US eases Cuban travel, money restraints

Robert Burns

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a measured break with a half-century of U.S. policy toward communist Cuba, the Obama administration lifted travel restrictions Monday on Cuban-Americans who want to travel and send money to their island homeland.

In a further gesture of openness, U.S. telecommunications firms were freed to seek business there, too. But the broader U.S. trade embargo remained in place.

The White House portrayed its changes, which fulfilled one of President Barack Obama’s campaign promises as a path to promoting personal freedom in one of the few remaining communist nations. They also marked another major step away from the foreign policy priorities of the Bush administration.

But the moves fell far short of the more drastic policy adjustments that some — including Republican Sen. Richard Lugar — have argued are required to promote U.S. interests in Latin America and to bring about change in Cuba. For most Americans, Cuba remains the only country in the world their government prohibits them from visiting — a barrier to potential travelers as well as to the Cuban tourist industry that would like to see them.

Cubans welcomed the changes but said more should be done.

"It’s help that the people really need," said Fermina Gonzalez, a 46-year-old housewife in the leafy Havana neighborhood of Vedado, said of the ending of limits on money sent by Cuban-Americans. "Right now, we have to work lots of jobs just to make ends meet."

But few Cubans expect Obama to end the trade embargo or allow American tourists to visit the island without limits. "He should do more and lift travel restrictions for all Americans," said Alberto Val, a 68-year-old retiree. "Until he does that, I don’t think he’s doing much."

A man sits in an old car as he waits for tourists in Havana on Monday. President Barack Obama is allowing Americans to make unlimited trips and money transfers to family members in Cuba to usher in a new era of U.S openness toward the island nation.
Cuba
continued from page 1

Lifting or substantially easing the economic embargo, as set forth in the Cuba Aces Control Regulations and administered by the Treasury Department, would require legislative action by Congress. The White House made no mention of any intention to seek such changes. Obama said as a presidential candidate that the embargo was a form of leverage to press for democratic reforms in Cuba.

Jose Miguel Vivanco of Human Rights Watch welcomed the Cuba announcement but said more should be done. "If President Obama is serious about promoting change in Cuba, this executive order must be part of a larger shift away from the U.S.' unilateral approach toward the Cuban government," Vivanco said.

White House portrayed Cuba's new move as a "potentially significant opening," particularly if the Cuban government follows through and allows those connections.

The White House portrayed Obama's decision to authorize more telecommunications links with Cuba as a "potentially significant opening," particularly if the Cuban government follows through and allows those connections. The United States travel restrictions, secrecy apparatus, "they wrote. The letter was signed by Reps. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida and Albio Sires and Robert Andrews of New Jersey. They recommended a more calibrated approach: doubling the amount of allowable money transfers to family members in Cuba rather than allowing unlimited transfers.

American policy toward Cuba has been frozen since 1962, when the Kennedy administration broadened a partial trade embargo imposed by the Eisenhower administration the previous year. The original aim was to bring down Fidel Castro's Marxist government at a time when U.S.-backed exiles mounted the failed Bay of Pigs invasion and Soviet missiles in Cuba pushed the world close to nuclear war.

Sporadic congressional efforts to end the embargo since then have failed, largely due to the political influence of powerful Cuban exiles, mostly in Florida, who are determined to isolate Cuba, strangle its economy and force Castro out.

Castro, now 82, is said to have lived in his brother last year due to illness. Raul Castro, 77, shows no sign of making any fundamental changes.

The White House portrayed the lifting of travel restrictions and money transfers to family members in Cuba — coupled with the telecommunications changes — as steps to bridge the gap among divided Cuban families.

"All who embrace core democratic values long for a Cuba that respects the basic human, political and economic rights of all of its citizens," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said in announcing the decision. "President Obama believes the measure he has taken today will help make that goal a reality."

It had been known for more than a week that the White House would announce the Cuba changes in advance of Obama's attendance this weekend at a Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago. Cuba is excluded from that gathering of 34 heads of government, but a number of participants are expected to use the session as an opportunity to press the U.S. to improve relations with Havana.

There has been a growing chorus of congressional advocates for change in U.S. policy toward Cuba. In February, House Minority Leader Rep. Steny Hoyer released a report based on a Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff visit to Havana that called for a repeal of the family travel and money transfer restrictions.

