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SJSU forward Hulett Brooks brings talent and experience to the women's basketball team
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On-line addicts find a new on-ramp for the ever-expanding information highway
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Vallejo campus adds depth to CSU

By Pat Matas
Spartan Daily Staff Writer
High-sea adventures await students at the California Maritime Academy of Vallejo (CMA). The CMA is scheduled to merge with the CSU system on July 1, 1995. "The (academy's) graduation requirements are patterned after the CSU system," said David Wolf, dean of CMA. CMA bachelor's degrees are

awarded with the merchant marine officer's license program in mechanical engineering, marine engineering technology, marine transportation and business administration. "We have about 500 students and they are split into two general groups — deck officer and engine room training," Wolf said. CMA graduates hold either a

On-board internships bring maritime academy lessons to life

third mate's (deck officer) certificate, emphasizing business administration or maritime studies, or an engineer third class (engine room officer) certificate emphasizing mechanical or marine engineering technology.

Graduates are eligible to become officers in the Navy, but enlisting is not a requirement. According to Wolf, the academy is presently under the state civil service system and is not recognized as an institution of higher education.

Under the Higher Education Employer Employee Relations Act (HEEERA), CMA will be able to receive CSU benefits, such as university accreditation. "We have difficulty getting proper reviews by the department of finance because we review for fiscal purposes as a state agency, not higher education," Wolf said. "(Through HEEERA) we'd be able to get a

proper administration budget." Transferring students will be required to spend three years with the academy, regardless of total units completed at other universities. This time commitment ensures students receive internships on CMA's training vessel as well as practical in-class instruction.
See CMA, page 3

Football players arrested after brawl at dance

By Jason Meagher
Spartan Daily Staff Writer
Four SJSU football players were arrested Sunday morning after a dance in the Student Union turned ugly. The four were arrested when fighting broke out after the dance, sponsored by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, ended at 2 a.m. Junior linebacker Dan Godfrey was arrested for fighting on campus. He was cited and released, according to police records. "Godfrey tried to tackle an

officer ... and things went downhill from there," said Lt. Bruce Lowe of the university police. Senior cornerback Dexter Burns was arrested on the Ninth Street side of the Student Union for fighting and delaying an officer. Sophomore defensive tackle Tom Sotelo was arrested near the ATM machines for delaying an officer. Both were taken to Santa Clara County Jail. Senior wide receiver Ronnie Scott was arrested at Joe
See FIGHT, page 3

Autumn wonders



TOP: Kindergartners from Lowell Elementary School visited SJSU to find "signs of fall" which they will craft into wreaths for Thanksgiving Day. Five-year-old Tam Tran finds an autumn leaf to add to her collection.

RIGHT: Tam Tran, left, and Cheryl Hallam take a sniff of pine needles that they have collected for their wreaths.

Photos by Andy Barron

Students learn as they teach in service program

By Carolina Moroder
Spartan Daily Staff Writer
Traveling usually has an exotic, mysterious and relaxing idea attached to it. However, this was not the case for Sarah Torres who, at age 16, traveled to Santiaguito, Oaxaca (Mexico) to help people understand the importance of health issues. After her trip to Mexico, Torres became a veteran of Amigos de las Americas — a private, voluntary organization committed to public health service in Latin America. Paula Lewis, Santa Clara valley chapter president of Amigos, said this experience is valuable for youngsters like Torres. "When the Amigos come back home from their summer in Latin America, they have a debriefing," Lewis said. They explain to others in the

group what their experience was, what they did, the problems they encountered and the solutions they found, she said. "So many of them say they were going to teach the communities, and (yet), come back so humble, saying they learned more from the community than what they (Amigos) gave them," she said. Lewis said Amigos de las Americas is a 28-year old organization based in Houston, Texas. It started when a church group went to Honduras and gave smallpox immunizations to residents in a small town. There was a spread of smallpox in the country and this town survived with no casualties due to the immunization efforts. When the government found out, it talked to
See SERVICE, page 3

