Eyes on the prize
USD women’s volleyball prepares for a playoff run

USD’s WCC title last week earned them their 10th straight berth in the NCAA Tournament. They will play WSU in the first round.

Andrea Haigler
Associate Editor

Ask nearly any college sports team what their collective goal is for the season, and they’re likely to tell you that they want to play in the postseason. A college basketball player would probably say they aspire to play in March Madness, a college baseball player — a berth to Omaha, and a football player might have ambitions of playing in a playoff or bowl game.

The University of San Diego women’s volleyball team, however, has different expectations for themselves. At the beginning of the season, they set their sights on not only a spot in the NCAA Tournament, but a deep run through the bracket. And when the Toreros take aim at that goal, they mean it. Every season of the last decade, USD has gathered in the Warren Room in the Jenny Craig Pavilion to see where their name would pop up on the bracket, and this December was no exception.

Fresh off a Sweet 16 appearance last year, the Toreros raced to a 24-5 (17-1 West Coast Conference) record this season that saw them win their 11th WCC Championship in program history; their fifth in the last 10 seasons. And that commanding campaign earned them an automatic qualifier to the tournament, setting them up to take on No. 25 Washington State University (25-6) in the first round — something the Toreros have come to expect of themselves.

“With this history of this program, it’s expected,” senior libero Payton Douglass said. “It is seen in Tournament, Page 14

Bread makers start dorm room business
Pair of USD students create a campus business selling homemade sourdough

It's dinner time in the Alcalá Vistas Apartments at the University of San Diego, and waiting through the halls are the familiar smells of college cuisine — ramen noodles, jarred pasta sauce, and delivery pizza. This semester, however, the smell of freshly baked sourdough bread has joined this medley of scents thanks to two aspiring entrepreneurs, sophomores Juliette Owada and Grace Schmidt.

“We are both very interested in cooking and baking, so Juliette decided to bring her starter with her from Latinoso so we could learn to make different types of sourdough,” Schmidt said. “When we had more bread than we could handle, we invited our friend Reyna over to enjoy some with us.”

When their friend joked that the pair’s creation was so good that they could sell it, Schmidt and Owada got to work and eventually started their business — Side Hustle Sourdough, a sourdough bread manufacturing and distribution service for the USD community.

The bread-making process begins with a starter, or a living yeast that acts as a base for each loaf of bread. The starter must be nourished with water and flour on a daily basis, leading many bakers to treat their starter like a pet, according to Schmidt.

Owada and Schmidt lovingly named their starter Dobby, and have used it to complete a steady flow of orders since the inception of their business. Schmidt expressed both shock and gratitude regarding the instantaneous success of Side Sourdough.

“A homemade sourdough loaf by Owada and Schmidt. They make the bread in their dorm room in the Alcalá Vistas Apartments.

Catherine Silvey
Feature Editor

CRP officially defunded
ASG voted 22-7 to defund online WSJ and NYT access

Luke Garrett
News Editor

The Associated Student Government Senate voted to defund the entire College Readership Program the Friday before Thanksgiving. Although the decades-old program dedicated to informing USD students through access to national newspapers did not go down without a fight.

ASG senators filed into the third floor of the Student Life Pavilion around 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 22 with only one item on the agenda: the College Readership Program. After an hour of deliberation, the motion to defund the program passed by a single vote.

Two years ago, the program funded both physical and digital subscriptions to national newspapers, but was cut down to digital access to The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times. At the start of this semester, ASG leaders decided to defund the entire program, but faced backlash in the form of two grassroots petitions garnering a total of over 350 students signatures asking ASG to refund the digital subscriptions.

Confusion and controversy concerning the program plagued ASG senators, some of whom had never heard of the program before and were hearing contradictory information from petition leaders and ASG leadership.

Amidst all the decisions, funding reallocation, and petitions, one ASG member sat at the center of it all. Vice President Greyson Taylor. The $81,000 originally allocated to the program fell under his budget, the decision to defund the program was largely his, and at the decisive Nov. 22 senate Taylor made an effort to save the program he once hoped to end. Taylor stood in front of ASG senators and told them he had gotten it wrong. He wanted to set the record straight.

“I do feel responsible,” Taylor said at the beginning of his nearly five-minute statement. He continued to say he originally voted to defund the program because he thought that Copley Library’s access was sufficient to replace the College Readership Program, but that he realized that this wasn’t the case.

“For me, my decision was based off the Copley Library,” Taylor said. “But I don’t think it is sufficient. I don’t think it is sufficient at all to what students were looking for. You know for us..." See Sports, page 15

JoJo Binda Jr.
profile

See CRP, Page 3
Each year Associated Student Government receives around $1.2 million from the student activity fee. Here is how the funds were divvied up this semester:

### Centers, Torero Program Board, and Associated Student Government Executive allocations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allocation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centers</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TPB</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASG Exec.</td>
<td>53.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Figure 1: A pie chart of the $915,659 allocated to Associated Student Government.](image)

Each party then divides their allocations into various position holders, but the upset has been approved by ASG Senate.

### Associated Students Government Executive allocations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allocation</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASGBC</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Senate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASG Reserves</td>
<td>$124,870</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Figure 2: A pie chart of the $491,770 allocated to the Associated Student Government Executive.](image)

Senior Tyler Arden began asking for greater transparency within Associated Student Government (ASG) in September. Arden then attended numerous ASG Senate meetings and each time requested that the student government make their budget public, an act of good faith and transparency.

In response to Arden’s request, senator Rhonda Papp claimed students wouldn’t understand the budget and Speaker of the Senate Carolina Moreno Armenta questioned why Arden wanted to see the budget in the first place. He, in turn, restated his belief that those who pay for the budget should have the right to see it — a right not granted by ASG.

In the weeks following, Finance Committee voted to make the budget public, but as of Dec. 3, no ASG budget has been made available to students.

However, the ASG budget was leaked to *The USD Vista*. The budget obtained by *The USD Vista* was later confirmed as accurate, according to ASG Finance Chair George Saunderson.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allocation</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASG Executive</td>
<td>$491,770</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Figure 3: A pie chart of the money spent by the ASG Senate this fall.](image)

Student Org Mixer
Mat/Year Dedication
Athletic Committee
Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Committee
Grocery Trim
Engineering Supplies
Finals Coney Snacks

Luke Garrett, News Editor
Students want it,” Taylor said. “Funding the College Readership Program and funding every other initiative that has been brought up is not mutually exclusive. We can do both. That is why I voted for it in finance committee.”

