Multiple construction projects update campus

By Rachel Taylor
The Collegian

As the majority of students, faculty and staff disappeared from campus this summer, several major construction and renovation projects revved up at Fresno State.

The Meyers Sports Medicine Facility

The Meyers Sports Medicine Facility, which is located between the Duncan Building and the Reehaus Academic Center, was among those projects.

“This is probably the biggest project that got completed this summer,” Gary Wilson, senior director of facilities management, said.

The 10,726 square-foot building, which had a total project cost of $6.7 million, was entirely funded by donors, with the largest donor being the Meyers family.

The facility, which will provide athletic training and rehabilitation services to all student-athletes, will house first-class rehabilitation equipment, hydrotherapy pools, workout pools, a student-athlete lounge and offices for all employees that work in the athletic training area.

“It’s going to help tremendously with our student-athletes and rehabilitation,” John Kiehs, associate athletics director for Facilities Operations, said.

“It’s also going to be the anchor for our student-athlete village, because it’s going to sit there right by the weight room, right by our academic center and where our composer lab is so everything can be almost a one-stop shop for our student-athletes.”

Director of Athletics Thomas Buch said he could not be more grateful to Fresno State alumnus Marvin Meyers and his family for their donation.

“It’s an honor for us to have his family’s name on one of our buildings,” Buch said. “He is such an extraordinary individual, and he’s given so much back to the community.”

Construction workers near the completion of the Meyer Family Sports Medicine Center located near Bulldog Stadium.

Wilson said the facility will be ready for occupancy no later than Labor Day weekend.

North Gym

Another project completed near the beginning of summer was the transformation of the old aquatic center in North Gym 118 into a 500-seat multi-purpose assembly room that students and faculty can reserve for seminars, conferences or any other needs they may have.

Wilson said the facility will be ready for occupancy no later than Labor Day weekend.

Student federal loan rates stabilize after brief spike

By Brianna Vaccari
The Collegian

This year’s enrollment and the large number of international students breaks the negative trend budget cuts inflicted on Fresno State in previous years, administrators said.

“This is the first time I’ve been positive and optimistic in the last four years where we’ve been cutting, new cutting and cutting,” said Bernie Vinovrski, the associate vice president for enrollment services.

Vinovrski attributed this step forward to Gov. Jerry Brown and California Legislature passing a budget on time, as well as to taxpayers for passing Proposition 30.

“I finally see a light at the end of the tunnel, and it’s not a train coming in,” Vinovrski said.

Although the fall 2013 semester does not have record high enrollment numbers, Vinovrski said those numbers are only a one percent increase from last year and met the university’s target goal. Overall enrollment increased by fewer than 200 students. Although the freshman class is the biggest ever, it is only increased by a little more than 150.

The category of students that saw the most growth this year was transfers. Fresno State did not admit transfers in January of 2013, which left the number of transfer students low. This year, Vinovrski said there are more than 400 new transfer students.

Overall Fresno State did admit more students this year, but they also turned away thousands of students. There were more than 3,000 eligible first-time freshmen who were denied admission this year.

By Carey Weng
The Collegian

Students at Fresno State carrying the weight of heavy loans and financial aid received positive news this summer when Congress passed legislation keeping loan rates low.

These changes primarily impact students who are just entering college.

Student loan interest rates doubled from 3.4 percent to 6.89 percent, when Congress failed to reach an agreement to maintain the previous rate by the July 1 due date.

To curb this increase, the Bipartisan Student Loan Creditor Act of 2013 was signed into law by President Barack Obama on Aug. 8, lowering the rates to 3.9 percent. The new bill also places a cap on interest rates, ensuring maximum rates of 8.25 percent for undergraduates and 3.5 rate for graduates.

This has come as a relief for many students and also for the Financial Aid Department Director Bernie Ogden.

“It personally was very happy when this bill came out, lowering the interest rate,” Ogden said.

“I would have liked it to be better. Yes, I would. I would like it to stay at 3.4.”

Ogden said that with the shaky economy around the country hunting budgets, “to get 3.9 was probably a good concession for our concern.”

