

DAILY SUNDIAL

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+ OPINION: Obama's fowl play might cost him p. 6

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CHARLIE KAIJO / ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

A debate between Brad Sherman (right) and Howard Berman becomes heated during a dispute over Berman's involvement in the DREAM Act. Berman said he introduced the bill to congress and called Sherman delusional for saying otherwise.

Two Democrats, just one district

Debate heats up as two incumbent congressmen battle for 30th District seat

CHRISTINA PEMBLETON
DAILY SUNDIAL
STEFANIE DE LEON TZIC
SENIOR STAFF

U.S. Congressmen Howard Berman and Brad Sherman are campaigning for one seat in the U.S. House of Representatives on the November ballot after redistricting pitted the two San Fernando Valley Democrats against each other.

The two incumbent candidates were formerly in separate districts. Now, California voters must decide which tenured official will hold the 30th District seat.

In the wake of various state and federal propositions involving redistricting, Proposition 20 was approved by voters in 2010, giving the Citizens

Redistricting Commission rights to determine California's district lines, according to Aubrey Farkas, a staff assistant for Sherman's campaign.

During the primary vote on June 5, the top-two vote-getters out of seven running in the district advanced to the Nov. 6 ballot. Berman and Sherman came out on top of the election with a combined 75 percent of the votes. Sherman came out ahead with 42.4 percent, while Berman polled 32.5 percent.

On Thursday, the congressmen debated on several hot-button issues that led to a face-to-face confrontation in an auditorium full of howling students and community members at Pierce College.

The heated confrontation arose toward the end of the debate, during a disagreement over Ber-

man's leadership on the DREAM Act.

Berman, who was standing up, said he introduced the bill to Congress and called Sherman delusional for saying otherwise.

Sherman then stood up from his seat and yelled into the microphone that Luis Gutierrez, a representative from Illinois, had introduced the bill.

Sherman then wrapped his arm around his opponent's shoulder and while staring him in the eyes said, "You want to get into this? Get out of my face!"

A Sheriff's Department deputy and the moderator intervened and pointed the congressmen to their seats.

Ben Fishel, press secretary at Sherman's campaign, said he has never seen a debate get so heated.

Besides discussing

their stance on immigration, Sherman and Berman also answered questions about student loans, another important issue to students.

Sherman enacted the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which will extend a \$2,500 tuition tax credit to qualifying students. He also enacted loan forgiveness programs for recent graduates.

Berman has been a supporter of decreasing student loan rates, as evidenced in a statement he issued after the Senate and House approved a bipartisan bill that prohibits college student loan interest from doubling.

Obamacare was also addressed during the debate. Both agreed that it was a major step forward.

Sherman has been in congress since 1997;

Berman since 1983. For the upcoming election, Berman and Sherman are standing by largely congruent platforms, but each congressman is approaching the topics from different perspectives.

"Two incumbent U.S. congressmen are forced to face each other in the upcoming election. Either way, this area will lose an experienced and senior representative in Washington," said Martin Saiz, a professor of political science at CSUN.

Many students are still deciding how they will vote with two Democratic nominees vying for the single congressional seat.

Brooke Kier, a senior English major, said she would need more time to do research before deciding which incumbent she will vote for.

Voting areas change

Democrats could claim super-majority

CHRISTINA BENNETT
DAILY SUNDIAL

The lines are drawn, the districts are set and an election is waiting. Starting this year, the next decade of Californian politics will be shaped by districts decided by a citizen committee.

Democrats have a chance to secure a supermajority in the State Senate by picking up two seats in November. The likelihood of a Democratic veto-proof majority was made possible through the redistrict-

See **BOUNDARIES**, page 4

ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIEL IVAN ORENDAIN-NECOCHEA / VISUAL EDITOR

03 WEEKS TO

Prop. 38 taxes to fund K-12

Measure forces \$10 billion to go directly to primary education

CHRISTINA COCCA
DAILY SUNDIAL

A new tax measure may raise personal income taxes for most Californians in order to fund K-12 schools, dependent on the outcome of the Nov. 6 election.