Taylor ended by defending his newly shared opinion, and also alluded to a possibility why many in ASG don’t want the program funded.

“Students want it,” Taylor said. “I am here to serve the people. Granted it is a certain group or demographic that some individuals might not love. Are we just going to cater to them because that is what the school has historically done? I mean, what is the alternative?”

Taylor alluded to a perception expressed by one of the petitioners, namely that some ASG members dislike the College Readership Program because it is solely used and petitioned for by students in the school of business. “Good luck with your person who read The Wall Street Journal, but this person thought the $13,000 could be used better. The ASG president then read a number of initiatives that this unnamed person wrote down.

“Even students who actively use it are actively trying to think of ways to reallocate that money because they feel as though it could be used better somewhere else,” Chavarria Rivera said.

Some senators who agreed with the ASG President went on process. “So keep in mind that the people signing the petition, probably a lot of them don’t even know the situation,” Al-Faraje said. “They might not know anything about the situation. It is a really small amount of people.”

Not all senators agreed. Alčalá Vistas senator Mary-Logan Miske believed it was the senate’s duty to respond to the petitioners’ request.

“This is what our students want,” Miske said. “I feel like we are fighting against what our student body wants. This is our time to make a decision. Students keep bringing it up.”

As Miske spoke, senator Angelo Tharp broke order and said “they totally don’t” under his breath. He gained a number of laughs from the senate.

Tharp then quickly moved to limit the discussion to five minutes, and thereafter a roll call vote was made.

Seven senators voted to fund the College Readership Program and 22 voted to defund the program, which placed the $23,000 into a pool of excess funds that will not be used until the spring semester, if at all, according to Finance Chair George Saunders.

To sophomore Jordan Ritchie, the sole member of the public attending the meeting, the decision to defund the program was a disappointment.

“I don’t think they should have put the money in the pool unless someone with a significant plan is ready to take action,” Ritchie said. “With only a semester left in the year, I don’t believe that anything with the money will get done this term.”

Ritchie was unenthused by the idea that she now can only access The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times through Copley Library.

“I want to be informed as a citizen on a daily basis of what is going on,” Ritchie said. “I am not going to a database to do this.”

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Andersen Haigler - Associate Editor
Celina Tebor - Managing Editor
Amy Inkrott - Copy Editor
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Luke Garrett - News Editor
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The USD Vista is not responsible for the return of unsolicited material. Any letter sent to this editor will be considered for publication unless otherwise stated.

The Wall Street Journal
**ANALYSIS**

**Are ASG’s struggles unique?**

**USD cuts newspapers and conceals budget, LMU and Chapman do the opposite**

**Anderson Haigler** Associate Editor

Upon first glance, it is easy to see the similarities between Loyola Marymount University and the University of San Diego. Both are located in Southern California with pristine, palm tree-filled campuses near the Pacific Ocean. Both are private Catholic institutions with undergraduate student bodies of 6,790 and 5,900, respectively. The two schools compete against each other in athletics in the West Coast Conference. Some students who attend USD also applied to LMU, and vice versa. And, of course, they both feature extravagantly high tuition per year — $71,040 for LMU, and $67,211 for USD.

Take one look at each of the universities’ student governments, however, and the similarities seem to fade. While USD’s Associated Student Government (ASG) has been mired in more than a year’s worth of controversy and student discussion over, because it is so much money — it ended up being $17,000.”

Sinsky described how the high cost of the subscriptions led to an extensive discussion between the executive members of the student government on the merits of the program during their leadership team retreat. Initially, renewing the funding didn’t seem likely.

“As Toreros watched their student leaders defend their access to high-quality journalism, a campus-wide referendum, a motion which Salgado vetoed. The veto kicked off more than a year of controversy regarding the Program that has now stretched into current president Marion Chavarria Rivera’s tenure.

In the year that followed the initial attempt at defunding, students’ access to newspapers gradually decreased. In response, Toreros created petitions in support of the subscriptions, receiving an amount of signatures that was more than triple the amount who responded to the Instagram poll. Students showed up at ASG meetings to voice their opinions but were often not given time to speak. After Finance Chair George Sauderson released data that showed that more than one-fifth of USD students had activated their subscriptions, some Toreros implored their government to renew the newspaper access.

In the end, even after Vice President Greyson Taylor recommended that the digital subscriptions be refunded following a four-hour emergency deliberation, even after Taylor admitted that he had changed his mind and was in support of the program, the Senate voted to remove funding from the newspapers, leaving students without easy access to high-quality journalism for the first time in more than a decade.

Throughout the entire process, neither Salgado nor Chavarria Rivera agreed to any interview with The USD Vista.

One hundred and twenty-three miles up the California coast, Loyola Marymount had a similar debate regarding funding of newspaper subscriptions. Only their discussion was quick and clean. No controversy. No pushback. No breach of the nature of our political climate right now, it’s something else,” Sinsky, an LMU senior, said.

After lengthy deliberation, Sinsky and her colleagues came to the opposite conclusion of USD’s ASG, doing so without a year-long controversy.

“We sat there for hours outlining everything … and that’s when we decided that we wanted to maintain the precedent of having (the subscriptions), and giving that access to students. Since we had the money, we wanted to uphold that.”

ASLMU’s rationale for maintaining the funding was touched on a similar concern that both USD students and faculty members shared regarding the potential loss of newspaper subscriptions — the risk of students becoming less politically informed in the publications’ absences. Though this issue did not appear to resonate with USD’s ASG, it did with their colleagues to the north.

We decided that especially with the nature of our political climate right now, it’s something that’s important for students to have,” Sinsky added.

Like USD’s ASG, ASLMU was concerned with usage of the digital subscriptions on their campus. So they sent out a survey to all undergraduates regarding the program, which Sinsky estimates got out to nearly 3,000 recipients capable of understanding it. Finance Chair Sauderson told Arden that at least 700 subscriptions were used, totaling less than half of the subscription’s abscences. Though this issue did not appear to resonate with USD’s ASG, it did with their colleagues to the north.

“I think it’s pretty suspicious that USD’s ASG doesn’t (make the budget public). I would pretty shady if I wasn’t being transparent. If you have something to hide on your budget, you’re doing it wrong.”

-Emily Sinsky, ASLMU Vice President

Concerns regarding their financial transparency and defunding of free newspaper access for students, LMU may not have had to weather similar issues. As USD students’ requests for ASG’s budget to be made public were rebuffed by senate leadership, LMU’s Associated Students (ASLMU) featured their budget prominently on their website. As Toreros watched their student leaders defend their access to high-quality journalism, with senior Tyler Arden speaking multiple times at senate meetings regarding this issue.

