

2008 CALIFORNIA BASEBALL

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Returning sophomore right fielder Blake Smith being congratulated by his Cal teammates.



CREDITS

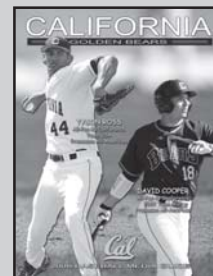
The 2008 edition of the *California Baseball Magazine/Media Guide* was written and edited by Scott Ball, Baseball Media Relations Director. Layout and graphic design by John Dunbar, Publications Director and Evan Kerr, Publications Assistant. Photographs by John Todd, Michael Pimentel, John Dunbar and Evan Kerr, among others.

Copies of this guide may be obtained for \$10 by writing or calling the California Media Relations Office, 355 Haas Pavilion, Berkeley, Calif. 94720 (510-642-5363). Make checks payable to U.C. Regents. Magazines may also be purchased at any Cal home game.

ON THE COVERS

Front Cover:

Cal's 2007 first-team All-Pac-10 honorees and 2008 All-America candidates – junior right-hander Tyson Ross (by John Dunbar) and junior first baseman David Cooper (by Michael Pimentel).



Back Cover: 2008 schedule and team photo (by John Todd).

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Bear Backers are loyal Cal alumni and friends who provide financial support to Cal Athletics with their donations. Every student-athlete benefits from their contributions, which underwrites the scholarships, programmatic needs, and academic tutoring programs. Bear Backers also build our athletic facilities, including the Haas Pavilion. Joining Bear Backers is the best way to support the Cal team you care about. Call (510) 642-2427 for more information.



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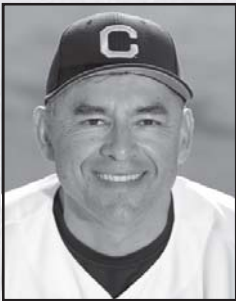
To arrange an interview with any member of the Cal Athletic Department, please contact the Media Relations Office at 642-5363. All phone numbers are in area code 510.



HEAD COACH DAVID ESQUER

David ESQUER 8

Head Coach • Ninth Season



California head baseball coach David Esquer represents the best in college baseball – first as a player, then as an assistant coach, and finally as the leader of the Golden Bears. As a player,

Esquer was the starting shortstop on Stanford's 1987 national championship squad. As an assistant coach, he helped produce six NCAA postseason teams and one World Series participant with Stanford and Pepperdine. As Cal's head coach, Esquer led the Bears to the program's ninth NCAA Regional in 2001 while being named Pac-10 Coach of the Year in only his second season at the helm.

Entering his ninth year, Esquers' 2008 Bears, featuring two preseason All-Americans and three Wallace Award candidates, are looking to join in on their coaches' winning legacy. In the last five years, Esquer's recruiting classes have been among the nation's best, which is the key to developing a successful program. Beyond these recruiting accomplishments and on-field



David Esquer is in his ninth season directing the Golden Bears.

accomplishments, the Cal mentor has also been instrumental in securing several improvements at Evans Diamond, including the Carl Van Heuit Training Center that provides the Bears with new indoor batting cages, bullpens and workout facilities.

At age 42, Esquer has amassed a career record of 230-215 (.517), including leading the Bears to the above mentioned 2001 NCAA Regional and 2001 Pac-10 Coach of the Year honor. 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 and 2005 (when the Bears arguably deserved to make an NCAA Regional as well) were the most single season victories since 1992 when the Bears placed seventh at the College World Series.

In Esquer's tenure, Cal has had 39 players sign professional contracts, including right-hander Brandon Morrow, who in 2006 became the highest draft pick in Bear history when he was the fifth pick overall by the Seattle Mariners. Esquer also helped develop Conor Jackson, who in 2003 was drafted in the first round by the Arizona Diamondbacks – the Bears' third, first round pick in school history. In Esquer's tenure, Cal has had four players earn All-America honors (sophomore infielder/outfielder Jeff Kobernus in 2007, senior second

ESQUER'S CAREER RECORD AT CAL

2000	25-28
2001	34-25
2002	29-27
2003	28-27
2004	25-31
2005	34-23
2006	26-28
2007	29-26
Total	230-215 (.517)

baseman Josh Satin in 2005, Jackson in 2003, Xavier Nady in 2000), 11 players named All-Pac-10 – including junior right-hander Tyson Ross and junior first baseman David Cooper – and numerous others listed as Pac-10 honorable mention. Academically, the Bears had an impressive 12 players selected to the 2004 Pac-10 All-Academic Team, and last season four Bears were Pac-10 All-Academic, with infielder Brett Munster being named to ESPN The Magazine's District 8 All-Academic.

Esquer has an outstanding coaching staff, which also boasts an impressive resume of baseball accomplishments. Combined with pitching coach Dan Hubbs, a standout pitcher at USC, and hitting coach Jon Zuber, a Cal baseball Hall of Famer, the threesome have been involved in a total of 17 NCAA Regionals, four College World Series and a National Champion-



ship as either players or coaches.

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 Cardi-

nal 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, Calif. 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 a former 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.



During Coach Esquer's tenure, Cal has had 39 players sign professional contracts, including right-hander Brandon Morrow, who in 2006 became the highest draft pick in Bear history when he was the fifth pick overall by the Seattle Mariners.