Proposition 38 will increase state personal income tax revenues from 2013 through 2024 and will allocate revenues directly to child care and preschool programs, public schools and state debt payments.

The proposition is estimated to reallocate roughly \$10 billion in total with \$6 billion to schools, \$1 billion to child care and preschool and \$3 billion for state savings on debt payments in the initial years of distribution.

Ivor Weiner, professor of special education at CSUN, said he will vote for Proposition 38 but will not vote for Proposition 30, the ballot initiative that will temporarily raise taxes to fund K-12 and public colleges but will give local school boards discretion to decide how the funds will be spent.

"With Proposition 30, money won't go directly to schools, and legislators have a way to use that money as they wish, but

with Proposition 38, the money raised through taxes will go directly to schools and gets put in a special 'lockbox' where legislators can't touch it," Weiner said.

"As a faculty member, I have to ask myself what's more important: I get cut 5 percent in my salary, but I could do the right thing and vote to send money where it's needed most," said Weiner, who has been at CSUN for 13 years. "I am going to do the right thing."

Although the money may not go directly to schools with Proposition 30, the CSU is guaranteed to lose \$250 million of its budget if it that measure does not pass.

Proposition 38 is a 12-year plan that will allocate 60 percent of revenues to K-12 schools, 30 percent to repaying state debt, and 10 percent to early childhood programs during its first four years. Thereafter, the bill will allocate 85 percent to K-12 schools and 15 percent to early childhood programs.

The measure would increase personal income tax rates on annual earnings over \$7,316 using a sliding scale from .4 percent for the lowest earners to 2.2 percent for those earning over \$2.5 million annually.

Hillary Hertzog, a professor of elementary education at CSUN, said everyone should look at how education is funded

regardless of which propositions are on the ballot.

"We need to look for a sound funding base so we don't get such incredible spikes and drop-offs of funding availability," said Hertzog, who has been teaching at CSUN for 14 years. "When we look at the outcomes of government spending, we have lost a lot of super qualified teachers, and we are not able as a teacher preparation institution to place some of our incredible graduates into teaching positions, and so many of them end up leaving the profession."

Hertzog said she likes the distribution to early childhood education but is concerned with the drop in childhood funding after 2024.

"Research tells us the more involvement we have with children at a younger age, the more academically successful they are," Hertzog said. "I am impressed they are thinking about early childhood education, but I wish it was for a longer time period."

Congressmen Howard Berman and Brad Sherman were unavailable to comment on this measure.

Voters can learn more about Proposition 38 and other measures before hitting the polls from the California's voter registration guide.



DANIELLE HALE / *Daily Sundial*

Members of the CSUN Latino/Latina Student Music Ensemble sang and played traditional Mexican music in honor of the Dia de los Muertos on Oct. 15.

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 Friday, November 9th, 2012 (2nd session)
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BOUNDARIES

Continued from page 1

ing process approved by ballot measures.

CSUN political science professor Tom Hogen-Esch said the way districts are drawn is part of the political game.

