Cal Poly cyclists wheel in at first place

By John King

Senior Staff Writer

Sen. Bob Dole took a com­
manding lead in the Republican
presidential race Tuesday with
an eight-state primary sweep
against fast-fading Pat
Buchanan and a shrinking
field of challengers.

"I always felt in my heart it
was going to happen, but you
never know until the people
vote," Dole said in an inter­
course interview, confident
now in the third bid for the
Republican nomination
would be successful.

Anecstatic Dole urged Republi­
cans to rally around him and
turn their fire at President
Bush.

"I think it is a big, big boost," the
Senate majority leader said,
predicting he would handily win
New York's primary on Thursday
and carry momentum into next
week's 'Super Tuesday' contests
in Texas, Florida and five other
states.

"I think we are in a very
strong position to win the
nomination," he said, and for
once there was no voice in dis­
sent.

Dole won primaries in Geor­
gia, Vermont, Connecticut,
Maryland, Maine and Massachu­
tes for a 'Junior Tuesday' sweep
after 8-state sweep

The Cal Poly Wheeleman were on a roll at the Cal Poly Classic cycling competition last weekend — their performance there propelled them to first place in overall conference standing / Daily photo by Dawn Kal­
mar.

"In the Men's A race, 50 per­
cent (of the riders) went down; it
was basically survival out
there," he said.

Philosophy junior Alex
Smith said although he likes
the competition aspect the best,
the danger adds adventure to
the sport.

"When you're coming into a
curve at 38 mph, it's really
scary to be in a pack because
you never know what they're
goin' to do. They're kind of like
downtown L.A. drivers," Smith
said.

Smith was pleased at how
the weekend went. He placed
first in the Critérium in the
Men's A category, second in the
team time trial and third in the
hill climb.

"I'm glad it all came together
for me," Smith said.

Warren said competing on a
home course made a difference.

"We were really prepared for
See WHEELMEN page 3
MUSTANG DAILY

Today

SAM’s hiking boot sale is taking place on Dexter Lawn from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"Agриevew' organizational meeting is taking place at 7 a.m. in building 8, room 123. Anyone interested in participating can attend.


Agreeview an evening of Poetry, Fiction and Dance" at 7 p.m. in the Cal Poly Theatre. Admission is free.

Agenda Items: to Natasha Conns, Graphic Arts 226, Cal Poly 93407

*Please submit information at least three days prior to the event***

Agenda information will be printed exactly as it is received (i.e. spelling, times and dates).

Connection at Cal Poly.

Due to the excessive demand, not all items submitted to the Agenda section will be printed.

Agenda Items: to brett taylor, 6/20/96

"Check out this wireless mode that works on the Ricochet campus network."

"It’s cool since I can get on-line without going to the computer lab."

"It gives me total Internet access and campus network access without an Ethernet connection."

"And no per-packet, per-minute charges. A low flat rate for unlimited airline."
SAFE-RIDE: Donations needed to keep prices low

From page 1

WHEELMEN: Team gears up for championships

From page 1

Japanese exchange students test out a Cal Poly education

By Jessica Yamada
Ski Staff Writer

Is Cal Poly more rigorous than schools in Japan?

Schools in Japan are reputed to have intense academic curriculums that put tremendous pressure on students. However, Japanese exchange students on campus said they are studying more at Cal Poly than they ever did at Japanese universities.

"They study hard," 28-year-old Hiroshi Motohashi said about Cal Poly students. "Japanese college students don't study a lot, only before final exams."

Delmar Dingus, a soil science professor and the director of the International Agriculture Development Program, said academics in Japan are emphasized in elementary, junior high and high schools.

He said once a student in Japan passes a college entrance exam, it's downhill from there.

"When they get in, they are virtually guaranteed to graduate," Dingus said. "University time is for growing socially and emotionally."

Motohashi and six other men ages 20 to 26 are studying at Cal Poly for six weeks as part of a two-year internship program sponsored by the Japanese Agriculture Exchange Council in Seattle.

"The purpose of the program is to provide academic and cultural studies for Cal Poly and international students," Dingus said.

The students, who are living with local families, are enrolled in four courses at Cal Poly: English conversation, farm management, fruit production and computers.

They also have the option to take up to two other courses of their choice.

Motohashi said he liked Cal Poly because of the land area available for agriculture students to experiment with and the facilities available to get hands-on experience.

"We just don't have enough land in Japan," Motohashi said.

The students are also helping other Cal Poly students who are studying the Japanese language.

Yoshiko Tachibana, a Japanese language instructor, said the Japanese students come to her class three times a week to help her students in conversation and homework.

