State universities prepare for enrollment crush

San Diego State becomes first state university to limit number of students it will accept

By Amanda Guevara
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO - As colleges across California prepare for a coming enrollment crush, San Diego State University became the first urban campus in the state system Thursday to limit the number of students it will accept.

The purpose of the measures outlined by SDSU President Stephen L. Weber - which take effect in fall 1998 - is to avoid the long lines and crowded classrooms that exemplified life during the 1980s on California State University's largest campus.

The curbs could serve as a model for other CSU campuses as the state confronts the so-called Tidal Wave II, a student population surge created by children of baby boomers who are hitting college age and the rising migration of people to California from other states and countries.

"This is a long-term public policy issue for California - how we will accommodate more people as we begin to go into Tidal Wave II and how we will manage that growth in the foreseeable future," Weber said in a news conference on campus.

San Diego State will continue to accept most students by making sure their grades and test scores meet CSU enrollment guidelines. But up to 20 percent of its admissions will come from a pool screened by supplemental factors, including family income, place of residence, leadership abilities and race.

"The latter is necessary to maintain racial and ethnic diversity," Weber said. Proposition 209, approved by voters last year, forbids race-based preferences in state university admissions. But it has been stalled in court.

"We are obliged to follow the law of California," Weber said. "But at this point, Proposition 209 is not the law of California." With 32,000 students this year, San Diego State's enrollment has risen 9 percent since 1993 compared to 4.7 percent for the other 22 CSU campuses, said Ethan Singer, associate vice president for academic affairs.

The campus can accommodate about 2,000 more students to reach full capacity, Weber said. He attributed San Diego State's popularity to the region's improving job market and economic prospects.

"As the communityprosper, we do too," he said.

Two smaller campuses, California Polytechnic University-San Luis Obispo and Sonoma State University, have already used selective measures to control enrollment growth, Weber said.
Baker explained that this was due to relatively low fees in the past. "Scholarship money wasn’t seen as a priority because fees were so low," he said. "Historically at Cal Poly, and in the CSU system, donors thought money would be more useful in other areas."

Boldt agreed that money could not be raised for scholarships if an incentive program was created for the donors, since they have generally been more concerned with fund raising to benefit academic programs. Due to the decentralized advancement plan established over the last two years, deans, directors and faculty are responsible for establishing the fund-raising and marketing the educational programs in their college.

Nineteen full and part-time college and unit advancement staff and five university advancement specialists have been hired during this time to aid the colleges and the university in fund raising.

Other topics on the agenda included an update on the proposal review for 1997-1998 Poly Plan projects. According to ASI President Steve McElroy, out of more than 130 projects originally proposed for funding, the college committees have narrowed this number down to about 30 to 40 projects.

A number of these projects have also gone through some budget shifts also signal an El Nino. Although their typical changes include heavy rain and flooding - which might be in the works.

The first wave began in September, Fu said. "An El Nino occurs when a mass of warm water moves westward to the South Pacific. It arrives at the west coast of South America. The phenomenon got its name from the Spanish words for baby Jesus, because the warm pool usually arrives around Christmas."

Simultaneous readings from wind instruments are giving scientists strong suggestions about ocean and wind conditions that could foreshadow an El Nino.

Because water expands as it warms, warm water normally located off Australia to drive eastward to western South America. The phenomenon got its name from the Spanish words for baby Jesus, because the warm pool usually arrives around Christmas.

An El Nino occurs when wave-tracked warm waters weaken, which triggers a mass of warm water normally located off Australia to drive eastward to western South America. The phenomenon got its name from the Spanish words for baby Jesus, because the warm pool usually arrives around Christmas.

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Wind, wave measurements track warm mass moving across Pacific

Los Angeles - Satellites that measure winds and waves tracked a warm water mass the size of the United States as it moved across the Pacific Ocean, a sign that a weather-disturbing El Nino may be brewing, NASA scientists said Friday.

If so, heavy rains and drought could be in store around the world early next year.

An El Nino usually occurs when a tropical Pacific wind-tracked warm water mass normally located off Australia to drive eastward to western South America. The phenomenon got its name from the Spanish words for baby Jesus, because the warm pool usually arrives around Christmas.

