

2004 CALIFORNIA BASEBALL



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Sophomore Allen Craig, one of Cal's top young players, celebrates with teammates after hitting a home run in his first collegiate at-bat last season versus UNLV.

CREDITS

The 2004 edition of the *California Baseball Magazine/Media Guide* was written and edited by Scott Ball, Assistant Media Relations Director. Layout and graphic design by John Dunbar, Publications Director and Evan Kerr, Publications Assistant. Photographs by John Todd, Patrick Merrill, John Dunbar, Tom Hauck and David Marasco, among others. Copies of this guide may be obtained for \$10 by writing or calling the California Media Relations Office, 210 Memorial Stadium, Berkeley, CA 94720 (510-642-5363). Make checks payable to U.C. Regents. Magazines may also be purchased at any Cal home game.

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The University of California continues to maintain its extremely high ranking among the pre-eminent Universities in the world. Cal Athletics is committed to fielding athletic programs equal in stature to the University's academic prominence. Our Athletic Development staff and Bear Backer volunteers are on a mission to make Cal Athletic among the strongest programs in the country. To achieve that mission, we strive to provide the best coaches, the best venues, and the best possible experience for all of Cal's student-athletes. By becoming a Bear Backer, alumni and friends join us on our mission of building champions in the community, in the classroom and in competition.

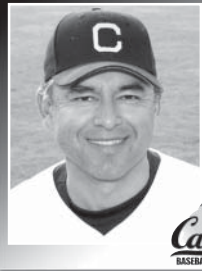
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HEAD COACH DAVID ESQUER



8

David ESQUER

Head Coach
Fifth Season



David Esquer, entering his fifth season as the head coach of the California baseball program, definitely has the Golden Bears heading in a positive direction as Cal has had three consecutive winning seasons for the first time since the late eighties. At age 38, Esquer is the youngest coach in the Pac-10 and has amassed a career record of 116-107, including leading the Bears to the 2001 NCAA Regional and being named the 2001 Pac-10 Coach of the Year. His first recruiting class in 2001 is now a group of seasoned veterans, and his 2004 freshman class is considered the nation's fifth-best in *Baseball America*.

During the 2001 season, Cal finished 34-25 overall, but more importantly the Bears advanced to a NCAA Regional for the first time since 1995. Cal's 34 wins in 2001 were the most single season victories since 1992 when the Bears placed seventh at the College World Series. Now Esquer has Cal in the running for a postseason berth, year in and year out, and has built a program approaching a high level of success on a regular basis.

In Esquer's tenure, Cal also has had 17 players sign professional contracts, including Conor Jackson, who in 2003 was drafted in the first round by the Arizona Diamondbacks – the Bears' third, first round pick



David Esquer has been involved in nine NCAA Regionals, two College World Series and one National Championship during his playing and coaching career at Stanford, Pepperdine and Cal.

ESQUER'S CAREER RECORD AT CAL

2000	25-28
2001	34-25
2002	29-27
2003	28-27
Total	116-107 (.520)

in school history. Also in Esquer's four years, Cal has had two players earn All-America honors (Jackson in 2003, Xavier Nady in 2000), five players named All-Pac-10 and numerous others listed as Pac-10 honorable mention. Every one of Esquer's full-time position players has been drafted and gone on to play professional baseball as well. Academically, the Bears had an impressive 11 players selected to the 2003 Pac-10 All-Academic Team and Cal had a cumulative team GPA of 3.0.

Not a bad effort for the league's youngest coach, who has put together an outstanding coaching staff that has brought in five impressive recruiting classes. Esquer and his staff of pitching coach Dan Hubbs and hitting coach Ron Witmeyer have been involved in 17 NCAA Regionals, four College World Series and three National Championships as either players or coaches. With the addition of volunteer assistant coach Matt Priess and student assistant Jason Dennis, all of Esquer's 2003 staff has played Division I baseball and gone on to compete in the professional ranks.

Esquer became only the 10th coach in Cal baseball history when he was named head coach of the Bears on June 10, 1999, replacing longtime Cal mentor Bob Milano. Esquer came to Berkeley after serving as the top assistant at Pepperdine from 1996-99. Prior to working at Pepperdine, he was the No. 2 assistant coach at Stanford from 1991-96.

At Pepperdine Esquer was the program's chief recruiting coordinator as well as the team's hitting instructor, infield coach and handler of the third



base coaching duties. During his three seasons with the Waves, Pepperdine compiled a cumulative record of 112-63 (.640). Esquer has also tutored some of the nation's top fielding teams. Cal's 2000 squad was one of the nation's best with a .974 team fielding percentage and Pepperdine was ranked in the Top 10 in fielding percentage his three seasons there. During Esquer's six-year coaching stint at Stanford the Cardinal compiled a 222-142 (.610) record and advanced to the NCAA Tournament five times, including a trip to the College World Series in 1995.

