

Lehman hits the green for golf at Cal Poly

Melissa Lehman (SOCS '90) has fond memories of Cal Poly and San Luis Obispo. Her husband, Tom, kind of likes the place, too.

That attachment has given the university a \$50,000 surprise shot in its golfing arm.

Melissa (Zoutendyk) Lehman was a student at Cal Poly in the late '80s. Tom Lehman is one

of the world's top golfers.

So when Tom, as part of a payout last fall between U.S. Ryder Cup players and the Professional Golfers Association — the PGA — had to decide which universities should receive \$100,000, he picked his own alma mater, Minnesota, and his wife's.

The money is to be used as part of a PGA "growth-of-the-game" initiative, an effort to introduce students to golf as both "a business tool and a sport for life." Under the settlement, 14 universities are sharing \$1.3 million.

Cal Poly Athletics Director John McCutcheon said Cal Poly is still

waiting to hear how the money is to be used. "[It] will help us promote the sport of golf on the Central Coast and add to the momentum created by our new golf programs."

Tom and his brother, Jim, learned more about the San Luis Obispo area last fall, when they played in the Straight Down Fall Classic at the SLO country club, a tournament that helps support Cal Poly's golf teams.

Cal Poly reinstated its men's golf program — defunct since 1975 — in September 1999 and created a new women's golf team. The teams are beginning intercollegiate competition this fall. **CP**

Roberts leads vision for Cal Poly golf

The last time Cal Poly had a golf team, in 1975, one of the players was a natural resources management sophomore assisting at the San Luis Obispo country

club. His name was Loren Roberts.

In July 2000, three weeks after his 45th birthday, Roberts won his second Greater Milwaukee Open with that event's lowest overall score and biggest victory margin.

Earlier this year Roberts was hitting the ball well enough to tie for third at The Masters — his second-best finish in a major tournament in his 19-year professional career — and take top-five finishes in three other tourneys. He finished the U.S. Open in June in a four-

way tie for eighth place as Tiger Woods made golf history with a 15-stroke win.

It's accuracy, not long shots, that have won six PGA tournaments and placed Roberts 23rd in all-time winnings in the Professional Golfers Association with more than \$8 million. His drives hit the fairway about 80 percent of the time, among the top averages on the PGA tour, and he's known for his putting.

The San Luis Obispo native, now living in Memphis, Tenn., still keeps his hometown ties. He's a regular in the Straight Down Fall Classic Invitational, an annual tournament that began in 1997 at the San Luis Obispo country club. **CP**

Sleeper signs on as assistant director of Sun Angel Foundation

On June 1 Cal Poly Associate Athletic Director Chuck Sleeper began his official duties as assistant director of Arizona State University's (ASU) Sun Angel Foundation.

Sleeper came to Cal Poly in 1992 and was involved in the university's transition to Division I status. He created the Mustang

Athletic Fund, which grew to nearly \$1 million annually, and led the "Building the Advantage" capital campaign, which funded the construction of a new sports complex and weight room and the renovation of Mott Gymnasium, and provided endowment support for student-athlete scholarships.

In his new position, Sleeper

will oversee the daily operations of the Sun Angel Foundation, ASU's athletic fund-raising organization, which currently raises \$4.4 million annually and has a full-time staff of ten. Sleeper will also be responsible for planned giving and endowments for the ASU Department of Athletics. **CP**

Dave Gill: Top grower, top golfer

Dave Gill (CRSC '73) of King City played his first round of golf on San Luis Obispo's par-3 Laguna Lake course on a study break. He picked up more crop science expertise when he earned his bachelor's degree.

Fertile ground in both cases.

Since his graduation Gill has become a successful agribusiness leader. With his brother, Steve (CRSC '75), he owns Gill's Onion, the world's largest producer of fresh-processed onions. With their additional agricultural enterprises in Monterey, Ventura, and Imperial counties, Dave and Steve are also among California's largest growers of celery, cauliflower, head lettuce, and broccoli. Their customers include the Dole Corp., Tanimura and Antle, and Growers Express. Gross sales for the companies

owned by the Gill brothers exceed \$100 million annually.

Dave Gill's enthusiasm for Cal Poly's athletics and agriculture programs has resulted in gifts to support student athletes and student interns.

But it's his golf that's been getting the attention lately. National attention. Gill and professional partner Skip Kendall won the professional-amateur competition at February's AT&T Pro-Am tournament at Pebble Beach. Gill was also named the most valuable amateur.

Gill, who plays with a 3.5 handicap index, and his pro teammate tied the one-day all-time tournament low with a 58 in the third round and finished four strokes ahead of Tiger Woods and his partner. Gill hit four under par

on the tourney's last five holes. More than 200 of Gill's friends and business associates cheered him on to victory.

"The support of my family and friends helped me focus and play the best golf of my life," he said.

That's not unusual, considering that Gill thrives on competition.

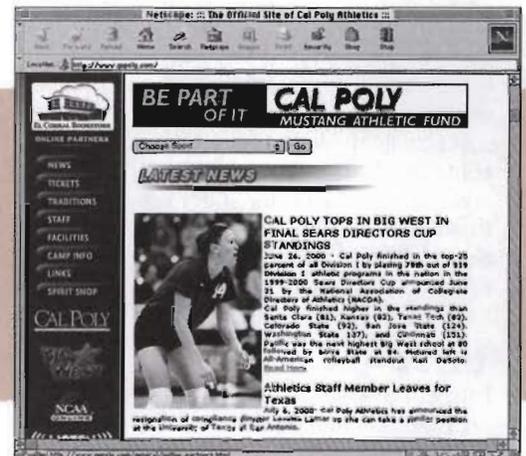
"I originally got serious about golf because I love challenges," he said.