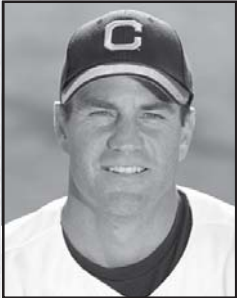
CALIFORNIA BASEBALL DRAFT PICKS SINCE 2000

2000 Xavier Nady	Second round	San Diego Padres
2000 Mike Tonis	Second round	Kansas City Royals
2000 Kevin Johnson	14th round	Detroit Tigers
2000 Jason Williams	21st round	Arizona Diamondbacks
2000 Brad Steele	26th round	Philadelphia Phillies
2000 Tommy Callen	33rd round	Toronto Blue Jays
2000 John Shirley	43rd round	Oakland A's
2001 David Cash	Sixth round	San Francisco Giants
2001 Clint Hoover	14th round	Houston Astros
2001 Jason Dennis	14th round	Anaheim Angels
2001 Rob Meyer	19th round	San Francisco Giants
2002 Trevor Hutchinson	Third round	Florida Marlins
2002 John Baker	Fourth round	Oakland A's
2002 Carson White	23rd round	Colorado Rockies
2002 Matt Payne	50th round	Chicago White Sox
2003 Conor Jackson	First round	Arizona Diamondbacks
2003 Brian Montalbo	Seventh round	Milwaukee Brewers
2003 Noah Jackson	Free Agent	Chicago Cubs
2004 David Nicholson	Ninth round	Los Angeles Dodgers
2004 Justin Nelson	15th round	Colorado Rockies
2004 Jeff Dragicovich	18th round	Colorado Rockies
2004 Matt Brown	22nd round	Houston Astros
2004 Kyle Crist	34th round	Kansas City Royals
2004 Jesse Ingram	36th round	Texas Rangers
2004 Brian Horwitz	Free Agent	San Francisco Giants
2004 Mike Padgett	Free Agent	Texas Rangers
2005 Matt Swanson	13th round	Pittsburg Pirates
2005 Travis Talbott	14th round	Florida Marlins
2005 Adam Gold	33rd round	San Diego Padres
2005 Eric Dworkis	45th round	San Francisco Giants
2005 Chris Grossman	Free Agent	New York Yankees
2006 Brandon Morrow	First round	Seattle Mariners
2006 Brennan Boesch	Third round	Detroit Tigers
2006 Chris Errecart	Fifth round	Milwaukee Brewers
2006 Allen Craig	Eighth round	St. Louis Cardinals
2006 Jeremy Burchett	Ninth round	Cincinnati Reds
2006 Garrett Bussiere	26th round	St. Louis Cardinals
2006 Michael Cooper	26th round	Chicago Cubs
2006 Alex Trafton	Free Agent	Tampa Bay Devil Rays

ASSISTANT COACHES

Dan HUBBS

40

**Assistant Coach • Ninth Season
USC, 1993**

California pitching coach Dan Hubbs has been an integral part of the Golden Bears' baseball program since arriving with head coach David Esquer in 2000. Besides being a top recruiter,

Hubbs' pitchers have regularly produced team ERAs among the lowest in the Pac-10. He has also helped cultivate some of the greatest pitchers in school history, including right-hander Brandon Morrow, who became the school's highest draft pick ever when he was the fifth pick overall by the Seattle Mariners in 2006, and current standout Tyson Ross, a preseason All-American and a standout on the USA National Team.

In 2005, Hubbs' pitching staff helped the Bears win 34 games, matching the same number of wins as the 2001 squad that advanced to an NCAA Regional and established a school record with 422 team strikeouts. Hubbs has produced Pac-10 save leaders in 2001 (Matt Brown, eight) and 2004 (Jesse Ingram, 10), the school's career strikeout leader in 2002 (Trevor Hutchinson, 284), and has seen 20 of his pitchers sign professional baseball contracts.

A former standout pitcher at USC, Hubbs, 37, joined Cal after playing for the Trojans from 1990-93, followed by 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 previously been 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 Dodgers' 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 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.

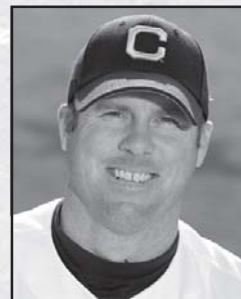
After the '93 season, Hubbs was named first-team All-American by *The Sporting News*, second-team All-American by *College Baseball* and the College Baseball Writers and third-team All-American by *Baseball America*. He was also a first-team All-Pac-10 pick and an All-District 8 second team selection. 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 (seven) and Charlie (five).

Jon ZUBER

9

**Assistant Coach • Fourth Season
California, 1993**

One of the greatest players in California baseball history, Jon Zuber was hired as the Golden Bears' assistant baseball coach on July 12, 2004. In his first year with the program, Zuber im-

mediately helped Cal vie for a postseason berth and produce two All-Pac-10 hitters (Brennan Boesch and Josh Satin) and a freshman All-American (Satin). In 2006, he saw four of his hitters sign pro contracts. This past season, Zuber's hitters produced a .303 team batting average, the highest Cal team average since 1998.