A shortstop at Stanford from 1984-87, Esquer was a starter on the Cardinal's 1987 College World Series championship team. He earned all-tournament honors after hitting .350 with six RBI in Omaha. He also earned All-Pac-10 Southern Division honors as a senior, batting .318 with 41 RBI and 16 stolen bases. Esquer went on to play professional baseball for four

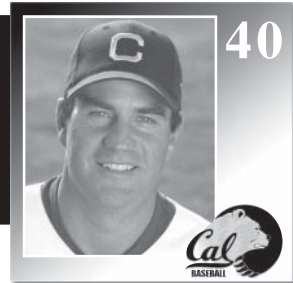
seasons with the Baltimore Orioles, California Angels and Milwaukee Brewers organizations.

Esquer was a three-sport star and class valedictorian at Palma High School in Salinas, CA. He was tabbed the "Athlete of the Year" at Palma High School after being named team captain and MVP in baseball, football and basketball.

Esquer earned a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in sociology from Stanford in 1987. His wife, Lynn, is a former professor at Pepperdine in the graduate school of education and psychology, and is currently an assistant clinical professor in psychology at Cal. The Esquers reside in Moraga with their daughter, Gabrielle, born July 3, 2002, and son, Xavier, born December 22, 2003.



ASSISTANT COACHING STAFF



40 Dan HUBBS
Assistant Coach
USC, 1993
Fifth Season

A huge key to Cal's baseball success is the work of Golden Bear pitching coach Dan Hubbs. Since Hubbs joined the Cal staff in 2000, Bear pitchers have regularly produced team ERAs that are among the lowest in the Pac-10, including a 2001 ERA of 4.29, Cal's lowest team ERA since 1989. Also in 2001, the Bears won 34 games, advanced to a NCAA Regional and

established a school record with 422 team strikeouts. Hubbs has helped produced the Pac-10 save leader, Matt Brown (eight) in 2001, the school's career strikeout leader, Trevor Hutchinson (284) in 2002, and has seen seven of his pitchers sign professional baseball contracts.

A former standout at USC, Hubbs, 33, joined Cal after an outstanding college pitching career for the Trojans (1990-93) and a seven-year minor league career with the Los Angeles Dodgers and Philadelphia Phillies. In 1999 he officially retired as a player to join the Bears' coaching staff. Hubbs had previous experience as the pitching coach of the Yakima Bears (a short-season single A minor league Dodger affiliate in Yakima, Wash.) and assisted Pepperdine during the 1999 season.

Hubbs' professional career highlights include finishing second in the Dodger organization with 126 strikeouts in 1994. In 1996, he went a combined 16-1 between AAA Albuquerque (7-1) and La Romana (9-0) of the Dominican winter league, and was named to *Baseball America's* Winter



ASSISTANT COACHING & SUPPORT STAFF

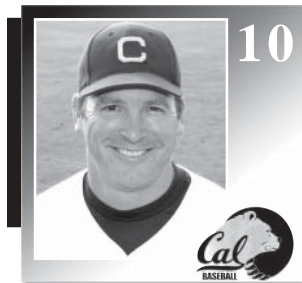
League All-Star Team. Hubbs led the Pacific Coast League in appearances in 1997, taking the mound 62 times in a 144 game season. He finished his career with a 27-16 record with nine saves and a 3.75 ERA. In 427 innings, Hubbs struck out 436 while walking only 172.

At USC, Hubbs helped lead the Trojans to the Pac-10 title in 1991 and NCAA Regional appearances in three of his four years (1990, '91, '93). He finished his career at USC with a 19-13 record and a 3.58 ERA. As a senior, Hubbs led the nation in saves with 18 and was tops on the Trojans' squad with 90 strikeouts and a 2.96 ERA in 76.0 innings.

After the '93 season, Hubbs was named first team All-American by *The Sporting News*, second team All-American by *Collegiate Baseball* and the College Baseball Writers and third team All-American by *Baseball America*. He was also a first team All-Pac-10 pick and an All-District 8 second team selection. During the 1993 NCAA Central II Regional in Austin, Texas, Hubbs was selected to the all-tournament team. Against Cal State Fullerton, he earned a save in the first game, striking out five batters in two innings, and pitched 8.0 relief innings in the second game to pick up the win (allowing just one run on four hits and a walk while striking out seven).

On the USC career list Hubbs is third in career saves (22), sixth in career strikeouts per nine innings (9.19), ninth in career appearances (81) and 11th in career strikeouts (254).

Hubbs earned a bachelor's degree in finance from USC in 1993. He and his wife, Alison, reside in Richmond and have two sons, Patrick (three) and Charlie (one).



