

# BC softball continues its winning season

By Nestor Fernandez  
Reporter

Oxnard College came to Bakersfield College on March 1 to face a Renegades softball team that was on a roll and had won seven straight games.

It soon became eight straight as BC rolled past Oxnard 6-1 and improved their record to 12-4.

Starting pitcher Julie Estep (5-4) hurled a solid seven innings of work.

As she gave up only one run on four hits while striking out seven and allowing one walk, Kara Frankhouser, who was two for four and drove in three runs, again spearheaded the offensive attack.

But it was once again a concerted team effort, as they collected 12 hits to post their six runs.

"The pitching has been getting stronger and stronger, and then I think our offense has just been battling and taking what the pitcher gives us. We're finding a way to make something productive out of it," said BC head coach Sandi Taylor.

After the defeat of Oxnard once again showed how strong and consistent the pitching has been during the winning streak, Coach Taylor had this to say about the lone run (6th inning solo homer from Heather Bacon) given up on the day.

"We got behind in the count on that girl, and she's a good hitter.

"I think what is happening is our athleticism is starting to show.

"We're manufacturing runs with speed and timely hitting which is something we talk about all the time.

"We stole a couple of bases today, and I thought our athleticism is what got us going.

"Early on, Brittney Roberts, she was two for two in her first two at bats. In those first four innings, we were a little bit slug-

gish.

"So I thought she gave us a little spark there.

"And then Kara shortened up and lifted singles instead of trying to hit long balls, which we needed.

"We just needed singles to score a couple of runs, so I was real pleased with the manufacturing of runs."

The manufacturing of runs once again led to the manufacturing of wins, and in bunches.

On March 6, the Renegades faced Santa Barbara City College at BC in a very cold and windy afternoon.

Despite the adverse conditions, BC gutted it out for a 10-5 victory.

After Santa Barbara scored twice and broke a scoreless tie in the top half of the third inning, BC answered right back in the bottom half with three runs of their own to take a 3-2 lead.

Then in the fourth, Santa Barbara scored a run to tie it up at 3-3.

In the bottom of the fourth, BC loaded the bases and a couple of miscues by Santa Barbara led to a couple more runs by BC, and the Renegades went up 5-3.

Jasmine Irvin came up and belted her first home run of the year over the right field wall in the fifth.

That led to a couple more runs for BC as they took a commanding 8-3 lead after five after a couple of errors by BC in the sixth inning allowed Santa Barbara to tighten the score to 8-5.

Irvin struck again in the sixth with an RBI single, and BC added another run to account for their double-digit total of 10 runs.

Taylor admired the way the team kept its focus despite the chill factor.

**"The pitching has been getting stronger and stronger, and then I think our offense has just been battling and taking what the pitcher gives us."**

**-Sandi Taylor,  
BC softball coach**

"I am really proud of these girls today because they endured the 30 mile an hour wind and cold.

"It takes a lot of concentration and focus.

"We were pleased with our pitching staff today. Those two girls did a nice job of shutting them down.

"I felt the turning point of the game was when my center fielder (Kaitlin Toerner) threw that girl out at home."

The Lady Renegades conference season opener on March 8 saw the winning streak reach 10 straight after beating the LA Mission Eagles 11-3 in BC.

It didn't take long for the Renegades to put up multiple runs. In the bottom of the first inning, Brittany Messer (L) walked to lead off.

After an out, Frankhouser hit an RBI double to bring home Messer for the first run.

Another out was followed by another walk to shortstop Jasmine Irvin.

Designated hitter Kaila Williams then bunted for an RBI that brought in Frankhouser.

Pitcher Julie Estep ripped a double to bring in Irvin for the third and final run of the inning.

The three runs posted in the

first was then topped with four more runs in the second and a 7-0 lead.

Center fielder Toerner started things going with a walk. Then she was followed by Frankhouser who was hit by a pitcher. Then third baseman Sarah Smith hit a double.

A two-run double was followed by Irvin, and an RBI double by Williams produced the four-run second.

It was all that was needed for the win, as the Eagles posted two runs in the fourth, and a single run in the fifth.

The Renegades answered right back with a run in the fourth and three more runs in the fifth to end the game with an eight run lead after five innings (per governing softball rules).

Taylor commented on how her team responded after being scored on.

"Every time they scored, we answered right back, and so we didn't allow them to get any momentum.

"But more importantly, when those kids scored, we got the closing out, so that keeps the momentum on our side and keeps the pressure off.

"I was real pleased the way we played defense. We played solid.