Men with machine gun threaten dorm residents

Spartan Daily Staff Report
Three people entered Washburn Hall and threatened up to six people with a machine gun early Saturday morning, according to Lt. Bruce Lowe, of the university police. UPD had not made any arrests as of Tuesday evening, but Lowe said UPD has at least one suspect in the incident. According to police reports, a woman saw three men going up a stairwell in Washburn around 2:50 a.m. One of the men was armed with a machine gun. The woman saw the gun and tried to get away, but one of the three men grabbed her to prevent her

from calling police. The suspects forced a resident at gun-point to open a door for them. Once inside one of the student rooms, the man carrying the machine gun pointed it at one of the room's occupants, and the other two started yelling obscenities at the other three people in the room. Eventually, the three suspects left, and the residents called UPD. Lowe said the victims may have known the three suspects. Kim Dexter, Washburn resident director, said she will request full cooperation from Washburn residents in helping UPD find the suspects.

Self exams help women fight breast cancer

By Nicole Martin
Spartan Daily Staff Writer
So many questions and so little time. Victims of cancer often leave friends and family behind, wondering how and why this disease devastates lives. Margaret Headd, a health education intern at SJSU, describes cancer as the growth and spread of abnormal cells. In the breast self-examination (BSE) seminar sponsored by Student Health Services, Headd said the survival rate for early detection of breast cancer is almost 100 percent. The American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends women between ages of 20 and 40 perform a BSE once a month. One week after menstruation begins, a

woman should examine her breasts by feeling for lumps and looking for dimpling, swelling or soreness of the breast or discharge from the nipple. The health center will teach students to perform a BSE for free. Women should see a doctor once a year for a breast examination, but if abnormalities are found, a physician should be consulted as soon as possible. Women do not always seek advice when they find an abnormality in their breast, Headd said. There are social stigmas and lack of knowledge connected with breast cancer. Fear also prevents women from seeking medical attention. "For most people, health is not

important until it affects their life through a mother or aunt," she said. Men can also be victims of breast cancer. Of 183,000 cases a year, 1,000 are men. Of 46,300 deaths every year caused from breast cancer, 300 are men. "Early diagnosis is the key to survival," Headd said. After age 40, the ACS recommends women see a doctor once a year for a mammogram. A mammogram is a low-dose X-ray of the breast which can show abnormal tissue a doctor may not feel in an examination. Student Health Services offers cancer education to campus groups including the dorms, group organizations and classes.

Sorority hosts seminar on preventing cancer

By Nicole Martin
Spartan Daily Staff Writer
Marisela Delgado is thankful to have her mother at home. After watching a friend's mother die of breast cancer, Delgado wanted to learn how to prevent it from happening to her mother and her family. Her sorority, Lambda Sigma Gamma, invited Student Health Services to conduct a seminar on breast cancer on Monday night. Eleanor Gonzales, vice president of the sorority, said it hosts different informational seminars each semester.
See CANCER, page 3

SpartaGuide

The San José State calendar

TODAY

Lutheran Student Fellowship: Staff Bible Study on 1 Corinthians; 11 a.m.; Montalvo Room; Call Tim at 298-0204
 Albayan Club: General meeting: 3:30-5:00 p.m.; Almaden Room (student union); Call Rich or Eileen at 534-1140
 Chinese Campus Fellowship: Thanksgiving Dinner; 7:00 p.m.; Carrine's residence; Call Wingfield Liu at 252-6876
 Artist in Minority: Comedy Showcase Auditions; 4:00-7:00 p.m.,

Hugh Gillis Hall room 226; call Tosh 971-9163

MONDAY(29)
 Leukemia Society of America; Party and fund raising event; 9:00 p.m. till 2; At D.B. Cooper's, 163 W Santa Clara st.; Call Erik Olsen at 272-8710 or Kappa Sigma Fraternity at 279-9860
 School of Art and Design; Student Gallery Art Show; 10:00-4:00 p.m.; Art Building and Industrial Studies; Call Maria Novo 924-4330

SpartaGuide is available to SJSU students, faculty and staff organizations for free. Deadline is 5 p.m., two days before publication. Forms are available at the Spartan Daily, DBH 209. Limited space may force reducing the number of entries.

