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The Runner

California State University, Bakersfield

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'House on Mango Street' author visits campus

By Sarah Nusser
Staff Writer

On last Thursday night, Nov. 8, the One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern Program, with help from the First-Year Experience Program and the Kern County Library, brought famous author Sandra Cisneros to campus.

This is the 10th anniversary of the One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern Program, and the thirteenth author that the program has brought to CSUB.

The event highlighted Cisneros' most well-known work, her novel "The House on Mango Street". The book tells the story of a young girl named Esperanza, the community she grows up in, and how she is able to achieve her goal of an education despite the expectations others place on her because she is a poor, Latina woman.

While the challenges of growing up in the Chicago neighborhood of the book are incomparable, the story of Esperanza clearly relates to many in Bakersfield. The community came out in support of Cisneros and packed the Icardo Center. Cisneros talked about the books' relevance during her speech. She said, "Mango Street is older than most people in this room." Still young readers continue to find aspects of the work that speak to them. "Every book is medicine," Cisneros said, "and every library is a pharmacy."

Andrea Apple, one of the organizers of the event and an employee of the Kern County Library, said, "Especially in our community, it is good to have the appearance of the author, someone to relate to and communicate with, to sign



Elena Geiger/The Runner

Sandra Cisneros speaks to a large audience of faculty, staff and students, Thursday Nov. 8.

[See CISNEROS, Page 3]



The CSUB wrestling team defeated Cal Poly 27-13 in the "Old Gym" Nov. 8.

'Runner wrestlers sweep first dual meet to open season

By Nate Sanchez
Staff Writer

Crowds flocked to the "Old Gym" on Thursday, Nov. 8 to bear witness to the 'Runner wrestlers sweep their season opener in a dual meet against Drexel University and Cal Poly. The 'Runners came out hungry to start a better season than last year, and their appetites were satisfied. In their first dual meet of the season, the 'Runners matched their win total from last year, getting the sweep and bringing their record to 2-0 on the year.

The first meet against Drexel University proved to be the tougher of the two meets for the 'Runners. The Dragons matched the 'Runners step for step for eight matches before back-to-back wins from redshirt freshmen Ian Nickell and Timmy Box sealed the deal for CSUB, putting the 'Runners on top 25-18. Both Head Coach Mike Mendoza and redshirt freshman Bryce Hammond described the Dragons as "scrappy and intense." Nickell won his

match in three periods by an 8-0 score, while Box pinned his opponent at six minutes, 45 seconds.

The second meeting of the dual meet came against the Cal Poly Mustangs, the 'Runners' in-state rival. The 'Runners jumped to an early 18-4 lead by the sixth match. The 'Runners took seven of the ten matches to beat the Mustangs 27-13. Redshirt junior Dalton Kelley pinned Cal Poly's Dillon Rocha in two minutes, 24 seconds. This was the only CSUB pin in the meet.

Hammond recorded a pin in his first match, which contributed to the effort. "I just needed to put more points on the board for my team," said Hammond after the meet. Hammond pinned Drexel's Connor Moran in the first period in less than three minutes. He recorded two takedowns of Cal Poly's Mitch Woods in his second match, a match he won 15-0.

"Our team has shown a lot of improvement, and this was just our first test and

[See SWEEP, Page 5]

New food services available in the Walter Stiern Library

By Elizabeth Miller
Staff Writer

It has been a long-standing rule that no food or drinks (except bottled water) are allowed in any part of the library-those days have come to an end. Starting next quarter, the library will have its own food service called Walter's, run by the campus food service, Aramark.

In hopes to better accommodate students and offer a more welcoming environment in the library, Interim Dean Curt Asher said, "The [no food] policy has been changed. Food is now allowed in the 24-hour room, and drinks in closed containers are allowed in the library, except in computer areas and in the Dezember Reading Room."

Walter's is going to be located on the first floor across from the checkout desk. Walter's will offer hot and cold drinks such as coffee and tea, or bottled soda. Foods such as pastries, sushi, sandwiches, salads and other



Alexander Helland/The Runner

Coffee choices now available in the library.

snacks will now be available. The library is going to be working off an honor system where students will be expected to be careful with their food and clean up any messes. Spill kits will be available on every floor.

