



## SOPHIA AHUMADA: MAKING IT HAPPEN

Contributed by Tiffany Bull, member of the CSUDH volleyball team



Entering spring 2007, Sophia Ahumada was two months shy of getting her degree. There were moments along the way when she doubted it would ever happen.

Growing up, Ahumada was the eldest of four children raised by their single mother. She naturally took on "mom" qualities and the burden of responsibility was never absent, which only prepared her for what was to happen next in her life.

While attending Cal State University Long Beach at the age of 21 she became pregnant.

"I didn't want to drop out of school. I had to drop out," says Ahumada, 27. "Getting pregnant was not on my 'to-do' list, but I wouldn't have it any other way now."

Her daughter Athena was born nine months later, and the joy of birth quickly became overshadowed by new and even harder challenges.

With no money, no job, and mostly no higher education, Ahumada and her daughter were kicked out of their apartment with only two months to find a new home.

"I wanted the best for my family and for my daughter, and I knew that getting my degree was going to make that happen," Ahumada reflects.

Trying to find a place her daughter could call home while at the same time earning her degree in education was no simple task. She had to work graveyard shifts as a waitress and take classes during the day at Cal State Dominguez Hills. She says she could not have done it without her mother.

"She took care of Athena when I was away trying to balance school, work, being a mom, and still helping my other siblings," Ahumada says.

However, as things appeared to be getting back to normal, Ahumada was hit with a heart-wrenching road block: Her mom was diagnosed with cancer.

"It really tested our family. I realized that I needed to surrender myself and let things take their course," Ahumada says. "We got through it and it led me and my daughter to better opportunities."

She began to receive financial aid for playing volleyball for the school, which enabled her to not have to work as much and gave her the time to be the kind of mother she wanted to be.

Current CSUDH volleyball interim head coach Scott Davenport, who was an assistant coach at the time Ahumada joined the Toros' roster four years ago, knew he had someone special.

"Sophia has passion," Davenport says. "She will go the extra mile or two to get the job done, even if no one acknowledges it."

After spending two seasons on the court with the Toros, Ahumada was hired as an assistant coach in 2006 for the women's volleyball program in hopes of sharing her passion with others.

"Sophia is in charge of fundraising because she is one of the few who will set her mind to something and not stop until it has been accomplished," Davenport said. "She's been there, and knows how important scholarships can be to a struggling college student."

Ahumada is eternally grateful to the Athletics Department and teachers who have helped along the way.

"Toni Mariach, Dr. Zhou, Dr. Hancock, Coach Johnson, Tim McGuire, Ethan Kreiswirth, Theresa Cuarenta, Brendan Dally, Lisa Mabry, Lamel Harris, Mel Miranda and of course Coach Davenport," begins Ahumada. "All of these people influenced me and helped me get to a point of contentment in my life today."

Now the mother of a 7-year old, Ahumada says she'll never forget her place in the world and feels like it is her obligation to let others know there is more to life than the everyday routine.

"Struggles may bring you down but giving in to weakness is not bettering anyone's situation," Ahumada says. "If I did not believe in a higher power, I would not be where I am today."

In addition to working with the volleyball team at CSUDH, Ahumada also helps coach the boys and girls volleyball teams at her alma mater, Narbonne High School in Harbor City.

Ahumada graduated this past May with a degree in kinesiology and hopes to teach physical education to middle school students.



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get-away to Avi Resort and Casino each required a good-natured bidding war.

Once the silent auction ended, CSUDH baseball interim head coach and designated auctioneer Murphy Su'a brought down the house during the live auction as a "We Love L.A." package, including tickets to L.A. Dodgers and Angels baseball, and UCLA and USC football games, "Live in Concert..." featuring tickets to the sold out American Idol Tour, LeAnn Rimes and Clay Aiken concerts, and "Tickets to the 2008 NCAA D-II Men's Basketball Final Four" items that became hot commodities towards the event's conclusion.