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Service

From page 1

the church group and asked for help. Amigos de las Americas was then founded. The projects the organization work on include community sanitation, dental hygiene, immunizations, rabies vaccinations, reforestation and school renovations, Lewis said. In Santiaguito, Sarah Torres helped in the construction of several latrines, gave dental hygiene and community sanitation instruction, and helped her community create compost piles. "Almost all their trash is organic," Torres said, referring to the people in Santiaguito. "They have very little packaging." "When we (her two roommates and she) left, we had more trash than they did," Torres said.

"This opened our eyes as to how much stuff we use that we don't really need," she said. Volunteers usually get involved in the program through a friend or family member's experience. Lewis became Amigos' Santa Clara valley chapter president through her daughter Julie's involvement. "When I saw the difference made in Julie's life, I was converted," Lewis said. According to Lewis, the youngsters come back with a better understanding of who they are. They also learn leadership and problem-solving skills, which they can use for the rest of their lives, Lewis said. Amigos' recruiting efforts tar-

get high school and college-age students. It is trying to get SJSU students involved in its organization. Amigos is looking for contacts in the foreign language or health departments to help it become involved in the university community, Lewis said.

The minimum age to participate in the program is 16 and there is no upper age limit.

Volunteers go through six months of training from November through May, Lewis said. The program also requires one year of high school Spanish, or Portuguese if going to Brazil.

Myriam Ruvinskis, language program coordinator, is training 67 students in Spanish next summer. Ruvinskis, who is Mexican, was also recruited by her daughter, Molly Contreras, who has gone to Brazil and Mexico as part of Amigos.

Ruvinskis said this experience awakens social consciousness. Volunteers learn a great deal about other cultures through the summer program, she said.

"I explain to the students this is a different culture, and what to really expect from it," Ruvinskis said.

"We have conversation lessons where we have dialogues of things they will have to do in these countries," she said.

Torres said she was taught Spanish to help her get through specific situations. Sheila Torres, Sarah's mother and office manager in SJSU's counseling services, said when volunteers arrive to these countries, they have to "sell" their health training and knowledge to the communities.

For this reason, they have to be well prepared to do so in Spanish, not in English, she said.

Volunteers have a leadership role in educating the community, Lewis said. They are trained in community health, since they will assume the role of village health workers, she said.

"Over 60 percent of our volunteers end up in the health field," she said. "When they come back, they realize they know a lot more than their peers." She refers to the intensive training volunteers go

through. They learn CPR and self-health care in Third World countries. Amigos not only trains the volunteers, it offers support groups for the parents at home. Parents get together when their children are abroad, to discuss what the families are going through. The parents share news from the volunteers' letters.

If you need more information about Amigos de las Americas or want to volunteer, you can contact Grace Jimenez at 408/379-8830 or Paula Lewis at 408/253-9227.

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Cancer: Early detection can prevent death

From page 1

ter. She said this seminar is important because cancer has affected many of the sorority members' lives.

Sara Gomez, a sophomore in child development, lost two uncles and an aunt to cancer. Her father, who lived in fear of the disease that claimed the lives of his three siblings, eventually died of lung cancer himself.

Rosemary Delgado, a senior majoring in administration of justice, also lost an uncle to cancer. She said it started as a lump on his hip. Although doctors told him it was benign, it spread.

"He was just diagnosed and then, boom, six months later he

died," Delgado said.

Concepcion Mosqueda's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer last August. She went through chemotherapy for a year and the cancer is gone for now, she said.

"She had good times and bad," Mosqueda said. "The chemo will last for five years."

Chemotherapy is a drug treatment which causes more damage to cancer cells than to normal cells, according to the American Cancer Society (ACS). It may be used as the only treatment for breast cancer if the cancer is already widespread at the time of diagnosis.

