

VARSITY CLUB NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 2

June 1, 2008

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 49er Athletic Club Golf Tour.
Planning Committee Meeting
June 10, 2008 4:00 PM
Legend's Sports Bar
- Varsity Club Meeting for
Cross Cournty/Distance
June 16, 2008 8:00 PM
Ukleja Family Hall of Honor
- Hall of Fame Committee Meeting
June 30, 2008 5:30 PM
Ukleja Family Hall of honor

SAVE THE DATE

- 49er Athletic Club Golf Tour.
November 21, 2008
El Dorado Golf Course
- Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
November 21, 2008
TBD
- Homecoming - Fall is Back
November 22, 2008 5:00 PM
CSULB Campus

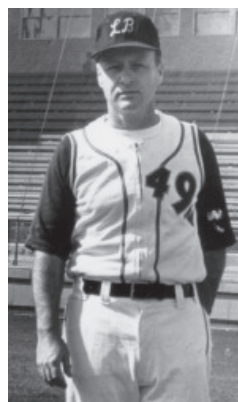
John McConnel Scholarship Endowment Begins

Long Beach State Baseball will endow its second scholarship, in honor of the the first baseball coach in school history, Coach John McConnell.

The scholarship will attempt to raise \$250,000 to endow the program's second scholarship. A successful campaign, started by McConnell, raised over \$150,000 for the Bob Wuesthoff Scholarship over the past three years. Several former players stepped up in that campaign to help.

McConnell coached the 49ers from 1954 until 1959, going 86-65 (.570) in three years as an

independent and his final three as a member of the California Collegiate Athletic Association. After going 3-13 the first year, with only 14 players, the team's first 11 games on the road and



Coach John McConnell

practices at Whaley Park prior to the completion of the campus field, the 49ers went

83-53 (.610) over his final five years. He was inducted into the Long Beach State Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997.

In the classroom, McConnell's teams graduated 50 of 57 letter winners and played with a budget in the neighborhood of \$3000 along with no athletic scholarships. Many of the players also held part-time jobs.

The bedrock of what is considered Dirtbag baseball began under the leadership of Coach McConnell.

If you would like to donate to help endow this scholarship, please contact David Benedict (562.985.5402; dbenedic@csulb.edu).

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Student-Athletes Excel at Graduation Ceremonies

Looking around at the recent CSULB Commencement Ceremonies, you might think it was an athletic event. In total, 86 athletes walk across the stage and shook President F. King Alexander's hand. These athletes graduated from several different degrees, ranging from Engineering to Communication Studies.

Another 30 student-athletes worked as paid staff in

the Commencement Ceremonies. This is a long tradition that allows them to work all nine ceremonies and earn some summer cash.

Many former student-athletes may remember this great time of the year, whether it was walking in a black robe across the stage or working as an event staff member, so fellow students may walk.



Graduating student-athletes at 2008 CSULB Commencement Ceremonies

Take Care of Your Teammate Campaign is a Success



Vic Cegles,
Long Beach
State Athletic
Director

Community is an important part of any college campus. The stakeholders who have a hand in shaping the look and feel of CSU, Long Beach are

all a part of a community.

The part of that community we focus on is the student-athlete. Our student-athletes are winners in and out of the classroom. They have many responsibilities and must serve not only as representatives in the community, but as role models for the rest of the student population.

With this in mind, we implemented the "Take Care of your Teammate Campaign." The idea originated from long-time college football coach, Bruce Snyder, where after every game, he

called on his athletes to take care of their teammates.

The Long Beach State version has been headed by CHAMPS/Life Skills Coordinator, Candice Chick. The campaign has led to increased awareness of responsibility on behalf of the athletes. The teams are spending more time supporting each other through game attendance, and student-athletes are volunteering in more ways than ever before. At Long Beach State, we take care of our teammates.