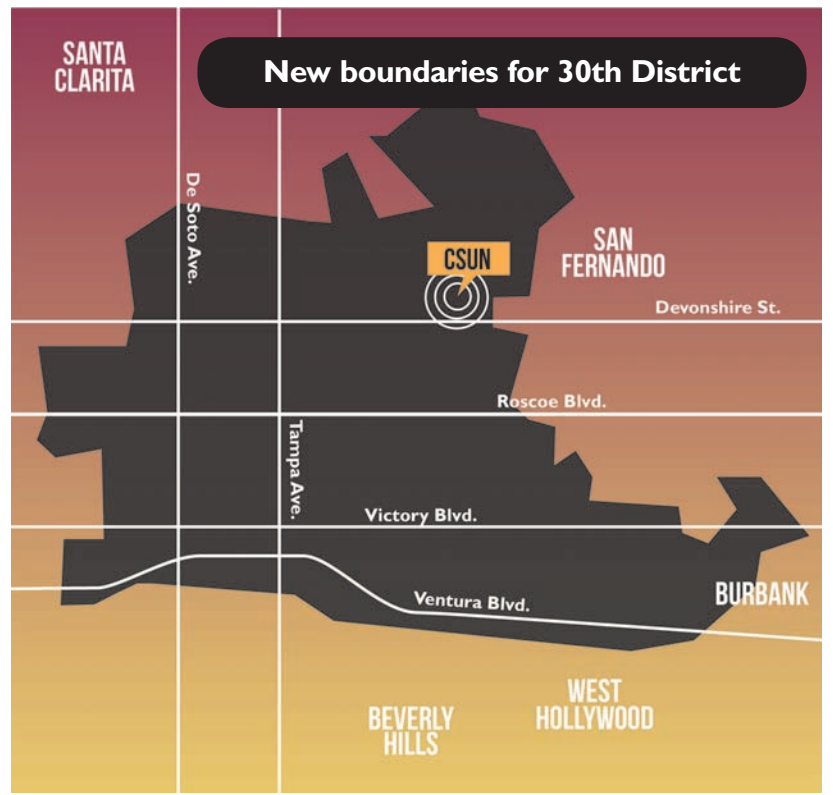
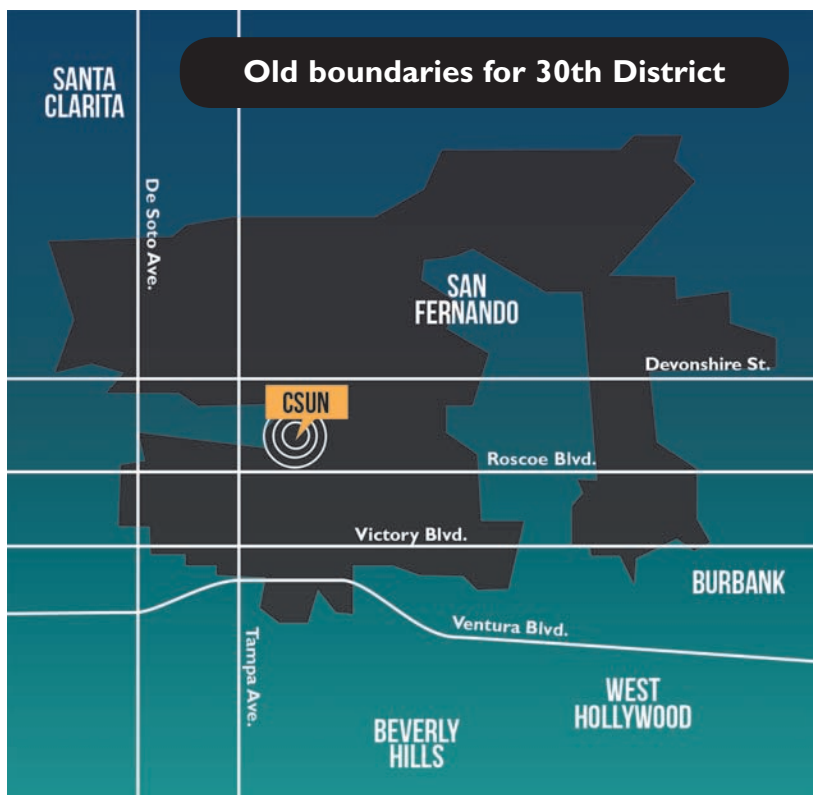
For California Republicans, crying foul over the game rules may have left them worse off this time, Hogen-Esch said.

“This is one of the ironies, because the reform was actually pushed by the Republican Party in California,” Hogen-Esch said. “Republicans thought, ‘This is a reform that’s going to benefit us,’ but it’s not because Republicans are slowly becoming a permanent minority party in California.”