Some people might ask, "Why has the library suddenly changed what was once such a strict policy?" Asher said, "We feel that it makes the library more welcoming and more comfortable for students to be able to have a cup of coffee while they study."

[See FOOD, Page 3]



Student purchases a snack from the new library food center.

Alexander Helland/The Runner

Seven-day weather forecast
According to weather.com

Wednesday
Hi: 71
Lo: 47
Precip: 0%

Thursday
Hi: 74
Lo: 51
Precip: 0%

Friday
Hi: 69
Lo: 50
Precip: 0%

Saturday
Hi: 72
Lo: 51
Precip: 0%

Sunday
Hi: 69
Lo: 51
Precip: 0%

Monday
Hi: 64
Lo: 46
Precip: 20%

Tuesday
Hi: 68
Lo: 45
Precip: 0%

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THE RUNNER

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Big freakin' trucks

By Sergio G. Spain
Staff Writer

I was walking to a parking lot at CSUB last Friday at around 12:30 p.m. It had been a long, grueling week, and I just wanted to go home and relax. As I approached my truck, I noticed a huge, beastly Chevy had parked next to me. This truck had gigantic wheels and was lifted to the sky. The only problem with this truck was that it parked so close to my truck that I could not get into my truck.

There was maybe only a few inches of space between my truck and that Chevy monstrosity. I did not even attempt to squeeze into my truck for fear of scratching my door. It is always embarrassing when I am relegated to getting into my vehicle through the passenger door and clambering my way to the driver's side. That option, however, was taken from me because an identical Chevy truck was parked on the other side of me. My poor truck was sandwiched in between these two monstrosities.

I think lifted trucks are amazing, and plenty of ingenuity, creativity and labor have gone into these machines. With that in mind, let me say this: My problem is not with the trucks. My problem is the people who drive these gigantic vehicles and do not know how to drive them. We've all seen them, these people who cannot see beneath them, hogging the road by barely fitting in the lanes, driving and maneuvering their trucks like Fiats. They do not understand that by not knowing how to properly drive these gigantic trucks, their trucks become two-ton bullies.

Here's another example. The other night, I was driving to the local grocery store. As I was preparing to leave, a lifted truck was blocking my path. This truck was trying to squeeze into a parking

spot. Naturally, I started chuckling to myself because I knew there was no way this truck was going to fit into that tiny spot. Eventually, after multiple attempts, the truck abandoned its plight and left the parking lot in embarrassment.

These are prime examples as to why there should be mandatory classes or tests that people should take that prove drivers are qualified to handle these huge trucks that are raised to the sky. When drivers earn licenses, they prove they are qualified to drive. They cannot drive school busses or motorcycles until they take the required tests to prove they can. Motorcycle riders and school bus drivers must all get special licenses, so why should people who drive lifted trucks be exempt?

I drive a truck that is not lifted, but I have been driving it for a very long time. I know the dimensions of my truck, and I know which parking spots my truck would not fit in. I also know that if I was to park my truck and someone might not

be able to get in or out of his or her car, that would be my fault.

It seems to me that some people who drive these trucks do not understand that they force the other drivers sharing the road to be even more cautious. Whenever I sense a huge truck tailgating me, with its headlights reflecting into my rearview mirror and blinding me, I get a little more cautious. Moreover, they do not take into consideration how their driving affects other drivers. If an officer can pull me over for my music being too loud, why should an officer not pull over someone for driving a big truck?

Picture this: someone driving a lifted truck has been pulled over by a police officer. The officer, after climbing up his ladder

to speak with the driver, notices the driver does not have a sticker on his license qualifying him to drive the lifted truck. The driver receives a ticket for the infraction. Repeated infractions would result in loss of the vehicle.

This situation would be no different than drivers who require glasses to drive their vehicles. If a driver is pulled over, and he or she is not wearing glasses when it is required, he or she is ticketed. Not only does it keep drivers safe, but it keeps unsafe drivers off the road. I know I would not trust a driver not wearing glasses or corrective lenses, nor would I trust a driver who is not qualified to operate a specific automobile.

