

CAL POLY'S SOCCER CAMPUS IMAGE

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History

By

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Introduction

Cal Poly's soccer program has attracted large crowds to the home games against their local rival, the University of California, Santa Barbara in recent years. Cal Poly is viewed as a "Soccer Campus"¹ because when both teams get together they manage to create great games that have attracted large crowds to the games. The research of my paper is the rivalry between Cal Poly and the University of California, Santa Barbara since it has helped the program improve by being more competitive and attracting large crowds. The research is going to be on the most recent history now call the "blue-green rivalry."² It is unique since this game attracts large crowds to the campus, not the traditional sports associated with college rivalries. All while helping the soccer program at Cal Poly to develop and be more successful while getting large crowds that go to the games.

The university has many other rivalries but this one stands apart from the rest is that it has attracted interest in a sport not famous in college rivalries. It is also the closest rivalry the school has, since UCSB is located within driving distance. This allows for the visiting supporters to be able to attend the games and make them more interesting when you have dedicated fans willing to travel the short distance. Compared to our other main rivalry with UC Davis in football and other sports, the distance is farther and more unlikely for fans to go visit them. While we do have large crowds for the football game with UC Davis there is more talk leading up to the soccer game between UCSB. While the average attendance of the football games is much higher than soccer games, the game between Santa Barbara skews the popularity in favor

¹ Carly Rickards, "The Rise," *Mustang News*, October 24, 2013, accessed February 7, 2016, <http://mustangnews.net/the-rise/>.

² Jon, "Blue-Green Rivalry: Cal Poly vs. UCSB," *Mustang News*, November 3, 2009, accessed January 6, 2016, <http://mustangnews.net/blue-green-rivalry-cal-poly-vs-ucsb/>.

for soccer.³ This is why Soccer is what brings out the crowds to fill every seat at Spanos Stadium. It is hard to believe that it is a growing sport in popularity in the US, but at Cal Poly it is already the sport of choice for fans to go see. While the popularity is incredible at Cal Poly it is rare among other rivalries that are in the more traditional conservative sport we often see in college.

Historiography

While many histories of college rivalries have been recorded in the history books, there are very few done on soccer. Typically, American college sports rivalries are more focused towards conservative sports like football, and that is due to the popularity of the sport in the United States. With the popularity of sports like football, soccer usually has difficulty gathering attention, allowing my research to be limited on the subject. By researching what has made other sport rivalries successful, we can compare them to the “blue-green rivalry.” The article “You Are Close to Your Rival and Everybody Hates a Winner: A Study of College Football Rivalry” uses economic analysis to show that fans view opponents differently in the conference; some are more important due to being in-state rivals and those games are more important to win regardless of conference standings.⁴ We see that USC vs UCLA has this mentality among the players and fans, that regardless of their season they must defeat their crosstown rivals. The mentality we find in football rivalries can be found in Poly’s rivalry with UCSB; that is a “must-win” game of the season. The drive to win has shaped the football teams of these two universities to compete according to the book *USC vs UCLA: Crosstown Crossfire: A Game by Game History of*

³ Rickards, “The Rise,” *Mustang News*.

⁴ Sarah Marx Quintanar, “You Are Close to Your Rival and Everybody Hates a Winner: A Study of College Football Rivalry,” *Economic Inquirer* 53, no. 4 (October 08, 2015): 1908, accessed January 27, 2016, <https://illiad.lib.calpoly.edu/cas/illiad.dll?Action=10&Form=75&Value=290785>.

America's Greatest Football Rivalry.⁵ The one incredible find about Cal Poly vs UCSB is that it is acknowledged to be the best soccer rivalry in the country, ranking in first place on the list of the fourteen greatest soccer rivalries.⁶ This website news follows closely college soccer and although it acknowledges it as the best one it doesn't provide more on why it is the best college rivalry. Among what can be described on the surface to a neutral attendant to the game.