10 Ron WITMEYER

*Assistant Coach
Stanford, 1989
Fourth Season*

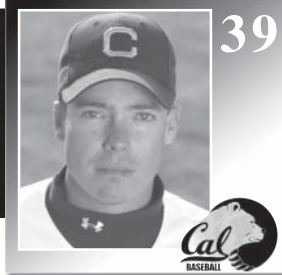
Entering his fourth season as Cal's third base and hitting coach is Ron Witmeyer, a former standout player at Stanford and a member of the Oakland A's. In 2001, Witmeyer joined up with his former Cardinal teammate and current Golden Bear head coach, David Esquer, and in his first season helped Cal to a NCAA Regional appearance in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Behind Witmeyer's tutelage, the Bears had the top two hitters in the Pac-10 in 2002, with John Baker and Conor Jackson producing batting averages of .383 and .382, respectively. Last season, Jackson improved his batting average to .388 and was a first round draft pick of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Witmeyer came to Cal after a four-year stint as head baseball coach at City College of San Francisco from 1997-2000. His best season at CCSF was in 1999 when the Rams went 23-18. While at the San Francisco junior college, Witmeyer had one player drafted and 21 players go on to play baseball at four-year schools. Prior to CCSF, Witmeyer and Esquer were both members of the Stanford coaching staff in 1996.

A three-year letterman at first base for the Cardinal, Witmeyer played at Stanford from 1986-88, helping the Cardinal to back-to-back College World Series titles in 1987 and 1988. Esquer and Witmeyer were teammates on Stanford's 1987 squad, and then in 1988 Witmeyer was both an All-NCAA Regional and an All-College World Series selection. He went on to play six years in the Oakland A's organization, earning California League All-Star accolades in 1990 and was called up to the major leagues in 1991.

Witmeyer earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Stanford in 1989 and went on to earn a master's degree in health, physical education and recreation from Saint Mary's in 1999. He and his wife, Marianne, reside in Piedmont with sons Luke (six), Clay (four), and Tommy, born June 30, 2003.



39 Matt PRIESS

*Volunteer Assistant Coach
Cal Poly, 2001
First Season*

Joining the Bears this season as a volunteer assistant coach will be Matt Priess, a former standout catcher at Cal Poly, and a member of the San Francisco Giants organization.

With extensive baseball experience as both a player, and a coach, Priess will be assisting the Cal staff with pitching, hitting and catching, plus all other aspects of the game. Most recently, he was the assistant baseball coach at Cuesta College from 2001-03, helping his team to Western State Conference titles in 2002 and 2003, and a third-place California state finish in 2002.

Priess was also the head coach of the San Luis Obispo Blues, a summer semi-pro team that placed third at the National Baseball Congress World Series in 2002, and is slated to be the head coach of the Anchorage Bucks in the Alaska League this coming summer. He was a graduate assistant at Cal Poly during the 2000-01 season as well, helping work with the Mustangs' hitters and catchers.

A four-year starter at catcher at Cal Poly, Priess earned All-Big West Conference honors in 1997, batting .355 with 11 home runs and 55 RBI. He went on to play four seasons of professional baseball for the San Francisco Giants, with stops in Salem, Oregon; Bakersfield; San Jose and Shreveport, Louisiana.

Priess earned a bachelor's degree in general engineering from Cal Poly in 2001, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in health and kinesiology from the University of Texas-Tyler.

CAL TURF CREW



BACK ROW (from left): Tory Merritt, Nick Cole, Miguel Vasquez. FRONT ROW: Mark Lucas, Dan Alvarado, Tavi Rodriguez, Tim Vigil.