Lifted trucks are part of a culture that I probably will never understand. However, these trucks and their drivers share the road with all of us. The drivers especially need to be made aware of the way they drive and how it affects us all on the road. Until then, my truck's horn and I have some shouting to do.



Alexander helland/The Runner

Large, lifted trucks in the CSUB parking lots may create space issues for other drivers.

Swift's 'Red' quickly reaches top of music billboards

By Athena Skapinakis
Senior Staff Writer

This past Oct. 22 was a highly anticipated day for many girls—and boys too, I'm sure. It was the release of Taylor Swift's fourth studio album, "Red," and let me tell you that she has done it again. "Red" hit number one in the UK—a first for Taylor Swift—and it also became the US's fastest-selling album in over a decade. It's obvious that the beautiful starlet hasn't lost her touch or her ability to inspire others to fall in love with her music.

Like many artists, Taylor Swift has worked hard to evolve as an artist and experiment with different musical genres in her latest album. She collaborates with other artists like Ed Sheeran in "Everything Has Changed" and Gary Lightbody of Snow Patrol in "The Last Time" to set the pace for any hopeless romantic heart to fall deep into a bittersweet fantasy about their love life.

At first, I wasn't sure how I felt about the experimentation of musical genres because I am in love with Swift's country-pop sound. It was because of Taylor Swift that I even began listening to other country artists and developed somewhat of a liking for it.

Being such a huge fan of Swift though, of course I was willing to give her new sound a chance. I soon found myself twirling around in my room with my hairbrush as a microphone, driving with the windows down despite the cold weather just to blast her new album, and playing her songs on my phone with my best friend so we could sing along together and reminisce about our past relationships and romantic encounters.

"Red" features 16 songs, all catchy, all addicting, and all new personal anthems. The Deluxe Edition features six more songs, including the

original demo recordings of "Red" and "Treacherous," as well as the acoustic version of "State of Grace." With her new hits, Swift reminds everyone of the purpose of a music video, which is to tell a story through artistic illustration.

My favorite songs from the album are "We Are Never Getting Back Together," a song that became Swift's very first Billboard Hot 100 and stayed number one for three weeks, "The Last Time," "Begin Again," and "State of Grace."

The songs from her new album are about flirting with danger, beginning again regardless of past heartbreak, letting an ex know that getting back together is never ever happening, and how the spark of a new love can quickly turn into a bright beacon of hope for a lasting relationship with someone. Swift's ability to relate to her audience members continuously amazes me.

