

# Lady Tornadoes sweep Milligan in opener



Photo by Michelle Crabtree

BY GINGER PALMER

The softball team is looking forward to a very competitive season this spring. Coach White feels that the team will have a very successful season with at least a 500 record. With the addition of a brand new home field, some team depth, and the returning most valuable player from the last season, fans will not be disappointed.

The most exciting aspect of this season is the home field. The softball team in its previous 2 seasons has practiced on an elementary school field and played all away games. Not this season. Brevard's fans will have the option of seeing the girls play home games.

On Sunday February 20, President Bertrand commenced the dedication of the field and introduced Betty Taylor. Taylor, a trustee of the college, threw out the first pitch, and Ernie Mills said the blessing. White said, "That to the girls getting to play home games is the highlight of the season." This highlight was not taken lightly as Brevard swept Milligan in their double-header home opening. Lady Tornado, Katie

Newman, scored the first run.

Another important aspect that will attribute to the team's success is the amount of growth the team has seen. Rather than having just freshman and sophomore athletes, Brevard's team now has upper class leadership and depth. This depth begins with senior Karamie Hartman and returning juniors: Stacey Dodenhoff and Jenny Simpson. Carrie Butler, Holly Dula, Barbara Davis and Jackie Speers will be the returning sophomores. New arrivals to the team are freshman Maggie Singleton,

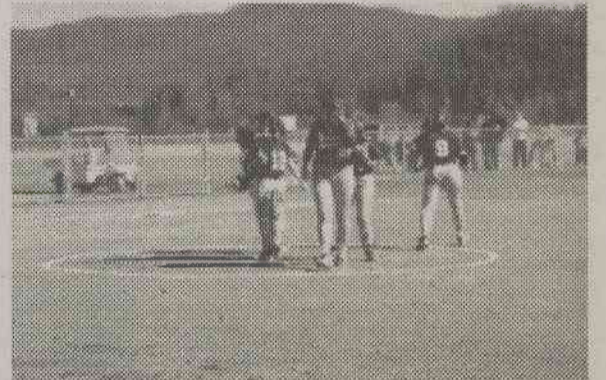


Photo by Michelle Crabtree

Kim Pate, Katie Newman and Anne Ridge. Finally, two transfer students junior Karen Filmon and sophomore Autumn McCarver will bring experience from their previous colleges.

# NCAA hoops in hot water over Grad rates

BY MATT ODETTE  
*Daily Californian* (U. California-Berkeley)

(U-WIRE) BERKELEY, Calif. - As the conversation begins to wander toward his favorite subject, Ben Braun's eyes light up.

The Cal men's basketball coach glances quickly around his office, but unsuccessful in his search, he settles to paraphrase what college hoops mean to him.

"I just finished (North Carolina coaching legend) Dean Smith's book, and do you know what's at the end of it?" Braun inquires. "He lists all his former players and what they're doing, whether they're in business somewhere, or coaching. He knows where every one of his former players is. To me, that's a program."

Sadly, that sort of concern for life after basketball is currently on the wane in the NCAA. Graduation rates have remained low over the last decade, just as the visibility and popularity of the sport have burgeoned.

The national four-year average for graduation rates in men's basket-

ball stands at 43 percent, well below those of other collegiate sports.

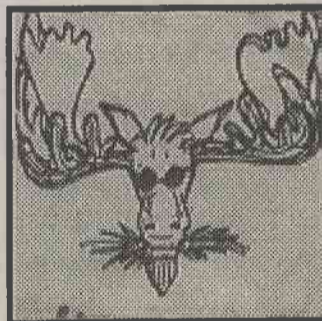
Cal has fared even worse. The incoming freshman classes of 1989 through 1992 -- the latest relevant data available -- graduated at a rate of 25 percent, less than one-third of the student body average of 81 percent.

These numbers, along with rising fan concern for the future of the sport, have caused the NCAA to consider major changes to address the problem. It appears even that bureaucratic body may take action that could alter the relationship between academics and athletics in Division I basketball.

### SHOWCASE, THEN NO-SHOW

The NCAA's reaction to dropping graduation rates has come as much as a result of a number of high-profile cases as the numbers themselves.

Just last year, Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski watched for the first time in his 20-year tenure a number of his players left school early for the NBA.



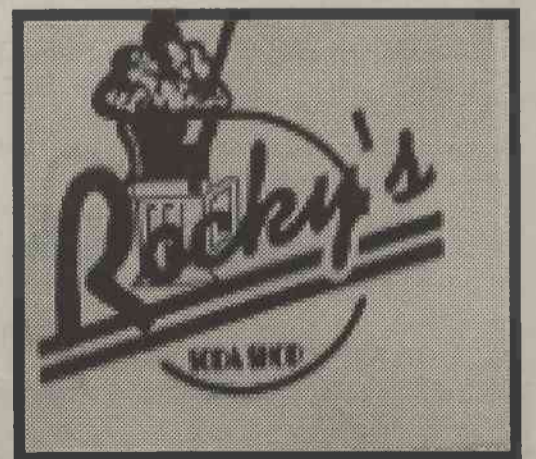
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