SUPPORT STAFF

*Stephan Shakiba
Baseball Administrative Assistant*

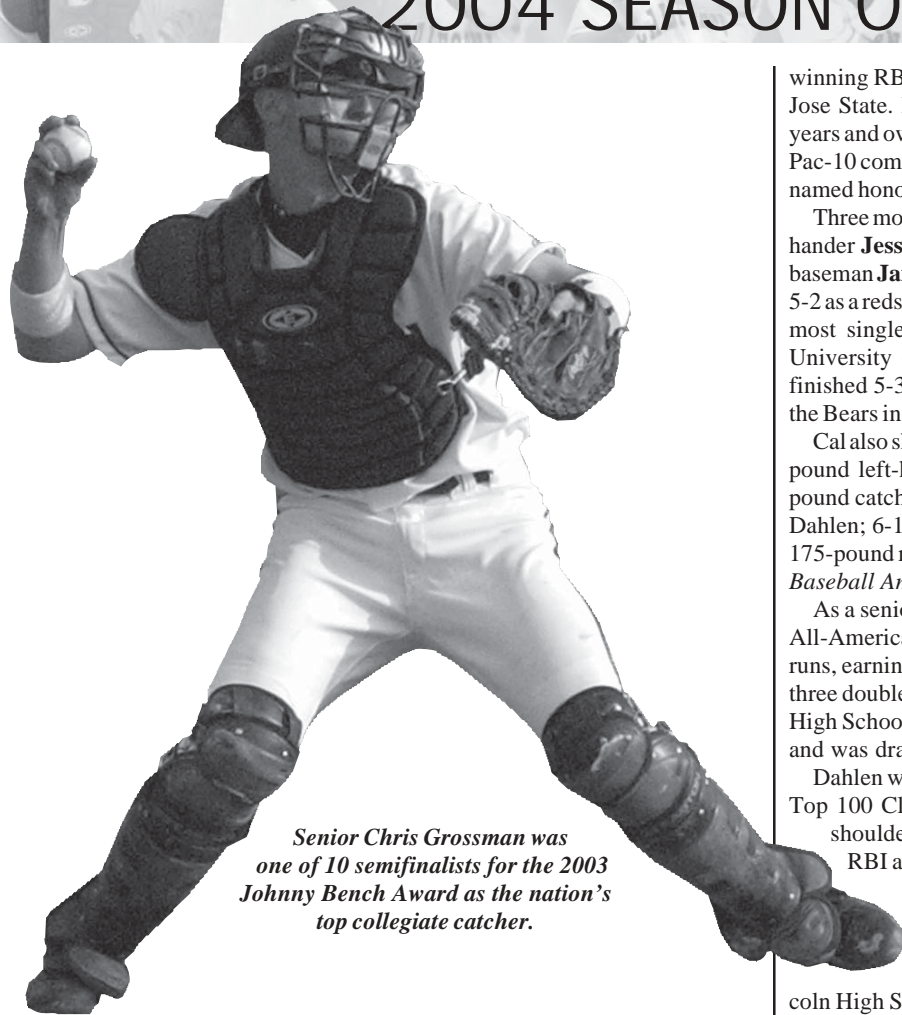


2004 Season Outlook

Senior right fielder Brian Horwitz is a leading returner for the Golden Bears after batting .347 and tying a school-record with eight RBI against Texas-Pan America last season.



2004 SEASON OUTLOOK



Senior Chris Grossman was one of 10 semifinalists for the 2003 Johnny Bench Award as the nation's top collegiate catcher.

GOLDEN BEARS A COMBINATION OF EXPERIENCE AND YOUTH IN 2004

The 2004 California baseball team just might have the perfect blend of experience and youth to get the Golden Bears back into postseason play this season. With the combination of several experienced veterans and a freshman class that is ranked the fifth-best in the nation by *Baseball America*, Cal could very well vie for its first NCAA Regional berth since 2001.

The Bears, ranked 26th in *Baseball America's* Top-50 Preseason Poll, feature a senior class that includes right-hander **Matt Brown**, right fielder **Brian Horwitz** and shortstop **Jeff Dragicevich** – all major contributors as freshmen when Cal played in the 2001 NCAA Regional in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Added to this group of Bear seniors is catcher **Chris Grossman**, who had a breakout season last year, batting .341 with 16 doubles, eight home runs and 45 RBI, leading the Bears in hits (72), doubles and total bases (112). During the year, he had two game-tying home runs, a game-winning home run versus Loyola Marymount and a game-winning RBI single in the 12th inning versus UC Irvine. Grossman was also one of 10 semifinalists for the Johnny Bench Award as the nation's top collegiate catcher.

Brown, who was drafted in the 29th round by the Chicago Cubs last June, struggled a bit in 2003, going 4-8, but has 12 wins and 14 career saves under his belt and should be one of the Pac-10's top hurlers. Horwitz, drafted in 26th round by the Oakland A's, batted .347 last season and had several impressive performances, including tying a school record with eight RBI (4-for-4, 2B, 2-HR) against Texas-Pan American. He also produced a game-

winning RBI against Nebraska and a game-winning home run versus San Jose State. Dragicevich has been Cal's starting shortstop the past three years and owns a .294 career batting average, including hitting .326 versus Pac-10 competition in 2003. Grossman, Horwitz and Dragicevich were all named honorable mention All-Pac-10.

Three more veteran players who should again contribute are junior right-hander **Jesse Ingram**, junior right-hander **Mike Padgett** and junior first baseman **James Holder**. Ingram has proven to be a valuable reliever, going 5-2 as a redshirt freshman and 2-3 with eight saves last season – the second-most single-season saves in Cal history. Padgett, a transfer from the University of Portland, pitched well towards the end of last year and finished 5-3 with a 3.43 ERA. Holder held down the first base duties for the Bears in 2003, hitting .305 with 15 doubles, six home runs and 38 RBI.

