

VARSITY CLUB NEWS

Volume I, Issue I

May 1, 2008

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **Fund Drive Meeting**
April 30, 2008 5:30 PM
UKLEJA Family Hall of Honor
- **Club 49/Jewels of the Night Planning Committee Meeting**
May 6, 2008 5:30 PM
UKLEJA Family Hall of Honor
- **Men's Volleyball Banquet**
May 6, 2008 6:00 PM
Gladstone's @ Shoreline Village
- **Men & Women's Golf Banquet**
May 10, 2008 3:00 PM
Smooth's Sports Grille
- **Women's Water Polo Banquet**
May 7, 2008 6:00 PM
Walter Pyramid
- **Jewels of the Night**
May 17, 2008 5:00 PM
Walter Pyramid
- **Club 49 Celebration Party**
May 27, 2008 6:30 PM
Athletic Director's House

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Reconnecting with Former Athletes a Priority!

The reorganization of the 49er Athletic Club has prompted the creation of *Varsity Club News*, a newsletter created especially for former Long Beach State Athletes. "We want to reconnect with our former 49ers and create opportunities for them to get involved," said Wayne Stickney, Membership Coordinator.

There are many ways to get involved. Beside donating money to a specific sport, scholarship program, or capital project, there are two areas in which former athletes may get involved.

The first area is specifically with an existing sport team. Involvement opportunities include volunteering with:

- Fan support at Intercolle-

- Tailgating/BBQs
- Alumni Games/Weekends
- Banquets
- Student-Athlete Phone-A-Thon
- Special Event Planning & Participation



- The second area involves volunteer and leadership opportunities that include:
- 49er Athletic/Club Board of Advisors
 - Director's Circle
 - Club 49 - Jewels of the

Night Planning Committee

- Golf Tournaments
- Annual Fund Drive

Varsity Club News is designed to share stories and news about former and current 49ers, the Athletic department, and other related information.

"Our most pressing need is to find former 49ers and get their contact information," said Stickney. If you or someone you know, used to compete for Long Beach State Athletics, please contact Wayne Stickney (562.985.5910 or wstickne@csulb.edu) with your,

- Name & Sport(s)
- Phone #
- Email Address
- Mailing Address

Homecoming 2008 - 49er Days

Fans, former athletes, and the university came together to celebrate 49er Days-Homecoming 2008. Festivities occurred on Saturday, March 8, 2008.

In a generous display of gratitude, the 49er Athletic Club hosted attendees in the Athletics Tailgate Pavilion

with a free meal and great entertainment, which featured Country Western Singer and former 49er Football Great, Jeff Severson.

Homecoming is a tradition that will celebrate its 60th Anniversary on Saturday, November 22, 2008 this coming fall. Save-the-date!



Men's Basketball Support Group

Vic Cegles Unveils Strategic Plan for Athletics



**Vic Cegles,
Long Beach
State Athletic
Director**

Athletic Director, Vic Cegles unveiled the Strategic Plan for Long Beach State Athletics to the community. This is the most aggressive

reorganization ever implemented in the 58 year history of the Athletic Department. The strategic plan outlines the key areas on which the department staff, coaches and athletes will focus over the next five years in an effort to improve the infrastructure.

Areas of focus include the following:

- Facility construction and enhancements, \$29 million
- Academic Excellence Endowment, \$5 million
- Scholarship Endowment, \$10 million

Raising money for these areas will help build a much needed Track/Soccer Stadium, Aquatics Center, Practice Facilities, and more, along with providing the necessary dollars to fully fund athletic scholarships, and provide important tutoring programs and summer classes.

Momentum is beginning to pick up as people are connecting with the new direction. Terry Rhodes, a former Men's Tennis Player, recently donated \$1.2 million dollars to help fund the construction of the new tennis courts.

Ten Former Dirtbags Appeared on Opening Day Rosters

Long Beach State Baseball began the season with 10 former players in the Major Leagues to start the season. The Dirtbags had 11 players in the Big Leagues last year.

Jared Weaver was the opening day starter for the Angels, going 24-9 over his first two Major League seasons, while Troy Tulowitzki, after being edged out of the National Rookie of the Year Award by two points, will start his second year for the Rockies, after batting .291 with 24 home runs,

while leading all pro shortstops in fielding.

Veterans Chris Gomez (Pirates) and Steve Trachsel (Orioles) began their 16th Major League seasons, while Jason Giambi (Yankees) began his sixth in New York and 14th overall. Paul McNulty is one of four outfielders for the Padres, in his fourth season in San Diego. Bobby Crosby is in his sixth season as the A's starting shortstop.

Rookie Carlos Muniz pitched for the Mets, while John Bowker and Evan Longoria were called up on April 12.



2003 Men's Baseball Team

49er Alum Is First to Go On Varsity Club Facility Tour

Dale Fairbanks competed for the Long Beach State Track & Field team in the late 50's during a time when quonset huts served as classrooms and prairie dogs roamed the lower campus fields.