A former major leaguer and a 2003 California Hall of Fame inductee, Zuber was named Co-Pac-10 Player of the Year and NCAA East Regional MVP in 1992. He remains Cal's career leader in hits (291), doubles (61) and putouts (1,299), and ranks among all-time school leaders in runs scored (third, 187), walks (fourth, 137), batting average (sixth, .364) and RBI (sixth, 148). Zuber, who led the Bears to the 1991 NCAA Midwest Regional finals and the 1992 College World Series, was also an outstanding pitcher who still ranks seventh in career saves (13) in school history.

A three-time first-team All-Pac-10 selection, Zuber was Cal's batting leader with a .386 average in 1990. He was drafted in the 12th round by the Philadelphia Phillies in 1992 and went on to play first base and outfield in the major leagues for the Phillies from 1996-99. In 1993, Zuber set the single-season doubles record, 37, while playing for Clearwater in the Florida State League. He was later selected to play in six Minor League All-Star Games (1993 Single A Florida State League, 1994 Double A Eastern League, 1996-99 Triple A International League) and was named the 1996 Scranton Wilkes-Barre Player of the Year. Zuber also played for the New York Yankees, the Yokohama Baystars in Japan (batting .305 in 2001) and the Milwaukee Brewers, before retiring from professional baseball in 2002.

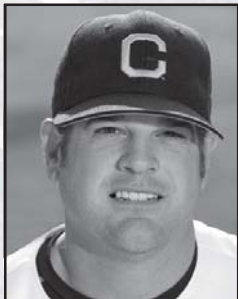
In 1999, Zuber helped the USA National Team to a silver medal at the PanAm Games, enabling Team USA to qualify for the 2000 Olympic Games. That same year, he was named Franchise Player of the Decade by Scranton Wilkes-Barre of the Triple A International League.

Most recently, Zuber was the head coach of the Acalanes High School baseball team in Lafayette. In his first season at Acalanes, Zuber turned around a program that had gone 11-12-1 in 2003 to a 21-7 record, the school's first Diablo Foothill Athletic League title, and a berth in the North Coast Section 2A East Bay championship game. He was named the 2004 *Contra Costa Times* high school Coach of the Year.

Zuber, 38, earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from Cal in 1993. He and his wife, Shannon, live in Lafayette with their daughters, Madison (six) and Tatum (three). His father, Ed, is the announcer for Cal baseball's home games.

Tony ARNERICH 39

**Volunteer Asst. Coach • First season
Texas Tech, 2001**



Joining the California baseball program this season as a volunteer assistant coach is Tony Arnerich, a former standout catcher at Texas Tech, and professional ballplayer in the Kansas City

Royals and Florida Marlins organizations.

Arnerich, 28, will be a huge boost to the Bears' catching corps as he has extensive experience as both a player and a coach. He has been the head coach of the St. Cloud River Bats of the Northwoods League since 2005, leading his team to the first half title and the league championship in the summer of 2007. Arnerich has also served as a part-time assistant coach at Sonoma State, assisting with that school's catchers while working towards a degree in sociology.

As a player, Arnerich attended Santa Rosa Junior College where he was a two-time, first-team all-league selection and a 2000 first-team Junior College All-American, helping guide his team to the 1999 California Junior College World Series. He then earned a scholarship to Texas Tech, where he was second-team All-Big 12 in 2001, leading the Red Raiders to an NCAA Regional berth while pacing the team with 24 doubles. During the summers, Arnerich was a three-time Northwoods League All-Star and was named the league's MVP in 2001. His number was retired following his 2001 season, and Arnerich is now a member of the Northwoods League All-Decade Team.

Arnerich signed with the Kansas City Royals after his 2001 summer season, advancing to the Double A level with the Wichita Wranglers during the 2003 and 2004 seasons. He then played in the Florida Marlins' organization from May 2004 through June 2005, advancing to the Double A level with the Carolina Mudcats.



Brian SCHULMAN

**Trainer • Fourth Season
UC Santa Barbara, 2001**



Brian Schulman is his fourth season as the head athletic trainer for the California baseball program. Schulman, 28, already has several years of experience in the athletic training

profession, having worked for the San Francisco 49ers, at Fresno State and UC Santa Barbara, and for the Los Angeles Dodgers. He is also the athletic trainer for the Golden Bears' 2006 and 2007 national champion men's water polo program.

Prior to joining the Bears in March of 2004, Schulman was an intern assistant athletic trainer for the San Francisco 49ers from June 2003 through February 2004. He came to the 49ers from Fresno State, where he worked with the football and baseball programs while earning his masters' degree in exercise physiology in 2003. As an undergraduate at UC Santa Barbara, Schulman was a student athletic trainer, working with the baseball, men's basketball and men's soccer programs. He graduated from UC Santa Barbara in 2001 with degrees in political science, and health and exercise science. Schulman had an internship with the Los Angeles Dodgers in the summer of 2000 and is also a certified strength and conditioning specialist. He will be assisted this season by Ryan Curran, a graduate assistant athletic

trainer, who attended Appalachian State as an undergraduate.

A native of Encino, Calif., Schulman and his wife, Megan, reside in Dublin.