One of Tachibana's students, electrical engineering senior Leonard Pimentel, said he enjoys their help.

"It has been beneficial to work on pronunciation. We also get to learn their train of thought and how they communicate," Pimentel said.

Tachibana said it gives the students a chance to interact with each other and to talk about cultural differences.

Before coming to Cal Poly, the students worked on various farms in the Western United States. These experiences, plus their time at Cal Poly, may prove to be beneficial for them.

Ago, a multimillion-dollar seed distributor, wants to hire one of the Japanese students to be its representative in Japan, Dingus said.

"They want to hire someone who has experience in American agriculture and knows English or Spanish," Dingus said.

When they return to Japan, many of the students are planning to work in international farming and be involved in trade ventures with the United States.

Some Cal Poly students also learned about agriculture in a foreign land.

Soil science senior Ben De Liema spent three months in Japan living with a family who grew persimmons, vegetables and rice.

"It was so amazing," De Liema said. "I was in rural Japan living with this family I never met before. My experience was so positive, it really changed my life."

De Liema said he gained a new perspective of agriculture and learned to appreciate the intimate relationship between the land and the farming families and how methods are passed on to the children.
Deception as a fine art

by Kurt Horner

Reporters love to exaggerate. It helps the newsmen sell papers or increase ratings. But it also enables them to advance an agenda, if they desire to do so. The claim media to be unbiased, but in reality a person's bias is reflected in anything they write, no matter how much they try otherwise.

The main problem with media bias is not the bias itself. Partisan newspapers used to be very common, and convenient edits often remove critical information that much they try otherwise.

The media claim to be unbiased, but in reality a person's principle and refuse to give in.

Much to my dismay, the world has not changed as a result of my commentary. It's still a self-full world, where Short people are still living their lives on tiptoes.

Most recently, I've found either the bias to be a pain. The vertically impaired should make it a point to not get caught in the front of the bus when there are no seats left. Reaching the overhead bar is a joke. If I wanted to practice dislocating my shoulder or redress my skills on the parallel bars, I would have gone out for gymnastics, where Short people reign supreme.

The pit is no place for those who are vertically challenged. It's a simple fact of science or of common sense that if you're under 5-foot-5 and moshing, you're going to end up on your butt most of the time.

One place where Short people don't reign supreme is the family. I've found riding the bus to be a pain. Most recently, I've found riding the bus to be a pain. I've been off my feet most of the time.

Backpacks and robbers

I would just like to give an open invitation to my robber friend; let's meet for lunch. I'm buying, and you are giving me my notes back. We better make it this week because I have to study for finals. You can keep the two textbooks. Buybacks are almost here and you deserve a good grade.

Cheers for Poly Men Cagers

Editor, I would like to take this time to congratulate the men's basketball team for a thrilling season. Coach Schneider did a spectacular job recruiting some great young players. Also, his up-and-down style of basketball perfectly suited the capabilities of his players. This style led to an astonishing turn around from last year that will be remembered for a long time. I am excited to see how you use this year's success towards a better season next year. Who knows? N.L.T?

Jason Dudum
Business administration freshman

Advising Director: Matthew Boyd
AJ Representative: Ryan Ari, at work, fantasies;
Brian Bonier, Monique LeFors, Randi Levine, Jason Lind,
Nicollette Montgomery, Mitch Peters, Anne Sarangi,
fans John Taedle Jr.
Jeff Thompson, Will Vanderheiden, Eric Vasquez,
Cash Manager: Susan O'Boyle
Cash Manager: Maria Brozen
Jarette Jopek, Jessica Giandrea, Alma Rodriquez
Grounation: Ben Melin.
Business Manager: A.J. Schmeehan
What a Joy Ride

As an incredible season concludes, Head Coach Jeff Schneider and the team are working toward another year. Next stop: The Big West.
The Sporting Journal

**Tourney favorites size up**

BY TOM WEIR

LEXINGTON, Ky. - Separated by an hour's worth of bluegrass-lined highway on Saturday, the nation's No. 1 and 2-ranked college basketball teams put the finishing touches on their once-again regular seasons Saturday.

And though they will be the NCAA tournament favorites, Kentucky and Massachusetts are taking distinctly different paths into the postseason.

No. 1 team should be described as reeling, but that tag nearly fits No. 2 Massachusetts. In their last three games, the Minutemen lost to Washington, were dragged into overtime by St. Joseph's and then barely survived Saturday's 53-52 victory over Mercer.

Normally, Massachusetts would own open spots for beating a top-20 team that was being urged on by a record 20,076 vocal fans at Freedom Hall.