"A couple balls got by us in the infield and that's going to happen sometimes. Our pitcher [Estep] went down with what we think is heat exhaustion so Kaila [Williams] comes in the third, and she didn't miss a beat.

"She was good. She didn't get a couple calls that she would have liked, but I thought she threw the ball really well. So it was a good day."

The "good day" culminated another good week of softball for BC.



MEGAN LUECKE / THE RIP

**Bakersfield College catcher Kara Frankhouser bats early in the game on March 1 against Oxnard College at home. BC beat Oxnard 6-1.**

Date	Opponent	Site
March 15	*Glendale, 2:30 p.m.	Glendale
March 22	*Santa Monica, 3 p.m.	Santa Monica
March 24	Taft, 10 a.m.	Bakersfield
	Santa Barbara, 2 p.m.	Bakersfield
March 25	Riverside, 2 p.m.	Bakersfield
March 27	*Citrus (DH), 2:30 p.m.	Bakersfield
March 29	*LA Valley, 5 p.m.	Bakersfield
April 3	*LA Mission, 1 p.m.	Sylmar
April 5	*Canyons, 2:30 p.m.	Santa Clarita
April 10	*Glendale (DH), 2/4 p.m.	Bakersfield
April 14	Cuesta, 1 p.m.	Bakersfield
	Mt. SAC, 5 p.m.	Bakersfield

\*Denotes WSC Blue Division Games

## BC team focuses on one game at a time

By Nestor Fernandez  
Reporter

The Bakersfield College softball team has won 10 straight games as of March 12.

During the streak, BC has scored 72 runs and allowed only 25, averaging 7.2 runs per game, while allowing 2.5 runs per contest.

After splitting their first eight games (4-4), they now sit with a 14-4 record after winning their conference opener 11-3 against the L.A. Mission Eagles on March 8 at BC.

On paper, there's no question it has looked great.

But there's a lot more to it than that.

BC coach Sandi Taylor makes reference to their overall balance, speed and athleticism as probably the team's greatest strengths.

"Watching them play shows you that, but also reveals much more. The Renegades play together, play for and support each other, and they have fun. Winning just seems to be a by-product of their intangibles.

"It is widely acknowledged throughout the team that they are in a very tough conference, and the mental approach is what it should be, take it one game at a time."

Center fielder Kaitlin Toerner commented on how this team is approaching this season.

"Right now, it's just one game at a time," she said.

Left fielder Brittany Messer added, "You can't really get too far ahead, cause you never know what can happen, take it game by game and go from there," she said.

When talking about the strengths of the team, Toerner quickly pointed out its ability to manufacture runs.

"I think that's definitely our strength, we get on base and we know how to move them over, and then our big hitters score

them from there.

"Even hitters that aren't normally big get those clutch hits when there are runners on base."

Messer also mentioned another focal point: the team's pitching.

"I think our pitching is really strong this year. There are four pitchers that we can go to at any time, and they're doing their job, so it's nice."

"I think we're just focused on playing our best, and if we play our best, the rest will take care of itself," said Toerner. "I think we're really consistent, and we know how to get on base and move them over. And that doesn't really change from game to game. Once we get people on base, we usually move them over and that's our strength. We're very consistent with that," said Toerner.

Messer added, "I think we all know the game, so we all know what we need to do, like the coach doesn't really need to tell us, we kind of take it in our hands that if we need to bunt the ball, then we bunt it.

"So we don't rely on coach as much, which I think is a big strength.

"The coach and the players are all on the same page on what we need to do, so I think that's a big strength in our team."

The question was put to Taylor about the potential of this team as far as making a deep run in the post-season, and she responded with an optimistic view on their abilities to get better and go for the big prize, a state championship.

The state final 4 is also in Bakersfield, scheduled May 18-20.

"Well yes, because this team is striving to get better every day, and we feel like we haven't reached our potential yet, and we're hopeful, so that's the goal, to vie for a state championship," Taylor said.

"So yeah, sure, I think we can do it, absolutely."



MEGAN LUECKE / THE RIP

**Bakersfield College's Chris Schwartz during practice March 8. Schwartz was a former number-one runner and former cross-country state champion in high school.**

## Schwartz gets back on track

By Esteban Ramirez  
Sports Editor

This year's Bakersfield College track and field team has gotten a big boost from freshman Chris Schwartz even though it took Schwartz a while to get going after not competing for over two years.

After high school in 2009, he attended Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, but it didn't work out as he expected.

"First off, they didn't give me a scholarship and I was paying for most of it," said Schwartz.

"Also, my grades weren't that good.

"I think it was the course system. It was too fast for me, so I had to come back.