More commonly, however,

chemotherapy is used along with surgery, radiation therapy, or both.

Surgical procedures to cure breast cancer include a lumpectomy and a mastectomy. The lump and a border of surrounding tissue are removed in a lumpectomy. A mastectomy is a removal of the breast. According to the ACS, part or all of the breast can be removed.

According to the ACS, radiation therapy destroys cells by injuring their ability to divide. In treating breast cancer, radiation is usually used along with a lumpectomy or segmental mastectomy.

Hormonal therapy is another

type of treatment which involves changing the levels of hormones that help the cancer grow, according to the ACS.

Gloria Ramirez, a graduating senior, said her aunt died of cancer of the uterus.

"They removed (the cancer) but it came back," Ramirez said. "She had chemo, but it spread."

Fight

From page 1

West Hall for failure to disperse and delaying an officer. Scott was also booked into the county jail.

According to Lowe, there were approximately 700 to 800 people who did not leave the Student Union area when the dance finished at 2 a.m. Lowe said numerous fights broke out among people leaving the dance.

The crowd was told to disperse at 2:30 a.m. when fighting broke out in the crowd.

"As officers tried to break up the fights, people turned on them," Lowe said.

The four football players were the only people arrested by UPD. According to Lowe, one of the officers present felt the situation was out of control and called for emergency assistance from all available units.

A total of 42 units from San Jose Police Department responded to the officer's call and assisted UPD officers in controlling the situation. UPD had 16 officers present at the scene.

Lowe said there were fights from the Student Union all the way to the residence halls.

This marks the fourth time this semester SJSU football players have been arrested.

Godfrey, Sotelo and Scott played in the Spartans' 24-20 defeat to UOP on Saturday night. Burns did not play.

SJSU Sports Information Director Lawrence Fan would not comment on the arrests of the four players pending his own investigation of the matter.

Spartan Head Football Coach John Ralston was not available for comment.

CMA

From page 1

Without licensing obtained through the required internships, graduating students can not sail, Buchanan said.

"We have to adhere to regulations by the U.S. Coast Guard because of the licensing the students must obtain with their bachelor's degree," he said.

Practical training includes two internships on board CMA's 7,987-ton, 491-foot long training vessel, The Golden Bear.

The vessel is on loan from and supported by the federal government. Students are required to do a third, two-month internship on a commercial vessel as cadets in a learning situation to apply what they have learned in the classroom, Buchanan said.

Each internship is for a minimum of two months. The Golden Bear leaves port for major voyages every summer from May to June. The next summer voyage will travel to Hawaii, Korea, Russia, Alaska, Kodiak Island and then back to Vallejo, Wolf said.

"One of the major benefits for the state college student is the possibility of cruising on the training ship," Buchanan said.

According to Buchanan, CSU students who wish to pursue marine science or engineering-related fields can transfer to the academy for practical on-board training. Students will have to attend another college if they wish to pursue a degree not related to the academy.

The academy has an annual

budget of \$9 million from the state's general fund. Buchanan said the academy's intent on merging into the CSU is not to receive additional CSU funds.

"What we want to do is get out of the state agency and have the ability to generate our own funds through bonds," Buchanan said. "We are bringing money with us. CSU doesn't have to take money away from San Jose State (or any other CSU college)."

Established in 1929 as an independent school, CMA has attempted integration into the CSU for the last two years because of state budget cuts. After merging, the academy will be one of the oldest institutions in the CSU.

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Huey steps forward in lead role

By Clara S. Chien
Spartan Daily Staff Writer
It's late afternoon and SJSU's women's basketball team has just finished its daily practice in the Event Center.

Forward Hulett "Huey" Brooks, SJSU's leading scorer last season, insists she's not too exhausted to be interviewed, and climbs up a few steps and plops down on a bleacher seat.

She then looks below at the men's team now occupying the court. A knowing smile rushes to her face.

"When I was a kid, about 9 or 10," Brooks confesses, "my brothers were always playing basketball. I got to play with them a lot. They were my role models, especially my oldest brother. I used to always go to his high school games. He's 30 now."

