A California judge ruled that the voter-enacted ban on same-sex marriage, known as Proposition 8, is unconstitutional on Wednesday.

In his ruling, Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker wrote that Prop. 8 did not serve any purpose except to "exclude in the California Constitution the notion that opposite-sex couples are superior to same-sex couples."

He then concluded that "because California has no interest in discriminating against gay men and lesbians, and because Proposition 8 prevents California from fulfilling its constitutional obligation to provide marriages on an equal basis ... Proposition 8 is unconstitutional."

The ruling comes following a lawsuit by two same-sex couples and the City of San Francisco, claiming that Proposition 8, by banning same-sex marriage five months after it was legalized by California's Supreme Court, deprives them of due process of law and equality rights. Upon the announcement, supporters outside the courthouse cheered and waved rainbow-striped flags to celebrate the news.

In San Luis Obispo, the news of the court overturning was met with enthusiasm from proponents of same-sex marriage, especially from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination (GLAAD), a local non-profit dedicated to promoting the well-being of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

"The center's coordinator Lorelei Monet called the ruling "outragingous,"" the judge said. "People are happy to see things moving in the right direction."

"Though the LGBT community seems to have won a victory, Monet said that there are still going to be conflicts ahead."

"There are definitely going to be appeals," Monet said. "But we are hopeful to keep on winning. It is great to see though, that the federal court is finally recognizing that this is unconstitutional."

The CSU Chancellor's office suspended the self-supporting program permanently because of objections received from California State University campuses at Channel Islands, Los Angeles and Norridge. Reasons being that Cal State Channel Islands plans to extend its MBA program into Santa Barbara.

Mike Uhlenkamp, spokesperson for the CSU Chancellor's office, said that a program like this needs to be approved and it wasn't.

"It's not in the best interest for these campuses to compete against each other due to the current financial situation," Uhlenkamp said. "If Cal State Channel Islands didn't want to offer an MBA program than this wouldn't have been a problem."

Orfalea College planned to open its MBA program in Santa Barbara Fall 2010 because there wasn't one in that area. Dave Christy, dean of Orfalea College, said: "We were convinced that a variety of programs in Santa Barbara could exist that don't compete with each other," Christy said. "Lines of communication simply were clogged."

Christy said the lack of a business school or an MBA program provided by the University of California, Santa Barbara caused a need in the community.

Yet, Mary Fleck, associate dean of extended university for Cal State Channel Islands, said that Cal State Channel Islands planned on expanding its MBA program as it grew.

Orfalea's program was cancelled due to the current state of financial situation.

New farmer's market opens in SLO county

Kevin List

As Axel Youngdale eyes the plastic ball as it hovers on a column of air, he grips the plastic bat tightly, mouth closed, eyes narrowed and smacks the ball into the inflatable jump house. He bounces into laughter and flings himself into the jump house to get the ball.

Youngdale's aunt, Kathryn Lidoff, waits for him to finish having fun before getting back to the produce at the SLO Certified Farmers' Market.

The t-ball game, jump house and face painting help Youngdale entertained during the shopping trip, Lidoff said.

"It's great. I don't have to convince him to come because he loves the jump house and face painting," Lidoff said. "I also get him to try new fruit and vegetables he would never eat at home."

As the newest farmers' market in the county, SLO Certified Farmers' Market gives households another time and location to shop for fresh food and produce in a family environment.

The market, held on the corner of Tank Farm Road and Long Street in the Kennedy Club Fitness parking lot every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., is the twenty-third farmers' market in the county and has approximately 20 vendors per week.

"Every market in this country has a little different culture to it," avocado grower, David Righetti said.

Righetti's family-owned business, Hans Avocados, has been growing avocados in Edna Valley since it was originally raised and sold beef cattle in 1967. It has been selling food at San Luis Obispo farmers' markets on Thursday days and Saturday mornings for years.

Righetti said that it is always nice to have another market to sell at because of the busy schedule most farmers keep during the week. Sunday afternoon market allows Righetti and other farmers to sell locally while reaching a different crowd that might not have time to attend other markets.

Keeping money within the community is an important goal for many of the markets in San Luis Obispo. Farmers can earn more by selling their products locally than traveling to a wholesaler.

see Market, page 3

Mike Gahan gears for second professional bout

IN SPORTS, p 8
Two classes were going to be taught adult students in a different way through the Internet. Would be taught in-person by a Cal Poly faculty member and one-third of courses were set to launch in Santa Barbara County this fall.