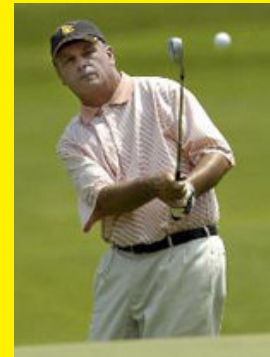
Paul Goydos Creates Long Beach Buzz on the PGA Tour

If you had an opportunity to watch The Player's Championship, May 8-11, you probably felt the pride many 49ers shared. If you opened a newspaper or watched any sporting news, you saw Paul Goydos sporting a Dirtbag baseball cap on his way to one of his highest finishes in years.

"I've thought about (wearing a Dirtbag had) before, and this time I saw it at the airport and grabbed it, \$14.99," Goydos was quoted as saying..

Bob Keisser, of the Long Beach Press Telegram, estimated that the worth of the TV exposure to not only Goydos, but the university and the baseball team, was about \$1.49 million. The worth to our alums is priceless in the sense that it shows yet another example of the quality of people we develop and place into society.

Congratulations to Paul Goydos and thank you for touching all the 49ers through your display of school pride.



Paul Goydos at 2008
Player's Championship

Decathlete, Chris Richardson, has Sites Set on Beijing

Combining ten diverse events into a single, point-based competition, the decathlon has long been acknowledged as choosing the top athlete in all of track and field, if not sports in general. Chris Richardson is one athlete who shines above most.

Chris recently dominated the Big West Championships, winning the Decathlon. He is currently the #1 ranked NCAA Decathlete, and ranked fifth in the nation.

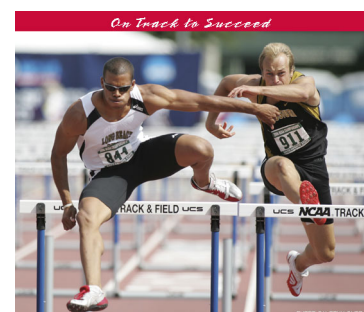
In a show of absolute school pride, Richardson said, "I decided to post-

pone going pro because I want to compete for Long Beach State by wearing our uniform at the USA Track & Field Trials, and promote this great university.

Richardson typically spends four hours in training each day. "Chris is a godsend to our program. He is not only one of our most talented athletes, but he has a significant level of determination, tenacity, and self-discipline," said assistant coach Dave Rodda.

Richardson hopes to join a long list of Long Beach State Track and Field National Champions: Ralph Lee (800m,

1969), Walt Clements (110m Hurdles, 1966/1967), Dwight Stones (High Jump, 1976), Don Baird (Pole Vault, 1977), Jason Hinkin (Pole Vault, 1997), and others.



Richardson owns the Decathlon school record at 7605 points

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.

**Donate
Now**

(Click Here)

Career Network

(See our web pages at www.longbeachstate.com)

Jewels of the Night Helps Fund Student-Athlete Scholarships

Once a year, the Long Beach community comes to the Walter Pyramid, 1,000 strong, to support student-Athletes. The 49er JEWELS OF THE NIGHT was held on May 17th and proved to continue its wonderful success in raising money for scholarships - \$275,000 in total.

The event began 14 years ago under the legendary guidance of Dede Rossi. "This is the best party in Long Beach," announced Club 49 (the all-volunteer planning committee for the event) Co-Chair Mari Hooper. Patrons enjoyed an evening gorging

themselves on all the delicacies the Long Beach area has to offer. They also competed with each other, bidding on silent and live auctions that ranged from plush, elaborate trips overseas to unique experiences with some of our professional baseball players.

"The key to the success of this event is the volunteer participation," said Senior Associate Athletic Director David Benedict. "Our co-chairs were amazing. This is an excellent opportunity for our former athletes and fans to get involved and help in a

positive way." If you would like to get involved in Club 49, please contact Jessica Davidson, 562.985.4550 | jdavids3@csulb.edu.



Women's Soccer during the Phone-A-Thon

Men's Track & Field Wins 2nd Title in Three Years

The buzz had been growing all year. Long Beach State Men's Track & Field team was being hyped to compete for the Big West Championship. They did it; they captured the title.