But if the Minutemen truly are bound for the Final Four in Louisville, they shouldn't have struggled on a day when two of Massachusetts' best shooters were out for two and 10 and Massachusetts owned the boards, 41-28.

No. 1 team, meanwhile, became the first Southeastern Conference team in 40 years to go undefeated in league play. With a 101-63 rout of Vanderbilt, Kentucky kept its average victory margins in SEC games to a whopping 24.2 points.

After just 2:32, the 26-1 Wildcats were up 25-0 and had seen Walter McCarty realize his fantasy of putting a 360-degree spin on a dunk in front of 24,257 fans at Rupp Arena.

No where does this leave Nos. 1 and 2 as confidence tournaments approach?

**Stretching out:** Massachusetts' Marcus Camby has been contained in past games

Right about here: The size factor: After losing to Massachusetts in November as 6-foot-11 Marcus Camby scored 32 points, the rap was the Wildcats couldn't handle big men. Since then, 6-11 Erick Dampier of Mississippi State and 7-0 Steve Hamer of Tennessee passed little problem.

As for Kentucky, teams are starting to learn that while you can't shoot him over (five blocks against Louisville), you have a shot at going through him, as Louisvillle's Samaki Walker proved a couple of times.

As Kentucky coach Rick Pitino says, "Right now what I'm seeing is we're getting to be ready for physical games in the tournament, and that's what we'll go back and work on." Too much too little depth: As Kentucky coach Rick Pitino says of his 10-deep team, "So many people thought we were going to self-destruct because we haven't had a four-game win streak in the SEC since the start of the 1990-91 season.

UCF connected on 12 of 24 3-pointers in its victory over Mercer on Saturday. It's a trend the Wildcats were too accurate from long range since they were just 15 of 38 through the first 15 games.

Seventy-something: Georgetown crushed Villanova as the Hoyas scored 106 points against the Wildcats at the USAR Arena. Nova allowed more than 70 points in each of its three games since Kerry Kittles was on the side since.

In the 10 games prior to his suspension, his opponent scored more than 60 points against Villanova.

**Knight time is the right time**

Thanks to its first three-game win streak in the TAAC Tournament, Central Florida got an invitation to the NCAA Tournament. The Knights haven't had a four-game win streak since the start of the 1999-01 season.

UCF connected on 12 of 24 3-pointers in its victory over Mercer on Saturday. It's a trend the Wildcats were too accurate from long range since they were just 15 of 38 through the first 15 games.

**Trendy**

Form held in the MEAC title game. Delaware State defeated Coppin State 69-56 as the Bulldogs improved to 19-3 in games when they score more than 60 points. Coppin, which was 18-3 in games where they scored 70 or more, fell to 1-17 in games where they didn't reach

had so much talent," and there would be resentment over playing time. But even Jeff Shepard, a starter last season and a reserve this year, has been all smiles.

Calipari is tired of hearing that eight beds seldom do. He notes that television time-outs during the NCAA tournament last as long as five minutes and 50 seconds and says, "I think we're going to be freer than we've been all year.

 Blowouts or nail-biters?: Kentucky never trudled in the second half of an SEC game, and had only one single-digit victory, against Georgia. Pitino dismisses talk of Kentucky not being game-ready as fill-time chatter for commentators.

In keeping with its "Refuse to Lose" slogan, four NCAA tournament victories have come into overtime.

Deep down inside, when it's crunch time, you play it in our minds that we'll find a way to pull it out," says Camby.

Nervous: Pitino is unhappy about a Sports Illustrated cover story that portrayed him as overly obsessed with winning.

The view from outside: Louisville coach Denny Crum has lost to Kentucky in Massachusetts. He says, "I think Kentucky has more overall talent and depth, probably more size, but they're both too good, too many people so badly, it's kind of tough to say how good they are." 

Where are you going, Mr. Wenzel?

As Kentucky coach Rick Pitino notes, "I'm seeing is that we've got to be ready for physical games in the tournament, and that's what we'll go back and work on." Too much too little depth: As Kentucky coach Rick Pitino says of his 10-deep team, "So many people thought we were going to self-destruct because we

as for Camby, teams are starting to learn that while you can't shoot him over (five blocks against Louisville), you have a shot at going through him, as Louisvillle's Samaki Walker proved a couple of times.