Unlike some other artists, I don't know what it's

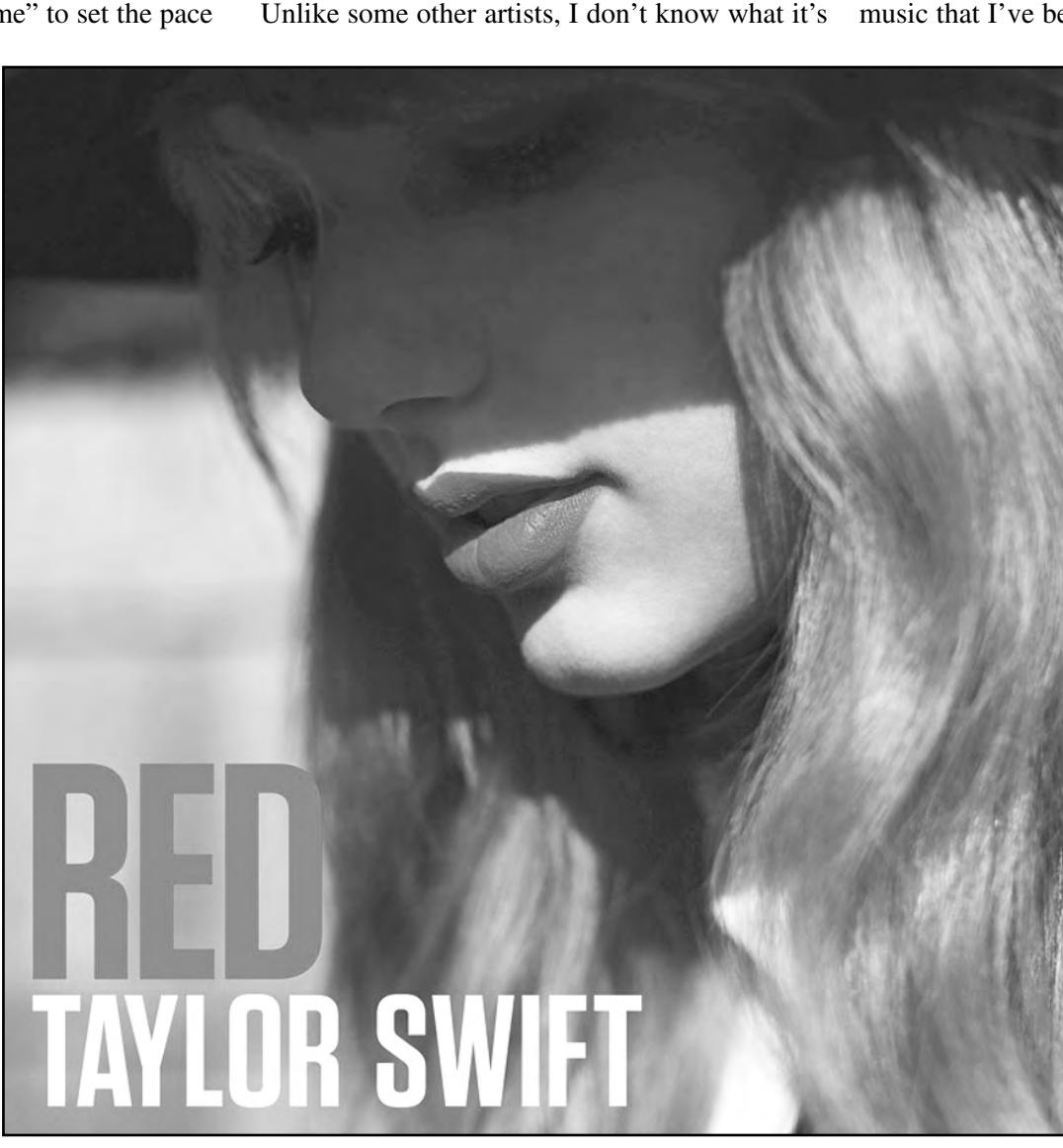
like to live my life in a bottle and float in a swimming pool of "drank," to have paparazzi in my face, fly on private jets, have big-booted executives by my side, or feel like young money and make it rain hundred dollar bills like it's no big thing.

I do know what it's like to get together with my friends and make fun of our exes, that itching feeling of "I almost do" because I can't decide whether or not it's a good idea to pick up the phone and dial that one person and solemnly vow never ever to get back with an ex. I'm fairly certain that almost everyone in my age group and beyond know these feelings, which is what makes Taylor Swift's music so magnificently relevant. As she matures, her music matures, and I mature as well. I feel as if Taylor Swift and I are growing together through the experiences she shares in her music that I've been through and felt for myself.

You will often catch me saying, "Taylor Swift knows. She just knows." She does know because she's been through it and weaves these significant experiences masterfully into her music. It's a big reminder that although she's insanely famous, she's just a 22-year-old girl who is still trying to figure out life and romance like the rest of us.

However, I do admit that I don't know what driving a new Maserati down a dead end street is like—a lyric from her song "Red." I'm going to work on that one though.

Taylor Swift's album "Red," with her sweet melodic voice and relatable lyrics, is the perfect companion for the days when you feel like reflecting, remembering and fantasizing about love and past experiences of romance and heartbreak. You'll find yourself in a daydream of how losing someone is blue, but loving someone is "red, burning red."



Courtesy of Billboard.com

CSUB Jazz Ensemble begins well and ends in smoke

By Stephanie Viloria
Staff Writer

CSUB Jazz Ensemble's concert took place at the Doré Theatre on Friday, Nov. 9. It was a night of entertainment for students and guests and an opportunity for student musicians to showcase their skills in front of an audience.