The student loan interest rate is tied to the Treasury bill rates, so future interest rates may differ. Treasury bill rates are adjusted quarterly, but Ogden said the rates do not have drastic fluctuations.

The student loan rate will only change on a yearly basis. Students do not have to worry about changes while they are in school.

Even if the government did not pass the new bill, students would still be taking loans but shoulder a higher interest rate.

“I don’t think having it tied to the [Treasury] bill rate will have a drastic effect because, bottom line, even if the loan rates were at 6.8 and students needed the money to get the education, they would still take the loan,” he said. “So the fact that they do not have to pay 6.8 but they’re paying 3.4, it’s better for them.”

Sophomore Karina Cooke was one of the many students lining up at the financial aid office in hopes of getting a loan. “That’s really cool,” Cooke said about the lowered interest rate. “That’s really good because a lot of us, when we’re graduating, are going to have a hard time paying for it.”

Work on the North Gym didn’t end there. Wilson said facilities management continued to make improvements to the North Gym area throughout the summer.

Some of those improvements include a new outdoor plaza that Wilson said will undergo landscaping in the next 30 to 40 days, a concrete walkway, and a handicap ramp built to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

By Brianna Vaccari
The Collegian
Arming the mind with reality

Utilizing logic, refusing fallacy and discovering the truth in every message.

One-Finger Salute

Thumbs up
TV Sync performing at the VMAs
Yep, those four guys and Justin Timberlake took the stage for the first time since the 2003 Grammy Awards. Apparently, the band is ‘what it’s called’? has established a Twitter account. #OMG #dontgettooexcited

Thumbs down
The first publicly released photo of the ‘Kimye’ baby
Because no one should care, ‘cause it’s a human baby that is healthy and lacking in superpowers... much like ‘The Royal Baby’

Financial aid package: out of pocket

“Financial aid package: out of pocket” Cartoon by Jennifer Sawyer / The Collegian

Arming the mind with reality

Of my greatest frustrations in life is the astounding lack of autonomy in society.

For a country of citizens who trust in individuality, we seem to heavily depend on government intervention in almost everything: roads, postal service, public education, food and health regulations, building permits, police forces, and printing money, just to name a few.

People say things like: “That’s just the way it is” and “I would rather not think about it” all the time, some in the same breath. And how can one blame them when political speeches contain nothing other than false hope and large vocabulary? The information is far too complicated for us to understand anyway; it’s best to just give it to the big guys we voted for.

Well, I have some bad news for those who choose to sidestep information to the government: there is evidence that a method of public manipulation is the encouragement of ignorance on a population. It seems unlikely that ignorance would even be a political issue, since information is more easily available to the general population than it has ever been.

The brand name Google even plays a secondary role as a verb because search engines are used so frequently to answer everyday questions; hence the term, “Google it.”

It’s baffling that so many people are deterred from learning about important information in a time of incredibly accessible knowledge.

Before we analyze the causes and implications of motivated ignorance, I would like to touch on the beauty of logic. As its name suggests, it is a rational tool of computation that the human mind uses to develop its conceptual reality.

Our brains function more efficiently when we are able to connect point A and point B in a straight, unobstructed line.

Philosophy says we come to conclusions by the means of premises, the building blocks of an argument, and we combine multiple premises to arrive at a conclusion.

Yes, if the premises are fallacious, then the logical nature of the statement is irrelevant.

One example of such an argument would be: all things drop when there is nothing to support them; all things drop when they are unsupported because we expect them to; therefore, all things drop because we expect them to.

In reality, we know that all things drop because of gravity, not because we expect them to, but think of the arguments used before an apple fell on Newton’s head.

God was the only explanation for the unknown.

Even today, concepts like the soul, morals, and faith are justified through mystical means, unperceived and immeasurable by bodily senses. Why? Why do I care about logic? Because logic is how we progressively utilize knowledge to understand reality.

First, we see things and apply meaning to them (bottle, mom, dad, etc.). Eventually, these meanings extend beyond our first understandings, and the word table suddenly covers a variety of tables (coffee table, dining table, etc.).

Thus, we sacrifice reality if the fundamental building blocks of our perceptual reality are based on falsehoods.