"At Cal Poly, I was trying to adjust and do everything at once all by myself, but once I got here I changed that.

"I know I can do some things on my own, but I know now that I can't do everything on my own."

Schwartz went to Foothill High School here in Bakersfield where he posted a lot of impressive times during his time there.

He posted a 4:13 for the mile, 8:45 for the 3,000, 3:57 for the 1,500 and 8:51 for the 3,200.

He also was the cross-country state champion and the number one runner in the state in his final year at Foothill.

He also made the top eight in the Foot Locker National State Championship.

"After I left [Cal Poly], I took two years off.

"I didn't want to do anything but just work," he said.

"It wasn't until this year that I decided to come back to school.

"The first few races were tough because I had only trained for about a month, but as I started

training with coach Frickel I've started to get back in shape.

"He's pushed me, giving me a lot of tips along the way, like riding my bike a lot more often.

"I think it has helped me get back in shape a lot quicker.

"I've always liked running. It's fun, but I've enjoyed this year more because of everyone on the team," he said.

BC track and field coach David Frickel commented on how Schwartz has progressed.

"He's doing really well, which is incredible because he's only been practicing for a short

while," said Frickel.

"He does everything well, and he's a good leader in the way he handles himself.

"I like that he's a competitor

out there, and if you tell him to get a certain time he goes out there and does it.

"We're still trying to get him comfortable with competing and school."

He added that he thinks that Schwartz taking those two years off helped him out.

"It helped him get more mature physically.

"I also think the two years off made him hungrier," he said.

"I saw him throughout his high school career.

"I knew what he brought to the table and what he's capable of."

Schwartz posted his best time in the 1,500 in the last meet with a time of 3:57

He has also had some close races with Chris Lowe from College of the Canyons, who was last year's state champion.

"It's a goal of mine to beat him," said Schwartz. "My main goal though is to win state in the 5,000 and 10,000."

**"My main goal is to win state in the 5,000 and 10,000."**  
**-Chris Schwartz,  
BC athlete**

# Athletic department ready for cuts, reflects

By Zak S. Cowan  
Editor in Chief

With new details of the state budget coming out of Sacramento, and the Moorpark College baseball program disbanding after this season, members of the Bakersfield College athletic department are bracing for the likely cuts coming their way and reflecting on the loss of a member of the Western State Conference.

BC athletic director Ryan Beckwith is preparing his department for the worst possible outcome.

"With the situation that we have in the state, we're going to have to be proactive in the way we do business," Beckwith said.

"We're trying to cut costs everywhere, and we're going to have to make adjustments and get out in front of this thing."

The news of the Legislative Analyst's Office's latest report has brought the budget issue to the forefront of every person involved with the California Community College Athletic Association.

CCCAA president Carlyle Carter has encouraged athletic directors across the state to take the situation seriously.

"Many still hold the opinion that the economic situation and effect on sport programs is 'business as usual,'" Carter said in an email to all athletic directors of the CCCAA. "Given the recent situation regarding the LAO recommendation to disallow apportionment for intercollegiate PE courses ... and this latest development, I would hope all of us would view this as a need to step up our efforts [and] find more advocates on campus and around the system."

According to an email sent out by chancellor Sandra Serrano, the deficit could have a major impact on the Kern Community College District.

"The growing state deficit could result in a reduction in the KCCD budget

of between \$13.2 and \$17.8 million for the 2013 and 2014 budget years," Serrano wrote. "The \$17.8 million reduction for KCCD assumes that the Governor's tax proposition will fail in November. This projected decline represents the largest decrease in ongoing unrestricted funding ever encountered by KCCD."

Beckwith and the rest of the athletic department are currently considering their options and how to handle the situation.

"That is, right now, the big discussion that we're contemplating right now," he said. "How are we going to cut costs so that we don't lose anything?"

Beckwith said that they are going to accomplish this by doing their "due diligence to make sure that we're saving our costs so that we are not costing the college as much."

**"We're trying to cut costs everywhere, and we're going to have to make adjustments and get out in front of this thing."**

**—Ryan Beckwith,  
Athletic director**

By Zak S. Cowan  
Editor in Chief

The Western State Conference will be losing Moorpark College's baseball program after this season due to financial issues and budget woes, forcing the Bakersfield College baseball team to say goodbye to a friendly and familiar foe.

"Over the years, there is a friendship and a mutual respect that has been developed between the two programs," BC coach Tim Painton said. "You hate to see that disappear."

Painton's relationship with Moorpark coach Mario Porto dates back to when he took over to coach the Raiders 13 years ago after 10 as an assistant coach.