Cal also showcases a large class of 16 newcomers in 2004 – with 6-6, 190-pound left-handed outfielder/first baseman Brennan Boesch; 6-2, 175-pound catcher Garrett Bussiere; 6-5, 210-pound left-handed pitcher Case Dahlen; 6-1, 195-pound switch-hitting outfielder Chris Errecart and 6-3, 175-pound right-handed pitcher Brandon Morrow – all earning mention in *Baseball America* as some of the nation's top freshmen.

As a senior at Harvard-Westlake High School, Boesch was a preseason All-American in *Baseball America* and went on to hit .490 with seven home runs, earning All-CIF Southern Section honors. Bussiere batted .471 with three doubles, a triple, six home runs and 26 RBI as a senior at Northglenn High School in Northglenn, Colorado, earning first team All-State honors and was drafted in the 14th round by the Milwaukee Brewers last June.

Dahlen was selected the No. 4 prospect in the country in *Perfect Game's* Top 100 Class of 2003 Prospects before suffering an injury to his left shoulder. At the plate he still batted .433 with eight home runs and 32

RBI as a senior, earning *Los Angeles Times* All-Region and All-Bay League honors for Peninsula High School. In 2003, Errecart batted .531 with 12 home runs, 41 RBI and 20 stolen bases, earning both league and all-area MVP honors, as well as all-state and *Collegiate Baseball* All-America accolades, for Lincoln High School in Stockton.

Morrow was an impressive 9-2 with a 0.61 ERA, and had 84 strikeouts in 63.0 innings last spring at Rancho Cotate High School. He was first team all-league and first team All-North Coast Section, and was drafted in the 40th round by the Anaheim Angles last June.

"We have a great mix of veteran players and young talent," said Bear coach David Esquer, the 2001 Pac-10 Coach of the Year who is entering his fifth season. "This is the most experienced team I have ever had at Cal, and combined with our talented freshman class, this is also the team with the most depth."

Cal has several other players who will be counted on to be major contributors, and the kind of season these players produce will go a long way in determining whether or not the Bears make postseason.

On the mound, Cal returns juniors **Kyle Crist**, **Joe Todoroff**, **Travis Talbott** and sophomore **Adam Gold** – all capable of either starting or pitching in long relief. Crist has the potential to be one of the Bears' Pac-10 starters, throwing in the low 90s with an array of breaking pitches. Todoroff is also a possible weekend starter after going 5-2 with a 4.64 ERA last season. Talbott has established himself as one of Cal's top left-handed relievers, producing a 3-1 record with a save and a 4.33 ERA in 2003. Gold will also be counted on to be a key member of the pitching staff after throwing extremely well in the final Pac-10 series against Stanford and finishing with a 3.38 ERA.

The Bears have numerous position players who will be counted on for increased productivity as well. Sophomore infielder **Allen Craig** was extremely impressive last year until a fractured left wrist against Washington State curtailed his play. Craig, who is slated to start at third base, hit a home run in his first collegiate at bat and started the season on a 12-game hitting streak, including a grand slam versus Loyola Marymount.

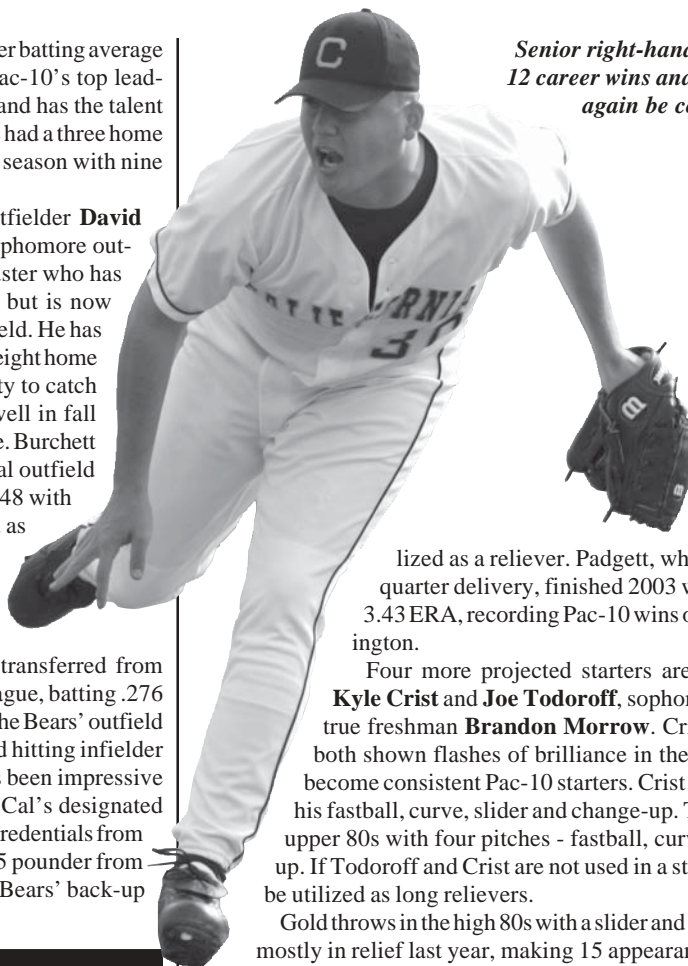
Juniors **David Nicholson** and **Justin Nelson** are two more returning starters from 2003. Nicholson, who started 53 games at second base, has

