

Sports Round-up

PLNU Hosts NAIA Women's Volleyball Championship

Women volleyball players from all over the nation packed Golden Gymnasium, Dec. 3-6 when Point Loma hosted the NAIA Women's Volleyball National Championship.

The Point Loma women's volleyball team made it to the quarterfinals, finishing the season 28-8 overall and 3-2 at the championship. The team lost to unbeaten Fresno Pacific University in a close three-game Region II match-up (31-29, 32-30, 30-27).

Senior players Breanne Andrews, Sola Del Rio, Jamie Robinson and Brynne Yamamoto lead their team during the games, which would be their last after four years under Coach Barb Wnek.

Women's volleyball has reached the quarterfinals in the national tournament seven times before being eliminated. Point Loma hosted the 1992 and 1993 national championships and again in 1995 and 1996.

Men's Basketball Rebounding under Coach Wilmore

After finishing a dismal 5-27 a year ago, Point Loma's men's basketball team is picking up steam and victories, under new Coach Art Wilmore.



(Left) Junior outside hitter, Carolina Sbodio

At press time the men's team, which faces a lineup of opponents that includes seven nationally ranked NAIA teams, an NCAA Division I opponent and the top Canadian college team, had an improved standing of 11-5 overall and 3-2 in Golden State Athletic Conference (GSAC) play.

Local sportswriters have noticed. In a recent profile the San Diego *Union-Tribune* caught Wilmore mentioning PLNU as a candidate for a post-season berth in the GSAC tournament.

"Heady stuff to be sure... It is simply unheard of for a team to be transformed from cellar-dweller to title contender in a matter of months," wrote reporter Bill Dickens in the Jan. 4 issue of the *Union-Tribune*.

"I think our record is very good at this point in time, considering our tough schedule," Dickens quotes Wilmore saying. Wilmore is a veteran of more than 30 years as a coach. The last eight were at GSAC rival Christian Heritage

College, in El Cajon, Calif., where he guided the Hawks to the NAIA Final Four in 2001.

The *Union-Tribune* noted that the team, with no player taller than 6' 7", plays against more than one team with a 7-footer in the lineup. So the team has focused on position rebounding and good defense.

Point Loma's women's basketball team, under Coach Bill Westphal was ranked 22nd among the top 25 NAIA teams in the country. ♦



Junior forward Andrew Lasker

Athletic Director Carroll Land Honored with 2003 Lefty Gomez Award

Carroll Land, Point Loma's director of athletics, has received the 2003 Lefty Gomez Award, one of the most prestigious awards in all of amateur baseball. Named after the great Lefty Gomez, this award is presented annually by the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) to an individual who has contributed significantly to the game of baseball locally, nationally, and internationally. Recent Gomez recipients include athletic officials from Fresno State, Arizona State and Stanford, among others. Land has served as chair of the ABCA board of directors since 1998. ♦



Carroll Land