Painton credits Porto with conducting a successful program that has consistently moved players on to four-year schools, as well as seen players move up to play professionally.

"He's done everything right," Painton said. "And to have the carpet pulled out from underneath him is something that doesn't seem fair."

Moorpark, over the past few years, has become a constant presence on the BC campus.

"This has really become their second home," Painton said. "They play two tournaments here and usually come up and play us a single game as well."

Athletic director Ryan Beckwith is sad to see Moorpark's program go.

"To see any program or sport cut is sad all the way around, even if it's not here," Beckwith said. "It's a great, historical and successful program."

BC second baseman Elijah Trail said that seeing such a familiar program go down "is kind of heartbreaking" after so many years of stability and success.

"To see them shut down all of a sudden is unfortunate," Trail said. "They're a great group of guys and playing against them was fun. They have great class [and] they're just true sportsmen."

Renegade outfielder Jake Verdugo said that seeing a program like Moorpark shut down should make BC put its own situation in perspective.

"You just can't take what you have for granted," Verdugo said.

# Trail setting the tone behind the plate for BC

By Zak S. Cowan  
Editor in Chief

Often overshadowed by his teammates during his freshman year at Bakersfield College, second baseman Elijah Trail is now the clear-cut leader of his team's offense in 2012.

Trail credits his turnaround from last season to a conversation he had with

outfielder coach Sean Alexander before the year started, in which Alexander told him, "Regardless of your stats, just go out and have fun and do what you can to help the team win."

"That's been the only thing in my sights since," Trail said. "I just realized that there are bigger things than just myself."

Trail has lit up opposing pitchers so far this season and leads his team in nearly every batting statistic, including a batting average of .387 and a conference-leading four home runs.

Coach Tim Painton appreciated Trail's consistent production as the rest of the team's offense went through growing pains to begin the season.

"He has been consistent since day one," Painton said.

Painton said that Trail showed signs as a freshman of the dominant player that he's been so far this year, but an inadequate mental approach toward the game hampered his production.

"We sat down and talked about a mental approach and being consistent on a day-to-day basis," Painton said. "He's put a lot of time and effort into developing that."

Painton said that working on swing mechanics and developing a proper routine has helped Trail tremendously over the past year.

"As he's done that, we have seen the benefit of his hard work," he said. "He's put in a lot of hard work into making the adjustments that needed to be made."

Trail agrees that maturity played a big part in his disappointing freshman year.

"My maturity level has changed since last season, but I've been able to make the game easier on myself," Trail said. "Because the game is hard enough as it is."

But now, Trail has his team on the fast track to the playoffs and to his ultimate goal for his team: the Final Four.

"I don't know where I'm going after this, but right now I'm just focusing on this team and what we have to do to get to the ultimate goal, and that's the Final Four."

"We've taken it upon ourselves," he said. "That's where we want to get to."

Trail's success has garnered his attention from Division-I scouts, who can often be seen scattered around the crowd at BC home games, but Trail says he tries to not look ahead.

"To be honest, it's just a little confidence thing," he said. "But at the same time you have to think about the game like it's a new day and anything can happen. I just try to leave that behind and focus on this team and what we are doing, not really what is going to happen next year."



Trail's latest performances

	AB	R	H	bi	HR
March 1 Moorpark	4	0	2	0	0
March 3 West LA	4	1	2	0	0
March 6 at Canyons	6	2	3	6	2
March 8 LA Valley	5	1	2	1	0
March 10 at Citrus	4	1	0	0	0

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Elijah Trail, right, has lit up opposing pitchers so far this season, batting .387.

**POWER** | The Renegade offense explodes midway through season

By Zak S. Cowan  
Editor in Chief

Bakersfield College's pitching staff dominated the first few weeks of the baseball season, but recently, the Renegades have come of age behind the plate, creating balance and stability across the roster and leading the state in home runs.

To start the season, the pitching staff carried the load for BC at a time when the team's offensive production was limited to just a few guys inconsistently stepping up in big moments. Lately, though, the team's bats have come alive.

"It's baseball, and things come and go," coach Tim Painton said. "We've felt since the beginning of the year that we have a very good offensive club, and at times haven't produced. But that's the game of baseball."

Painton points to the team's March 6 win over College of the Canyons, when the offense put 18 runs on the board, as a stepping stone in the right direction.

"Hopefully that will jump start our offense a little bit and get us going to where we can get a little bit more consistent," he said.

The team certainly got production when they needed it.

Second baseman Elijah Trail has been the team's most consistent player, but is relieved to see his teammates find their stride.