The 49er men finished with 185 total points, winning the meet by 26 points in a matchup that was projected as being very close with Cal State Northridge entering the meet. Long Beach State's women finished fourth with 110.5 points.

With the track events postponed due to 100-plus degree temperatures in Northridge, the men started off the evening with a scorching 4x100m time of 39.66, setting the school record on the way to the gold in the event, and kickstarting a big comeback to pass Cal State Northridge with a great day from the sprinters. The relays continued to be a highlight, as the team of Alex Goldberg, Brent Gray, Austin

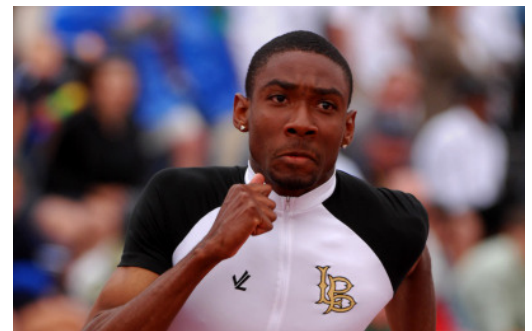
Fowler and Kelsey Caesar coupled their early success with a 3:08.64 in the 4x400 relay, beating the nearest competition by nearly three seconds. That combined with the improved marks from the men's distance runners helped the 49ers take the men's title.

The meet also allowed for a few more Beach athletes a last chance for NCAA qualifying, which was met by a quartet of 49ers. Lawson, on top of two fast relays posted a second-place finish in the 400m dash in a regional time of 46.65.

The Beach also had two hurdlers earn a trip back to Northridge, as Chris Lawson's 52.01 in the 400 hurdles was good for a silver, and Kristen Kiefer ran a season-high 60.61" to slip into the Regionals as well as posting a podium finish in third.

Ed Cornell was the last new qualifier, finally pushing over the top in the discus with a best of 173'3" to earn another LBSU spot in the discus.

Along with Caesar, Gray and Fowler also had strong performances in the sprints. Gray was a double winner on the day, taking the 100m dash with a 10.42 before winning the 200m with a time of 20.58. As for Fowler, he also stood on the podium twice, taking third in the 100 with a time of 10.50 before finishing second in the 200 in 21.14.



Brent Gray won four golds on the way to a team championship

Women's Tennis Captures 6th Big West Title in Seven Years

Women's Tennis is a bastion of excellence at Long Beach State. They captured their 6th Big West Conference Title in seven years, and competed in the NCAA championships as well. The 49ers achieved success both on and off the courts.

The team has consistently excelled in the classroom, earning the best team GPA status several times over the last few years. Hanah Grady and Stephanie Bengson earned Academic All-District honors by the College Sports Informations Directors of America (CoSIDA). Bengson earned the honor for the second year in a row.

The 49ers swept the Big West Conference Honors. Hanah Grady captured the Big West Player of Year Award for the third straight year.

Coach Jenny Hilt-Costelo was named the Coach of the Year for the fifth time in her career. And Stephanie Jeanes was named the Big West Freshman of the year.

The doubles teams faired well as the team of Bengson and Grady (ranked 53 in the nation) were named to the first team All-Big West, along with Jessica Weeks and Stephanie Jeanes.

Bengson set a new school record for singles victories, breaking the former record of 70, set by Havaja Frljuckic, with a dominant 73 wins. Hilt-Costello added, "Stephanie is one of the hardest-working, most determined players we've ever had come through Beach tennis. No one deserves it more than her. I'm so proud that she broke this record."



Women's Tennis Team

Men's Volleyball Finished 4th in the Nation - A Wonderful Year



Paul Lotman serves in a game.

Men's Volleyball had an amazing season. They finished fourth in the nation after a strong match with Pepperdine University.

The 49ers swept the MPSF honors, capturing MPSF Coach (Alan Knipe), Player (Paul Lotman), and Freshman (Mike Klipsch) of the Year Awards. Lotman also earned the NCAA Men's Volleyball Co-Player of the Year Award, and appeared on the cover of Volleyball magazine.

