



## UCSB Wins

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# UCSB makes it to the finals! They beat Michigan 4-3 in a very close game! Tomorrow we are playing Sonoma State for the Championship. It will also be a close game...my poor heart!

**Jeff and Carol**

Dad

We spent the 2nd week of May in Minneapolis to watch Dustin's lacrosse team, the UCSB Gauchos, defend the National Championship they won in such dramatic fashion last year in St. Louis. Jeff arrived on Monday night, the same day as the team, and stayed with a number of other team parents in a suburban hotel not far from the Days Inn that housed the team. All the rooms in our hotel were suites, which allowed Jeff to work from the hotel room when not watching the boys play. We also had a small fridge and microwave in the room which saved on meals. The team hotel, which was shared with 3 other boys teams and a girls team from Rhode Island, was a large, covered 2 story rectangle of rooms surrounding an indoor pool and spa, shuffleboard court, and numerous round tables and chairs. It couldn't have been a more perfect environment for all these college kids, with lacrosse balls and Frisbees filling the air at all times. Much camaraderie (and mischief) took place between the teams, and there were always people to help pass the time with card games, chess, swimming and so forth. The games all took place about 20 minutes away in the community of Blaine, at the National Sports Center, a complex not unlike our own Olympic Training center in Chula Vista, only much larger. The facility had 40 soccer fields, a stadium and track, a Velodrome, baseball and softball fields and an adjacent golf course. The only downside was the weather. The whole week was windy, rainy, and COLD, with the average temperature hovering around 40 degrees. We've included an article about the tournament itself from Lacrosse Magazine, so we will just fill in the highlights of the exciting times in Minnesota. On Tuesday, Jeff visited Dusty at the team hotel for the first time, and though the weather was very Winter-like outside, the indoor atrium was like a sauna, warm and humid. The atmosphere was almost dorm-like, with dozens of collegiate lacrosse players wearing their team colors and sweats. The Gaucho parents had set up a food room for the UCSB boys, with healthy snacks, energy bars, cereal, fruit, muffins, bagels, water and Gatorade available at all times. The food room was also used as a meeting and strategy room with the coaches and players gathering for pre-game sessions every day. With an early afternoon game against the hometown Minnesota Gophers looming, Jeff went back to his hotel and the boys left shortly for the Sports Center. Upon arriving at the field, dressed in 4 layers and with umbrella and blanket in tow, Jeff watched the Gauchos easily defeat the lower seeded Minnesota squad and advance to the Elite eight. Though the pennants at the end of the field were snapping in the 25 MPH wind and the game time temperature was never above 45 degrees, no rain fell and the boys were relatively unaffected by the wind or cold. What did affect all players was the long grass on all playing fields, which caused the ball to stay in bounds more often and wore the players down with the extra running and fewer chances to catch one's breath. But all teams had to adjust to the slow grass conditions. It was tantamount to playing in the rough for an entire round of golf.

That night the entire team, and most of the parents and friends that had already arrived in Minneapolis, went for a group dinner at Buca de Beppos, that chain of