His desire for transparency was rebuffed by student skepticism and pushback. One senator asked him why he needed to see the budget. Another told him that USD students simply aren’t capable of understanding it. Finance Chair Sauderson told Arden that at least 700 subscriptions were used, totaling less than half of the subscription’s absences. Though this issue did not appear to resonate with USD’s ASG, it did with their colleagues to the north.

Students at LMU or Chapman have enjoyed access to the New York Times for years, paying a small fee to read. Nobody showed up at ASLMU’s or SGA’s meetings to ask for their budgets to be made public. They already are, and have been for at least the last three years. Two clicks on ASLMU’s website allows anybody to download their impressively detailed budget — everything from the President’s salary to the cost of apparel for ASLMU to the total cost of LMU’s
annual concert. At Chapman, a sift through SGA’s website reveals all of their financial documents, and any student wanting a copy of the budget can have it emailed to them directly.

“(Transparency) is one of the most important parts of being in student government,” Amid said. “… we want to make sure we are spending it accurately and wisely. If somebody needed (the budget), we could totally send it to them.”

At LMU, Sinsky admitted that it is not the most comfortable thing to have all of her organization’s expenditures out in the open, but shared Amid’s belief that transparency and honesty with her constituents is key.

“The budget has always been public, but not as visible (as it is now),” Sinsky said. “And that was something that (ASLMU President Ken Cavanaugh) and I decided to promote and publish for people to look at. For me, that was something that we wanted to be transparent about, because we represent all of the students at the university.”

When asked about the situation at USD, she expressed concern at ASG’s lack of transparency thus far.

“I think it’s pretty suspicious that USD’s ASG doesn’t (make the budget public),” Sinsky said. “I would feel pretty shady if I wasn’t being transparent. If you have something to hide on your budget, you’re doing it wrong.”

ASLMU spends a solid amount on things that only benefit those in the student government — things that Sinsky stated are not flattering to disclose, but necessary to operate the organization.

“We definitely spend money on things for ourselves that maybe somebody would disagree with in the public, but we have it open for people to see, because it’s

“A primary reason (to fund the NYT subscriptions) is making sure our students are well educated and well-rounded and have access to quality journalism.”

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-Saba Amid, Chapman SGA President

With the College Readership Program gone, Toreros are without free access to newspapers for the first time in more than 10 years.

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Big Sky dreams for football

Toreros’ perennial dominance raises questions about a change of conference

Eric Roose
Opinion Editor

When the University of San Diego football team took the field against the University of Northern Iowa on Saturday, it marked the Toreros’ fourth consecutive conference opener, their first in the last six years. A week earlier, USD won their 37th consecutive Pioneer Football League (PFL) game, defeating the Jacksonville University Dolphins 47-28. The Toreros have not lost against a PFL opponent in the last four seasons, and have won the conference title for the last six, winning it outright every year except for 2015, when they shared the title with Dayton University.

San Diego is undoubtedly the king of the PFL, and they frequently are in the top 10 best offenses in the entire Football Championship Subdivision (FCS). Quarterback Reid Sinnett ranks 9th in the nation in passing yards this season, and fourth in passing touchdowns. Sinnett is third in completion percentage, and second in quarterback rating. Receiver Michael Bandy is seventh in FCS in receiving yards, and eighth in receiving touchdowns. A total of 10 USD players have the third-best scoring offense this season, averaging just under 42 points per game. The Toreros dispatched each of their PFL opponents with ease, winning conference games by an average of 27.25 points this season.

In some ways, Torero football is like Gonzaga University’s men’s basketball team. Both teams have cruised past their conference opponents while putting multiple players at the top of national statistics charts. In 2017, the Zags considered leaving the West Coast Conference for more competitive regular-season games in the Mountain West Conference. And though the Bulldogs elected to remain in the WCC, it might be time for USD’s football team to consider a similar move, leaving the Pioneer League for the Big Sky Conference.

A move to the Big Sky would certainly bring, among other things, tougher regular-season competition. At season’s end, four of the top 10 FCS teams in the nation played in the Big Sky, with three of them making the top 25. USD hosted the then-fourth-ranked UC Davis Aggies, who finished eighth in the Big Sky. In that game and others, the Toreros proved to be up for the challenge. San Diego came within one yard of upsetting the Aggies, losing 35-33.

The Toreros held this year’s opening opponent, the sixth-ranked Northern Iowa Panthers, to only 17 points in Cedar Falls on Saturday. The Toreros are also no strangers to Big Sky opposition. The Toreros’ only playoff wins both came against Big Sky opponents, San Diego beating Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo in 2016 and Northern Arizona in Flagstaff in 2017. Over the past six years, San Diego has played a total of 10 games against teams from the Big Sky conference, with eight of those games being against regional opponents Cal Poly and UC Davis. Proximity is another benefit that a move to the Big Sky would bring USD. No FCS team currently travels further during a season than the Toreros, who made two trips across the country to Florida this year, plus trips to Ohio and North Carolina. The furthest the team would have to travel to play a Big Sky opponent would be to Eastern Montana to play Montana State.

With the proximity to conference opponents, there would be some smaller, tangential benefits. There are four teams in the Big Sky which could qualify as regional rivals for the Toreros: Cal Poly, UC Davis, Sacramento State, and Northern Arizona. A local conference rival is something San Diego football is currently missing, with the closest PFL team being Drake, located in Des Moines, Iowa.

However, the decision to change conferences comes with some serious obstacles. For what it’s worth, Gonzaga still plays its basketball in the WCC, not the Mountain West. For San Diego football, a change in conference would bring a lot more losing. San Diego has not beaten a Big Sky team at Torero Stadium in over a decade, cruising past Northern Colorado in 2007 and beating UC Davis in 2008. USD has not improved in recent years. The Toreros are 2-8 against Big Sky Conference teams over the last six years, and those two wins both came on the road. Even then, the teams the Toreros beat finished in the middle of the pack in their conference standings. The same Cal Poly team that swallowed the Toreros 52-7 in the opener finished last in the Big Sky this season. While the Toreros may break through their current conference, there is no overwhelming evidence that they would even be competitive following a move to the Big Sky Conference.

However, any potential on-field thumpings are by no means the biggest obstacle to a change in conference for the Toreros. That would be scholarships. Currently, USD does not offer scholarships for football — no school in the PFL does. For USD to start offering football scholarships would open a can of worms that the school has so far kept closed.