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Public meeting hears small number concerned with area code change

By Christine Spane
Daily Star Writer

San Luis Obispo residents seem to be unconcerned about proposed changes in long distance dialing. Nine people attended a public meeting Wednesday night which explained options for dividing the Central Coast into new area codes. Although the meeting was scheduled for two hours, the room was clear well before the first hour.

The Central Coast is due for an area code change sometime in 1998. The Federal Communications Commission has said that the state is running out of telephone numbers and within eight years the 805 area code's seven-digit numbers will be fully subscribed.

The area code is due in part to population increases but there has also been an explosive growth in the use of pagers, cellular phones, facsimile machines and computers modems in California.

The California Code Administration (CCA) has been assigned to review the area code boundaries to the Public Utilities Commission which has the final say in determining which counties will get new codes.

At the meeting, CCA Coordinator Doug Hescox presented four possible options for the area code split.

State Sen. Jack O'Connell (D-San Luis Obispo) has urged the public to get behind a proposal to keep the 805 code in San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County and Ventura County.

The Federal Communications Commission has said that the state is running out of telephone numbers and within eight years the 805 area code's seven-digit numbers will be fully subscribed.

O'Connell stated in his letter that it makes sense to keep this region's area code the same since it functions as a cohesive unit.

Of the five options only one other option called for the retention of the 805 area code in San Luis Obispo County. It recommended keeping the current area code in Kern, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties and assigning a new one to Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

None of the proposed changes would affect calling rates.

Avila Beach resident Farrah Warren said that she wants to retain the 805 code from San Luis Obispo to Los Angeles because she frequently calls friends and business associates there.

Mary Chambers of Paso Robles said she is in favor of Alternative 5B.

"The North County is growing and it would be more favorable to retain the 805 area code there," Chambers said.

Chambers also said that it would be costly to replace stationery and inform business clients of the change.

"Non-profit groups and small businesses would be affected if there was a change," she said.

Self defense group hosts fundraiser

By Monica Phillips
Daily Star Writer

Safe-SLO Nonprofit celebrated the 10-year anniversary of Model Mugging in San Luis Obispo County Saturday with a mug-a-thon. The fundraiser was donated for the silent auction. These include a three-night stay in a Marathon.

More than $3,000 in gifts were donated for the silent auction. These include a three-night stay in a Marathon.

Most of the money will be raised through sponsors of the mug-a-thon and a silent auction.

The features 1950s theme will include waitresses on roller-skates, a soda fountain, food booths, a disc jockey and mock rock performances - "oldies but goodies" routines from movies like "Grease."

Debby Brothwell, co-director of Safe-SLO Nonprofit, said they're hoping to raise $20,000 to $30,000 to keep the program running.

The man, who allegedly held up the Great Western Bank in Long Beach, hopped in his getaway car at about 1:45 p.m., and led authorities on a southbound chase until 3:25 p.m., the California Highway Patrol said.

"It appears he's wanted for armed robbery," said CHP spokeswoman Julie Page.

The driver was traveling at average speeds of 70 mph, said CHP Sgt. John Martinez.

The two left tires of the car were punctured by spike strips set by the CHP a few miles from the U.S.-Mexico border which punctured the two left tires, authorities said.

Driving on the rims, with pieces of tires disintegrating behind him, he pressed on toward the border until traffic near the San Ysidro International Port of Entry slowed him down.

As he attempted to cross over the median, the car became stuck. The man emerged from the vehicle, throwing his weapon on the ground, Martinez said.

A trained police dog wrestled him to the ground until authorities were able to restrain him.

Home-schooled 13-year-old wins National Spelling Bee

By Deb Reichman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Convinced she was about to win the National Spelling Bee, 13-year-old Rebecca Seiflin shouted each letter of her last word into the microphone "ou-n-y-m" and raised her arms high.

"Noah," she screamed Thursday before balancing the trophy cup atop her head. The home-schooled teen-ager from Brooklyn, N.Y., placed eighth in the Scripps Howard-sponsored contest last year, but this year she was the champ, beating out Prem Murthy Trivedi, 11, of Howell, N.J.

"I knew I could figure it out," Rebecca said about "economy," defined as an appropriate name for a person, place or thing.

She won $5,000 - which she plans to save for college - books and supplies. Her mother, Rebeccah Seiflin, won $1,000, a trip to New York and other prizes.