It is not God who makes things fall, it is the gravitational pull of our planet’s center of mass to the objects around it.

Ayn Rand once said, “To maintain contradiction is to abdicate one’s mind and exist solely from the realm of reality” (The Lexicon, location 5336 of 10602).

Abstaining from making decisions is just as bad as accepting ones that you know are wrong.

There is a correlation between the amount of psychological investment placed in a specific thing. You or someone you know may have experienced a relationship with this thing.

“We’ve been together for so long” and “I can’t imagine life without them” are only two examples of why some choose to stay in relationship-ships that no longer satisfy their needs or make them happy.

This mentality is often adapted in extremely abusive relationships, no matter the nature of the abuse.

Even though they may have a list of reasons for breaking up and moving on, they will place that logic aside to avoid psychological discomfort, forcing themselves to compensate their happiness so that they can live otherwise blissfully.

Similar trends can be seen when observing the nature of the government-citizen relationship.

Authors Steven Shepherd and Aaron C. Kay studied the relationship between complex information, government dependence, and avoidance of unfamiliar topics.

They found that when their subjects were given complex information on topics such as energy sources or the economy, they were more likely to be discouraged from learning more about the topic and to sidestep the information to the government.

This was not true for the subjects who received information about the same topics but in simple terms, felt that they had a sufficient understanding of what they read.

This creates a relationship where the citizen depends on the government more, and in turn, will avoid behaviors that go against their faith in the government.

Wouldn’t a government that wanted its citizens informed make it as easy as possible to spread valuable knowledge, instead of changing history in textbooks and making grandiose speeches? And when they don’t, will more people be more interested in truth than in comfort?

Our ignorance is being extorted for power. The less we know about what is going on, the more opportunities for control we give to those in office.

You want change? Start collecting mental ammunition. Empower yourself with verified information.

Don’t ignore contradictory information about the government making mistakes, because the government does not always know what is best.

Stop justifying Caltrans when you see three men doing a one-man job, just because that’s the way it’s always been; don’t ignore serious questions about genetically modified food because you don’t know what GMOs are; instead of working over grades, question the reason behind making children learn more information than their brains are capable of handling and putting them through the unnecessary stress of a classroom.

Is this where you wish to see the human species go? Are we evolving from mindful to mindless?

I beg you to not let this be true, but, more importantly, to put a little more faith in your ability to perceive and think.

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admission simply because there was no space for them at Fresno State, Vinovrski said.

“These were students who were accepted to Fresno State, but had nowhere else to attend, meaning Fresno State’s population is growing. This is especially evi
dent with international students. This year there are more than 500 degree-seeking international students from 40 different countries, said Paul Hofmann, the assistant vice president for international affairs. That is a 53 percent increase from last year.

"That is attributable to Dr. Hofmann and his recruitment initia
tives and partnerships he forged. It’s wonderful news,” Vinovrski said.

Paul Yunouye, a faculty advisor for the International Student Services and Programs Office, said part of the recruitment effort included deans and faculty members going abroad to develop relations with different universi
ties. He also said the International Affairs office pushed to be a part of more education fairs and worked with agents to get Fresno State’s name out to more undergraduate students and faculty members going abroad to

countries. It’s Hofmann’s recruitment efforts

Said Saito first heard about the

American English Institute (AEI) before seeking a degree.

Hofmann’s recruitment efforts

during his academic program.

Mccluskey said Fresno State hopes to

get organizations like the Fresno State

International Student Association.

One organization that attracts a

Many international students speak
different languages, and it’s hard to get used to things here. They left their

friends and family. This is a good

opportunity to make friends if you don’t know other people,” he said.

Hofmann’s recruitment efforts

are in line with the university’s motto

diversity.\n
\n
Menchaca said Castro shares this

With his first semester as president, Menchaca said he’s not exactly sure

what this year will look like, but it’s about being flexible in these first few months.

