

Runners post high marks at Steve Scott Invite

Courtesy of Sports Information
In their final tune-up before this weekend's NCAA Division I Independent Championships, members of CSUB men's and women's track & field teams

100 meter hurdles with a time of 16.80. In the high jump, Ke'Airra Jones placed fourth, matching her season best of 5-07.

The 'Runner men found success on the field and in the pits with a handful of personal records. Steve Trojanwoski led the way with a 185-07, fourth place finish in the hammer throw. The mark, equivalent to 56.58 meters, is just shy of the NCAA Division I qualifying mark of 56.80m. Also setting a new personal record in the hammer throw was Clayton Morovich with a mark of 156.10.

Alex Haver achieved a new personal best with a 6-04.75 mark in the high jump, while Brian Lopez achieved a seventh place finish in the javelin with a throw of 179-01.

Bakersfield concludes the 2008 season this week, traveling to Orem, Utah, for the NCAA Division I Independent Championships hosted by Utah Valley University.

continue to improve their marks at the Steve Scott Invitational hosted by UC Irvine. The Roadrunner women achieved a number of personal best marks, primarily in the middle distance races. In the 800 meter run, Connie King and Sanjuana Garcia placed second and fourth, respectively,

in their heat, while both posted PR's. King dropped her time to 2:21.80 (from 2:23.14), while Garcia cut just over two seconds from her previous best time, coming in at 2:28.69.

Lauren Nolasco finished the 1500 meter run in 4:55.44, cutting three seconds off her previous best, while Felicia Jasso crossed the finish in 5:33.40, down from her time of 5:41.92 set just two weeks ago.

Freshman Jenah Kincaid posted a new personal best in the



photo courtesy of sports information
Connie King placed second in her heat in the 800 meter run.



Photo courtesy of the Associated Press
Kobe Bryant (right) was named the NBA's Most Valuable Player.

From public enemy to MVP

By Phillip Barnett
Sports Editor

Just one year ago no one in Los Angeles was sure if Kobe Bryant was ever going to play another basketball game for the Lakers following his lamenting comments throwing teammates and the franchises' front office under the bus after a 42-40 regular season and a second consecutive first round playoff exit.

Bryant seemed fed-up with the team that gave him a home in the league 12 years ago and basketball fans around the world were just as surprised as Lakers' owner, Jerry Buss, and general manager, Mitch Kupchak, were when Bryant announced that he wanted to be traded.

The Lakers superstar went on several radio shows expressing his frustration with the Lakers organization's inability to bring in quality talent around him to compete for a championship, and was even caught on video trash talking the Lakers young center Andrew Bynum, whose development wasn't where Bryant want-

ed it to be, especially since Jerry Buss' son, Jimmy Buss was unwilling to part with Bynum.

After playing some of the most inspired basketball of his career with the U.S. National Team this summer to help them earn a right to play in this summer's Olympic games in August, there was still questions about where Bryant would be playing in the 2007-2008 season.

After Jerry Buss said that he would listen to any trade offers for his best player, Bryant sat out three practices before their opening game, where Bryant was booed by the fans in Los Angeles.

Those boos quickly turned into cheers as Bryant opened up the season as a Laker, and scored 45 points in a two-point loss to Houston.

Still, there were trade rumors involving a deal that would send him to Chicago.

As time passed, the rumors slowly were quieted as talk about the inspired play of Bynum and some of the younger reserves grew louder.

Bynum became a walking double-double and the Lakers' bench became one of the league's best. Not only that, but Bryant seemed like he was actually happy with the team.

In mid January, Bynum was hurt. Bynum's growth was so much that pundits felt the Lakers weren't going to be able to compete without him.

Then, the same front office that Bryant felt wasn't dedicated to building an immediate contender went out and traded for Pau Gasol, one of the league's premier big men.

Bryant and the Lakers would go on to post the best record in a Western Conference that saw all eight playoff teams record at least 50 wins.

Bryant played the whole second half of the season with a torn ligament in the pinky finger of his shooting hand, and posted better numbers than he did in the first half. Bryant finished the season with 28.3 ppg, 6.3 rpg and 5.4 apg to help him earn his first career MVP trophy.

Men's Soccer to join MPSF

Courtesy of Sports Information
Beginning with the 2009 fall season, CSU Bakersfield's men's soccer team will compete with seven other schools in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation.

The Roadrunners, along with fellow NCAA Division I newcomer Seattle University, join current MPSF members Air Force, University of Denver, University of New Mexico, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Sacramento State and San Jose State.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to compete in an established conference with some of the best teams in the West, including New Mexico who was the national runner up in 2005," said CSUB Head Coach Simon Tobin, "We are look forward to the quality competition and we expect to compete immediately for a conference championship."

The MPSF has been in existence since 1992 with past members including UCLA, Fresno State and University of Washington. The conference champion receives an automatic bid to the NCAA Division I Championships.

Following two seasons of scheduling struggles as an NCAA Division I Independent, the MPSF will provide a base of consistency for CSUB's men's soccer schedule, as well as the opportunity to earn automatic qualification into NCAA Championship Tournament beginning in 2010.

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