One live auction item in particular, a Las Vegas getaway at the Palms Casino, turned into one of the afternoon's highlights as just \$10 was required to participate in the bidding, after which a game of "heads" or "tails" eventually determined CSUDH Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Randy Zarn the item's winner after narrowly edging CSUDH Athletics Director Patrick Guillen ... by a tail.

After the morning of golf, the team of Ed Sullivan, Chris Burquet, Frank Quinn, and their fourth took home the day's lowest score, followed by the quartet of John Moody, John Keyse, Sean Lockhart and Barry Donegan in 2nd place, and ensemble of Tom Slowey, Ron Clark, Mark Allen and Fred Burch in 3rd.

"I couldn't have been happier with the event as a whole," beamed Lamel D. Harris, CSUDH Assistant Athletics Director and Golf Classic Chair. "The Golf Classic committee, along with the CSUDH Athletics staff and University, Meadowlark Golf Club and our sponsors all combined to not only provide a fun-filled day of golf, but also to raise much-needed scholarship dollars for our deserving student-athletes."

## NEWEST ADDITION TO THE STAFF

Cal State Dominguez Hills welcomed Natalie Lockhart its Compliance Coordinator/Senior Woman Administrator in July 2007, the second Lockhart to join the Toros Athletics staff.

"We are thrilled to have Natalie join our team as the Compliance Coordinator/Senior Woman Administrator," begins Patrick Guillen, CSUDH Director of Athletics. "She has been around Toro Athletics since 1997 as a student-athlete, then later as an intern and academic advisor in the compliance office. This experience, coupled with her knowledge of CSUDH will only help her be successful in this position. She genuinely has a keen interest in her field, is passionate towards our students and has a good understanding of what it takes to get the job done. Natalie is a natural fit in our department and she has a bright future in Intercollegiate Athletics."

In her roles, Lockhart is responsible for gender equity as the Title IX administrator, acts as the liaison between the department and NCAA/CCAA with all compliance concerns, serves as the National Letter of Intent administrator and advises student-athletes and prospects both academically and regarding their eligibility.

Prior to her new position, Natalie has had diverse experiences within the higher education system. She served as an Academic Advisor at California State University Long Beach during 2005-06 and most recently interned at both Cypress College and Cerritos College in the Transfer Center and Career Center departments during the 2006-07 academic year.

After earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science from University of California, Irvine in 2002, Natalie received her Master of Science degree in Counseling with an emphasis in Student Development in Higher Education from California State University Long Beach in May 2007.

As a former Toro soccer player, she was an integral part of both the 1997 and 1999 squads, where she earned a 2nd-team All-CCAA selection and an All-Final Four team selection after helping CSUDH reach the NCAA Division II semifinals in 1997. Lockhart then finished her last two years of eligibility at UC Irvine where she was a 2nd-team All-Big West and a 2nd-team Verizon Academic All-American selection.

Natalie and husband Sean, current CSUDH Assistant Men's and Women's Soccer coach, reside in Torrance.

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## NEWS AND NOTES

*CSUDH Athletics welcomes you to the Toro Quarterly, where you can catch up with what's happening in the world of Toro Athletics.*

## A NEW LOOK FOR TORO ATHLETICS

The Cal State Dominguez Hills Department of Intercollegiate Athletics along with Internet Consulting Services (ICS) and Jim Ward Design have teamed to develop a revolutionary new look for Toros Athletics by creating cutting edge logos and a redesigned web site that is both exciting and inviting. The web site is now live and will serve as the new official home of the CSUDH Athletics Department, while the bold new logos for athletics will brand the Toros for decades to come.

"We are very excited about the redesign and launch of both our new logos and new web site," begins Cal State Dominguez Hills Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Patrick Guillen. "GoToros.com is an important piece of the rebranding effort that Toros Athletics has undertaken this past year and will, with our new marks, help us advance the Toros brand."

