round of the tournament

Every participant receives a t-shirt
Dark, chocolatey goodness

Valentine's Day tends to bring out the chocolate lover in all of us. With cupid's holiday just around the corner, I thought I would give you a few more reasons to fall in love with this surprisingly healthy indulgence.

Every Valentine’s Day, people spend more than $1 billion on chocolate. Having trouble picking which kind to buy for your special someone? Go for the dark chocolate if you want to reap all the health benefits. You might have noticed many chocolate products advertised as a good source of antioxidants. These antioxidants are from a compound called flavonoids, which are found in cocoa. They help gobble up the free radicals that can cause heart disease and other ailments. Many people don’t realize that chocolate is plant-derived, just like fruits and vegetables, therefore, it has some similar health benefits. Unfortunately, this does not mean you get to substitute your five servings of fruits and veggies for chocolate.

Not all chocolate is created equal. Dark chocolate contains the most amount of cocoa and the highest concentration of these disease-fighting antioxidants. Milk chocolate and white chocolate substitute the antioxidant-containing cocoa for excessive sugar and saturated fat. So dig into a little dark chocolate.

Here are a few healthy reasons to give in to this decadent desire:

Heart Health Benefits

Consuming a small amount of dark chocolate every day can help reduce blood pressure. It has also been shown to lower LDL cholesterol (the bad cholesterol) by up to 10 percent. Flavonoids keep cholesterol from blocking blood vessels and increase blood flow to the arteries.

Chocolate as Sunscreen

The flavonoids found in chocolate have been proven to keep your skin healthier by decreasing damage from UV rays and preventing skin cancer. Most flavonoids absorb UV light, which helps prevent the redness caused by sun exposure. Getting the abundant flavonoids found in cocoa could also give your skin a smoother, healthier glow by increasing blood circulation just under the tissue.

Diabetes

Some studies suggest that dark chocolate helps increase the body's metabolism of sugar, which could decrease the chance of diabetes. Watch the amount of added sugar, though; try to buy chocolate that has less than 7 grams of sugar per serving.

Other fun facts about chocolate:

• It stimulates endorphin production, which gives an increased feeling of pleasure
• It contains serotonin, which acts as an anti-depressant
• It contains a little caffeine and other substances that can help perk you up

That said, I prefer to get my protection from eating dark chocolate. Indeed, I look for any excuse to label my bitter-sweet indulgence as therapeutic. Looking for that perfect Valentine’s Day gift? Even if you think chocolate might be a little cliche, I think it can help prevent heart disease, cancer, diabetes and even depression. So go out there and have a lovely, healthy and delicious Valentine’s Day.

Sarah Bailey is a nutrition senior, a Mustang Daily nutrition columnist and a member of PULSE. E-mail her your questions at sbailey@calpoly.edu.
The nation stands on the precipice of change. When generations look back at history (assuming global warming doesn’t exterminate life in the next 100 years), future professors will point to this time and say, “That was the turning point.”

As I’m sure you are aware, the California presidential primaries for both the Democratic and Republican parties are being held on Tuesday, along with 23 other states. Super Tuesday may turn out to be decisive victories for any of the remaining candidates, but that’s not what will fascinate political science experts 50 years from now.

The ones who make the change will be Americans like myself and a majority of you — people who never had a reason to be involved, standing en masse to show that the current political system is unworkable.

For the past four years, I have been the very definition of political apathy. Hating to sound stupid, I paid only enough attention to carry on a reasonable and intelligent conversation. Well, as reasonable and intelligent as possible when discussing politics.

In fact, I was the worst form of apathy because I was informed and still had absolutely no motivation to be involved. Let’s just say I was not too impressed with my choices. Whatever ideology and policy differences candidates may have had, they were still products of the political system.

This time seems different. For the first time in a long time, there is a candidate that stands for more than just a platform. Why voters like me, young independents who have never voted, are showing up in unprecedented numbers to support Illinois Sen. Barack Obama.

You can accuse me of being caught up in the rhetoric of his campaign, and you would probably be right. I will admit that when I listen to Obama, it’s hard not to get emotionally caught up and to feel optimistic.

But that is the beauty of the situation. When was the last time you could honestly say you were inspired by a politician? Obama stirred up that reaction and creates hope. I would vote for him on that quality alone.

The thing I most admire Obama for, though, is his character. Today, nearly two dozen states will hold their primaries in what could make or break a candidate’s prospective presidential nomination.