Had the reform not been pushed through, Democrats would have most likely kept the status quo, Hogen-Esch said.

“So, the Republican party is now looking into the abyss. Where are they going to go if they don’t have this role to play in California?” Hogen-Esch said. “If the Democrats can get the two-thirds [majority] in the Assembly and the Senate, then the Republican party doesn’t really even have a role to play anymore.”

Registered Democrats in California comprise of 43 percent of the electorate, Republicans comprising 30 percent and independents and other small parties making up 26 percent. But Democrats dominate the legislature, holding 64 percent



MAP BY JASMINE MOCHIZUKI / PRODUCTION DESIGNER

In 2010, Proposition 20 created a redistricting commission that redrew boundaries in California for the U.S. House of Representatives.

of seats. Redrawn districts may aid them in becoming the dominant party for years to come.

Voters elected to have a citizen commission take over the redistricting process in 2008, and reaffirmed their approval two years later.

In 2010, Proposition 20 asked if the state Constitution should be amended to give the commission power to redistrict for the U.S. House of Representatives. It was passed by 61 percent of the electorate.

The redrawn congressional

districts moved many votes to unfamiliar districts, and resulted in overlap in some incumbents’ districts. Some wonder whether candidate competition will increase, or if voter confusion will result.

A prime example of incumbent competition is the race between Democratic Representatives Howard Berman and Brad Sherman, now pitted against each other in a redrawn District 30. The area covered by this district is mostly Sherman’s old territory, which

could point to the end of a long political career for Berman in California, where he was first elected to the state Assembly in 1973.

Not only will some districts have to choose between incumbents, but the new primary runoff process results in the top two primary vote-getters advancing to the general election, regardless of party affiliation. Some districts may have choices in some races from only one party, such as with the race between Berman and Sher-

man. That could leave 95,064 registered Republicans in 30th District feeling disenfranchised.

Merged districts have forced some cities into completely new territory, with one notable instance being the addition of Simi Valley to Santa Clarita’s district.

The forced exodus of Simi Valley out of one of Ventura County’s districts into Los Angeles County has caused upset amongst residents, according to the Ventura County Star.

Efforts to dispute new district maps have been argued in court several times since the maps’ passage.

Hogen-Esch commented that he does not think the Democrats will get a two-thirds veto-proof majority, so Republicans may still have the power to influence the direction of the legislation in the state.

“If they [Democrats] do get it, Republicans are going to have to change their message to become more relevant,” Hogen-Esch said.

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October 16, 2012

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POLITICIZE YOUR MIND

Obama's big yellow distraction

The president should focus on his many accomplishments instead of banking on Romney's debate comment

NATHON'S NOTES


NATHON MCMAHON
PROGRESSIVE INDEPENDENT

President Obama is doing quite a few things wrong in this campaign. The sad corner he's painted himself into looks that much worse when contrasted with comments from his 2008 DNC acceptance speech.

"If you don't have any fresh ideas, then you use stale tactics to scare voters," said Obama. "If you don't have a record to run on, then you paint your opponent as someone people should run from. You make a big election about small things. And you know what? It's worked before, because it feeds into the cynicism we all have about government."

Obama should be touting his considerable achievements from his time in office to advance his campaign: the passing and affirmation by the Supreme Court of his health care bill, the decimation of al-Qaida leadership with the successful operation against Osama bin Laden being the lynchpin, and the slow yet positive recovery of the wrecked economy he inherited from the previous bungling administration.

Instead, we get an ad featuring Sesame Street's Big Bird that takes potshots at Romney's debate remarks about cutting funding to PBS. It makes for an interesting attempt at a spin by the Obama campaign to latch onto these comments, and while it's played somewhat as parody, it degrades his message.



So, here he stands. About three weeks away from the the Nov. 6 elections, the polls are tightening up and Obama's poor debate performance has seriously handicapped his campaign.