led Cal in stolen bases the last two years. He has a .293 career batting average and, with his speed, has the potential to be one of the Pac-10's top lead-off hitters. Nelson started 40 games in left field in 2003 and has the talent to be one of the league's top left-handed power hitters. He had a three home run game against Oregon State last year and finished the season with nine doubles, two triples, nine home runs and 32 RBI.

Other key returnees for the Bears will be senior outfielder **David Weiner**, junior infielder/catcher **Matt Einspahr** and sophomore outfielder **Jeremy Burchett**. Weiner is a left-handed speedster who has been slowed by injuries throughout his college career, but is now healthy and is in contention for starting duties in center field. He has a career .285 batting average with 17 doubles, four triples, eight home runs, 48 RBI and 22 stolen bases. Einspahr has the ability to catch and play any position in the infield. He hit extremely well in fall practice and notched two home runs in the fall alumni game. Burchett is also in the thick of the race for starting duties in the Cal outfield after starting 23 games in center field last year, hitting .248 with nine doubles, a home run and 14 RBI. He can be utilized as a closer on the mound with a fastball in the low 90s.

Four additional newcomers who could make an immediate impact are sophomore transfer **Cameron Johnson** and freshmen **Jordan Karnofsky**, **Josh Satin** and **Travis Howell**. Johnson is a left-hander from Berkeley who transferred from Brown University where he was second team All-Ivy League, batting .276 with 20 RBI. He is also in the running for starting duties in the Bears' outfield and can be utilized as a reliever. Karnofsky, a left-handed hitting infielder from Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento, has been impressive at the plate during fall practice and could step in and be Cal's designated hitter. Satin is a talented middle infielder with impressive credentials from Harvard-Westlake High School, while Howell, a 6-3, 215 pounder from Los Gatos High School, will join Garrett Bussiere as the Bears' back-up catchers to senior Chris Grossman.

Senior right-hander Matt Brown, with 12 career wins and 14 career saves, will again be counted on to lead the Bears on the mound.



Junior **Mike Padgett**, a crafty, right-hander who picked up key wins last year, is slated to be another starter for Cal, but can also utilize

as a reliever. Padgett, who throws with a three-quarter delivery, finished 2003 with a 5-3 record and a 3.43 ERA, recording Pac-10 wins over UCLA and Washington.

Four more projected starters are junior right-handers **Kyle Crist** and **Joe Todoroff**, sophomore **Adam Gold** and true freshman **Brandon Morrow**. Crist and Todoroff have both shown flashes of brilliance in the past and are ready to become consistent Pac-10 starters. Crist has good command of his fastball, curve, slider and change-up. Todoroff throws in the upper 80s with four pitches - fastball, curve, slider and change-up. If Todoroff and Crist are not used in a starting role, they could be utilized as long relievers.

Gold throws in the high 80s with a slider and change-up. He pitched mostly in relief last year, making 15 appearances with a 3.38 ERA, but has been impressive in preseason practice. The Cal coaches are extremely high on freshman Morrow, who throws in the low 90s with a slider, change-up and split finger fastball, and could immediately be one of the Bears' weekend starters.

One of the Bears' leaders out of the bullpen will be junior **Jesse Ingram**, who has established himself as a top reliever with nine career saves, including eight saves last season. Ingram, who also has the ability to start and has been one of Pac-10 leaders in appearances the last two seasons, throws in the low 90s with a solid curveball. Junior **Travis Talbott** is Cal's top left-handed reliever, throwing in the mid-80s from a variety of arm angles.

Seniors **Blake Read** and **Aaron Swick**, juniors **Brent Hale**, **Matt Swanson** and **Alec Harris** could also play important roles for the Bears this season. Read has given Cal several good innings in his college career as a spot reliever and is coming off a successful summer in the San Diego Prospects League. Swick is a 6-6 right-hander who has the ability to be an effective reliever with a slider, curveball and change-up. Hale, who throws in the low 90s with a sharp-breaking curve ball, has the tools to be one of Cal's starters and had 19 strikeouts in 23.3 innings last season. Swanson is a 6-7 right-hander who has only made 11 appearances in two years, but is 2-0 with 17 strikeouts in 26.3 innings. Harris is a 6-5 junior college transfer from San Diego Mesa JC, where he had seven saves and a 1.17 ERA as a sophomore.