Brooks hails from Seattle, Wash. She began playing organized basketball at age 12. Ten years later, she's proving to be one of SJSU's most valuable players.

At last week's season opener against the Finish International Basketball Team, Brooks scored 24 points — 10 field goals and four free throws. SJSU lost the game by five points, though, 74-69.

Brooks' career scoring average is 10.8 points per game. She led the team in scoring last season with 367 points, 14.1 points per game and rebounds with 176.

The 6-foot player was also a Second-team All-Big West Conference selection last season.

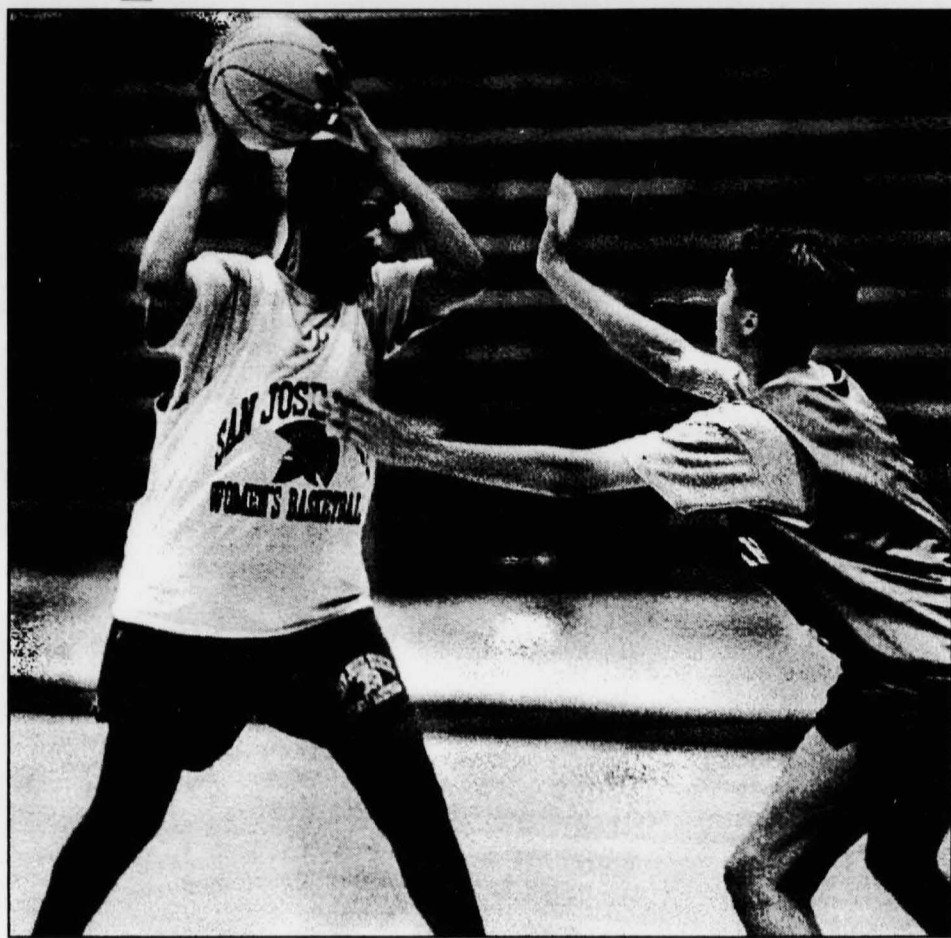
Brooks admits that becoming more of a threat offensively and defensively will help her become a stronger player this season.

In addition to improving, her general past theory of college basketball being merely a recreational sport also takes on different, more specific objectives this year.

"With basketball, I always try to have fun," Brooks says. "But right now it's a challenge for me because this is my last year."

"There are still so many things I want to accomplish on the court."

"And right now I'm mainly focussing on finishing the season and feeling good about myself. I'd like to know that I did all I could do to make my last year the best year."