MBA program

Orfalea College's internationally accredited business program was set to launch in Santa Barbara Fall 2010 at the Canary Hotel.

Director of Smith School of Business for Cal State Channel Islands, William Cordeiro, said that he read about the MBA offering in the newspaper.

Agriculture business sophomore Sam Cheda, agriculture communications and dairy science sophomore Mandy Bruce, and dairy science sophomore Kelli Carstensen, competed with recent high school graduate, Rocco Cunningham, representing the Petaluma Future Farmers of America (FFA). All four attended Petaluma High School and have been competing as a team for four years.

At the Royal Highlands Show, as a change of pace, the team of four was broken up into teams of two and competed against ten other teams. Carstensen and Brazil took first, and Cheda and Cunningham placed second. Individually, Cunningham took first, Brazil second, Carstensen third and Cheda tenth. After winning the state FFA Dairy Cattle Evaluation contest at Cal Poly in May 2009 and placing second against 43 other states at a national contest in Indianapolis in October 2009, the team was invited to compete in the Royal Highlands Show.

"People were excited and now they want to do it again," Cheda said. "(Cheda) and I got into it because we've had siblings and grandparents compete. It's kind of like a tradition." Carstensen and Brazil aren't sure if they want to go into the dairy industry but both said that knowing about the cattle will be beneficial. Cheda said that dairy cattle judging will influence what he wants to do with his life and is looking forward to working in the field of agriculture.

Two classes were going to be taught adult students in a different

market where we could spread our reputation and learn a lot," Christy said. "I was anxious for our faculty to learn about effective distance learning." Cal State Channel Islands' plans solidified this year for the MBA program that will launch in Fall 2011, with the approval of the Chancellor's office.

Director of Smith School of Business for Cal State Channel Islands, William Cordeiro, said that he read about the MBA offering in the newspaper.

"I had a brief phone conversation about the possibility of Cal Poly offering an MBA in Santa Barbara with the Dean," Cordiero said. "I had no other conversations with the folks from San Luis Obispo.

The faculty and staff who were planning on working for the MBA program have to be deployed to different courses. As for the students, their application and other fees have been refunded.

"I apologize to students who planned on going to the school," he said. "They need to know that they need to look for other opportunities if they are available.

The future of Orfalea's self-sustaining MBA program is undetermined.

"People were excited and now we're in the process of undoing it all," Christy said. "It's our job to move forward."

Rapheal Redding also contributed to this article.

Alexandria Scott ALEXANDRIASCOTT.MINI.PCOM

Three Cal Poly students placed first and second in place team scoring and second, third and tenth place in individual scoring at an invitational dairy cattle judging competition called the Royal Highlands Show in Edinburgh, Scotland, that was held in late June.

"Our community was really supportive," Brazil said. "We had a pasty feed as a fundraiser and also received donations from the dairy industry around California."

The four became interested in dairy cattle judging because it was part of their environment growing up, she said.

"Petaluma has a pretty big dairy industry and my family is a fifth generation dairy industry in northern California as well," Carstensen said. "(Cheda) and I got into it because we've had siblings and grandparents compete. It's kind of like a tradition." Carstensen and Brazil aren't sure if they want to go into the dairy industry but both said that knowing about the cattle will be beneficial. Cheda said that dairy cattle judging will influence what he wants to do with his life and is looking forward to working in the field of agriculture.

We look at each part to see how it will affect the productivity and longevity of the cows," he said.

The difference between American and Scottish dairy cattle is the shorter stature of the Scottish cows so that they can fit in the barn, Carstensen said. There is also a difference in Scottish terminology used.

While the competition only lasted a day, the group of four had the chance to visit six different countries on their trip, including England, France and Germany. Carstensen said. The competition cost about $5,000 per person. The team of four was able to go for free because of donations.

"Our community was really supportive," Brazil said. "We had a pasty feed as a fundraiser and also received donations from the dairy industry around California."
Student wins Miss California Rodeo Salinas

Alexandria Scott

Cal Poly animal science senior Brit­tany Voss won the Miss California Rodeo Salinas 2010 competition at the California Rodeo Salinas in mid­July. Voss competed against four other young women from across the state in categories of horsemanship, personality, appearance and scholarship.