“I think President [Joseph] Castro said it best today [at the fall assembly on Aug. 19]: A lot of time presidents come in and want to change things without ever listening to the founda
tion that was laid before, and that’s kind of where we’re at right now,” Menchaca said. “We do have our pro

gress in place, and I do have a theme in mind with collaboration. But as far as trying to get program A, B, C, D in the works, it may be better just to listen and kind of see what the impor

tant needs, and how can I help out just being a voice for students?”

Menchaca said he also hopes to get organizations like the Fresno State Alumni Association and the University Student Union under the auspices of Directors of Student Affairs involved in working together on events that encourage school pride and moti

vate more students to get involved. He said ASI is already collaborating with a few organizations, one is a bigger and better
coming next year.

At our last meeting we had the

president of Panhellenic [Association] there, we had the director of the USU Portfolio and the USU Production. We also had faculty and administration; the student association has been proud,” Menchaca said. “Really just bringing everybody to the table and saying we’re all here for the same goal, to improve and enhance student experience at Fresno State, and how can we all play into that goal?”

Planning to take his theme of col

laboration to the greater Central Valley, Menchaca said Fresno State hopes to host representatives from California State University, Bakersfield and California State University, Stanislaus to listen and exchange ideas.

Menchaca said he hopes this col

laboration will help student leaders better understand the issues facing the Central Valley.

“Every president might have their own goals, but it’s important to listen to the goals of the senators and the rest of the executive board. Figuring out what areas can we make the biggest impact, and how can we work as a team in order to get that objective done,” Menchaca said.

This summer Menchaca served as a member of the transition commit

tee selected to help Castro learn more about Fresno State’s student needs.

As part of the team, Menchaca said he was able to talk to Castro about some of the issues some students representa

tives have shared with him.

“I probably spent more time meeting and talk about graduation rates, go to another meeting and talk about advising and student success, and then go to ano

other meeting and talk about athletics,” Menchaca said. “Just making sure that there’s representation and the voice of students is heard and student concerns are at the table is what I’m passionate about for this [school] year, not just this semester.”

Menchaca said Castro shared this interest in communication and col

laboration. As a student leader who has already linked arms with ASI in hopes of making positive change on campus, which is something Menchaca is excited about.

“His acknowledging ASI and student leadership at his staff assem

bly, he has shown that he is ready to help out and engage with students, and it is something that as a student leader is definitely inspiring.”

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Bringing home the Garlic

Fresno State chefs win first Garlic Bowl at Gilroy Garlic Festival

By Erica Hamann

The Collegian

Victory was achieved for Fresno State with this year’s annual Garlic Festival in Gilroy, Ca. After 26 years of the University’s Dining Services Executive Chef Erik Debaude and Sous Chef Bryan Kramer, Fresno State, has won the first place in the one-hour period three times being declared two dishes within the time period.

Debaude and Kramer entered the Garlic Bowl, a one-hour cook off where they had to create a dish in the time period. Each dish demanded a specific ingredient garlic.

Together they practiced the two dishes in the one-hour period three times before. Debaude said they were talking about what they were going to make back in February.

“I left confident and 110 percent about the dishes we were going to make,” Debaude said. “But under different judges, you never know what their preferences are. Meaning that when we explained that the dishes were going to taste strong, you never know just how this Food Talks will be.”

Together they made two dishes “Fresno State garlic chicken with tangy sauce and leek dome garlic sauce” and “stuffed duck breast with a beet croustillant, stuffed fig with chive sauce” during high school in Fresno. Over time, he worked his way to head cook in the pizzeria.

After graduating at Fresno State, he worked in food services at Fresno State and later was offered the same seat position, which was the executive chef for Fresno State.

“[It’s] sort of complicated because I work for both San Jose State and I oversee Fresno State operations, food sites,” Debaude said. “Meaning that, once a camp has him, he is the only one in charge of the entire campus. We have the dining department where we feed any catering events that we have on campus. And from 1 to 2 a San Jose State and Fresno State meet where we all feed all the students, we have the catering department where we feed any catering events that we have on campus. And from 1 to 2 a San Jose State and Fresno State meet where we all feed all the students, we have the catering department where we feed any catering events that we have on campus.”

The chef also incorporated their dishes with Fresno State corn and oil from the Blue and Green Gilroy Garlic Farm Market, both produced by students.