Hoyer's report also urged congressional action to remove all United States travel restrictions, not just those for Cuban-Americans. Further, it advocated lifting travel restrictions on Cuban diplomats in Washington, who are not allowed to journey outside the capital area. It said this would encourage a reciprocal lifting of Cuban restrictions on U.S. diplomats, improving the U.S. government's ability to understand more fully the conditions that exist on the entire island.

Separately on Monday, a U.S. religious freedom advocacy group said it had been forced to call off a fact-finding trip after the Cuban government did not issue visas to its delegation. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom said the visa had been applied for weeks earlier and it had received no explanation for why they were not granted.

White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs, left, listens to Dan Reisch, President Barack Obama's senior adviser on Latin America, speak about the changes in America's Cuba policy, Monday, in the press room at the White House.

RON EdMONDE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Health and Human Services Secretary-designate, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius photographed at her Congressional hearing on April 2, 2009.

Sebelius lowballed money donated from abortion doctor

Erica Werner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama's health secretary nominee got nearly three times as much political money from a controversial abortion doctor as she told senators.
The Health and Human Services Department said Monday that the omission was an oversight that Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius would correct.

In a response to questions from the Senate Finance Committee made public last week, Sebelius wrote that she received $12,450 between 1994-2001 from Dr. George Tiller, one of the nation's few late-term abortion providers.

But in addition to those campaign donations, records reviewed by The Associated Press show that Tiller gave at least $23,000 more from 2000-2002 to a political action committee Sebelius established while insurance commission to raise money for fellow Democrats.

Sebelius did not tell senators about that additional money, although Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., asked specifically about any Tiller donations to her PAC.

"There was an oversight in the initial answer provided to the committee," HHS spokesman Nick Papas said Monday. "Obviously donations to the PAC are a matter of public record. The governor is updating the answer to this question and will resubmit it to the committee."

It was the second time in her confirmation process that Sebelius had to explain a financial oversight to the Finance Committee. Earlier, she corrected three years' worth of tax returns and paid more than $7,000 in back taxes to fix improper deductions.

Anti-abortion groups have sought to make an issue of Sebelius' pro-abortion stances and her ties to Tiller, who was acquitted last month of murder and violation of the Kansas late-term abortion law.

Opponents have criticized President Obama's pick for one of the most sensitive positions in his health-care overhaul plan. Sebelius is expected to be confirmed by the Senate this week.

An advertisement for Burger King's Whopper burger that has run in Europe, shows a small wrestler dressed in a cape resembling a Mexican flag. The wrestler teams up with a linky American combat al-pine as he hogs to illustrate the cross-border blend of flavors.

"The case of Texas with a little see Mexico, page 4
Mexico

continued from page 4

spicy Mexican," a narrator's voice says.

The taller cowboy boosts the wres­
tler up to reach high shelves and helps

clean tall windows, while the Mexican
helps the cowboy open a jar.

Mexico's ambassador to Spain said
Monday he had written a letter to

Burger King offices in that nation ob­

tjecting to the ad and asking that it be

removed, Jorge Zernieno told Radio

formula that the ad "represents me the

stereotyped image of a Mexican."

Pres officials at Burger King Corp.

offices in Miami, Florida and Madrid,

Spain, did not immediately respond to

requests for comment. Burger King

is known for its signature Whopper

hamburger.

One of the things that most an­
gered Mexican officials was a print

edition of the ad showing the wrestler

wearing what appear to be a Mexican

flag as a cloak.

"We have to tell these people that

in Mexico we have a great deal of re­
spect for our flag," Zernieno said.

Mexico has very strict rules about

using the flag. In 2008, the govern­

ment filed a foreign-owned publish­

ing house, Random House Monta­

don SA, for showing disrespect to the

country's flag in a video posted online.

The video showed a literature fan

wearing a Mexican flag like a cape as

the large man bows and signs red and

blue piece of cloth from the coat of Bro.

nia's now disgraced author Paolo Coelho.

It is not the first time that fast-food

outlets have offended Mexican sensi­
bilities.

In the 1990s, a Taco Bell ad featured

a controversial pint-sized talking Chi­

chaudra that spoke with a Mexican ac­

cent.

WORD ON THE STREET

"Does the Kristin Smart case make

you think twice about walking home

alone at night? Why or why not?"

"No, not at all. That's a pretty

tragic case, but has no bearing

on my decision to walk alone

at night."