Soccer in America has always lagged behind in popularity with the other more established sports that we see in college. In early college American soccer history, the game was played but was not attractive for crowds to go watch. The game rules were Americanized in a manner that could be more relatable to other American sports to attract crowds to the games according to David Wangerin in his book *Distant Corners: American Soccer's History of Missed Opportunities and Lost Causes*.⁷ Another reason that soccer is not a spectator sport in American college sports is that is not favored among the gridiron type of sport that will eventually make the game to be more violent as David Wangerin notes in his other book *Soccer In A Football World*, his book states "our college boys would spoil it in five minutes."⁸ The popularity of soccer in college has always been rare and more rarer will be the formation of rivalries in this sport to have one. Unlike how soccer in the rest of the country has struggled to attract attention, Cal Poly soccer program is important to the university and the fans allowing the developing of a rivalry with the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The first game between USC and UCLA was made to be a David-versus-Goliath match with USC the most successful team on the pitch and UCLA the newcomer to compete, it didn't

⁵ Jody Brown, *Crosstown Crossfire: A Game by Game History of a Great American Football Rivalry* (Pelham, AL: Gridiron Publishers, 1996), 20.

⁶ Staff Admin, "The Fourteen Greatest Rivalries in College Soccer: College Soccer Coast to Coast," *College Soccer News*, DNF, accessed February 17, 2016, 20, http://www.collegesoccernews.com/index_files/Page1719.htm.

⁷ David Wangerin, *Distant Corners: American Soccer's History of Missed Opportunities and Lost Causes* (Philadelphia, PA: Templeton University Press, 2011), 101.

⁸ David Wangerin, *Soccer in A Football World*, (Philadelphia, PA: Templeton University Press, 2006), 24.

go according to how the original story goes.⁹ The following years both teams had to improve its team to be more competitive against each other thus forming the best rivalry in college football. According to John Feinstein in his assessment on the rivalry between Army versus Navy, the sports commentator Brent Musburger put it in his way as “There is no bowl game at stake here. There is no coalition poll, no number one ranking. No Heisman Trophy is at stake either. This is bigger than all of that.”¹⁰ Between the arm forces military college sports team the game has more meaning to them as there is constant rivalry within the arm forces of which is better and the best way to see them compete will be in sports. For our own rivalry it will be describe which is the best university on our central coast that can compare to the Army Vs Navy game allowing a competitive nature to start between Cal Poly and UC, Santa Barbara.

The program’s success

The soccer program in Cal Poly has improve in the last fifteen years ago to be a more competitive program. Results have always been mixed when you compare the men’s team to the women’s team where you will find that the women’s team has been more successful. The women’s team current records are better kept to show their success from when they moved up to the NCAA Division 1 in 1994.¹¹ Before every sport was moved up, the women’s soccer team was already competitive and was playing as an independent before joining the Big West Conference prior to 1996.¹² The women’s team have been more successful due to how the season is set up. While the men have the regular season and the championship tournament, the women’s

⁹ Jody Brown, *Crosstown Crossfire: A Game by Game History of a Great American Football Rivalry*, (Pelham, AL: Gridiron Publishers, 1996), 9.

¹⁰ John Feinstein, *A Civil War, Army Vs. Navy: A Year Inside College Football’s Purest Rivalry*, (Boston, MA: Little Brown and Company, 1997), 342.

¹¹ Brad Hamilton, “Each Poly Sport Faces its Own Blocks Tackling Division,” *Mustang Daily Visions*, Spring, 1994, accessed January 19, 2016, 12, <http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=5704&context=studentnewspaper>.

¹² Donovan Aird, “Cal Poly Women Soccer History and Record Book,” *GoPoly.com*, 2015, accessed February 25, 2016, 3, <http://www.gopoly.com/sports/wsoc/2015-16/files/2015CalPolyWomensSoccerHistory.pdf>.

team just have the regular season to play and nothing after that to pursue. The men's team have only had success in recent years by taking the program more seriously and in so doing had to start appointing head coaches that will benefit the growth of the game. One of the hardest thing to do for the program was to appoint a coach that understood the game more and had passion for the game to improve the program and start getting positive results against UC Santa Barbara.