Voss is now the ambassador for the rodeo, which is held in Salinas, Calif., and in October she will begin traveling throughout California and Nevada to promote California Rodeo Salinas at several parades, on television and radio, marketing manager of California Rodeo Salinas, Mandy Roth, said.

"Brittany will go to local chambers of commerce and any other events (the California Cowboys Pro Rodeo Association) has as a part of the advertising campaign," Roth said. "Her job is to mix, mingle and promote California rodeo to ultimately sell more tickets and make it more well known.

For winning, Voss received $2,500 cash scholarship, a saddle blanket, a gold and silver belt buckle, a diamond earring and a two horse trailer with her name on it as well as the dates for the 2011 California Rodeo Salinas, contest chairman Laurie LaVelle, said.

"The competition started in 1921 and is for girls 18 to 21 to show their horsemanship skills," LaVelle said. "Brittany is a role model for peak and well represent us this year and next year at other rodeos in the state of California.

Voss said that she has participated in competitions like this one since she was 15 and has held a title from different rodeos every year. She ran for the Miss California Rodeo Salinas title last year but did not win, so she was especially happy to win this year because she is 21 — the maximum competing age.

"I always wanted to be a part of rodeo, it's such an amazing sport," Voss said. "The best way ... to support was to be a rodeo queen and Salinas is a more covered title and a lot like the Miss Rodeo California contest.

Voss will be able to compete in the Miss Rodeo California contest after serving her year as the ambassador Miss California Rodeo Salinas, Roth said. The judging and scoring for the Miss California Rodeo Salinas is similar to the Miss Rodeo California, Voss said.

"Miss California Rodeo Salinas scoring is broken up as 40 percent for horsemanship, 30 percent for personality, 20 percent for appearance and 10 percent for scholarship.

In the horsemanship portion, the contestants brought their own horses to take them through a predeter­mined course, LaVelle said. Contes­tants then put their saddles on another contestant's horse and run through the same course with the unfamiliar horse.

"This looks at how well-rounded they are at riding their own horse and another horse they are not familiar with," LaVelle said.

Voss said she was most confident about the horsemanship and that her personal strongest point is the riding.

"No matter what happened I'd be able to show my colors in that particular area," she said. "I had an awesome horse from Paso Robles named Floyd, and I was really lucky to be able to take him to the competition."

Appearance and personality portions are judged at the same time but with different judges than the ones for horsemanship. This is done so that their wont be a biased if a judge really liked the personality of one girl, LaVelle said.

To judge personality, the five contestants met with the judges individually, then as a group at a dinner and once again in front of an audience answering impromptu questions about themselves, rodeo equipment and current events, Voss said. During all these events judges were evaluating the contestants on appearance as well.

"There is a certain way you present yourself as a rodeo queen," Voss said. "I was here to be shaped just right, clothes not only have to look good but fit well, make-up must be appropriate and boots have to match what you are wearing," she said.

For the scholarship portion contestants took a test similar to the SAT with a proctor who was a judge from the other category.

Voss had the best score and she said it's because she's been studying for the GRE to get into veterinary school.

"Hopefully that's a good omen that I'll do well on the GRE," she said.

As the ambassador the Cal­ifornia Rodeo Salinas Voss is more excited to travel and go to different rodeos and parades to promote the sport and the California Rodeo Salinas, she said.

"It's important and special to me," she said. "I want to be the best spokeswoman I can be. I like going to schools and telling the kids to follow their dreams."

Market

continued from page 1

products to individual buyers in­stead of selling to large grocery store chains such as Albertsons or Ralphs. Consumers know exactly where the product came from and can taste simple samples to know that they like what they're buying.

"There was a need in the com­munity," marketing manager, Nick Ryan, said. "Mostly for local com­munity members that didn't want to deal with the inconvenience that other marketers presented, but still wanted to help support local farmers and keep money circulating locally within the community.

Even with 23 markers in the county there is little to no competition over customers and many wel­come the new addition.

"For us there is zero competition," Administrator of the SLO Count­y Farmers' Market Association, Peter Jankay, said. "We hope they can tap into another part of the community who might not otherwise go."

The SLO County Farmers' Mar­ket Association operates at five dif­ferent locations throughout the week in Arroyo Grande, Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo. Jankay said they are a mutual benefit, not for profit orga­nization and that their goals are sim­ilar to other markets in the county.

Sunday will be the twentieth edi­tion of SLO Certified Farmers' Mar­ket. There has been an increased number of booths since it began on March 28, and Ryan expects Ken­nedy Club Fitness to support the market while it continues to expand.

