

## Welcome to the Fish Blog Archive!

**June 1, 2016**

### **NEW MEXICO LOBO SOCCER 2016 SCHEDULE RELEASED AND PROGRAM UPDATE**

Lobo Faithful,

Hope your summer is off to a great start! All good here. I wanted to pass on our 2016 schedule (just released) and some bittersweet recruiting news.

Challenging and exciting 2016 schedule for Lobo Soccer. Nice balance of home and away contests and matches against some of the top programs in the nation. Our goal is to play the best competition we can find. Need to play the best, to be the BEST. We open with three home exhibition matches, highlighted by the University of Washington on August 20th. We open the season at Notre Dame with matches against perennial powers Indiana Hoosiers and the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame. The trip to South Bend is followed by four great home matches, a single match vs Irvine on the road and then Conference-USA play begins. 8 NCAA Tournament teams and 2 former National Champions.....I like our schedule and love our team! [2016 Schedule and article](#)

Now the bittersweet recruiting news. Our 2016 signing, Ethan Zubak, has decided to forego his collegiate eligibility and has signed a professional contract with the LA Galaxy of MLS. Ethan was everything we look for in a Lobo Soccer player: high school valedictorian, US U-19 National Team and member of the LA Galaxy Academy and match experience with the LA Galaxy II of the USL. Ethan will be missed, but we will follow his success at the professional level: [Website article from golobos.com](#)

Have a wonderful summer and I will keep you updated on Lobo Soccer news. The season is right around the corner. GO LOBOS!

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**May 18, 2016**

### **UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO LOBO SOCCER: SUCCESSFUL AND PROMISING SPRING SEASON, LOBOS IN THE PROS, CALL TO NATIONAL TEAM DUTY....EXCITING TIMES AHEAD!**

Lobo Faithful:

As you can see, new format for the "Lobo Faithful". Hope this email finds you cleanly, clearly, a few added bells and whistles and void of hiccups. This platform should allow me to disseminate information more frequently and more efficiently. Let me know if you have any people you'd like to add....the Lobo Faithful numbers have climbed over the 1000 member mark! We are up and running on social media, so make sure to follow **Lobo Men's Soccer** on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). I'm gradually finding my way onto [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#) as well. A continual work in progress. The past 6 weeks have flown by and summer is right around the corner...doesn't feel like it's here just yet. The boys finished up final exams last week and everyone say's "Straight A's...if finals went as expected".....the standard answer. Pretty special group and I'm really proud of the work they put in the past 4 months. Excellence in the classroom, excellence in the community and excellence on the playing field. Our two seniors from the fall, Josh Dye and Adrian Mora Delgado, graduated in December, so no real excitement surrounding May graduation. Our winter/spring training and spring matches were extremely enjoyable and productive. Undefeated against top competition and we really developed into a unified and dynamic team. Since my last update, a successful trip to Taos (had to shovel snow off the field), a quality home showing vs UCCS and our final match date vs Denver was cancelled due to impassable conditions on the highway north. [SPRING RE-CAP ARTICLE](#)

Former players are plying their trade with professional teams around the country and world. Devon Sandoval Real Salt Lake, Oniel Fisher Seattle Sounders, Ben McKendry Vancouver Whitecaps, Justin Davis Minnesota United, Mike Green Pittsburg Riverhounds, Lance Rozeboom Ottawa Fury, Kyle Venter Ottawa Fury, Blake Smith Miami FC, Riley McGovern RSL Monarchs, Michael Reed San Antonio FC, Michael Calderon on trial in Costa Rica, Michael Kafari on trial in Costa Rica.....I'm missing a few more on trial or between teams. Make sure to have a look at Ben McKendry's game winning goal which led to Ben being named USL player of the week: [STORY](#)

Oniel Fisher was just named to the provisional 40-man roster for the Jamaica Senior National Team for this summers Copa America: [STORY](#) Matt Constant (started at UNM this past January) is traveling to Costa Rica May 20-29 with the Canadian U-20 National Team for a week long training camp and friendlies: [STORY](#) Aaron Herrera will be back in camp with the US U-20 National Team late June as the USA prepares for next summers U-20 World Cup.

I really like our group and can't wait to get the season rolling! The 2016 schedule will be released next week on [golobos.com](#) and social media. Enjoy your summer and GO LOBOS!

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**April 14, 2016**

### **UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO LOBO SOCCER: SECOND SPRING MATCH DATE IN THE BOOKS.....EXCITED**

## **ABOUT THIS TEAM!**

Lobo Faithful:

Really excited about our group! Unified, ambitious, hard-working and talented. Saturday, April 9th was our second match date of five scheduled. Per NCAA rules, we are allowed to play matches on five dates during the non-traditional segment of our calendar (winter/spring). You can play any number of games in a given 24 hour period. We are trying to play two matches per date, allowing everyone significant game minutes. So far, so good. We traveled to Denver, Colorado last Friday for two matches vs Colorado School of Mines and Creighton University. We kicked off vs Mines (not to be confused with "Mimes") at 10:00 am Saturday morning in Golden, Colorado. Mines is a top Division II program, who went far in the NCAA Tournament last year. We mutually decided to play a 45 minute abbreviated match, as both teams had a full 90 minute match scheduled for the afternoon vs fresh opponents. 2-1 win for our boys showing maturity and class coming back from an early goal against the run of play. I like our confidence and composure. The boys did well keeping focus and "being in the moment" with the 4:40 match vs Creighton University looming. Creighton was the #1 ranked Division I team in the nation at the conclusion of the 2015 regular season. Showing consistency on the day, we played extremely well vs an excellent Creighton team. 3-0 convincing win with quality play on both sides of the ball. [HERE](#) is the link to our website article with full details of both matches.

Director of Operations, Patrick Poblete, has been traveling with the team this spring and has kept the Lobo Faithful updated "to the minute" via Twitter, Snapchat, FaceBook and Periscope (everyone under the age of 30 knows all about these social media platforms). We can be accessed at "LoboMenSoccer" on all sites. We will live stream our remaining spring matches via Periscope (live on-line streaming app linked to twitter). I am a novice to social media, but Pat is really efficient. We had over 400 people watching our last game live on Periscope. Enjoy following the team the next three weekends and good luck figuring everything out if not of the digital age.

We are off to Taos, New Mexico this Friday for Saturday matches vs Fort Lewis College and Air Force. Two 70 minute matches kicking off at 10:00 am and 4:00 pm at the Taos Eco Park. This is the 6th year in a row we will make the April journey to Taos. Quite a few of the boys came down with the flu this week, so we will be battling more than our opponents.

Our media relations staff must have quite a bit of time on their hands. They just compiled a "**Best of Fish Off the Pitch**" for 2015. Pretty entertaining if you enjoy making fun of yours truly: [VIDEO](#)

Thanks for all your support and hope to see you this spring: this weekend in Taos, April 23rd at home and April 30th in Denver. **GO LOBOS!**  
*Fish*

## **March 29, 2016**

### **UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO LOBO SOCCER: EXCITED FOR SPRING MATCHES...BOYS ARE SHARP...ON BOARD WITH SOCIAL MEDIA!**

Lobo Faithful,

Lobo Men's Soccer is ready for action! 10 weeks of intensive training, 10 weeks of early mornings, sand dunes and gut wrenching weight room sessions, 10 weeks of competing against your best friends....the boys are ready to face outside competition. The next five weekends are the reward.....the chance to test and evaluate ourselves. Before I pass on our spring schedule, i'd like to share some exciting Lobo Soccer news: Thanks to our new Director of Operations, Patrick Poblete (the same Poblete with played between the pipes for the Lobos), we are now living in the 21st Century and are active on multiple levels of social media: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Google Plus and Snapchat....I have to ask my two daughters what all these things are? We can be followed under "lobomenssoccer". I'm still behind the times, but Patrick has been very active posting photos, videos and links to all articles on current and former lobo soccer players. A plethora of information to wet your lobo soccer appetite! Native New Mexican and current freshman, Aaron Herrera, just returned from a 10-day stint with the USA U-20 National Team. The U-20's played in the Dallas Cup Super Group and faced five opponents representing professional clubs from around the globe. Aaron was named "**man of the match**" for his performance Wednesday vs TSG 1889 Hoffenheim of Germany. Great defensive effort and "highlight reel" goal from Herrera: [STORY](#)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Location</b>
April 2	UNLV/Utah Valley	Las Vegas, Nevada
April 9	Creighton/Colorado School of Mines	Denver, Colorado
April 16	Air Force/Fort Lewis	Taos, New Mexico
April 23	Colorado-Colorado Springs	Albuquerque, New Mexico

April 30	Denver	Highlands Ranch, Colorado
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## [Release](#)

**Lobo Soccer Academy Summer Camps:** summer camp dates are set and we are currently accepting registrations on-line. Sessions are filling up quickly, so don't wait. Go [HERE](#) for information and registration.

I'm really excited about our team. Our three mid-year additions (Luke Lawrence, Matt Constant and Chris Lovato) have really gelled with our returners and we are playing our best soccer of the year. Catch our spring matches and get a taste for what lies ahead! Thanks for all your support and **GO LOBOS!**  
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## February 5, 2016

Lobo Faithful,

Hope your 2016 is off to a wonderful start! Lobo soccer has re-charged, re-loaded and the boys are "putting in the WORK"! Wanted to pass on quite a bit of news.... the title of this email is our #5 nationally ranked recruiting class....let me keep you waiting a little bit with additional marvelous news....the team grade point average for the fall semester was 3.44. This was our 7th consecutive semester with a team gpa of 3.40 or better. **Excellence in the classroom #1.** We graduated two seniors, [Josh Dye](#) and [Adrian Mora Delgado](#): Josh graduated UNM with a 4.07 gpa in electrical engineering and was chosen to give the undergraduate address at the School of Engineering graduation ceremony in December. He nailed it! Josh is currently pursuing his masters degree in electrical engineering here at UNM and is also working at Sandia Labs. Adrian graduated with a 3.9 gpa in Civil Engineering and got an excellent job locally with Chavez-Grievess Consulting Engineers. Pretty incredible gpa considering that english is Adrian's second language (from Costa Rica). An engineering degree is challenging enough. Really proud of these two and wonderful keeping them in our community!

As for our recruiting class, couldn't be happier. 6 dynamic young men who will be excellent representatives of our University, the City of Albuquerque and the state of New Mexico. All excellent students, with incredible values and can "play a bit of soccer". Two New Mexicans, two with US National Team experience and two more who may be even better! Being ranked as the #5 class in the country is icing on the cake! Three of the boys started at UNM this semester and have three weeks of training under their belts already. Impressive! Have a look at the full release with pictures and player information: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2016/2/1/MSOC\\_0201161313.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2016/2/1/MSOC_0201161313.aspx)

We also taped yesterdays press conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rROdUvNB6IQ>

If you haven't had a look around our men's soccer homepage recently, please take a close look at the most recent articles ([Justin Davis](#) 2009 named to the *NASL "Best 11"* for the second consecutive year, current Lobo [Aaron Herrera](#) selected to the *US U-20 National Team* January training camp, [Oniel Fisher](#) 2014 named as *"one of the top young players in the MLS"*, pictures of our recent early morning foothill run and more): <http://www.golobos.com/index.aspx?path=msoc>

Really excited for what lies ahead and *enjoying every moment of the present*. Can't thank you enough for all your support. **GO LOBOS!**

FISH

## December 15, 2015

Lobo Faithful:

Struggling/challenged to put the 2015 University of New Mexico Lobo Men's Soccer season into perspective....to rest. Last Friday, the day of the NCAA semi-finals, I attended the School of

Engineering graduation ceremonies at 3:00 pm. Clemson played Syracuse at 4:00 pm in the first semi-final. Our two seniors, Josh Dye (Electrical Engineering) and Adrian Mora Delgado (Civil Engineering), both graduated Summa Cum Laude (3.9 gpa and above). Stanford played Akron at 8:00 pm in the second semi-final. Josh was chosen to give the undergraduate address at the School of Engineering graduation ceremony. 3:00 minutes was the allocated duration per the Dean. I didn't time it, but the speech was eloquent and pretty close to 3:00 minutes. Both semi-finals went to double overtime: 110:00 minutes each. Adrian tore his ACL 10 days ago. The injury occurred in the last 10 minutes of his last practice as a Lobo. The team voluntarily trained on their own the final week of classes (last match two weeks prior) and both Adrian and Josh played to the end. This was Adrian's second ACL tear at UNM (right and left leg). Clemson and Stanford advanced to the NCAA Final by way of penalty kicks. Adrian was offered and accepted an engineering position with a local firm, Chavez-Grieves. Adrian graduated with a 3.9 gpa and struggled with English when he arrived from Costa Rica 4.5 years ago. His first day of work is February 1st. Josh begins classes for a masters degree in Electrical Engineering on January 19th. He will also intern at Sandia Labs. Josh is getting married in May.

The past four weeks have been self-inflicted torture. "Why are you doing this to yourself" was all my wife could say in response to sporadic profanity laced outbursts as I followed every game of the NCAA Tournament....watching snippets of as many games as I could sneak in (had to hide the computer from my wife and kids as I followed various live streams from around the country). I punished myself till the bitter end, watching the Championship match Sunday afternoon in a near-empty pizza joint with my hat pulled down low. We played in the NCAA Final Four in 2013....24 months ago. We lost to South Carolina in the Conference tournament four weeks ago and didn't receive an at-large bid to this years NCAA Tournament. The 2015 season is now officially over. Move on....focus on the positives.....deep breaths.....relax....be present...love your children....you are fortunate....enjoy every day....easier said than done....the life of a coach.

Our players are wonderful! Impressive young men, who are tremendous students and passionate about representing our community. They understand and embrace the responsibility of being role-models and the work required to achieve lofty expectations (personal and public). Our players come to New Mexico to compete for Championships. The bar is set high in terms of results and this year was very average. The individual feedback I received in our post-season meetings was mature, introspective, humbling and painful. Everyone held themselves accountable, pinpointed areas necessary for improvement and expressed excitement for the challenges ahead. **What a unique opportunity collegiate athletics provides: learn from your experiences, make adjustments, grow as a team, love your teammates, improve daily and put in the HARD WORK. Results to follow.**

Josh Dye named 1st Team Academic All-America: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/11/23/MSOC\\_1123154831.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/11/23/MSOC_1123154831.aspx)

Dye, Beaulieu and Wehan named to Conference-USA All-Academic Team: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/11/10/MSOC\\_1110151928.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/11/10/MSOC_1110151928.aspx)

UNM lands 7 on All Conference-USA Teams: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/11/10/MSOC\\_1110151404.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/11/10/MSOC_1110151404.aspx)

Wehan and Gurule receive NSCAA All-Region Honors: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/12/9/MSOC\\_1209151722.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/12/9/MSOC_1209151722.aspx)

Thanks for your never-ending support this season and every season. It is an honor and privilege to coach and play soccer at the University of New Mexico. Have a wonderful holiday season, with an exhilarating 2016 ahead!

Jeremy Fishbein

**November 9, 2015**

Lobo Faithful:

Win or "Season Over" Friday night. The boys came through with a complete performance vs Florida Atlantic and booked our ticket to the Conference-USA Tournament in Charlotte, NC. Friday night was a very special night. We celebrated the tremendous careers of our two seniors; Josh Dye and Adrian Mora Delgado and also remembered the impact Stu Walker (our friend and longtime PA announcer) had on Lobo Soccer. A night filled with wide ranging emotions. I was really happy with our play on both sides of the ball. 3 goals and a clean sheet: 3-0 victory and we are finding our form....at the right time....hitting our peak come playoff time. Ready for the next one! Lobos vs FAU (wait 15 seconds for video link to appear): [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/11/6/MSOC\\_1106154518.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/11/6/MSOC_1106154518.aspx)

We had four alumni in town for our final regular season match. Nick Miele, Patrick Poblete and Ben McKendry from last years squad and Norwegian Lars Loseth (2005-2007) all made the trip to Albuquerque. As a coach, you feel really good when you see the quality of young men we have helped guide. I'm really proud of our players and the role they play in the community. Tremendous role models.

**We open Conference-USA Tournament play Wednesday at 4:30 EST vs the University of South Carolina.** This is going to be a great one. It was a tight match on the road in late September and we came out on the short end in overtime. Can't wait to kick this one off! We are healthy, confident and excited. One game at a time. Championship Central: <http://www.conferenceusa.com/championships/m-soccer-championship-15.html>

We shot the final regular season episode of "Fish Off the Pitch" today with elusive guest, Coach Paul Souders. The final product should be up and running tomorrow. Here's the link: [http://golobos.com/news/2015/11/9/MSOC\\_1109151455.aspx](http://golobos.com/news/2015/11/9/MSOC_1109151455.aspx)

Thanks for all your support and look forward to reporting back with good news next week. **GO LOBOS!**

*FISH*

**November 4, 2015**

Lobo Faithful:

Final regular season match this Friday night vs Florida Atlantic University at the Lobo Soccer Complex. This is a big one. We need to win, in order to book our tickets to the

Conference-USA Tournament. No tomorrow! Our two seniors, [Josh Dye](#) and [Adrian Mora Delgado](#), will be recognized prior to the 7:00 pm kickoff. Adrian and Josh will graduate next month with Engineering degrees (gpa's of 3.9 and 4.07). Bright future ahead for both and their leadership and quality will be missed.