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The anti-Vandal

GWR's the write stuff

Editor,

While I sympathize with Mr. Benford's predicament, I feel as director of writing I must address aspects of what he defines as a grade inflation problem at Cal Poly that he neglected to mention.

Is grade inflation in writing courses?

In fact, this was a concern that the English department addressed last year. We took the following steps:

At the beginning of each academic year all the writing teachers meet to go over anonymous sample papers and assign grades to them according to the English department's grading standards for writing courses. In this way we remove all standards of our own and work with them until we find that we are falling into the same trap. We assign grades to these papers and that the range corresponds to the departmental standards.

We assign grades to the English degree coupled with spastic blasts of egomania. It is of one "Jonny Vandal."

Don't misunderstand: it's a great name! It brings back memories of stuffing my glue stick and attacking plastic desks with magic markers. (I'm a rebel! Unique, confident, free. Watch me tear Oasis fly through the air like chocolate discs of creamy death?) Those days when opinion settled around which was the best action figure and how stupid it was for 'that guy' to trade his Twinkies for a be a 24-year-old.

Now we have this "professional" paper which, all in all, does quite an impressive job considering the conditions under which it is created. But there are still a few cliches I would like to work with.

This is more opinion, I admit. Let's call it "anti-Vandalian philosophy." But at least I have the guts to put my real name to it and not hide behind some anonymous sample paper.

So here is it: You're a sniveling little pretentious hag with low-grade creativity--coupled with spastic blasts of egomania--pompous irrelevancies. If you were you, wherever the hell you really are, and weren't afraid to be just that, then I would feel differently. I'd still find your column to be a complete waste of our reader's time or another must pass the ominous Graduation Writing Requirement (GWR) to demonstrate a certain level of proficiency in the English language. More often than not the GWR is passed on by students until it is absolutely necessary to take it. (Yeah! Right! I know. I never end my sentences in a preposition.) Sound familiar to any of you seniors out there right now in your last quarter taking a class worrying about passing the GWR? Why is it survival for a fourth-year student to write at a satisfactory level in their last quarter? Why aren't we teaching these skills as freshmen?

Upside-down Curricula: Cal Poly's brilliant idea of quality of education that sits right up there with making us choose impossible to arrive at useful numerical data to grade graduates, nor can our test be objective and test for what we teach at the same time. As a result, some grades may be a little higher than a student deserves, and some grades may be a bit lower. However, given the safeguards described above, the writing teachers' adherence to the department's standards is generally rigorous and there is little evidence of grade inflation.

What about reinforcing writing in the university as a whole?

Writing well is a skill. Like any skill, if it is not reinforced through practice, it tends to diminish. Or, writing is like a muscle, and if it is not used, it withers. It has been my impression that few classes in the various majors in the university require extensive writing of their students, such as term papers or essay exams. If a student takes his or her writing courses in his or her first year and subsequently does not do any significant writing until his or her junior year, that student's chances of passing the GWR are seriously compromised. Having the students for only two courses in their first year of education, the writing teachers cannot be held responsible for students not passing a writing exam two or three years down the line if the students are not required to do any further writing.

In addition, some students are responsible for their own poor writing skills. In this university, the classes that tend to require writing are in GE&I areas C.1 and C.3. These are the courses students put off taking until the last possible moment. Now, I realize that part of this problem is the result of too many students, too few classes and not enough money to staff more classes in these areas, and that's a whole different issue that needs to be addressed.

Nevertheless, there are students who put off any class that requires writing as long as possible and then wonder why they did not pass the GWR. The issue is far more complex than Mr. Benford represents it. Writing is rarely reinforced beyond the level of first-year writing classes except in other courses in the College of Liberal Arts and, rarely, in other departments. Many students take writing courses are required and then put off taking any further courses until it comes down to a matter of either taking them or not graduating.

Finally, the writing program at Cal Poly is a good one with dedicated, energetic teachers who have studied both the theory and practice of writing instruction and have developed responsible processes that check against grade inflation, at least in writing classes.

David Kann
Director of Writing Department

Cal Poly pumps out industry workers, not good writers

Editor,

Here we are spring quarter and about to turn out another fine crop of Cal Poly graduates who may make a difference in the real world, where getting a job and having a skill is more valuable than being able to articulate yourself. All graduates of this fine polytechnic institution at one time or another must pass the mandatory Graduation Writing Requirement (GWR) to demonstrate a certain level of proficiency in the English language. More often than not the GWR is passed on by students until it is absolutely necessary to take it. (Yeah! Right! I know. I never end my sentences in a preposition.) Sound familiar to any of you seniors out there right now in your last quarter taking a class worrying about passing the GWR? Why is it survival for a fourth-year student to write at a satisfactory level in their last quarter? Why aren't we teaching these skills as freshmen?