- Jason Anderson
civil engineering senior

"No, because I'm a guy. I feel

like if I was ever confronted, I

could defend myself."

- Andrew Longabaugh,
business senior

"It would, but I was always

taught to not walk alone. So,

it just reinforces what I was

taught already."

- Kando Oguhrinola,
environmental engineering

freshman

"I thought twice about

walking alone anyways, but

when I get closer to campus

I feel safer."

- Jessie Ysuhza,
nutrition freshman

Sebelius

continued from page 3

Sebelius responded: "I have been

familiar with Dr. Tiller for many years

because he lives and works in Kansas.

Dr. Tiller, like many Kansans, contrib­

uted to my campaign for insurance

commissioner. I received $12,450 over

an eight-year period (1994-2001),

which represented 1 percent of my

total contributions during that time.

Since that time, I have received no

donations from Dr. Tiller or any PAC

related to him."
Jennifer Ticoscomb

It all started when his mother gave him a sewing machine for Christmas. Within weeks, art and design junior Adam Wirdak taught himself to sew and started a customized T-shirt line with a friend, Split. The branchchild of art and design junior Barrett Colvin, is simple yet custom-made for everyone's personal taste.

They begin with a cotton T-shirt and cut it V-neck. Then the sides are cut and re-sewn to make it more form-fitting. From there it's up to the customer to specify their custom look. Color of thread, fabric tag, shirt and splatter paint are selected. Colvin does the initial cutting and Wirdak works while Wirdak sews.

Since Split's February debut, business cards and a MySpace page have been created. The response has been positive; several orders have been placed by the Cal Poly community and beyond. "Recently we got an order for $40 from some kid in Mexico. It's kind of fun to see who buys it," Wirdak said.

Although Egger doesn't call herself a seamstress, and said she's still learning. "It was just the whole idea of being able to utilize the things I made instead of having to cut out, go in and purchase things." Wirdak added. "It makes you feel good and it's relatively cheap."

Wirdak and Barrett Colvin started their clothing line Split.

"It makes you feel good and it's really inspirational and it's very nice to see other people with creativity, " said history, modern languages and English senior and Mustang Daily arts editor Emilie Egger. "I definitely start sewing when I watch it."
Splat
continued from page 5

categories of hand-made items from artists. Products range from jewelry to art, bags and clothing. The site is a helpful tool for entrepreneurs to sell their creations, as well as place consumers can go to find something truly unique.

Central Coast Surfboards, 855 Marsh St., has a reputation for being a local hot spot for budding designers, a place to showcase their talent. White left the busy Big Apple for San Luis Obispo where he is an assistant manager and designer for CCS.

“They were a good stepping stone for a lot of people and anyone that has gone ahead from this area has worked for CCS at one point,” she said.

Her line, SCISSOR, is completely handmade. “I have a feeling I’ll have to find some form of manufacturer in the next few years. As of right now, I sew everything, but I kind of like that and I can keep it at a small level,” she said.

For White, making clothing is more of a fun hobby than work. “So many people when they work are doing something just to pay the bills. I am doing something so much more than that and it just so happens to pay the bills.”

It is a hobby with a relaxing nature. “I like just doing something by myself and it’s quiet and I listen to music. And I do it in the middle of the night and it calms me down,” Egger said.

It is a hobby with a relaxing nature. “I like just doing something by myself and it’s quiet and I listen to music. And I do it in the middle of the night and it calms me down,” Egger said.

Cal Poly students have joined in on this therapeutic craft too. Suzanne Wardman, coordinator and facilitator of classes at Beverly’s Fabric store, has noticed an increase in student participation from middle school to college ages.

According to Wardman, the students that come to Beverly’s pick up sewing quickly and have original ideas. “They are very creative.”

Classes range from sewing basics to more advanced classes focused on specific garments. “All the schools did away with home economics. But there is still a need for learning those skills,” she said.

Not everyone has aspirations of taking their work to Bryant Park. Wardman said some students come in to work on school projects or costumes for parties.

Sorority members are no stranger to Beverly’s. “Any time there is a party on campus we know it first,” Wardman said. “We will see two or three groups and we will say ‘what’s the theme tonight?’ There’s a lot of fun and foolishness; it’s a learning process when they come in.”