A great friend of Lobo Soccer passed away Monday. Stu Walker has been the voice of Lobo Soccer for as long as I can remember. Stu announced the vast majority of our home matches and was an avid supporter. He fought cancer for several years and passed away peacefully. Stu Walker will always be a part of our program and his voice will continue to be heard at all Lobo

matches: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/11/2/GEN\\_1102152931.aspx?path=general](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/11/2/GEN_1102152931.aspx?path=general)

Tough week for the team. We dropped a tough one to #25 UNC Charlotte last Tuesday and tied #28 FIU on the road Saturday night...Five Conference USA teams currently ranked in the "Top 30" and the Lobos "Top 40". We're focussing on Friday nights game. We have a team capable of winning every match....need to do it now!

We all are leaning a great deal about ourselves this season. Tough lessons, but as I told the boys, you will be faced with much more challenging situations throughout your adult lives. How you deal with stress and hard times determines your eventual success and happiness. I was really proud of the teams unity and desire vs Florida International. Challenging road trip to Miami to face an excellent veteran team. Lobo Soccer is used to winning.....we expect to win every match and dealing with losses isn't in our DNA. We continue to struggle against mature, physical, direct teams. We have to "earn the right" to play technical, attractive soccer. Win the battles, match the intensity and then get the ball on the ground, connect passes and enjoy playing.

## ***LOBOS VS FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 7:00 PM LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX***

Just finished filming this weeks episode of "Fish Off the Pitch" with guest, senior [Josh Dye](#).....a man of few

words: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/11/3/MSOC\\_1103150456.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/11/3/MSOC_1103150456.aspx)

Thanks for all your support and see you Friday night. **GO LOBOS!**

*FISH*

**October 21, 2015**

Lobo Faithful:

Learn from the past, enjoy every moment we spend together and intelligently and methodically prepare for our next challenge....the boys are coming off a "character building" win, quality and focused in training this week and ready for Friday night vs Marshall University. I'm a week behind with my "Lobo Faithful" email. Please allow me a "mulligan" on this one. I was busy playing handball off the curb, crawling under ants.....I was low....frustrated with myself and wanting more for our players. I'm recharged, I've "smelled the roses" and back on track. Our challenge is to embrace the matches which require grit, fight, maturity, direct play and scrapping for second balls. We have this

vision (naive at times) of beautiful, skillful soccer...connecting passes, combination play, playing out of the back, overlapping runs from fullbacks, interchange amongst our front four.....sounds great in theory, but the majority of teams play with a different set of standards....compact in the back, highly organized, embrace the fight, play into channels, big balls into the target, fight for second balls, break up the rhythm of the game...we need to be able to play skillful, attacking soccer and match the physical nature of our opponents. I like where we are today. We've learned and matured from the ups and downs of the past three weeks. Proud of our reaction and excited for Friday nights match in Wild West Virginia.

Sunday night's 3-2 thriller over UAB was fun for the fans, gut-wrenching from the sidelines. Without re-living the experience, an explosive come from behind victory and a sign of exciting times ahead: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/10/18/MSOC\\_1018152740.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/10/18/MSOC_1018152740.aspx)

For his efforts, freshman Francesco Casucci was named Conference-USA Offensive Player of the Week: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/10/19/MSOC\\_1019154008.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/10/19/MSOC_1019154008.aspx)

With a week off due to a studio labor dispute, We shot "Fish off the Pitch" with guest Chris Gurule yesterday afternoon. Here you go: [http://golobos.com/news/2015/10/21/MSOC\\_1021154331.aspx](http://golobos.com/news/2015/10/21/MSOC_1021154331.aspx)

Big one on the road this Friday vs Marshall and back home Tuesday night at 7:00 pm vs UNC Charlotte. Hope to see everyone in the stands bringing our team energy! Thanks for your incredible support. **GO LOBOS!**

*FISH*

**October 13, 2015**

Lobo Faithful:

***Big home match tomorrow night for the Lobos.*** Need your energy! 4 of the last 6 regular season matches at home and it's coming....the goals are coming! We are still in charge of our own destiny and need to get back to "winning ways". I will give my thoughts on last weekends tough trip to #11 Old Dominion: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/10/10/MSOC\\_1010155147.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/10/10/MSOC_1010155147.aspx) and the re-cap of tomorrow nights match later this week. Sorry for the brevity of this one...hard to put all my thoughts down on paper and a short week. Need to be focussed on what's ahead....can't look back.

***Non-conference foe***

***Valparaiso tomorrow:*** [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/10/13/MSOC\\_1013153508.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/10/13/MSOC_1013153508.aspx) with **Conference USA opponent, UAB, Sunday night 6:00 pm at home.** We have a wonderful group of players and exciting soccer ahead of us!

***LOBOS VS VALPARAISO: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14TH, 7:00 PM LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX***

We didn't film "Fish Off the Pitch" this week, but will resume production next Monday. Thanks for all your support and see you tomorrow night!

*FISH*

**October 9, 2015**

Lobo Faithful:

Procrastination is the root of all evil....so says my wife! Not a fun email to write (I've waited until the last moment), but some bright spots...lots of bright spots, excitement, opportunity and pride. We all experienced one of the "lows of this game we love" Sunday night. Not a great performance from our team, but good enough to win the game or at the least, come away with a tie. 0-0 after regulation and with 1:26 left in the second overtime period, we gave away a scrappy goal to a well disciplined and organized Kentucky team. Tough one to walk away from and two sleepless nights followed. Time to move on...here you go: Lobos vs

Kentucky: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/10/4/MSOC\\_1004150748.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/10/4/MSOC_1004150748.aspx)

One of our bright spots, **Aaron Herrera, freshman defender from Las Cruces, NM was called into the US U-20 National Team** this week for an 8-day trip to Germany (October 8-15th). Matches vs national teams from Germany, Scotland and Mexico. Aaron will miss our match this weekend vs Old Dominion, but an honor and opportunity too good to pass up. This is the price we pay for having talented players. [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/10/6/MSOC\\_1006150655.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/10/6/MSOC_1006150655.aspx)

We shot a very somber episode of "Fish Off the Pitch" on

Monday: [http://golobos.com/news/2015/10/6/MSOC\\_1006153534.aspx](http://golobos.com/news/2015/10/6/MSOC_1006153534.aspx)

Off to Norfolk, Virginia tomorrow to **face the #11 ranked Old Dominion Monarchs**. What a great test for our team and a chance to get on a roll. [We've challenged the boys, have confidence in them and can't wait to kick it off Saturday night at 7:00](#). I like our commitment and competitiveness. [Look forward to seeing everyone back at home Wednesday night at 7:00 when we face Valparaiso University in our final non-conference match](#). **GO LOBOS!**

**FISH**

**October 2, 2015**

Lobo Faithful:

For the impatient few who've decided to not show up to Lobo Soccer games until the second half, we finally gave you reason to find your seats for kickoff. The boys found their form early vs the University of San Francisco Wednesday night. Our attack delivered what we all were looking for...first half fireworks and fewer stressful moments down the stretch. Three first half goals from Chris Wehan, Simon Spangenberg and Josh Goss paved the way to an enjoyable and entertaining evening. Wonderful to see Olav Hovstad, Gabriel Camera, Justin Hix and Jimmy Schneebeck see their first minutes of the season. Simon's finish was "goal of the week" quality! Great way to enter this weekend's home Conference USA match vs Kentucky.

Lobos vs San Francisco highlights and

article: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/30/MSOC\\_0930154358.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/30/MSOC_0930154358.aspx)

## **LOBOS VS KENTUCKY WILDCATS: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 6:00 PM LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX**

Looking forward to seeing ***packed stands Sunday night at 6:00 pm.*** You provide us with energy. Thanks for all your support. **GO LOBOS!**

*FISH*

**September 29, 2015**

Lobo Faithful:

Arduous trip south...not Las Cruces, New Mexico, South Carolina south! We opened Conference USA play Fridaynight at the "Graveyard" on the campus of the University of South Carolina. Tough trip! Coming off five consecutive wins, the team was in a great place entering Conference USA play. We still have two non-conference mid-week games, with the first this Wednesday night vs the University of San Francisco. There is no easy route to Columbia, South Carolina. We departed the Albuquerque Sunport at 8:00 am and arrived late afternoon. Couldn't find a good connection, so we got to explore our country's busiest airport, Atlanta International. Short training session indoors on the campus of USC, dinner, quick scouting report and off to bed. All good. We kept to our time zone and had breakfast at 10:30 am Friday, finished the scout and went for a quick kick-a-round at a nearby field. A few hours of down time, pre-game at 3:30 and off to the "Graveyard" at 5:00. The stadium is nicknamed the "Graveyard", because it sits right next to a small cemetery in the middle of campus. After two days of rain, the skies cleared and conditions were excellent for our match. The pre-game was timed to the minute to accommodate the televised broadcast. We opened well, but two and a half minutes in, our left sided flank players thought the ball went out of bounds, failed to react and the USC winger glided past both and served a near post ball...0-1 less than three minutes in. Not the way to start. To the team's credit, we adjusted, got control of the match and played extremely well for the next 82 minutes. We couldn't find the net and USC dropped their back line and played for the counter. Attack after attack and finally in the 85th minute, Wehan found an opening and was taken down in the box. Chris slotted the PK to even the score and we confidently entered overtime. We had the better of play in the first OT...the first eight minutes. A harmless shot from outside our goal and GK Beaulieu routinely came off his line to scoop up the shot...not sure if Jason took his eye off the ball, funny bounce...but a once in a lifetime mistake came at the wrong time. The ball trickled into our net and the Gamecocks celebrated. Tough way to lose a game, but we created our own problems. We need to open matches like we have been finishing them. A valuable, but painful lesson as mid-season approaches. We will learn, rebound and be better as a result. You need to focus for 90 minutes...take a second off and bad things can happen!

Lobos vs South Carolina: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/25/MSOC\\_0925155952.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/25/MSOC_0925155952.aspx)

**Big game vs non-conference foe, University of San Francisco, this Wednesday night at 7:00 pm. We need everyone in the stands bringing energy to the boys!**

**LOBOS VS UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
DONS: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH, 7:00 PM, LOBO  
SOCCER COMPLEX**

For the fourth consecutive year and the 12th time in the past 13 years, **Lobo Men's Soccer has received the prestigious NSCAA Team Academic Award**. Our team gpa for 2014-2015 was 3.44 and a great deal of the credit goes to Associate Head Coach Paul Souders. The players are great students and take tremendous pride in their studies. Paul provides the structure and keeps everyone on track.....he even writes a few papers, takes some on-line tests....sits in on classes in disguise....bakes cookies for teachers....takes the GMAT, LSAT....Lobo Men's Soccer Receives NSCAA Team Academic Award: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/23/MSOC\\_0923154216.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/23/MSOC_0923154216.aspx)

We pulled off filming "**Fish Off The Pitch**" Monday afternoon with dignified guest Sam Gleadle (the English Gentleman). They killed me with the outtakes at the end of the segment...see the last 30 seconds on the timer: [http://golobos.com/news/2015/9/28/MSOC\\_0928155715.aspx](http://golobos.com/news/2015/9/28/MSOC_0928155715.aspx)

If you haven't joined the **Lobo Men's Soccer Booster Club, The Golden Goal Club**, now's the time. We need your support. 100% of membership dollars go directly to our program. Golden Goal Club

Brochure: [http://sidearm.sites.s3.amazonaws.com/unm.sidearmsports.com/documents/2015/7/28/2015\\_GGC\\_Brochure\\_Final.pdf](http://sidearm.sites.s3.amazonaws.com/unm.sidearmsports.com/documents/2015/7/28/2015_GGC_Brochure_Final.pdf)

We look forward to seeing everyone Wednesday night. Your support energizes our team..... **GO LOBOS!**

*FISH*

## **September 23, 2015**

Lobo Faithful:

Short week for all of us. Two challenging home games last weekend at the TLC Plumbing and Utility Invitational.....off to South Carolina this Thursday for our Conference USA opener vs South Carolina Friday night (USC coming off big wins over UAB and #8 Elon). No rest for the weary! I'm going to make this short and sweet....maybe throw in a few spicy tidbits. Coming off a great road trip to California, the boys were upbeat, but fatigued from heat, travel and intense matches. The key to our week was to physically and mentally recover, get everyone healthy and prepare for two opponents with unique challenges. Missouri State is one of the hardest working and defensively motivated teams in the country. Coming into the weekend, the Bears had only conceded two goals in their previous matches. Tough team to break down. American University came into the weekend with a record of 5-1, #21 national ranking and one of the highest scoring attacks in the country. Very offensive, with mature, explosive attacking players. Big weekend for the Lobos!

### **LOBOS VS MISSOURI STATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 18TH, 2015: 7:00 PM LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX**

2500 in the stands Friday night for a challenging match. We knew this was going to be a tough one. Missouri State would look to defend deep, stay compact and look for counter attacks and set pieces. They were better than expected and displayed some excellent attacking qualities, as well as the expected defensive stinginess. We played well the first half, but couldn't figure out how to effectively break down the well organized defense. We saw the majority of the ball and created decent chances, but couldn't find the net. 0-0 at the half. We opened the second half well, but failed to convert some early chances. 19 minutes in, some great attacking play found freshman, Aaron Herrera, on the right flank outside the 18 yard box. Herrera played a great ball across the box to an incoming Niko Hansen. Hansen's first goal of the season and an important one. 1-0 Lobos and the score held with GK Jason Beaulieu challenged to make only one save on the night. A mature, well managed game and the shutout.

Lobos vs Missouri State recap: [http://golobos.com/news/2015/9/18/MSOC\\_0918154656.aspx](http://golobos.com/news/2015/9/18/MSOC_0918154656.aspx)

## **LOBOS VS #21 AMERICAN UNIVERSITY: SUNDAY, AUGUST 20TH: 6:00 PM LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX**

American defeated LMU Friday night in the opening match of the TLC Invitational, so this game between two nationally ranked opponents would be for the Tournament Championship. American is an excellent attacking team. 4-3-3 tactically, with dangerous wingers and an excellent target. 5-1-0 coming into our match and highly motivated. A good Sunday crowd of 2000+ to support our team. The keys for us to be successful, were to be good in possession, not allow transition behind our flank defenders in attack and to not allow set pieces in our half. For the opening 45 minutes of the match, we did everything we shouldn't have. Fouls in our half, poor possession, give-a-ways by our defenders....a nightmare. We were finally punished in the 40th minute. 0-1 heading into halftime and a very disappointing performance the opening 45 minutes. At halftime, we made a few changes and challenged our team. A very proud group and everyone very confident. We came out a different team. We played quickly, got numbers into the attack, defended intelligently and carried the play. This being said, with 7 minutes left in the match, we were down 0-1. The 84th minute things changed. Francesco Casucci played a crafty entry ball to Niko Hansen and Niko deftly flicked the ball around an American defender and hit a big time volley far post to even the match 1-1. Regulation saw the score stand and we confidently entered overtime. 7 minutes in, a far post corner from Josh Goss found Casucci all alone on the back post for the one-time tap in. 2-1 Lobos the final. A very exciting match vs a quality opponent. Good second half...poor first half. Not a good trend to develop. Proud of the teams resiliency and composure. Our challenge is to open the way we have been finishing.

Lobos vs #21 American recap: [http://golobos.com/news/2015/9/20/MSOC\\_0920150757.aspx](http://golobos.com/news/2015/9/20/MSOC_0920150757.aspx)

For their efforts over the weekend, central defender Nick Rochowski and Niko Hansen were named the TLC Invitational offensive and defensive MVP's and also were recognized by **Conference USA as players of the week**. [http://golobos.com/news/2015/9/21/MSOC\\_0921154431.aspx](http://golobos.com/news/2015/9/21/MSOC_0921154431.aspx)

Niko Hansen was the guest on this weeks episode of **"Fish Off the Pitch"**: [http://golobos.com/news/2015/9/21/MSOC\\_0921152701.aspx](http://golobos.com/news/2015/9/21/MSOC_0921152701.aspx)

We are excited to open Conference USA play this weekend in South Carolina vs the University of South Carolina Friday night. Thanks for all your support and **GO LOBOS!**

*FISH*

### **September 16, 2015**

Lobo Faithful:

Short week for Lobo Soccer. We departed last Thursday for our second trip to Southern California and returned Monday early afternoon. Long trip and challenging matches. Friday night we faced our long time nemesis, the Matadors of Cal State Northridge and the #19 ranked LMU Lions were our foe on Sunday. 4 of our 5 opponents have been ranked in the national "Top 20" when we faced them. I like the schedule! I can't say enough about our team; the camaraderie, the drive, the work ethic and how much the players care about each other. A true pleasure to coach. A lot goes into travel and I'm proud of how the players represent themselves and the program. A well-oiled machine. We travel in coat and tie and the boys do a wonderful job representing our University, Albuquerque and the State of New Mexico. Enough fluff...lets get down to business.