Two more players who could help the Bears are sophomore **Alex Trafton** and redshirt freshman **Greg Acheatel**. Trafton has only pitched one inning for Cal due to a stress fracture in his elbow suffered in high school, but throws in the high 80s and could contribute if healthy. Acheatel throws in the mid-to-high 80s with a fastball, curveball and change-up.

The Bears have four freshmen who could immediately figure in the pitching scheme - left-handers **Case Dahlen**, **Kevin Barnum** and **Nick Kaufman**, and right-hander **Alex Rollin**. Dahlen and Barnum (Laguna Hills High School) both throw in the mid-80s with effective breaking pitches and could see action as either starter or relievers. Kaufman, from Palisades High School, will be utilized out of the bullpen, while Rollin, from Los Gatos High School, throws in the mid-to-high 80s and could either start or relieve.

CAL BY POSITIONS

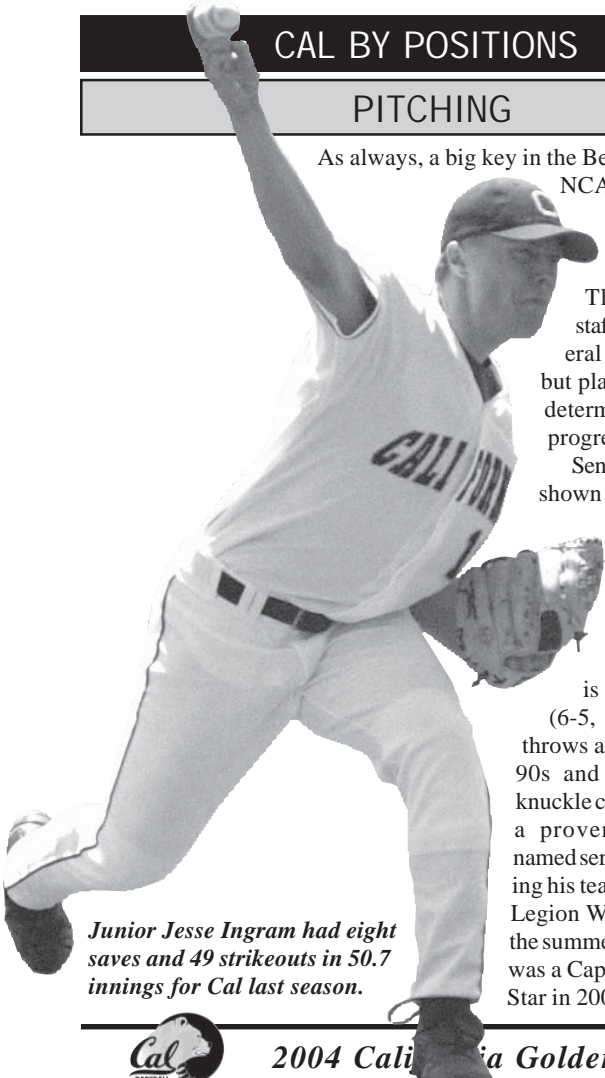
PITCHING

As always, a big key in the Bears advancing to a NCAA Regional this season will be the performance of the pitching staff.

The Cal coaching staff feels there are several potential starters, but players' roles will be determined as the season progresses.

Senior **Matt Brown** has shown he can thrive in any role assigned, possessing outstanding control to go along with an impressive array of pitches. He is a big right-hander (6-5, 230 pounds) who throws a fastball in the low 90s and has an effective knuckle curve. Brown is also a proven winner, being named series MVP after leading his team to the American Legion World Series title in the summer of 2000, while he was a Cape Cod League All-Star in 2002.

Junior Jesse Ingram had eight saves and 49 strikeouts in 50.7 innings for Cal last season.



CATCHING

Senior catcher **Chris Grossman** is slated for starting duties behind the plate after having an outstanding 2003 season. Grossman earned the team's George Wolfman Award as the most improved player, hitting .341 overall and .348 against Pac-10 competition. He also was improved defensively, throwing out 18 baserunners and finishing with a .989 fielding percentage.

The Bears will have two talented freshman catchers to back up Grossman – **Garrett Bussiere** and **Travis Howell**. Selected in the 14th round by the Milwaukee Brewers, Bussiere was the highest draft pick of any of the Cal freshman after hitting .471 as a senior in high school. Howell was also a talented high school hitter, batting .510 with 10 home and a .933 slugging percentage as a senior. Both Bussiere and Howell are also capable receivers, and should be solid defensive replacements for Grossman.