Whether it be costumes just for fun or crafting wearable pieces people can take pride in their work. “It’s just kind of fun to wear your own stuff and be creative. The only way I really see it in my life is everyday living and being creative and expressing my own style,” Egger said. “I don’t really expect to be (the next) Marc Jacobs but it is fun to wear your own things, it’s part of who you are and it’s not just buying things from Target, even though they have cute clothes.”
You’ve seen ‘17 Again’ again and again

Christy Lemire
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — “17 Again” is one of those movies that requires you to suspend all disbelief and assume that someone who looks like Zac Efron could, in 20 years, turn into someone who looks like Matthew Perry.

(Those must have been some rough years — either that or Rob Lowe wasn’t available.)

Can’t do it, you say? Well, that detail is just about as implausible as the film’s premise itself: Mike (V Donnell Ward), a miserable father of two on the brink of divorce, gets a chance to relive his high school days and improve his future by becoming 17 in the present day, all thanks to the magical powers of a mystical lanito (Brian d’Oyley-Murray).

It’s always some odd figure on the fringe who brings about this kind of fantastic transformation, isn’t it? This guy literally says to Mike: “I bet you wish you had it to do all over again.”

Well yes, there are a lot of elements in “17 Again” that feel awfully familiar. Director Burr Steers, a long way from his darkly comic, coming-of-age debut “Igby Goes Down,” takes you places you’ve been before — many times — in more charming movies like “Big,” “13 Going on 30,” “Freaky Friday,” and even “Back to the Future.” The idea of going back to high school is so overdone, there was even an entire episode of “Family Guy” that parodied it. (Jason Filardi is credited with writing “17 Again.”)

But rather than changing his decision to abandon his dreams of basketball stardom and marry the girlfriend he knocked up, Mike realizes his true purpose is to reconnect with his wife, Scarlet (played as an adult by Leslie Mann), and teenage kids Maggie and Alex (Michelle Trachtenberg and Sterling Knight). The result is facile and feel-good, not engaging or insightful.

Efron maintains the dreamy presence that made the tweens scream in the “High School Musical” series — those eyes! those cheekbones! — which is on full display when Mike-as-adult-as-kid gets a makeover from the K-Fed get-up he initially (ions in a feeble attempt at fitting in. He steps out of a Porsche, purchased by his nerdy childhood best friend Ned (Lumias Lennon of “Reno 911!”) who grew up to make it big as a computer geek, and with his aviator sunglasses and devil-may-care shag haircut, he looks like ... well, he looks like Zac Efron. At least Steers knows how to capitalize on his star’s strongest attributes.

Efron also enjoys a couple of amusing scenes here as a grown-up delivering upight diatribes in that he’s been given such a cliched depiction of high school life in which to function. The jocks (the leader of whom is conveniently dating Mike’s daughter), the nerds, the awkward cafeteria moments — they’re all there, with nothing new to give them fresh life.

It certainly doesn’t help his cause that he’s been given such a clichéd depiction of high school life in which to function. The jocks (the leader of whom is conveniently dating Mike’s daughter), the nerds, the awkward cafeteria moments — they’re all there, with nothing new to give them fresh life.

It makes the singing-and-dancing hijinks of the East High Wildcats look downright subversive by comparison.

“17 Again,” a Warner Bros. Pictures release, is rated PG-13 for language, some sexual material and teen partying. Running time: 98 minutes. Two stars out of four.
Even bad economy can’t crush spirit of a (green) entrepreneur

It is not the best of times for the green industry. We are sometimes susceptible to that pervasive feeling of dread and doubt that hovers over us like a thick blanket of Los Angeles smog.

With the prolonged credit crisis, there has been a significant drop in funding for sustainability-related initiatives. The Wall Street Journal reported a 53 percent decrease in venture capital investments towards the renewable energy sector for this quarter. The companies with a spirit of the times have still been able to weat on their financial storm, and many different forms of green enterprise, such as the Germans, have continued to persevere.

We face much uncertainty. The number of failed and falling states across the globe is staggering. Thailand is an example; it is facing a severe water crisis. There is an island of plastic garbage in the Pacific Ocean that size of Texas. In the next 24 hours, deforestation rates will convert half of our world's oceans into the atmosphere. Eight million people flying from New York to London. It is easy to fall prey to apathy when we are overwhelmed with a convergence of crises, many of which are financial and ecological.