Canopies are set up and provided to vendors admission and parking are free as well.

Founder and market manager, Morey Bensalem, said he wants to see the market develop into whatever the county has a need for.

"I'm doing this mostly for the com­munity," Bensalem said. "I want you to know this is your farmers' market to benefit from."

Bensalem's experience in the farm­ers' market community has made the development of SLO Certified Farm­ers' Market easier during past several months. His knowledge came from years of selling for his company, Baja Foods, at a variety of markets in town and from the first farmers' market he founded in Pismo Beach. Later he began making his food in the kitchen of Kennedy Club Fitness' clubhouse. After renting the kitchen for two years, he thought the location would be the perfect setting to start his second mar­ket.

"Farmers' market, fitness club, it's a win-win," Bensalem said.

His goals of giving the county an­other market to attend, providing a family friendly atmosphere and keep­ing money and produce circulating within the community have worked well so far. Bensalem said he hopes to attract more buyers and sell­ers while continuing to spread aware­ness to the newest market in San Luis Obispo.

"It is more relaxed," Vicki Craw­ford said while shopping. "Farmers don't have to interact with you at other markets. It's almost like 'here you go, who's next?'"
Central Coast Players to host comedy show at Grange Hall

Sarah Parr
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A collection of both local and non-local comedians will gather for the monthly comedy show at the Grange Hall in San Luis Obispo.

The comedy show is held as a function of the Central Coast Players, the longest running local theater and entertainment group on the Central Coast. The Central Coast Players began simultaneously with the Grange Hall comedy shows.

The event will feature comedians Kevin “Tex” Bennett, Sal España, Cal Poly graduate Casey Campbell, and Myk Powell, who will serve as the headliner.

“It's the best five dollars of comedy you can get in San Luis Obispo,” Powell said.

As headliner, Powell will be the last comedian to take the stage for his 10 minute act. Powell describes his style of comedy as an “observational pissed off old man.”

“If (the set) works, then I won't get off stage until Monday,” Powell said.

Campbell, who graduated in June and is a self-proclaimed “comedy junkie,” also does observational comedy. He compares himself to famous comedian Jim Gaffigan.

Campbell's act on Saturday will last approximately 15 minutes. In order to prepare for their monthly sets at the Grange Hall, Powell and Campbell rehearse all of their new material. Campbell isn’t a person to practice, however, Powell uses the three hour drive from his home in San Jose to San Luis Obispo to rehearse his material. He also drinks tequila, but not at the same time.

Local comedian España, who first began stand-up comedy at the Grange Hall in 2003, rehearses his material as well, but drinks coffee to prepare instead. He also writes, rewrites, and tries his material on other people.

España describes his comedy as "social satire with some political elements."

"I like to assume the audience is smart or reasonably intelligent," España said.

Bill Moneymaker, owner and founder of the Grange Hall and the Central Coast Players, enjoys Powell’s energetic approach to comedy.

"If the audience is down, he will bring them back up," Moneymaker said.

Many other comedians who started at the Grange Hall enjoy successful careers in comedy and entertainment.

"A lot of people go on to bigger and better things," Moneymaker said.

The Grange Hall shows “give them an opportunity for stage time in order to test their material,” Moneymaker said.

Former Grange Hall comedian Carol Hughes has been featured on "America's Got Talent" and "The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson." Other former Grange Hall performers have started in "Last Comic Standing" on Comedy Central.

Even so, Moneymaker is cautious about who he allows to perform at the Grange Hall.

"I am cautious about 'dead space,' or those awkward moments of silence when someone isn’t funny," Moneymaker said.

Moneymaker wants comedians who are genuinely funny so that the audience can appreciate the show.

However, the Grange Hall "rarely gets an audience who doesn't appreciate what's going on," Moneymaker said.

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The Grange Hall welcomes a "warm audience," Moneymaker said.

Overall, the show is "always a good time," Powell said. "It's been a fun show since I started, so that's why I make it out there (to San Luis Obispo)."

Saturday's comedy show begins at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are $5 at the door.
Jack White tackling music scene with new band Dead Weather

Brian McCollum

The Dead Weather is the latest free-wheeling project for Detroit-bred musician Jack White, who relocated to Nashville in 2006.

White sounds relaxed but energized as the group, which includes band mates Alison Mosshart (the Kills), Jack Lawrence (the Greenhornes, the Raconteurs) and Dean Fertita (Queen of the Stone Age), winds its way across the country on this latest tour supporting its sophomore album, "Sea of Cowards."

