

# SPORTS



TUESDAY  
May 5, 2009



THE SAN DIEGO  
UNION-TRIBUNE



ROCKIES 9,  
PADRES 6

**Yesterday:** Rockies catcher Chris Iannetta knocks a grand slam to give the visitors the win.

**Today:** 7:05 p.m. at Petco Park; RHP Josh Geer (0-0, 5.29) vs. Rockies' Aaron Cook (1-1, 7.11)

**On the air:** 4 San Diego, 1090-AM, 1700-AM

**Online:** For the latest Padres news, go to [padres.uniontrib.com](http://padres.uniontrib.com)

## Padres' flop matches sorry turnout

By Tom Krasovic  
STAFF WRITER

For those who croaked doom and gloom about what awaited the 2009 Padres, last night probably was a slice of what they had in mind. Only 14,717 fans showed up, the smallest crowd in Petco Park history by nearly 4,000, and they saw the team suffer its sixth consecutive defeat, 9-6 to the Rockies.

Chris Iannetta's grand slam off Padres reliever Cla Meredith erased a 6-5 lead with one out in the seventh, sending San Diego toward its 12th defeat in the past 14 games.

"We're going through a hard time right now," said Padres catcher Henry Blanco, "but guys have the right attitude. That's the most important thing. We're not down on

SEE Padres, D3



Chris Iannetta is congratulated by his Rockies teammates after hitting the go-ahead grand slam in the seventh inning at Petco Park.  
Sean M. Haffey / Union-Tribune

## Rockets outmuscle Lakers in Game 1

Yao has 28 points, grabs 10 rebounds

By Bernie Wilson  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Blood flowed, players were sprawled on the court and the Houston Rockets came into Staples Center and outmuscled Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals last night.

Yao Ming, who briefly left with a knee injury in the closing minutes, had 28 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Rockets to a physical 100-92 victory.

Ron Artest added 21 points and Aaron Brooks had 19 for the Rockets, who are in the second round for the first time since 1997.

Bryant scored 32 points, doing his best to keep the Lakers in the game despite missing practice on Sunday with a sore throat. He scored 22 of the Lakers' final 42 points.

Houston forward Shane Battier needed four stitches to close a gash over his left eye late in the first quarter.

Although the Rockets took the brunt of the hits, Yao was too much for the Lakers. The Rockets were much livelier on offense.

Game 2 is tomorrow night in Los Angeles.

Bryant drove on Yao in the key and the two collided with Yao falling to the court, grabbing his knee and grimacing in pain. After being tended to, Yao limped off the floor, began stretching his knee in the tunnel and returned to play.

"It's not an injury. I was not hurt," Yao said later. "I got hit pretty hard, but I know I am fine and need to walk around, then it will go away and I'll be able to come back to the game."

## Nick Canepa

### Strasburg's magnetism not wasted by SDSU



San Diego State blew it with Marshall Faulk. For three years, the best college football player in the

country roamed the campus and violated end zones, the scary stuff dreams and Heisman Trophies are made of. But he might as well have been playing at Lima Peru U.

Never mind that the great running back departed Heismanless, which was a joke. The university wasn't smart enough to gain from his presence and subsequent legend. Faulk never translated into winning or building a program through recruiting.

Since Faulk ran off campus following the 1993 season and headed squarely toward the Pro Football Hall of Fame, three Aztecs football teams have finished with winning records, the last coming in 1998. The name should have mattered. It didn't. The school didn't take advantage of him.

SEE Canepa, D4

PREP TUESDAY

# Exercising their options

### BY THE NUMBERS

A look at some interesting facts and figures from Scripps Ranch's busy athletic day last Thursday



**138** Games played in the Scripps-La Jolla tennis match, featuring three singles players and three doubles teams playing three sets each



**236** Pitches thrown in the Scripps-Morse baseball game



**262** Between block attempts, kill attempts and jump serves, estimated times Scripps Ranch volleyball player Sean Cardin jumped off the floor vs. Cathedral Catholic



**223** Pitches thrown in the Scripps-Christian softball game



**275** Athletes competing in the Scripps-Cathedral Catholic track and field meet

## Plenty of choices for student-athletes at Scripps Ranch High

By Don Norcross  
STAFF WRITER

At approximately 3:07 p.m. last Thursday, Scripps Ranch High junior Chris Chan tossed a tennis ball skyward, arched his back and swatted a serve.

A couple hundred yards away in a sunken-bowl setting on the school's rust-colored, synthetic track, freshman Bernard Bonner squatted into starting blocks, a baton in one hand, about to explode into the varsity 4x100 relay.

Inside the old-school, two-level gymnasium, volleyballs slammed onto the floor. Back outside on the softball dia-

mond, freshman pitcher Taylor Curran wiggled out of a first-inning jam.

And down a ramp to the baseball field, in a herky-jerky motion refined in the Dominican Republic, Scripps Ranch junior Philip Walby retired the Morse Tigers in order.

On a sun-kissed, 72-degree afternoon, with students walking about in sun dresses, shorts and flip-flops, an extraordinary number of athletic events unfolded simultaneously at Scripps Ranch. It's a scene repeated throughout the spring on dozens of high school campuses across the county.

Said Scripps Ranch Principal Kurt Madden, who has finished more than 30

**Online:** For a photo gallery of last Thursday's sports events at Scripps Ranch High, go to [albums.signonsandiego.com/Sports/Scripps-Ranch-Athletics/](http://albums.signonsandiego.com/Sports/Scripps-Ranch-Athletics/)

Ironman triathlons, "Come 2:30, what I see is just an amazing transformation that occurs between the academic setting to the athletic setting. And how our kids transfer very quickly."

### Knuckling down

After telling the visiting La Jolla High players where the nearest rest

**1** Scripps Ranch's Mia Montanile goes airborne during triple jump competition.

**2** Junior Chris Chan hits a backhand on his way to a 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 sweep against La Jolla.

**3** Junior Philip Walby delivers a pitch during an 8-1 victory over Morse High.

**4** Senior outside hitter Sean Cardin (12) spikes a shot in a dramatic 27-25, 16-25, 25-21, 22-25, 18-16 victory over Cathedral Catholic.

**5** Catcher Maggie Sevilla prepares to field a bunt against Christian High. Scripps Ranch has a 13-6 record this season.

SEE Tuesday, D2 *Nelvin C. Cepeda / Union-Tribune photos*