Italian Restaurants we have in San Diego. We squeezed over 70 of us into one room, and shared many, many pasta dishes, salad and bread. A great time was had by all. Wednesday was the day of the second match, against the highly ranked Hokies from Virginia Tech. They proved no better than the Gophers were the day before, with the Gauchos racing out to a commanding half-time lead of 6-0, before playing all the reserves in the 4th quarter of a 12-3 win. Dusty played a lot in both of the first 2 games, making many good plays. He was an integral part of a defense that held these teams to only 3 goals each. The weather Wednesday was just slightly better than Tuesday, but no rain fell either day during our games. Wednesday, each family was on their own for dinner, so Dusty and Jeff joined a group of about 5 families to drive downtown to a well-known steak restaurant in Minneapolis. Something rather weird about downtown is the prevalence of skyways, a series of covered walkways on the second floor of each building that connect to a building across the street, often in several directions. There are dozens of such promenades, so many in fact, that during inclement Winter weather, one can travel throughout downtown Minneapolis without ever having to go out in the snow and wind. Rather ingenious we thought. The steak restaurant turned out to be Mortons of Chicago, one of the most expensive restaurants in the city, as we learned too late to do anything about it. So Dustin and Jeff had the best steak of their lives, but used up the entire food budget in one meal. Oh well. Thursday was an off day for the boys, and the great news was twofold. It rained cats and dogs on all the teams that did have games scheduled that day, and Carol arrived in the Twin Cities to join Jeff in rooting on the Gauchos for the final two games. She arrived very late at night, but her husband was there with the rental car and open arms after 3 long days apart. Friday, we ate breakfast with the team at the Crackerbarrel Restaurant, a Midwest institution that serves home style meals with lots of gravy, biscuits, ham, grits, bacon, sausage and eggs. This is how Minnesotans keep warm in those long, cold winter months; they have an extra layer of fat to insulate them. But the pancakes were wonderful, the helpings generous and the boys sufficiently carbo-loaded for their game against Michigan that afternoon. Carol decided that since Dustin had to be at the field 2 hours before we did, there was plenty of time to hit the Mall of America before the game. Suffice it to say that if you could squeeze 5 Fashion Valleys together and put an amusement park in the middle of it, you'd have the Mall of America. 4 stories and literally every store you can possibly imagine. Just to give you some idea, they had a Gap Store, a Baby Gap Store, A Boys Gap, a Girls Gap, and a Ladies Gap. Whew, Jeff was very happy when it was time to leave for the game, but Carol bemoaned the fact she had barely scratched the surface. As outlined below, the Michigan game was a tense, come-from-behind affair, with the defense stepping up and holding the highly regarded Wolverines to 3 goals. Dusty again played significant minutes, and the Gauchos spent a lot of time keeping Michigan away from the goal. We had a relaxing Pizza Dinner near the Stadium after the game since Dustin and many of the boys wanted to see the other semi-final game between Sonoma State and Florida State University. Sonoma prevailed 21-6 in a blowout setting up the final on Saturday night. Saturday was a lazy day for the boys, with most sleeping in and relaxing since they had a night game (7:30 PM) and wanted to conserve their energies after the tense, draining Michigan game the day before. So Carol and Jeff were on their own, and with the weather still cold and windy, indoor activities ruled the agenda. And what facility is indoors? You guessed it, Mall of America. So back we went, but common sense prevailed. Jeff went to a movie (Monster-in-law, no offense Edith), at the Cineplex at the Mall, and Carol did her thing. 2 hours later we met for lunch at a very good, well-priced BBQ place in the food area. On leaving the Mall, we drove a little detour through St. Paul, saw the Capitol and some other sights, drove several miles along the very scenic Mississippi River, saw hundreds of resident Canadian Geese, and made it back in short order to our hotel. We changed into our cold weather gear, yet again, with umbrellas and layers of fleece and nylon, anticipating rain and wind for the championship game. We only had a few sprinkles in the first quarter, yelled our

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heads off the entire game, stomped our feet and yelled G-A-U-C-H-O-O-O-O-S after every goal. It was great seeing Dusty in for the final key last minutes of the game when we were only ahead by one goal and the Sonoma team was very determined to score and send the game into overtime. With 3 1/2 minutes left the Sonoma coach called a time-out to set up a few plays that could lead to a score. The UCSB coach crossed them up by switching to a zone defense at that point, and the Sonoma players only got off one shot the rest of the game. Dusty was a key part of the zone with he and a team mate shutting off the cutting lanes on either side of the goal. Sonoma seemed befuddled by the switch and never made any adjustments to counter the defensive gambit of the Gauchos. The final score, 8-7, was the same score as last year's final against Colorado State. We might not survive another tight and tense ending like the last 2 years. The UCSB team is the first ever to win back to back National titles in the USLIA. And they set a new record for fewest goals allowed in the tournament, 16. The previous record was 21 goals in the 4 games. The boys all went out to celebrate the victory with the coaches, while most of the parents retired to a suite in our hotel that one of the parents had outfitted with food, beverages, snacks and hundreds of digital pictures of the game. We all chipped in on sandwiches, salad and hot wings which were promptly delivered to the room. At about midnight, our adrenaline abated enough for us to retire to our room and fall sound asleep. We caught an early flight to San Diego on Sunday morning and still bask in the glow and pride of a momentous tournament and life experience for the Benesch family.

