Despite international influence for a cease-fire, Israel continued its assault on Palestinian citizens

IN NEWS, 3

The search for a new football head coach at Cal Poly nears conclusion

IN SPORTS, 12

TOMORROW WEATHER
Sunny
High 69
Low 45°

TOMORROW WEATHER

MUSTANG DAILY

mustangdaily.net

Greek life still suspended after student death

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

All Cal Poly greek life activity was formally suspended mid-December following the death of freshman Carson Starkey, a fraternity pledge who died the morning after attending a Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) party.

Starkey, 18, was found unresponsive at a local residence at about 6 a.m. Dec. 2 and was later pronounced dead. His death is suspected to be alcohol-related given the circumstances, and there are numerous investigations as to whether hazing was a factor. Police are also investigating whether the party was a pledge event.

SAE’s charter was suspended from all activity until further notice first by the university following the incident and later by the fraternity’s national organization.

Later in December, Cal Poly Panhellenic Adviser Harmony Quismundo-Newton sent out an e-mail announcing the suspension of all greek activities until a special summit meeting Jan. 9-11. The meeting will include all chapter presidents and executive councils.

SAE’s risk management contract includes sections on alcohol, drugs, sober rides and sexual assault. It states that “any and all pledge and/or new member activities will be dry” and “no member will force any other member to drink.” It also prohibits underage drinking, requires the fraternity to have “at least two sober brothers” at every event and every member will be a “true gentleman” around women at all times.

In addition to the death of Starkey, SAE has had several incidences in which they had to attend meetings with Student Life and Leadership including alcohol violations, destruction of property and alleged drugging of a sorority member.

Autopsy: medical condition caused sophomore’s death

The autopsy of Favian Mora, an electrical engineering sophomore who was found unresponsive in his room in Poly Canyon Village in December, was released yesterday and said that his death was due to a medical condition.

Toxicology results were negative for drugs and alcohol said San Luis Obispo county public information officer Rob Bryn. No foul play is suspected.

A bacterial infection caused by the bacteria called Group Beta Strp Sepis was responsible. This bacteria is from the same school of bacteria that causes strep throat, according to David L. Harris, the medical director of the Cal Poly Health Center.

He added that when most people are exposed to the bacteria, their bodies isolate the infection and fight it off, but sometimes it can travel into a person’s bloodstream. This leads to a total body infection, or sepsis, which can cause the body to go into shock and lead to organ failure and cardiac arrest.

“The chances are miniscule,” Harris said for this scenario to happen to anyone with a healthy immune system. “The lesson to take home here is if you’re feeling unwell, get checked out.”

Mora, 19, planned to graduate Cal Poly in 2011 and was a member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. He graduated from Andrew P. Hill High School in San Jose, Calif. in 2007.

Top eight stories of 2008:

July: Saudi contract signed

A controversial contract to develop and implement a new engineering program at Jubail University College (JUC) in Saudi Arabia was signed by Cal Poly in early July. However, almost six months later, JUC has yet to sign its portion so the contract is not finalized and remains private, raising concerns as to whether the deal will actually go through. The five-year contract would bring $5.9 million to Cal Poly, but opponents worry the deal will lead to discrimination against minority groups including Jews, women and homosexuals.

September: Poly Canyon Village opens

The brand-new Poly Canyon Village complex opened for move-in last week. Besides apartments for sophomore students, the village features a resident-only pool and restaurants including Jamba Juice, Peer’s Coffee and Tea, Einstein Bros. Bagels and a market.

Hundreds of Cal Poly students turned out to protest the on-campus display of a Confederate flag, noose in late October. see Recap, page 2
August: Beijing Olympics

Cal Poly graduate Stephanie Brown-Trafalon won the discus event at the 2008 Summer Olympic games in Beijing and became the first gold medalist from Cal Poly after posting a mark of 212 feet, 5 inches. Brown-Trafalon, a 2004 engineering graduate and three-time All-American at Cal Poly, had failed to advance to the final round in 2004 and was entered as the 10th seed in 2008.

September: Budget meltdown

Due to California's budget crisis and an overall recession, the California State University system was forced to cut its budget. Provost Robert Koehl responded by cutting the budget of each college in Cal Poly by 2.5 percent, leading to fewer courses and fewer teachers.

October: Racism protested

A noose and a confederate flag hanging from the balcony of the on-campus Crop House sparked a massive protest and campus-wide debate about racism and diversity on campus. A forum was also held to address student concerns.