Of course, San Diego would not be required to offer scholarships in order to change conference, but they would almost certainly be left behind their new opposition if they did not. Scholarships are essential for recruiting players of the highest ability — players who could help the Toreros compete in one of the best football conferences in the country. Essentially, if USD joined the Big Sky while not offering scholarships, they would be condemned to the bottom of the standings for the foreseeable future.

Preventing that fate is not as simple as just finding room in the budget for football scholarships, but even that would be a feat in itself. If USD were to hand out scholarships which only covered tuition, each scholarship would cost the school $50,450. Under FCS rules, USD could hand out 63 of those scholarships, or almost $3.2 million — more than the school currently spends on its football program as a whole. Even if room was made in the budget to pay for scholarships, there would still be the issue of complying with Title IX restrictions.

Generally, Title IX serves to ensure equity between men’s and women’s college athletics. Among the rules created by Title IX to serve that purpose is the rule that schools’ scholarship spending be the same proportional to participation. That means if a school gives out $200,000 in athletic scholarships, and the school’s athletes are 50% men and 50% women, $100,000 must be awarded to women and $100,000 to men. Currently, USD pays $77,755 million in athletic financial aid, and thanks to football not receiving scholarships, 40% of that aid goes to male student-athletes.

However, if Torero football players became eligible for scholarships, then that breakdown would almost entirely be reversed, with men representing 56% of scholarship-eligible athletes. The addition of football scholarships at USD could, at the very least, mean less financial aid for female student athletes. It could also mean that more of the financial aid money for male student athletes is funneled into football and less into other sports. Granted, these are hypothetical, but what is guaranteed is that USD would have to make tough decisions about how to handle the inflated cost of being competitive in the Big Sky Conference.

Those tough questions are certainly worth asking, and may be worth answering. A move to the Big Sky would put San Diego in a conference with some of the strongest football programs in the West, setting up tough games and rivalries with regional opponents. In the long run, the move could set the Toreros on a course to be a national powerhouse, not just a predictable conference-topper. There may not be a clearly right answer, and there are benefits to both staying and moving. At this point, the only wrong choice would be to not consider the move at all. The Toreros are scheduled to visit Montana State in 2021, and will play Cal Poly in each of their next four seasons. Perhaps by 2023, the showdown with the Mustangs will be a conference game.

The views expressed in the editorial and op-ed sections are not necessarily those of The USD Vista staff, the University of San Diego, or its student body.
Turning passion into dough

Two student bakers produce and distribute homemade sourdough bread across USD

Bread from Page 1

Hustle Sourdough.

“Within the first week of announcing our business we got approximately 50 orders, and this showed us that our idea had very strong potential for success,” Schmidt said. “The abundance of support and the rapid growth made us so hopeful for the future of our business.”

While balancing such a large amount of orders with academics and extracurriculars may sound like an impossible feat, Schmidt explained that developing time management skills prevented her and Owada from becoming overwhelmed.

“It may seem like a big time commitment,” Schmidt said. “Lucky for us, making each loaf of sourdough is a 24-hour process with a lot of idle time while the bread proofs, rises, and bakes, which helps incorporate air and make it so fluffy. This gives us plenty of time to get our school work done and participate in extracurriculars while the bread gains its recognizable sourdough taste and texture.”

Owada added that her and Schmidt’s efficiency as a team and love for baking smooth out potentially stressful moments. “You would think that running a business out of a dorm would create a stressful environment,” Owada said. “However, we are very passionate about what we do which makes it a very stress-relieving process and helps add structure to our day.”

As the end of the semester nears, it has become more and more clear to Owada and Schmidt that their hard work has paid off. The pair has amassed a loyal fan base and continue to receive a steady flow of orders. As a result, Schmidt revealed that she and Owada have plans to expand, exploring business opportunities beyond the USD community.

“We are going to continue our business throughout the next semester and work to save money to trademark our company name, Side Hustle Sourdough,” Schmidt said. “We are also working on creating a website where our customers can order and browse our full menu. In the future, we are hoping to open up a storefront in San Diego and expand even more by incorporating more sourdough-based baked goods like crackers and rolls.”

Owada and Schmidt take great pride in the growth of Side Hustle Sourdough. Schmidt ultimately credits the pair’s organization for the continued success of the business. “You have to make sure to really plan things out or else a lack of structure could be the downfall of a growing business,” Schmidt said. “We operate like clockwork to make sure we get everything done in time and have enough time for academics and extracurriculars as well as college students.”

Interested students can visit @sidehustlesourdough on Instagram to learn more about the company’s products and place orders.
APPLE CRUMBLE PIE

There’s nothing quite as American as apple pie, which is why it is typically present at holiday celebrations, but apple pie’s roots actually come from Europe. European settlers were the first to bring apple seeds to America, and they were the first to introduce the idea of eating pies at special occasions and holidays. Thanks to these settlers and Johnny Appleseed, apple varieties were spread throughout the nation, allowing for apple pie to be introduced to the United States. The first recipe for apple pie in the U.S. was seen in 1796, in Amelia Simmons’ “American Cookery,” the earliest known published cookbook in America. Since apple pie was introduced, it’s become a go-to dessert, especially since it can be enjoyed year-round. The sweet and tart nature of apples, complete with warm spices, makes apple pie the perfect holiday dessert, and with the recipe below, you can be sure to have this delicious American staple on your holiday table this year.

**Ingredients**
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 8 tbsp cold butter cut into pieces
- 6-8 tablespoons of ice water

**Crumble Topping**
- 7-8 apples - peeled, cored, and thinly sliced
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3 tbsp flour
- 1 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg

**Directions**

**For the crust:** Combine flour, salt, and sugar in a mixing bowl. Add in cold butter pieces and using a pastry cutter (or fork) combine butter with dry ingredients until the mixture contains pieces of butter that are varied in size, with none larger than a pea. Then, sprinkle in a tbsp of ice water to the mixture at a time and use a fork to mix it in. Once the dough starts to form clumps test it by picking up a chunk. If it sticks together without being too crumbly, you have added enough water. When making this recipe, I added 7 tablespoons before the dough was able to stick together. When the dough gets to this point, pack it into a ball, rolling it in the bowl to pick up the drier crumbs. Once was in a ball, I patted it into a disk shape so it would be easier to roll into a circle. Then, wrap it in cling wrap and let the dough chill for at least a few hours or overnight.

**For the filling:** In a bowl, mix together sugar, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt. In a larger bowl, drizzle the lemon juice over the sliced apples and mix to coat. Add 1/4 of the dry mixture into the apples and mix to coat. Then add the rest of the mixture and stir until all of the apples are coated.