Stefan SHAKIBA

**Director of Baseball Operations •
Fourth Season**



After a two year hiatus, Stefan Shakiba returns to the California athletic department and the Golden Bears' baseball program for his fourth season overall. As the Director of Baseball

Operations, Shakiba's responsibilities include organizing and implementing new opportunities to further enhance the Cal program. Shakiba is involved in nearly all aspects of the team; including fundraising, public relations, marketing and student-athlete support.

Shakiba's previous work experiences include working at Steinberg and Moorad, a sports management firm, where he conducted research for Major League Baseball arbitration. In addition, he has operated a successful painting business and has spent considerable time volunteering with various community service events and underprivileged youths. Shakiba graduated from Cal in 2001 with a degree in interdisciplinary studies, and received a master's degree in sports management from the University of San Francisco in 2005. Shakiba plans on pursuing a doctorate degree in psychology in two years.

CAL TURF CREW

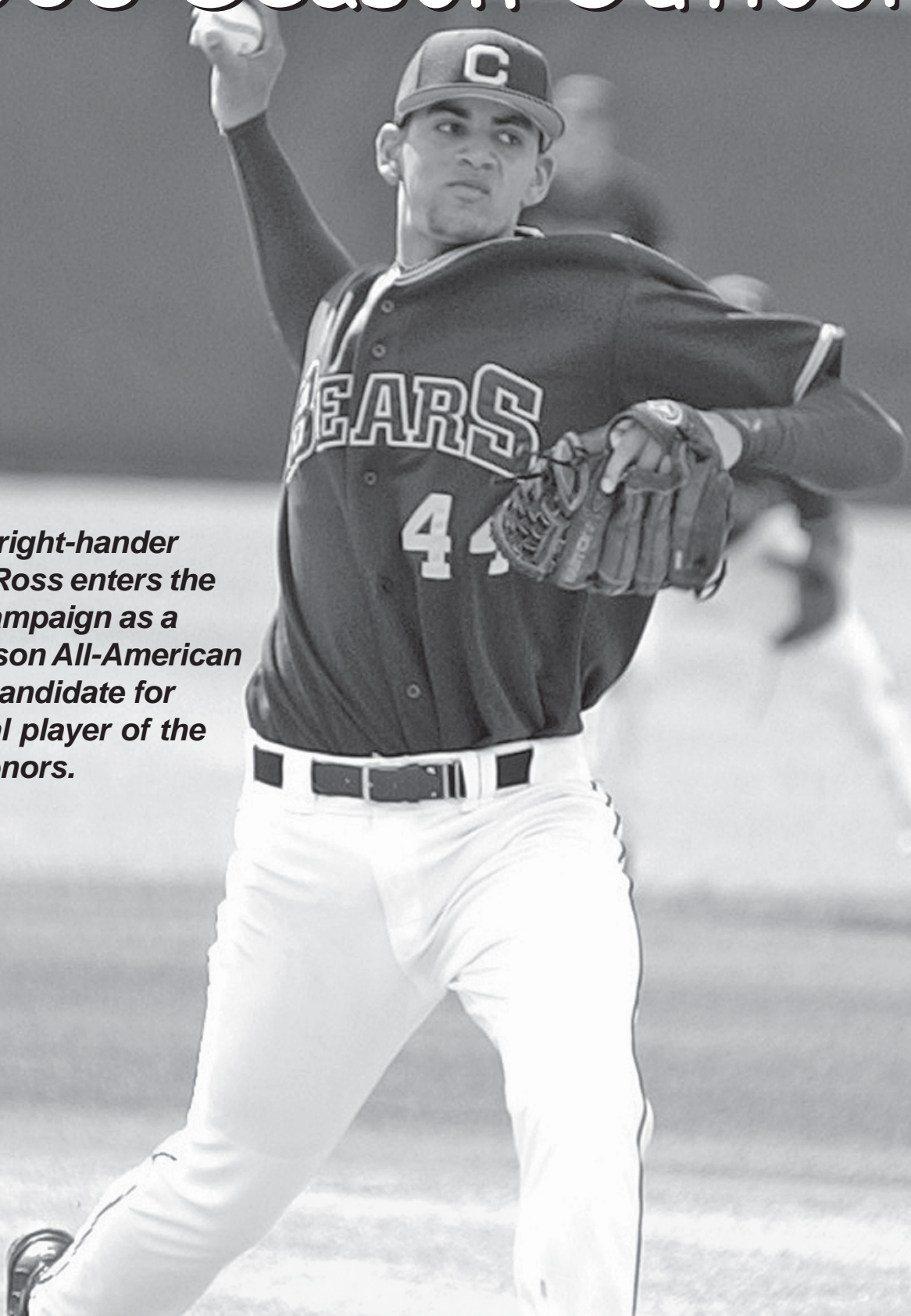


BACK ROW (from left): Dan Alvarado, Nick Cole, Tim Vigil. FRONT ROW: Tory Merritt, Jason Craft, Miguel Vasquez. Not pictured: Tavi Rodriguez.



2008 Season Outlook

Junior right-hander Tyson Ross enters the 2008 campaign as a preseason All-American and a candidate for national player of the year honors.