**LOBOS VS CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 7:00 PM:**

Northridge is a team we love to play. Very skillful, attack minded and a team who wants to play out of the back and connect passes. Big promotion for our match and great crowd appreciative of attractive soccer. We came out strong and had the better of play. I really liked our energy and we did everything but find the net. We were very disciplined with our shape and limited costly fouls....didn't want to gift needless set pieces to CSUN. We went into the intermission 0-0, but liked our chances. The second half was a continuation of the first stanza. Quality play, good chances, but no finished product. The longer the game went on, the more uncertainty on who would get the kind bounces. After 90 minutes, 0-0 with the Lobos seeing the better of things, but nothing to show for it. We felt good entering the first 10 minute overtime. Early on, a CSUN player picked up his second yellow card for a reckless tackle and we found ourselves up a man. We picked up the pace and five minutes in, [Niko Hansen](#) found the ball on the left flank. He deftly beat two defenders and found his way into the box...the third defender chased from a bad starting position and made contact from behind. The official pointed to the penalty spot and [Chris Wehan](#) stepped up to take the potential game winning shot. Wehan had scored our previous four goals, so why not make it an even five. Well hit shot to the keepers right. 1-0 Lobos and our second win in a row over a quality Northridge team.

Recap: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/11/MSOC\\_0911154246.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/11/MSOC_0911154246.aspx)

### **LOBOS VS #19 LOYOLA MARYMOUNT: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 4:00 PM:**

LMU entered our match with a record of 5-0-0 and a #19 national ranking. A very skilled, attacking team with excellent individuals and a collective mentality. This was going to be a great test. Our fourth ranked opponent in five games. We weren't thrilled with the 4:00 kickoff and the associated heat. We came out poised and energized. We got ahold of the game early and played like a confident team. 14 minutes in, a miss-placed pass, 50/50 ball, crazy bounce and a tremendous finish....0-1 LMU. The rest of the half was played primarily in the midfield and we went into halftime down a goal. The boys were confident and excited to get back at it for the final 45 minutes. We created chances and played some great stuff, but failed to find the mark for the first 29 minutes of the second half. We were awarded a direct kick about 40 yards out. Ball into the box and cleared out to [Chris Gurule](#) on the right flank. Gurule played a ball across the box (still to be determined whether a shot or cross?) and found Nick Rochowski alone on the far post for the 74th minute tap in. 1-1 and Rochowski the first Lobo not named Wehan to find the net on the season. We began to find our rhythm. We were awarded another direct kick in the 76th minute, 30 yards out. Goss and Wehan stood behind the ball with Goss dummied the left footed shot and Wehan taking his chance with his right. Wehan aka Phil Niekro (baseball trivia for you) hit the ball dead center and it jumped around like a crazed firework. The LMU keeper was frozen in his tracks trying to track the ball with its dizzying movement. Back of the net. 2-1 Lobos and the score held. Wehan with his 6th goal of the season and third consecutive game winner. Three wins in a row and the boys playing some wonderful soccer.

Recap: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/13/MSOC\\_0913152001.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/13/MSOC_0913152001.aspx)

For their efforts, [Chris Wehan](#) and keeper, [Jason Beaulieu](#) named Conference USA Offensive and Defensive Players of the Week (both for the second time this season): [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/14/MSOC\\_0914153836.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/14/MSOC_0914153836.aspx)

Week two of **"Fish Off The Pitch"** up and running with special guest Francesco Casucci: [http://golobos.com/news/2015/9/15/MSOC\\_0915154418.aspx](http://golobos.com/news/2015/9/15/MSOC_0915154418.aspx)

I can't say enough about this team. Extremely unified and driven to achieve more. Our success has been the result of 27 players working for each other and making one another better! Excited for our next match this Friday night vs. Missouri State at the TLC Plumbing and Utility Invitational and Sunday's match vs. 5-1-0 American University. Two great tests.

## **TLC PLUMBING AND UTILITY INVITATIONAL AT THE LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX:**

**-FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH 7:00 PM: LOBOS VS MISSOURI STATE**

**-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH 6:00 PM: LOBOS VS AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**

Thanks for all your support and see you this weekend. We are playing for you! **GO LOBOS.**

*FISH*

**September 9, 2015**

Lobo Faithful:

The friendly confines of the Lobo Soccer Complex welcomed two "top 20" opponents to the *Grange & Ashwell Memorial Invitational* this past weekend. Excited to be back home after opening the season at #1 UCLA on the left coast. #18 University of San Diego our opponent Friday night and #13 University of California at Santa Barbara Sunday's foe. Both teams undefeated on the year and looking for revenge after recent losses to the Lobos (2014 USD and 2013 UCSB). We had an excellent week of training leading into the weekend and confidence was high. Really unified group of Lobos.

### **LOBOS VS #18 SAN DIEGO TOREROS: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2015 7:00 PM**

San Diego came into Friday nights match with a record of 2-0-0, a #18 national ranking and convincing 3-0 victories over #8 Cal and UC Riverside. A very mature team, with six senior starters. This is USD's year! Overcast skies, light rain and 1800 Lobo Faithful braved the elements for our season home opener. We came out on fire. The first 30 minutes of the match was some of the best soccer we've played. The team did everything possible, but put the ball in the back of the net. Entertaining and frustrating...sweet and sour. In the 32nd minute, we gave up a corner kick against the run of play and failed to mark properly on the far post. Back post ball and excellent finish. Domination to trailing by a goal in a matter of seconds. 0-1 USD. No significant chances the rest of the half and we went into intermission down a goal. We came out strong for the second half and created several chances early. 20 minutes in, we were awarded a direct kick 25 yards out. [Chris Wehan](#) launched a rocket to the keepers upper right corner to even the score 1-1. We continued to attack and Wehan found his second five minutes later. 2-1 Lobos. Things were looking good. In the 81st minute, USD's right winger got loose on the flank and played a driven ball into the box. We lost our marks and a diving header found its way past [Jason Beaulieu](#). 2-2. Several more exciting chances from both sides and after 20 minutes of overtime, the score remained 2-2. A disappointing draw after holding the lead late in regulation. Recap and great footage of Wehan's brace: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/4/MSOC\\_0904152812.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/4/MSOC_0904152812.aspx)

### **LOBOS VS #13 UCSB GAUCHOS: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2015 6:00 PM**

UCSB opened the season with a quality win over #4 Stanford and a disappointing 2-2 draw with Denver on Friday. One of the most talented and physically imposing teams I've seen in a while. A blend of skill and athleticism. Another great test, our third straight "top 20" opponent. 1800+ in the stands on a Labor Day Weekend Sunday night and the energy levels were high. Unlike Friday night, we opened the match poorly. We were slow to the ball and seemed unwilling to fight the necessary physical battles. UCSB looked good...really good! Wonderful individual effort in the 22nd minute and we found ourselves trailing 0-1 early. Didn't look great at this point. To our boys credit, we battled back and created chances of our own in the remaining 23 minutes. The statistics were pretty even at the conclusion of the half, but we trailed by a goal. We challenged the team at halftime and the response was first rate. We played with renewed energy, confidence and began to

win the small battles. The tide had turned. First to balls, winning tackles, great movement off the ball...a re-energized group. 20 minutes in, a slipped ball by Goss to Wehan in the box and top shelf left footed blast to even the score 1-1. We began to really find our form. In the 86th minute, Dorsey to Wehan for a clinically placed shot low to the GK's right. Wehan's fourth goal of the weekend and it held. 2-1 Lobos in one of the most exciting matches played at the Lobo Soccer Complex.

Lobo Soccer is all about big wins over ranked opponents in front of our supporters!

Recap: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/6/MSOC\\_0906151206.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/6/MSOC_0906151206.aspx)

For his efforts, **Chris Wehan** was named *National Player of the Week* by the NSCAA, Top Drawer Soccer and College Soccer News: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/8/MSOC\\_0908152014.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/9/8/MSOC_0908152014.aspx)

A well deserved honor for a special weekend. **Yuri Domiciano** and **Sam Gleadle** will be back training this week and our form will continue to improve. Exciting times ahead. We depart for Southern California Thursday for matches vs. Cal State Northridge and 4-0-0 #20 Loyola Marymount this weekend. No rest for the weary! Excited to play two more challenging opponents.

We shot the season's first episode of "*Fish Off the Pitch*" this week with special guest **Chris Wehan**. New host, new studio...here you go: [http://golobos.com/news/2015/9/8/MSOC\\_0908153224.aspx](http://golobos.com/news/2015/9/8/MSOC_0908153224.aspx)

Thanks for all your support and the energy you provide. See you back at home September 18-20 for the TLC Invitational. **GO LOBOS!**  
*FISH*

## **September 1, 2015**

Lobo Faithful,

Challenging way to start the season....to be the best, you need to play the best. It doesn't seem like we are only one game into the season. We started preparing in January for last Saturday's match vs #1 UCLA....not for this particular game, but for the season to get rolling. We traveled to LA on Friday late morning, trained and walked the game field in the afternoon and got a good dose of bumper to bumper traffic. Not sure how people handle the California commute. I appreciate my 5 minute drive to work! The boys were focussed and looking forward to playing a top ranked opponent. A great measuring stick. Anytime our team steps on the field, we expect to win. We started 3 freshman and 3 returners with limited big-game minutes (2 freshmen also saw action off the bench). A new experience for many, but confidence levels were high. I really like our team and the commitment to **EXCELLENCE** in everything they do. Our thoughts going into the match, were that it would be a fairly even contest: the outcome decided by small defensive openings and half chances. This proved to be the story. A very even first half with both sides solid defensively and a few challenging scoring opportunities both ways. 0-0 at intermission. We opened the first half well, but then fell into a defensive shell for ten minutes. Poor clearances and immature marking on corners. In the 62nd minute, we gave up a corner off a poor clearance and failed to win the first ball or the knock down...save by our GK and then the rebound found the back of the net off a tremendous side volley. 0-1 Bruins. We battled hard for the final 28 minutes and created several quality chances....two very good ones. We failed to convert and the match ended 0-1 UCLA. Tough one to swallow. You don't get the opportunity to beat the #1 ranked team on the road too many times in a career. We need to make the most of these opportunities!

Game recap: [http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/8/29/MSOC\\_0829150612.aspx](http://www.golobos.com/news/2015/8/29/MSOC_0829150612.aspx)

***LOBOS VS #18 UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH, LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX 7:00 PM***

Back at home this weekend for our home opener vs #18 ranked University of San Diego in the "Grange and Ashwill Memorial Invitational". San Diego Friday night at 7:00 pm and #13 UC Santa Barbara, Sunday at 6:00 pm. Denver University will be the neutral team for the weekend. San Diego is coming off a 3-0 defeat of #14 Cal and 3-0 win over Cal Riverside. Santa Barbara defeated #4 Stanford Friday night. Denver is 2-0 on the season. *BIG WEEKEND* of soccer at the Lobo Soccer Complex.

We are looking forward to seeing the Lobo Faithful Friday night. Thanks for your incredible support and we will be playing for **YOU. GO LOBOS!**  
*FISH*

**August 26, 2015**

Lobo Faithful,

Pre-season has flown by and the boys are ready to **kick things off this Saturday vs #1 UCLA. 4:00 pm PST kickoff televised live on the Pac-12 Network.** Great test and tremendous way to get the 2015 season rolling.

An 18-day preseason never seems long enough....it's not. We've learned quite a bit about ourselves and the slight margins which determine outcomes. After two convincing victories over Air Force and Grand Canyon, we traveled to Denver last Saturday night for our final exhibition match vs the University of Denver. A bit over-confident and never an easy opponent or venue. It was a tale of two halves. We didn't play to our expectations the opening 45 minutes. The game wasn't played on our terms and hats off to the Pioneers. They were physical, direct and pressed confidently in our half. We were fortunate to enter halftime 0-0. To our players' credit, we remained composed and quickly focused on the necessary adjustments. We came out strong in the second half and controlled the tempo of the match. I was happy with our response and felt good about our team in spite of the 0-0 final. While we never play for a tie, this result will prove to be a very valuable experience moving forward. College soccer is often a war and great teams must be able to compete against a wide variety of opponents. We won't always have the ball, won't always be at our best, need to be comfortable playing direct at times and must match teams physically. 2-0-1 preseason record and everything to look forward to!

If you haven't seen **this video**, you need to check it out. Kasey "The Gator" Byers and "Nasty" Nate Wilson from Lobo TV have produced a masterpiece (with the help of some NASA approved Drone footage): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDmY2ydPy3M>

We take off Friday late morning for Los Angeles and arrive LAX at noon. Mid-afternoon training session and ready to go! Everyone is excited for this match. A great test for all of us. We are back home Sunday and begin preparations for our **home opener vs the University of San Diego on Friday, September 4th at 7:00 pm.** Thanks for all your support and see you soon. **GO LOBOS!**  
Fish

**August 18, 2015**

Lobo Faithful:

One week of preseason in the books, one exhibition down, Khouri back from Jamaica....player's getting healthy...feeling good about this team! Four high energy days of training led up to Saturdays opening exhibition vs the Air Force Academy. I really like our team's cohesiveness, our leadership and the boys tremendous mentality. It's evident that everyone worked hard over the summer and a great deal of effort went into individual and team preparation.

We opened the Air Force match maturely and created quality chances early on. Good ball speed and intelligent decision making. We carried the contest early, but failed to convert a penalty kick and a couple of quality looks. Lightning struck 22 minutes in...literarily... and the match was delayed for 40 minutes. Coming off the delay was a challenge, but we continued to play at a high level....nothing in the net and 0-0 heading into intermission. Our supporters are INCREDIBLE! 1200 in the stands taking part in our first exhibition with ominous skies overhead. I can't say enough about the Lobo Faithful. We often talk about "synergy" with our team. The players in the stands... 1200 team members on Saturday night....gave everyone energy. We started the second half strong and were rewarded in the 56th minute with a nice piece of finishing from Nick Rochowski. Several shots hit the woodwork and it was only a matter of time to see another find the Air Force net. We doubled our lead in the 84th minute, when Chris Wehan found Matt Dorsey for our second. A soccer match requires 90 minute of concentration and focus. Excellent play for 89:38....22 seconds remained in the match and we lost our focus for a brief second. Long throw in and a scramble in front of our net. Nice finish and the match ended 2-1 Lobos. Need to play until the final whistle. We will learn from this mistake and will be the better for it.

*We get right back at it Wednesday night, August 19th at 7:00 pm vs Grand Canyon University at the Lobo Soccer Complex. Admission Free of Charge.* Should be a another quality test. Patrick Khouri will see his first minutes of the season after a successful stint with the Jamaican Olympic team and everyone should be well rested. Looking forward to an even bigger crowd for our final home exhibition.

**We need your support and membership in our Golden Goal Club.**The GGC is the booster club of Lobo Men's Soccer. 100% of membership dollars go directly to our program: <https://admin.xosn.com/pdf9/3684306.pdf>

**SEE EVERYONE TOMORROW NIGHT AT 7:00 PM: LOBOS VS GRAND CANYON AT THE LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX.**

**GO LOBOS!**

Fish

**July 30, 2015**

Lobo Faithful:

Hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful summer. The days are passing quickly and I can't wait to get our season **ROLLING**. Lobo Soccer preseason training camp kicks off August 10th. Home exhibitions August 15th and 19th, season opener at UCLA on the 29th and home opener vs University of San Diego August 4th.

[2015 Schedule Link](#)

The goal of Lobo Soccer is to develop **LEADERS**: young men who are tremendous students, young men who are committed to our community, young men who understand and value that they are role models and young men who are committed to working extremely hard and competing for **CHAMPIONSHIPS**. Our players' level of commitment is incredible. **Last years' team grade point average was 3.5**, a never-ending approach to community service, five players signed to professional contracts.....a high achieving group who represent our State, City, University and Athletic Department at the highest level. **My job is to give them every opportunity to succeed.** We are competing against the best universities and programs in the nation...we plan on beating them. Our goal isn't to be good, our goal is to be **GREAT!** We need to raise \$70,000+ per year to be nationally competitive. Our allocated budget doesn't allow us to compete at the level we desire. We need your support....you help drive our program. The Golden Goal Club is our booster club. 100% of membership dollars go directly to Lobo Men's Soccer. We need you as a member.

## [Golden Goal Club Link](#)

I will be in regular contact as preseason kicks off. We are unified, focused and committed to **EXCELLENCE**. Our returning players will lead and a talented class of newcomers will join us. Exciting new faces from New Mexico, across the Country and around the world are now Lobos. Our program develops players and allows them to perform on both a national and international stage. Junior Niko Hansen has been invited into training camp for the US U-23 National Team in preparation for Olympic qualifying ([click here for the link](#)) and red-shirt freshman Patrick Khouri is playing for the U-23 Jamaica National Team and will be participating in Olympic qualifying matches in Haiti in early August. Great students, tremendous players....exciting times ahead. **GO LOBOS!**

Jeremy Fishbein

**February, 12, 2015**

LOBO FAITHFUL:

Hope your 2015 is off to a TREMENDOUS START! Our staff and players had a very reflective and rejuvenating Holiday Break.....ready to "GET TO WORK". The boys have been working passionately since the opening day of classes: we are five weeks in, training seven sessions per week. I want to update you on what our **SENIORS PLANS ARE + MCKENDRY, SUCCESS IN THE CLASSROOM, ON-FIELD ACCOLADES** and the **EXCITING RECRUITING CLASS** we have *joining the program*.

