

## Women's Tennis Reaches Nationals

By Jason Ermigarat

PLNU's women's tennis team made history in June when it reached the 2003 NAIA Championships in Peachtree City, Ga. Unfortunately, the women's outstanding season came to an end at 21-4, with a 5-3 loss to number two-seed Northwood University of Florida.



(Above) The women's tennis team at the NAIA championships in June.

Point Loma's sister combination, Anna Sieczka and Anita Sieczka, earned the team's lone doubles-match victory in the number one doubles match when they prevailed 8-4 over Northwood. In singles, Andrea Montoya claimed a match victory as did NAIA Senior Player of the Year Anna Sieczka.

Sieczka may go down as the greatest women's tennis player ever to play at PLNU. Known for her sportsmanship and leadership, Anna Sieczka has guided the PLNU team to four consecutive national appearances and three consecutive conference titles.

### PLNU Finishes Sixth in NACDA's Director's Cup

PLNU had its finest finish in history as its sports program took sixth out of 50 NAIA schools in the National Association of Collegiate Director's of Athletics (NACDA) Director's Cup competition.

The award, presented annually, goes to the nation's top collegiate athletics programs in NCAA Division I, II and III and the NAIA. The NACDA Director's Cup honors institutions maintaining broad-based programs and achieving success in many sports, both men's and women's.

Point Loma teams posted four top-10 national finishes while capturing two Golden State Athletic Conference championships in softball and women's tennis.

### Noteworthy

Brad Vericker, a psychology major from Marana, Ariz., signed a free-agent contract with the San Francisco Giants in June. The slugger was sent to the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes of the Northwest League (A-Ball). While at Point Loma, Vericker set records for career home runs, runs scored and walks.

Daniel Horning, a junior industrial-organizational psychology major from Palm Desert, Calif., was chosen as a 2003 NAIA Men's Golf Honorable Mention All-American. The 6'1" sophomore was the most consistent performer this year on PLNU's men's golf team. ♦



## PLNU Introduces New Mascot

For decades, PLNU's sports programs and student activities have been represented by the Crusader. After years of discussion and months of hard work by representatives of the coaching staff, faculty, students, alumni and staff, Point Loma's new mascot is the Sea Lion.

A play on words, the Sea Lion combines the feature for which PLNU's campus is most known—the beautiful and powerful Pacific—with the aggressive qualities of a lion.

"We believe the Sea Lion will represent PLNU as an institution of strength, power and character for many years to come," said President Bob Brower.

The unique depiction of a mighty Sea Lion rising from the waves was designed by Sharon Box, a 1981 alumna. Box is the principal of Out of the Box Creative, a design firm in Los Angeles. She and her team designed the mascots for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney. Her client list includes Disney, the Arizona Diamondbacks, the Milwaukee Brewers and the National Basketball Association.

The new Sea Lion mark will be used primarily for athletic teams and by student groups.

The changing international meaning of the term crusader was one of the reasons the university began to look at a change a few years ago.

"Too often, responses [to the mascot were] not reflective of the character and values of the university," said Brower. "Although the decision to make a change was not easy, it occurred after considerable discussion over a number of years," said Brower.

Look for more information about the Sea Lions in the center insert in this issue of the *Viewpoint*. ♦