Trail said that his team leans on the long ball for the majority of their production.

"Most of our lineup can put the ball out of the yard at anytime during the game," he said.

BC's offense is constantly swinging for the big hit. The offense is ranked 56th overall in the state with a mere 49 walks, but ranks first in the state with 15 home runs.

"We're just aggressive," Trail said. "We want to hit. We don't want to walk."

"We get a lot of guys in 2-1 counts, 3-0 counts, but when we get a fastball, we rip our underwear trying to swing as fast as we can."

# Men's golf lagging behind in disappointing season

By Esteban Ramirez  
Sports Editor

The Bakersfield College men's golf team continued to struggle in the Pt. Conception tournament at Valparaiso Golf Course on March 5-6.

BC placed sixth out of seven teams with Santa Barbara taking first with a score of 388. Ventura took second with 390 and Glendale took third with 391. BC ended up with a score of 424.

"We've struggled to play well," said BC coach Bill Kalivas.

"It has been a tough year because we're kind of just giving away strokes.

"We're making small errors that are costing us on our score.

"The scores aren't as important as our play, but our play has been bad.

"We need to keep the ball out of the hazards. I think for the most part we're not used to playing in courses like these, and I think it has made it tough

for us," he said.

He added that he thinks the unfamiliarity with the courses has been a big problem for them.

"Our team is good enough. We shouldn't be 30 strokes off," he said.

"I think we just haven't been exposed to these golf courses, while all these other teams are close to these courses so they have the opportunity to practice on these courses.

"We're very young so I know it's going to take a while. I think we will start to do better in the second half of the season. Sometimes you just got to take your lumps," he said.

Freshman Jack Henneberry led the team with 79 on the first day, but had a big drop off on the second day with an 87.

BC also struggled at the Western State Conference Meet on Feb. 27 at Rio Bravo Country Club.

They fell to seventh place out of seven teams. BC's next tournament will be the North/South Cup Invitational at Paso Robles on March 18-19.

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# BC swimming wins in dual meet

By Esteban Ramirez  
Sports Editor

Bakersfield College's swim team hosted a dual meet against College of the Canyons on March 2, and won after having their last two meets cancelled.

BC men's team outscored Canyons men's team 523-436, while the women outscored Canyons women's team 464-319.

BC won 13 of the 22 events, including the women and the men's 200 medley relay, the women's 1000 freestyle, women 200 freestyle and the men's 200 freestyle relay.

"I think we did good since it was the first dual meet of our season," said BC coach Charlie Pike. "I think it was great that they were able to overcome them being rusty and swim really well."

"It would've been nice to get in a stretch of a lot of meets, but I think the kids will get back into the flow of things after the next two meets," he said.

He added that they took a team

hike before this meet, and he thinks it really helped them grow as a team.

He also said that he thought sophomores Jake Reed and Francesca Wyatt did really well.

"Jake and Franny did really well," he said. "I was impressed that they had such fast times, since they were really tired coming in."

"They're starting to come together as a team I would just like them to clean up some of the small things."

I really want us to get off the blocks quicker because we're still a little slow in the start, and we need to turn quicker as well."

BC competed in the Cuesta Invitational on March 9-10. Twenty-three teams competed and BC's women took 10th, while the men placed 12th.

Ventura College women's team took first and Santa Rosa College ended up first for the men's. Wyatt continued to swim well, placing eighth in the 1,650 and 10th in the 200 and 500 freestyle.



MEGAN LUECKE / THE RIP

Bakersfield College's Catherine Lugo swims the butterfly in the 200 medley relay during a dual meet against College of the Canyons on March 2.

"They're really tired," said Pike. "They've been going through some of our toughest week of practice that's called 'Hell Week.'"

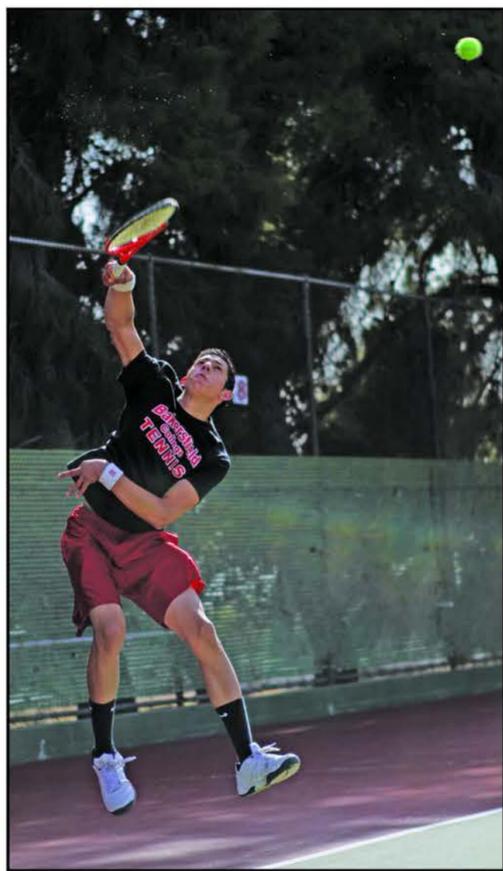
"This invitational was important for me to see how they measured up against everyone