While there are able candidates from both parties, Barack Obama stands head and shoulders above the rest. More than any other Democrat or Republican, Obama embodies America. Today, nearly two dozen states will hold their primaries in what could make or break a candidate’s prospective presidential nomination.

He’s stances on taxes (scaling back tax benefits for the top 5 percent of earners), education (making college affordable for more Americans), and the Iraq war (the immediate withdrawal of US troops) are certainly admirable qualities in a presidential hopeful. Americans, younger voters in particular, need a candidate to become enthused about.

No matter who wins, it is our generation’s chance to capitalize on our vast potential as a voter base to make politicians listen to our voice so that historians can point and say, “This is when it all changed.”

Kory Hanbek is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily reporter.
Foy

continued from page 16

Oregon and Portland, winning 6-2, 6-5, 7-5 and 7-6, 5-7, 6-4, respectively.

Long before donning the Mustangs' green and gold, though, Foy represented New Zealand as a high-schooler, when he won five Junior International Tennis Federation doubles titles before going on to play at Wellington College in New Zealand, where his team won 7-1 and placed second nationally.

But Foy had bigger plans for himself and his tennis career, and in 2005 he decided to begin looking for a chance to come to the U.S. to play, specifically in California.

"I started e-mailing coaches over here after I graduated, hoping for a chance to get a scholarship so I could play and study in the States," he says. "Being able to play and further my academics here at Cal Poly, it's such an unbelievable experience."

Foy played at the No. 5 slot as the team's sole freshman last year, finishing with a 16-10 record and a 13-10 dual record in singles. In doubles, he and Young went 15-10 and 14-6, respectively.

"Rob is a good player, but he's an even better person," said Cal Poly head coach Justin McPhar. "I think a lot of the junior guys really respect him as a leader. He never gives up on the court. With every game he's constantly fighting and clawing to get the points; in everything he does he gives it 100 percent."

"With that spirit, Foy hopes the Mustangs can grab the Big West Conference title this year," Foy says. "It makes it challenging, both physically and mentally. I love tennis because there are just so many faces to the game."

Foy credits his older brother War­wick — who was the team captain at Sacramento State last year — for the continued influence on his play. "I started playing 13 years ago, when I was 6, because my older brother had picked up the game," Foy says. "He's still a huge influence in how I play. He makes me feel good about going out on the court."

Competing at the college level in America is especially challenging, regardless of where foreign players may move from, McPhar said.

"It's hard for all of our inter­ national guys — college tennis is com­ petitive over here," he explained, noting he also has one player from South Africa, two from Sweden and one originally from Russia.

"Both as students having to make that transition to a different country, and as players competing at a very different level of play; it's not easy. I have a lot of respect for my players that can handle the culture shock both on and off the court."

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to get the points; in everything he does he gives it 100 percent."

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Our new state-of-the-art student housing complex, Poly Canyon Village — the very best campus living experience — one that includes a knowledge center, retail, dining, and recreation including a swimming pool.

- Private room rate approx. $560
- Individual leases
- On-site laundry facilities
- All utilities paid
- High speed internet ports
- Brand new fully furnished
- No deposit
- Weekly custodial services
- Great food vendors in the plaza including Jamba Juice, Einstein Bros Bagels and Peet's Coffee and Tea
- 2 parking structures for Poly Canyon Village residents

*Freshmen currently living off campus please contact University Housing.

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MUSTANG DAILY

CORRECTIONS

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your feedback, and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@calmail.com.

- In the Monday, Feb 4 sports sec­ tion, the Mustang Daily reported that the Cal Poly men's basketball team lost in the third-straight Big West Conference game in falling at UC Riverside 62-59 on Saturday. In the contrary the Mustang Daily failed to win their third-straight conference game. We apologize for the mistake.
Whiten likely out for season

Foot ailments may require surgery for Cal Poly senior guard

Donovan Aird

Dawin Whiten, a starting guard for the Cal Poly men’s basketball team, will likely miss the rest of the season due to foot injuries. Cal Poly head coach Kevin Bromley said Monday.

The senior, who has started 18 of the Mustangs’ 20 games this season, is suffering from plantar fasciitis in his right foot and may require surgery soon, Bromley said.

The condition is an overuse injury that causes severe pain in the heel after the band of tissue connecting the heel bone to the base of the toes has been inflamed.