***We graduated six seniors and each have very exciting futures (Ben McKendry too):***

-**Oniel Fisher** was drafted by the MLS Seattle Sounders and is currently in pre-season camp. [Click here for article.](#)

-**James Rogers** was drafted by MLS Sporting Kansas City and is currently in pre-season camp. [Click here for article.](#)

James was also a national semi-finalist for the prestigious Wooden Citizenship Cup. [Click here for article.](#)

-**Nick Miele** was invited into pre-season camp by the MLS Chicago Fire and is currently training with the team in England. [Click here for article.](#)

-**Riley McGovern** has signed a USL Pro contract with the Real Monarchs SLC, the affiliate of MLS Real Salt Lake.

-**Mattie Gibbons** has accepted a very challenging sales position with H10 Capital in Seattle starting mid-May. Welcome to the real world!

-**Patrick Poblete** has accepted a position with the Peace Corps in Ethiopia starting this summer and has recently been invited into pre-season camp with MLS Real Salt Lake.

-**Ben McKendry** has decided to forego his final year of eligibility and has signed a guaranteed two-year contract with the MLS Vancouver Whitecaps. Tough loss for the program, but an incredible opportunity for Ben. [Click here for article.](#)

***The boys excelled in the classroom this fall:*** Our team grade point average was a 3.44 (out of 4.00), with the highest team gpa of all the Lobo fall men's teams. Our team received the prestigious NSCAA Team Academic Award. [Click here for article.](#)

Three players were named NSCAA Scholar All-Americans: **Nick Miele** and **Chris Wehan** were named to the first team and **James Rogers** was named to the second team. We were the only program in the country to have two first team selections. [Click here for article.](#)

**Josh Dye** was named a CoSIDA Academic All-American. [Click here for article.](#)

Six players were named to All-Conference teams: **Wehan** and **McKendry** to the first team, **Miele**, **Gibbons** and **Rogers** to the second team and **Niko Hansen** to the third team. [Click here for article.](#)

Four players were named to the NSCAA All-Region Team: **Wehan** to the first team and **Gibbons**, **Rogers** and **McKendry** to the second team. [Click here for article.](#)

**James Rogers** and **Oniel Fisher** were invited to the MLS Combine and both were drafted by MLS Clubs.

***We are really excited about the six student/athletes who will be joining our program for the upcoming season:*** Brazilian, **Yuri Domiciano**, gets a head start, enrolling at UNM this January after a sensational two-year career at Iowa Western Community College. Yuri was named a first team Scholar All-American and a first team Junior College All-American this past season. **Andy Rios** joins us from Houston, Texas and the MLS Houston Dynamo Academy. **Devin Boyce** joins us from St. Louis, Missouri and the Scott Gallagher Academy Program. **Aaron Herrera** from Las Cruces, New Mexico has been playing for the MLS Real Salt Lake Academy the past three years and recently was invited into training camp with the US U-18 National Team. **Kasper Kajermo** joins us from Stockholm, Sweden and Professional Club Hammarby IF. **Simon Spangenberg** joins the Lobos from Brussels, Belgium and Professional Club Waasland-Beveren. This is a dynamic, academic and wonderful group. You are really going to enjoy our incoming class of players. [Click here for article.](#)

A lot of information to digest. I will keep you posted as we head into our spring season. Our first match will be vs USL Pro Club, Arizona United, March 7th in Phoenix, Arizona. Thanks for all your support. GO LOBOS!

*FISH*

**November 21, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

The sun is shining, the air is crisp...beautiful mountains to the east of us....life is good....trying to see the bright side of a very challenging season and the disappointment of not being selected for the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2008. Humbling, frustrating, disappointing, sleepless nights, questioning of oneself, a lot of reflection.....what if I/we had done this or done that? We finished the regular season with a record of 11-5-1, #22 national ranking by the NSCAA and a RPI of 30. Very good numbers considering our up and down conference results. The goal going into the season was 13 regular season wins. In retrospect, achievable and at a minimum, what we should have accomplished. Several brief moments, both offensively and defensively, defined our season. With this record, we entered the Conference Tournament on the bubble. A first round win would ensure an at-large NCAA birth and a loss would put our fate in the hands of others. A very disappointing 1-2 loss to Old Dominion on their home field, sealed our fate (our final RPI 34). We

were without the services of Ben McKendry (punctured lung in final regular season match vs South Carolina) and captain, Mattie Gibbons, who couldn't make it to the game due to severe flu-like symptoms the morning of the match. Despite being down two key starters, we scored the first goal of the game and played quality soccer. The loss, coupled with some key upsets in conference tournaments (very low seeds received automatic NCAA bids), put us out of the NCAA Tournament. I think we were the next team in. We have only ourselves to blame!

Old Dominion Conference Tournament Match Recap: [click here](#)

*Not sure if you've watched any episodes of "Fish Off The Pitch".* I put my heart and soul out for all to see in the final episode and I think it gives a good perspective and re-cap of the season. Don't be alarmed by the beginning, make sure to watch it through. 11 minutes and it's tough for me to see myself being so transparent. Have a look and you will get a good feel for the team and for me.

*"Fish Off The Pitch"*: [click here](#)

Individual honors are still coming in and I will keep you posted. The following two releases are from Conference-USA.

Conference-USA All-Conference Teams: [click here](#)

Conference-USA Academic All-Conference: [click here](#)

If you want to follow the NCAA Tournament, here is the interactive bracket with updated results. Tough to follow!

2014 NCAA Tournament Bracket: [click here](#)

Thanks for your incredible support all season long and I wish we were still playing for all of you. Some important lessons were learned and we will continue to strive for EXCELLENCE in everything we do. Our six seniors will be missed and all have made a tremendous impact on our program. Patrick Poblete, Riley McGovern, Mattie Gibbons, James Rogers, Oniel Fisher and Nick Miele are on their way to great things! Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and I will be in close contact. **GO LOBOS!**

*FISH*

**November, 11, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

The 2014 regular season is now one for the record books. I'm real proud of the teams inspired performance Friday night and the manner in which our six seniors carried themselves in their final regular season match wearing a Lobo jersey. Oniel Fisher, Nick Miele, Riley McGovern, Patrick Poblete, Mattie Gibbons and James Rogers have been phenomenal members of our program and each have impacted their teammates and the community in myriad ways. We always speak to our players about their legacy and how they want to be remembered. Each of these six have been incredibly successful off and on the playing field and will live exciting and impactful lives. Lets not talk too much about them just yet, still a lot more to come this year from all six!

Friday nights match vs South Carolina was challenging on many levels. Senior Night is very emotional for everyone. The more time you spend recognizing the seniors, the more distractions you create. This was a big game and we needed to be at our best. The boys came out focused and we took care of business!

South Carolina Recap: [click here](#)

We depart early Tuesday morning for Norfolk, Virginia and the Conference-USA Tournament hosted by Old Dominion University. We open play Wednesday night at 5:00 pm Mountain vs the host Monarchs. This will be an extremely tough match vs a quality opponent. Really looking forward to this one!

Conference-USA Tournament Central Link: [click here](#)

With a record of 11-5-1, we can't rest easy. Getting into the NCAA Tournament isn't a given. We need to be good Wednesday night.

NCAA Division I Selection Announcement/Bracket streamed live Monday, November 17th at 11:00 Mountain Time at [NCAA.com](#)

We just shot our "Tournament Edition" of "Fish Off The Pitch." Episode #12 should be up and running this evening. Right from the training field to the studio.

Fish Off The Pitch "Tournament Edition": [click here](#)

We're ready for the second season and can't thank you enough for your support. The links above should keep you up to date with what lies ahead. I love this team!

*FISH*

**November 5, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

The season is like a carnival ride and the past two and a half weeks have been a roller coaster. Flying high, flying low...with all kinds of twists, turns and unexpected events. Great teams deal with adversity and I think we are a great team....everything still to play for! Our past two matches haven't gone our way. Attractive soccer, dominant statistically, but the scoreboard shows otherwise. Trust me, I have wracked my brain and have thought way too much into the wee hours of the night. To simplify things: we haven't been taking our chances, we have had brief defensive miscues which have been exploited and the bounces haven't gone our way. A team makes its own breaks and I am confident our best soccer is still ahead of us....it has to be in order to achieve our goals. Here's where we stand: 10-5-1 on the season, #25 in country, #35 in the NCAA RPI and a guaranteed two games ahead (regular season finale at home this Friday night vs South Carolina and the Conference-USA Tournament Quarterfinal on Wednesday, November 12th in Norfolk, Virginia). The boys have responded to the challenge and training has been excellent. I am excited to see our six seniors play out their final regular season match this weekend and we are in charge of our own destiny. Below are the re-caps of our last two matches:

UAB Recap: [click here](#)

Marshall Recap: [click here](#)

Season Awards are starting to be announced and four Lobos have been named to the **CoSIDA Academic All-District Team** and will move on for consideration for CoSIDA All-America Academic Honors. Josh Dye, Niko Hansen, Nick Miele and Chris Wehan were all named CoSIDA Academic All-District. [Click here](#) to read about it.

Episode #11 of "Fish Off the Pitch" filmed yesterday. Player guest Mattie Gibbons demonstrated why he is such a special captain. [Watch the episode here.](#)

We need everyones energy this Friday night at 7:00 pm as we face off against the University of South Carolina Gamecocks at the UNM Soccer Complex. This will be the final regular season match for our six seniors: Mattie Gibbons, Nick Miele, James Rogers, Riley McGovern, Patrick Poblete and Oniel Fisher.

### **LOBOS VS SOUTH CAROLINA: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH**

**7:00 PM LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX**

Thanks for your continued support and see you Friday night. GO LOBOS!

*FISH*

**October 27, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

The mark of a mature and disciplined team, is the ability to bounce back from a disappointing performance. Lobo Soccer strives to be a "GREAT TEAM". I'm keeping this "Faithful" report short, as we have a quick turn around, departing tomorrow morning for an all important match vs the University of Alabama Birmingham Wednesday night. I was very proud of our teams performance Saturday night vs the Old Dominion Monarchs. ODU came into the match caring a three game win streak and a record of 7-4-1. A tough and well-coached team, with a lengthy NCAA Tournament history. We were outstanding on the night! Two great goals from Chris Wehan, excellent attacking play from Kevin Correa and Josh Goss (Correa assist to Goss for goal #3) and dynamic attacking play from Rogers, Fisher, Gleadle and Hansen. Dye very steady in the center of the park (he's been a rock all season long) and outstanding play from McKendry. Our back four dominant with tremendous minutes from Nick Rochowski and GK Poblete. Miele, Gurule, Gibbons and McGovern very comfortable maintaining the clean sheet. 4-0 win over a quality Old Dominion team. We came out with energy and purpose.....the boys were not to be denied. The stats were impressive: 20-4 shots, 8-2 corners, GK one save, 13 fouls to 17 (more than we wanted, but we battled), played 5 off the bench, 2550 in the stands.....great night for everyone!

**Old Dominion Recap with highlights:** [click here](#)

We are filming "Fish Off the Pitch" episode #10 late this afternoon with freshman attacker and first time guest, Sam Gleadle. Sam has quite a bit to him, don't miss this one! The episode will post Wednesday afternoon.

**"Fish Off the Pitch" with Sam Gleadle:** [click here](#)

We depart Tuesday morning for Birmingham, Alabama and return home for Saturday nights 7:00 match vs the "Thundering Herd" of Marshall University. Thanks for all your support and see you this weekend. GO LOBOS!

*FISH*

**[Join the Golden Goal Club today and support your UNM men's soccer program!](#)**

**October 22, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

Tough trip to the "Bluegrass State". We're four days out from our match vs the Kentucky Wildcats and we're only now coming to grips with our performance. Not the mature way to handle a challenging result, but the honest truth. Coming off four straight convincing victories, spirits and confidence were high leading into the trip east. Our preparation was good, we were healthy and focused. The trip Friday went without a hitch. We arrived in Lexington and trained at a nearby high school at 7:30. Excellent session and the boys were sharp. Saturday morning was our first chance to have a look at the game field and stadium. Impressive! Probably the best stadium we have seen in my tenure. Soccer specific and every detail first class and efficient. Better than many professional venues. The game was being televised by the SEC Network and our team appeared ready. Fast forward through the day and we arrived back at the stadium 75 minutes prior to the 7:00 pm kickoff. Warmups went well and everything was in place for a tremendous performance. The first 45 minutes of the match were very disappointing. We lacked energy, focus and purpose. Not sure what to make of things? As anticipated, Kentucky was very organized, hard working, defensive minded and direct. Nothing that we hadn't planned for. Our team was a step off and allowed Kentucky to dictate play early and see a lot of the ball in our half. Instead of dealing with the situation maturely, keeping our heads and defending intelligently, we got frustrated and lost composure. This was the opening Kentucky needed. Our distress, gave them confidence. Despite our shortcomings, we defended well and created several quality chances from wide areas. In the 30th minute, we gave away service from our left flank, lost a mark on the far post and their center forward hit a "world class" first-time finish into the corner of the far post. 0-1 Kentucky as the first period ran its course. We re-grouped at the half and came out on-fire! The entire second half was played in the Kentucky half. We connected passes, created numerous opportunities and kept them pinned in. 11-4 shot advantage and 8-0 corners. To Kentucky's credit, they defended well and made it tough on us. We were unable to find the net and painfully watched time tick off the clock. Very disappointing 0-1 loss to a good, but not great team. Our inability to play 90 minutes of focused soccer and take our chances was the storyline.

### [Kentucky Recap](#)

New Mexico Soccer is about winning big games. Our players and staff are accustomed to winning. Losing is painful and we don't want to make a habit of it. This week's episode of "Fish Off the Pitch" featured junior midfielder Ben McKendry. Our next game is this Saturday night and you will see an energized Lobo team!

"Fish Off the Pitch" Episode #9 with Ben McKendry: [Click here to watch](#)

***LOBOS VS OLD DOMINION AT THE LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX***

***SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH 7:00 PM***

Thanks for your continued support and see you Saturday night. ***GO LOBOS!***

*FISH*

**October 15, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

As referenced in my previous "Lobo Faithful" e-mail, regular season contests #9-#12 would be challenging physically, mentally and ultimately, will play a large part in defining "who we are as a team". Mid-season is when "the weak fall off the back, the average, "stay in the middle" and "the strong get stronger" and begin to pull away.....our boys were up for the challenge and the "strong got stronger". Coming off convincing victories over West Virginia and Florida International last week, we faced a challenging road trip to Florida Atlantic and a home match four days later vs Missouri State. As a team, we talk about embracing pressure, eliminating stress, controlling "what is controllable" and limiting distractions. Easier said than done, with players ages 18-23. Our leadership has been incredible and each of our 26 players have embraced the everyday challenges "each player must find ways to make the team better and continue to strive for excellence individually and collectively". For us to be great, everyone must be great and committed to EXCELLENCE: academically, socially and on the playing field. I can't tell you how proud I am of our players.

Confidence was high heading into the Florida Atlantic match and the ensuing performance was first rate. We maintained possession, played through our opponent with precision, showed maturity, patience and finished our chances. Dominant showing with a 13-5 advantage in shots, 12-2 advantage in corners and committing only 6 fouls. Our goal was to keep a rhythm to the game and not kill play with fouls. Job well done! Great goal by Kevin Correa in the 43' (his third in the past three matches) and well placed penalty kick by James Rogers in the 63' to seal the victory. Patrick Poblete with the shutout in goal.

#### [FAU Recap](#)

Smooth trip home and two days to prepare for a mature, disciplined team from Missouri State. Missouri State's roster is full of experienced international players. Very organized and hard to break down. Our challenge was to be patient, good on the ball and show discipline in defending. MSU is deadly on set pieces and direct play. We needed to play in our opponents half, move the ball quickly and keep our heads for the entire 90 minutes. A great showing by our team. We looked the part in our new silver and red uniforms (thanks to the generosity of Hanna Plumbing: Paul, Barbara and Lobo Alum, Cody Hanna) and controlled the tempo from minute one. Missouri State sat back and absorbed pressure the first 45 minutes. We created several quality chances, but didn't find the net. Our back line was fantastic and we prevented a single shot on our goal. 0-0 at the half, with the key, being to "stay the course". Our reward came in the 72': great work in the center of the park from Josh Dye, pinpoint pass to Riley McGovern, on to Oniel Fisher for a blast from 12 yards. Oniel's shot was deflected by a MSU defender, but he didn't get enough on the ball and Oniel's shot found the back of the net. 1-0 Lobos. 11 minutes later after several quality attacking sequences, Chris Wehan with a tremendous finish off a Ben McKendry pass. 2-0 Lobos. That's how the match finished with the Lobos delivering a convincing and mature performance: 11-1 shot advantage, committing only 6 fouls and our GK, Jason Beaulieu, not being challenged to make a single save in the shutout.

#### [Missouri State Recap](#)

As a result of his outstanding performances the past two games, senior defender, Riley McGovern, was named Conference-USA Co-Defensive Player of the Week. ([Click here](#) for the article.) A well deserved honor if you have to pick only one player. I feel our entire defense should share in this award, with two convincing shutouts.

We filmed episode #8 of **"Fish Off the Pitch"** yesterday with guests Josh Dye and Riley McGovern. Very draining matching wits with engineering and math majors. [Click here](#) to watch it.