The Development of the Coaching Staff

The first coach to take the reins over the soccer program when they moved up to Division I, was Wolfgang Gartner who presided as head coach from 1978-2005.¹³ He had a modest record with the team and was able to make the soccer program interesting but there was nothing impressive during his tenure. Under Gartner the program was able to start gaining more recognition but it would take another coach to make the program prosper more and get more recognition and that coach was Paul Holocher. He was announced to take over a struggling team and he was the perfect fit for the program coming from UC Santa Cruz where he enjoyed success with the team having a 109-24-8 record during seven seasons.¹⁴ Under him the team had someone who knew the game and had a good reputation to take over, knowing that the team he was taking over was struggling will be tough especially after he comes from a winning team. Holocher would eventually play an important part in the development of the rivalry with a crucial win that started to make the match to be more important during the regular season and the drive to be more competitive against a better team that was UCSB.

Paul Holocher before being appointed the job had accomplished some achievement in his career. As a player he was part of the 1990 NCAA Division I Champions with UC Santa Cruz,

¹³ Jon, "The Real Wolfgang Gartner and Origins of Cal Poly Soccer," *Mustang News*, October 30, 2014, accessed January 26, 2016, <http://mustangnews.net/the-real-wolfgang-gartner-and-origins-of-cal-poly-soccer/>.

¹⁴ Frank Stranzl, "Athletic Director Announces New Soccer Coach," *Mustang Daily*, January 30, 2006, accessed February 25, 2016, <http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=7392&context=studentnewspaper>.

two time all American and the school's all-time leading goal-scorer as well he played seven years as a professional soccer player in the United States and abroad in Austria.¹⁵ He is an attacking minded player since he is the all-time leading goal scorer for UC Santa Cruz and with that he brought his gameplay to his coaching career as well with starting to make the Cal Poly's men's team more competitive in attacking soccer. He also contributed in a different way by making his job to find a way to bring the community out to the games. He was instrumental in bringing the fans out to the games against UCSB. When Holocher got to Cal Poly he said "When I came here, there wasn't a lot of fan support, maybe a few hundred people per game, so we saw a great opportunity to develop the product on the field, develop the quality of play and also develop the fan base."¹⁶ He so did over the next years as coach and under him we got to see some of the best played games along with the large crowds that showed up for the UCSB game. His efforts to attract fans to the game as well as to start making the team play a more attack minded game helped the development of the team to win against UCSB in his first year as head coach. Holocher personally involvement with not only the team but attracting crowd support shows how important the head coach can contribute on how important he can be for the program.

With the men's soccer program improving it is attracting attention amongst other coaches that are willing to take over the coaching job. So when coach Holocher decided it was best for him to leave for another more lucrative job it was hard for the team to manage without him. The team will have to deal with finding another head coach when he left very early on in the season by surprise. Holocher believes that he left the team in good hands but since it was early on the season, someone had to take over as interim coach and deal with the pressure until they find another coach to fill the spot. Holocher on the way out said "I would like to thank Cal

¹⁵ Stranzl, "Athletic Director Announces New Soccer Coach," *Mustang Daily*.

¹⁶ Rickards, "The Rise," *Mustang News*.

Poly Athletic for have giving me the opportunity to coach and develop the Mustang soccer program over the last eight years, I have enjoyed the experience immensely and I'm very pleased and proud with where the program has come during this time,"¹⁷ The program had to start looking for a suitable replacement. In so doing they had to appoint someone to improve on Holocher achievements, as well as to continue to show the soccer program can still manage to play against their rivals all while still bringing attendance to the games.

The whole campus was surprised when the announcement of the next head coach was taken to be a serious statement of how ambitious the program was moving forward. The announcement of Steve Sampson was quite surprising, even with prior speculation of his appointment was made.¹⁸ Sampson impressive resume include managing teams and different levels including high school, junior college, collegiate, national and professional levels.¹⁹ Sampson success has lead him to manage the United States and Costa Rica national teams in the World Cup, as well successfully managing the Los Angeles Galaxy to winning a double the U.S. Open Cup and the MLS Cup in 2004.²⁰ The athletic director Don Oberhelman made a comment as to why it was a good decision into bringing Sampson by saying "It's clear that we have the best soccer fans in the country, so shouldn't we have one of the most accomplished head coaches in charge."²¹ It is incredible that our men's soccer team can attract Sampson but he knew what he was looking forward to before he join. Sampson explained why the rivalry with UCSB was

¹⁷ Jon, "Holocher Resigns After Eight Years as Men's Soccer Head Coach," *Mustang News*, August 11, 2014, accessed February 20, 2016, <http://mustangnews.net/holocher-resigns-after-eight-years-as-mens-soccer-head-coach/>.