The residents have vacated the building but any punishment would be an affront to first amendment rights according to Cal Poly.

November: Cal Poly helps elect Obama

Cal Poly students turned out in large numbers to help propel Barack Obama to win the election and become the United States' first African-American president. Students also went against the grain by voting overwhelmingly against Proposition 8, the proposal to ban gay marriage, which passed in the state.

November: Heartbreaker loss to Wisconsin

Although the Cal Poly football team beat Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A) teams like UTEP and San Diego State during the Rich Ellerson era, it took things to another level on Nov. 22, 2008. The Mustangs, at the time ranked third in the Football Championship Subdivision (I-AA), tried to become just the second FCS team since 2001 to beat two FBS squads in the same season. They nearly pulled it off, never trailing before the final play of a 30-35, overtime loss.

The Camp Randall Stadium crowd of 80,709 in Madison, Wis. surpassed the previously largest audience in Cal Poly sports history by 48,173.

For the latest on Cal Poly football, see the sports section. To check out an audio slideshow featuring the game, go online to mustangdaily.net.

December: Two student deaths, two days

Two student deaths within several days of each other rocked campus in December. Architectural engineering freshman Carson Starkey died after attending a Sigma Alpha Epsilon event, a fraternity he was pledging. The fraternity has been indefinitely suspended.

Mechanical engineering sophomore Favian Mora died in his off-campus apartment two days later. The death was a result of a bacterial infection. Candlelight vigils were held for both students.

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e-mail this story @ mustangdaily.net

(Hey, it’ll give you something to talk to Mom about.)
Gaza civilian toll rises; diplomats seek truce

Ibrahimm Barzak

Israel ignored mounting international calls for a cease-fire Monday and said it won't stop its crippling 10-day assault until "peace and tranquility" are achieved in southern Israeli towns in the line of Palestinian rocket fire. Three Israeli soldiers died in a friendly fire incident.

Israeli forces seized control of high-rise buildings and attacked smuggling tunnels and several mosques in a campaign against Hamas militants that took an increasing toll on civilians. Three young brothers were reported killed during shelling. Palestinian wounded filled hospital corridors.

Arab delegates met with the U.N. Security Council in New York Monday, urging members to adopt a resolution calling for an immediate end to the Israeli attacks and a permanent cease-fire. At the same time, diplomats and European leaders traveled the region in an effort to stop Israel's expanding ground and air offensive.

In the first serious clash in an urban area, Israeli troops and Hamas militants fought a gunbattle on the outskirts of the crowded Gaza City neighborhood of Shajaiyeh, Israeli defense officials said. Details also emerged of an unsuccessful attempt by Hamas fighters to capture Israeli soldiers hours after the ground operation.

WORD ON THE STREET

"Should Obama remain mum about the situation in Gaza?"

"I have mixed feelings about it. It's something that we need to know he has the ability to take care of but I wouldn't want it to be escalated by the wrong words."

-Jordan Janis
biological sciences sophomore

"As the new President-elect, Obama should speak about the international community because he's the face of America and we need to have leaders who discuss issues."

-Lacey Jones
aerospace engineering junior

"I think he should speak on the issue... it's important for him to let the country know how he feels."

-Ben Raymond
materials engineering junior

"I think he should be way more vocal. As the future president, he should be able to talk about it with everyone."

-Justin Rayala
biological sciences sophomore
Gaza
continued from page 3

ation began Saturday with a withering round of artillery fire. Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Avi Ben Zamouli told Israeli TV the assault was going according to plan vsith a Hamas booby-trap caused the ca-

soldiers were killed and 24 others rocket launching locations near the border. Later, the Israeli military said three

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leader is planning to run for gov-
ernor.

State

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Mayor Gavin Newsom is con-
demning the vandalism of a Cath-
olic church in San Francisco. Swastikas and graffiti were spray-painted on the Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church over the weekend in an apparent protest of Proposition 8, which outlawed same-sex marriage in California. Although prominent Catholic leaders supported Proposition 8, the targeted church is in the Cas-

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in 2010, adding another big name

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to head the CIA. Retired Adm. Dennis Blair is Obama's choice to be
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John Travolta heartbroken over son's sudden death

Chris Gillette

FREEPORT, Bahamas — John Travolta said Sunday that although Jett was last seen Thursday night, he was pronounced dead at a hospital late Friday morning and he was later pronounced dead at a Freeport hospital. The youth was pronounced at a hospital late Friday morning and he was later pronounced dead at a Freeport hospital. The youth was pronounced dead at a hospital late Friday morning and he was later pronounced dead at a Freeport hospital.