SJSU forward Hulett Brooks, left, drills with teammate Francine Williams Sunday during basketball practice in the Event Center. Brooks, a fifth-year senior, was

the team's leading scorer last season with 367 points (14.1 per game). Brooks can be seen in the SJSU women's basketball home opener Nov. 30.

Brooks upholds confidence as an attribute when playing basketball.

She says intimidation for all sports can be viewed as a traditional art form, and if practiced the right way, a team will benefit from it.

"But some teams go crazy using it, and that's funny," Brooks says.

"I myself don't get intimidated. This doesn't mean I'm cocky, it just means I'm constantly telling myself nothing can stop me, and constantly telling others 'I won't let you beat me.'"

Bernadette Knight, Brooks' teammate and roommate, says Huey has always been an intense competitor, someone who plays hard but never resorts to show-

ing off.

"I've known Huey for about two years now," Knight says. "I think her leadership confidence on the court is a big part of the team's own confidence to play hard and fair."

Brooks makes a point not to discuss in detail post-college basketball.

She emphasizes instead on her commitment to this season's team and coaches.

"A lot of women after college do go on to play professional basketball overseas," Brooks says. "But right now I'm not looking at that. I'm looking at the pre-season — getting everything organized and helping out the new players."

"For all of us, the team, we get

along great. It's easy for a lot of us because we've known each other for at least a year or two.

"Only after our conference, whatever happens for me will happen. I would like to continue playing. If not, I'd like to do some coaching on the college level."

"Our coach, Karen (Smith),

this is her second year, and as soon as she began coaching she fitted right in. With her, the women's team will no doubt head to the top of our conference in the future. She's a great coach."

Smith says Brooks is the team captain on the court, and also a leader off the court.

"Brooks is the player we expect most out of," Smith says. "She's usually the person we rely on to come up with the big baskets."

"When she's not playing basketball, she's a very responsible human being with a lot of heart."

Knight describes Brooks as a motivational player who helps everyone on the team by praising their court skills and helping them practice both offensively and defensively.

Brooks herself doesn't feel any pressure when having to perform as a model player.

"What really keeps my adrenaline up in each game is team motivation," she says. "But I like to be a leader, also. I want my teammates to know they can count on me to motivate them, to help them. That's a good feeling."

Off the court, Brooks is described by teammate and friend, Shemekia Brown, as "easygoing and very intelligent."

Brooks is a senior Speech Communications major who has little free time (the team practices on weekdays and weekends), but claims "I love movies!" Her favorite is "The Breakfast Club."

And any holiday plans? The same knowing smile returns to her face.

"My eldest brother — the one I talked about — he's in the military in Virginia. I plan to visit him and his family down there this Christmas. This is something I look forward to."

SJSU defeats Nevada

Spartan Daily Staff Report

The Spartan volleyball team edged out the University of Nevada 3-1 Tuesday night at the Event Center in the last regular season match.

The victory increases SJSU's chances of making it to the NCAA Tournament. The team will know on Sunday whether it makes it to the playoffs.

The Spartans evened out their Big West Conference record 9-9 and improved their overall record to 16-13. Nevada dropped to 5-13 in the conference.

After taking the first game 15-12, SJSU lost the second game 15-13.

The Spartans regrouped though, taking the next two games 15-10 and 15-13.

Junior outside hitter Tanya Hart led the Spartans with 25 kills. Middle blocker Cristin Rossman added 11 kills and setter Pam Hope had 58 assists.

Spartans increase playoff chances

By Daphne Dick
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

The SJSU volleyball team may be one of the 48 teams in the nation to be chosen for the 1993 NCAA Women's Volleyball Tournament.

The bracket will be announced on Sunday.

Last night's 15-12, 13-15, 15-10, 15-13 victory over the University of Nevada increases the team's chances of going to the playoffs.

"We have about a 90 percent chance of playing in the tournament," Head Coach, Craig Choate said.

According to Choate, the top 28 teams automatically go to the playoffs.