As Kentucky coach Rick Pitino says, "Right now what I'm seeing is we're getting to be ready for physical games in the tournament, and that's what we'll go back and work on."
Let the frenzy begin

By MARK ARMSTRONG
THE SOUTHERN JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

A coach's work is never finished. Just when you thought Cal Poly men's basketball Coach Jeff Schneider would kick off his polished loafers and pull the handle on his La-z-boy to watch some March Madness on television, the coach is hitting the road again. It's time to sell Cal Poly.

And with the kind of season that the Mustangs just completed, Schneider doesn't think that's going to be too tough. He's got it all planned out. The signing frenzy of new players begins in the middle of April, just in time for prospective students to get a glimpse of Cal Poly during Open House weekend.

Take them to the beach just for good measure, introduce them to the rest of the team and they're all his.

It worked last year. Six of the seven prospective students who Schneider brought to Cal Poly signed a letter of intent.

"I don't want to just sit back and rest," Schneider said. "We need to continue to build."

Schneider will leave Wednesday on a crusade throughout California, Texas and Utah to start going down the road. 

His ideal prospect? Probably a 7-foot-8, 450 pound freshman from suiting up immediately. But the chances are slim that Schneider will land one.

His ideal prospect? Probably a 7-foot-8, 450 pounder with an incredible game beyond the three-point line. But the chances aren't too good that anyone is going to find this mythical creature.

But if anyone could do it, it would be Schneider. The coach has built a reputation throughout the country from his work at Tulsa and Washington State for his ability to snag great recruits.

"I was fortunate enough to be in some programs where we recruited well and established some good contacts," Schneider said.

The coach will look to recruit three new players for the upcoming season, and Schneider hopes to find some big players to help the team under the basket with rebounding.

The coach won't have to look very far for one big guy.

Freshman Russ Bryden, who redshirted for the Mustangs this season, will be a huge help next season, according to the coach.

Schneider said that the only thing that kept the 6-9, 225 pound freshman from suiting up this season was senior David Sternlight's performance as a walk-on.

"Russ will be better as a fifth-year senior than a first-year freshman," Schneider said. 

The coach also has high hopes for freshman Ross Ketcham, who stepped out of the shadows of Mission Prep High School to give the team a big player who can shoot from the outside.

"I really like to have the big man who can shoot the three," Schneider said of Ketcham. "He'll just get bigger and stronger."

Another area of focus for Schneider was to find a second point-guard to help out freshman Ben Larson.

Schneider found his man last August.

Schneider signed Mitch Ohnstad, of Faribault, Minn. on Nov. 10, the early-signing deadline.

"He's a player I'm really glad we got early," Schneider said. "The 6-2, 180-pound point guard, who says he patterns his game with the likes of Steve Nash, is the third all-time leading scorer in Minnesota history.

That will make two soft-spo­

ken, midwestern point guards for the Mustangs.

"He'll make an immediate impact," Schneider said of Ohnstad. "He will be a strong candidate for newcomer of the year in the Big West."

Ohnstad had narrowed his choices down to Iowa State, Michigan State, Montana State, St. Mary's and Cal Poly. Schneider had left the door open for Ohnstad.

Schneider signed Mitch Ohnstad, of Faribault, Minn. on Nov. 10, the early-signing deadline.

"He seemed really enthusiastic with the direction," Ohnstad said of Schneider. "He felt he could turn them into winners. I liked everything."

Ohnstad averaged 27 points per game during his junior year and shot 40 percent from the three-point line. He had been keeping up with Cal Poly's progress as much as he could from his home 40 miles south of the Twin Cities, but he has kept his mind on his high school team, which has a 23-1 record heading into the state playoffs.

Ohnstad said that Schneider's youthful demeanor helps the coach relate better to the students he's trying to recruit than older coaches.

"Being a former player him­

self, he knows what the players are like today," Ohnstad said. Back at home, Schneider plans to send the team to the weight room this spring and summer. The players aren't expecting much of a rest.

"We're going to try to work really hard in the weight room," freshman guard Ben Larson said, who's looking to put on a couple of pounds during the off-season.

Schneider isn't looking toatten­

ish his prized point-guard too much, because he said Larson's strength is in his small size and quickness.

Schneider said that bulk will be the key word for many of the other returning players, however.

Meanwhile, Schneider will be out making phone calls, visiting homes, and leading some private campus tours. This year's recruiting strategy won't be the blind shot-in-the-dark method Schneider said he had to use last year.

"I didn't know how some of our players would perform," the coach said of his first year find­

ing players. "I know what our needs are now. We'll be very selective."

With a 16-13 season record to boast rather than a 1-26 record, Schneider is confident those needs will be filled quickly.

Maybe next year: Freshman Steve Fleming consoles teammate Ben Larson after Cal Poly's loss to Southern Utah. The Mustangs will compete for the Big West title next year.