Students from the jazz program at CSUB made up the two ensembles that performed at the concert. Two concerts are usually performed by music majors each quarter in order to see how the students have improved and changed since the start of the term.

According to Jim Scully, the director of the concert, the goal of having the students perform in these concerts is to

"make [the students] professional musicians ... trying to get them to that level where they can play at concerts."

Scully elaborated further about the jazz ensemble by explaining that the program featured is something he likes to call a "little-big band." A jazz band is traditionally made up of five saxophones, four trombones and four trumpets, with piano, guitar, bass and drums as rhythm. The group that performed was missing one saxophone player, and only had two trombone players.

Despite the shortage of musicians, it did not affect the band's ability to play amazing jazz pieces by artists such as Oliver Nelson, Dizzy Gillespie and Miles Davis. They also performed an original composition by Tony Rinaldi, one of the piano players in the band, titled "Bango

Skanky."

This year's Jazz Ensemble concert was the first of which Scully directed since the previous director, Doug Davis, retired. Having directed big bands at other schools like UC Irvine, Scully is enthusiastic about directing future concerts at CSUB. "I've taken it in a new direction, so it's a little more my own," Scully said.

The concert was a hit with the audience members, but due to a technical malfunction that caused the auditorium to fill with smoke, it was cut short an hour early. Scully urged people who attended to save their ticket stubs for the next concert.

"It was really good ... I'm just disappointed that it had to end so soon," Andrea Preciado, a biology major said.



Top: A portion of the musicians play their brass instruments in the Jazz Ensemble at the Doré Theatre on Friday, Nov. 9.



Right: Mark Manda, accompanied with other jazz musicians, performs a trumpet piece at CSUB's Jazz Ensemble

Walter Stiern food rules change!

[From FOOD, Page 1]

Many libraries around the country are establishing these types of facilities in order to create a more pleasant atmosphere for students."

The new food service did not require much funding given it will be profit-based. Asher said profits are not the main reason the food service was implemented, however, in time they hope to share a small percentage of profits with Student Services. "Our goal was to change the way students view the library," said Asher.

Given many students eat and drink in the library despite the old policy, Walter's is sure to be a huge hit. Freshman Fidel Hernandez said, "I think this is a great change. Lots of times I avoid the library because I need to get lunch, but the Runner Café is so loud to study in. I'd definitely be at the library more if there was food available."

Students have often complained about the old policy and avoid the library because of it. Lots of people don't like drinking only water, or in many cases, study better when they have the ability to snack a little. Eating is a way of maintaining focus, and the desire to snack while studying is what often leads to the "Freshman 15," the fabled 15 pounds the average freshman gains adjusting to college life. The new food policy allows students of every class level to enjoy a snack while they study.

Asher said, "With the change in policy, it's particularly important that library users be careful and dispose of their used cups and other food-related trash properly. Please quickly clean up any spills. Remember, it's your library. Let's keep it a place to be proud of."

Sandra Cisneros speaks about her most well-known work

[From CISNEROS, Page 1]

books. It can be rare in this community to have an event like this." To battle the challenges familiar to the character of Esperanza in our own town is one of the goals behind the One Book program and their numerous local sponsors.

Cisneros understands the challenges young writers who are not given community support can face. "The House on Mango Street" is semi-autobiographical. She said during her speech that while she was writing the book she worked as a teacher and counselor in a poor neighborhood. Cisneros said, "I would cry about the students and could not sleep at night." In order to cope, she worked the stories she heard from her students into her novel, making the book no longer just about her. This mix of stories from various sources created the community in the book.

Cisneros gave advice during her speech

to young writers who may be having the same challenges she once went through: "Write the ten things you wish you could forget. Most important, pretend what you are writing will not be published in our lifetime." Cisneros said what makes a person different is their strength as an author. She said writers succeed when they tell the story that only they can tell.

When Cisneros was in college, growing up in a different background set her apart from her classmates, but she was able to take her bad experiences and her depression and use them as a tool to become a success.

Cisneros said, "The real reason we write is to transform that rage, that depression, into light."