The new logos replace the triangle mark that was introduced in the 1980s, and now feature a primary mark, six secondary marks, three word marks, sport specific marks and a monogram mark that will appear on all CSUDH team competition gear. The primary mark, which features a fierce and statuesque bull, the university's name, and the "DH" initials as the foundation, will be used as the main CSUDH Athletics logo appearing on all official material, while the monogram mark, a beveled "DH" in cardinal with a gold outline, features horns that jettison to form a semi-circle at logo's top, and will become the brand of Toros Athletics.

With www.GoToros.com, student-athletes, fans and supporters alike will be presented with an exciting new look and feel, and will have an array of new features to utilize including a user-friendly layout, an easy-to-access calendar of events, interactive polls for all CSUDH sports, a newsletter, scoreboard ticker, links to department and specific athletic-related information including the student-athlete handbook and training room resources for the student-athlete, as well as recruiting information and access to the university's frequently asked questions (FAQs).

CSUDH Assistant Athletics Director/Media Relations Director Mel Miranda notes, "Jim Ward Design understood our committee's vision and, after a few changes, came up with not only a primary mark and six secondary marks that we loved, but three word marks and a monogram mark that will define Toros athletics for decades to come. Similarly, ICS was a perfect home for our new web site with its features, overall appearance and ease in managing. We couldn't be happier with both our new looks, and know our student-athletes, fans and supporters will be thrilled as well."

## RUNNING AGAINST THE WORLD

Former Toro and six-time All-American Carmelita Jeter shined at the 11th Annual International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championships in Osaka, Japan on August 27, finishing third in the 100-meter dash behind Veronica Campbell of Jamaica and Lauryn Williams of the USA.

In the race Jeter got off to a rough start with a reaction time of 0.189, the slowest of any runner, but closed in on the leaders halfway through the race to finish in 11.02, an eyelash behind the winners who both came in at 11.01.

"It is a great achievement for her considering where we started from eight years ago with all of the trials and tribulations we went through," begins CSUDH Track & Field head coach Warren Edmonson. "It was our dream to one day have her stand on that podium and win a medal, and it is really satisfying for me as a coach to see her stand up there because as coaches that is what we want to see for our athletes, to become champions and role models. I think it is outstanding for the University to have someone represent the school the way she has. She called me after the race and we both shared a little tear over the phone. With the way that she ran in these championships I believe that a gold medal at the 2008 Olympics is a real possibility for her."



www.GoToros.com

## CSUDH STUDENT-ATHLETES BENEFIT @ 17TH ANNUAL TOROS SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC

A nearly sold out contingent of golfers made winners of present and future Cal State Dominguez Hills student-athletes at the 17th Annual Toros Scholarship Golf Classic held last Friday, June 1, at the beautiful Meadowlark Golf Club in Huntington Beach, California.

The Toros Scholarship Golf Classic, which serves as one of two major fund-raisers for the Toros athletics program, was presented by bp Carson Refinery, and welcomed Walter Neil, the External Affairs Manager of British Petroleum - Carson Refinery, as its Honorary Chairman, who in turn welcomed the hungry golfers as they settled into their seats for the early afternoon buffet lunch.

"It was a fun day for the entire Toro family," begins CSUDH Athletics Director Patrick Guillen. "Our staff, especially Lamel Harris and Deann Schlobohm, did a wonderful job organizing the event, and I'm proud and grateful that Walter Neil and bp Carson Refinery not only served as our title sponsor at this year's Classic, but also have agreed to come back next year as our presenting/title sponsor in 2008."

This year's event also featured the return of the JetBlue Hole-In-One Challenge, which gave golfers four opportunities for four great JetBlue golfing vacation packages, as well as the introduction of Pin-Up Golf, a company that helped with the overall fundraising efforts of Toro Athletics.