It seems more logical and substantive to address the ridiculous notion of cutting funding to PBS to reduce the deficit by \$445 million, which is what was apportioned to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting by Congress for 2012. While that is a large number, in comparison to the \$1.2 trillion deficit for this year, it amounts to one one-hundredth of a percent in that wallowing chasm of debt. The irony of using Big Bird as an example is that most of Sesame Street's funding comes from private donations further reducing the actual amount that

gets funneled into that particular program.

The non-partisan group Sesame Workshop, which owns and produces Sesame Street, requested on their blog that neither campaign use their properties. It's a refreshing response and absurd that the Obama campaign has to be addressed in this regard.

The ad wasn't enough though. The Obama campaign stepped it up a notch of ridiculous by having costumed Big Bird volunteers stand outside of Romney campaign events.

Romney, rightfully so, has addressed the real issues. In an interview with Wolf Blitzer on CNN he pointed out the absurdity of the Obama campaign's assault in our current economic climate.

"We've got 23 million Ameri-

saving Big Bird."

When Romney starts to sound reasonable, it's probably time for the Obama campaign to take a step back and evaluate what they are adding to the noise of the election.

There is an argument to be made from both sides for what deserves cutting in our budget. That all boils down to a personal preference. PBS is important both culturally and educationally and deserves our support.

Perhaps the most interesting thing to come out of this Big Bird fiasco is a movement known as the Million Muppet March. Planned for Nov. 3, a group is planning to march at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. A coordinated, grassroots effort at bringing the importance of PBS to the forefront is a positive step in the right direction, but the Obama Campaign should latch onto other key issues and let this play out on its own.

The hope was there four years ago and the change has been gradual, but we all lose when campaigns engage in floundering in the absurd.

Obama needs to shy away from the stale rhetoric of small issues. He has the stats to back up a substantive campaign on the issues and yet he devolves into the tired gamesmanship that turns off so many voters. It reeks of desperation.

— Nathan is a disciple of Jim Henson. He is currently playing hide and seek with his own Muppet he got from F.A.O. Schwartz. Seriously.

Have an opinion? Want to share?

Whether you're a professor wanting to share an expert view or are a student who wants a venue in which to express your ideas, the Sundial may be the place for you.

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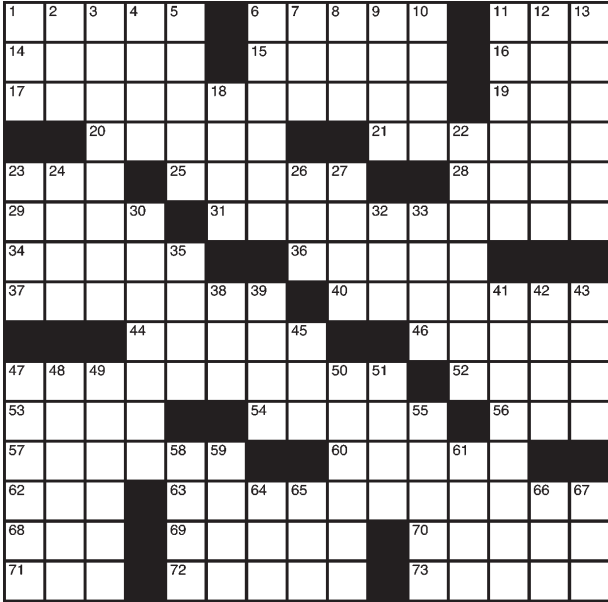
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By Marti DuGuay-Carpenter

10/16/12

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Monday's Puzzle Solved

P	A	C	E	I	G	L	O	O	C	H	I	C
E	C	O	L	S	L	I	D	E	R	A	M	A
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8	5	1	7	3	2	9	6	4
1	2	2	8	6	7	5	9	3
4	5	7	3	1	6	9	8	2
9	8	3	5	2	4	6	1	7
3	7	4	6	5	8	4	9	6
2	7	4	8	1	2	7	4	9
5	2	9	6	1	3	8	1	8