The event was opened by a sample of "The House on Mango Street" play, currently showing at the Spotlight Theater from Nov. 9 to Nov. 17. Tickets cost \$18.



Sandra Cisneros speaks on CSUB's campus about her most well-known work, her novel, "The House on Mango Street."

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Around our campus: This week in photos



Alexander Helland/The Runner

Large, lifted trucks in the CSUB parking lots may create space issues for other drivers. See Page 2 for our take on this.



Abi Khan/The Runner

Tyonna Outland contemplates how to get around an Arizona defender Nov. 9



Kimberly Stewart/The Runner

Members from "The House on Mango Street" cast perform a skit for the audience in the Icardo Center on Nov. 8th.



Steven Gaede/The Runner

Tyrone White drives to the basket while being defended Nov. 9.



Abi Khan/The Runner

Jay Smith emotionally plays the piano at CSUB's Jazz Ensemble on Friday, Nov. 9.



Alexander Helland/The Runner

Students enjoy new food and beverage accommodations in the Walter Stiern Library.

Women's basketball wins a close game after dropping the home opener

By Steven Barker
Scrapbooker

Although an enthusiastic home crowd supported the women's basketball team on Nov. 9, an abysmal shooting percentage and frequent turnovers forced the 'Runners to leave the Icardo Center with a 71-50 loss to the Arizona Wildcats.

While the women fell by double digits at home, the team was able to come away with a 71-68 win at Northern Arizona. The win for the 'Runners was a tight game unlike the loss in the season opener.

The opening minutes were promising for the 'Runners. Senior Amber Williams hit a three-pointer to give the 'Runners an early lead. CSUB's early rebounding advantage stifled Arizona's second-shot attempts. Redshirt sophomore Janae Coffee's early blocks both energized the crowd and intimidated the Wildcat offense, forcing Arizona to settle for medium-ranged attempts. However, CSUB's defensive effort - impressive as it was - did not translate into offensive efficiency.

While the defense created numerous fast break opportunities, the 'Runners' inability to convert open layups and close-range shots squandered opportunities at seizing the lead. On countless occasions, the home crowd roared in appreciation of the 'Runners' transition offense, only to be hushed when an easy shot tasted cold iron or missed the rim completely. "In the game of women's basketball," said Head Coach Greg McCall, "you have to make your free throws and your layups. We missed a lot of layups."

Nevertheless, the game remained close through the first half. Despite shooting 25 percent in the first half, CSUB's continued defensive success prevented Arizona from expanding their lead. CSUB trailed 34-27 at halftime.

The Wildcats slaughtered the 'Runners in the second half. Arizona's superior speed and athleticism capitalized on the

defensive lapses of a CSUB team that could not repeat their defensive success, fueling a 12-1 run by Arizona in the second half. While the 'Runners attempted to disrupt Arizona's offensive fluidity, the 'Runners' offensive struggles continued in the second half, nullifying any attempt to narrow the deficit. Aside from scuffling and dribbling on the court and the shrill whistle's occasional screech, the Icardo Center was silent.

Entire stretches of the game would pass without CSUB scoring a basket. With little offensive production and inconsistent defense in the second half, Arizona extended the lead to a game-high 27 points. Arizona eventually won 71-50. The 'Runners closed the game with 26 turnovers and shot 27 percent from the floor.

"I thought we played well in the first half," said McCall. "I see a lot of bright spots where we can compete against some bigger schools and be able to play against some bigger schools, but we just have to stay consistent. We have to compete for 40 minutes, not just for one half."

In spite of the performance, McCall is excited about his upcoming schedule. "This game is behind us," said McCall. "The hype is gone from behind this game. We're moving on to the

next game and will get ready for Northern Arizona. We're setting our focus and sights on them. We'll go there and play them and hopefully come back with a W. I think we have a really good shot of winning that game."

The 'Runners' next home game will be against Sacramento State on Nov. 16.



Abi Khan/The Runner

Alyssa Shannon crosses half-court as she looks to distribute the ball Nov. 9.

CSUB men's basketball team falls short in good game

By Kayla Bailey
Staff Writer

It was an energetic Friday night as the CSUB men and women's basketball teams began their seasons with a doubleheader at home in the Icardo Center. The men faced the Mavericks of UT Arlington in a game that had great possibilities all night. Although they fell short with a score of 62-60, the men played extremely well.