2008 SEASON OUTLOOK

GOLDEN BEARS LOOK FORWARD TO PROVING WORTH IN 2008

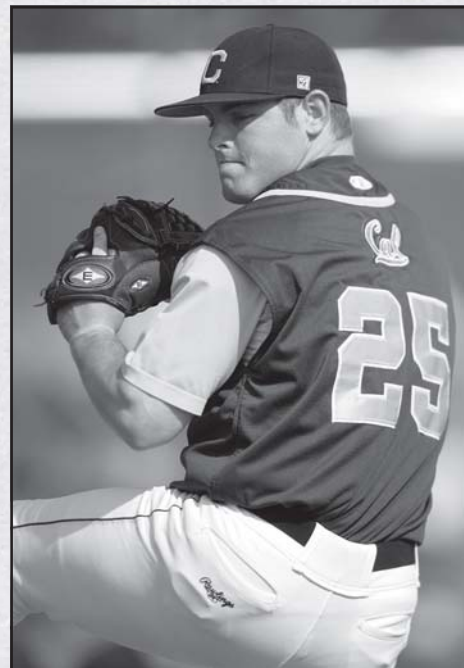
There is no doubt that the Golden Bears are hungry...hungry to show the college baseball world they are worthy of an NCAA Tournament bid. This talented 2008 California squad, ranked 23rd in Perfect Game's preseason poll, feels it has all the makings to be a force, not only in the Pac-10, but on the national stage as well.

David Esquer's troops fully realize they are competing in what is arguably the toughest conference in the nation with UCLA, Arizona and Arizona State all garnering top spots in the preseason polls, and two-time defending national champion Oregon State additionally in the fold. Yet the Bears are undaunted and not shy about touting their abilities, featuring at least six postseason honor candidates in junior right-hander **Tyson Ross**, junior first

baseman **David Cooper**, junior right-hander **Matt Gorgen**, sophomore infielder/outfielder **Jeff Kobernus**, junior left-hander **Craig Bennigson** and sophomore outfielder/right-hander **Blake Smith**.

Cal showcases additional standouts/returning starters in junior catcher **Charlie Cutler**, senior second baseman **Josh Satin**, junior shortstop **Michael Brady**, senior right-hander **Alex Rollin** and sophomore center fielder **Brett Jackson**. The Bears also have a host of other players who are sure to be an integral part of the team's success.

"We feel confident in the talent level and the experience we have this season," said Esquer, who enters his ninth season with the most depth in his tenure. "We return our top three starters on the mound (Ross, Rollin and Bennigson) and our best closer (Gorgen). We return the right side of our infield (Cooper and Satin) and our starting shortstop (Brady), plus our three young outfielders (Kobernus, Jackson and Smith) who were all starters at the end of last sea-



Junior closer Matt Gorgen joins Ross and Cooper as one of Cal's three preseason All-Americans.



Junior first baseman David Cooper was an All-Pac-10 selection last season after leading the Bears in nearly every offensive category.

son as true freshmen.

"But we know that the Pac-10 could be the best, from top to bottom, since the Northern Division and Southern Division merged in 1999. As many as seven teams from the conference are worthy of making the NCAAs, with any one of those teams capable of winning a regional. Certainly we know we were in position to be an NCAA regional team in 2005 and 2007, and we don't want to be left out for any reason we can control."

The Bears were the first team from the Pac-10 to not make a regional with a 13-11 conference record in 2005, and the first Pac-10 team not to make a regional after a top-four league finish in 2007 – both times being leaped-frog by teams finishing below them in the Pac-10 standings (Stanford in 2005, Oregon State in 2007). Cal certainly does not want to be involved any more of those "firsts" in 2008.

Cal comes into this season with a list of accolades that includes three preseason All-Americans, three Wallace Award national players of the year candidates, two returning first-team All-Pac-10 selections, a member of the USA National Team, a returning freshman All-American and four players who were honorable mention All-Pac-10.

Junior team captain and 6-6 right-hander Ross is certainly a person to start with in talking about Cal's prospects. A 2008 preseason All-American by *Baseball America*,

Collegiate Baseball and Rivals.com, and a Wallace Award candidate, Ross is coming off an outstanding 2007 summer season with the USA National Team. In eight appearances for Team USA, he finished 4-1 and had a 0.82 ERA, striking out 39 batters with only seven walks in 43.2 innings. Ross picked up two victories against The Netherlands, a victory over the Dominican Republic at the PanAm Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and a victory over Japan.

A first-team All-Pac-10 selection last spring for the Bears, Ross finished with a 6-6 mark and was second in the league with a 2.49 ERA and third in the conference with 120 strikeouts in 115.2 innings. His 120 strikeouts were second on the Cal all-time single-season strikeout list and he threw at least 6.0 innings in 15 of his 17 starts, and 7.0 innings or more 11 times,



Junior left-hander Craig Bennigson is slated to be one of the Bears' weekend starters after being honorable mention All-Pac-10 in 2007.



Sophomore Jeff Kobernus was a 2007 Collegiate Baseball Freshman All-American, batting .331 with 13 stolen bases.

including a complete game at Stanford. Ross was also named a semifinalist for the Golden Spike Award as the nation's top collegiate baseball player, and on Mar. 25, 2007, he was picked as the National Player of the Week by *Collegiate Baseball* after striking out 16 batters (three away from the school record of 19 set by Larry Colton in 1963) with only one walk in 7.0 innings against Oral Roberts. Ross was noted for fielding as well, winning the Rawlings Gold Glove award as the nation's best fielding pitcher. For his career, Ross now has 205 strikeouts (ninth on Cal's career list) in 200.1 innings with a 2.79 ERA.