¹⁸ Jon, "Cal Poly Names Steve Sampson Men's Soccer Head Coach," *Mustang News*, December 4, 2014, accessed February 20, 2016, <http://mustangnews.net/sources-say-cal-poly-to-name-steve-sampson-mens-soccer-head-coach/>.

¹⁹ Ayrton Ostly, "Blue-Green Rivalry: What to Watch for," *Mustang News*, October 14, 2015, accessed February 25, 2016, <http://mustangnews.net/blue-green-rivalry-watch/>.

²⁰ Ostly, "Blue-Green Rivalry: What to Watch for," *Mustang News*.

²¹ Jon, "Cal Poly Names Steve Sampson Men's Soccer Head Coach," *Mustang News*, December 4, 2014, accessed February 20, 2016, <http://mustangnews.net/sources-say-cal-poly-to-name-steve-sampson-mens-soccer-head-coach/>.

important to him by stating “I had the opportunity to attend a Blue-Green rivalry game while my son was attending Cal Poly, Anthony Grillo scored a late-game goal to give Cal Poly a 2-1 victory over the Gauchos. Standing in the bleachers, absorbing the atmosphere and the moment, I knew right then that this is truly the greatest rivalry in NCAA soccer.”²² This game helped Cal Poly land a notable head coach that was impressed with what he has seen before and want to be part of the greatest soccer rivalry in college. His appointment shows how important this game to make him to want to take over and improve the level of play and the support the team has from the large crowds in the bleachers.

Cal Poly’s first important win

Cal Poly rivalry with UCSB is unique that it started with the home game played in the 2007 season. At that point in time the defending NCAA defending soccer champion was UCSB taking on Cal Poly at Spanos Stadium. That night head coach Paul Holocher did an incredible thing as he broke the attendance record with a 7,000 record attendance and a 12 match losing streak against UCSB with a 2-1 final score.²³ This match was just the beginning of the future huge crowds that were going to be brought by soccer. The athletic director Don Oberhelman “credits soccer’s overall popularity increase to the annual home match against UC Santa Barbara.”²⁴ This is quite rare for rivalries to exist in soccer and not in the regular conservative sports that we seem to persist in college sports such as football. Even with Cal Poly having a football rivalry with UC Davis it is quite unique that the soccer rivalry with UCSB attracts bigger crowds. Another factor that contributes to the popularity of soccer when Poly takes on the

²² Brian Peters, “Blue vs. Green-NCAA’s Greatest Soccer Rivalry,” *Cal Poly Magazine*, Winter, 2016, accessed February 15, 2016, http://magazine.calpoly.edu/winter-2016/inside-NCAA-greatest-soccer-rivalry?utm_content=bufferfdc15&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

²³ Rickards, “The Rise,” *Mustang News*.

²⁴ Rickards, “The Rise,” *Mustang News*.

Guchos is that the Santa Barbara currently doesn't field a football team for financial reasons.²⁵ Both teams first collegiate match was in football about 100 years ago where UC Santa Barbara won 42-0 a very one sided game.²⁶ This shows that the importance of how important UC, Santa Barbara is that it will outshine the more conservative sport of football and favor soccer allowing it to gather more crowds to the game and the improvement of the program to be more successful.