else. "I wasn't happy with how we competed. I would call it a lackluster performance because I think they haven't learned how to swim through the pain. When they get worn down they tend to shut down. Some of them are

novice still and don't know how to run through that wall."

He added that he thinks as soon as they get through this week they'll be fine.

BC is scheduled to have their next meet on March 23 at L.A. Pierce College.



NATE PEREZ / THE RIP

Jimmy Moran serves the ball to Robert Herr of Santa Barbara City College on March 6. SBCC defeated Bakersfield College 9-0.

## Struggles continue for BC

By Nestor Fernandez  
Reporter

On March 1 at L.A. Pierce College, the Bakersfield College men's tennis team took another one on the chin as they lost 8-1 in matches.

The only win for BC came with number two-seeded Michael Rice defeating Royce Pasillio 6-4, 7-6 in a close two setter.

The BC women's squad defeated Santa Barbara City College 5-4 on March 2 for their first conference win of the season.

The match was played at BC, but the start of the match was delayed because Santa Monica ran into a traffic situation.

The theme of the day for BC seemed to be a slew of comeback matches, and BC head coach Teri Lynott was pleased with the overall effort the girls put forth.

"Our first win of the season, it was a very interesting match. We had quite a few good comebacks."

At No. 1 singles, BC's Kim Butler defeated Courtney Gulihur 6-2, 6-3; at No. 4, BC's Haleigh Dilbeck beat Karla Hernandez 5-7, 6-1, 6-3; at No. 5, BC's Cassandra Beadle beat Arlette Peimbert 1-6, 6-2, 6-1; and at No. 6, BC's Morgan Frazier beat Gua-

dalupe Vega 6-2, 6-0. BC's No. 2 doubles team beat Leah Stewart/Kassandra Beadle beat Courtney Gulihur/Ariette Peimbert 8-0.

"We do need to figure out a little bit of how to be better prepared to go into the match and be ready to play, so that we're not losing first sets," Lynott said.

"But it's great that we're able to come back and pull them out in the second and third, that's been pretty exciting."

Santa Barbara City College came in to BC on March 6 to play the men's team.

The SBCC squad left after winning all their matches (9-0) against BC.

The Renegades also lost their top-seeded singles player Adrian Magallanes to a right ankle sprain near the end of his singles match to SBCC's Miles Seemann.

Because of that injury, BC had to default their top-seeded doubles match against them.

BC, Victor Valley College, and Reedley College men's squads met in a three team round-robin on March 7 at BC.

The men got their first win of the season against Victor Valley in the afternoon matches, beating them 7-2.

It was a very long day of tennis, but well worth the effort for

the BC men as they also won the nightcap against Reedley 5-4. The Reedley matches came down to a very exciting doubles match between Thomas/Rivera (BC) and Morales/Sangera (Reedley).

They ended the match winning it 9-8 (9-7 in the tie breaker), and it was the deciding match that finished after 10 p.m.

It was a very competitive match that featured some heated verbal exchanges, and it added to the drama.

Reflecting back on the matches, Lynott was pleased with the results considering they had lost their top singles player Magallanes due to an injury against Santa Barbara.

"It was a good match today against Victor Valley. You know we were missing our number one player today because he was hurt on Tuesday. He sprained his ankle."

He is going to try to play tomorrow [against Ventura], but we didn't have him for the matches today, you know I really can't separate the two things out really."

Against Ventura College on March 8, both the BC men and women were shut out 9-0. Ventura is currently ranked No. 1 in the Western State Conference by Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings.

Column

## College athletics must stay intact

RIPPING SPORTS | Taking on every sports issue.

Athletics is usually one of the first things to think of cutting when a school is faced with financial problems or a budget crisis, but I think athletics is one of the departments that needs to stay.

Athletics can help the school's financial issues because a lot of sporting events make a lot of money for schools.

Unfortunately, a few schools have had to forfeit some of their sports because of financial problems.