**For the crumble:** In a bowl, combine flour, sugar, cinnamon, and salt. Whisk together with a fork, and then add in the butter. Using a pastry cutter or fork, incorporate the butter until it becomes crumbly. After I used the pastry cutter to break down big chunks of butter, I used my hands to get it to a desired crumbly texture.

1. Preheat your oven to 350º F
2. Once the pie crust has been chilled, take it out and let it sit until it is soft enough to be rolled out. Lay two sheets of overlapping cling wrap on the counter. Place the dough on top of these sheets, then cover with two more sheets. This will allow for easier rolling with less mess.
3. Using a rolling pin, roll the crust out starting from the middle out to all directions of the circle. Once the crust has been rolled out to about 12 inches in diameter, and about 1/4 inch thick, fold over the ends of the cling wrap and place in the refrigerator to let it chill for about 10 mins.
4. Once chilled, take the crust out, remove one side of the cling wrap, and set it into a pie dish. Press it gently into the dish and then remove the other side of cling wrap.
5. Pour your filling mixture into the crust. You can arrange the apples however you like, but fill the crust to the top.
6. Sprinkle the crumble mixture on top of the apples, creating a thick, even layer.
7. Wrap the edges of the pie crust with aluminum foil to create a barrier to prevent the crust from burning.
8. Bake the pie for 45-60 minutes, removing the aluminum shield for 15 minutes at the end to allow the crust to brown. Once the crumble has crisped and the filling begins to bubble, the pie is ready. Take the pie out and let it cool. Serve it warm or let it cool completely before covering and placing it into the fridge.

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**ALMOND ROCA**

Almond Roca has been a popular holiday treat in Washington for decades. Many families make big batches of the candy to send out to family and friends every holiday season. The chocolate- and almond-covered toffee confection was created by confectioner Harry Brown in Tacoma, Washington in 1923. The candy became a best seller for Brown’s candy company Brown & Haley and during the sugar rationing of World War II, their Almond Roca was shipped in bulk overseas to be given to soldiers fighting in the war. This sweet, crunchy candy is simple to make and heavily addictive. If you want to make a unique and tasty treat this holiday season, use the recipe below, but be prepared to be craving it for the rest of the year.

**Ingredients**
- 2 sticks butter
- 3 tbsp water
- 1 tbsp corn syrup
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- 2 cups almonds

**Will need**
- Candy thermometer
- A metal cookie sheet
- A knife, kitchen mallet, or some sort of tool to break the bar into smaller pieces

**Directions**

1. In a large saucepan melt butter, water, corn syrup, and sugar. Stir until the temperature reaches 300ºF or “Hard Crack” on the candy thermometer. Make sure you have a big enough saucepan, unlike I did, as the mixture will expand and can overflow. It also takes a while for the mixture to reach 300º F, but just keep stirring and eventually, I promise it will get there.
2. Remove the mixture from heat and stir in 1 cup of coarsely chopped almonds and then spread it out onto a metal cookie sheet.
3. Sprinkle the chocolate chips over the mixture. If you want it extra chocolatey like me, feel free to add more than 1 cup of chocolate chips. Once the chocolate melts, spread it evenly on top of mixture and cover with the rest of your chopped almonds. Be sure to press the almonds down slightly to make sure they stick.
4. Cover it with foil and refrigerate until hard (a few hours). Once it’s hard, flip the bar out of the pan. Then, take a knife, kitchen mallet, or some sort of tool to break the bar into smaller pieces. Once pieces have been broken into your desired size, serve them up or package them to give to friends and family.

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**MADE WITH LOVE BY SHELBY TODD**

Spread by Alex Ponsol/The USD Vista; Content by Shelby Todd/The USD Vista; Illustrations by Audrey Garrett/The USD Vista.
Sister Rodee’s journey at USD

Alumna nun shares her memories of USD from the earliest years of the college

Mayella Vasquez
Asst. Feature Editor

It was the 1950s. The United States had the strongest military in the world, families were growing, and the economy was booming. Women were encouraged to stay within the confines of the home. Popular magazine articles like “Don’t Be Afraid to Marry Young,” “Cooking To Me Is Poetry,” and “Femininity Begins At Home” urged women to leave the workplace and focus on bearing children. During the same era, however, the recently-opened San Diego College for Women, which would later become the University of San Diego, offered women different opportunities.

Sister Virginia Rodee is an alumna from the class of 1957 and works today on special projects for the campus such as giving tours of Founders Hall. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in music, and later attended a much different University of Chicago and, when she had a Ph.D. in History from the Catholic University of America, and the University of Notre Dame were brought to the college as instructors. This was unusual since, according to a government census, in the 1950s less than 5% of women in the U.S. pursued higher education, much less a doctorate degree.

Rodee attended a much different USD than the one in operation today, one that was still growing and finding its identity.

“At first we had trouble filling Founders, and very few people had cars,” Rodee said. “There were no parking fees in those days. Young Sisters of the Sacred Heart wore our RAs, and we had one night watchman who would make their rounds. I have no doubt that I received a great education and we also had a lot of fun.”

Attending such a new college presented some challenges, as the institution itself was still in development. Rodee continued by describing the struggles of the young college.

“It was just Camino and Founders, and every cent went toward paying the buildings off,” Rodee said. “You would see your professor, only religious women at the time, watering their allotted portion of the patio after class or cleaning the classrooms.”

Despite these challenges, the college’s founder, Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill, insisted on bringing the best women to teach. Alumni from Stanford University, UC Berkeley, The Catholic University of America, and the University of Notre Dame were brought to the college as instructors. This was unusual since, according to a government census, in the 1950s less than 5% of women in the U.S. pursued higher education, much less a doctorate degree.

Rodee remembered being taught by these exceptional women. “Mother Agnes Murphy was one of the wisest professors at the college,” Rodee said. “She had a Ph.D. in History from the University of Chicago and, when the school needed a philosophy professor, she went back to school and got another Ph.D.”

Rodee regarded Hill in the same light. “She was an intelligent woman, quiet and ambitious,” Rodee said. “She knew architecture and engineering. As a child, instead of playing with other toys, she made designs out of small paper squares.”

After graduating from the San Diego College for Women, Rodee followed in the path of the female role models in her life, becoming a sister in the Society of the Sacred Heart. Soon after, Rodee decided to take her mission of service far beyond her local community.

“In 1968, after joining the Society of the Sacred Heart, I asked to be sent to Korea,” Rodee said. “I stayed for 23 years teaching English at our regular school and university.”

