## Women's water polo hoping to rebound



Joel Zink | Dail
Scoring machine | Senior utility Erika Figge has scored nin
goals this season in just five games for the Women of Troy.

The Women of Troy are coming off a loss against rival UCLA last weekend.

## By ASHLEY ZELDIN

The No. 2 USC women's water polo team looks to rebound today on the road against host No. 19 Cal State Northridge in Matador Pool to open Mountain Pacific Sports Federation play.

Defense and rebounding have been icrose for the Women of

been issues for the Women of Troy (4-1).

Their hopes for an undefeated season were dashed with their 11-10 loss to No. 1 UCLA in the Stanford Invitational champion-ship Sunday. The Bruins scored the final goal after rebounding a

"We were up by three goals, and we relaxed. We thought the game was over and won, but there were was over and won, but there were four minutes to play," juinor two-meter Carolyn Conway said. "In practice we're concentrating on (defense) a lot more now. Defi-nitely there's a bigger focus than before — we need to be a lot more

The Matadors (1-1 in Division I

play) can rebound, too.
After a 13-11 loss to Cal State
Bakersfield on Sunday, Northridge came back for a resounding

14-7 thrashing of Division III's No. 2-ranked Pomona-Pitzer. Junior two-meter Allison Brookes led the Matadors against

Brookes led the Matadors against both teams, with four goals and five goals, respectively.

She leads the MPSF in scoring already, averaging 4.5 goals per game, and is 58 goals away from breaking the Cal State Northridge career record of 177.

She was an All-American Honorable Mention, with 74 goals, 27 assists and 47 steals to lead the team in scoring and place second on the team in assists and steals.

While Brookes has nine goals

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While Brookes has nine goals
this season, USC senior utility
Brittany Hayes garnered MPSF
Mikasa Co-Player of the Week
honors for her 10-goal effort at
the Stanford Invitational Tournathe Stanford Invitational Tournato the game."

## **BOUNCING BACK**

## USC vs. CSUN

Where: Matador Pool Records: USC (4-1) vs.

CSUN (1-1)
Fast fact: USC senior utility
Brittany Hayes scored 10 goals
last weekend in the Stanford
Invitational Tournament. She scored three times against No. 7 Arizona State, once against No. 3 Stanford, four times against

No. 10 San Jose State and twice in the championship against No. 2 UCLA
"I actually didn't even know until you just told me," Hayes said.
"It's pretty exciting, that's a huge
honor, but that's not my focus.
I'm not too happy about the loss
to UCLA. That's going to stick my
mind a lot longer. I have more important things to think about, like
the team sesson and not losine."

the team, season, and not losing. the team, season, and not losing."
After the two-day stretch playing twice a day, the Women of Troy had a day off of practice on Monday, to review game tapes with the coaching staff.
"Our game plan will reflect improvements on defense," USC assistant coach Marko Pintaric said.

USC cannot underestimate Cal State Northridge, which wavered between No. 18 and No. 19 last

"Our coach told us any given day, anyone can win, so we're go-ing to go out and play every game like it's our last game like it's the championship game," Conway

Not quite. The Women of Troy don't want to play each game like last year's NCAA championship, in which a UCLA goal with four seconds left pushed the close game in the Bru-

"I didn't have the best defensive game in the NCAA game last year, and I don't want to repeat that,"

to the game