Starting at tipoff, players Tyrone White, Adam Young, Javonte Maynor, Stephon Carter and Zach Lamb began the game for CSUB. Redshirt sophomore Maynor scored the first two-pointer of the night, starting the score at 2-0 and then shot a three-pointer to bring the score to 5-3, throughout the night Maynor totaled 14 points, with four rebounds and three turnovers.

The Mavericks did not give the 'Runners any chance to relax, keeping a high momentum and bringing a challenge. Their guards Jamel Outler, Shaquille White-Miller and center Jordan Reeves were the ones to keep an eye on defensively.

'Runners' senior forward Mo Hughley had no problem when it came to defense. With five blocks and two steals, Hughley lead the team in both blocks and steals. It was a very close game at almost every moment of play, with 15 lead changes the entire night it came close down to the final few seconds.

In the final moments of the fourth quarter, it was a 58-59 score, then Maynor made an exciting layup to bring the

score to 60-59. A Maverick's player then made a layup bringing the score to 60-61. Arlington's Drew Charles made the final free-throw to close the game with a 62-60 loss for the 'Runners.

"It's always frustrating to lose, especially the way we lost," said Carter after hearing that the team had an average of 26 percent in shooting. With all confidence, Carter has no doubt that the team will bounce back. Both, Carter and Maynor agreed that they had a case of the "first game jitters," and didn't get a proper feel of the team. Only having little information on the opposing team, the players were told prepare to see how they played and who played what within the first few minutes of the game.

"I thought our guys played extremely hard. Offensively, we have new guys who are still trying to make the adjustment of playing together and on the defensive end I felt we played really well," said head Coach Rod Barnes. Barnes felt that knowing the opposing team's statistics, the game did not fall short of what he anticipated. Barnes said that he could have seen the possibility of tying the game or taking it into overtime.

Not being surprised that the Mavericks were going to make plays, Barnes knew a good play would happen eventually. "I think we put ourselves in a position to win the game," said Barnes. Even with a loss, Barnes feels confident that his team will only work harder the next time. Following UT Arlington, the CSUB men went on to play away at Cal Berkeley Sunday, Nov 11, losing 65-78

'Runner wrestlers sweep first dual meet

[From SWEEP, Page 1]

our first step competing," said Mendoza. Last year, the 'Runners finished the season with a record of 2-7. Of the five conference meets last year, the 'Runners finished 0-5. With two wins already in the bank, Coach Mendoza expects this team to be better than last year's.

Hammond, Nickell, Box and Adam Fierro were teammates at Bakersfield High School. "It's definitely a lot of fun to have those guys on the team," said Hammond. Although wrestling is, in essence, an individual sport, team chemistry is important in any team. This team is