Rodee recalled that the communities she served in South Korea were deeply scarred and struggling to survive.

“The U.S. military had given us some tents, and we taught in these ‘tent’ schools, and on our campuses,” Rodee said. “At the time there were no heaters, so we would use coal to stay warm. People lived out of their shops, and children were hungry.”

During her time in Korea, Rodee spent nine semesters learning Korean and eventually became fluent. Later, she became the director of the Catholic University of Korea’s Foreign Language Education Institute. Today, the university is consistently ranked as one of the leading collegiate institutions in South Korea and is internationally recognized for its excellence.

Before returning to USD in 1997, she traveled around the world, from Taiwan to Spain to Canada. When she returned, she went on to be honored as a “Coronado Legend” in 2007. In 2009, she received the Woman of Conscience Award from the Associated Alumni of the Sacred Heart and, in 2016, the Academy of Our Lady of Peace (OLP) named her the Alumna of the Year. In 2018, Rodee received the Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill Service Award.

These days, Rodee can be found in Founders Chapel. She is in charge of special projects, such as giving campus tours. She greets everyone with a smile, and is a positive presence on campus.

USD started with two buildings, less than a hundred students, and one professor committed to making the institution the best it could be. Today, USD’s 180-acre campus is a nationally ranked Catholic institution with more than 8,000 faculty members, 7,800 students, and eight academic divisions. Despite all of the changes and growth that have occurred throughout its lifetime, the college’s roots of changemaking and leadership remain steadfast and unmoved.
Sophomore Javi Lozano shares the highlights of his career and his hopes for the future

Lozano has performed at multiple popular venues in both the U.S. and Mexico, securing his first residency at just 16 years old. Toreros may be familiar with Bassmnt, an 18+ club where Lozano has performed before.

Lozano shared with The USD Vista just how his journey began. From booking clubs and festivals in both Mexico and the U.S., to getting his first club residency at the age of 16, to signing into contracts with record labels such as CLUTCH Records, 19-year-old Lozano has worked hard to make a name for himself in the electronic music industry.

"Currently, I've been working nonstop on touring and music because I love making music and playing it live," Lozano said. "If I were to guess where my career is going, I would say it's going somewhere big and I know that I'll be happy because I love what I do." Lozano’s passion for mixing music developed at a young age by coincidence, when a music teacher asked him to perform at a middle school carnival in place of the hired professional, who was stuck in traffic. Lozano’s proficiency in playing piano, guitar, and bass guitar all informed his performance, and resulted in a highly successful first attempt at mixing.

"I lowkey knew basic stuff and was familiarized with what DJs did," Lozano said. "The doors opened and I mixed for about 30 minutes, and the crowd's reaction was nothing but positive. Everybody was dancing and jumping, even the upperclassmen. As a little 12-year-old, I was really excited and that's when I knew I could make something out of this experience." Years after his improvised performance, Lozano cites preparation before gigs as one of the keys to his success, tailoring playlists to the audience he anticipates.

"I pick out songs that I produce, songs that I like, songs that are popular, and classics," Lozano said. "Most of the time I prepare myself for any scenario, so I would say the songs I play depend on the time slot, place, and crowd. A good DJ must know how to read a crowd."

The combination of long performances and the emotional connection to an audience necessary for a good performance tends to take a toll on DJs when unmanaged. Lozano expressed that combating exhaustion was a significant struggle early in his career.

"When I first started, not getting sleep was hard," Lozano said. "Since most of my shows were during the night and back-to-back, I wouldn't get much sleep. From these experiences, I learned how to adapt my body and keep moving forward."

Lozano credits his profession with changing his outlook on life, giving him a new perspective of the people and the world around him.

"Being a DJ has definitely changed how I see life," Lozano said. "I've become more grateful for what I have, the opportunities I've been presented with, and the contacts and relationships that I've made."

In the meantime, Lozano can be found balancing his time between studying in Olin Hall and performing at local clubs such as Bassmnt in downtown San Diego. Keep an eye out for his future local performances to support our fellow Torero.

Lozano has performed at multiple popular venues in both the U.S. and Mexico, securing his first residency at just 16 years old. Toreros may be familiar with Bassmnt, an 18+ club where Lozano has performed before.

Photos courtesy of Javi Lozano

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Catherine Silvey
Feature Editor

Many wonder about the artistry behind the live mixing of electronic music. As world-renowned DJs such as Daft Punk and David Guetta consistently top charts with their infectious beats, fans can only dream of how they do it. University of San Diego sophomore Javi Lozano aspires to reach such levels of fame and success one day, and seems to be well on his way. He shared with The USD Vista just how his journey began.

From booking clubs and festivals in both Mexico and the U.S., to getting his first club residency at the age of 16, to signing into contracts with record labels such as CLUTCH Records, 19-year-old Lozano has worked hard to make a name for himself in the electronic music industry.

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Photos courtesy of Javi Lozano
Wonderfront’s first festival

USD Toreros get a glance at the future of this exciting and expansive festival

On the weekend of Nov. 22-24, the music festival Wonderfront opened its gates to the public for the very first time. Hosted along the San Diego waterfront, the festival boasted beautiful views and an abundance of attractions for all kinds of visitors. Leaning on its location and on the natural beauty of San Diego, the festival was able to provide an experience for attendees that was unlike any other music festival in existence.

Crowds entered the festival grounds for the first time ever on Friday, and many were shocked by how expansive Wonderfront really was. With four separate parks, the festival took over almost every major aspect of the San Diego waterfront area, spanning from Embarcadero South all the way to the Broadway Port Pier. Seaport Village, though open for business all weekend long, was surrounded by stages and booths. The close integration into the city of San Diego made the festival feel more cohesive with the location, rather than like an event that was just thrown wherever there was space.

Additionally, the Wonderfront team emphasized interacting with the waterfront throughout the festival experience. There were water taxis that carried festivalgoers to stages, and attendees could listen to the music from boats that cruised up and down the expanse of the various parks. Beyond that, there were even attendees who rented paddle boards or kayaks during their time at the festival.

Friday’s festival activities got started later in the afternoon, with gates opening around 3:30 p.m. With this later start time, and with the sun setting so early, some festivalgoers felt that it was hard to get a handle on the park grounds. Senior Maddie Bailey was pleased with the event overall, but expressed that the venue was a little confusing.

“For their first year, Wonderfront is a great festival with amazing sound production and a strong lineup, but logistically it is a challenge to navigate,” Bailey said.