Cal's top newcomer in 2007 was left-handed first baseman Cooper, a transfer from Cal State Fullerton, where he was a member of the 2006 College World Series All-Tournament team. An All-Pac-10 selection and team MVP in 2007 for the Bears, Cooper batted a team-leading .382 with a team-best 14 doubles, 12 home runs and 55 RBI. He also paced Cal with a .627 slugging percentage, 30 walks and had a .450 on-base percentage. Cooper was third in the Pac-10 in batting average, fifth in the league in slugging and on-base percentage and seventh in the conference in home runs. His highlights included two, two-run homers versus Kent State Mar. 9, and two solo home runs at UC Santa Barbara Feb. 26. He was named the Feb. 26 Pac-10 Player of the Week after going 10-for-27 with two doubles, three home runs and eight RBI in road games at San Jose State,

Long Beach State and UC Santa Barbara. Cooper is a *Baseball America* preseason All-American and a 2008 Wallace Award candidate as well.

The Bears' other Louisville Slugger and Rivals.com preseason All-American, and third Wallace Award candidate, is hard-throwing junior closer Gorgen. An honorable mention All-Pac-10 selection last season, Gorgen was one of 40 players on the NCBWA Stopper of the Year Midseason Watch List, having struck out 75 batters in 61.0 innings with a 2.51 ERA (third in the Pac-10). He also led the Pac-10 with 31 appearances, was sixth in the league with nine saves (second on the Cal all-time single season list), and 38 of his 75 strikeouts were called looking (second in the Pac-10). In 60 career appearances, Gorgen now has 109 strikeouts in 100.2 innings, and is eighth on Cal's career save list (11 saves).

Junior left-hander Bennigson and sophomore outfielders Kobernus and Smith are also returning honorable mention All-Pac-10 honorees. Bennigson, fresh from a strong summer in the Cape Cod League, developed into one of the Bears' best pitchers at the end of last season, finishing 5-3 with a 3.34 ERA and notching Pac-10 wins versus USC and UCLA. Kobernus, who is switching to third base from left fielder to start the 2008 campaign, led the team with 13 stolen bases and was second on the squad behind Cooper with a .331 average. He was named a *Colle-*

giate Baseball Freshman All-American – only the fourth Cal player in school history to receive that honor. The left-handed hitting Smith finished his frosh season batting .320 with six home runs and 30 RBI, while striking out 23 batters in 21.1 innings as a right-handed reliever on the mound. He also threw two runners out at the plate from right field.

Having an experienced catcher behind the plate is a key for any ball club and the Bears return talented left-handed hitter Cutler. Last year's recipient of the George Wolfman Award as the squad's most improved player and this season's team captain, Cutler batted .310 and ended the season on a 10-game hitting streak. He was a Cape Cod League All-Star this past summer for the Brewster Whitecaps. Another returning Cape Cod League All-Star is senior second baseman Satin, who is primed for an outstanding final campaign. An All-Pac-10 selection and a freshman All-American in 2005 when he batted .348, Satin has now twice been named a Cape Cod League All-Star and enters his last season with a .290 career average with 31 doubles, two triples, 11 home runs and 101 RBI.

Junior Brady established himself as the Bears' regular shortstop last season, playing some of his best ball at the end of the year, including a two-home run, five-RBI game against Arizona State, and a game-winning homer against USC. Another notable achievement for Cal last season was the improved pitching of right-hander Rollin, who was 10th in the Pac-10 with eight wins, including his stellar effort in shutting out Oregon State, only allowing four hits in six innings. The senior right-hander will again be counted on to be one of the team's conference starters.

The Bears are also looking for the continued improvement of talented center fielder Jackson. After starting on a regular basis toward the end of last season, the left-handed hitting Jackson went on to excel in the summer Northwoods League, batting .343 with nine stolen bases.

"We are confident we can make it to a regional, and if we do, we are confident Tyson Ross can get us that first victory," said Esquer. "From there, we'll make sure we find a way to win those additional games."

CAL BY POSITIONS

PITCHING

Cal returns all of its major contributors on the mound from last season, including above-mentioned starters Ross, Rollin and Bennigson. With the NCAA deciding to start the season a month later and teams hav-

ing to play up to four games in a weekend, it is even more important to have additional starter types on the pitching staff. That is where sophomore left-handers **Chris Petrini** and **Todd Fitzgerald**, and freshman **Kevin Miller** step in.

Petrini, who only pitched in one game last year before having Tommy John surgery, showed the ability to be a regular starter toward the end of his freshman season in 2006, finishing 3-2 with a 4.54 ERA and striking out 27 batters in 39.2 innings. He started his last two outings as a freshman, including a career-high 6.2 innings with eight strikeouts and only two walks at Arizona State.