Life has been a whirl for White since landing in Nashville. With the White Stripes on and off hiatus, he's kept his hands in a slew of pots: forming new bands the Raconteurs and Dead Weather, ramping up his Third Man label — and we sort of have our own studio, diving into collaborations with the likes of Loretta Lynn and rockabilly queen Wanda Jackson.

It's the Dead Weather that has kept the bulk of his attention for the past year. Spawned from informal jam sessions at the Third Man complex — and we sort of have our own studio, diving into collaborations with the likes of Loretta Lynn and rockabilly queen Wanda Jackson.

The new album has met a more positive reception, bringing cohesion to the busy, tempestuous rock sensibility that — the group found itself with when it was formed as the group, which includes band mates Alison Mosshart (the Kills), Jack Lawrence (the Greenhornes, the Raconteurs) and Dean Fertita (Queen of the Stone Age), and then I don't know what. Maybe another White Stripes record within a month. I really just don't know.

But that spontaneity shouldn't be translated as disregard for detail, and that's clear when he reflects on the White Stripes' early years. The duos cryptic color schemes, mythology and hands-off relationship with the press were all part of a carefully orchestrated concept — a showbiz sensibility, he says, that "I still have inside me."

"The easy way to rebel early on was to give out information like everybody else was doing, and not give it to them in the way they wanted it," he says. "Rock 'n' roll and punk rock rules made sense." But he's still an artist underneath it all.

"I mean, I'm breaking one of the big ones right now for music, which is to not stray away from the idea that works: I should be a good little puppy and just make White Stripes records for the rest of my life. That's what you're supposed to do," he says. "We don't want Mick Jagger making solo records. We want him to be in the Rolling Stones. But that's where I guess, me as a producer of records collides with me the performer and the songwriter."

"Horehound," and hit the road fac ing a world that wasn't quite sure what to make of it all. Definitely no plans to put out a second album 10 months later," he says. "It's all been off-the-cuff. And I don't know what I'm going to do when I go home after this tour. Those guys are going on to the Kills and Queens of the Stone Age, and I'm going back to finish Wanda Jackson's record, and then I don't know what. Maybe another White Stripes record within a month. I really just don't know.

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It's the best thing since sliced bread.
President Obama needs to open up about race issues plaguing nation

Barack Obama, our first black president, doesn’t like talking about race. He wants his presidency to be remembered for fixing the economy, installing a national health care plan and building a new foreign policy, not the color of his skin.

But the original sin of racial discrimination never stays out of our national conversation for long, and last week Obama couldn’t duck the subject.

By an accident of scheduling, he spoke Thursday to the National Urban League, one of the nation’s oldest civil rights organizations. It was only a week after the embarrassing episode of Shirley Sherrod, in which Obama’s administration forced a black official to resign over a bogus charge of reverse racism.

Here’s what Obama said: “We’ve made progress. And yet, for all our progress — we were reminded this past week that we still got work to do.”

“We should all make more of an effort to discuss with one another, in a truthful and mature and responsible way, the divides that still exist, the discrimination that still hold us back.”

And where should that discussion happen? “Not on cable TV, not just through a bunch of academic symposia or fancy commissions or panels, not through political posturing, but around kitchens and tables and water coolers,” the president said.

But no, you may notice, in the White House, and not with Barack Obama at the table.

This posturing is an act of power. He hasn’t hesitated to use his power — and his bullying power — to reshape the nation’s financial system, in health care system and if (he gets his way) its energy sector. He seized control of GM and Chrysler. He even offered advice to the NCAA on a college football playoff. But talking about race relations?

Not his job.

His press secretary, Robert Gibbs, has spent two weeks deflecting questions with a non- explanation: “I don’t think the president has to be the teacher at every teachable moment.”

Obama’s allergy to talking about race relations is understandable. He won the presidency, in part, by not talking about race. Most of the time, he didn’t have to. Part of his appeal was his gift of being a not only African American but bicultural and even post-racial. He embodied the promise of Shirley Sherrod, in which Obama’s administration forced a black official to resign over a bogus charge of reverse racism.

But when events demanded, whether his stimulus plan can work and whether his health care reform can work and whether he’s a racist, doesn’t like talking about race. He won the presidency, in part, by not talking about race. Most of the time, he didn’t have to. Part of his appeal was his gift of being a not only African American but bicultural and even post-racial. He embodied the promise of Shirley Sherrod, in which Obama’s administration forced a black official to resign over a bogus charge of reverse racism.