The remaining 20 teams are chosen by an NCAA committee.

What the committee looks at is the team's strength of schedule as well as win-loss record.

A team could be 300, but if it played a weak schedule, it may not go. Where a team with a 15-15 record with a strong schedule may have a better chance at the playoffs, Choate said.

None of the players have been to a playoff game, so this is real exciting for them, Choate said.

"I never even thought I would be here. It is like a dream come true," said Becky Huffman, senior outside hitter.

SJSU is tied with Idaho for 5th place in the Northwest Region.

The top four schools in this region will have the best chance to make it to the playoffs.

These are Long Beach State, UC Santa Barbara, Hawaii and University of Pacific.

"This is the toughest conference. And I think it is great that we have a chance to go to the playoffs," said Pam Hope, senior setter.

The first round games will be on Dec. 1. The Spartans' last NCAA Tournament appearance was in 1990, when they lost to Long Beach State in the first round, 3-0.

"It has been my goal all season to make it to the playoffs," said Erin Ginney, senior outside hitter.

Ginney did attend a playoff tournament her freshman year at SJSU, but did not suit up.

Table titled 'Brooks Career Highs' listing statistics: 24 Points, 14 Rebounds, 6 Assists, 2 Blocked shots, 5 steals, with corresponding opponents like UC Irvine.

SJSU and Fresno renew rivalry

By Gabe Leon
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

SJSU announced its 1994 football schedule and future non-conference games until the year 2002 Tuesday. The Spartans will have four home games and will travel on the road seven times next season.

Among the highlights of the 1994 season is the renewal of play against rival Fresno State University. The teams will open the season in Fresno on September 3.

The game will be the teams first time playing since Fresno left the Big West Conference to join the Western Athletic Conference in 1991. It will also mark the 70th meeting between the two teams dating back to 1921.

"I've been at SJSU only for a year, but our fans keep telling me how great the San Jose State-Fresno State football games have been," Coach John Ralston said. "Now I'll get a chance to experience it first-hand. This game will be a great way to kick off our 1994 season."

"I'm excited about it. There was a certain disappointment when we lost the affiliation (with SJSU)," Fresno State Coach Jim Sweeney said. "Both teams had a great deal of respect for each other and the rivalry is a great motivational tool for our team."

The tradition will continue between the two schools when SJSU hosts Fresno State in the 1996 at Spartan Stadium. SJSU will travel to Fresno once again in 1998.

The last times the teams met in 1991, the Bulldogs edged the Spartans 31-28. The year before, in a game that determined the Big West championship, the largest crowd in Spartan Stadium history (31,218) witnessed a 42-7 Spartan victory. SJSU went

on to win the California Raisin Bowl and finished ranked 20th in the nation by United Press International.

In 1994, the Spartans will host Baylor University for their home opener on Sept. 10. It will be the first time that a Southwestern Conference team will play at SJSU.

Once again SJSU will challenge the powerhouses of the Pacific 10 as they will play Stanford, California and Washington on the road. The Spartans lost to all three schools by a combined score of 129-58 in 1993.

The remaining games on the 1994 schedule are against Big West Conference teams, Southwestern Louisiana, Nevada and New Mexico State at home and Louisiana Tech and Pacific on the road.

For future games, SJSU also scheduled a series of games with teams from the Pac-10, Big-10 and Big-8.

SJSU will meet USC of the Pac-10 for the first time in school history when the Spartans travel down to Los Angeles in 1995. They will have a second meeting in the year 2000 at Spartan Stadium. SJSU will make a return visit down south a year later in 2001.

SJSU will continue the South Bay tradition of playing Stanford by setting up games with the Cardinal until 2002 with future sites still to be determined.

According to SJSU Athletic Director Tom Brennan, Stanford has expressed interest in playing at Spartan Stadium in 1995.

SJSU has set up matches with yet another Pac-10 team. SJSU will play two road and two home games against the Beavers of Oregon State. The first match will be in Oregon in 1997.