Upide-down Curricula: Cal Poly’s brilliant idea of quality of education that sits right up there with making us choose a major at the ripe old age of 17 or 18 without a day of college experience. What is an Upside-down Curriculum you ask? I can’t provide you with an exact definition but I'll take a stab at it: basically it's all about taking your "core major classes" first and getting proficient in a trade (other than being able to read and write) before engaging in the frivolousness of "general education." We don't really need to know how to write until our last quarter anyway. I am still left with the burning question: why? Why doesn't Cal Poly incorporate basic English skills into every course?

I have heard more than once this quarter from professors that the writing skills of students are improving adequately. All in supposedly upper-division courses with mostly seniors that can't write themselves out of a wet paper bag, me included. Am I wrong? Oh, I’m sorry, am I right, professors? Don't you think it's time we...I mean you...we...improvement? This letter is full of mistakes. (Fragment.) Are your hands so bound that they are forced into ignoring this sad state? More stress needs to be placed on these skills early on in our education and emphasized throughout our entire 14 quarter experience. What is an Upside-down Curriculum you ask? I can't provide you with an exact definition but I'll take a stab at it: basically it's all about your "core major classes" first and getting proficient in a trade (other than being able to read and write) before engaging in the frivolousness of "general education." We don't really need to know how to write until our last quarter anyway. I am still left with the burning question: why? Why doesn't Cal Poly incorporate basic English skills into every course?

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Bill requires decision-maker to be licensed**

**SACRAMENTO (AP) -** The health plan official or group that levels decisions about a patient's care should be a doctor, not a bureaucrat, the Assembly decided Thursday. The bill would also require plans to give a written explanation of any denials to the patient and his or her doctor. Plans would also have to disclose to any individual or group what the plan would do to authorize or denying health care services.

**SACRAMENTO (AP) -** Tolls on five San Francisco area bridges would jump a dollar for about eight years under a Democratic plan to pay for a new eastern span of the Bay Bridge and make other earthquake-related bridge improvements.

**SACRAMENTO (AP) -** Toll increases on five San Francisco area bridges - the Bay Bridge, San Mateo-Hayward, Benicia-Martinez, Richmond-San Rafael and Carquinez - would be doubled under a Democratic plan. The bill would also require plans to give a written explanation of any denials to the patient and his or her doctor. Plans would also have to disclose to any individual or group what the plan would do to authorize or denying health care services.

**Democrats reach agreement on 50-50 plan**

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**Uneven movement on Hayward Fault**

**SACRAMENTO (AP) -** The south end of the Hayward Fault near Fremont is moving twice as fast as the northern end, causing scientists to wonder why the fault hasn't snapped in more than 100 years.

**Woman wounded in freeway sniper attack**

**SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) -** A woman was wounded in the leg as she drove down Interstate 680 and two other cars were hit by bullets in a series of freeway sniper attacks early Thursday, police said.

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**DEADLINE SHORTENED**

According to police spokesman Bob Beams, a woman was shot several hours earlier using a .44 caliber handgun.

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Police say body part is part of a woman’s leg

Associated Press

LOS GATOS, Calif. — Los Gatos police on Thursday said the body part found in a trash bin is a portion of a woman’s leg.

Police Capt. Jeff Miller said the leg apparently belonged to a Hispanic or light-skinned black woman who was younger than age 50. However, he declined to give details about how she may have died.

Authorities were tipped by a man who discovered the part of a woman’s leg Wednesday afternoon while searching a bin in a small parking lot behind businesses in an industrial area of the city.

In addition to the leg, police found a man’s athletic jacket and a woman’s dress, blouse and panties. Police still did not know if there was a connection between the clothing and the body part.

And, on Thursday, police continued to check missing person reports and were conducting interviews, though Miller declined to say who they were talking to.