Police Superintendent Basil Rahming has said a caretaker found Jett Travolta unconscious in a bathroom late Friday morning and he was later pronounced dead at a Freeport hospital. The youth was pronounced dead at a hospital late Friday morning and he was later pronounced dead at a Freeport hospital.

"The police left the impression that the boy was unsupervised," said McDermott, "and that the government is doing everything it can," Minniss said Sunday, adding that they would not disclose further specifics about the autopsy. About a dozen security guards and Bahamian police officers patrolled Sunday around the luxury Old Bahama Bay resort community where Travolta and Preston remained inside their home. The white-sand beach in front of the suites was closed.

The couple also have an 8-year-old daughter, Ella Bleu. Travolta, 54, is trying to finish funeral arrangements and hopes to fly his body to Florida by midweek, McDermott said. Travolta and Preston, 46, have a house in Ocala, Florida. The Church of Scientology, established in 1954 by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, has attracted numerous celebrity followers, and among its most famed members is Travolta, who has long been one of Hollywood's biggest names. Travolta, 54, is trying to finish funeral arrangements and hopes to fly his body to Florida by midweek, McDermott said. Travolta and Preston, 46, have a house in Ocala, Florida. The Church of Scientology, established in 1954 by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, has attracted numerous celebrity followers, and among its most famed members is Travolta, who has long been one of Hollywood's biggest names.

First lady Laura Bush to release memoirs in 2010

Hillel Italie

NEW YORK — First lady Laura Bush, among the most revered and eminently public figures of recent times, will, at last, tell her story.

Bush has agreed to write a memoir with one of the world's oldest publishing houses, Scribner, the imprint of Ernst Heminway, F. Scott Fitzgerald and the first lady's mother-in-law, Barbara Bush. Publication of the book, currently untitled, is scheduled for 2010.

"I am curious about Laura Bush and I believe others — people you would expect to be supporters of a Republican first lady, and other people, too — are just as curious about her," says Scribner publisher and executive vice president Susan Moldow, one of several publishers who were vying for the opportunity to write the story of the first lady.

"She was forthcoming about her own reticence. She understands she has not put herself forward and that this is her chance to share the information she wants to share. I think it is an interesting, surprising way to go about it.

The potential audience is enormous. Despite eight years in the White House, Laura Bush is essentially unknown to many admirers, who have speculated about her politics (rumors abound that she's more liberal than her husband), her marriage and a car accident when she was a teenager.

A former librarian, Bush is also known as a devoted reader whose favorite authors include Cormac McCarthy, Truman Capote and Toni Morrison.

In a statement issued Monday by Scribner, Bush said that she looked forward to working with the publisher "as I tell the stories of the extraordinary events and people I've met in my life, particularly during my years in the White House."

But rival publishers doubt the information Bush wants to share is the same that the public wants to read; they also question whether her advance — while surely worth millions — matches the $8 million Hillary Rodham Clinton received for "Living History." Executives from two publishing houses who spoke with the first lady said they decided not to offer bids. The executives asked not to be identified, citing the confidentiality of the talks.

Scribner, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Inc., part of CBS Corp., announced last week that the two and a half years after she left the White House, Bush, currently untitled, is scheduled for 2010.

volving several publishers, according to Bush's literary representative, Robert Barnett.

Neither Moldow nor the Bushes would offer financial details, but both say the memoir will be candid, Barnett, whose clients include Hillary Clinton and former President Bill Clinton, disputed concerns by noting that you never "reveal your best material in multi-publisher meetings."

Moldow said she anticipated a lively and fascinating book, and added that she never sought a "tell-all" from the first lady.

"I think she is clearly a very loyal person and she is also not someone you would expect explosive information from," she said. Asked what she hoped for in the book, Moldow said, "I want to learn her view of things, that's what I want to hear."

According to Barnett, Bush has not started the book, but "wants to get right to work on this project when she leaves the White House. It is a high priority for her." Bush will have a collaborator — still to be determined — to help her meet the 2010 publishing date. Former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's memoir "Living History" was released by Simon & Schuster two and a half years after she left the White House, Bush, currently untitled, is scheduled for 2010.