We depart this Friday for Lexington, Kentucky and a very challenging Conference-USA match vs. the Kentucky Wildcats Saturday night. We are excited for this one and the challenge of "getting better" with every opportunity. Thanks for all your support and I will be reporting back to you early next week. **GO LOBOS!**

*FISH*

**October 6, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

Three pre-season exhibition matches and seventeen regular season matches over three months make up the collegiate season for Lobo Soccer. The reward for good work: playing in the NCAA Tournament November 20th. Regular season matches number 8-12 (not counting exhibition matches) determine where you stand heading into the home stretch: "off the back", "in the hunt" or "out in front". Prior to this past weeks two matches, our record stood at 5-2-1. Not great, but good. Good, not being "good enough". We work to "be GREAT". Last week's two results and our upcoming two games will set the tone for the home stretch. Our team is unified, healthy, excellent leadership and hungry for excellence. Two big ones at home last week vs West Virginia and Florida International (Conference-USA game). West Virginia is a very up and down program. Talented, well-funded and very athletic. Coming off a tough loss to UNC Charlotte, our boys were hungry and had a lot to prove. Great result vs a talented team. The first 30 seconds were action packed!

I will let you read about it here: [West Virginia recap](#).

Three days after West Virginia, a challenging home contest vs Conference-USA foe, Florida International University: [Florida International recap](#).

Sorry to rush through this post, but I'm trying to get ready for tomorrow's early morning departure for Florida and our mid-week Conference match vs. Florida Atlantic on Wednesday. Excellent training session this morning and we are ready to get back after it! Niko Hansen was named [Conference-USA Offensive player of the week](#) for his last two performances and Kevin Correa is finding his attacking form with two outstanding finishes over the last two matches. A lot to be excited about!

This week's guest on "**FISH OFF THE PITCH**" is junior transfer, Kevin Correa. We are shooting today and episode #7 will be up and running Tuesday morning: [Fish Off the Pitch](#).

Off to South Florida early tomorrow and then back home for non-conference opponent, Missouri State on Sunday night, October 12th at 6:00 PM.

**LOBOS VS MISSOURI STATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12TH, 6:00 PM AT THE LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX**

THANKS FOR YOUR INCREDIBLE SUPPORT AND SEE YOU SUNDAY NIGHT. GO LOBOS!

*FISH*

**September 30, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

Ready for Wednesday nights 7:00 pm sizzling non-conference match vs the University of West Virginia Mountaineers!

[WVU Match Preview](#)

**LOBOS VS WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1ST**

**7:00 PM LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX**

As I'm sure you've already noticed, not an early mention of our conference opener vs UNC Charlotte last Friday night. Not the start to conference play we envisioned, but a great test and a tremendous learning experience if handled maturely. We headed straight into a hornets nest! Charlotte was at their best, great environment and we were unprepared for their tactical approach to the match. The 49'ers played direct into channels, into targets, into our box... "Route 1" soccer and they were very effective. I may be selling them a bit short. Charlotte was very organized, mature, athletic and stuck to their guns the entire match. Winners must be good losers and Charlotte was an excellent team (currently ranked in the "Top 10"). I thought we played very well in the first half, had the majority of possession and connected dangerous balls in their half. We played from the back, made forward passes and created quality chances. We dealt with Charlotte's tactics and matched them physically and mentally. The second half saw us get away from our first half approach.....not sure why? Our defenders reacted to the pressure with indecision and uncharacteristic turnovers. We were unable to put the ball behind their back 4 and lost our way in terms of a commitment to playing from the back and building through the midfield. Charlotte was relentless! We gave away too many easy crosses, fouls and corners, but were able to withstand their attack. 80 minutes into the match, still 0-0 and we created two quality chances to go ahead: Oniel Fisher with an open look from 10 yards out and Kevin Correa with tremendous individual work on the right flank, only to be denied by the post. With 4:30 left in the match, we failed to close on our right flank allowing free service from 30 yards...far post service and a tremendous header back across our GK...0-1 Charlotte. We quickly re-grouped with 4:00 minutes left and pushed numbers up to even the score. 1 minute in and they found a quick counter with a shot from deep deflecting off a defender and finding side netting. 0-2 Charlotte in a disappointing, but hard fought lesson.

[Charlotte Website Recap](#)

Championship teams learn from their losses and come back stronger. This isn't our "first rodeo". Our coaches and players realize we weren't at our best and won't let our guard down next time. Great teams match and surpass their opponents tactics and impose their will on the game. Excited to get back at it tomorrow!

I was a bit somber in the latest **"Fish Off The Pitch" with Josh Dye**. Always a bit humbling to interview a kid with a 4.05 gpa in mechanical engineering. [Check out the video here.](#)

The next two matches are at home. We need your support. Wednesday the 1st vs West Virginia and **Saturday, October 4th, 7:00 PM vs Florida International University at the Lobo Soccer Complex**

Thanks for your continued support and energy. See you the next two matches and **GO LOBOS!**

*Fish*

**September 24, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

The TLC Plumbing and Utility Invitational brought three diverse and quality teams to the Land of Enchantment (all NCAA Tournament teams in 2013). Virginia Commonwealth University, Drexel University out of Philadelphia and California State Bakersfield joined the host Lobos. Bakersfield was the neutral team and kicked things off Friday the 19th, with an impressive 1-1 draw vs VCU. Lobos vs Drexel in the nightcap. Couldn't get a handle on the weather coming into the weekend: rain, sun, clouds, slight chance of rain.....if you don't like the fall weather in New Mexico, just wait a minute and it will change. Turned out to be a wonderful day for soccer and the conditions were perfect for Lobos vs Dragons and for all the weekend matches. Our boys were confident coming off a successful California weekend and the weeks training was very good. We came out strong and got an early hold on the match. Didn't finish some decent chances early, but our fortune changed in the 37th minute. Driven in-swinging corner kick from Josh Goss (right side, left footed) found Nike Meile unmarked at the top of the six for a one-time finish with his head. 1-0 Lobos. We continued to possess and create chances, but no change until the 78th minute. Poor marking on a throw-in, slipped ball and Drexel evened the score with only their second chance on goal. 1-1 with 12 minutes on the clock. We masked our disappointment and went to work. Quality chances, but no love. After 90 minutes, 1-1 with 20 minutes of overtime possible. We created several chances, but couldn't find the net in overtime. 1-1 tie and the boys came off the field with heads down. Felt like a loss. Just like "kissing your sister"... a tie doesn't count. Lobos dominating statistically, but not on the scoreboard. 16-6 advantage shots, 6-2 on frame, 3-0 shots in overtime, GK Poblete with one save. Need to take our chances!

[Drexel recap](#)

Sunday nights match vs VCU had the team in a great mental state: excited for a big challenge. We tied VCU last year in Richmond and the Rams are a very dynamic and attack minded team. Coming off a great win over #8 Georgetown and an OT loss to #9 Virginia, VCU was battle tested and hungry. We put together our best 90 minutes of soccer so far this season. 17 minutes in, great slipped ball by Oniel Fisher to Niko Hansen at the top of the box for Hansen's first goal of the year. The remaining 28 minutes of the half saw the Lobos create several chances, but no goals. The second half was a very well played 45 minutes. 29 minutes in, Chris Wehan with some well read defensive work and a calm finish. 2-0 Lobos. We saw the game out maturely and 2-0 Lobos was the final. We were very disciplined committing only 6 fouls for the game and keeping possession for long stretches of the match. Very well played and complete performance!

[VCU recap](#)

With the win, New Mexico earned the first place hardware for the TLC Plumbing and Utility Invitational and Lobo players dominated the Tournament awards:

***Ben McKendry Tourney MVP***

***Chris Wehan Offensive MVP***

***Nick Meile Defensive MVP***

***James Rogers and Josh Dye named to the All Tournament Team***

Offensive MVP, *Chris Wehan*, [was the guest on Mondays episode](#) of "Fish Off The Pitch."

We are off to Charlotte, NC this Thursday for our Conference-USA opener vs #21 ranked UNC Charlotte Friday night. This is going to be a tremendous battle and our boys are excited to compete.

Thanks for all your support and see you back in Albuquerque on Wednesday, October 1st, when the Lobos host the University of West Virginia Mountaineers at 7:00 pm. Thanks for all your support and **GO LOBOS!**

Fish

**September 17, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

Two big matches in California and we would know quite a bit about ourselves after this challenging four day road trip . It was difficult naming the traveling team of 20. We have 26 players on the roster and everyone makes an impact and works incredibly hard on and off the field. 26 STRONG! 20 players traveled and our mantra was "we are playing for the boys at home". We trained in Albuquerque Thursday morning and then headed straight to the airport fueled by Frontier breakfast burritos. This was our first road trip and I was nervous to see what kind of suits the new boys would be wearing (we travel in coat and tie). Jason Beaulieu won the prize for most debonaire: rock and roll tight pants, purple shirt and black tie....only a Canadian could pull it off. The rest of the boys were pretty boring...black or blue suits and not much color...future morticians. Smooth trip into LAX and straight to the hotel. It was sizzling hot in the Valley. Quick walk around the Northridge game field and then off to dinner at everyones favorite, Olive Garden. We hit the rack early and saved the scouting report for the am. Breakfast at 9:00, scout 9:30, 10:30 training session, 3:30 pre-game meal and off for the match at 5:00.

**LOBOS VS CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY NORTHRIDGE MATADORS 7:00 PM**

Friday night was the Northridge Matadors home opener and the stands were packed! Band, student section, on-field VIP Suites...the house was rocking! We had our best 45 minutes of the year the first half. Ball speed, interchange, pressing..."total football". 7-1 advantage in shots and we were rewarded in the 19th minute with a Chris Wehan right footed rocket coming inside from the left flank. 1-0 Lobos and the only tally of the first half. Northridge played straight up against us the first half, but changed tactics in the second 45. Direct play, battles for seconds and lots of substituting (Northridge played 7 off the bench). They took the rhythm from us and made a mess of the game. We were unable to settle and got caught up in the back and forth. Pretty ugly, but efficient from the Matadors. We committed 12 fouls, about 6 too many and GK Jason Beaulieu made 2 saves on the night. We maturely saw the match out and [came away with a well deserved 1-0 victory](#). A big one in a tough environment. Little time to enjoy, as we had to recover and make the journey south early Saturday morning for Sundays match vs an undefeated University of San Diego.

**LOBOS VS UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO TOREROS 5:00 PM**

We headed out of LA late morning Saturday after a pool recovery session and the low minute guys getting a short training session. Coach Mike Graczyk and I headed out early to watch two youth games at the Stub Hub Center and met up with team in San Diego late afternoon. The boys were treated to a wonderful lunch at the home of Mike and Julianne Wehan, Chris's parents, on the trip down to SD. Upon the teams arrival, we all walked the field at the University of San Diego, brought dinner to the hotel and reviewed the scout for Sundays match. USD was undefeated and were coming off a 5-2 Friday night victory. Tough one ahead! We kicked off at 5:00 and the temperature was in the low 90's. We came out strong, but couldn't find the net. Things settled and the half ended scoreless. I thought we were a bit lethargic and the team wasn't playing to form. An animated half time talk and the boys came out firing. 6 minutes into the second half, Oniel Fisher with a great rebound goal off a Niko Hansen blast. 1-0 Lobos and we started to find our rhythm. 19 minutes later, Sam Gleadle with a "whipped in" cross and assist to James Rogers for our second goal. 2-0 Lobos with the game finishing without another score. [2-0 Lobo victory](#), another clean sheet and sweep for the weekend. Great job from the entire team!

This weeks guest on "*Fish Off The Pitch*" is [freshman goalkeeper Jason Beaulieu](#). Jason with a great weekend, picking up two wins and two shutouts.

***Lobo Soccer needs your support.*** To maintain our standard of excellence in the classroom, community and on the playing field, we need to raise \$80,000+ to supplement our operating budget. Our booster club is the ***Golden Goal Club*** and 100% of membership dollars goes directly to our program. [Click here to find out more!](#)

***FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH AT 7:00 PM: LOBOS VS 2013 NCAA TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANT DREXEL UNIVERSITY***

***TWO BIG HOME MATCHES THIS WEEKEND AT THE TLC PLUMBING AND UTILITY INVITATIONAL***

***SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST AT 6:00 PM: LOBOS VS 2013 NCAA TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANT AND "TOP 16 SEED" VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY***

***Thanks for all your support and we look forward to seeing you this weekend. GO LOBOS!***

***FISH***

**September 10, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

A wonderful display of high quality soccer at the Grange and Ashwill Memorial Tournament this past weekend. American University from Washington DC, University of California at Riverside, UCLA and New Mexico competed for the championship trophy: 4 matches over the weekend at the Lobo Soccer Complex. UCLA entered the weekend ranked #1 in the nation, with the Lobos ranked #5. UCLA vs American kicked things off Friday, September 5th at 4:30. To the country's surprise, American knocked off the top-ranked Bruins in overtime, 2-1. Lobos vs UC Riverside in the nightcap. 2000+ in the stands, perfect evening with great anticipation from the vocal Lobo Faithful. 5' into the match and Lobo GK Patrick Poblete called for a foul inside our penalty box. Penalty kick with the Riverside #3 slotting it for an early Riverside advantage, 1-0. Our boys kept focus and quickly got a hold of the match. In the 11th minute, great work on the flank by James Rogers, with Chris Wehan making an intelligent run from deep to get on the end of Roger's cross. 1-1 and plenty of early action. We started to see more and more of the ball and continued to threaten. 19-6 shot advantage Lobos for the match and 9-3 advantage for shots on frame. Riverside really had a chip on their shoulders and this one wasn't a friendly match. 33 fouls called and 7 yellow cards...the officials never got full control of the game. In the 68' minute, we finally found the winner. Josh Goss with a cracker off a rebound, to make it 2-1 Lobos. Not wanting to let the excitement diminish, with 5 minutes on the clock, our GK, Patrick Poblete, was given a yellow card by the official for "wasting time". The first time in my coaching career I've experienced this call and even more gutsy, considering it was Poblete's 2nd yellow of the match (given a yellow for the foul and PK in the 5'). 2 yellows = red and we had to play a man down for the final five minutes. Freshmen GK Jason Beaulieu closed out the match (Poblete had to come off for the red). Too much excitement for me, but we got the result and could now focus on the main event, UCLA Sunday night.

[UC Riverside Recap](#)

UCLA was the game we all had circled on our calendars. 5000+ Lobo Supporters in the stands and the atmosphere was all you could ask for. Vuvuzella's, drums, tail gating....what a soccer match should look like! Jason Beaulieu was starting in the net for the suspended Poblete (suspended for red card). In the 6th minute, 3 poor clearances by our back 4, a bouncing ball and we were called for another early foul in the box. The official pointed to the spot...PK...1-0 UCLA. Not the start we

were looking for. The boys responded brilliantly. We controlled the rhythm and thoroughly dominated play. Our reward came in the 31st minute. Great individual work by Josh Goss and a driven cross from the left flank found James Rogers on the near post. 1-1 and things looking great. The game was ours for the taking. For the match, 18-3 advantage Lobos in shots, 8-2 advantage in shots on goal....our GK never challenged to make a save the entire match.....not to be. 74' miscue between our central defenders, loose ball, keeper off his line.....2-1 UCLA off a disappointing and rare defensive mistake. We kept driving and created several more quality chances, but couldn't find the net. A tough loss to swallow. We played very well, dominated the match, but failed to take our chances and made two costly mistakes. Soccer!

[UCLA Recap](#)

American University was crowned winner of the Grange and Ashwill Memorial Tournament with their 1-0 victory over Riverside Sunday afternoon. We left the tournament disappointed, but very optimistic. We are playing dynamic and entertaining soccer, creating chances and the goals will come. For his efforts over the weekend (game winning goal and assist), Josh Goss was [named Conference-USA Offensive Player of the Week](#).

Josh is also the guest on this week's **"FISH OFF THE PITCH."**

[Here's the link](#) to this week's episode hosted by award-winning sports journalist, **Richard Stevens**.

The boys are anxious to get back on the field this Friday night vs. Cal State Northridge. We depart Thursday for our first road matches. Northridge on Friday and University of San Diego on Sunday. We are playing well and the waiting is a killer. Can't say enough about our supporters and the incredible atmosphere you are creating. Great things ahead! Thanks for all your support and **GO LOBOS!**

*FISH*

**September 3, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

Uncertainty, restlessness, anticipation, excitement, love of our team. Those can all describe our feelings last week. After three non-descript exhibition matches, Lobo Soccer kicked off the 2014 season last Friday night, Aug. 29, against the 13<sup>th</sup>-ranked Akron Zips. It was a beautiful New Mexico evening with clear skies, a boisterous crowd and a playing surface that could easily have been mistaken for a putting green. When I met with the squad in the team room 75 minutes prior to kickoff, I could see something different in their eyes. There was a focus, a calmness. It was the look of individuals going into battle with the confidence that their teammates would back them up under any condition. My intuition proved correct; the boys were ready to roll!