Debaude added that his main goal was to talk to students at Fresno State and see what ingredients they will be able to see more often just for the Garlic Festival.

Fresno State Vitamin Club members are a group dedicated to improving health.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Fresno Greek Festival draws estimated 24,000 attendees

By Rachel Taylor

The Collegian

The Fresno Greek Festival, organized and run by the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George at 1323 E. Shields Ave., is a place where people can learn about the rich Greek culture, have a good time and enjoy the delicious food. There are many different events taking place for three days of festivities.

Chairman Peter Vallis, who has been organizing the event for the last five years, said 24,000 people packed the festival’s grounds during high school in Fresno. Over time, he worked his way to head cook in the pizzeria.

The festival, which Vallis said began as a small effort to raise money for the nearby St. George church in 1974, has manifested into a massive event over the last two decades. It became the home to dozens of things that I think people don’t know about what Fresno State has to offer.

“[It’s] sort of complicated because I work for both San Jose State and I oversee Fresno State operations, food sites,” Debaude said. “Meaning that, once a camp has him, he is the only one in charge of the entire campus. We have the dining department where we feed any catering events that we have on campus. And from 1 to 2 a San Jose State and Fresno State meet where we all feed all the students, we have the catering department where we feed any catering events that we have on campus.”

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“We have a forum where we can share our vision and also create some opportunities for us,” said Palumbo.

“Sous chef Bryan Kramer, who graduated from Fresno State and later was offered a job at Gilroy Garlic Festival, defeat and Sous Chef Bryan Kramer won the first place in the one-hour period. The competition was not just about cooking, but also about team collaboration and presentation.”

More events coming your way:
• • •

St. George Greek Orthodox Church was available for people to visit during the Fresno Greek Festival celebration.

Fresno State’s Viticulture Club also organized the past three years to prove wine at the Fresno Greek Festival.

“We hope that people will bring their friends and family, and enjoy the food and music,” said Palumbo. “It’s a great way to promote our culture and our students who are seeking to become wine makers and those who have already graduated and are working in the wine industry.”

Fresno State University Viticulture Club also organized the past three years to prove wine at the Fresno Greek Festival.

“She’s the best, no one can even come close. She’s the best. She’s the best.”

“Not many people have the opportunity to eat wine and it’s a good way to learn about the different people who visit the wine booth,” said Palumbo.

“At the festival, the students are showing their passion and learning about the Greek culture, which is a great way to learn about what they’re about,” said Price. “But at the same time, they’re learning about the Greek culture, it’s a good way to learn about what they’re about.”

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CONSTRUCTION: Several projects near completion

CONTINUED from page 1

There is also a new turnaround for traffic near North Gym at the end of Campus Drive.

“This [turnaround] is huge right here,” Wilson said. “It takes care of a lot of the traffic that used to go through here—and all of the parking for the drop-off space—but it also enhances this area.”

The North Gym is also set to get its own convenience store in the near future.

The store was contracted by California State University, Fresno Association, Inc., a recognized, self-supporting auxiliary organization of Fresno State that provides commercial and other support services to campus entities, such as the Kernel Bookstore.

Deborah Adishian-Astone, associate vice president for Auxiliary Operations and Enterprise Development, said the store—which will be called the “Bulldog Bodega”—should be open to students by mid-September.

“There is a need for convenience items near the residence halls and students who walk or bike to campus from neighboring apartments,” Adishian-Astone said. “We have limited retail settings and sometimes students do not have walk off campus.”

The store will offer a wide variety of food and snacks, basic school supplies, beverages and even some household items, Adishian-Astone said.

Wilson said construction work on the interior retail shelving and vending machines for the new convenience store is underway.

Americans With Disabilities Act

Accessibility projects were also completed this summer. Wilson said Facilities Management aims to do one or two ADA projects every semester and around six every year.

“No matter what projects we do, we always have an ADA project upgrade,” Wilson said.

“For example, new restrooms that meet ADA standards were built in the Family and Food Science Building and Engineering West. Both restrooms are open for use now.