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‘Marley & Me’ remains box office top dog with $24M weekend

David Germain
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Jennifer Aniston, Owen Wilson and their little dog have not lost their box-office bite.

The family tale “Marley & Me” starring Aniston and Wilson as owners of an adorably mischievous pooch, took in $24.1 million to finish as the No. 1 movie for a second-straight weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The 20th Century Fox flick raised its total to $106.5 million since opening Christmas day.

With no new wide releases, the weekend shaped up largely like the previous one, with Disney’s Adam Sandler comedy “Bedtime Stories” in second-place with $20.3 million.

Rounding out the top-five again were Paramount’s Brad Pitt romantic drama “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” with $18.4 million, MGM’s Tom Cruise World War II saga “Valkyrie” with $14 million and the Warner Bros. Jim Carrey comedy “Yes Man” with $13.9 million.

In a season loaded with wartime stories, two Nazi-themed films opened in limited release.

Paramount Vantage’s “Defiance” debuted with $121,000 in two theaters for a whopping average of $60,500 a cinema.

“Bedtime Stories” starring Adam Sandler had the second highest weekend ticket sales.
Beyoncé’s album is half decent, literally

Ryan Broderick
THE CHRONICLE (BOSTON 6)

Beyoncé’s latest album, “I Am... Sasha Fierce,” is a complicated mess. It’s cut into two discs, the first being “I Am...” and the second being “Sasha Fierce.” Upon first listen, the question that comes to mind is what is the alter ego all about? The answer: something to do with “creating a sensual, aggressive alter ego.” The real answer of course is “I am...” is a challenging and interesting aggressive alter ego.” The real answer of course is “I am...” is a complicated mess. It’s cut into two discs, the first being “I Am...” and the second being “Sasha Fierce.”

Each CD opens with a single; “I Am...” opens with “If I Were A Boy,” which is an unbelievable track for the singer. Beyoncé’s done quiet ballads before, but not with the intensity and edge that she pulls off here. Her vocals are strong, the production is sleek and it’s a solid pop song. The rest of the disc continues along the same path, with simple and genuine lyricism. It dips off a bit with “Disappear,” but “Avia Maria” picks it back up and it ends on a more or less strong note.

“Sasha Fierce” opens with “Single Ladies,” and the anemic dance song is catchy and strong. The only thing it suffers from is repetition. Three minutes and 13 seconds is far too long for the album tries really hard and falls even harder.

The only thing it suffers from is repetition. Three minutes and 13 seconds is far too long for the album tries really hard and falls even harder.

Don’t pick up the album; buy the singles from iTunes and pretend the rest of the album’s just as utilizable. The dance singles have a smaller range than Beyoncé’s range. It’s only in the simple power ballads does her range become fully utilized. The dance singles have a smaller range than even Natasha Bedingfield, and less hooks.

At the end of it all, Beyoncé’s confused album suffers because it’s stuck between two incredibly contradictory moods and the worst part is, it doesn’t even try and hide the fact. Instead of trying to fix the problems and create some kind of decent, cohesive album, it only tries to monopolize on the problems and create some kind of decent, cohesive album, it only tries to monopolize on the imperfections before everyone realizes it is a flawed album.

Don’t pick up the album; buy the singles from iTunes and pretend the rest of the album’s just as good.

It will be the collaborator’s job, Moldow says, “to capture that, because I don’t think people have heard it as clearly as I did.”

Moldow says that Bush will help publicize the book. Recent first ladies, including Barbara Bush, have had more dependable appeal with readers than their husbands have had. President George W. Bush said last year that he, too, wants to write a book. Publishers, noting his poor approval ratings, have urged him to wait.
Welcome to 2009. Now make one resolution. Make one simple decision about one thing in your life that you can change to reduce your impact on the planet. Make it something achievable. Make it something that's important to you.

Statisticians have estimated that only 29 percent of Americans make New Year's resolutions these days, and only two out of 10 of them actually follow through with their goals. Be that minority. You have 358 days to become a better version of yourself. Get on it.

Typically it seems that New Year's Resolutions center around large, nebulous topics such as losing weight or increasing our net worth. Resolutions center around large, nebulous topics such as losing weight or increasing our net worth. What follows is a list of some more fine-tuned suggestions for resolutions. Some are specific, others are a bit more abstract. There are no real surprises in the mix, considering that this is an environmental column after all. But I do encourage you to pick a few of them and really make the effort to improve your lifestyle.