Seeing the lane: Junior guard Shanta Cotright makes his base-line move.
Lewis falling behind
By JILL LIEBER
USA Today
ATLANTA - When Carl Lewis finished last in his opening heat of the 60-meter dash Saturday at the USA/Mobil Indoor Track and Field Championships at the Georgia Dome, some members of the media suggested the impending interview with Lewis would be his retirement party.

At 34 and in his 14th season on the world-class track scene, Lewis is on the downside of his brilliant career and, seemingly, fading fast.

Once the world's fastest man, having set a world record in the 100 meters (9.86) at the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo, Lewis hasn't broken 10 seconds or won an important individual sprint title since.

This season has gotten off to a less than auspicious start. On Feb. 3, Lewis finished last in the 60-meter dash at the Ga./Lvns Furniture Gardens in Houston in a mediocre time of 6.84. Saturday's time was 6.77.

Although Lewis claims he's committed to making his fourth and final Olympic team, it appears that only he and his closest friends will allow them to achieve it.

"No one has been written off more over the course of a career than I have," Lewis says. "There's a reason that certain athletes do great things... Never underestimate the great things their passion will allow them to achieve."

Joe Douglas, Lewis' manager: "I won't bet on Carl Lewis in little meets, and I never bet against him in the big ones. Nobody can beat him if he's at his best."

In fact, Lewis, who has run 60 meters indoors three times in his career, only participated in the indoor meets because of contractual obligations.

While in Atlanta, the world-record holder is to make an in-store appearance at Niketown to promote his new organ donor trading card and the Wendy Marx Foundation for Organ Donor Awareness, which he co-founded.

"I didn't expect to run fast here," says Lewis, who hasn't even begun his sprint training. "After completing in 20 or 30 national championships, how could I get motivated for the indoor nationals, when I don't even like running indoors! All I have to do is get ready for two meets this year — the Trials and the Olympics."

Knowing this would be his final Olympic run, Lewis started a new training program last August. For the first time, he lifted weights and focused on strength and distance running. He also worked with a medical hall, did paddistics and yoga. A strict vegetarian, Lewis cut out his body fat to 3 percent.

Also, Lewis has worked with an athlete to clear up the congestion and ailments that have plagued him for three years. "I'm allergic to everything," Lewis said. "I've never taken the time to get to the bottom of it. Just feeling better makes a huge difference."

Tuesday Lewis moved into the outside sprint phase of his training program, with his sights set on the Trials in June. He's training for the 100 and 200 meters, and the long jump. He'll compete in two events, but won't say which until the Trials.

"I don't have anything left to prove," Lewis says. "I used to be the Boy Wonder. Now, I'm the grandfather."

"This is a challenge. In the past, I was won with my body, mind and soul. This time, I'll do it with my heart."

Magic might vanish
By KELLY CARTER
USA Today
INGLEWOOD, Calif. - Magic Johnson plans on returning to the NBA next season but not necessarily with the Los Angeles Lakers, the only NBA team he has ever played for.

"I'm identified with winning and with this team," Johnson said Sunday. "I'm about winning. So wherever I go, I'm going to be about winning. I want to be here because this is home."

He is also interested in playing in New York or Miami.

Since Johnson returned to the Lakers Jan. 29, they are 12-3 with one of the losses coming against Chicago and two to Houston, including Sunday's 111-107 setback.

Johnson has missed four games, all Laker wins, because of a calf injury. Since his return, they have increased their scoring (101.6 to 106.1), field-goal percentage (47.9 to 49.5), rebounding (40.0 to 42.2) and assists (24.9 to 28.2).

He is averaging 14.1 points, 5.7 rebounds and 6.7 assists in 25.2 minutes.

"We're hoping we don't have to put an end to it," coach Del Harris said of Johnson's comeback. "I'll certainly hope that he'd be able to put in a full year next year because this year was hard coming in after the midpoint of the season and not getting in there training camp condition. So wherever he is able to accomplish this year, I think it will be a little bit easier for him to match and better next year."

Returning to play next season is one of the reasons Johnson said he chose not to pursue the opportunity to play on this year's Dream Team.

Every summer, he and his wife Cookie spend three to four weeks in Hawaii and two weeks in Europe. The U.S. Olympic team will be together from July 1 to Aug. 3. Last week, Johnson and Cookie lay in bed and they discussed his possible schedule.

"Cookie's like, 'Hey, wait a minute. When are we going to get our time this summer?'" Johnson said.

He took more than just his schedule into consideration.