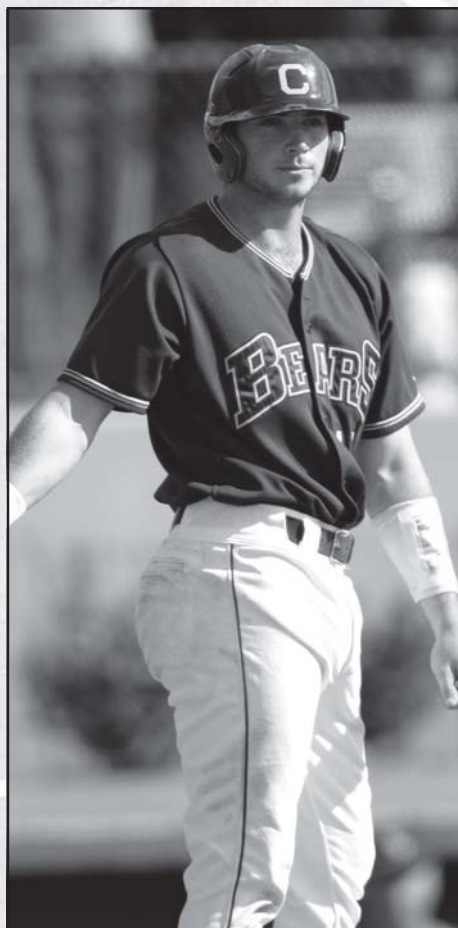
Fitzgerald, a transfer from San Jose City College, also sat out last season after having elbow surgery, but is ready to contribute to the Bears after striking out 84 batters in 74.0 innings as a freshman. He was drafted in the 38th round by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 2006 draft.

Another top newcomer in the pitching ranks is Miller, a hard-throwing right-hander from San Jose's Valley Christian High School. He threw two no-hitters as a senior, finishing the year 13-1 with 102

strikeouts in 82.0 innings, earning first-team all-state.

Cal returns its top closer in preseason All-American Gorgen, but also brings in talented closer/set-up man **Daniel Wolford**, a sophomore right-hander who transferred from Long Beach State. As a freshman for the 49ers, Wolford finished 1-1 with a 3.55 ERA in 14 appearances, striking out 15 batters in 12.2 innings. An additional closer/set-up type is the Bears' starting right fielder, Smith, who as mentioned above was effective as a freshman pitcher, and also struck out 18 batters in 13.2 innings this summer for the Alexandria Beetles of the Northwoods League.

Cal has a long list of other pitchers who could fill various roles. Senior **Nick Nunez** and juniors **Dane Ferguson** and **Travis Erickson** have the most experience as middle relievers. Nunez saw action in 22 games last season after transferring from Cosumnes River College, finishing 3-3, including a win in a start against Oral Roberts, and a win in relief over Stanford. Ferguson pitched in 21 games, finishing 1-1 with a 5.31 ERA, including a win in relief over World Series participant UC Irvine.



Junior catcher Charlie Cutler, selected as one of the Bears' team captains, batted .346 against Pac-10 competition last season.



Sophomore right fielder/pitcher Blake Smith was a key contributor, both in right field and on the mound, as a true freshman.

Erickson had 14 appearances and also picked up a win, striking out 19 batters in 21.1 innings with a 4.29 ERA.

Newcomers **Yasser Clor**, **Stephen Pistorosi** and **Brian Diemer** could also be immediate contributors. Hard-throwing right-hander Clor redshirted last season after originally signing with UNLV. He was a 15th-round draft pick of the Chicago White Sox out of Wilcox High School in Santa Clara, going 7-0 with a 0.58 ERA as a senior, striking out 95 batters in 60.0 innings. Pistorosi, a right-hander out of San Joaquin Memorial High School in Fresno, was also impressive as a high school senior, going 10-1 with a 2.18 ERA and striking out 78 batters in 67.0 innings. Diemer, a 6-5, 240-pound right-hander, redshirted at Cal last season after having shoulder surgery, but is now healthy, throwing in the high 80s and looking to regain the form that helped make him a three-time all-league pitcher at Acalanes High School.

Sophomore left-handers **Michael Bugary** and **Mike Cassady** are also in the mix. Bugary returns after redshirting last season to recover from shoulder tendonitis and knee surgery, but has shown signs of regaining his prior form. Cassady saw action in 10 games last season as a true freshman, striking out eight batters in 10.2 innings. Senior right-hander **Nick Tess** and junior right-handed submariner **Kurt De La Rosa** provide additional depth out of the bullpen with a chance to see increased action, while **Sean Barber**, **Joey Donofrio** and **Dixon Anderson** are true freshmen right-handers looking to establish their roles on the pitching staff as well.

CATCHING

Along with Cutler, the Bears catching corps return talented sophomore **Dylan Tonneson** and senior **Brett Thomas**, and welcome newcomer **Chad Bunting**.

The 6-3, 220-pound Tonneson is an impressive athlete out of California High School in San Ramon, where as a senior he batted .395 with nine home runs and 36 RBI. In 18 games as a true freshman at Cal, he had five starts behind the plate, batting .290 with a double and five RBI.