**GRANGE AND ASHWILL MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT AT THE UNM SOCCER COMPLEX THIS FRIDAY AND SUNDAY**

***Friday, Sept. 5 at 7 p.m., Lobos vs. UC Riverside***

**Sunday, Sept. 7 at 6 p.m., Lobos vs. No. 1 UCLA**

Senior James Rogers was just [named a candidate for the prestigious Senior CLASS Award](#). James is an outstanding student, a genuine humanitarian and a tremendous soccer player. Only 30 student-athletes in the entire nation are candidates for this award. I will keep you posted as soon as the finalists are selected.

The second episode of "*Fish Off the Pitch*" [features an exclusive interview](#) with Usher's identical twin, Oniel Fisher.

But back to the season opener vs. No. 13 Akron. The boys were sharp and focused in the pregame warmup. There was a slight miscommunication off the kickoff, but we quickly settled and caught fire. Three minutes into the match Chris Wehan's entry ball to Oniel Fisher at the top of the box ended with the ball in the back of the net on one touch. It was 1-0 Lobos and we were rolling! We continued to press and moved the ball with a newfound crispness. The boys created numerous chances, including two shots that deflected off the post. Despite domination of the half, the scoreboard read just 1-0 Lobos. Things settled and evened out a bit in the second half as we didn't continue to play with the same intensity. It was a well-managed match, though, and we owned a 20-5 shot advantage, including nine on frame to Akron's two. It was a great way to start the season with Oniel Fisher finding the early winner and Patrick Poblete earning the shutout in net. You can find a recap and highlights of the match [here](#).

The Grange and Ashwill Memorial Tournament kicks off this Friday, Sept. 5. American University will face UCLA at 4:30, followed by the Lobos vs. UC Riverside at 7 p.m. On Sunday, Sept. 7, American plays Riverside at noon, and the Lobos will face No. 1 UCLA at 6 p.m. It should be four great matches and we need your support! We look forward to seeing thousands of Lobo supporters in **RED** on Friday and Sunday night. Thanks for all your support.

**GO LOBOS!**

Fish

**August 26, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

Our preseason and exhibition matches are behind us. We are ready to play for KEEPS! Lobo Men's Soccer kicks off the season this Friday night at 7 vs. the No. 13 Akron Zips at the UNM Soccer Complex. This one will be a display of skillful, athletic soccer. Akron is committed to the attack and

has a roster of dynamic players, which is a very similar playing style and approach that we use. Get to the UNM Soccer Complex early because this one is going to be a barn burner!

### **LOBOS VS. #13 AKRON ZIPS, FRIDAY NIGHT, AUG. 29 AT 7 P.M. AT THE UNM SOCCER COMPLEX**

We learned a lot about ourselves the past two weeks. We had ups and downs with mixed results from the exhibitions. We have exciting attacking players and disciplined, mature defenders. Over the course of three exhibitions we created numerous scoring opportunities, but we didn't finish to our standard. We had a win, a loss and a draw ... it should have been three "W"s but nothing is going to come easy this season. We outshot our opponents by a more than 3-to-1 margin. Our challenge was sharing minutes amongst a deep group and putting the ball in the net! We've established our identity and references to last year are no longer applicable. This is a very unified, talented and deep team. It's mature with great leadership and is well balanced with athleticism and flair. We will be very entertaining! What I am most proud of is how close the players are and how much they care about each other and appreciate their good fortune to be on this team. With success comes responsibility. We are proud to wear **NEW MEXICO** across our hearts and will be playing for our supporters. We can't wait to get things rolling!

We shot the first episode of "**Fish Off the Pitch**" Monday and it will air Wednesday morning. If you aren't familiar, "Fish Off the Pitch" is the weekly Lobo Soccer Coaches show. We have a new producer, and he promises new twists, turns and laughs. Veteran local sports personality and GoLobos.com Senior Writer Richard Stevens will again host the show. You can [find the new episode here](#) beginning Wednesday.

I'm not sure if I'm in proper "Fish Off the Pitch" form yet, but I will crank it up quickly. I need to restock the shirt drawer. I can't thank you enough for your support, and I look forward to seeing you this Friday night. We will be playing for all of you.

**GO LOBOS!**

Fish

**August 22, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

The University of New Mexico Lobos soccer team is ready for our final exhibition match this Saturday night vs. 2013 NCAA Tournament participant Denver University. This one will be a full "dress rehearsal" for the season opener on Aug. 29 vs. No. 13 Akron. In our first two exhibitions, we juggled lineups and were careful to limit everyone's minutes. With three exhibition matches in seven days, over-training was a concern, and we had to be disciplined coaches. The first exhibition vs. Fort Lewis on Monday night was a good result (3-0), and everyone saw significant minutes. I was really happy with our new players, and we learned quite a bit from the match. We bussed up to Colorado Springs on Tuesday to play our second exhibition vs. Air Force on Wednesday afternoon. While the Air Force result wasn't what we were looking for over 90 minutes (0-1), we played everyone who was eligible and healthy. We limited individual player minutes too and got a final look at combinations and match readiness. I wanted the Air Force trip to take us out of our comfort zone and "mission accomplished!" It was a huge field, a mid-day match with not atmosphere and we played at altitude against a very physical and committed opponent. Losing is something we don't like – we hate it – but this was the kick that everyone probably needed. I know I needed it. Losing hurts and it makes you remember why you work so hard. There was too much reading of our own press clippings and the trip back was a real kick in the a\$\$! Every match is a battle and you need to bring your best every

day. We had numerous chances early but didn't finish. We had a 21-10 advantage in shots for the match and an 8-1 advantage in corner kicks. The game was played in our opponent's half, but we didn't capitalize. Hats off to Air Force. They were determined, mentally tough and played within themselves. My initial reaction was one of anger, but after lengthy introspection this was a great experience for all of us. We're ready for Denver and the numerous challenges the season will bring.

**LOBOS VS. DENVER UNIVERSITY, SATURDAY, AUG. 23 AT 7 P.M. AT THE UNM SOCCER COMPLEX. NO CHARGE FOR ADMISSION!**

Excitement is building and we are going to treat our final exhibition vs. Denver like a regular-season contest. You are going to see a fully charged and relentless Lobo team. Thanks for all your support, and I look forward to seeing you Saturday night. The 2014 season-opening episode of "Fish Off the Pitch" is scheduled to shoot Monday and should be up Tuesday night. I will keep you posted.

**GO LOBOS!**

Fish

**July 10, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

Ready to get the season rolling! The University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer Season is right around the corner. Summer is flying by and I'm starting to get the itch.... I'm ready to crank it up! Just wanted to get you thinking about Lobo Soccer and pass on some exciting news.

We recently received the spring semester team grade point average and the boys brought home a team gpa of 3.53. That's right, A's and B's and a few more A's than B's (I think I got my math right). The fall team gpa was 3.43....pretty impressive work in the classroom. Our Program is about EXCELLENCE: Academic, Social and Athletic.

Michael Kafari, 2013 Senior and UNM graduate, just [signed a professional contract](#) with defending MLS Champion Sporting KC. After being drafted by the MLS Vancouver Whitecaps, Michael was on loan with the Charleston Battery. Three of our four 2013 seniors are signed to professional contracts with MLS teams. Michael Calderon was drafted by the MLS Vancouver Whitecaps and is currently playing for the USL Pro Wilmington Hammerheads. All four have received their undergraduate degrees!

Our Lobo Soccer Academy Summer Camps are kicking off: starting July 10th and running through July 24th: <http://www.lobosocceracademy.com>

We continue to need your support! *The Golden Goal Club is the Lobo Men's Soccer Booster Club.* 100% of membership dollars go directly to our program. We need to raise \$80,000 + this year to cover our operating costs. Here is the [link to the 2014 Golden Goal Club Brochure](#)

Practice starts on August 11th and our first exhibition match takes place at home on August 18th at 7:00 pm vs Fort Lewis College. The season opener vs "Top 10" Akron will be on Friday, August 29th, 7:00 pm at the Lobo Soccer Stadium.

More news to come in the upcoming weeks. Thanks for all your support and **GO LOBOS!**

Fish

**May 21, 2014**

**LOBO FAITHFUL:**

If you love University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer, [you need to watch this video](#) before you start reading.

Hope this email finds everyone well and ready for summer! Coach Mike Graczyk put together the video and it brought back a lot of beautiful memories.....**MORE TO COME!**

We finished up [an excellent spring season](#) two weeks ago, and I couldn't be happier about the team. The boys quickly adjusted to the loss of four influential seniors and developed their own identity and leadership. 14 weeks of sweat, dedication, travel and more sweat unified an incredible group of young men. The 2014 Lobos will be a committed, hard-working, disciplined and high achieving team. I can't wait for August and [one of our most challenging schedules](#).

Wanted to get the video out and let you know we're thinking of you and are incredibly appreciative of your support.

*GO LOBOS!*

***FISH***

MAKE SURE TO HAVE [A LOOK AT THIS VIDEO](#) IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY!

**April 10, 2014**

**LOBO FAITHFUL:**

University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer is *HARD AT WORK!* Two matches into our spring schedule, and the boys have really begun to develop into a very cohesive group; new identity, new leadership and ambitious goals. We're almost three months into winter/spring training, and I couldn't be prouder of the team. There are exciting times ahead!

We opened our five-match spring schedule vs the MLS Colorado Rapids on March 30th in Denver. "Straight into the fire" match day number one. The 0-2 defeat wasn't indicative of our play, as we had plenty of scoring chances and the two goals we conceded were "big time" finishes from top level pros. Six of the players who suited up against us, started the Rapids following MLS match vs Vancouver (both goal scorers). We were punished for early season miscues and the match helps us set the bar high for the remainder of our spring.

We traveled to Taos, New Mexico on Saturday, April 5th to face familiar foe; Denver University. The Pioneers are coming off an NCAA appearance and defeated a quality Creighton team the previous weekend. We were a much more cohesive and focused team with a game under our belts. Our preparation and confidence showed in a 3-0 win over a very good Denver side with goals coming from James Rogers, Rene Reyes and Josh Goss. The shutout shared by Patrick Poblete and Jimmy Schneebeck. Three more matches remain: April 12th at home vs Air Force, April 19th in Taos vs Fort Lewis and May 3rd in Tucson vs FC Tucson.

***HOME MATCH THIS WEEKEND: LOBOS VS. AIR FORCE SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH, 10:30 AM  
ROBERTSON FIELD SOUTH OF LOBO SOCCER STADIUM***

***Former Lobos are playing professional soccer across the country:*** Andrew Weber-Portland Timbers MLS, Justin Davis-Minnesota NASL, Mike Reed-Minnesota NASL, Lance Rozeboom-

Rochester USL Pro, Mike Green-Pittsburg USL Pro, Devon Sandoval-Real Salt Lake MLS, Blake Smith-Montreal Impact MLS, Kyle Venter-LA Galaxy MLS, Michael Lisch-Houston Dynamo MLS, Michael Kafari-Charleston Battery USL Pro (on loan from Vancouver MLS) and Michael Calderon-Wilmington USL Pro. If you are visiting any of these cities this summer, make sure to catch up with our boys.

Thanks for all your support and hope to see you this weekend!

Fish

**Feb 6, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

***BIG DAY YESTERDAY FOR UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SOCCER. NATIONAL SIGNING DAY*** for high school student/athletes. T's have been crossed, i's dotted and eight dynamic, eager and talented young men have officially become members of the University of New Mexico Soccer Program. It's a cliché, but they are now part of "our family". Associate Head Coach Paul Souders and former assistant coach, Brandon Moss, worked tirelessly to construct this mature, conscientious and extremely talented group. Our class consists of three student-athletes from New Mexico, three from Texas (Khouri originally from South Carolina), one from California and one from Arizona by way of England.

David Gros, Justin Hix and CJ Slough are our New Mexico contingent and will get the opportunity to play in front of their families and hometown faithful. Justin is a second generation Lobo, as his father Jason, was a Lobo Soccer player from 1992-94. CJ played for Lobo Soccer alum Billy Thiebaut (1991-94) at Volcano Vista HS in Rio Rancho and David Gros is a long time club teammate of Hix and Slough from the Rio Vista FC Reds. We've had our eyes on all three for quite some time.....since they were in diapers (not really that long).

Patrick Khouri joins us from Dallas, Texas and the MLS FC Dallas Academy, Matt Dorsey and Gabriel Camera join us from Houston, Texas and the MLS Houston Dynamo Academy, Wayde Scibilia from the sunny beaches of San Diego, California and the San Diego Soccer Club and Sam Gleadle dodging the heat and cactus of Scottsdale, Arizona joins us from the MLS Real Salt Lake Academy. I can't say enough about this class and the lasting impact they are going to have on Lobo Soccer. Each of these young men is committed to excellence in the classroom, in the community and on the playing field. Here are links to our website article and yesterday's press conference introducing our incoming student-athletes to the media:

To read the full press release about all eight signees on GoLobos.com, [click here](#).

[Here is the video](#) of yesterday's press conference.

*We received the official team grade point average for the fall 2013 semester yesterday and it was outstanding! **3.43 team GPA!*** I can't say enough about the boys' commitment to excellence in the classroom and on the playing field. Associate Head Coach Paul Souders oversaw the team's academics (with an iron hand) and should be given the "lions share" of credit for the boys' success.

I will stay in close contact throughout the winter and spring as we prepare for the 2014 season. We will release our spring match schedule in the next couple of weeks.

Thanks for your incredible support and **GO LOBOS!**

*FISH*

**Feb 4, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

University of New Mexico Soccer; "Never a dull moment". National Signing Day tomorrow, February 5th, with up to the minute news posted on our [website](#). Exciting times in store for the Lobo Faithful! Lobo Soccer won't be re-building, we are **RELOADING!** I will send out another edition of the "Lobo Faithful" tomorrow or Thursday reviewing our incoming recruiting class. The plan is to get everything on-line by noon tomorrow. 2:00 pm press conference to follow, which will be posted on Lobo TV.

There is some bittersweet news from within the program. If you haven't heard, Lobo coach and "Captain for Life", Brandon Moss, has hung up his coaching shoes, put his whistle in the underwear drawer and has joined the private sector. No more "casual Fridays five days a week"....coat and tie for Moss. Brandon will stay in Albuquerque and has joined his family in the running of Innovative Moving Systems, where he will serve as "Director of Business Development" in their commercial moving and warehousing enterprise. If you want to reach Brandon, he can be contacted at [bmoss@innovativemoving.com](mailto:bmoss@innovativemoving.com). There isn't a more honest or harder working man in the world than Brandon. While he will be missed in the day to day running of Lobo Soccer, Brandon will still be an active member of our program and will become the inaugural president of our alumni association (he's been nominated and voted into office by an overwhelming majority). If you have moving needs, contact Brandon!

Brandon is moving out and Mike Graczyk is moving in....back to the **Land of Enchantment**. There were two coaches in the college ranks who I felt could fill Brandon's shoes and we are bringing one of them back home! Albuquerque native and former Lobo Standout, Michael Graczyk, has left Stanford University after three seasons as an assistant coach to re-join the Lobos. In addition to Stanford, Mike coached at Harvard University and brings a wealth of experience and an incredible vocabulary to our program. One of the most diligent workers I've ever coached, a gentleman, a student of the game and an extremely ethical and moral man, Mike is going to make us BETTER! He is recently married, its wonderful getting Mike back to the University of New Mexico. Here are links [to our website article](#) on Mike's appointment and the [link to the Albuquerque Journal article](#).

I'll get you the latest and greatest on our new players in the next two days...stay tuned.

**GO LOBOS**

**FISH**

**Jan 22, 2014**

Lobo Faithful:

Hope this email finds everyone off to a wonderful 2014. I'm officially back in the swing of things....the reward for hard work, is more hard work! I can't imagine doing anything as satisfying and fulfilling! The Major League Soccer (MLS) Draft wrapped up Tuesday and four Lobos get the chance to pursue their dreams. All four of our seniors from the 2013 New Mexico Lobo Men's Soccer Team have been selected by MLS Clubs: **Kyle Venter** to the LA Galaxy, **Michael Kafari** to the Vancouver Whitecaps, **Michael Lisch** to the Houston Dynamo and **Michael Calderon** to the Vancouver Whitecaps.

The boys will report to training camp this weekend and are ready to compete for a roster spot. I can't tell you how proud and excited I am. Michael, Michael, Michael and Kyle are excellent students and have been tremendous representatives of the University of New Mexico, the city of Albuquerque and the state of New Mexico. They have dreamed of playing professional soccer since they were little

boys and now get the chance to "make their dream a reality". Lisch and Venter have graduated and Calderon and Kafari will graduate this May upon completion of an online course. The team grade point average for the fall was 3.40.

***LOBO SOCCER: EXCELLENCE IN THE CLASSROOM, COMMUNITY AND ON THE PLAYING FIELD.***

[\*Here is the GoLobos.com article on the MLS Draft\*](#)

[\*Vancouver Whitecaps article on Kafari and Calderon\*](#)

[\*Houston Dynamo recap on Michael Lisch\*](#)

[\*LA Galaxy highlights their 23rd pick, Kyle Venter\*](#)

National Signing Day is just around the corner with more exciting Lobo Soccer news. I will keep you posted and make sure to check our website, [www.golobos.com](http://www.golobos.com), on February fifth to meet the newest Lobos.