"My comeback has been smooth and great so I want to keep it like that," Johnson said. "If I get selected, then that's the award. Well, I don't know. Might as well not even start that. I'll always have it in the back of my mind that somebody will say it's unfair or something or maybe the other guy deserved it because they played the whole season. I don't want to get into that."
BASKETBALL: Game attendance reached 3,214

From page 8

A two-game losing streak at the end of the regular season, and the loss to Southern Utah in the AWC Championship game put a damper on the celebrations.

But the positives outweighed the negatives this year for the Mustangs. As the Mustangs' season gained more momentum, the fans also finally appeared. Attendance at the basketball games began to increase with games early in the season including high-name North Carolina State in December, which pulled in 3,214. Soon Cal Poly was a big name in itself, and sold out its last home game against Southern Utah.

Cal Poly Men's Basketball Head Coach Jeff Schneider was named American West Conference Coach of the Year / Daily photo by Dawn Kalmar

RACE: "If he doesn't have it wrapped up, he's close."

From page 5

The returns looked like this:

In Georgia, with more than half the precincts counted, Dole had 54 percent, Buchanan 34 percent, Alexander 13 and Forbes 11.

The New England states were solid for Dole. He was picking up 47 percent of the vote in Massachusetts, with Buchanan next at 39, with 34 percent, and 3 percent, on December 26. In Connecticut, Dole had 54 percent and Forbes 20. In Vermont, it was 41 percent for Dole, with Buchanan, Forbes and Lugar all in the teens. In Maine, Dole had 46 percent, Buchanan 25 and 15 for Forbes. In Maryland, Dole had 55 percent and Buchanan 19. Several major Dole backers said Buchanan and Forbes were dreaming if they thought they were still in the race.

"It's over," said New York Sen. Alfonse D'Amato.

"If he doesn't have it wrapped up, he's close," said Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar. "I believe that he needs to win four or five more than he has right now, very conservative, low-income and the non-Protestant states."

Dole supporters said beating Clinton was important. Dole's campaign manager in Washington was his most important challenger.

Across the states voting Tuesday, Dole cut into Buchanan's core support among religious right, very conservative, low-income and Ross Perot voters. Dole supporters said beating Clinton and his experience in Washington were his most important qualities.

The big night for Dole followed a resounding win Saturday in South Carolina.

President Clinton was assured of victory in the Democratic primaries. But Dole, already urging Republicans to unify around his candidacy, suggested Clinton's tranquility was about to come to an end.

Even before Tuesday's voting, there was pressure on the remaining candidates to clear the field. Gingrich led this chorus, and GOP Chairman Haley Barbour said the time was soon to come. Forrestal led this chorus, and GOP Chairman Haley Barbour said the time was soon to come.
No NCAA qualifiers, swim season ends

By Peggy Carter
Daily Mail Writer

For the men's and women's swim team, the Big West championships on Feb. 22-24 were filled with both joy and sorrow. Joy because of several outstanding performances including three Cal Poly records, and now because the season came to an end with no one qualifying for the NCAA.

Overall, the men's team did not improve on their last place finish from last year, but the women moved up a remarkable two spots, beating out University of the Pacific by a slim five points for fourth place.

"The team's performance was very phenomenal, especially on the girls' side," Coach Rich Firmann said. "Their performance was indicative of where Cal Poly can be in the future."

One swimmer's season that did not end at the Big West Championships was Krista Kiedrowski's. Kiedrowski swam in the Pac-10 Invitational last weekend to try and qualify for the NCAA's after not meeting her own expectations at the Big West despite picking up a fourth, fifth and sixth place.

"I didn't swim up to my potential at the Pac-10; I could have done better," Kiedrowski said. "I wanted to see if I could swim faster."

At the Pac-10 Invitational, Kiedrowski picked up a career best in the 100-meter breaststroke and placed seventh in the 100-meter backstroke, but failed to gain at least a NCAA consideration time for the championships in Michigan.

On the men's side, three Cal Poly records fell in the 100 and 200-meter breaststroke, and 100-meter individual medley.

Sophomore Gus Smyers, who Firmann calls a big-meet swimmer, improved on the records he swam last year in the 100-meter breaststroke, placing fifth in the 100-meter free, and Leisha Masi who placed 13th and 14th in the 1500-meter freestyle and 400-meter individual medley.

Concerns wise, the players understand now more as far as what (the coaches) mean in terms of hard work," Firmann said. "I just wanted to swim as fast as I could."

"I knew it was going to be very close," Firmann said. "I was just hoping our girls would be excited enough and the competition would be good enough to post a good time."