Recently, Moorpark announced that they will be losing their baseball program after this season, but Moorpark isn't the only school facing this crisis.

Many schools are not only forced to drop certain sports, but also having to cut PE courses.

I think this is the worst thing that can happen to athletics as a whole because I know I started to die slowly each day during the NBA lockout.

I'm sure that all the baseball players for Moorpark were really ticked off because I know I would be if I found out that there wouldn't be a baseball season next year.

It's a lot easier for sophomore who will be leaving after this season, but the freshman must be at a loss because some of them will either go to a different school or just not play baseball anymore.

I know if I was athletic enough to be on the Bakersfield College baseball team and found out that there would be no season next year, I would seriously consider going to a different school.

I wish I could say that the solution is easy, but anytime you're dealing with a budget crisis, the solution will hardly ever be simple.

I think we've got to find a way to keep athletics, at least if we can't save PE courses, because sports are very important.

Many of these student athletes learn many valuable life lessons as a part of a team.

They learn how to be a good team member which can not only come in handy in certain jobs, but also you learn how to handle yourself when the team is doing good and when the team is doing bad.

These are qualities that you can't learn in just any class or course.

I'm not going to say that sports are more important than a good education, but it's not something we should throw away.

It can be beneficial to not only students, but the school as well because when sporting events are handled right, it can help any school financially.

Aside from sporting events, you can hold fundraisers for certain teams, and usually a lot of alumni will donate to make sure to keep the athletics department intact.

We shouldn't have to take away the athletics department because there is more than one way to ensure that it stays, and if a school can't find an answer, well then obviously they're not putting a good effort to ensure that it stays.

Athletics is an important part of the college atmosphere, and it's every school's obligation to ensure that it remains a part of the school.

Hopefully BC never has to go through what Moorpark has gone through.

Hopefully every other school, including BC, can find a way to ensure that no sports get taken out, so this incident does not happen to any other school because we need to keep sports intact.



Esteban Ramirez

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## Friday night fighter

By Nate Perez  
Reporter

Bakersfield boxer Mike Dallas Jr. has a record of 18-2 with seven knockouts and one draw.

Dallas isn't known as a knockout artist, but he possesses other physical tools that make him a tough challenge for anybody.

"I'm a guy that usually has a good jab, very fast and [uses] good footwork," said Dallas.

When Dallas isn't boxing, he walks 20-25 pounds above the Junior Welterweight limit of 140 pounds.

"Through a course of like two-three months, I get all the weight down," he explained.

Dallas began boxing at five years old and had a long amateur boxing career prior to turning pro. Dallas made it all the way to the Olympic Trials before losing on points.

"I lost in the quarter finals. I shouldn't have lost, but a lot of it is the computer scoring [and] a lot of politics," he said. "I really won a gang of fights. [I felt] I had more of a pro style than amateur."

"I was ready to turn pro. I was already 21 and I [had a lot of amateur fights], won a lot of national amateur championships. I had like 180 something fights, so I thought it was time to turn pro. I felt I was ready to do it."

The loss at the Olympic Trials was a big blow to Dallas.

"The worst [moment I had in boxing was losing at] the Olympic trials when I really won a fight, but [officially] lost," he said.

"It kind of threw me off because it was a big dream to go to the Olympics."

Bakersfield isn't known as a hot spot for boxers. There are a few local gyms, but not many prizefighters.

Dallas trains in Oakland with renowned boxing trainer Virgil Hunter, best known as the trainer of Super middleweight champion Andre Ward.

Dallas began working with Hunter last year after getting knocked out in seven rounds by Junior Welterweight prospect Josesito Lopez on ESPN's Friday Night Fights in January 2011.

Dallas started off boxing well, but as the rounds progressed, Lopez's relentless pressure eventually broke down Dallas and the referee intervened in order to stop the punishment.

In his very next fight, Dallas lost a controversial majority decision to Mauricio Herrera on Friday Night Fights in June 2011.

The bout was very close and although Dallas officially lost, many felt he actually won.

Prior to working with Hunter, Dallas was trained by his father, Mike Dallas Sr.

"It's been cool training with Virgil, he [has] a lot of experience training. My dad taught me everything I know and [Virgil] added onto it," he said.

"It's a different environment, [but] he's a good coach to work with. He knows a lot about boxing."

On Feb. 17th, Dallas faced heavy puncher Miguel Gonzalez on Friday Night Fights and easily out fought Gonzalez to a unanimous decision win.