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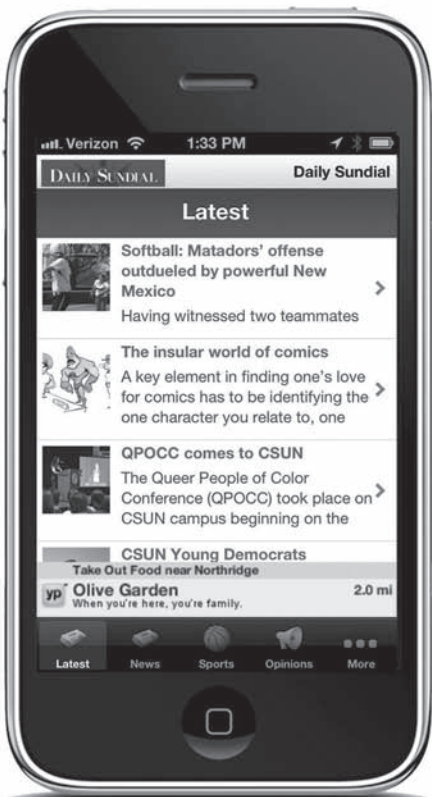
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2012 World Series Predictions: Detroit will sweep SF for title

CASEY DELICH
DAILY SUNDIAL

In what was probably the wildest divisional series ever, with all four series decided by a fifth game for the first time, picking a World Series winner seems infinitely harder.

St. Louis survived after being down 6 runs early in Game 5 and down to their last strike twice against the Washington Nationals, who led the majors in wins. San Francisco came back from a 2-0 deficit, a first in National League history, against the Cincinnati Reds, who had the second most wins in the NL.

New York gained all the momentum in Game 5 on perhaps another Jeffrey Maier Yankees-Orioles call in the playoffs, on Nate McLouth's foul ball home run, but advanced with an anemic offense. The Oakland Athletics, the MLB's Cinderella this season, failed to overcome Justin Verlander and the Detroit Tigers,

getting blown out in their decisive Game 5.

All the calls for a beltway World Series and Bay Bridge World Series can now be thrown out of the window, for neither of those are possibilities anymore.

St. Louis vs. San Francisco National League Championship Series

St. Louis just owns the post-season. They have a never-say-die attitude and more lives than all your neighborhood cats combined. For the second straight season they were down to their last strikes for playoff life, and made improbable comebacks. For this to lead to another World Series title, they must get through a San Francisco lineup that looks intimidating.

These two teams knocked off the top two in the National League, three if you count St. Louis' win over Atlanta in the wild card game, but San Francisco is leaps and bounds

beyond St. Louis.

Both teams come in with offenses that are firing on all cylinders and rotations that saw struggles in their Division Series but were lockdown during the regular season. San Francisco must rest its hopes on catcher Buster Posey and the top of their line rotation.

St. Louis is the ragtag bunch of the National League and while there are few big name players on their payroll, they can still pack a punch. San Francisco is really riding their momentum though, and it showed in Game 5 when they came out and put up a 6-spot against the Reds' vaunted rotation.

With both teams having tons of playoff experience under their belt, expect a battle of the bullpens in tight, close games. San Francisco's specialty pitchers excel in these situations and manager Bruce Bochy takes advantage of that.

Games are won and lost with the bullpen, and this series will be no different. St. Louis has a one game lead after a 6-4 win on Sunday night, exploding for an early six runs against a depleted San Francisco rotation.

Prediction- Giants in 6

New York vs. Detroit American League Championship Series

New York is living life on a thread and unless they are able to throw C.C. Sabathia out there every game against Detroit, their offense needs to pick up. By now everyone has heard the complaints about Alex Rodriguez and his dismal post-season, but it's the entire Yankees lineup that's struggling. Many of their top sluggers are batting below .250, and coming off facing a weak Baltimore rotation, Detroit's will not be easier.