Others posting good times for the women included: junior Kelli Quinn, who placed fifth in the 50-meter freestyle and a 10th in the 100-meter freestyle; and Leisha Masi who placed 13th and 14th in the 1500-meter freestyle and 400-meter individual medley.

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Firmann was also named to the all-conference team is Carrillo and Barbara including: freshman Niki Little, who was out due to injury. The women, meanwhile, who ended the season with a 5-3 record, will lose three swimmers.

WOMEN: Guard Kellie Hoffman ended her career with 1,033 points

From page 8

against the division II ranked Cal State San Bernardino. Shooting 54 percent from the floor, Cal Poly beat the Coyotes 49-27 for the Mustang's fifth and final win of the season.

Hoffman said one of the biggest team accomplishments was sticking together during a long season. However, they had hoped for a better record.

"We made it through a rough season," Hoffman said. "We had expected more in the win-loss column."

Cal Poly was eliminated in the first round of the AWC tournament held in Northridge last Saturday.

"A 74-67 tournament loss to Sacramento was the final straw, as Cal Poly only shot 36 percent from the floor. Booker dismissed the losses as a building point for the Mustang's future seasons.

"I think this year was a good year as far as laying the foundation of hard work," Booker said. "And the direction that we want to go in."

"Philosophy wise, the players understand now more as far as what (the coaches) mean in terms of hard work ethic."

"It was Kiedrowski's performance at the Big West, which was won by University of Nevada-Reno, along with Josie Snowbarger, Jackie Gagnon and Becky Olley in the 400-meter freestyle relay, however, that put the women in fourth place in the event's final race.

"I felt like I had let the team down all weekend," Kiedrowski said. "I just wanted to swim as fast as I could."

"I knew it was going to be very close," Firmann said. "I was just hoping our girls would be excited enough and the competition would be good enough to post a good time."

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OTHERS POSTING GOOD TIMES FOR THE WOMEN INCLUDED: JUNIOR KELLI QUINN, WHO PLACED FIFTH IN THE 50-METER FREESTYLE AND A 10TH IN THE 100-METER FREESTYLE; AND LEISHA MASII WHO PLACED 13TH AND 14TH IN THE 1500-METER FREESTYLE AND 400-METER INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY.

ON THE MEN'S SIDE, THREE CAL POLY RECORDS FELL IN THE 100 AND 200-METER BREASTSTROKE, AND 100-METER INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY.

SOPOPHORGEUS SMOYERS, WHO FIRMANN CALLS A BIG-MEET SWIMMER, IMPROVED ON THE RECORDS HE SWAM LAST YEAR IN THE 100-METER BREASTSTROKE, PLACING FIFTH IN THE 100-METER FREE; AND LEISHA MASI WHO PLACED 13TH AND 14TH IN THE 1500-METER FREESTYLE AND 400-METER INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY.

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FIRMANN WAS ALSO NAMED TO THE ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM IS CARRILLO AND BARBARA INCLUDING: FRESHMAN NIKI LITTLE, WHO WAS OUT DUE TO INJURY. THE WOMEN, WHO MADE IT THROUGH A ROUGH SEASON, PLACED FIFTH AND FINAL WIN OF THE SEASON.

"WE MADE IT THROUGH A ROUGH SEASON," HOFFMAN SAID. "WE HAD EXPECTED MORE IN THE WIN-LOSS COLUMN."

CAL POLY WAS ELIMINATED IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE AWC TOURNAMENT HELD IN NORTHRIDGE LAST SATURDAY.

"A 74-67 TOURNAMENT LOSS TO SACRAMENTO WAS THE FINAL STRAW, AS CAL POLY ONLY SHOT 36 PERCENT FROM THE FLOOR. BOOKER DISMISSED THE LOSSES AS A BUILDING POINT FOR THE MUSTANG'S FUTURE SEASONS.

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OVERALL, THE MUSTANGS SHOT 39 PERCENT FROM THE FLOOR AND GRABBED AN AVERAGE OF 39 REBOUNDS A GAME.

SENIORS HOFFMAN, LEE, TAYLOR AND FORWARD KATIE BAUER WILL ALL BE LEAVING THE TEAM, THREE OF WHOM STARTED MOST GAMES.

NOT THE MUSTANGS. CAL POLY BEGINS COMPETITION IN THE BIG WEST.

"WE ARE LOOKING AT JUNIOR COLLEGE PLAYERS WHO ARE READY TO STEP IN," BOOKER SAID. "WE NEED IMMEDIATE IMPACT PLAYERS."

THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF THIS SEASON WAS STARTING OVER-SHADOWED BY THE HOPE OF NEXT SEASON. NEW RECRUITS AND VETERANS WILL COMPOSE THE TEAM THAT WILL FACE OFF THE BIG WEST NEXT YEAR.
**SPORTS**

**Mustangs honored by AVC**

Cal Poly's men's basketball team pulled together to become one of the most improved teams in NCAA history this season / Daily photo by Dawn Kalmar

*By Mark Armstrong*

July 8, 1996

Who would have thought it possible? A couple local columnists couldn't fathom it. And it took a few games to make believers out of the fans at Cal Poly.

But it happened. The men's basketball team emerged from the basement of Division 1 to triumph over the American West Conference and bring Cal Poly national attention for improving a 1-26 record to a much more respectable 16-13.

The honors continued Monday.

Cal Poly Head Coach Jeff Schneider was named AWC Coach of the Year, and freshman point guard Ben Larson earned the AWC's Most Valuable Player award and Freshman of the Year.

Schneider was practically a no-brainer for the coaching award. Every coach who had to face the high-speed offense and full-court press the first-year coach installed praised his accomplishments.

In opposing teams echoed the same congratulatory remarks for Schneider's work with a team that, one year ago, ended its dismal season with a huge thud.

A new coach, few new recruits and a medley of problems that plagued the team throughout the season. But the team had its own possibilities.

He deserved it just as much. Cotright was named to the AWC first team.

The freshman point guard averaged 12.9 points, 5.2 assists and an average of 3.45 steals per game. Larson swiped his 100th steal in the AWC Championship game, making him one of only three freshman ever in the NCAA to reach triple digits for steals in a season. The other two players were Jason Kidd of Cal Berkeley and Nader Benfield of UConn.

Larson also shattered Cal Poly's three-point record with 94 from beyond the arc for the year. The previous record was 67.

"I was a little surprised I got it (the MVP)," Larson said Tuesday. "It just happened. I think Ta' had the best chance.

The Mustangs honored Coach of the Year, and freshman Shanta Cotright. "I thought Ta' had the best chance.

"Ben had a great year," Schneider said about his freshman MVP honor, "and Shanta was a strong candidate for the award, especially junior guard Shantel Triplett."

The coach said Larson and Cotright were possibly the best two players in the league this season, and he is comforted by one major detail.

"I'm really glad they're returning," Schneider said.

Other members of the team were also honored with junior Dane Lemec, named second-team honors, while junior Colin Bryant was named on the third team.

With all of the honors, the Mustangs found itself one fitting note to end the season.

**By Teresa Gulder**

Cal Poly reflects on losing season

Disappointed fans filled Cal Poly's bench as the final seconds of women's basketball's last home game ticked down to another loss.

This look became familiar to fans during Cal Poly's unsuccessful season ending in a 5-22 (2-4 AWC) record and a third-place finish in the American West Conference.

A new coach, few new recruits and lack of team togetherness were some of the medley of problems that plagued the team throughout the season.

Senior center Nicole Taylor blamed the losing season on lack of consistency in team playing.

"We would have times where we would play great as a team and everyone was clicking with each other," Taylor said. "That takes time to progress and a lot of us didn't have that time to play together over the summer.

"That is why it took late in the season to come together.

Cal Poly lost the first 10 games of the season before picking up its first win against Wyoming in late December.

The win - 67-51 over Wyoming - earned junior forward Ava Garrett a then-career-high 16 points.

In a game partially won by Cal Poly's rebounding skills, Coach Karen Booker

cited Wyoming as one of the team highlights of the season.

"The Wyoming game is probably one of the best games of the year," Booker said.

The Wyoming game wasn't the start of a winning streak, however. The next win, five games later, came against Cal Baptist, a NAIA conference team. Cal Poly ended with a 67-53 win and a new school record of 15 assists for sophomore guard Christina Carrillo.

The first AWC game was a loss to the Northridge Matadors, 63-56. The loss was emotional and unexpected, and the Mustangs reacted with a win over the Matadors later in the season with a 75-40 win.

The first AWC win came in theSacramento Hornets gym with Cal Poly shooting 53 percent to defeat the Hornets 86-60. Senior guard Kellie Hof­­­­man shot her game-high of 23 points and grabbed nine rebounds.

Taylor said that the Sacramento game was a game where everyone pulled together for the win.

"The best highlight of the season was when we beat Sacramento State," Taylor said. "We were really pumped up and everybody played well.

The Mustangs kept hopes high, but shooting percentages low, and only picked up one more win in the season.