MUSTANG DAILY

Final Exam Question #2

The Collect Call

What’s the only number to use for all your collect calls that could instantly win you cool stuff (like hip Planet Hollywood jackets and packs of 24 free movie passes) every hour, every day?

a) d
b) d
c) d
d) 1 800 CALL ATT
e) HELLO-d

SAFE-SLO

from page 3

condo, a hand-carved jewelry box, a one-night stay and dinner at the bin in Morrison Bay and more.

At 3:30 p.m., children under 12 should leave the event because the mug-a-thon starts with mock adult muggings. The mock muggings are not appropriate for children because they may seem real enough to scare them.

The administration asked for ASI’s opinion on the changes, which will be used for their final consideration. Voting on the ASI budget will also take place next week because the board voted to postpone the vote to further discuss the bill.

CRUSH from page 1

The new criteria would make it ‘somewhat’ more difficult to gain admission to San Diego State, but the impact likely will not be felt for the first two years, Weber said.

Officials are determined not to return to the late-1980s when enrollment at the campus over-looking Mission Valley topped 35,000, he said. Students could not get the classes they needed, classrooms were so crowded that some students had to sit on the floor and long lines were the norm in the admissions office, the bookstore and the library.

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CRUSH from page 1

affecting mainly those living in the dorms. The other change will be from page 1

fro m  page 1

Many graduates have prevented assault as a result of the training and some want the ability to overcome potential assaults.

Tesoro calls those who have been assaulted survivors, not victims.

“If they’re alive, they’ve survived,” she said.

Many volunteers graduate in classes and support the programs in other ways.

A core group of 20 to 50 volunteers keep the organization alive in San Luis Obispo. Most of them have daytime jobs or are students, but Tesoro works full-time as the executive director.

“It’s her blood and 80-hour work weeks that keep this organization going,” said Brothwell, who is also associate director for the budget and planning administrative department at Cal Poly. “If she decided to be sane tomorrow, we wouldn’t have this program in our community.”

Brothwell took the first model mugging class in San Luis Obispo in 1987 and decided it was the most valuable thing she’d ever done and committed to volunteer­ing her time and keeping the pro­gram in the area so her daughter could take it. Her daughter is now 18 years old and a graduate of the model mugging basics class.

Everybody and everybody’s daughter needs to take this course,” Brothwell said.

Also serving on the board of directors is Cal Poly economics senior Kelly Koettin.

“[In the class] you learn to go beyond your perceived limitations and do something you don’t expect you could do,” she said.

She graduated from the basic model mugging class in 1994 and volunteers as on the board of directors.

“As girls, we grow up to per­ceive ourselves as someone who should be protected by a man, because we can be taken advant­age of,” Koettin said. “The program gets rid of those stereotypes and teaches you that you can pro­tect yourself.”

The anniversary celebration is located at the Self Defense & Empowerment Training Center at 209 Bonetti, off Prado road, five minutes south of downtown San Luis Obispo, and will be from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The Assembly version reduced the previous budget by about $55 million.

Most other changes by Senate Democrats matched Wilson's proposals, offsetting the prison cuts with additional funding in other areas.

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Volleyball looks to experience and youth next season

By Stacey L. Johnston
Daily Staff Writer

The Cal Poly women's volleyball team is ready to serve up some surprises next season.

"We're going to definitely win a lot more games. This year will be a big step up," said middle blocker Trisha Jenssen. "I think we're going to be a threat in the Big West. We're going to surprise a lot of teams."

Jenssen mentioned four goals that the team is striving for this year, "We want to improve our ranking in the Big West, beat Santa Barbara and other tougher teams, win tournaments in the pre-season and have a better record than last year."

Head coach Steve Schlick said the team will strive to finish fourth in its division and in the top five overall for the conference.

"Every time we step on the court we want to be competing as hard as we can," Schlick said. "There are no games that are unimportant. We need to be pushing ourselves to the limit."

He said that right now the team is better than it was in the fall, as it has made great strides this spring.

Cal Poly finished its second season in the Big West Conference with a 7-10 record (14-16 overall) with wins over Cal State Fullerton and U.C. Irvine. The Mustangs also captured the Powerball Invitational title in San Francisco last August. Cal Poly made it to the post-season for the first time, but lost to the University of Idaho in the first round of the Big West Tournament.

"Perhaps, as the old saying goes, the third time will be the charm. Now that we have a little experience playing the teams,

"we'll have a chance to be more competitive in the conference," said outside hitter Jessica Roden. "I think a lot of the 'elite' teams are going to take us lightly and they shouldn't. We're going to surprise them," said outside hitter Dana Black.