Thanks for all your support and **GO LOBOS!**

Fish

**Dec 17, 2013**

LOBO FAITHFUL:

I can't tell you how much your support, passion, care, love and energy means to our players and to me. You are everything to Lobo Soccer. Quite a season and I am so proud of the players and all that they have accomplished. Speaking on behalf of the team, our greatest disappointment is that we couldn't bring home a National Title for you and for all New Mexicans. ***WE LOVE NEW MEXICO! WE LOVE OUR FAITHFUL AND CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR YOUR NEVER ENDING PASSION AND SUPPORT!***

We had it in us to win the whole thing...wasn't to be. After three lock-down, shut-out performances in the NCAA Tournament, we weren't at our best Friday night in the national semifinal versus Notre Dame. ***Seeing the Lobo Faithful braving the elements in Philly***, supporting this team brought tears to my and our eyes and an ache to our hearts. Those that attended the match...can't tell you how much it meant to all of us. Thank you, thank you, ***THANK YOU!*** The match statistics were very even, but we made two uncharacteristic mistakes in possession and Notre Dame capitalized, scoring both their goals in transition against the run of play. My hat is off to Notre Dame and their disciplined defending and opportunistic attack. They are a classy team with outstanding players who went on to defeat Maryland in the Championship match. Our boys reacted with class and tremendous sportsmanship. Can't say enough about this team! [\*Here is the NCAA Final Four Re-Cap.\*](#)

Exams are over and everyone is heading home for the holidays. Five weeks off and back at it January 20th. We can't wait for next season! Three of our four seniors have been selected to attend the Major League Soccer Pre-Draft Combine. The "Top 50" Division I professional prospects are flown to Florida on January 10th for three days of testing and matches. It's a pretty incredible complement to our program that three Lobos were selected as "Top 50" senior prospects. The MLS Draft takes place on January 17th and I feel all three will be drafted (Venter, Calderon and Kafari). Only four goalkeepers were selected and Lisch was "odd man out". I'm confident that Michael will be invited to professional pre-season camps and will find his way on to an opening day roster. Lisch

was incredible this season! I will keep you posted on how all four's progress in pursuit of their dreams.

Venter was named to an NSCAA All-America Team for the third consecutive year and five players were named to the NSCAA Midwest All-Region Team: Venter, Calderon, Kafari, Gibbons and McKendry. More awards to come (academic and on-field). Individual awards are a result of great teammates. 25 wonderful players this year!

[GoLobos.com: Venter an All-American!](#)

[NSCAA Midwest All-Region release!](#)

Thanks again for everything and I will keep you updated on happenings within the program. The final episode of "Fish Off The Pitch" shoots Wednesday and should air end of the week.

***The Lobo Faithful drive us to achieve EXCELLENCE.***

***Happy Holidays and GO LOBOS!***

Fish

**Dec 9, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

***University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer is still dancing...dancing into the Final Four in Philly!*** It was quite a trip to Seattle and the "Elite 8" last Saturday. The Washington Huskies were everything they were built up to be: tough, athletic, composed, confident and skillful...the dreaded "flip throw" was "no joke". The Huskies were very well organized and coached. It was a game both Coach Brandon Moss and I didn't look forward to. Not fun facing friends and former teammates; Moss and UW Assistant Jeff Rowland were teammates at New Mexico 2002-2005 and UW Head Coach Jamie Clark and I coached together at New Mexico 2002-2005. Enough nostalgia...great game, tough conditions and our boys were very, very good!

There is an intriguing story line regarding footwear, but I'll let you do the research. In short, genius Associate Head Coach Paul Souders remembered a tough loss versus a team in turf shoes...the field at Washington was very similar and Souders and Coach Moss put together a skeleton shopping crew on short notice and purchased 18 pairs of turf shoes in three hours from six sporting goods stores. A story which will live forever in Lobo Soccer History! 1-0 Victory to the Lobos with a dominating first half with the lone goal coming in the 36th minute from McKendry from a threaded Oniel Fisher assist. 16-8 Lobos in shots and GK Lisch making 3 saves. It was a complete performance against a talented opponent. This was our third NCAA Tournament shutout in a row....Defense wins BIG GAMES!

***Can't say enough about our Lobo Faithful!*** We saw pockets of red throughout the stands in Seattle and 1000's of Lobo Soccer Supporters invaded establishments around Albuquerque to support YOUR TEAM! Standing room only crowds at Kelly's, Nob Hill Bar and Grill and Fox and Hound brought us energy throughout the match. The pictures on Facebook were incredible. Hope everyone is back on Friday to watch us play the Irish at 3:00 MST....need to take off work early and get the weekend started! Kelly's, Nob Hill and Fox and Hound will all have viewing parties for the match.

***I LOVE NEW MEXICO AND OUR SUPPORTERS ARE THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY. YOU MAKE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE!***

**On to Philadelphia and the NCAA FINAL FOUR.** We depart Wednesday afternoon. It's Maryland, Virginia, Notre Dame and New Mexico. Everyone is a formidable opponent. We play Notre Dame in the first semi-final on Friday at 3:00 MST, with Maryland and Virginia facing off in the nightcap. Notre Dame is a tremendous team and we will be tested to our limits.

If you are going to Philadelphia, here is the Website to purchase tickets for the NCAA Final Four. Section 123 is the designated section for Lobo fans. Request Section 123 or as close to it as possible if you want to sit with other Lobo fans. Let me know if you are coming to Philly.

[View ticket information at PPL Park here.](#)

Great local news today from ESPN 101.7 The Team in Albuquerque. 101.7 will be **broadcasting the game live on the radio** throughout New Mexico with the pre-game show starting at 2:30 MST. New Mexico Legend, Henry Tafoya, will be coming at you live from Philadelphia. You can listen online through The Team's website at: <http://www.1017theteam.com> and if outside Albuquerque and want to listen to the radio call, we suggest using a free radio app on your smart device. Apps such as "TuneIn Radio" can be used to listen to Albuquerque radio stations outside of the area.

The Semi-Final matches and Final Match will be televised live on ESPNU. Here are the direct links for Friday's match on ESPNU. The links are for use on [ESPN3.com](http://ESPN3.com) on your desktop or laptop. They will also be on the Watch ESPN app for phones and pads (which may require you to log in with your cable provider information.) Regardless, ESPNU is channel 281 on Comcast, 208 DirecTV and 141 on DISH in Albuquerque. To access the on-line broadcast, you will have to have an ESPN account and/or be a cable subscriber. Please check [www.golobos.com](http://www.golobos.com) for viewing party information at local establishments.

Thanks for your incredible support and **GO LOBOS!**

Fish

**Dec 4, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer Supporters.....Thanks again for your incredible support! Your energy has fueled us this season and every season. You are a big part of our TEAM. We are ready for our next challenge. I wanted to pass on match information for Saturday's NCAA "Elite 8" match versus the University of Washington.

New Mexico versus Washington NCAA Tournament "Elite Eight" match in Seattle, Washington this Saturday night at 6 pm Mountain Standard Time, will be broadcast on the PAC-12 Network: 284 on Comcast, 413/406 on DISH in Albuquerque. To see if you get the Pac 12 Network from your provider outside of Albuquerque, click here: <http://pac-12.com/channel-finder>. Direct TV does not carry the PAC-12 Network.

Comprehensive information regarding viewing sites (see local list below), social media, Lobo give-aways etc. will be posted on our athletic department website [www.golobos.com](http://www.golobos.com) and [our soccer homepage](#).

**FOR THOSE OF YOU IN ALBUQUERQUE:** here is a **list of confirmed restaurants and bars who will be showing the game** and expecting Lobo Soccer Supporters for viewing parties:

Nob Hill Bar and Grill

3128 Central Ave SE

Albuquerque, NM 87106

505-266-4455

Kelly's Brew Pub

3222 Central Ave SE

Albuquerque, NM 87106

Phone: 505-262-2739

Fox and Hound Bar & Grill

4301 The Lane @25 NE

Albuquerque, NM 87109

Phone: 505-344-9430

Which Wich (Louisiana location only)

8110 Louisiana Blvd NE, Suite #F  
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Thanks for all your support and **GO LOBOS!**

Fish

**Dec 2, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

University of New Mexico Soccer kicked off the Holiday Season with plenty of JOY! It was Thanksgiving at home and fortunate to host the NCAA Tournament "Sweet 16". The boys took care of business! Dominating performance versus the Penn State Nittany Lions last Sunday: 2-0 victory, 15-5 advantage in shots and our defense was tremendous! Lobo goalkeeper, Michael Lisch, earned the "clean sheet" without making a single save... We prevented PSU from taking a single quality

shot on our goal for 90 minutes. We were very disciplined and mature, we committed only 7 fouls, kept a great rhythm to the game and played our most complete match of the season. 3400 "Loud and Proud" Lobo fans made the night even more memorable. Can't say enough about our supporters.....the BEST in the country!

[Re-cap and video highlights.](#)

**On to the NCAA Tournament "Elite 8" in Seattle, Washington.** We depart this Friday for Saturdays match at the #2 seed, Washington Huskies (6:00 pm MST). Go to [www.golobos.com](http://www.golobos.com) or [www.gohuskies.com](http://www.gohuskies.com) for streaming and/or television information. We will be rested and ready for another great test!

***We need your support to keep Lobo Soccer amongst the Country's Elite.*** Lobo Soccer is one of only three programs in the country to reach three- straight NCAA "Sweet 16"s". ***EXCELLENCE on the field matched by EXCELLENCE IN THE CLASSROOM:*** our team grade point average for the 2012-13 academic year was 3.43 and as a result, we received the prestigious NSCAA Team Academic Award. We need to supplement this year's operating budget by approximately \$70,000. This fund-raised money will pay for attending the Conference-USA Tournament, team travel, recruiting and equipment. The Golden Goal Club is the men's soccer booster club, with 100% of membership dollars going directly to our program.

[Golden Goal Club Brochure](#)

Thanks for your incredible support and **GO LOBOS!**

Fish

**Nov 27, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer is dancing....dancing into the third round of the NCAA Tournament, **"The Sweet 16"**. Lobo Soccer is one of only three programs in the country to advance to the "Sweet 16" the last three seasons. After two years on the road, we are playing in New Mexico aka "Home Sweet Home". This Sunday, December 1st, we host the Penn State Nittany Lions, Big 10 Champions.

**NCAA TOURNAMENT "SWEET 16" LOBO SOCCER VS PENN STATE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST, 5:00 PM AT THE LOBO SOCCER STADIUM**

Tickets are selling quickly, so purchase your seats early at the UNM Ticket Office at the Pit or UNM Bookstore. [You can also purchase on-line](#) (pick-up at Stadium Will Call day of the match).

Last Sunday's NCAA Second Round Match versus *George Mason University* was an exciting one....more exciting than it needed to be. We came out strong from the kickoff, created quality chances and dominated possession. 19-4 advantage in shots and lots of opportunities. It took us 83 minutes to find the net, but we were patient and defended well throughout. Calderon to Hansen to Rogers for the goal: 1-0 with the Lobos advancing to the NCAA 3rd Round.

[George Mason re-cap with video link.](#)

The highly anticipated [episode of "Fish Off The Pitch" with special guest Savva Biller filmed today](#) and will air tonight.

**Lobo Soccer Alum Devon Sandoval Playing in the MLS Cup** next Saturday, December 7th, at 4:00 Eastern Time. Real Salt Lake against Sporting KC. Devon started the last two matches and is on FIRE!

**Lobo Soccer needs your support.** We need to raise \$70,000 this year to cover our program operating expenses. The Golden Goal Club is the Lobo Men's Soccer Booster Club and 100% of membership dollars go directly to our program. December is your last chance to join and gain 2013 tax benefits. You will be sent confirmation of your 2013 tax deductible gift from the UNM Foundation.

[Golden Goal Club Brochure](#)

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, really appreciate your incredible support and see you this Sunday at 5:00 as we battle Penn State.

**GO LOBOS!**

Fish

To read the FishBlog in its entirety, [click here](#).

**Nov 21, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

University of New Mexico Lobo Men's Soccer is primed and ready for Sunday's 5:00 NCAA Tournament Second Round Match versus George Mason University. George Mason defeated William and Mary Thursday night in penalty kicks to advance to Albuquerque and the Second Round. Looks like questionable weather, so prepare for cold and wet conditions. Tickets are selling quickly, so make sure to purchase them early at the Pit ticket office, UNM Bookstore or on-line (on-line ticket purchases will be available at the soccer stadium ticket office Will Call one hour prior to game time).

[Link for NCAA On-line ticket orders.](#)

**NEW MEXICO LOBOS VS GEORGE MASON PATRIOTS NCAA SECOND ROUND**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH, 5:00 PM UNM SOCCER STADIUM**

This year's #7 seeding and NCAA First Round bye, make it three years in a row Lobo Men's Soccer has been a "Top 16" NCAA Tournament seed.

**NEW MEXICO MEN'S SOCCER IS ONE OF ONLY THREE PROGRAMS IN THE COUNTRY TO RECEIVE A FIRST ROUND BYE AND "TOP 16" NCAA TOURNAMENT SEED IN EACH OF THE LAST THREE YEARS. THE OTHER TWO SCHOOLS ARE UCLA AND MARYLAND.**

Lobo Men's Soccer has been awarded the NSCAA Team Academic Award for the 10th time in the past 11 years (3.00 gpa or above). [Lobo Men's Soccer achieved a 3.43 Team Grade Point Average for the 2012-2013 Academic Year.](#)

Have a look [at yesterdays "Fish Off The Pitch"](#).....I was caught completely off guard....the first three minutes highlight my "calm demeanor" as we discuss the NCAA Tournament Selection Show.

Thanks for all your support and see you this Sunday at 5:00 for our NCAA Second Round Match versus George Mason at the Lobo Soccer Complex.

**GO LOBOS!**

Fish

To read the FishBlog in its entirety, [click here.](#)

**Nov 18, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer is ready to ROLL! I'm going to jump right straight to the chase.....tough loss Friday in the Conference-USA Tournament....coming off a regular season Title and Tournament bye, this was a tough one versus a great Tulsa team with everything to play for. To make a long story short, we started off slow and were punished. It was a painful trip back to Albuquerque with our tails between our legs. We had the real prize still ahead of us; the NCAA Tournament.

The NCAA Division I Soccer Tournament bracket was released this morning. We had a light training session at 8:00 am and then met in The Pit along with local media and athletic department staff to witness our fate. Confident that we were in "The Dance", the big question was would we receive a "Top 16" seed and the accompanying first round bye and home match? Being our first year in Conference USA and facing great competition on a weekly basis, our RPI (the primary factor in NCAA selection and seeding) was extremely high; #5 going into Friday's match (loss). While the RPI is a good indicator of seeding, the NCAA committee doesn't always follow it. Fingers were crossed and every possible scenario had been reviewed, reviewed.....over and over and over....all night long.

As the top seeds were announced and regions filled up, our name wasn't called. I was hoping for a 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> seed. It came down to the final region and the remaining 16 teams (48 team tournament with 16 seeded teams with byes). Names were called and then the seventh seed was announced....NEW MEXICO! Tremendous news which validates a great regular season and huge wins! It's the second highest seeding in our history (#2 in 2005). We play the winner of William and Mary and George Mason on Sunday, November 24th at 5:00 at the Lobo Soccer Complex. [Here is the link to our website article and ticket information.](#)

Many great teams didn't make the tournament (Duke, Michigan, NC State, SMU....) and many who got in, didn't get seeded (North Carolina, UConn, Akron, Indiana, Creighton...). We're excited about our seventh overall seeding and will be ready to play! ***This is the third year in a row we have received a "Top 16" seed and our 11th NCAA appearance in the past 13 years.*** I am pretty proud of our team and program.

[2013 NCAA Division I Soccer Bracket](#) (please note our match is at 5 p.m. on Sunday and not 7 p.m.)

I can't thank all of you enough for your incredible support. We look forward to seeing everyone Sunday the 24th at 5:00 for our 2nd Round NCAA Match.

**Nov 13, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

**Conference-USA** announced the end-of-season player awards yesterday and Lobo Soccer received tremendous recognition. Kyle Venter was named "Conference Most Valuable Player" and "Defensive Player of the Year". Chris Wehan was named "Freshman of the Year", Ben McKendry and Michael Calderon joined Venter on the All-Conference First Team, Mattie Gibbons was named to the All-Conference Second Team. Michael Kafari, Michael Lisch and James Rogers were named to the All-Conference Third Team. Niko Hansen joined Wehan on the Conference "All-Freshman Team". Congrats to all the boys and well deserved! Individual awards are bittersweet; success and recognition come from a having great players around you and a "team first" mentality. In my mind, all our players are deserving of being named to the "First Team". I can't tell you how incredible everyone on our roster has been and the awards are a result of everyone's dedication, caring, unselfishness and quality. More to come from Lobo Soccer!

### [Conference-USA Awards](#)

Off to Charlotte, North Carolina tomorrow morning to face the winner of Tulsa/South Carolina on Friday at 5:00 PM Eastern Time. The boys are healthy, fit, excited and prepared. We are really looking forward to this match.

### [Conference-USA Men's Soccer and Tournament Homepage](#)

Today's episode of "Fish Off The Pitch" will air tonight with special guest Michael Kafari. Don't miss this one.....make sure you watch last week's show with Mattie Gibbons....."heaps" of New Zealand trivia.