After the morning's best-ball scramble concluded, participants were treated to a buffet lunch, mixed in between the silent and live auctions. With silent auction items such as golf outings at Avila Beach and at Legacy Golf Club the first to be bid on, others such as a Duffy boat cruise, VIP tickets for a "Dr. Phil" show taping and a week-long



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## MAKING IT OFFICIAL

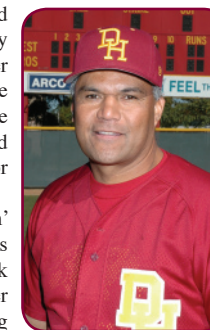
Cal State Dominguez Hills officially named Murphy Su'a its baseball head coach on July 25, 2007, nearly a year after being appointed interim head coach after former head coach George Wing announced his retirement. With the announcement, Su'a becomes just the 4th head coach in the program's history after spending the six previous years donned in Cardinal and Gold, including five as an assistant coach prior to the 2006 campaign.

"I am extremely pleased to remove the 'interim' tag and announce Murphy Su'a as the head coach of the Toros baseball program," begins CSUDH Director of Athletics Patrick Guillen. "Coach Su'a is someone of impeccable character who will help us continue our reputation of building strong foundations in the lives of our young student-athletes through competition. I have every confidence that Murphy will lead the Toros baseball program to new levels of success on and off the field."

No stranger to the Toro dugout, Su'a brings a wealth of coaching and playing experience to the Toros. He played two seasons at LA Valley College (1976-77) before transferring to Brigham Young University where he was an NCAA Division I 1st-team All-America selection in 1979, establishing records for home runs, RBI, runs scored, doubles, total bases and at-bats.

Invited to try out for the USA National Team, Su'a instead elected to sign with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1979, and after a short stint, signed with the Milwaukee Brewers soon thereafter where he began his coaching career as a player/coach/manager for two Milwaukee affiliates. Su'a then served as the pitching coach at East Los Angeles College for two years before taking over assistant coaching duties at West Torrance HS, where he helped guided the Warriors to six Bay League Championships.

"I'm excited to take the responsibility and look forward to being the head coach of this program for many years to come," begins Su'a. "CSUDH is home to me, and will continue to build the Toros into a national contender."



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## WOMEN'S SOCCER

Experience will be the defining word of the 2007 Cal State Dominguez Hills women's soccer season. With nine seniors donning the Cardinal & Gold for the final time in their careers, this year comes with high expectations after the last season's campaign ended with neither a CCAA nor a NCAA tournament bid.

In 2006, then-senior Rachele McDonald was named both the Daktronics All-Region Player of the Year and the CCAA Player of the Year, winning the latter award for the 2nd time in her three-year career in Cardinal & Gold after leading the conference in points, tying for assists, and finishing 2nd in goals scored.

In all, CSUDH claimed 3 All-Region nods, 5 All-CCAA honors, 2 ESPN Academic All-District accolades and 1 CCAA Player of the Week selection while winning five of its final six regular season contests, but were left out of the CCAA Tournament after Humboldt State earned the fourth and final spot in the tournament by virtue of winning a tie-breaker over the Toros.



"I could pinpoint 4 or 5 games, honestly, that could've pushed us over the top and gotten us that 4th spot in the CCAA Tournament," reflects CSUDH head coach Joe Flanagan. "In the past, we've had some luck where we would win some of those 1-0 or 2-1 games, and last year we just didn't have that."

This year, seniors Corrie Hirokawa, Amy Livergood, Sandy Lloyd and Fawna Waldo, who between them have missed just three of 264 games played and seven starting assignments over the past three seasons, anchor a talented, experienced and hungry Toro squad and, with fellow fourth-year senior Jennifer Jimenez, are intent on beginning another conference and national post-season run after last year's disappointment.

"I think we need a couple girls to step up and really start scoring some goals," Flanagan continues. "We're obviously going to miss Rachele and her output, but we think we have some other girls who can step in and fill those shoes. But it's going to take more than one. I'm a firm believer that you're going to need 3 or 4 scorers that other teams need to worry about and can't rely on just one girl to do it."