“For all intents and purposes, he’s probably done for the season, unless a miracle happens in the next few days,” Bromley said. “He got a lot of issues going on in his (right) foot.

Among them, Bromley explained, in addition to the plantar fasciitis, are a bone-on-bone condition and a bone spur. He also has a dislocated toe on his left foot, Bromley said.

Whiten, who now ranks 12th on Cal Poly’s all-time scoring list with 1,114 career points, converted with Bromley and others Monday in the Cal Poly training room, Bromley said, where they “discussed a lot of different options” with the team doctor, who advised surgery for the plantar fasciitis.

His chronic ailments, which have “gone on since 2006,” have “gotten worse than better,” Bromley said, adding, “The young man can’t walk around campus right now without being in pain.”

While Bromley said “right now it’s kind of a week-to-week thing” and ultimately the decision is Whiten’s, he reiterated he expects his four-year starter’s season to be over.

“This kind of started chronically almost a year-and-a-half ago, and hasn’t seemed to get any better,” Bromley said.

The injuries, according to Bromley, have clearly affected his “worn out” guards’ play.

After being named to the All-Big West Conference Second Team as a junior, Whiten has shot a career-best 30.4 percent from the floor while averaging 8.3 points per contest, also a career low.

“He played over the last month has somewhat regressed, although he’s been an absolute warrior in trying to play through the pain,” Bromley said. “But chronic pain is the real deal and it’s kind of worn him down, and his will down a little bit. Physically, he just can’t go how he wants to go.”

Several guards figure to be given the opportunity to make up for Whiten’s potential absence, starting with Lorenzo Keeler, who has started three straight games as is, including a 62-58 loss at UC Riverside on Saturday.

He brings a lot to the table — losing him is huge. A lot of people’s roles have got to go up.

—Lorenzo Keeler
Cal Poly guard on Dawin Whiten

Bromley said Whiten spoke of concerns about how his possibly loss could be filled. “How do I do it as a coach,” is, ‘Hey, guys, there’s 24, 25 minutes to be played — who’s going to step up to the plate? ... Someone’s body else’s opportunity in life.”

Whiten, a North Hills native, is still “kind of going back and forth a little bit,” Bromley said, despite emphasizing the likelihood that he is “probably done for the year.”

Whiten spoke of concerns about how his possibly coming back in weeks after rest and rehabilitation could adversely affect team chemistry and rhythm that may have been carved out while trying to replace his production.

Another wing whose playing time could increase could be freshman Shane Lewis, who has averaged 3.6 points in 11.5 minutes of action per game this season.

While Lewis says he’s “definitely up for the challenge” and is “excited to have a bigger role,” he added the timing of Whiten’s injuries makes his loss even more unfortunate.

“He’s a strong, strong player,” Lewis said. “(The chronic injuries) just really got to him this time.”

Keeler, who said he’s known Whiten, a Monrovia High alumni, since his early prep days when they played on the same AUL team, suggested his friend’s absence could serve as extra motivation for the Mustangs as they try to revitalize their 8-12 season.

“He had a great career here — it’s his senior year and he wants us to finish out the year, but it’s such an unbearable pain,” Keeler said. “As a team, we’ve got to do what we can to succeed. Dawin would want that. We’ve got to try to win, especially for him.”

Foy story gets better and better
Sophomore has more of past seven singles matches

Marlize van Romburg

Love may mean nothing to tennis players the world over, but at one Cal Poly player knows, that doesn’t mean the game is the same everywhere you play.

Robert Foy is enjoying his second year on the Cal Poly men’s tennis team, thousands of miles away from his hometown of Wel­lington, New Zealand, but at least this year, he knows more of what he’s up against on the court.

“It’s unbelievable, the jump I had to make in my level of play,” Foy explains. “In New Zealand, tennis isn’t such a big sport. Then over here, all of a sudden I’m playing 22- and 23-year-old, full­grown men.... I had to do a lot of growing up on the court last year.

Apparently it’s paid off.

Foy, who came to the U.S. with an already-impressive record, has won six of his past seven singles matches to run his team-best total record to 8-5. Along with junior Darryn Young, Foy has comprised a doubles tandem that has gone 4-0 in dual play.

On Saturday and Sunday, he earned clutch, back-to-back singles victories at both

40 doubles record through 2007-08, along with junior Darryn Young. They are 7-0 this season together.

Foy

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