Many chose to shuttle between the two most accessible sections of the festival, which were the Embarcadero North and the Seaport Village parks. These two sections, home to two stages each as well as food trucks and attractions, were just walking distance from one another and had some of the more well-known acts.

Saturday the festival went into full swing, with an impressive lineup, and an even more impressive crowd. Gates opened at 11:30 a.m. on this day so attendees were able to get the lay of the land well before the sun set. For many, the day kicked off with The Knocks, or Big Gigantic, both mostly electronic acts. Impressive graphics and energetic crowds characterized the day’s early sets, as the younger crowds gravitated toward acts like Bryce Vine and Vince Staples. If the name Bryce Vine seems familiar, that is likely because he was just here performing for University of San Diego students during TPB’s Big Blue Bash.

A somewhat surprisingly popular act among many of the USD students attending Wonderfront Festival was the group of rappers called Flatbush Zombies. Known for their aggressive audiences and insane shows, this act drew in many students who had been looking for the chance to see the well-known trio in person. Senior Wyatt Warren, of “Two Men, One Slice” fame, had a hot take on the very eventful Flatbush set.

“If you like sweaty mosh pits and stolen phones, I have just the place for you,” said Warren. “Flatbush Zombies’ set consisted of showing some of your best friends into strangers while losing all of your possessions. Overall a great experience though.”

Though the Flatbush Zombies’ San Diego set was a little more toned down than usual, with no broken bones or bloody noses, students who saw the act were still satisfied with the rambunctious performance.

Finally Saturday came to a close with MGMT and Migos, playing at the same time across the festival. What was most interesting about this festival, and what became very obvious during this split of sets, was the demographic of this festival.
Reviewing the inaugural event

Recounting all the highlights from Wonderfront’s debut to the SoCal festival scene

Unlike another San Diego festival, CRSSD, which has a very clear genre focus and strict 21+ policy, Wonderfront hosted artists that covered an impressive range of styles. This all-age policy then brought in a range of crowds, and though there was a great span of ages represented at the festival, crowds were mostly split by the performer. For example, the crowd at MGMT, which was slightly older and noticeably laid back, was very different from the young and high-energy Flatbush Zombie fans.

Additionally, it is important to note that there was more to do at Wonderfront than just watch music. The grounds were filled with food tents offering fair goods, and there were tents for activities like henna body art.

Big Wild had one of the most exciting sets of the festival with exceptional sound. Lizzy Jennings/The USD Vista

Two of the biggest names of the festival, CRSSD, which has a very clear genre focus and strict 21+ policy, Wonderfront hosted artists that covered an impressive range of styles. This all-age policy then brought in a range of crowds, and though there was a great span of ages represented at the festival, crowds were mostly split by the performer. For example, the crowd at MGMT, which was slightly older and noticeably laid back, was very different from the young and high-energy Flatbush Zombie fans.

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SPORTS

NCAA Tournament preview

No. 20 USD will travel to Honolulu, Hawaii to take on No. 25 WSU in the first round

Tournament From Page 1 exciting...but we never expect our season to come to a halt after conference.

That's not to say the significance of making the tournament in itself is lost on USD, however. "It's always a great point in the season," USD volleyball head coach Jennifer Petrie said on Monday. "It's certainly one of our longstanding goals, and whenever you achieve that, it's pretty exhilarating. There's a lot of anticipation to see where you're going to get sent, and this was no different."

But in talking about the tournament, it wasn't the excitement, or hype, or pomp and circumstance of the selection show or postseason that the Toreros focused on. Rather, San Diego emphasized how they feel that this season, they are better equipped to make a splash in the NCAA tournament than they have in a long time.

"We always plan to have a long journey through the NCAA tournament," Douglass said. "Just like every other year, we're expecting to go further than we ever have in program history."

Senior outside hitter Thana Fayad, who leads the Toreros with 280 kills so far this season, elaborated on Douglass' sentiment. "It's exciting to see our potential as a team this year specifically," Fayad said. "Last year we made it to the Sweet 16. This year) we anticipate to be able to go further, and to work hard enough to go further."

It's easy to see why they have so much confidence in themselves. The regular-season effort that preceded the Toreros' postseason selection was an impressive one, seeing them win the outright WCC title for the first time since 2013, and finish the year ranked No. 20 nationally. After avenging last year's loss to then No. 20 USC and beating top-ten ranked BYU both on the road and at home, the latter of which being an electric win in the Jenny Craig Pavilion, this dominant campaign culminated in a flurry of awards on Monday afternoon as the WCC culminated in a flurry of awards on everybody on the sideline.

Coach Jennifer Petrie

"The Toreros) have an axe to grind. They want to get out there and take care of business, make history for this program, a new legacy."

Coach Jennifer Petrie

-Coach Jennifer Petrie

USD women's volleyball's WCC Championship last week marked their first since 2013, but their fifth in the last 10 years. Anna Newsome, Grace Frohling, and Coach Jennifer Petrie all earned major WCC awards.

And now, with all of this under their belts, the Toreros will begin the postseason where they started this year: at the Stan Sheriff Center at the University of Hawaii, a 10,300-seat venue where USD went 1-2 in the Hawaiian Airlines Rainbow Wahine Classic this August. San Diego fell to Hawaii (2-3) and No. 13 Washington (1-3) before sweeping St. John's (3-0) in the round-robin tournament.

"I love that gym," Fayad said. "It's awesome — even if the crowd is cheering for Hawaii. In this case we probably won't have as big of a crowd because it's Washington and USD, but it's exciting to play on that court."

"They love volleyball," Douglass added, regarding the fans in Hawaii.

The opponent awaiting the Toreros on the island, however, won't be nearly as familiar. USD hasn't played the WSU Cougars since 2008, and are 0-3 against them all time. "(They have) strong middles," Petrie said of her team's upcoming opponent. "They're very young, a lot of freshmen on the team, a freshman setter. Obviously they play in a tough conference and have played a lot of good teams. But I think that it's a good opening-round match for us."

Either way, San Diego will come into the match focused, and ready to go. "(The Toreros) have an axe to grind," Petrie said. "They want to get out there and take care of business, make history for this program, a new legacy."

Though the Toreros' first-round matchup will take place in the sunny, tropical destination of Honolulu, a location perhaps much more favorable or desirable than other places within the bracket, USD doesn't figure to get in too much time on the beach, nor do they see it as much of a vacation. "No beach days," Fayad said. "It's a business trip," Douglass added.