“The ADA-approved restrooms will feature new grab bars, bigger restroom compartments to accommodate those with wheelchairs and new automatic hand dryers to help keep the area clear from waste.

“All of the new buildings on campus are ADA accessible, but not all of the older buildings.”

Minor Capital Overlay funding, which includes state-funded projects under $161,000 built to fix deficiencies, offer access, or enhance new or improved facilities used to pay for ADA projects. But that isn’t the case at the moment.

“With the recent economy in the state of California, we haven’t received any of those dollars, so we’ve just been paying for ADA improvements either through our general fund or deferred maintenance program,” Wilson said.

“It’s an ongoing challenge because the codes continue to change.”

Miscellaneous projects

Some smaller projects completed over summer include a new bright red and blue shade structure over the Aquatics Center and a revamped Fresno State’s campus water tower, which now boasts the new Fresno State logo.

“The tower was last changed about 15 years ago,” Wilson said. “Students might also notice that 136 classroom on campus were converted to smart classrooms over summer with the combined help of Technology Services, Classroom and Video Services, and Facilities Management.

Upgrades include new HDMI cables, Blu-ray players, top of the line projectors and improved lighting controls.

Ozzy Mendoza, a Technology Services student assistant who helped Classroom and Video Services with upgrades over summer, said the improvements will make the classroom experience better for both professors and students.

They will now have access to enhanced audio and video capabilities.

“All the audio and video is all in one cable, so it’s easier for the professor,” Mendoza said. “All they have to do is pop in one cable and they’ll get audio and video.”

Right now, Wilson said there are over 50 campus projects underway, so be on the lookout for more hard hats and yellow tape.

“The reason we’re here is to provide the best learning environment we can for these students,” Wilson said. “A lot of times we get frustrated because maybe we don’t have enough funding to do everything, but really, that’s everybody’s goal here.”
RUTGERS: Focus now solely on Scarlet Knights

CONTINUED from page 8

terback. Also returning for Rutgers is Brandon Coleman, its 6-6 wide receiver who had 10 touchdowns and 718 receiving yards last season.

And because of that talent, preparation is important. During the weekend, the Bulldogs honed their situational skills. While they focused on Rutgers on both sides of the ball, they mixed end-of-game drills and third down plays. Friday’s and Saturday’s practices were their typical Tuesday practices. Sunday’s was their typical Wednesday practice.

“We want to look at the tape, see what Rutgers does, put our game plans in and see how we’re going to fit that up,” DeRuyter said.

With the lingering, off-season questions answered, it’s only three more dress rehearsal-like practices before the Bulldogs are ready to play their first game.

“I know the Red Wave will be there and hopefully they bring some friends out there on Thursday night,” DeRuyter said.

GUARD: Offensive line set for Bulldogs

CONTINUED from page 8

Northern has had limited playing experience, appearing in the Colorado, Hawaii and Air Force games—all blowout wins for the Bulldogs—though has had a solid showing so far this fall.

Fresno State opens the season against a Rutgers team running a 4-3 base formation on defense. Three seniors are tabbed to start on the frontlines for the Scarlet Knights.

The most recent tape of the Bulldogs that Rutgers has to study is of their Hawaii Bowl performance against Southern Methodist—a 43-10 loss in which quarterback Derek Carr was sacked seven times.

“That’s the beauty of football you get to move on to your next game,” Norcross said.

“If that would’ve happened in the middle of the year, we would’ve moved on to our next game. I realize you’re only as good as your last performance, but this unit as a whole hasn’t had any performances yet.

“We’re a different group right now. We’ve got our videos on the way. That team was 9-4. Right now we’re 0-0.”

The Bulldogs open the season on Saturday with its annual Alumnae Match—a dress rehearsal in which Fresno State examined its different lineups heading into the Bulldog Invitational, running Saturday and Sunday at the Save Mart Center.

The Bulldogs open the season against Rice (5 p.m.) on Saturday and Santa Clara (12 p.m.) and Cal State Northridge (7:30 p.m.) on Sunday. Fresno State opens Mountain West Conference play on Sept. 26 at home against Utah State.