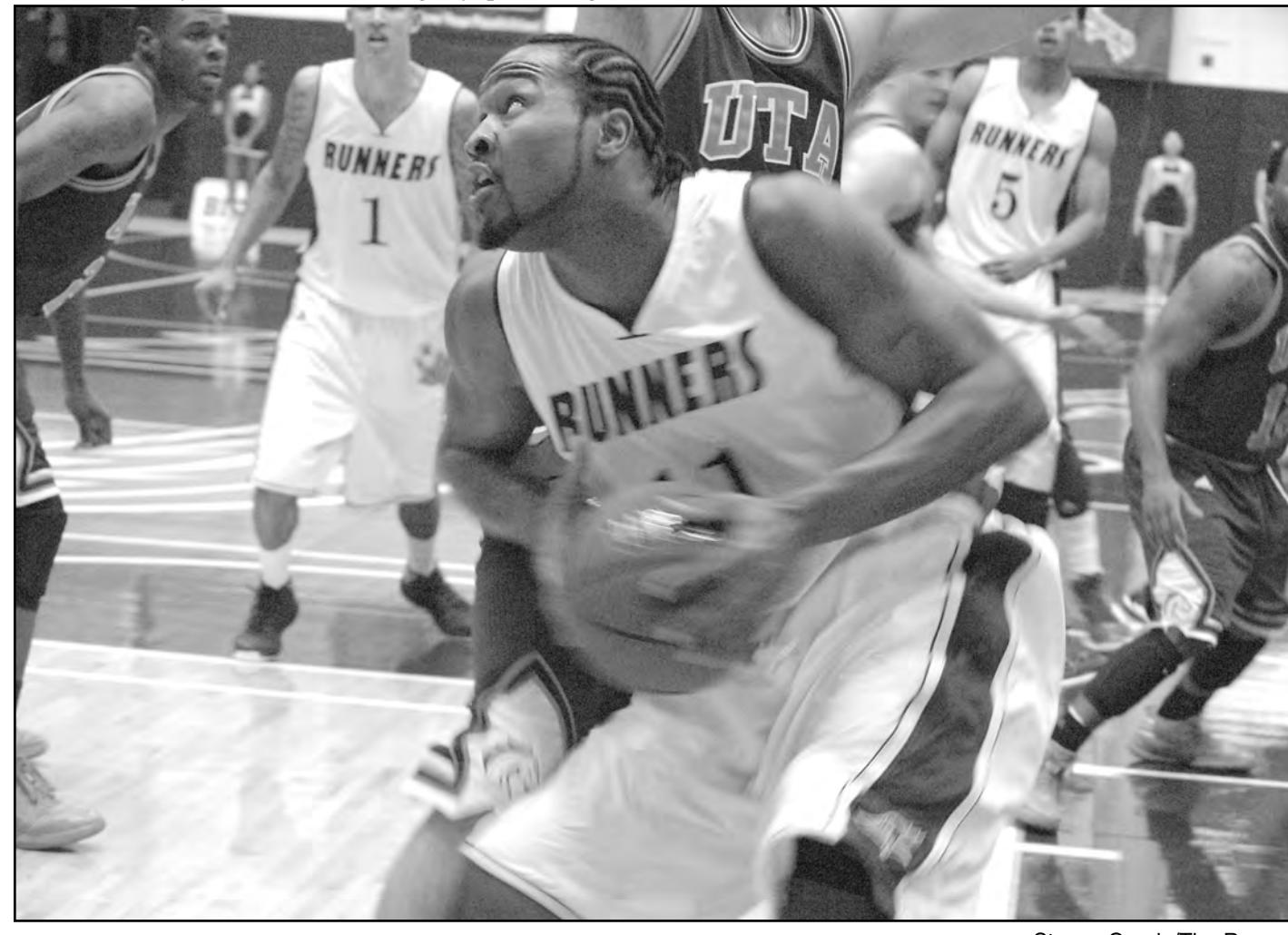
more than a collection of individuals. These wrestlers have one goal this season - close the gap.

After the final buzzer sounded and the crowd started to exit the gym, some of the 'Runners could be seen wearing shirts with the letters "CTG" on them. "CTG" is the mantra of this team. Close the gap. The gap between them and last year's record. The gap between the promise of the present and the greatness of the past. The trophies and banners remind us of where we once were. The 'Runner wrestling team is hungry to take us back there.



Abi Khan/The Runner

A CSUB wrestler grapples with a Cal Poly wrestler Nov. 8.



Steven Gaede/The Runner

Mo Hughley prepares to take flight in the paint Nov. 9.

Athlete of the Week

Men's wrestling at the Roadrunner Open Nov. 10.

Tyler Iwamura captured the 125 title at the Roadrunner Open. Iwamura defeated his opponent in the finale with a decision of 10-5. Iwamura won his first two matches via pin, his third match 8-0 and his fourth match 2-1.

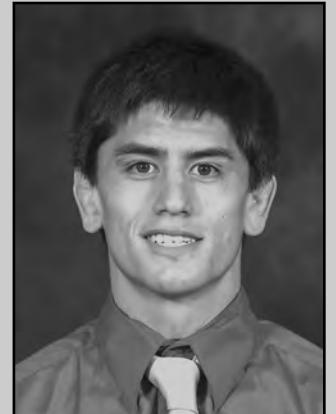


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