Leading up to the UCSB game, Cal Poly men's soccer had not accomplished much and was struggling as well. For the soccer program to improve it had to do something incredible as they were facing a very accomplished opponent. UCSB has had one of the best college soccer program set up making them competitive every season. Looking at the accomplishments on UCSB recruiting page they like to show off what they have done well.²⁷ UCSB players have a tradition of getting drafted in the MLS SuperDraft, some of them even getting scouted before the draft begins.²⁸ They were more poised to win the game than Cal Poly since they were developing players that in a few years will be playing professional soccer. But the game is not played on paper and that was why it was an upset to end up losing the game to an inferior team. Cal Poly has played them before and they had always struggled to get a positive result from this fixture but the difference must have been the crowd that supported the players more. The atmosphere of the game must have attributed to the result of the game since fans inspired the players to do well. Not only it was the most impressive win over UCSB but it also accomplished how the

²⁵ Matt Mersel, "Lack of Gaucho Football Isn't a Matter of Principle; It's a Matter of Price," *The Bottom Line*, February 6, 2013, accessed January 26, 2016, <https://thebottomline.as.ucsb.edu/2013/02/lack-of-gaicho-football-isnt-a-matter-of-principle-its-a-matter-of-price>.

²⁶ Madison Halvorson, "It's Not All About Soccer: Cal Poly vs. UC Santa Barbara," *Mustang News*, November 8, 2013, accessed January 26, 2016, <http://mustangnews.net/its-not-all-about-soccer/>

²⁷ UCSB Guchos, "Our Story," *UCSB Guchos*, DNF, accessed February 17, 2015, http://ucsbguchos.com/sports/m-soccer/Recruiting_Zone/Our_Story.

²⁸ Kevin Cannon, "Gaucho Soccer Continues Legacy," *The Bottom Line*, February 14, 2012, accessed February 19, 2016, <https://thebottomline.as.ucsb.edu/2012/02/gaicho-soccer-continues-legacy>.

atmosphere for future crowds at the game at home will be so Cal Poly's players can get the victory.

Soccer player's perspective on this game

For the players in this game their memories are better than most others games because of the mentality to win and how important it is. When you are motivated to play the best you can there is a reason for getting the result. For David Zamora who scored a free kick there was an additional motivation by saying "We Play for the crowd, we play for the school and we hope they come out and support us."²⁹ Without the support from the fans most players do not seem to perform at their best. It can be daunting to perform at their best when you have a lot of eyes on you but it can also motivate the players as well. It is better to play in a stadium that is full, rather in an empty one that you have no reason to try to win when you have no one to celebrate along with. In the recent installment of the "blue-green" rivalry the game winning goal came from a headed goal by Kody Wakasa to him it was one of the best things to describe by saying "The moment it went in, I knew I just had to run," as the fans poured onto the field to celebrate he kept on saying "It was incredible- it's just one game, but in that moment, it felt like I had saved the world."³⁰ Kody is a defender not a goal scorer, but he risked his defensive duties to get the needed goal and celebrate it with fans that he probably didn't recognized but thanks to a full stadium he was able to get an incredible memory out of this important game against UCSB.

While some players learn of the rivalry when they attend one of these universities there are some that grow up watching the games and later star in them. The goalkeeper Justin Vom Steeg, the son of the long standing coach Tim Vom Steeg, grew up watching the games on the

²⁹ Rachel Gellman, "Poly Edges Gauchos 2-1," *Mustang Daily*, October 18, 2007, accessed January 27, 2016, <http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=7659&context=studentnewspaper>.

³⁰ Brian Peters, "Blue vs. Green- NCAA's Greatest Soccer Rivalry," *Cal Poly Magazine*, Winter, 2016, accessed February 15, 2016, http://magazine.calpoly.edu/winter-2016/inside-NCAA-greatest-soccer-rivalry?utm_content=bufferfdc15&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

sideline and has seen the game become important for UCSB.³¹ Justin has a better understanding of the rivalry growing up watching his dad coach the team. For him to lose means a lot and especially in his last encounter by saying “I thought we deserved to win and with seven minutes left they score off a corner kick. It was a pretty crazy environment; I’m really looking for this Saturday to get some revenge and hopefully we can show them up with a big victory.”³² For the Santa Barbara players it is more important to win and their play is more physical because of the mentality to win. Justin’s teammate Fuad Adeniyi attributes the crowds for his recruitment to the program at UCSB saying “that was a big part of my recruitment, I’ve been dreaming about playing in front of [large crowds], especially our fans who we all know and love. They all pump us up for the game. It is really good playing in front of them.”³³ This is important because they start to notice how Cal Poly has improved and they are starting to take this match more serious as it has improved the competition on the field and the large attendance as well.