## MEN'S SOCCER

The Cal State Dominguez Hills men's soccer team has much to live up to in 2007. Not only did last year's squad capture the program's unprecedented 7th California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) Conference Championship with a thrilling 2-1 come-from-behind win over upstart and cross-town rival Cal State L.A., it did so riding two unsung heroes in both a senior whose goal in the Championship game was the only goal scored in his two-year CSUDH career, and in a redshirt freshman keeper who was forced to enter the contest just 33:14 into the first half, and proceeded to hold the Golden Eagle offense scoreless for two-thirds of the contest after seeing just 203 total minutes of action in the regular season.

The win over CSULA, highlighting an up-and-down season that saw a six-game win streak to open the year precede a string of five defeats over the next six games, was more improbable in that the Golden Eagles had taken both regular season contests from the Toros after CSUDH dominated CSULA by boasting an 11-year unbeaten streak against their southern California foes entering the 2006 campaign.

In the course of those highs and lows, and after the Toros had lost three straight and five of six, a team meeting before a match-up with then-defending CCAA Champion Sonoma State shook the Toros from their funk, and the ensuing 5-0 thrashing of the Seawolves set CSUDH on its way towards the crown.

"We had a good meeting the night before the Sonoma State game, and that turned our season around," reflects Flanagan. "The guys thought we were almost done with our season, but we explained to them that although we weren't in great shape, we were still in good position to make things happen. We locked down on a couple different tactical things and they really bought into it and got on the same page, and we came out storming."

Nine games later, including seven wins, one tie and a conference title, CSUDH gained the top seed in the region and was granted hosting duties in the NCAA Far West Region, but fell ignominiously in overtime to Seattle, 2-1, in the first round of the playoffs.

Gone from this year's team are five seniors including Jesse Graham (2nd-team All-American midfielder), Shogo Okuma (2nd-team All-Region midfielder), Wilmer Lopez (playmaker who assisted on both goals in the title game), LJ Reinhardt (1st-team All-Region defender) and Kyle Polak (1st-team All-Region keeper and owner of CSUDH's marks for career wins and shutouts), who combined to give the 2006 Toros experience, leadership and the swagger necessary to reclaim the conference crown after winning four-straight from 1999-2002.

However, what the 2007 team returns are senior forward Sammy Rivas, a 2nd-team All-Region and 1st-team All-CCAA selection, and Alberto Garcia and Devin Toohey, who each earned 3rd-team All-CCAA nods after making their collective presence felt with solid and progressive play throughout the year.



The Toros also welcome back sophomore Mario Guerrero and senior Julio Madrigal, who combined for nine goals and 22 points, seniors Humberto Lopez and Kyle Holland, who established themselves as dangerous middle men, and sophomore Derby Carrillo, whose success in the title game and two years of experience in the CSUDH program have prepared him for his next three seasons as the Toros' probable starting keeper.

"In terms of experience, we definitely have a lot of that," previews the four-time CCAA Men's Soccer Coach of the Year. "If everything works out, this will be our deepest team and, as a staff, we're going to have some tough decisions to make, which is a good thing. Some guys who red-shirted last year could've played for us, so they're in a sense like new recruits. Plus with the guys coming in, we'll have a strong team in 2007. We're very excited."

### Toro Quarterly Credits

The Toro Quarterly is designed and edited by the Sports Information Department. Photos courtesy of John Alexovich, Phil Ellsworth, Kirby Lee and Yary Photography.



## SOFTBALL

The Toros softball team struggled in its rebuilding year with a 22-30 overall and 10-22 CCAA Conference mark after just three players from last year's NCAA Far West Region Championship Series team returned to this year's squad, joining eight freshmen and seven transfers who donned Cardinal & Gold for the first time.

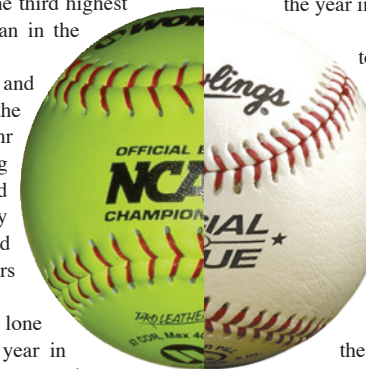
Freshman Katie Jordan challenged the single season batting average mark of .407 set two years ago, eventually finishing at .392 to give her the third highest average in the CCAA and the honor of being the only freshman in the CCAA's top 10.