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Betcha can’t print just one shirt!
(Actually, it’s easy, if you use us!)

Moving? Extra stuff?

Small House? Extra stuff?
Cal Poly's Mike Gahan prepares for second professional fight

Amanda Sedo
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Standing 5-foot-9, Cal Poly wine and viticulture senior Mike Gahan may have thought he was too small for football in college — his first passion — but that didn't mean he was too small for the ring.

A natural athlete in high school, Gahan wanted to continue participating in sports after graduation. However, at his stature he said he figured he was too small for the college football world, so instead, he began kickboxing training at The Pit in Arroyo Grande.

With a football scholarship, Gahan took his athletic skill to the cages of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) and nearly three months after his professional debut — in Moor Gym at “Fight for Wrestling” — he will fight in his second professional bout at the second installment of the charity event.

Cal Poly hosted “Fight for Wrestling” on May 22 in an effort to help fund the Cal Poly wrestling team. With some success in its first ever event, the goal being to raise $75,000 for the wrestling program, according to the “Fight for Wrestling” website, the event has now moved to Cal State Bakersfield to aid its wrestling program.

Although Gahan fought his way to a win in his first fight, he hasn’t let his success get the best of him. He said he has been working hard to keep his undefeated record at the event.

Gahan’s second professional bout was originally scheduled for July 31 against Vince Pichell, but was later cancelled. This could be an annoyance to other fighters but it could turn out being a blessing in disguise for Gahan.

“I started preparing two months ago, and I am in better cardio condition (than the first fight),” Gahan said.

In his preparation, Gahan — a fighter who is very skilled in the kickboxing aspect of MMA — ended up learning a few more skills to add to his arsenal.

“I picked up a lot of knowledge in the wrestling aspect,” he said.

In mid-August Gahan will square off against Johnny Goh. Goh is a fighter with four professional matches under his belt, who will have his work cut out for him when he faces Gahan. Although Gahan may only have participated in one professional fight, he has competed in nine amateur fights — something he and his trainer, John Hackelman, would help him in his professional career.

“His style of fighting is similar to what I bring to the table,” Gaheman said. “I have a strong striking, and I just plan to stick to the plan that I know, he said.

Gahan said that if he keeps his composer and does not let the nerves or the fans get to him, he will be fine.

“My goal is to get a win and have a nice, solid, impressive performance,” he said.

Hackelman has faith in Gahan’s ability, saying that overall his strength is superb. Banuelos agreed, also noting that Gahan’s stamina has improved immensely, and that he is capable of being powerful even as the rounds go by.

“He’s that good,” Hackelman said. “He’s unlimited in how far he goes.”

Men's swimming and diving joins the Pac-10

Andrew Baggary
SAN JOSE JOURNAL NEWS

DENVER — There is no chance in splitting a series at Coors Field. There’s certainly a chance to fall down about losing to Ubaldo Jimenez, who tied the Colorado Rockies’ franchise record with 17 victories in just his 22nd start.

The Giants’ 6-1 loss Wednesday wasn’t nearly as painful as the last time they packed their equipment trunks and trudled out of Colorado.

Of course, the Giants responded from that 15-inning loss on Independence Day by sweeping a four-game series at Milwaukee. And they will have an even tougher task awaiting them on Thursday at Turner Field.

They begin a four-game series against the NL East-leading Atlanta Braves, and while it’s a bit early to call a playoff matchup, there will be more story lines in Georgia than Margaret Mitchell could conjure.

An NL rookie of the year matchup between two Georgia boys, Buster Posey and Jason Heyward. Two of the best rotations in the league sending its top four starters to the mound. And plenty of drama arising from the field.

“I expect tight games and good games,” Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. “And it’s going to be hot there. Our boys are going to have to be ready.”

Posey grew up watching Braves games in Las Vegas. Gonzalez has hit a three-hour drive south of Atlanta. He said it was neat when Chipper Jones tapped his shinguard when he faced Gahan.

“My goal is to get a win and have a nice, solid, impressive performance,” he said.

Hackelman has faith in Gahan’s ability, saying that overall his strength is superb. Banuelos agreed, also noting that Gahan’s stamina has improved immensely, and that he is capable of being powerful even as the rounds go by.

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