Detroit has one of the toughest lineups in the American League. Facing Triple Crown winner Miguel Cabrera and Prince Fielder is a smaller modern day Murderer's Row. Follow that up with a rotation that can go against any in history with Justin Verlander and Max Scherzer, and this one seems all but



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wrapped up for Detroit.

The bullpen is important, and after seeing it nearly blow game one to the Yankees, makes this series a little harder to decide. The offense and starting pitching of Detroit is honestly too much for the Yankees to overcome, the Yankees barely scratched the surface against Doug Fister on Saturday. They are too old and overpaid to win another World Series.

Prediction- Tigers in 5

San Francisco vs. Detroit World Series

Finally a year that the American League will show the world that it is the top division again, because Texas won't be able to choke it away. The advantage of carrying an extra slugger in the designated hitter spot is too much for many National League teams to overcome. (The topic of no DH in the NL is for a later column)

This will come down to offense

and who is able to produce more against two of the top rotations. While San Francisco does have Buster Posey, who else do they have to produce behind him in a pinch? They lack the prototypical slugger in their lineup and will have to rely on the National League model of scoring runs by getting on base and smart base running. Against a flame throwing team like Detroit, that is something that will not work.

The cool night air in San Francisco will keep some of Detroit's bigger bats contained, but as we saw in the division series, Fielder and Cabrera don't have to carry the weight of the team. A Detroit team that goes into a series on fire will be something that is unstoppable.

This is Detroit's year to shine and nothing is going to stand in their way. Sneaking their way into the playoffs in the last week, overcoming Oakland and New York, San Francisco will just be a small hurdle to their second ring since 2006.

Prediction- Tigers in 4



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WOMEN'S SOCCER

Offense powers Matadors

JONATHAN ANDRADE
SPORTS EDITOR

Northridge (6-4-5, 3-1-1 Big West) headed on the road over the weekend for two Big West matchups and earned four conference points with a draw against undefeated Cal Poly and a victory over UC Santa Barbara.

Northridge pulled a comeback for the ages in Friday night's matchup at Cal Poly (8-5-2, 5-0-1) after being

down 2-0 at the half. CSUN's senior midfielder Stephanie Galarze knocked in a goal in the final minute to even up the score after freshman defender Hayley Greep started the CSUN comeback with her first goal of her Northridge career ten minutes into the second half.

CSUN found itself in an early deficit, spotting Cal poly two goals in the first five minutes, but managed to salvage a point with a scoreless overtime and the draw.

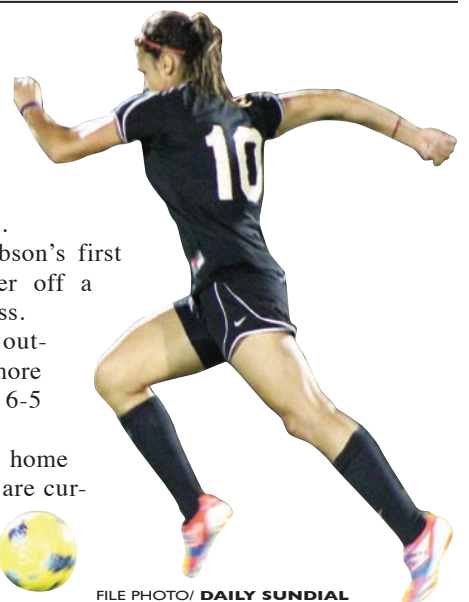
Matador freshman Taylor Hobson scored CSUN's lone goal in Sunday's

1-0 victory over a mediocre UCSB (4-10-2, 1-4-1) squad.

The goal was Hobson's first of her college career off a Chloe McDaniel's pass.

Northridge was out-shot 14-12 but put more on net, with the 6-5 advantage.

CSUN next heads home for two matches and are currently ranked No. 5 in the Big West.



FILE PHOTO/ DAILY SUNDIAL