A lot has changed since Dale's collegiate days, and that is why he jumped at the opportunity to go on an Athletic Facility Tour.

"I used to throw the javelin in that direction," Dale explained as he

pointed in the direction of where the Rugby Field currently exists.

Many alums have gone on to live busy lives, and have been unable to return to campus. "We recently implemented a program called 'Varsity Club Facility Tour,' where a personal tour takes alums on a walking tour of our facilities," said David Benedict, Senior Associate Athletic Director. It not only provides an opportunity to see what's new, but is very good for connecting kids and grand-

children to the idea of going to college.

Contact Wayne Stickney (562.985.5910 | wstickne@csulb.edu) to schedule your tour today.



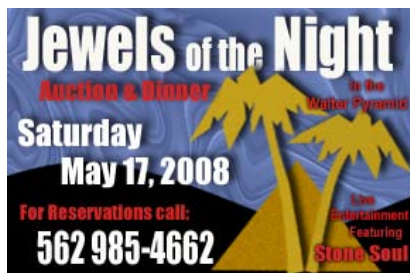
Dale Fairbanks, his grandson, & the Walters at the Athletic Tailgate Pavilion

Ways to Get Involved and Reconnect

49er Athletic Club

The purpose of this club is to raise money for student-athlete scholarships, fund team travel and operations, and finance capital campaign projects. Participation with this Club is a great way to connect with others and have fun. The club supports and promotes 49er involvement in the following events and activities:

- **Endowment/Capital Gifts** David Benedict | 562.985.5402 | dbenedic@csulb.edu
Elevating our programs to the next level requires us to think long term. We must raise funds to endow scholarships and build new facilities.
- **Annual Fund Drive** Adam Wald | 562.985.7441 | awald@csulb.edu
Our area of greatest need is in raising money to support our student-athletes. We need volunteers to help us with the following Campaigns: 1) Volunteer Call-A-Thon, 2) Student-Athlete Phone-A-Thon, and 3) Season Ticket Holder Drive.
- **Special Events** Jessica Davidson | 562.985.4550 | jdavids3@csulb.edu
Many of the great traditions and accomplishments are made possible because volunteers get involved in planning special events. These include: Club 49-The Jewels of the Night Planning Committee, Golf Tournaments, and the Hall of Fame activities.
- **Sport Team Captain and/or Volunteer** Wayne Stickney | 562.985.5910 | wstickne@csulb.edu
Every Long Beach State Sport Team needs people who are committed to helping that team achieve success. There are leadership and other involvement opportunities where participants may help build fan support for competitions, promote tailgate/BBQs, facilitate Alumni Games/Weekends, organize team banquets, and much more.



Jewels of the Night Auction Items Needed!

Do you have items we can use in our Silent and Live Auction? Do you own/work for a restaurant. Please contact Jessica Davidson (562.985.4550).

Student-Athletes Raise \$100,000+ for Their Teams

The first annual Long Beach State Student-Athlete Phone-A-Thon generated over \$100,000 from former student-athletes, alumni, and other fans of the program.

The journey first began when the 49er Athletic Club compiled a list of former athlete names for each of its varsity sports, creating one, large athletic department database. The list was further expanded when each current student-athlete submitted names of potential donors from their own network of family, friends, and supporters.

The primary purpose of the Student-Athlete Phone-A-Thon is to help each team raise additional dollars to enhance their operational, travel, and recruiting budgets. These additional funds are critical to the teams and assist them in their efforts to remain competitive.

“Colleges across the country are raising money in similar ways and I am very pleased with how our coaches and student-athletes embraced this fundraiser,” said Athletic Director Vic Cegles. “Unfortunately, this was the first time we have reached out to many

of our former athletes, but the support was an indication that we are well on our way to bringing them back into the Athletics family.”



Women's Soccer during the Phone-A-Thon

Coach Alan Knipe Knows Both Sides

Coach Alan Knipe knows what it is like to be both a student-athlete and a head coach. Knipe played for the 1991, highly decorated, National Championship team as a captain. He experienced all the joys and challenges of being a 49er athlete. "Competing for the national championship and representing Long Beach was one of the highlights of my life," said Knipe.

Anyone who knows Knipe understands the passion he holds for his Alma Mater. Knipe joined the Men's Volleyball Team staff in the fall of 1995, serving as an assistant for five years. He replaced Ray Ratelle as head coach and is currently in his eighth season

The Men's Volleyball Team had one of their best years yet, and competed in the NCAA Final Four in Irvine. They recently took the top MPSF awards, Coach of the Year, Player of the Year, and Freshman of the Year.

With all his accomplishments, Knipe is quick to recognize the past, "I am extremely fortunate to lead a program that has a strong history of tradition and excellence. All the success of today is built on the guys who competed in the past decades. It is to them that we may attribute our success."



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The 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 of people. *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.

Please Contact Wayne Stickney, Membership Coordinator, for more information or just to reconnect (562.985.5910 | wstickne@csulb.edu).