Fellow freshmen Jennifer Frazier, Jodi Nakawatase and Erika Gonzalez also made solid efforts in their first year, posting the 3rd through 5th best averages on the team, while juniors Bri Mahr and Jennifer Martinez made their respective presence felt, giving the Toros two key returners for next year's squad. Mahr batted a whopping .336 on the year, while J. Martinez did double duty as starting pitcher and offensive threat, blasting 4 home runs and driving in 25 RBI, also leading the team with 17 wins and 94 batters fanned.

This year also marked the final season for CSUDH's lone senior in Araceli Martinez, who finished her fourth and final year in Cardinal & Gold. The Downey native set personal-best marks for runs scored, doubles and RBI in 2007, and exited her final game on Toro Diamond with a 7-4 win over Sonoma State, completing a 2-for-6, two RBI afternoon effort on a picture perfect day.

Individually, Jordan was named to the Daktronics 1st-team All-Region squad, one week after being named the lone freshman to earn 1st-team All-CCAA honors, leading five Toros to earn an All-CCAA honor including Mahr, Frazier, Katie Gonzalez and Katie Garcia.

With the exception of A. Martinez, next year's squad returns nearly its entire roster, including redshirt Regina Farfan, who is expected to give the Toros another ace in the circle.



## GOLF

Senior Zach Jones ended the CCAA Championship the way he began the first golf meet of the 2007 season – leading the Toro linksters.

Welcoming two returning players and four newcomers, including Jones, the Toros finished 8th of 8 teams competing at the Championships, and were led by Jones and Raphael Malabanan, the only other Toro to shoot in the 70s in the final round.

Jones bookended his 2-under 70 in the second round with 77s in the first and third rounds, good for an overall 25th-place finish and a total score of 224.

Malabanan finished his first CCAA Championships with a 79 in the third round and overall score of 230, good for 34th place.

Miguel Saucedo (38th, 253), Jeff Ronk (39th, 257) and Matt Giamberdino (40th, 261) rounded out the Toro golfers and, along with Malabanan, look towards 2008 to crack the upper half of the highly-competitive CCAA Conference.

Their season begins in spring under the direction of the oldest living golf coach in the nation, Dr. John L. Johnson.



## BASEBALL

With 2/3 of the starting outfield, 3/4 of the starting rotation, both starting corner infielders and a handful of dependable role players gone from last season's CCAA tournament team, interim baseball head coach Murphy Su'a had his hands full in his first year at the helm.

The 2007 season started off slowly with the Toros picking up their first win of the year in the sixth game of the season against Cal State San Marcos.

Momentum appeared to be on the Toros side as they took 3-of-4 from Division I Southern Utah, for which senior Scott Moore was named CCAA Player of the Week. However, CSUDH struggled when conference play began, dropping 3-of-4 to both Cal State Monterey Bay and Sonoma State, and splitting with San Francisco State.

Overall CSUDH posted a 4-12 record in the month of March, dropping 13-straight games at one point.

As the calendar rolled to April the Toros took 3-of-4 from Cal Poly Pomona, and Mateo Marquez was rewarded by being named CCAA Player of the Week.

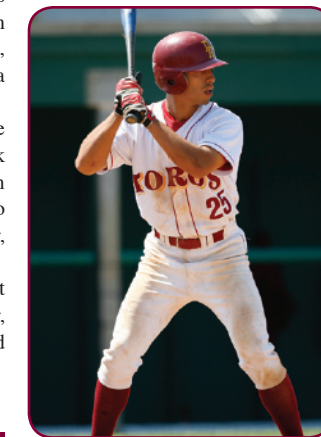
However, the end of the season schedule was not favorable to the Toros as they faced two nationally-ranked teams in No.1 Cal State L.A. and No.12 Chico State, with CSUDH finishing its eight total games with a record of just 1-7.