Tuesday Men's Feature: Good Times for the Gauchos by Jac Coyne, Lacrosse Magazine Online Staff UCSB defeated Sonoma State in the WCLL playoffs and matched that performance in the MIDA title bout.

May 17, 2005 The Gauchos were 24-2, but were forced to overcome a three-game stretch midway through the season when they lost two games - to Colorado State and BYU - that had taken the veneer of invincibility off the UCSB squad and brought up serious questions among USLIA pundits as to whether this team could repeat as US Lacrosse Men's 'A' Division champions. With the completion of the IA playoffs in Blaine, Minn., this past weekend, Allen and his Gaucho players can look at the midseason stumble as a stepping stone after UCSB defeated Sonoma State in the championship game by the same 8-7 score they captured the WCLL title. UCSB rolled past Minnesota, 11-3, paced by three goals from senior captain Stefan Isaksen. After dominating Virginia Tech in the quarters, 12-3, Isaksen scored two more goals to rally the Gauchos from 3-2 third-quarter deficit and down a feisty Michigan squad, 4-3. The national title game mirrored the WCLL title game, with Sonoma State racing out to a 6-3 halftime lead before watching the Gauchos rally with a combination of strong defense and timely goal-scoring to take the narrow, one-goal win. The Gaucho's talented goalie, Ryan Brittain, made eight saves in the championship game while the defense in front of him was stellar the entire tournament, allowing just four goals per game. Particular effective were the starting defensive middies, Senior Alex Wilson and Soph Dustin Benesch. Defenseman Dave Gorham was pivotal in the late-game stand against Sonoma State - the Gauchos D held off a furious rally in the final three minutes to preserve the win - and was named the defensive MVP of the championship game. The victory was sweet for Allen and the Gauchos not only because of the hurdles they overcame during the season, but due to what Allen envisioned would be one of the strongest IA tournaments on record. "This year more than last year the tournament was a lot deeper," said Allen. "Nobody is undefeated and there will be some quality teams in the lower seeds. It is a deep tournament and a great tournament." A three-peat in 2006 will not be out of the question, but certainly a tremendous challenge for the Gauchos as they lose 13 seniors, including Rittain, Isaksen, Gorham, Mike Towers, another key cog in the UCSB defense, and midfielder Will Paton, the WCLL tournament MVP. Tournament MVP, Nick Stratton, and middle Benesch will be expected to carry the team next spring if the team wants to remain at the top of the heap. With the loss of talent, Allen may not be able to be quite as philosophical next year as this, but for right now, he and the Gauchos are enjoying the fruits of obstacles overcome and missions accomplished.

Many thanks, Jeff, for this account of how the UCSB lacrosse team repeated last year's national championship victory. We congratulate Dustin, and wish him the best of luck next year.



## Francie has minor surgery on left thumb

Many years ago Francie injured her left thumb, and it never fully healed up. Recently, she decided to have it taken care of, and in between trips to various places the job was done. Lyle took her in at 6 am, and it was all done by 9.



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The actual surgery only took about a half hour, and Birdy met her afterwards. Francie was feeling well enough to enjoy a late breakfast at the Gathering restaurant in Hillcrest. Afterwards they did a little shopping, and called it a day. A few days later Francie, Lyle, and Brett took off for a week's vacation in Hawaii, where they

plan to relax and recover.