The University of Wisconsin

will be the first Big-10 team to play at Spartan Stadium in 1997 followed by the University of Minnesota in 2002.

Oklahoma State from the Big-8 will meet SJSU for the first time in 1996 in Oklahoma and again at Spartan Stadium in 2001.

"The idea of playing the very best is the way we will improve as a football team," Ralston said. "To have home games against Pac-10 and Big-10 teams is a big boost for our program and will be exciting for our fans as well."

Ed Stacy contributed to the article.

Table titled '1994 SJSU Football Schedule' listing dates, opponents, and locations for games from Sept. 3 to Nov. 19.

Table titled 'Future NonConference Games' listing dates and opponents from Sept. 1995 to Sept. 2002, including Stanford-TBA.

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Electronic fiends cruise information highways

By Kira Rasmansky
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

Information junkies and bulletin board addicts have community access at their fingertips with the help of LiveWire.

LiveWire, Metro Newspaper's on-line computer service, is one of the newest on-line information services available to anyone with a computer and a modem.

According to Metro's on-line services manager Scot Brees, it is guaranteed to lure any electronic fiend on board.

The service enables users to access Metro and its seven community papers throughout Santa Clara Valley.

The service also provides access to OneNet, a public bulletin board system. LiveWire users can send messages to each other and people in other communication systems such as Internet as easily as dropping a letter off in the mail.

For those who do not know what E-mail is, on-line user "Frekkks" explained they are forums on which "serious and fascinating discussions are sometimes born from trivial inane nonsense."

"(They) are like the walls of public bathrooms. You can say whatever you want. Your goal is to be pithy without being annoying," Frekkks said.

Frekkks did not provide his real name. One of the perks on some bulletin board services is that users can opt to have a handle, rather than use a real name.

Handles are much like CB handles used by truck drivers. Users, like Frekkks said they consider them fun because they never know the person on the other end. With a disguised name, users can express themselves without any fear of being identified.

Regardless of the on-line service name, all are connected by a network. Internet, for example, is one of the large network highways on which the messages travel.

"You find a system that you enjoy and the messages do the traveling for you," Brees said. "It's the wave of the future. The Mercury Center is a good local

example of what has already been done."

San Jose Mercury News' Mercury Center, part of the America

OnLine communication service, came into effect earlier this year.

The system allows users to get more information on stories existing in the paper.

Although the Mercury Center has worked efficiently as an information service, it is often complicated to use, Brees said.

LiveWire, however, is user-friendly and it could be used by people who have never tried an on-line service before, he said.

"With the Mercury Center, you pay for all your time (on-line)," Brees said. "For LiveWire, there is a free level of access."

LiveWire guarantees 30 free minutes a day to anyone with an account.

The free time could be appealing to bulletin board users. For an on-line user, hours can often seem like minutes when it comes to holding a computer conference.

"Colin," an on-line user, said he is addicted to bulletin board



systems (BBSs). Colin can send and receive E-mail provided he knows the person's E-mail address. "Many times I've been typing away merrily on several BBSs, only to find that the time had somehow become 4 a.m.," he said.

Cyradis, alias 14-year-old Alison Clark, caught the bulletin board bug from her

mother.

"My mom is a writer and a moderator for one of the boards on-line," she said. "One day she forgot to shut it off, and I got to use the computer."

After the first time, Clark said she used the computer every time it was left on.

"When my mom found out, she let me have my own screen (address) name. We laugh about it now," she said.

Clark used the fantasy bulletin boards of America OnLine. Each theme in the bulletin board services appeals to its own community.

LiveWire works to build up that sense of a community, Brees said.

"We want to provide connectivity and access," he said.

On-line services may be available under special circumstances to SJSU students at the campus computer information services.

According to Eric Matthews at the campus computer information services, no student can hold a discussion alone on Gopher, the current electronic service available.

"We wouldn't let students start a discussion list," he said. "If there was a group that wanted to start that, they (the computer information service management) would allow it."

LiveWire has not gone public yet, but Brees said Metro hopes to have it accessible to the public in the near future.

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