Overall Marquez had a standout season finishing, in the top 15 in the CCAA in triples, total bases, stolen bases, slugging percentage, hits, home runs, RBIs, and batting average.

This translated into his being named onto three All-Region teams, and being selected by the defending World Series Champion St. Louis Cardinals in the First-Year Player Draft.

For the Toros, Marquez, Houston Hernandez and Cody Puckett all were named to All-CCAA squads, while Hernandez also claimed an ABCA/Rawlings 2nd-team accolade in his final season in Cardinal & Gold.

CSUDH will again suffer heavy losses this season with 11 seniors departing, including four-year members Hernandez, James Dodson and Gus Hernandez.



## TRACK & FIELD

During the indoor track season, junior Grace Fitchett posted the 3rd fastest time in the nation in the 60-Meter Hurdles with a time of 8.57 heading into the Indoor Championships held in Boston, MA, but struggled and failed to qualify for the finals.

In the outdoor season thus far the Toros have had three different individuals turn in provisional marks, as well as a relay team.

Junior Fitchett earned the Toros' lone All-American honor at the Outdoor Championships, finishing 8th in the 100-meter hurdle finals, one of four events in which she participated (100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, 4x100 relay).

This honor came after Fitchett and teammate Deborah Bowser each captured a CCAA Individual title at the conference championships a few weeks earlier.

Fitchett claimed her conference crown in the 100-meter dash while posting a runner-up effort in the 100-meter hurdles, while Bowser cut nearly four-tenths of a second of her preliminary time for CSUDH's 2nd individual crown of the day.

Next season, senior Fitchett will lead a seasoned crew and, with a talented crop of newcomers, again looks to bring the Toros to national prominence.



## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

With the fourth new head coach in the past eight years at the helm of the CSUDH volleyball program, the Toros are looking to change history this season, a history which includes only two .500 seasons in the past 25 years, eight 10 plus win seasons, and never finishing with a winning record in conference play.

The coached assigned to the task of correcting the Toros volleyball ship will be interim head coach Scott Davenport, who has spent the past three seasons as an assistant coach under two different head coaches.

"I welcome the challenge," begins Davenport, who was named interim head volleyball at the end of 2006.

"I have been here for three years and I have kind of seen the program be stagnant. I want to see CSUDH volleyball go in the right direction, want to see a winning tradition, and a culture brought to our program like we have in some of our other sports. I have seen a number of our other coaches instill that kind of attitude, tradition, and culture in their teams and I am trying to follow their lead and learn from them."

Davenport will have a lot of untried talent to build his lineup around this season with the departure of nine players from last year's team.

However, coach Davenport will not have to completely rebuild the Toro attack as a trio of seniors – outside hitter Sophia Lopes, along with setters Tiffany Bull and Kayleigh Spratt – is back to provide leadership and experience to a roster full of underclassman. However, Davenport will have to cope with a pair of defensive losses in graduated seniors Nicole Hoffman, a middle blocker who finished off her two-year career 10th in block assists in a season, 8th in block assists in a career and 10th in total blocks in a career, and in Maria Miranda, a libero who finished tied for 5th all-time for digs in a season.

2006 was season that began with much anticipation and expectations under first year head coach Randy Cline. After dropping their first two matches at the UC San Diego Triton Classic, the Toros picked up back-to-back wins over Bryant University and Mesa State, with the latter making it to the Southwest Region finals.

With seven seniors having left their mark on the 2006 campaign, the Toros will have much offense and defense to make up with those seven accounting for 42% of the total kills, 52% of the total digs, and 45% of the total block assists.

"We lost almost our entire starting lineup," states Davenport. "The seniors had the experience of playing against the teams in the CCAA and knew what to expect. We are on a learning curve right now with so many additions who are inexperienced at this level."