But regarding adversity, we always seek to embody the spirit of the entrepreneur. We need an ambitious sense of rational optimism, a pushing dissatisfaction with the status quo, and an understanding of the true power of innovation. In contrast to the Mustang Daily’s libertarian spirit, I feel that it is important to provide a viable, sustainable alternative to our current climate of apathy. Our outlooks are not diametrically opposed but are both aware of the inherent value of the individual. Yet, as I see it, we are not alone in this battle. I believe that with the strong conviction that we need to transition America towards a sustainable-based economy.

That is why I set out at home when I got involved with the Peer Power Coalition. From policy wonks to permaculture warriors, we are a diverse group of students who are seeking practical and appropriate solutions to the plethora of problems we are facing this century. More than just a respectable career, a mission to help others is what motivates me most. But in recent years I have found that I have formed many strong opinions on business, environmentalism, and customer service in my opinion, but I’ll use it in the general sense and politics as well. To the point that I feel that is my duty as a responsible citizen to contribute towards these causes. I believe it is my duty to contribute towards the best path that the future of the Mustang Daily sets.

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly community.Staff editor Marilee van Romburgh.

Thursday, April 14, 2009

— Lola

Response to "21st century cave­men"

I think the connection is pretty obvious. Jeremy is not choosing to take the same violent act as murdering others with a club. He is saying that a state of nature, where we take things simply because they want them and use clubs to do so, is no better than the actions of those we are fighting against. The club is referring to is our government is the weapon of violence. The club that Jeremy is using is the political club that he uses to steal from the wealthy, and against others with a club. He is saying that the people raising our taxes are just as guilty as the rich, and that is why he is making the connection.

—a response

— Mike

Response to "21st century cave­men"

Nice column. Unfortunately, you forgot to mention just how patriotic Obama’s appoint­ments have been. I believe the record is now at five to do not pay their patriotic far share of the taxes. If the people raising our taxes aren’t willing to pay them themselves, maybe we should all start taking "innocent" mistakes on our tax returns.

— Bastiaan

Response to "April 15 is the new July 4"
There has been a flurry of reports this past week about pirates ravaging international waters off the coast of Somalia. After capturing an Italian-flagged tugboat, another set of swashbucklers took over an American Maersk cargo ship and took the captain hostage on one of the ship's lifeboats.

With these scourges pillaging the high seas, it brings me to really wonder — how far have we come as a human race if we still can't stop pirates? Of course, these aren't your stereotypcal silver screen pirates, but weren't we having problems with piracy 200 years ago? We can put a man on the moon. We can even take a tumor out of your brain through a very small incision. We can put a man on the moon, we are working on a cure for cancer and we can even take a tumor off your brain through your nose, but we still can't stop pirates?

Let's compare, shall we, the marauders-marine pirates of yesterday to today's open-water terrorists. The garb is much different. Unlike the pirates of centuries past, who were "all in a gown of falding to the knee," as Chaucer describes in "The Canterbury Tales," today's wartime scoundrels can be seen in anything from camoufloge fatigues to denim jeans and windbreakers like those photographed on the Mv. Alabama. Weaponry has surely changed as well; today's pirates aren't going to loot your boat with cannons from their sailboats and ships, masts or hooked hands anymore. Instead they utilize automatic machine guns and motor boats. Still, modern warfare tactics the Navy now employs highly outweigh the skill and scheme of any current pirates. They shouldn't be considered any more of a threat than the sword-bearing pirates that existed as far back as the 1500s.

Unlike the pirates of the 1800s, many of which bailed form Monroe, modern pirates have no initiative other than money. The Moroccan pirates that captured the U.S. merchant ship Bevica in 1784, and those like them, saw piracy as a type of jihad, a religious or political motive. Money is their main concern and they are working on a cure for cancer, and we can even take a tumor off your brain through your nose, but we still can't stop pirates?

President Obama spoke Monday to a group at the Transportation Department saying that he was proud of the United States Navy and other agencies that helped in the rescue of Captain Phillips. "We think the world should come together to end the scourge of piracy," she said.