Personally, I'm going to put a lot of focus on the foods that I eat. I'm going to put a lot of focus on the foods that I eat. Since 2003, Palestinians have been killed just for being Jewish, and an obligation to her civilian populations under rocket attacks from Hamas and Islamic Jihad, to protect them. Equating Israel's defense of her citizens with the Holocaust is a shameful disgrace. No doubt countless instructors at Cal Poly will also blame Israel in their classes. You, the student, are subject to this. You should ask those faculty members why they think Israel should be able to launch rockets on Sderot and Ashkelon's civilian populations, indiscriminately, including schools, homes, hospitals, etc., while Israel is blamed by them for defending herself. Even Mahmoud Abbas has put the blame squarely on Hamas. Is it Israel's fault if Hamas keeps weapons and manufacturing facilities in houses, in the university and in mosques?

Benjamin Goodman
San Luis Obispo resident

Israeli attacks on Hamas are terrorism

If the Israeli attacks on Gaza do not embody the essence of terrorism, I am not sure what else would. Israel is showering bombs on Gaza and has begun a ground invasion, terrorizing the 1.5 million innocent civilians living in this tiny strip of land. Israeli sanctions have already caused a severe humanitarian crisis, denying Gazans electricity, food, medicine and other basic necessities. With the recent attacks on Gaza, over 500 innocent Palestinians have died and over 2,000 wounded. These numbers surpass the Israeli casualties over the last seven years.

Collective punishment of an entire people is morally and legally unjustifiable. Unfortunately, our own tax dollars are financing the Israeli massacre. Israel is the largest recipient of military aid from the United States, and over $30 billion dollars are allocated to Israel over the next decade (endtheoccupation.org). According to American law, however,
Palestinians carry a dead man into Shifa hospital in Gaza City, killed during the Israeli army operation in Gaza. Sunday, Israeli ground troops and tank cute swaths through the Gaza Strip Sunday, besetting the coastal territory and surrounding its biggest city, in the new phase of a devastating offensive against the Hamas group gained momentum. The Israeli military used overwhelming firepower from tanks, artillery and aircraft to protect the advancing soldiers and Gaza officials said at least 31 civilians were killed in the onslaught. One Israeli soldier was killed.

As the conflict in Gaza escalates, it seems that the only group without blood on its hands is the one that has paid the greatest cost: the civilians of Gaza. Israel has again chosen to collectively punish Palestinians for the actions of Hamas with a response completely disproportionate to the rocket attacks on their country. Before the ground invasion by Israel on Saturday, there had been 480 Gaza casualties, including 26 women and an unknown number of male civilians. Israel has suffered four deaths from the rocket attacks.

And although Israel has directly caused the most destruction in this conflict, Hamas is no less responsible. Hamas has chosen to direct rocket fire at the cities of southern Israel, deliberately targeting civilians. Hamas knew what the response from Israel would be; yet ignored the effect it would have on the lives of the people they claim to represent. Hamas has even used mosques and university buildings as weapon building sites, gambling on the global sustainability movement. Whether you are an early adopter or a dinosaur is completely up to you.

—Get involved. Shift your values away from individual materialism and toward stronger, more connected communities. Life satisfaction depends heavily on living a more meaningful life — rich in interactions, community involvement and volunteerism.

—Educate yourself, outside the classroom. Check out this great list of books that WorldChanging compiled: http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/008884.html. If you're studying business, architecture, engineering, English, or any other major, you'll find at least one book on the list that directly links your future career path with the global sustainability movement. Whether you are an early adopter or a dinosaur is completely up to you.

Hamas, Israeli share blame in Gaza conflict

Travis Schulze

The Lantern (John Wortman)

Green Spot

continued from page 8

violently lose 5,000 pounds of carbon or more annually. Considering the average American household has a carbon footprint of 22,000 pounds, every family has plenty of carbon to cut. For more information, go to www.epa.gov/powermeansitute.

— Set the "zero-waste" goal. Make recycling, composting, washing and reusing a common practice in your daily life. A mature tree will produce just 14 newspapers. The energy saved by recycling one aluminum container will run a television for three hours. Recycling one glass bottle will save enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours. Carry your own mug or reusable water container to avoid generating more petroleum-based plastics. Stash a set of tote bags in your car for shopping, and refuse to accept any disposables. The Grassroots Recycling Network has plenty of tips on their Web site, www.grrn.org.

