



# VARSITY CLUB NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 3

August 1, 2008

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Women's Soccer Alumni Game  
August 17, 2008 10:00 AM  
George Allen Field
- Golf Tournament Committee Meetings  
Every Tuesday at 4:00 PM  
Legend's Sports Bar
- M. Water Polo Student-Athlete Phone-A-Thon Calling Night  
August 18, 2008 6:00 PM  
August 19, 2008 6:00 PM  
Ukleja Family Hall of Honor
- W. Volleyball Student-Athlete Phone-A-Thon Calling Night  
August 25, 2008 6:00 PM  
August 26, 2008 6:00 PM  
Ukleja Family Hall of Honor
- Water Polo Reception  
August 27, 2008 6:30 PM  
The Kredell Home

## SAVE THE DATE

- 49er Days  
November 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008  
CSULB Campus

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## We are Proud of our Olympians

The Olympic Games offer an opportunity for countries all over the world to exhibit their strongest and fastest athletes. It is a time for national patriotism. It is a time for Long Beach State to reflect on our rich Olympic history.

49er Athletics have seen well over 200 athletes compete in 14 Olympic Games, dating back to the 1952 Helsinki Olympiad in Finland. At least one or more athletes have competed in each of the games and 25 athletes have medaled either once or multiple times.



## All-Time Olympic Medalists Long Beach State Athletes & Coaches

- Dave Almquist  
Men's Water Polo  
(Asst. Coach/Silver-1988)
- Steve Barnett  
Men's Water Polo (Bronze-1972)
- Cindy Brown  
Women's Basketball (Gold-1988)
- Candace Cable  
Wheelchair (Silver-1984, Silver-1988)
- Tara Cross-Battle  
Women's Volleyball (Bronze-1992)
- Bob Ctvrtlik  
Men's Volleyball (Bronze-1992, Gold-1988)
- Hans Fassnacht  
Swimming  
(Germany/Silver-1964, Silver-1968)
- Kathy Ferguson  
Backstroke (Gold-1964)  
Medley Relay (Gold-1964)
- Joni Huntley  
Track/High Jump (Bronze-1984)
- Brent Hilliard  
Men's Volleyball (Bronze-1992)
- Mitchell Ivey  
Swimming (Silver-1968, Bronze-1972)
- Jimmy Kim  
Taekwando-Exhibition Sport (Gold-1988)
- Doug Kimbell  
Men's Water Polo (Silver-1988)
- Gunnar Larsson  
Swimming (Sweden/Gold-1972)
- Joan Lind  
Rowing/Single Scull (Silver-1976)  
Rowing (Silver-1984)
- Ken Lindgren  
Men's Water Polo  
(Asst. Coach-Silver-1984)
- Misty May  
Women's Beach Volleyball (Gold-2004)
- Pat McCormick  
Diving (Gold-1952, Gold-1956)  
Platform Diving (Gold-1956)
- Anita Miller  
Women's Field Hockey (Bronze-1984)
- John Rambo  
Track/High Jump (Bronze-1964)
- Ed Ratleff  
Men's Basketball (Silver-1972)
- Kate Schmidt  
Track/Javelin (Bronze-1972, Bronze-1976)
- Tim Shaw  
Men's Water Polo  
(Silver-1976, Silver-1984)
- Dwight Stones  
Track/High Jump  
(Bronze-1972, Bronze-1976)
- Graham White  
Swimming (Australia-Silver-1968)

## The Beach is Busy this Summer



Summertime offers a great opportunity for us to reflect on this past year's success. I want to thank all our student-athletes, fans, administration, staff, the university, our partners/sponsors, donors, the community, and many more. Our achievements on the field, in the classroom, and in the community are due to the combined support and efforts of many.

Although the summer has been an excellent time for rejuvenation, our staff has steadfastly been preparing for the upcoming year. We will see a new, multi-year fan loyalty

campaign (Centered on the tag line, "I Bleed Black and Gold"), several team reunions (i.e. 10 Year Anniversary of the 1998 Women's Volleyball Championship Team), increased connection with our former athletes through alumni games and weekends, and, what I consider a major University change, the move of Homecoming back to Fall, and its inclusion in the 49er Days (a week-long series of events, brought back from the past), which will include the 2008 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Reception.