Of course, she will be back in time for the grand opening of her new facility, on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. Pics in July RFNL!

# The Riel Family Newsletter

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## Some news from Aunt Eloise in South Carolina

June 5, 2005

Dear Edith and Frank,

From the last Riel Family Newsletter, Edith, you came through your operation with flying colors. I'm so happy for you. There's nothing worse than a nagging backache. From all reports this is a permanent fix which makes it even better. I know how glad you must be to be playing golf again.

Marie Fowles moved into an Assisted Living Home the first of May. Marie thought it would be good for her. Marie is almost blind, can distinguish only light and dark. I hope she will like the care they give. Can you believe that Marie will be 91 on June 8th!

I had an operation for colon cancer on May 9th. It was detected early, and the operation was scheduled as soon as possible. My doctor does not believe in letting his patients suffer, and I didn't. I came home the Sunday after the operation and am slowly regaining my strength.

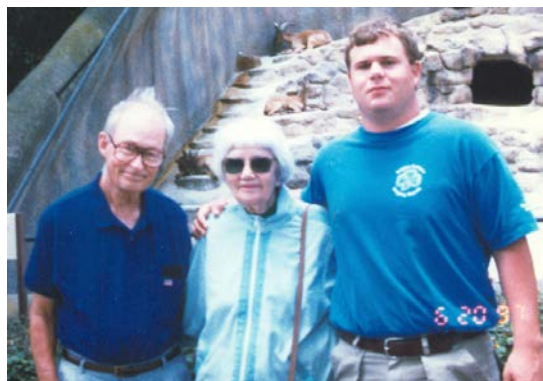
Andy and Stacy Nix have a brand new baby girl born yesterday at 2:30 AM. Caroline Wherry Nix weighed 8 pound 1 oz and has a head full of black hair. Stacy was back home today with the new baby. Andy is stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. This makes three girls for Stacy and Andy - Maribeth, 5, and Rollins, 2.

Give my love to all your family,



Thanks, Eloise, for the latest from your family. We certainly are glad to hear that your operation was successful and not too difficult. Also, congratulations to Stacy and Andy on the birth of Caroline. We hope all are well, and we look forward to more news in the future.

The picture at right was taken in 1997, when Eloise and Andy's brother Scott visited us in San Diego. It was great to see you then, and we certainly wish all the best for you and your family.



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## Michelle celebrates college graduation and entry into graduate school at U. of Mass.

As you can see from the following announcement, Michelle actually graduated from SD State University in December of 2004. Since that time she has been working and shopping for graduate school options. You may recall that we printed

*The President and Faculty  
of  
San Diego State University  
announce that  
Michelle L. Hartman  
will be conferred the degree of  
Bachelor of Science  
in  
Microbiology  
with Honors  
December  
Two Thousand Four*

in microbiology. In addition to the party, we had a small farewell lunch at the Red Lobster, on the Saturday before they left home.



## Annie graduated from FP High School – shops for college choice

Recently, Listy and Bob threw a party to celebrate Annie's graduation from high school. The guests included many family and friends, and we were especially pleased to see and talk with Bob's father, Dave Gillingham, who drove from Palm Springs for the event. We were sorry to learn that Bob's mother, martha, is having back and leg pain problems, and was not able to be there. We certainly hope that she will find some medical help for this problem.

*The Board of Trustees,  
the Head of School, the Faculty,  
and the Senior Class  
request the pleasure of your company at the  
Francis Parker School  
Commencement Ceremony*

*at four o'clock  
Saturday afternoon  
the fourth of June  
two thousand and five*

*Linda Vista Campus  
6301 Linda Vista Road  
San Diego, California*



## Listy runs Rock and Roll Marathon

Once again Listy ran the marathon, and this year we were able to time our viewing so that we could see and photograph her as she went by on Friars Road. Since we are out of space we will run her picture in the July RFNL.