“We’ve got our videos on the way for a couple of the teams from last year,” Netherby-Sewell said of the upcoming tournament. “One of them we haven’t seen before, so we’re just going to be working on us getting better and see what comes at us we’ll deal with. They’re all tough teams, they’ve done well in their conferences and they’re relatively strong nationally. It’s going to be a really tough opening tournament.”

Though the Bulldogs return marquee players that served as the driving force behind their production on offense and attacking, one key position that was vacated was setter—was left vacated when all-conference senior Barbara Alcantara graduated in the spring.

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The Bulldogs enter their second season in the Mountain West and were tabbed to finish sixth in a preseason coaches’ poll.

Fresno State was battling for first place in the conference standings earlier this season against Wyoming when she tabbed a career-high 65 assists—proved to be the difference maker for the Bulldogs last season.

VOLLEYBALL: Bulldogs ready to host first invitational of the season

CONTINUED from page 8

there’s a lot of maturity on this team and a lot of determination. So I expect us to get better every day and I think it’ll be a terrific final year for our five.”

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Bulldogs continue focus on Rutgers

By Christopher Livingston
The Collegian

On a college campus, the end of summer means two things: classes and sports. For the Fresno State Bulldogs football team, opening night is near. With only three days remaining until its game against Rutgers, focus on the practice field has shifted. It’s not about the fundamentals; instead, it’s about knowing their opponent.

The Rutgers Scarlet Knights, based in Piscataway, N.J., will travel 2,914 miles to Bulldog Stadium for the first time to face the Mountain West co-champions. The last time they met was on Sep. 1, 2008, when the Bulldogs traveled to New Jersey and won the season-opening match 24-20.

Now, with Rutgers stepping onto Bulldog Stadium, the 2013 Bulldogs understand the significance of this meeting.

“Anytime you get a chance to have a BCS team come into Bulldog Stadium, our guys know it’s a tremendous challenge,” Fresno State head coach Tim DeRuyter said.

This season, Fresno State and Rutgers have similar backgrounds. Both have sophomore head coaches who posted a 9-4 record in their first year. They both also won their respective conference championships.

The difference lies in the style of play. Fresno State will continue to use the up-tempo spread offense, which arrived with offensive coordinator Dave Schramm last year. This fast-paced style of offense will go against Rutgers’ pro-style, not commonly seen in college football. Last year, Fresno State was ranked 11th in the football bowl subdivision in offense with 477.54 yards per game. Rutgers was ranked 104th with 329.92 yards per game.

Defensively, Rutgers will carry a 4-3 defense that was ranked tenth with 31.62 yards allowed per game. Fresno State, using a 3-4 defense introduced last fall, was 22nd with 338.85 yards allowed per game.

Starting at quarterback for Rutgers is junior Gary Nova. At 6-2, 220 pounds, Nova threw for 1,608 yards, 16 touchdowns, and six interceptions last year in his first season as the No. 1 quart

Offensive line finds winning combo with Fifita at guard

By Ricardo Cano
The Collegian

The key, Fresno State coach Tim DeRuyter said, was to shuffle the combinations on the offensive line during fall camp practices to find the “best five guys.”

That included moving players left and right along the line — from tackle to guard, and from the edge to the interior — and up and down the depth chart.

Heading into their season opener against Rutgers on Aug. 29 at Bulldog Stadium, a mix-and-match full camp has given way to this current rotation: Senior Austin Wentworth at left guard, sophomore Alex Fifita at left guard, senior Lars Brahmer at center, junior Cody Wichmann at right guard and sophomore Justin Northern at right tackle.

The starting lineup has yet to be solidified, DeRuyter said, though this was the lineup in the first two deeps that was released on Sunday.

The most recent developments, Fifita at guard and Northern at tackle, provide the Bulldogs with a fourth game with Wentworth, Wichmann and Fifita all above 300 pounds and Northern and Brahmer 280-pound range.

Veteran team gears up for first home tournament

By Ricardo Cano
The Collegian

The Fresno State volleyball team lost one key piece this offseason, but finds comfort in a roster headlined by veterans and established hitters as the team geared up for its first home tournament.

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