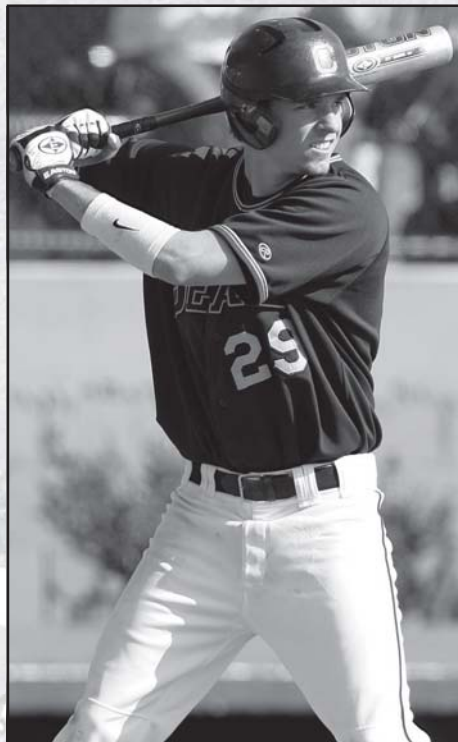
Thomas, who transferred from Diablo Valley College last year and saw action in nine games with starts against UC Santa Barbara, Stanford and UC Davis, returns after a successful summer playing for the Okotoks (Alberta, Canada) Dawgs of the Western Major Baseball League.

Bunting is a freshman catcher from Ukiah High School who will also provide the Bears with depth behind the plate after a stellar high school career.

INFIELD

Even though the Cal infield returns every starter from the 2007 season (Cooper at first base, Satin at second base, Brady at shortstop) with the exception of third base, there will still be plenty of competition.

The Bears return sophomore infielder **Rich Gorman**, who has continued to impress the Cal coaches with his bat. The 5-10 switch hitter is vying for starting duties at second base, or as Cal's top designated hitter. He batted .302 with four doubles in 30 games and 10 starts last season as a redshirt freshman, and was an All-Star in the Central Illinois Collegiate league this past summer.



Junior Ryan Hanlon will be in contention for a starting spot in the Bears' outfield.

Another middle infield candidate is true freshman **Brian Guinn**, a switch hitter from Berkeley High School whose father, Brian, Sr., is a former Cal standout (1981-83) and professional ballplayer. Guinn was drafted in the 10th round by the Chicago White Sox after batting .428 with 17 stolen bases as a senior.

The Bears have another son of a former Cal star battling for an infield spot in **Austin Booker**, a 5-10, 165-pound left-handed hitting redshirt freshman from Robinson High School in Fairfax, Va., who is the son of former Cal 1980 All-American and major league shortstop Rod Booker.

An additional young infield candidate is 5-8, 170-pound true freshman **Dwight Tanaka**, who could also see action in the outfield. Tanaka batted .473 with seven

home runs this past summer for the San Jose Pal Blaze, after a stellar high school career at Campolindo and De Anza High Schools.

OUTFIELD

Competition will again be fierce for starting duties in the Bears' outfield, especially in left field with the Cal coaching staff deciding to move freshman All-American Kobernus to third base. Besides returning starters Jackson (center field) and Smith (right field), juniors **Ryan Hanlon** and **Michael Capbarat**, and true freshman **Mark Canha**, are all capable outfielders. Redshirt freshman **Scott Schauer** and junior **Tyler Waddell** are looking to break into the playing rotation as well.

Hanlon has started 45 games in his Cal career and shown flashes of brilliance. He started out last season on a seven-game hitting streak, and was instrumental in the Bears winning two-of-three over World Series participant UC Irvine. Capbarat, elected a 2008 team captain by his teammates, also seems on the verge of showcasing his skills on a regular basis. He started 11 games in either center or left field last season, and hit .297 with two home runs, 14 RBI and 16 stolen bases for the Moses Lake (Wash.) Pirates of the West Coast Collegiate League this past summer. Newcomer Canha has impressed the Cal coaches with his skills and comes to the Bears after hitting .440 with 11 home runs as a senior at Bellarmine College Prep in San Jose.

Schauer redshirted last season in order to recover from shoulder surgery. He is now healthy and ready to showcase the skills that landed him on the 2005 USA Junior National Team, where he was teammates with Tyson Ross. Schauer was a standout at Servite High School in Anaheim, hitting .453 and earning All-CIF Southern Section as a senior. Waddell is also working toward playing time in the Cal outfield after hitting .459 with seven home runs and 32 RBI as a senior at Peninsula High School in Palos Verdes.

Senior **Jordan Karnofsky** is another notable player for the Bears. The 6-3, 230-pound left-handed hitter is a prime candidate to be Cal's top left-handed designated hitter, owning a .291 career average with 15 doubles, three home runs and 30 RBI. In the summer of 2006, Karnofsky hit .302 with 12 doubles, five home runs and 24 RBI for the Front Royal (Va.) Cardinals of the Shenandoah Valley League, and was listed as the Valley Leagues' ninth-best professional prospect by *Baseball America*. He has been plagued by injuries during his Cal career, but has all the tools to be a top power hitter in the Pac-10.

BULLPEN CLUB (as of 7/1/06-12/22/07)

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.

The Bullpen Club is a team of Bear Backers who specifically donate to and fundraise for Cal Baseball. This group of donors is passionate about making sure that Cal Baseball is financially and emotionally supported

on their road to a national championship. Their contributions assure that Cal Baseball student-athletes have an all-around, positive experience at Cal.

For as little as a \$100.00 donation to Cal Baseball, you can be a part of the Bullpen Club. Enjoy pre and postgame receptions at the Haas Club Room with head coach David Esquer, his staff, the 2008 team, and friends of Cal Baseball. For more information, please call (510) 642-2427.

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