Junior **Matt Einspahr** is also ready to handle catching duties after making three starts behind the plate last season. Einspahr's ability to catch gives the Bears additional flexibility with their line-up. Another catcher on the Cal roster is junior **Ben Liepman**, who will be utilized primarily as a bullpen catcher this year.

INFIELD

The Cal infield should be strong for the 2004 season with starters returning at every position. The Bears also have several true freshmen with the ability to step in and immediately see playing time.

Cal returns junior **James Holder**, a left-handed throwing, right-handed hitting first baseman. Holder came into his own last season, starting 39 games at first base, batting .305 with a .427 on-base percentage. Other first base candidates include freshmen standouts **Brennan Boesch**, **Chris Errecart**, **Jordan Karnofsky** and **Mike Van Winden** – all talented left-handed batters. Boesch and Errecart are also vying for spots in the Bears'

outfield, while Karnofsky and Van Winden can play other infield positions. Van Winden, from Justin-Siena High School in Napa, impressed the Cal coaches with his hitting during fall practice.

Junior **David Nicholson** returns after starting 53 of 55 games at second base last season, hitting .283 overall and .310 versus Pac-10 competition. Freshman middle infielder **Josh Satin** could also be in the running for second base duties after hitting .478 with 10 home runs as a high school senior.

At shortstop, Cal returns senior **Jeff Dragicovich**, who is one of the most experienced middle infielders in the conference with 161 career starts. Dragicovich is a solid at the plate, hitting over .300 against Pac-10 competition in each of his three years. Defensively, he has good range with

Junior first baseman James Holder hit .305 with 15 doubles, six home runs, 38 RBI in 2003.

a strong, accurate arm. Satin and freshman **Brett Munster**, could also provide depth for the Bears at shortstop. Munster hit .370 as a senior and was a member of a Chatsworth High School team that finished 33-1 and won the 2003 national high school championship in Dodger Stadium.

Sophomore infielder **Allen Craig** is the frontrunner to start at third base after starting 23 games at shortstop as a true freshman last season for an injured Conor Jackson. Even though Craig ended up missing 17 games last year due to a fractured left wrist, he was impressive when healthy, starting the season with a 12-game hitting streak and finishing with seven doubles, two home runs, 16 RBI and a .285 average.

Junior **Matt Einspahr** is another strong candidate to start in the Bears' infield. Einspahr is one of the team's best defensive players and has hit well over the summer and fall seasons. He started seven games at third base last year and had

Senior shortstop Jeff Dragicovich has hit over .300 against Pac-10 competition in each of the past three seasons.

an outstanding series at UCLA. Redshirt freshman **Stephen Carlson** could also be in the running for playing time. Carlson is a switch hitter with impressive credentials out of Seattle Prep in Washington.

OUTFIELD

Cal's outfield should have plenty of depth, with several players with starting experience returning, in addition to standout freshman recruits.

Junior **Justin Nelson** is a leading candidate to be the Bears' left fielder after 40 starts last season, but will be challenged by freshman **Chris Errecart**. The left-handed Nelson has shown the ability to be a top collegiate power hitter with 17 career home runs and 54 career RBI. Errecart, extremely impressive in fall practice, is a solid fielder and talented switch hitter. Sophomore **Robert Nesbitt** could also provide depth in left field for Cal.

Senior **David Weiner** and sophomores **Jeremy Burchett** and **Cameron Johnson** are in a tight battle for starting center field duties. Weiner had an outstanding freshman season in 2000, batting .306 with 12 stolen bases and was honorable mention All-Pac-10. He sat out the 2001 season following left shoulder surgery, batted .279 in 2002 and hit .296 in 11 games last season. Burchett started 23 games in center field in 2003 and has played well in fall practice, while Johnson is a talented left-handed hitter with a strong arm. Both Burchett and Johnson can be utilized as relief pitchers as well.

Senior **Brian Horwitz** is the Bears' top right fielder with good speed and an outstanding arm. Horwitz was stellar as a freshman in 2001, establishing a new school record with a 23-game hitting streak and playing well at the NCAA South Regional. Last season, he was again impressive, finishing second on the team with a .347 average and batting .379 against Pac-10 competition.

Other potential right fielders for Cal include freshmen **Brennan Boesch** and **Taylor Grigsby**. Boesch, a talented left-handed hitter who was impressive in fall practice, could be utilized in the Bears' line-up right away, either as an outfielder, first baseman or designated hitter. Grigsby is also in contention for playing time in the outfield after hitting .391 and earning second team All-CIF as a senior at Brentwood High School in Los Angeles.