"I knew Miguel from the amateurs. He was a top amateur and a very good fighter, but I knew I had to be aggressive and I took the fight to him and it really took him out of his element because he thought



NATE PEREZ / THE RIP

Mike Dallas Jr. shadowboxes on March 7 at the Bakersfield Police Activities League Center where his father Mike Dallas Sr. began training him as a kid.

I was going to be moving around and stuff, [but] I was more aggressive."

Dallas credited his tough training regimen and his sparring partners for the win.

"I trained with Eloy Perez, Karim Mayfield, who's another [Junior] Welterweight and a guy named Stan Martyniuk. I had a lot of good work, top athletes," he said.

Dallas currently has 21 fights in his five-year career. Dallas feels like he will be ready for any of the titleholders at the Junior Welterweight division.

"It wouldn't matter as long as it's a title fight. Whoever the guy is, I'll fight him."

Dallas reminisced on his two losses.

"Both of them [were] kind of iffy," he said. "Especially the Herrera fight, I know I won that. I just went into the gym and I was hungry. I didn't want to have any more losses on my record. I added some more stuff working on strength training, so it all worked out."

Prior to training in Oakland, Dallas would often travel to gyms in Southern California such as Wild Card Boxing Gym in Hollywood owned by Freddy Roach. Wild Card is the home of many professional boxers and is known as one of the best gyms in the world.

There, Dallas got the opportunity to spar with the likes of Manny Pacquiao. "I felt like I gained a lot of experience sparring with Pacquiao," he said. "He had a lot of experience. When I was sparring [with him] I only had like six fights at the most." Dallas attended California State University, Dominguez Hills for three years pursuing a Kinesiology degree, but put his college career on hold in order to pursue a professional boxing career. Dallas plans on returning back to school sometime soon. "When my boxing career is finished, I'll probably coach and help out the kids in the community."



Top: Mike Dallas Jr. shadowboxes upon returning to the gym for the first time after his most recent fight against Miguel Gonzalez.

Left: Mike Dallas Jr. does heavy bag work at the gym. Dallas plans to fight again in May on the undercard of Super Middle Champion Andre Ward's upcoming fight.

Right: Mike Dallas Jr. shadowboxes at the Bakersfield Police Activities League center. Mike Dallas Jr. began boxing at 5 years old.

NATE PEREZ / THE RIP



## The Campus Cat Coalition works to save cats at BC

By Angie DelGado  
Reporter

Many Bakersfield College students have not heard of the Campus Cat Coalition. The Campus Cat Coalition is designed to help decrease the population of feral cats around college and university campuses. Bakersfield College is a part of this organization.

At BC, there are over 70 members, some of them are professors and others are community members.

Carol Paschal, library technician at BC, is also a part of this organization. She has been trying to take care of the population of feral cats at BC since 2002.

Through the Campus Cat Coalition and the Trap-Neuter-Release Program, many feral cats are trapped, neutered, and released back into where they were picked

up. This is to decrease the population of feral cats by keeping them from reproducing.

Even though the population at BC has been decreasing, the way that it's been happening is not necessarily favorable. Over the years, there have been some dogs from the neighborhoods around BC that have been coming into the campus at night and have been attacking and killing feral cats.

"I was afraid to come to campus for fear of what I could find," said Paschal.

Cat issues are happening on almost all campuses. Some have feral cats because there are dorms, and some, like BC, because of the close neighborhoods that surround the campus.

There are many myths about cats on campus, and Paschal feels that these get in the way of helping these animals. For example,

the myth that if a cat is fed it will always stay.

"By nature, cats are attracted to areas where people gather," said Paschal.

Whether they are fed or not, they will stay around. Even if they are not being fed, cats stay and begin to try to feed themselves.

"If we don't feed cats, they will find food in trash cans, and dumpsters and resort to killing birds for food," said Paschal.

By sterilizing these cats and feeding them, this organization will be able to help reduce the population of cats around campus. One of the goals of this group is to help these cats find a home.

One particular myth that impedes with finding a home for the many cats at BC, is the myth that feral cats carry diseases that put people and other cats at risk.

"Studies have shown that the

rate of these diseases among managed feral cat colonies is no higher than among domestic pets," according to an article in the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Paschal hopes that people will become aware of these myths and know that they are not true and that more people will be willing to help find these cats homes.

Even though this organization exists, Paschal hopes that it does not encourage people to drop off unwanted animals around the BC campus.

"Not only it is illegal, but their chance of survival is very small," said Paschal.

She does hope that in the future more people will want to become involved with this organization.

"Maybe students would like to become involved and form a club," said Paschal.



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

A cat pauses briefly before entering a shelter next to the Library on March 12 at Bakersfield College.