

Groundbreaking sets stage for new sports complex

It's been a long time in the making, but construction for the Cal Poly sports complex has finally begun.

The 18-month, \$9 million project will soon be available for all students to use.

"The complex will provide quality, on-campus resources for student recreation and intercollegiate competition and practice," said John McCutcheon, Cal Poly athletic director.

When the project planning began in 1992, several

potential sites were being researched to replace the lost fields from the construction of the Rec Center and the Engineering Building, as well as to replace fields scheduled for future development.

In 1996 the site was selected west of the general parking lot near the ag units, and an environmental impact report was requested. After viewing the EIR, plans were revised in order to widen the buffer zone around the complex.

In 1997 the city of San Luis Obispo reversed its \$3 million commitment. In response, Athletics increased its stake from \$3 million to \$4.1 million with help from a contract with Pepsi, and ASI extended

its \$7 tuition increase from 15 to 27 years, increasing the student share from \$3 million to \$4.9 million.

Also instrumental in the sports complex and the renovation of Mott Gym [see story on page 23] was the Cal Poly Foundation. It provided the financing vehicle for both projects by backing the loans that will be repaid through capital campaign proceeds.

While construction is under way, \$1.8 million is still needed to complete the project. For further information, contact Chuck Sleeper, associate athletic director, at 805/756-7194.

"This project represents the culmination of a tremendous amount of work by our Capital Campaign Steering Committee, university administrators, staff, and our students," said Sleeper. "This sports complex is vitally important to our program's future success and we're looking forward to dedicating these tremendous facilities." **CP**



Enjoying sports groundbreaking ceremonies are (left to right) Bill Boldt, vice president for advancement; Dan Geis, ASI president; John McCutcheon, athletic director; Warren J. Baker, Cal Poly president; and Robin Baggett (BUS '73).



Chuck Sleeper, associate athletic director

"With this partnership between ASI and Athletics, ASI will have use of the fields 80 percent of the scheduled time,"

said Rick Johnson, Associated Students Inc. associate executive director.

Plans for the complex include stadiums for baseball and softball, complete with home-team locker rooms, coaches' offices, pitching and hitting instructional areas, electronic scoreboards, public-address systems, and a state-of-the-art lighting system.

Also included in the plans are multipurpose fields that will allow for simultaneous use of six full-size soccer fields, or three soccer fields and three softball fields, lighting for all of the nearly 1.3 million square feet of turf that make up the multipurpose fields, and restroom facilities and drainage and irrigation systems.

Chargers owner gifts \$100,000 to new sports complex

Just a few days before its groundbreaking, the Cal Poly sports complex received a major boost with San Diego Chargers owner Alex Spanos' contribution of \$100,000.

"I was inspired to help with this important project because of my fondness for Cal Poly and my love of sports. I believe a modern athletic plant is vital in providing a well-rounded education for Cal Poly students now and in the future," said Spanos.

"This donation is part of a capital campaign for athletics," said John McCutcheon, Cal Poly athletic director. "We have been talking with the Spanoses for a little over a year."

Bobby Beathard (**PE** '59), general manager for

the Chargers, is honorary co-chair of the Athletic Department's campaign.

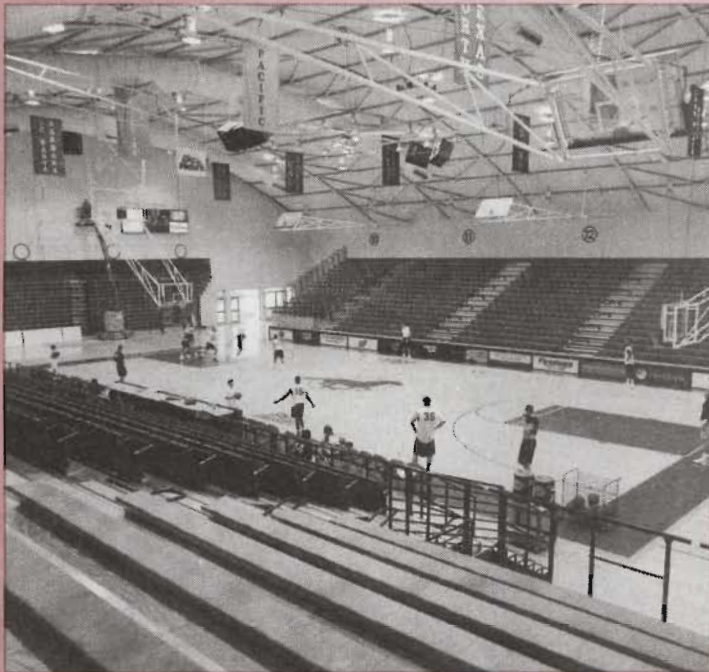
Spanos, who attended Cal Poly before graduating with a degree from University of the Pacific, is well

known for the many contributions he makes to organizations each year. "A number of people worked diligently to bring Mr. Spanos' gift to fruition and we're very pleased to have his endorsement and support of our campaign," said Chuck Sleeper, Cal Poly associate athletic director.

With his gift, Spanos joins 14 other contributors in being recognized as a founder of the sports complex. All founders will receive recognition on a donor plaque in the plaza area of the complex. **CP**



Alex Spanos



Mott Gym renovated

Mott Gym, home to the Cal Poly men's and women's basketball teams and the women's volleyball and men's wrestling teams, has received a face-lift. The most significant improvement is the seating, which will now hold just over 3,000 fans. Spectators will no longer have to endure the old wooden bleachers that have been a part of the gym since it opened in 1960. New chairback seats on the home side and part of the baseline, and comfortable bench seating on both baseline and the student section, have made the bleachers obsolete. The seats match Cal Poly's forest green school color and give a new "arena" feel to the gym. (Photo courtesy Cal Poly Sports Information Office) **CP**

Nation takes notice of Mustangs

Cal Poly's basketball program is gaining national recognition.