— Drive less. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, an individual's transportation choices represent their biggest impact on the environment. Less is more, and efficiency is key (gas-guzzling is so 2004). Take responsibility for climate change and cut your emissions now. Much of our wealth has been built by generating greenhouse gas emissions during the past 100 years. Of all the countries in the world, the U.S. needs to step up to the plate the most to curb emissions by 80 percent or more in the next 40 years. Be active! If one of your resolutions is to get more exercise, try doing your shopping and errands on foot, or by bicycle, as part of your exercise program. Walking will help keep automobile pollution down and, like carpooling, help ease traffic congestion. Rather than driving to the gym, get outside, enjoy this beautiful Ohio State weather and get fit.

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eyes stifled the high-powered Longhorns. Ohio State averaged 43.9 points this season but mustered only a field goal in the first half. They didn't lead until a costly third-quarter touchdown run by McCoy, who also threw for 414 yards and two scores with an interception.

The Longhorns' offense, in a three-win tie atop the rugged Big 12 South and thought their 10-point victory over Oklahoma should be put them in the conference title game. But Oklahoma declared the division winner on a BCS standings tiebreaker, and the Sooners ripped Missouri in the Big 12 playoffs to earn a trip to the national championship.

"This team started this way and finished this way, and they've obviously one of the best teams in the country if not the best," Texas coach Mack Brown said.

The loss was Ohio State's third straight in a BCS bowl, and capped a 1-6 bowl season for the Big Ten.

"You saw a great football game out there; two teams going at it extremely hard," Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said.

Texas players rushed onto the field after Boccoson's last-gasp pass hit the turf deep in Texas territory, then gathered in front of the band and sang "The Eyes of Texas" with jubilant fans.

But early on, it looked as if the Buckeyes would finally be celebrating.

Texas brought Bevo on a score play, but left its offense back in Austin, at least in a sluggish first half.

The Longhorns failed to score in the first quarter. Texas was shut out in only four quarters all season — and only once in the first quarter, in a 39-33 loss at Texas Tech on Nov. 1.

The Buckeyes took a 3-0 lead on a 51-yard field goal by Aaron Pettrey midway through the first period. Ohio State drove 43 yards in nine plays, the biggest chunk coming on a 22-yard burst by Chris "Beanie" Wells.

Four minutes into the second quarter, Texas tied it at 3 on a 27-yard field goal by Hunter Lawrence. The Longhorns covered 57 yards, running twice for a total of no yards on the drive.

The Buckeyes responded with a 67-yard march to the Texas 7-yard line. But Buckeyes tackle Bryant Browning was flagged for a false start on third-and-2 at the 7, and after an incomplete pass the Buckeyes had to settle for a 36-yard field goal by Ryan P encountered to take a 6-3 lead.

Texas' best chance came late in the half, when McCoy smartly marched the Longhorns from their own 9 to the Ohio State 16 in 47 seconds.

But on third-and-2 at the Buckeyes' 16 and 9 seconds to go, McCoy threw perhaps his worst pass of the season. McCoy lobbed the ball toward Cosby at the goal line, but safety Anderson Russell picked it off to kill the threat.

Had McCoy thrown the ball into the seats, the Longhorns would have had time for a chip-shot tying field goal. But they went into the dressing room still down by three.

It didn't take McCoy long to atone.

The eyes of Texas were not on the scoreboard as much as they were on the Ohio State defense.

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Ten finalists for the Cal Poly football head coaching vacancy were interviewed over the weekend as the athletic department hopes to make a final decision by the end of this week, a team official said.

Rich Ellerson left the program after eight years when he accepted the head-coaching job at Army on Dec. 26.

As many as 45 candidates initially applied for the job and after a first round of interviews, Cal Poly athletic director Alison Come then narrowed down the list to the 10 candidates who gave a second interview. Cal Poly did not release the names of the 10 finalists.

The school is attempting to fill the position quickly due to upcoming recruitment weekends. College football's Letter of Intent signing day is Feb. 4.

Ellerson compiled a 36-34 record as the Mustangs head coach highlighted by last season's 8-3 mark that included a final football championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) ranking of eighth and a berth in the FCS playoffs.