The fall semester will prove to be an exciting time for the Beach, as we will see Women's Soccer, Volleyball, Cross Country, and Men's Water Polo and Cross Country compete against some of the best universities in the country. We will continue to push the Take Care of Your Teammate Campaign, and look forward to seeing you soon.

## Imagine a College Athlete Pitching 20 Innings Today

Imagine watching a 20 inning baseball game, only to end in a 1-1 tie because there were no lights, and the pitchers from both teams pitched every inning. That is exactly what happened 35 years ago when Long Beach State played San Jose State.

The Los Angeles Times celebrated the game when journalist Jerry Crowe published an article featuring comments from each of the pitchers, 49er Ruben Patron and Spartan Jeff Gingrich in the June 23, 2008 paper.



This statistic stands as a major college record that probably will never be broken. The common feeling in the baseball community is that pitching too many innings in a game can lead to injury.

However, this feat was accomplished during a different time. John Gonzalves, Long Beach State's coach at the time, was quoted as saying, "It was a quick game. I went out four or five times just to talk to Ruben and every time I went out there he says, 'Coach, I'm still strong.' And he was strong. He was strong to the end."

It was estimated the two athletes combined for 700+ pitches counting pre-game and in-game warmups.

## 49<sup>er</sup> Athletics Ranks Amongst SI's Best in the Nation

Long Beach State's Athletic Department is ranked in Sports Illustrated national top-40 for overall excellence during the 2007-08 school year. The 49ers were part of the "Best of the Rest" category, receiving 18.5 points. Arizona State was the overall winner, followed by Stanford and UCLA.

This past season, LBSU won six conference championships, sending five teams to the NCAA Tournament. The men's volleyball team reached their fifth NCAA Final Four, while traditional powers continued their NCAA prowess in women's volleyball and tennis, and, baseball, and softball.

Individually, the 49ers garnered 10 All-Americans and 11

conference players of the year including the National Player of the Year in Paul Lotman (men's volleyball) and an academic and athletic All-American in first baseman Shane Peterson (baseball). Men's Volleyball had three All-Americans, while baseball and track and field had two All-Americans.

From a coaching standpoint, six coaches were named conference coaches of the year, led by Alan Knipe (men's volleyball), who also earned Volleyball Magazine's National Coach of the Year honor. Veteran skippers, Mike Weathers (baseball), Jenny Hilt-Costello (women's tennis) and Andy Sythe (men's track and field) were honored again for their leadership, while younger coaches, Gavin Arroyo (men's water polo) and Kim Sowder (softball), were named for the first time.

## Neil Mason & TCA Volleyball Founder-Director-Speaker-Author

- Story Provided by Suzanne Hawley, Publicist

**B**orn in Toronto, Canada in 1977, Neil Mason always had plans to be great. With the love and sternness of his incomparable mother, Cynthia, who worked two jobs to provide the basics, Neil learned if he wanted more, it was a two-step process: #1 -- Dream big, and #2 -- Depend on yourself to go get it. He had a litany of jobs when he was a kid, from lemonade stands and paper routes to being an Amway distributor, at which he was massively successful.

But Neil wasn't just a kid holding a job for extra cash. He had a plan from the very beginning. These business pursuits were part of a bigger picture... a vibrant and real vision. He made that vision very precise: he cut out pictures of what he wanted from life and what he wanted to achieve. The pictures included more than just fancy watches and clothes and expensive cars and homes, but depicted people working together... having fun sharing intimate moments.

"When I reflect on the pictures I placed on my bedroom wall, sometimes I cannot believe that every single thing I wanted, I now have in my life," says Neil who is one of the most successful prep volleyball coaches in the nation and whose entrepreneurial passion has taken him in many directions, including motivational speaking and book publishing.