UP NEXT:

NCAA WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT: FIRST ROUND
No. 20 USD (24-5) vs.
No. 25 WSU (23-9)
FRIDAY, DEC. 6
6:30 p.m. PT
WATCH: USDTOREROS.COM
As a kid growing up in Providence, Rhode Island, JoJo Binda Jr. looked to football as his escape from reality. According to Binda Jr., not very many people make it out of Rhode Island. Binda Jr. knew that football was going to be his passion and his ticket out, from an early age.

“Growing up, that is what all my friends did,” Binda Jr. said. “There really isn’t much to do and there is a lot of hard things going on, but the outlet was football for the youth. I really just ended up loving it, I fell in love with the game early and it was a way to keep me out of trouble because of all the hectic stuff going on.”

Binda Jr. has traveled to and lived on both coasts of the U.S. Growing up on the East Coast, Providence is where Binda Jr. calls home. But when high school came around, he decided to move to Seattle to live with his father. There were a lot of reasons that led to the change, but all of them had one thing in common — JoJo wanted to play football.

Binda Jr. said the difference between Providence and Seattle right away, “I stayed with my dad,” Binda Jr. said. “He was alone at the time, and he had the chance to take me in, and I was going to see a different atmosphere in life. I went from a really poor environment to a really wealthy environment with switching schools.”

Switching schools can come with unexpected difficulties, like adjusting or fitting in. For Binda Jr., the move to Seattle wasn’t about trying to fit in, or really turning you into a man.”

“Just figuring out ‘adult’ stuff in different situations. Really understanding the goal in mind, because there aren’t any junior colleges in Washington that have the exposure that California Junior colleges do. So I told myself that I am going to go and see how far this takes me.”

After his impressive first season, Binda Jr. came into his sophomore season confident that he would be able to play at the next level. But after his sophomore season ended, the recruitment process fell short of Binda Jr.’s expectations. Late in the recruiting process, Binda Jr. got a call from Tyler Sutton, the running back’s coach at the University of San Diego. Binda Jr. accepted the offer right away and came down to San Diego for a visit. A few months later, training camp started and Binda Jr. was looking to make his mark.

Every player wants to play and be the star, but football is a team sport first and foremost. Every player has their role and sometimes it’s not the role they want, and Binda Jr. knows that. Binda Jr. is now a senior in San Diego and his experience here has been full of ups and downs. Whether it was struggling in class, or making memories on the football field, Binda Jr. will remember it all. “I think what I remember the most is how many times I fell,” Binda Jr. said. “I stumbled so many times at this school, but every time I did, I learned from it. I always asked myself how I could improve, and the thing about USD is, if you really take your time and appreciate it, it builds you and really turns you into a man.”

Both on and off the field, Binda Jr. is determined to prove people wrong by showing how hard he works. “I’m probably not the smartest, fastest, or the quickest, but I’m a hard worker,” Binda Jr. said. “Every time I feel like I’m going through a hard time with classes or even a hard time on the field, I reflect back on the day and say that I know there is a better version of me.”

USD head coach Dale Lindsey has a saying that motivates Binda Jr. and helps him get through the day. “I always ask myself how I can chip away and get better,” Binda Jr. said. “Coach Lindsey says is ‘one percent better each day’ and if I can do that then I can reach that peak of my goal.”

Binda Jr.’s love for the game of football goes beyond running the ball and scoring touchdowns. He knows that there are multiple ways of making an impact on this football team. Some games will be different than others, and some games force players to have different roles. For Binda Jr., it’s about being the best version of himself while helping this team win football games.

Binda Jr. is ready for whatever role he is assigned that can have an effect on the rest of the team. “At the end of the day, it’s a team game,” Binda Jr. said. “If I can’t show the coaches that I am trustworthy and I’m not getting the job done, then I have to be effective in other ways. Whether it’s helping the young guys understand the plays like I do, listening to the coaches, and knowing I can learn more, that helps the process of being patient.”

That kind of leadership has helped Binda Jr. in his recent success as the Toreros continued to defeat Pioneer Football League (PFL) opponents. It wasn’t until the second half of the season when Binda Jr. got the opportunities to contribute regularly. Almost every week, he did something different to help his team win.

Binda Jr. had a career-high three rushing touchdowns against Drake University on Nov. 9. He added 121 yards and two rushing touchdowns against Morehead State University on Nov. 16. Again in week 13, when the Toreros traveled to the University of Jacksonville, he extended his career high with four rushing touchdowns to tie the school record. He added 147 rushing yards to help him earn the honor of PFL Offensive Player of the Week for the second time this season.

Binda Jr. credits his success to the team as a whole. “I’m just one of 11 guys,” Binda Jr. said. “So that success goes out to the whole team, not just one guy.”

Though Binda Jr. credits the whole team for his recent success, he is still joyful that he is being recognized for all his hard work. “I think what (these honors) mean to me is definitely seeing the fruits of my labor but also realizing that the job is not done yet,” Binda Jr. said. “Those are some accolades that I can cherish but I sweep them under the rug until it’s time for the next one.”

As Tom Brady always says: “My favorite win is the next one.”

As Binda Jr. finishes up his senior year he always remembers himself who he is doing this for. “Everything that I am doing is for God first,” Binda Jr. said. “Secondly my family, and for every lost one that I had in my life that is not with me anymore.”
Aztecs defeat Toreros

San Diego State University outmatches USD in potential final matchup between rivals

Chris Spierring
Sports Editor

The Jenny Craig Pavilion was packed Wednesday, Nov. 20 as the University of San Diego Toreros were looking to defeat the San Diego State University Aztecs in consecutive seasons for the first time since 2001. This was the 31st meeting between the two rivals, but for now, this was the last matchup as both schools decided not to renew the contract that allows them to keep playing each other season after season. SDSU has the advantage in all-time wins between the two schools, (31-19) but USD got the win last season, with a score of 73-64.

USD men’s basketball head coach Sam Scholl reflected on the possibility of this being the final game between the two schools.

“For us, it’s an opportunity to play against a really good non-conference program,” Scholl said. “A program that has a long history and a long tradition of college basketball. So for us, it’s a great game to see where we are at. So that will be the disappointing part, is not having that opportunity to have that challenge to get ready for WCC play.”

The intensity from the crowd was huge on both sides as SDSU’s fan base traveled the short 9.8 miles from campus to cheer on the Aztecs. The USD Bull Pit brought a ton of energy to the arena early on in the game, which seemed anxious to impress the fans. USD has a young conference program,” Scholl said. “A program that has a long history and a long tradition of college basketball. So for us, it’s a great game to see where we are at. So that will be the disappointing part, is not having that opportunity to have that challenge to get ready for WCC play.”

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