He also plays golf as a way to build business networks, using it regularly to develop relationships with suppliers, customers, and other agriculture leaders.

"It's a great meeting place," Gill said. "Some of my largest business deals were initiated on the golf course." **CP**

Athletics Go Online

The Cal Poly Athletics Department unveiled its new official sports Web site at www.GoPoly.com, created by graphic design senior Gina Cusano as part of her senior project. Alumni and fans can get the latest schedules, rosters, statistics, and game results of their favorite teams, as well as listen to selected games on the Internet and sign up for weekly e-mail sports updates. **CP**



Cal Poly finishes in Sears Cup top third

Cal Poly finished 79th out of 319 Division I athletic programs nationwide in the June final standings of the 1999-2000 Sears Director's Cup announced by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

The Sears Director's Cup honors institutions maintaining a broad-based program that achieves

success in both men's and women's sports. Each school is awarded points in a pre-determined number of sports, with standings based on the size of the bracket (the largest comprising 64 teams).

Bolstered by six sports earning points at the NCAA Championship competition, Cal Poly earned 198.5 total team points in the

Sears standings. Women's soccer ranked highest at 17th nationwide after earning its first-ever Division I playoff berth and advancing to the second round. Men's track and field, women's volleyball, women's indoor track, and wrestling also earned points in the standings. **CP**

SPORTS ROUNDUP Jason Sullivan

BASEBALL

- Cal Poly's baseball team started slowly but turned last season into one of the most exciting in recent years with a late run for the NCAA playoffs. Led by senior slugger Steve Wood and senior pitcher Joe Smith, the Mustangs entered the final month of the season by making a run for third place in the league standings. Wood was helped by the Mustangs to an eight-game winning streak by hitting 14 home runs. He became the new all-time career home-run leader with 39 career roundtrippers. Smith earned player-of-the-week honors with a 2-1 win over nationally-ranked Cal State Fullerton.

SOFTBALL

- Led by sophomore Nicole Dansby, the Mustangs finished the 2000 season on a strong note by winning two of three games against rival Sacramento State. The left fielder led the team with a .327 batting average this season, scoring 24 runs, and led the Big West with four triples. Cal Poly concluded the season with a 15-35 overall record, 3-21 in the Big West in what will be the final year of softball at Mustang Field. The team will open the 2001 season at their new home at the Sports Complex.

MEN'S TENNIS

- Led by senior Brett Masi and junior Brandon Fallon, Cal Poly put together an 11-10 overall record and went 1-4 in the Big West. The Mustangs lost to UC Irvine in the first round of the conference championships to end their season. Masi, the No. 1 singles player, went 13-7 in dual matches (18-10 overall), finishing his Cal Poly career with a 59-31 record. One of the highest-winning players in school history, Masi was named to the All-Big-West First Team. Fallon, who played most of his matches at the No. 2 position, went 13-5 in dual matches (15-6 overall).

WOMEN'S TENNIS

- With one of the youngest teams in the Big West, the Mustangs finished the season at 3-6 in conference play (7-15 overall). In the first round of the Big West Championships, the Mustangs fell short in a hard-fought match to Long Beach State. Angie Bagheri led the team at the No. 2 singles spot with a 9-9 dual match record (15-11 overall). At the No. 4 position, freshman Danielle Hustedt came on strong at the end of the season with an 8-1 dual record (9-2 overall).

TRACK & FIELD

- Led by senior All-American Kaaron Conwright, the men's and women's track and field teams placed second overall and fourth, respectively, at the 2000 Big West Conference Track and Field Championships. Conwright successfully defended his 100m championship title with a first-place run of 10.12, and came home the conference champion in the 200m at 20.56. Earlier in the season senior David Beals posted an NCAA provisional mark in the 3000m steeplechase, with Jon Mayhew in the men's shot put. (At the NCAA Championships, Conwright placed third overall in the 100m finals, running a school-record 10.10 at the championships.) The women were led by sophomore Kristin Bryden in the shot put, discus, and hammer. Senior Melissa Flynn was strong in the 800m (2:07.03), while sophomore Jessica Dalberg owned the team's best marks in the 1500m (4:37.83) and 3000m (10:09.08).

FOOTBALL

- Former Cal Poly football standout Kamil Loud, who played with the Buffalo Bills for the last two seasons, signed with the Atlanta Falcons in April. He played at Cal Poly in 1994-97 and holds the school record for career receiving yards (3,124), receptions (169), receiving touchdowns in a career (26), and receiving yards in a season (1,098).
- Also in April, former football standout Antonio Warren, who played at Cal Poly in 1994-98, signed a two-year contract with the Calgary Stampeders of the Canadian Football League. Warren's 3,834 career yards rushing is the second-highest at the university, where he still holds the record for career rushing attempts (718) and is second in career rushing touchdowns (30).
- Head football coach Larry Welsh named Jeff Brown, Rick Clark, and James Podewell assistant football coaches. Brown, Cal Poly's defensive coordinator, comes to Cal Poly from Saint Mary's College, where he was an assistant coach in 1995-99. A former two-sport athlete at USC in 1980-84, Brown was a Pac-10 Honorable Mention as a linebacker with the Trojans and was voted MVP and Most Inspirational. Clark, a three-year letter-winner at Central Washington University, previously coached the defensive line at Cal Poly in 1984-86 as well as the linebackers in 1987 and tight ends in 1988. Podewell, coach for the Mustangs' defensive backs, comes to Cal Poly from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he was an assistant coach in 1997-99.
- The Cal Poly football team signed seven junior college transfers who were in camp for spring practice and 20 high school recruits who signed letters of intent to attend Cal Poly and participate in football. **CP**