### A DOMINANT ATHLETE IN CANADA

Neil transferred his innate entrepreneurial sense into a passion for sports – soccer, basketball, tennis, and golf. Then, in high school, he realized volleyball would open doors. With his power, speed, and agility, he earned the honor as the 1995 Top Player in Ontario, Canada. He played on Canada's Junior National Team against Cuba and Puerto Rico.

It was clear that Neil was headed for Canada's Olympic Team; he was literally the best player in the country, and Canadians were waiting for him to study in Canada and climb aboard. But, after considerable thinking, Neil decided to close the door on Canada and come to the U.S.A., specifically, Southern California, where volleyball was booming, and he felt the opportunities were most viable and exciting.

### NEIL TAKES SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BY STORM

Neil accepted a full-tuition athletic scholarship from Long Beach State and was named a 1999 collegiate All-American. After graduation, Neil founded Complete Athlete Inc., spawning TCA Volleyball Club. "TCA" stands for "Team Complete Athlete." Neil didn't start TCA so that it could be "just another volleyball club." He would coach young female

athletes, teaching them not only the skills and techniques of the game, but the "inner game of volleyball." Coach Neil Mason soon became a leader in youth volleyball, training young athletes who were strong and tough emotionally as well as physically. If you were a young woman and you trained under Neil Mason at TCA in Fountain Valley, well, the consensus was, you couldn't get any better training in volleyball!

In just seven years, Coach Mason's club has grown from four teams with 36 girls in Orange County to more than 40 teams with 500 players, branching out to Austin, Atlanta and Baltimore. As of this writing, Neil is now in negotiations to bring TCA to Michigan.

### A NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED COACH

Neil's accolades include three National Championships along with being named the 2006 United States Olympic Committee Development Volleyball Coach of the Year. That is the highest honor the Olympic Committee bestows on a youth volleyball coach. Neil has led two TCA Junior Olympic teams to National Championships in 2004 and 2006. And just this July his TCA 18-Open Division Team swept the National Championship at the Dallas Convention Center. "The JOs are truly the launching ground for collegiate success and USA National Olympic Team access," said Neil. "Our girls winning this championship is the most significant jump start any young player could possibly have in their career." Following the JOs, Neil flew to Mexico where he helped lead the U.S. Girls' Youth Team to a gold medal at the NORCECA Continental Championship.

### NEIL'S AUDIENCE CONTINUES TO GROW

Indeed, Neil Mason uses volleyball and sports as a metaphor for life. By devoting himself to athletics, he has found a deep and intrinsic meaning that he believes improves life, every day and in every way. Because of his passion and his awesome ability to communicate and motivate, Neil attracts people who want to hear more of what he has to say. That is why he has become a sought-after motivational speaker who delivers speeches, seminars and clinics to other athletes, businesspeople, parents and many groups throughout the nation.

Along with his TCA colleague, Bruce Powers, Neil is currently writing a breakthrough book on volleyball for young athletes: *Blueprint of a Champion: Your Interactive Journey*. This motivational and inspiring workbook also features more than 30 in-depth interviews with outstanding volleyball coaches and players like Karch Kiraly, Misty May-Treanor, Kerri Walsh, and Jenny Lang Ping. You are invited to go online to [www.blueprintofachampion.com](http://www.blueprintofachampion.com) to read about Neil and Bruce's exciting project.



## Clubhouse Charity Classic to Honor Dan Bailey Memorial Fund

Many people would never know that Dan Bailey was a member of the Spring Valley Lake Country Club in Victorville, California. His tenure with the club spanned a twelve year period where he enjoyed many outings with friends on a course that offers challengers spectacular



views, and a mix of lakes, trees, and sand pits.

When the Club approached the Long Beach State Athletic's Leadership about raising funds to honor their dear friend, Dan Bailey, it became just another example of how well he connected with others. "Dan Bailey was a good friend, and I spent some

good times with him," said Steve Postma, the club's General Manager.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Club Corps Charity Classic will be held on Friday, September 12, 2008, and will feature both a golf and tennis tournament to benefit three different charities, which include the Long Beach State Athletics Dan Bailey Memorial Fund.