This was a young team with only three student-athletes graduating. Lotman, Fletcher Anderson and Adam Schlesinger helped the team win the MPSF championship, and finish with a record of 23-7.

Currently, two 49ers are playing for the United States National Team at the Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Canada. Knipe is serving as the head coach. Lotman, and two other former 49ers, Robert Tarr and Tyler Hildebrand, are competing against the best of the Western Hemisphere.

This was a special year for the men's volleyball team. They were a young group of men who exceeded many expectations. They made generations before them proud of their Alma Mater.

Women's Softball Finishes Amazing Season with Class

Long Beach State's Brooke Turner became the first dual major award winner in conference history, winning both the Big West Pitcher of the Year and Freshman Pitcher of the Year awards as announced by the conference office today. Head Coach Kim Sowder was also named Big West Co-Coach of the Year, sharing the honor with UC Santa Barbara's Brie Galicinao.

Long Beach State was well-represented throughout the All-Conference teams, as the 49ers had eight players recognized for their play in 2008. The 49ers had the

most first-team selections of any team in the conference as four players were chosen as first-teamers. Turner, who compiled a 26-4 record during the regular season to go with 12-0 Big West record was named to the first-team, as was her battery mate, Brooke LeSage, who was the first-team catcher. A pair of 49er outfielders also were first-team selections, as Lacy Tyler topped her 2007 second-team selection, and Danielle Linke was also chosen in her first year with the 49ers.



Paul Goydos at 2008 Player's Championship

Men's Baseball

Men's Baseball had a significant year with some hardship and some success. The Dirtbags had a ten game losing slump midway through the season, but battled back to take the Big West Championship from CSU, Fullerton in the last series of the season.

The Dirtbags also celebrated the 15th anniversary of the 1993 team and 10th anniversary of the 1998 team for going to the College World Series. They also celebrated 50 years

of playing at Blair Field in a game against Pepperdine University.

Clinching the Big West Title meant another year of hosting the first round of the playoffs, a regional playoff featuring three other California teams: Fresno State, University of San Diego, and UC Berkeley. They eventually lost both games in the the playoff and, thus, ended their season. It was a season full of excitement and courage. Better luck next year.



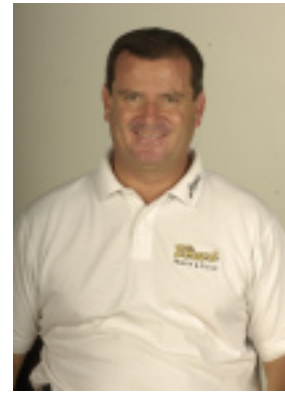
Five Dirtbags were drafted in the 2nd & 3rd rounds of the draft.

Coach Andy Sythe Completes 19th Track & Field Season

Andy Sythe began his head coaching career in 1989 after the short tenure of Ralph Lindeman. At the age of 23, he was the youngest NCAA Division I coach in the United States.

Sythe is finishing his 19th year at the helm of indoor/outdoor track & field and cross country at "The Beach." He has developed a combined program that is among the best in the Big West Conference as well as the regional and national level. In only a decade and a half, the 49ers have produced 20 All-Americans, 74 national qualifiers, 66 conference champions, and 231 all-conference performances. Individually, 5 athletes have garnered conference Athlete-of-the-Year honors during Sythe's leadership.

Track & Field is a passion for Sythe, and his dedication to the sport is reflected by his involvement beyond the scope of the university. Sythe has served on national committees with USA Track & Field and the US Track Coaches Association. He has served on the Executive Committee for Men's Development with USATF, been Co-meet Director for the 1999 USATF Senior Cross Country National Championships, and recently completed over 10 years of service as Men's Track & Field Chair and board



Coach Andy Sythe

member for the Southern California Association of USA Track & Field. Sythe recently completed 4 years of service with the Executive Committee and Rules Committee for the USTFCCCA. Sythe has also coached at clinics throughout the U.S. and worked with the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles in its coaching instructional program.



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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).