Ellerson finished second in the ballot for this year's Eddie Robinson Award, presented by the Sports Network to the top FCS coach. He was also nominated in 2005. Cal Poly led the FCS in total offense (487.45 yards per game) and scoring offense (44.36). They also finished second in passing efficiency (167.72), third in rushing offense (360.45) and ninth in sacks allowed (0.82).

The Mustangs won the Great West Football Conference Championship in three of the last five years under Ellerson.

Army marks the third head-coaching position for Ellerson, who also served as head coach at Southern Utah for one season in 1996.

Ellerson, 55, has strong family ties to the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. where his father, a career Army officer, graduated in 1935. Ellerson had two siblings also attend the academy including his brother John, who lettered in football three times and served as the team's captain in 1962.

The Mustangs saw four players drafted under Ellerson's direction including third-round picks Jordan Beck (Atlanta Falcons) in 2005 and Chris Gocong (Philadelphia Eagles) in 2006. Quarterback Seth Burford (San Diego Chargers, 2002) and defensive back Courtney Brown (Dallas Cowboys, 2007) were seventh round selections.

Wide receiver Ramos Barden is also expected to be drafted during this year's draft which takes place April 25 -26.

ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Former Cal Poly football head coach Rich Ellerson is introduced as the new Army coach at a press conference on Dec. 30.

Mustangs daily staff report

San Diego — There was the strained groin in 2004, the lingering rib injury in 2005, a jaw injury in 2006, the knee injury in last year's playoffs and then his jammed right big toe earlier this season.

Now there's the groin injury that's dogging LaDainian Tomlinson to the point that he might have to sit out the San Diego Chargers' playoff game at Pittsburgh on Sunday.

The star running back isn't sure if a week's worth of treatment and rest is going to be enough to allow him to play.

"I don't know. It's tough," Tomlinson said after the Chargers' light workout on Monday. "This is a tough injury. I would probably venture to say it's probably the toughest of my career. We'll see what happens.

The injury, sustained in the final few minutes of the game against the Patriots on Sunday, hasn't been described as serious enough to keep Tomlinson out of action this week. But the Chargers are planning to have a starter ready on Sunday in case Tomlinson can't play.

If a week's worth of treatment and strengthening exercise go well, Tomlinson could test the groin before the game on Sunday. As he did before Saturday night's game. But he also said there's a chance he could be ruled out of the game before Sunday arrives.

"I'm pretty sure at some point I'll try it to see where I am. Then we'll see what happens. That's why we're leaving it as day-to-day and just see how it reacts."

Tomlinson hurt his left knee in last year's divisional-round upset win at Indianapolis, then aggravated it early in the AFC championship game at New England. He stood on the sideline for the final 3 1/3 quarters of the 21-12 loss to the Patriots.

Tomlinson had the lowest output of his brilliant eight-year career just two seasons after winning the league MVP award, setting records of the 21-12 loss to the Patriots.

Tomlinson chose not to clarify the situation.

"I won't because it is a medical issue and different doctors have their opinions," he said. "I'll leave it at that.

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Rich Ellerson's Impact on Cal Poly

Record: 56-34
Consecutive winning seasons: 6
Players drafted into the NFL: 4
Great West Conference Championships: 3
FCS Playoff berths: 2

L.T. could be sidelined Sunday by 'tough' injury

Bernie Wilson

San Diego — There was the strained groin in 2004, the lingering rib injury in 2005, a jaw injury in 2006, the knee injury in last year's playoffs and then his jammed right big toe earlier this season.

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San Diego Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson, right, scores an touchdown as Indianapolis Colts cornerback Kelvin Hayden on Saturday night.

Andrew Bagnato

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Buckeyes nearly pulled off the upset behind quarterbacks Terrelle Pryor and Todd Boeckman but instead went down to a third straight BCS bowl loss.

McCoy, the Heisman Trophy runner-up, calmly led the Longhorns 78 yards in 11 plays and 1:42 without calling a timeout. On the touchdown, Cosby caught a short pass, slipped a tackle and sprinted toward the goal line before diving into the end zone.

The Longhorns (12-2) rebounded after Ohio State (10-3) had taken a 21-17 lead on a 13-yard run by Dan Herron with 8:50 in the fourth.

That score came five minutes after Boeckman hit Pryor for a 3-yard score to cut Texas lead to 17-15. Pryor's pass on the 2-point conversion was incomplete.

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