The fan support

The support of the fans makes this match unique for the spectator side on the stands. The fans can contribute for the team to be successful by making home field advantage matter against visiting UC, Santa Barbara. The Mustang Manglers the supporter group for the men’s soccer team attend every game they can that as the twelve man.³⁴ They not only show up for the big game of the season against Santa Barbara but also attend other games during the regular season.

³¹ Michael Jorgenson, “Blue-Green Rivalry: Chapter Two,” *Daily Nexus*, October 22, 2015, accessed February 18, 2016, <http://dailynexus.com/2015-10-22/blue-green-rivalry-chapter-2/>

³² Jorgenson, “Blue-Green Rivalry: Chapter Two,” *Daily Nexus*.

³³ Jorgenson, “Blue-Green Rivalry: Chapter Two,” *Daily Nexus*.

³⁴ Rachel Gellman, “Win Win or Bang Bang for Men’s Soccer,” *Mustang Daily*, November 16, 2007, accessed January 27, 2016, <http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=7677&context=studentnewspaper>.

What is important about them is that they committed to not only show up to the game of the season which is UCSB but other important games as well. The Manglers started out when soccer player Christian Freitas was bench by a pre-season injury and started to invite friends to the game to help show support on the stands cheering their teammates on.³⁵ The members of the supporter club follow the team and go on to know as much as they can about the team as well. For Dave Brehmer a member of the Manglers they believe to be a member is a commitment, he has said “We know soccer, the player’s names, the opponent’s player’s by names, and everyone watches every second of the game,” and because of this he is personal friends with some of the players.³⁶ It is because of this game that we know have a club that is leaving a mark on campus by showing up to the games contributing the large crowds and helping to motivate the team from the stands to beat UC, Santa Barbara.

The Manglers are leaving behind notable marks that are contributing to the culture at the campus with this rivalry. The Manglers have contributed chants to the team by making some well-known ones from the English Premier League as their own.³⁷ Out of the many chants out there they created their own and it is easy to remember “Oh Cal Poly (Oh Cal Poly)! Is wonderful (is wonderful)! Oh Cal Poly is wonderful! It’s full of Blondes, Brunettes and Soccer! Oh Cal Poly is wonderful, Oy! Oy! Oy!”³⁸ To have the whole stadium chanting these simple verses makes the atmosphere come alive although it is childish it is also easy to remember and easy to sing along. This is what the Manglers would be so proud that they were able to get a group of 20 loyal supporters and then more in the coming years. They at one point were the

³⁵ Victoria Billings, “Homecoming: Manglers, Maniacs and Mustangs,” *Mustang News*, October 25, 2011, accessed February 7, 2016, <http://mustangnews.net/homecoming-manglers-and-maniacs-show-mustang-spirit/>.

³⁶ Billings, “Homecoming: Manglers, Maniacs and Mustangs,” *Mustang News*.

³⁷ Claire Raymond, “The Mustang Manglers: Soccer Hooliganism at its Finest,” *Slo Soccer Blog*, November 3, 2009, accessed February 20, 2016, <https://slosoccerblog.wordpress.com/2009/11/03/the-mustang-manglers-soccer-hooliganism-at-its-finest/>.

³⁸ Claire Raymond, “The Mustang Manglers: Soccer Hooliganism at its Finest,” *Slo Soccer Blog*.

unofficial supporters of the team that operated as an independent.³⁹ This is why they are important as their sole concentration is soccer and their commitment has been great for others to follow. They make an impact with the fans that are attracted to the game making them more enjoyable and fun all while showing their team they support them to play good and beat USCB.

The matches are just as intense on the fans as they are for the players. Sometimes the good sportsmanship on the stands are not always in good nature and those shouldn't exist in any sporting event. The former head coach Paul Holocher noted in one game that the home fans conduct was not ideal for the game after a loss in over-time to the Gauchos.⁴⁰ It is a frustrating thing to see that after your team has had a difficulty fought out game they end up losing at the last minute, it should not be acceptable that the conduct of the fans will make them turn to making derogatory comments to the opposing team. The game against UC Santa Barbara is an important match of the season to win and it shows in the acts that were noticed by the head coach at the time to have to say something about it. While Cal Poly have done these bad acts the Gauchos are known to also participate in their own sorts. This drive to win is found on the fans as well although not in good sportsmanship it shows how competitive the games are now as well as the reaction from the crowd why it is an important game for them to see.