The United Nations in March set its sights on Somalia, and today's sea pirates are the modern day scourges. "Piracy may be a century-old crime, but we are working to bring a 21st century response," Clinton said. I respect that the government is doing what they can to keep these plunderers at bay. However, though there has been some effort made to protect the shipping lanes off the coast Somalia and other major ports, there has to be a way to stop pirates completely from attacking ships. This is an age-old brand of terrorism that should have been thoroughly dealt with 200 years back. The human race needs our governments to realize that these nautical terrorists can be stopped and should have been a long time ago. I think we should call on the governments of the world to evolve, rise to this occasion and put piracy to an end.

Mikaara Allen is a journalism sophomore and Mustang Daily reporter.
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15 Radio host Garnson
16 Classic game console letters
17 Radio host Garrison
18 Buzz,, top or bangs
19 Unlabeled
20 Colonel Sanders facial feature
21 Appliance with a pilot

64 Baseball’s Molson
65 "Holy cow!",Dobie’s say
66 Fan fair from faithful
67 Storm’s, forecaster’s tool
68 Where to read about the 50’s
69 Far from faithful
70 Determination
71 Root beer brand

Down
1 Tourist mecca off Mexico
2 Sealing option
3 Weather forecaster’s tool
4 King of Mantas
5 "Holy cow!", Merv’s say
6 Merv’s subway train
7 Broken away
8 Sure to bring in money
9 Pastel hue
10 Cosm. tin Cup’s, on-star
11 Really screamed
12 Waterfall on ‘u Village’ Town’
13 Classic game console letters
14 Radio host Garrison
15 Buzz, top or bangs
16 Select few
17 Unlabeled
18 Colonel Sanders facial feature
19 Appliance with a pilot

34 "Just a ... (1917 hit)
35 Director Kazar
36 Pick on in a way
37 Other WWn War
38 Often-asked
39 About professionals
40 Summer in the Scene
41 Ellen DeGeneres’ hit
42 "Preude ... Kniz
43 All, weasp
44 Walk unsteadily
45 U.S.N.A. grad
46 Portuguese king
47 Zou, to the Romans
48 The Big Board for short
49 Corman or Pound
50 Make rhapodics
51 Where to read about the 50’s
52 In the altogether
53 Do a cashier’s job
54 Day colors
55 Gigantic’s rope

64 Baseball’s Molson
65 "Holy cow!", Dobie’s say
66 Far from faithful
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52 In the altogether
53 Do a cashier’s job
54 Day colors
55 Gigantic’s rope

Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

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34 Word before "Morone" or "Bay"
35 G. Henry H. device
36 See-through partition
37 Word that can somehow be half of 20- and 60- Across and 11- and 36-Down
41 Super dryer
42 Stick in traffic, say
43 "I. The Big Board, "Oscar"
44 "Monroe" or "Bay"
45 "Just a ...
46 Stick in traffic, say
47 "I. The Big Board, "Oscar"
48 "Monroe" or "Bay"
49 "Just a ...
50 "Monroe" or "Bay"
51 "I. The Big Board, "Oscar"
52 "Monroe" or "Bay"
53 "I. The Big Board, "Oscar"

sudoku

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

6
5
3
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Sharks continued from page 12

Billsgley improved to 4-0 in 11 career games against the Giants.

"He hit the spots, he knows where he's throwing the ball, he
knows where to get you out and he goes and attacks that area," San
Francisco catcher Bengie Molina said. "He has four pitches that can
get you out at any time, so he just went out there and mixed it up
and beat us."

The Dodgers were introduced numerically instead of by the start-
ing lineup, so Ramirez, who wears No. 59, could trot out last from
the left-field pavilion. The crowd of 57,999 — the largest in stadium
history — saved its loudest cheers for the slugger, who can opt out
of his two-year deal he signed in March at season's end.

Ramirez nearly homered in his first at-bat, sending Johnson's first
pitch deep to right field before Winn snared it at the wall. Ramir-
ez was 1-for-2 with two walks, one
intentional, and he scored a run.

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home-opener start of his career.

"I wasn't expecting this," he said.

"It was great to get out and jump
on these guys."

Johnson (0-2) gave up seven
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striked out five and walked three.

Hudson's second homer of the
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Mustangs set to take on streaky Santa Clara

**SPORTS**

**MUSTANG DAILY**

**baseball**

**BIG WEST STANDINGS 4.14.09**

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Jensen named Player of the Week

Cal Poly freshman second baseman Matt Jensen continues to pile on the accolades as he named co-Big West Player of the Week on Monday.