The Mustangs, who began the season with a conference high of five starters, were selected Western Division favorites in November by both coaches and media. Of the 12 first-place votes, Cal Poly captured nine. The same month, five of seven college basketball magazines picked the Mustangs for the top of the Western Division conference.

Magazines giving Cal Poly a first-place ranking were *Lindy's*, *Basketball News*, *Preview Sports*, *Dick Vital's College Basketball*, and *Athlon*. *The Sporting News* and *Street & Smith* ranked Cal Poly second behind Long Beach State and the University of the Pacific, respectively.

Also receiving high marks were individuals from the team. Cal Poly junior Mike Wozniak was picked as an all-conference selection by all seven magazines, with one vote for player of the year, and "best NBA prospect" by *Lindy's*, and "best shooter" by *The Sporting News*. *The Basketball News* ranked Wozniak 69th of 100 players to watch: "He's not imposing, and he's not a great athlete, but he's tough and gutsy — and oh, he can shoot."

Sophomore Chris Bjorklund was repeatedly included as a first-team selection, with a few second-team selections, and point guard Ben Larson was dubbed "best playmaker" in *The Sporting News*.

Preview Sports also named Coach Jeff Schneider as its pre-season pick for coach of the year. **CP**

Basketball team welcomes three new recruits

The Cal Poly basketball team should be getting a few new faces next year.

According to a variety of sources, the Mustangs are expected to sign three recruits who are entering their senior high school seasons: Mark Campbell, the 6-foot-3 point guard from Mount Vernon High School in Washington who led the team to a third-place finish at the Cal 3A tournament; John Hoffart, a 6-foot-10, 235-pound center from Davis High School who was rated by West Coast Hoops as "perhaps the most underrated big man in the country

and a major pickup for Big West"; and Brandon Hulst, a 6-foot-4 wing from Hushson High School. "We have three guys who have committed verbally," said Coach Jeff Schneider. "If we can get it taken care of early, it helps put all of our focus and our energy into the season."

If all three recruits sign, it will complete the recruiting class for the 1999-2000 season. Ben Larson, Ross Ketcham, and Steve Fleming are all entering their senior seasons. **CP**

A new weight room under construction . . .
 was the result of generous in-kind contributions from Chamblin-Landes Construction Inc. of Paso Robles, Thoma Electric, All-Pro Dry Wall, Copeland's Sports, Cal Poly Facility Services, and several construction workers. Cal Poly Athletics will enjoy the 3,000-square-foot weight room this spring. Donor contributions will assist in the purchase of strength training equipment. If you are interested in supporting the project, please call 805/756-7194. **CP**



NCAA rewards Cal Poly players

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has fully certified Cal Poly's NCAA Division I athletic program.

The national organization that oversees most of the intercollegiate sports in the country declared that Cal Poly is "operating its athletic program in substantial conformity with operating principles adopted by the Association's Division I membership."

According to Cal Poly officials, NCAA certification is similar to gaining accreditation common to most of the university's academic programs.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment for Cal Poly only four years after we joined the ranks of the NCAA Division I," said John McCutcheon, Cal Poly athletic director.

The certification process began almost two years ago. Cal Poly faculty, staff, and students submitted self-study reports along with findings of outside reviewers who evaluated the program during a four-day visit to the campus.

Program evaluators for the NCAA also looked at the athletic program's academic and financial integrity, rules compliance, and commitment to equity as measured against national NCAA standards.

"The certification shows Cal Poly's commitment to policies and practices of the NCAA," McCutcheon said. "I'm very proud of everyone who has contributed to enhance the athletic program and brought us to this point." **CP**

SPORTS ROUNDUP

FOOTBALL

The 1998 fall sports season came to a close as the football team defeated Liberty University 45-35 on Hall of Fame Weekend. Senior quarterback **Chad Henry** tied a school record with four touchdown passes in the game, while junior tailback **Craig Young** had 109 yards rushing and 101 yards receiving in the game. Plagued by injuries for most of the season, Cal Poly finished 3-8. Senior running back **Antonio Warren** capped his career off as Cal Poly's all-time career rushing leader with 3,834 yards. The team also earned wins over Western New Mexico and Saint Mary's this year.

SOCCER

The men's and women's soccer teams narrowly missed berths in the NCAA playoffs after strong seasons.

- The **men's team** finished 11-7-2 overall and fourth in the MPSF with a 6-3 record. Highlighting the year was a 1-0 win over number 8 Stanford at Mustang Stadium. **Martin Haynes** and **Brian Lange** led the team with six goals each this fall.
- The **women's team** finished 9-6-3 overall on the year, suffering just one loss in conference play (5-1-3), losing to eventual champ University of the Pacific. Five players earned all-conference honors, led by standout **Gina Ocegüera**, **Jill Nelson**, **Andrea Sievers**, and goalie **Natalia Garcia**. Ocegüera, who missed the first two games while participating on the Mexican national team, led the team with 11 goals in 12 games this year.

VOLLEYBALL

Women's volleyball finished the season 16-9 overall and 7-7 in the Big West. Six of the conference losses were to nationally ranked teams, including number 1 Long Beach State. Senior setter **Jill Butts** capped her career with a single season best of 1,119 assists. Junior middle blocker **Kari De Soto** led the team with 343 kills and 132 blocks.

TRACK

The **men's and women's cross country teams** had one of the best seasons since moving to Division I in 1994.

- The **men's team** finished no lower than third in each meet this year and captured the Big West Conference championship in November. They also turned in an impressive showing at the NCAA Regionals, finishing seventh overall.
- The **women's team** was sixth at the Big West Championship and 12th at the NCAA West Regionals. **CP**