Predictions of success have been based upon the team's, com­petitiveness, experience and the addi­tion of promising recruits.

Roden said that the Mustangs "really click" and work well as a team.

Jenssen echoed Roden's feeling on the compatibility of the team and said the team is now, "older and acclimated to the techniques of Schlick who came on board last season.

"We don't have any bugs or truble to work out," she said. "Everybody knows their job and they're able to execute at a high level," Schlick said.

Jenssen explained that because of the team's experience, there will be healthy competition for positions among team members that will increase the level of play next season.

"No position is guaranteed," she said.

Assistant coach Marlon Sano said that part of the team's improvement is a result of their understanding of what the staff expects of them on the court, off the court and in the classroom.

"They understand court much better what is expected of them technically, and tactically and they're able to execute at a higher level," Sano said.

In particular, Sano expects two freshmen from last season to stand out as sophomores next year.

"The first person who comes to high schools, near and far. Melanie Hathaway is from Righetti High School in Santa Maria and Cyndi Eilers is from Cypress-Fair High School in Cypress-Fair High School in

1996 Season Totals

Players

Kills

Digs

Blocks

Amy Abarle

8

161

0

Dana Black

21

168

0

Jill Butts

72

230

3

Kari Delloto

266

39

24

Jennifer Drew

0

0

0

Halie Garnett

120

147

6

Trisha Jenssen

290

132

11

Heather Lee

207

179

7

Coleen Muro

278

249

8

Devin Nelson

8

31

0

Melissa Pierce

89

119

9

Jessica Roden

58

88

1

Stephanie Rumsey

98

0

0

Cole Stephens

2

8

0

Asha Wagner

78

11

3

Senior Dana Black says some 'elite' teams won't expect the level of competition that Cal Poly can play at.

Steve Schlick is in his second season as head coach of the Mustangs.

Pitcher Irabu signs $12.8 million contract with Yankees

By Ronald Blum
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The talking is over. Now Hideki Irabu finally will get his wish — to pitch for the New York Yankees.

The 27-year-old right-hander agreed to terms Thursday, getting the richest deal ever given a major league rookie, a $12.8 million, four-year contract. Irabu will appear at Yankee Stadium on Friday to formally join the team.

"It could open up the whole Asian market to the Yankees," New York pitcher David Cone said in Toronto after beating the Blue Jays. "And we certainly need the fans, not to mention the pitching depth it gives us."

Irabu and his agent, Don Nomura, spent part of Thursday with the players' union, working out details.

Irabu, who has a 59-59 career record in Japan's Pacific League with 1,111 strikeouts in 1,102-2/3 innings, will likely be assigned to the minors for a week to a month. Depending on when injured Dwight Gooden is ready to return, Irabu could take the place of Gooden or Kenny Rogers in the Yankees' starting rotation.

"They say he's the Nolan Ryan of Japan," Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter said. "I guess we'll find out when he gets here if he's worth it."

Irabu becomes the fourth Japanese pitcher in the majors, joining Hideo Nomo of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Shigetoshi Hasegawa of Anaheim Angels and Takashi Kamiya of the New York Mets. In addition, the Seattle Mariners have Mac Suzuki in the minors.

Irabu gets an 8.8 million sign­ ing bonus to be paid over three years, $200,000 this season, $800,000 in 1998, $1 million in 1999 and $2 million in 2000. The Yankees have a $4 million option for 2001 with a $300,000 buyout.

It is the most money ever com­ mitted by a team to a player with no experience in the major or minor leagues topping the $10.2 million signing bonus agreed to last Nov. 25 between pitcher Matt White and the expansion Tampa Bay Devil Rays, who start play next season.

"More power to him," said Yankees reliever Graeme Lloyd, an Australian native. "There are two sides to the story. Everybody looks at it as a guy who hasn't thrown a pitch in North America when there are a lot of guys who have paid their dues in the minor leagues."

"But they wouldn't give him $12.8 million if they didn't think he was worth it. It's a free market, and if somebody's willing to pay it, I say why not."

Irabu's contract is vastly high­ er than those of other players not eligible for salary arbitration. After winning the AL Rookie of the Year award, Jeter is getting $540,000 this season.