Jensen had another solid weekend for the Mustangs (24-8, 5-4) as they swept Pacific. He is currently leading the Mustangs in doubles (12), home runs (9), walks, and on-base percentage. He also leads the team in RBIs with 37. Jensen had another solid weekend in which they took two of three at Pacific, and have moved into a three-way tie for second place in the Big West Conference, three games behind UC Irvine.

California State Fullerton junior outfielder Kris Davis won the other Big West honor this week. Jensen, who is just one of seven Mustangs hitting above .350 this season. He also leads the team in doubles, walks, homers and RBIs.

**Sharks start over record-setting season**

**SPORTS EDITOR:** Scott Silvey

San Jose finished with a franchise-record 53 victories and 117 points, winning the conference's top spot by five points over the defending champion Detroit Red Wings. The Sharks closed their fourth Pacific title with several weeks left to the season, eventually finishing with the biggest margin among the league's six divisions.

"We're proud of what we accomplished, but there's enough guys in this locker room who know that what you do in the regular season doesn't always reflect on the playoffs," defenseman Rob Blake said.

Indeed, the regular season hasn't been a problem for the Sharks for about a half dozen years. After their run to the 2004 conference finals, their last three postseasons have

**San Jose goalie Evgeni Nabokov steps a shot against the Los Angeles Kings during the Sharks regular season finale last week.**

**Greg Beacham**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

SAN JOSE, Calif. — And just like that, the greatest regular season in San Jose Sharks history is an unspoken memory.

When the Sharks showed up at work Monday for their first post-season practice, nobody talked about the Presidents' Trophy they earned over the weekend by finishing with the NHL's best regular-season record. Nobody snoozed in the glory of their unmatched 32-5-4 record in the Shark Tank, or the jaw-dropping 26-point margin by which they won the Pacific Division title over Anaheim.

The Sharks are thinking about the Ducks, all right — but only as their opponent, in a first-round playoff series that could be the NHL's best opening matchup. The series pits two sometimes-bitter rivals against each other in the postseason for the first time.

"When you're in the same division with two California teams going at it, that's what it's about," said Sharks forward Travis Moen, who arrived with two (Cal)ifornia teams going at it, the Ducks and the San Jose Sharks in 11-1 to win their opener on Monday.

"Dodgers fans can't expect this every day," said Hudson, who agreed to a free-agent deal in February after three seasons in Arizona. "The cycle is very hard. First of all, getting hit is hard."

Johnson, his former teammate in Arizona, lost to Dodger Stadium for the first time in his 22-year career, falling to 7-1 in just his second start in Los Angeles since 2004. He was denied his 296th career victory, although the 45-year-old left-hander earned his 4,800th strikeout in the third inning against James Loney.

"It was their first home game, so I was kind of trying to keep them at bay a little bit and get us out to a good start," he said. "Obviously, I just continued with what's transpired on this road trip."

The Giants were swept in a three-game series at San Diego before coming to Los Angeles. Hudson completed the majors' first cycle since Sept. 1, 2008, with a sixth-inning triple off Brandon Medders. He slid into third ahead of a throw by right fielder Freddy Winn, got up and pointed to the sky.

"My man, Mr. Jackie Robinson, took care of me," he said, referring to the Dodgers who broke major league baseball's color barrier on April 15, 1947. "It's a heck of a day, I didn't know I had the cycle going on."

Neither did some of his teammates, including Ethier and Pierre.

"It's a great accomplishment and shows you a certain kind of stuff," Ethier said.

Hudson singled in the first, homered in the third and doubled in the fourth — all off Johnson — and became the first Dodger since Wes Parker on May 7, 1970, and the ninth in franchise history to complete the cycle.

"Congratulations to Orlando," Parker said in a statement issued through the Dodgers. "I hope he appreciates he's in a very unique club. I can't believe only two people in 51 years (in Los Angeles). It's great fun to have a game like that. He'll be on a high for two weeks."

Hudson is the first Dodger to do it at Dodger Stadium; Parker accomplished the feat at New York's Shea Stadium. Hudson's parents, wife and young daughter "were in the stands."

Chad Billingsley (2-0) allowed

**Dodgers beat Giants 11-1 to win home opener**

**Nick Camacho**

**MUSTANG DAILY**

Cal Poly freshman second baseman Matt Jensen, seen above, was named co-Big West Player of the Week on Monday.