When the Cal Poly men's soccer team head out over to visit UC Santa Barbara the travelling fans have to be aware of the opposing fans. Although the game is played in the stadium outside in Isla Vista it is known to be a place where the home fans take their frustration out on the visiting fans. For Lisa Vance it was a mistake to park her car in (Isla Vista) as one of

³⁹ Stephanie Moore, "Who Are the Manglers," *Word Press*, October 16, 2013, Accessed February 20, 2016, <https://cpmanglers.wordpress.com/manglers/>

⁴⁰ Tribune Staff, "Poly Soccer Hooliganism Gets a Red Card-Opinion of the Tribune Tossing Bottles onto the Field and Use of Foul Language by Some of the 11,000 Fans at the Cal Poly-Gauchos Matchup was Unacceptable," *The Tribune*, October 24, 2008, B4, accessed February 17, 2016, <http://infoweb.newsbank.com/resources/doc/nb/news/1240BD2091B6D5F8?p=NewsBank>

her friends told her “Well, we probably shouldn’t have parked right in (Isla Vista) with Cal Poly stuff on your car. Especially so close to the soccer game.”⁴¹ The Gaucho fans take more hashier conduct on the opponents and although that is all year round since both schools know they are rivals it is more common around the date when the soccer game is around. This conduct is done outside the stadium showing that the importance of this game is taking serious by the UCSB students as an important game for their team to win.

The Gaucho fans are now known for one of their acts that they do on the stands when they host home games. To them it is acceptable to throw tortillas at their opponents and they especially like to do so towards Cal Poly.⁴² The fans only throw tortillas when the team scores now becoming a tradition among the fans, it is not meant to be negative towards their opponents but rather their strange crazy way they like to show their support to the soccer players.⁴³ It really is interesting that they now do this as a tradition for the supporter groups to get a good moral boost to their soccer players. Compare to Cal Poly fans having a good and simple chant that can easily be learn and replicated at each game the Gaucho fans only have to bring to the game a bag of tortillas to the game and throw them at the opposing team when they score. Both forms differ but they do them to get the best from their teams when they met each season as home field advantage applies you will do anything that can give you an edge over your rival. This rivalry has shaped their support for the home games as well allowing them to have a bigger part in their home games and it is creating a tradition as well on their campus because how important this rivalry is to them as well as it is to Cal Poly.

Conclusion

⁴¹ Halvorson, “It’s Not All About Soccer: Cal Poly vs. UC Santa Barbara,” *Mustang News*.

⁴² Jennifer Atkinson, “Why Tortilla Throwing at Soccer Games is Great,” *The Bottom Line*, October, 11, 2011, accessed February 10, 2016, <https://thebottomline.as.ucsb.edu/2011/10/why-tortilla-throwing-at-soccer-games-is-great>.

⁴³ Atkinson, “Why Tortilla Throwing at Soccer Games is Great,” *The Bottom Line*.

The Cal Poly soccer program has been improved thanks to the shared rivalry between UC Santa Barbara in recent times thanks to the crowd and the direction the program has taken to be more competitive and as well more successful. The program has been helped thanks to the fans that have contributed with their support of showing up to the games and having set an atmosphere that is enjoyed by both the players and the attending crowds. This rivalry is still improving thanks to how ambitious the program is moving forward to take the men's team in the future to higher places. Although the men's team still has much to improve to reach the heights of its rival UCSB it will get there thanks to having a successful opponent that makes Cal Poly want to improve and compete against them. The large crowds to the games are unique that it has shape this to be are most talked about rivalry we have, surprisingly in a sport that is not so well taken to the more known conservative sports in America. Along with the interest in the sport on campus that is rare in other universities and helping Cal Poly be known to be a "Soccer Campus."⁴⁴

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⁴⁴ Rickards, "The Rise," *Mustang News*.

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