People interested in participating are encouraged to retrieve the entry form from [www.longbeachstate.com](http://www.longbeachstate.com), and notify Wayne Stickney (562.985.5910 | [wstickne@csulb.edu](mailto:wstickne@csulb.edu)).

Clubhouse Charity Classic	
Date:	Friday, September 12 <sup>th</sup>
Event Start Times:	
Golf:	12:00 AM
Tennis:	1:00 PM
Dinner:	4:00 PM
Pricing:	
Golf & Dinner	\$100
Tennis & Dinner	\$75
Dinner	\$50

**Donate  
Now**  
(Click Here)

Looking to Hire Athletes?  
**Career Network**  
(See our web pages at [www.longbeachstate.com](http://www.longbeachstate.com))

## Want a Piece of 49er History!

Long Beach State Athletics recently launched the Official 49er Online Auction, where alumni, fans, and community members may bid on vacation trips, professional sport outings, fine wines, and most importantly, 49er history.

"This is the first time we have the ability to raise auciton-style funds outside of the 49er JEWELS OF THE NIGHT," said Adam Wald, Assistant Athletics Director. "With our transition to using CBS College Sports to design and host [www.longbeachstate.com](http://www.longbeachstate.com), we are able to provide this attraction to our fans."

One of the first items to appear on the site is a limited



edition of the Walter Pyramid Competition Floor. The pieces were retrieved from the resurfacing project, which took place this summer. Mark Andrews, Development Assistant, arranged for 50 pieces to be prepared for the online auction. Each piece is selling for \$50, and will be available on a first come, first buy, online basis.

The idea of the online auction is to allow people another way to connect with the athletic program, and to help support our student-athletes through scholarships, team operational budgets, and other necessary items. Contact Adam Wald (562.985.7441 | [awald@csulb.edu](mailto:awald@csulb.edu)) for more information on upcoming auction items.

## Gavin Arroyo Adds Women's Water Polo to His Game Plan

**G**avin Arroyo was named the Men's Water Polo team head coach on February 15, 2006, replacing former alum, Ricardo Azevedo. He compiled a 28 and 32 record in the two short years that transpired, providing a winning season in his second year.

With the departure of his sister-in-law, Catharine von Schwarz, as the Women's Team Head Coach, Arroyo was named Director of the 49er Aquatics Program this past June. The opportunity to lead both Water Polo programs allows Arroyo the opportunity to instill his expectations of winning and competing in both programs.

"Gavin has what it takes to win at Long Beach State," said Ken Lindgren, long-time Men's Water Polo coach and past Women's Water Polo head coach. "He connects well with today's athletes, and has a great understanding for the game."

The men's program begins competition on



September 6<sup>th</sup> where they will play in the UCSD Triton Invitational. They will be competing with a team of young men who have trained all summer, developing a strong training base for the fall season.

Arroyo has high hopes for the women's season in the spring, as well for the men. He understands there will be a transition that must take place, but he will focus on recruiting for the women's team, and developing his current pool of talent.

Looking forward is one of Arroyo's great qualities, as he knows the importance of cultivating the aquatics community. "It is extremely important that we reach out to the Southern California Water Polo community and bring them into the fold," said Arroyo. "It is also important we reconnect with our former athletes, many of whom have been integral to the great reputation we currently enjoy."

Two exciting events will take place for alumni and the community to reconnect. The first will be a Water Polo reception at Team Support Captain Nancey Kredell's House on Saturday, August 23, 2008 at 6:30 pm. The second will be the Men's Alumni Game on Sunday, September 14, 2008 at 12:00 pm at the campus pool.



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### Join Our Team!

**T**he 49er Varsity Club is a collective of former athletes who competed for Long Beach State Sport Teams. Whether you wore the brown and gold of the past or donned the black and gold of today, you are a member of a prestigious group. Athletes Helping Athletes is the mission and there are many ways to get involved through Alumni Games & Weekends, Homecoming, volunteering on Club 49, the Golf Tournament Planning Committee, and much more.

Contact Wayne Stickney for more information.  
(562.985.5910 | wstickne@csulb.edu).