### ["Fish Off The Pitch"with Michael Kafari \(to air Wednesday evening\)](#)

Thanks for all your support. **GO LOBOS!**

**Fish**

**Nov 11, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

What an exciting weekend for University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer! With a very well-played victory Saturday versus Kentucky, Lobo Soccer wrapped up the Conference USA Regular Season Championship. With this important result, we get a first round bye in this week's Conference Tournament. Our next match is in the Conference USA semi-finals on Friday, November 15th against the winner of Tulsa/South Carolina. We are playing some of our best soccer and everyone is excited to get back at it! We depart on Thursday for Charlotte, North Carolina.

***LOBOS VS UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 5:00 PM, LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX***

Our most complete match of the season on senior day! I can't say enough about our four seniors: Michael Kafari, Kyle Venter, Michael Calderon and Michael Lisch. They have been fantastic all season and have led by example! We were very excited and prepared for this crucial final regular season match. A win would wrap up the Conference Regular Season Title. We opened well and played the game in the Kentucky half. Excellent opening 45 minutes, but nothing to show for our play on the scoreboard. The second half picked up right where we left off, with the reward coming in the 61st minute. Calderon corner kick to Kyle Venter for a clinical finish off the head; 1-0 Lobos. 15 minutes later, great work on the right flank from James Rogers and a precision cross to Ben McKendry at the six and class finish with his "cabeza". 2-0 Lobos and that's how it wrapped up. Pretty convincing performance: 11-0 shots, 10-1 corners, 8 fouls, Lisch with "0" saves....great way to end the regular season and enter tournament play.

**[Recap & Highlights of the Kentucky Win](#)**

Lobo Alum, "Big Dev" Sandoval, had a great match last night for Real Salt Lake in the MLS Western Conference Championship. Devon got the start, had an excellent goal... 4-2 victory and RSL on their way to the title match with another good result in the away leg (Portland in two weeks):

**[See Sandoval's goal for Real Salt Lake last night](#)**

Thanks for all your support and we hope to play a few more at home before it's all "said and done". Conference Tournament this weekend and the NCAA selection show on Monday, November 18th.

See you soon and **GO LOBOS!**

Fish

To read the FishBlog in its entirety, [click here](#).

**Nov 8, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

I just wanted to remind everyone that our final regular season match will be played tomorrow, Saturday, November 9th, 5:00 PM at the Lobo Soccer Complex. Senior Day and a big match versus the University of Kentucky Wildcats. We need your support and energy. The boys are ready!

**LOBO SOCCER VS KENTUCKY WILDCATS: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 5:00 PM LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX**

Here is the [match preview](#) for tomorrow.

The latest episode of "**Fish Off The Pitch**" with Mattie Gibbons [is up and running](#). Informative and entertaining dialogue with our Kiwi Captain!

Thanks for your support and we look forward to seeing you tomorrow night.

GO LOBOS!

Fish

**Nov 6, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

What a week for University of New Mexico Soccer! Two of our final three regular season matches versus nationally-ranked opponents; a daunting task and an exciting challenge. #10 UAB at home on Wednesday, October 30th and #24 Old Dominion on the road Saturday, November 2nd. The boys were prepared, confident and ready for the fight. This is why we were so eager to join Conference USA; Four teams in the "NCAA RPI Top 25" and not an easy game to be had. We wrap up our regular season this Saturday, November 9th at 5:00 PM against the University of Kentucky. The final regular season home match for seniors Kyle Venter, Michael Kafari, Michael Calderon and Michael Lisch. Hope everyone can come out for this very important match which will help determine the Conference USA Regular Season Champion.

**LOBOS VS KENTUCKY WILDCATS, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 5:00 PM, LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX. FINAL REGULAR SEASON MATCH OF 2013**

**LOBOS VS #10 UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA BIRMINGHAM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 7:00 PM, LOBO SOCCER STADIUM**

Action, action and more action. It was an exciting game to watch but a nightmare to coach. We came out on fire and attacked, attacked and attacked. The first 21 minutes saw beautiful soccer and all Lobos. It seemed like only a matter of time before the ball would find the back of the UAB net. In the 22nd minute, the unthinkable occurred. Against the run of play, UAB scored an excellent transition goal. We knew the Blazers were opportunistic and had plenty of offensive firepower....they sure did! We had a game on our hands. 1:30 later, a careless give-a-way in the back and we found ourselves down 2-0. We went from flying high and controlling the match, to floundering in a deep hole looking up.....not an enviable situation.

To the boys credit, we quickly regained our composure and the feeling on the bench, was if we could get one back prior to halftime, we would be fine. The boys turned it up another notch. In the 39th minute, great goal from Riley McGovern on the right flank, from a Niko Hansen assist: 2-1 UAB with

increasing new energy from the Lobos. Two minutes later, 41st minute, great work on the right from McGovern, low driven service and slotted away by Niko Hansen. 2-2 and back in it! We went into halftime even and emotions were high.

We came out strong in the second half, controlled the tempo and were rewarded in the 81st minute with a great near post goal from Ben McKendry off a Mattie Gibbons service from deep. 3-2 Lobos and in command. We were comfortably burning minutes off the clock until the 88th minute. A bad loss of possession in the midfield and UAB countered. World class finish and the scoreboard read 3-3.....a roller coaster of a match...with two minutes remaining in regulation. 15 seconds left in the match and we had a final chance with a quality cross from the right.

Wehan made a run across the UAB GK's face, but couldn't find the ball. Clearance into our half and it looked the clock would run out and we would face overtime. Hold on a minute....the UAB goalkeeper threw an elbow at Wehan as the ball bounced near midfield. The referee's assistant saw the blatant foul and notified the center official. If a foul is committed in the penalty box while the ball is in play, a penalty is called and penalty kick is awarded. With 7 seconds remaining on the clock, after discussion amongst the officials, the center pointed to the PK spot, gave the UAB keeper a red card and opened the door for Michael Calderon to end the game from 12 yards. Calderon found only net. 4-3 Lobos and the clock hit zero off the ensuing kickoff. What a victory! 19-4 shot advantage to the Lobos and Lisch only challenged to make one save. UAB had four chances and finished three of them. Big win for the Lobos with #21 Old Dominion and Conference USA leader three days away on the road.

### **LOBOS VS #21 OLD DOMINION, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 7:00 PM, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA**

Old Dominion was sitting atop the conference standings and could clinch the conference championship with a victory. The boys were ready for this one. We recovered well and everyone was healthy. We were without the service of Michael Kafari, who picked up his 5th yellow card versus UAB and consequently, would have to sit this one out per NCAA rules. Smooth trip across the country, late afternoon arrival and we were greeted with rain and cold weather. The boys enjoyed the change in scenery and we had a spirited evening training session on the ODU campus.

Kick off the following night couldn't have been better. Clear skies, 58 degrees and the field was immaculate. We started out strong and had the better of the match early against an excellent ODU squad. In the 17th minute, a service from deep tipped by James Rogers into the net. 1-0 Lobos. The game evened out with both teams creating chances. This was proving to be a classico! The announcer called out one minute left in the half as the clock headed towards 45:00. Chris Wehan stripped the ODU right back of the ball in the final minute and hit a right footed bending ball into the far corner.....big time finish and what we needed. 2-0 Lobos going into halftime.

What a boost and great lead to take into the second half. ODU let it roll the final 45 minutes. They pushed four guys up high, held a high line and went all out in the attack. It was a matter of who would score first....the ODU committed attack or the Lobo counter attack. We absorbed a lot of pressure, but held strong. Several chances to find the third goal and seal the game presented themselves, but we couldn't find the net. Finally, in the 80th minute, Ben McKendry beat his man inside the box and drew an all-important penalty. Calderon stepped to the PK spot and buried it high. 3-0 Lobos and ODU lost steam as we closed the match out. 3-0 Lobos in a great match and victory. I can't say enough about our team.

One final regular season match remains at home and a great way to send off our seniors. Hope everyone can make it out this Saturday night.

### **LOBOS VS KENTUCKY, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 5:00 PM LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX**

Thanks for all your support.

GO LOBOS!

Fish

**Oct 30, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

University of New Mexico Soccer... just when you think you have things figured out, you get bit on the rear end. It was a rough trip to Columbia, South Carolina and the "Graveyard". After a five game unbeaten streak to open Conference USA play, the zero has been removed from the loss column. The task at hand, is to look forward, focus on the next game and get the job done!

***LOBOS vs. #10 UAB TOMORROW NIGHT (WEDNESDAY) 7:00 PM at the Lobo Soccer Complex***

**LOBOS VS. UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA: SATURDAY OCTOBER 26TH 7:00 PM COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Saturday's match versus South Carolina was our first trip to the "Graveyard", the infamous home of South Carolina Gamecock Soccer. Situated right next to an on-campus cemetery, the "Graveyard" is a beautiful stadium with plenty of history and wonderful aesthetics. We all were excited for this trip and our preparation, energy and focus were "spot on".

We opened the game well and had the better of the first half. USC played very defensively and challenged us to break down their organized and compact back eight. We possessed the ball, played in the attacking half and never felt pressured for the first 45 minutes.

The second half was even more Lobos. We outshot USC 11-3, dominated possession and chances, hit the post/crossbar three times, but couldn't manage to find the net. Reminiscent of some matches early season. For the game, we out-shot the Gamecocks 14-8 (very generous from their scorekeeper), 10-3 in corners, our GK never tested but credited with two saves.....70 seconds into overtime, a bad mistake in back, great finish and we go down in flames 0-1 to a team who never threatened. Incredible dose of reality....you have to score goals to win. The longer you let a lesser team stay in the game, anything can happen.....GUTTED! We played some wonderful and skillful soccer and were a joy to watch. I am confident the boys will rebound, and we have a great opportunity to put this one behind us tomorrow night at 7:00 here on our home turf.

Wednesday night's match against University of Alabama at Birmingham will be an exciting one! Two teams who want the ball, two skillful attacking teams, two teams fighting for a conference title....need to see everyone in the stands at 7:00 PM.

**GO LOBOS!**

Fish

**Oct 22, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer is finding form at the right time! The boys put together 90 minutes of skillful and entertaining soccer this past Saturday afternoon versus Florida Atlantic University. They had excellent focus, preparation, consistency and maturity over the entire match. We are five games into our nine-game conference schedule, with four big ones on the horizon. We

are healthy, unified, excited and playing some of our best soccer of the season.....a good place to be! Off to Columbia, South Carolina early Friday morning for a 7:00 pm kickoff this Saturday night against the South Carolina Gamecocks. USC is a dangerous team with a rich soccer tradition. This will be our first trip to the "Graveyard". We have a big one at home next Wednesday versus the University of Alabama at Birmingham at 7:00 pm. UAB currently has a record of 10-2-1 and are ranked tenth in the country.

## **LOBOS VS. FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 1:00 PM LOBO SOCCER STADIUM**

Excellent 90 minutes of soccer from the boys. We had a great week of training, and it was good to have a week gap between matches. Our big minute players got some extra rest over the course of the week and everyone took advantage of the time at home to catch up on school, review video and prepare for challenges ahead. FAU came into the match with a record of 6-2-2 and with a lot of confidence.

We were good from the get go. We possessed the ball, played quickly and created chances. While not rewarded with a goal in the first half, we dominated play and created opportunities. The second half proved to be more fruitful. In the 56th minute, quality combination play on the right flank culminating with an end line cross from James Rogers to Chris Wehan for an excellent first-time finish; 1-0 Lobos. 18 minutes later, a great far-post-driven ball from Mattie Gibbons to Riley McGovern for a class finish... 2-0 Lobos. All in all, an excellent performance: 16-5 advantage in shots and our goalkeeper Michael Lisch challenged to make only one save over the course of the game. [Here is the game recap and video link with goals.](#)

We just filmed today's episode of "**Fish Off The Pitch**" with special guest **Chris Wehan**. Check out Wehan's impressive beard! He can now get into "R" rated movies without an ID. [The show](#) will air tonight:

People have asked where I get my threads.....if you have some style and fashion sense, check out **Izzy Martin Menswear** on Central Ave in Nob Hill. Incredible place with a tremendous selection!

Thanks for all your support and get ready for a big one at home next week.

## **LOBOS VS. #10 RANKED UAB: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30TH 7:00 PM LOBO SOCCER STADIUM**

**GO LOBOS!**

**Fish**

**Oct 16, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

Want to make sure everyone knows that **Lobo Men's Soccer home match this Saturday versus Florida Atlantic kicks off at 1:00 pm**. The schedule magnets say 8:00 pm, but the game time has been changed due to football's earlier start.

## **LOBOS VS. FLORIDA ATLANTIC SATURDAY OCTOBER 19TH 1:00 PM LOBO SOCCER STADIUM**

I'm real happy with our teams performance the past four matches. 3-0-1 in Conference-USA play with great team unity, leadership and everyone back to good health. This week couldn't have come

at a better time. Seven days between games and ample time to recover, re-focus and get the student-athlete balance back. Five regular season conference matches remain and each will be a battle.

**LOBOS VS. FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH 7:00 PM LOBO SOCCER STADIUM**

Coming off Wednesday's victory on the road versus Tulsa, FIU would be our third match in nine days. This important game would be a test of our durability and physical and mental toughness. The boys passed this challenging test.....but we could have made it much easier on ourselves.

Florida International is a very talented, attack-minded team. With a week to prepare for our match, they were fresh and prepared. To our team's credit, the players came out very focused and energized. We took the game to FIU from the kickoff. Our reward came in the 21st minute. We got a great goal from freshman Chris Wehan off a Niko Hansen pass. Wehan's first goal of the season and an important one for his confidence and for the team. Tremendous play the remaining 24 minutes, but we couldn't find the net.....this would lead to some stressful moments down the line. The Lobos led 1-0 at halftime.

We came out a bit sluggish in the second half and were punished two minutes in. Some sloppy play, far post service...1-1 and a war! FIU made every play a battle and began to go very direct. A very stressful and combative 45 minutes of soccer. We still had the better of play, but not on our terms. It was 1-1 at the end of regulation. I felt good going into overtime, as we had begun to get ahold of the match. Eight minutes into the first period of overtime, Ben McKendry hit a far post serve to Kyle Venter, who headed it back across the goal....James Rogers with a blast off the bar and great follow-up header to win it for the Lobos. 2-1 overtime victory! Great win for the team; dealing with adversity and the confidence of the overtime win, will prove very valuable down the stretch.

YOU NEED TO HAVE A LOOK AT THE GAME WINING GOAL.

[Read the GoLobos.com recap of the match here.](#)

We are now twelve games into our 17-game regular season. This is the time of year when good teams show what they are about. We are finding our form and the players are focused, driven and are "controlling what they have control over". Everyone is excited to get back on the field Saturday and keep things rolling! Thanks for your tremendous support and remember that kickoff is at 1:00 this Saturday against Florida Atlantic.

[Today's episode](#) of "*Fish Off The Pitch*" will air tonight with special guest freshman Chris Gurule.

**GO LOBOS!**

Fish

To read the FishBlog in its entirety, [click here](#).

**Oct 11, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

We just got back last night from Wednesday night's match in Tulsa, and we are getting ready for Saturday's home contest versus Florida International. It's a quick turnaround, re-energize, focus on task ahead and keep things rolling! Three games into our Conference USA nine-game schedule and the boys are really playing well. It's been an adjustment dealing with the playing rhythm/spacing of

our matches, but things settle after this weekend. We've had two big matches since my last e-mail against top opponents. I'm real proud of the attitude, commitment, focus and maturity of our team. We've dealt with adversity and have become stronger as a result. A record of 6-3-2 with wins over some of the top programs in the nation (six of the teams ranked in the "Top 20" at some point this season). We are really excited for what lies ahead.

### ***LOBOS VS. UNC CHARLOTTE OCTOBER 4TH 7:00 PM LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX***

Charlotte is an excellent team and challenging matchup for our squad. The 2011 national runners-up and perennial tournament team are very direct, organized and tough, with the dimensions of our home field (narrow and short) favoring a team with these characteristics. This was our tenth match of the season and probably our least inspiring performance. We were very good the first nine games and having one off day in ten is expected. The positive of the Charlotte match, is that despite our sub-par performance, we came away with a 0-0 tie against a top team who was playing with their backs to the wall. Great defensive effort and our play improved as the match progressed. In our talk after the game, I told the boys that this was a quality result considering we weren't at our best. The challenge would be to have a complete match in five days' time, on the road versus an excellent Tulsa Hurricane team.

### ***LOBOS VS. TULSA OCTOBER 9TH 7:00 PM TULSA, OKLAHOMA***

I really liked our preparation and demeanor going into the Tulsa game. This contest would be televised nationally as the "NSCAA Game of the Week" and the field and presentation were first class! Tulsa was ranked #19 coming into the game and took tremendous pride in being a "soccer playing" team; playing out of tight situations, while maintaining possession at all costs. If we could get our pressure, compactness and transition attacking right, this would be a great match-up for us. The boys were good from the start. We created an excellent chance four minutes into the match, but the first 45 minutes saw the game scoreless going into halftime. We picked up the pace in the second half and scored a quality goal in the 76th minute: Rogers to [Niko Hansen](#). It was Niko's team-leading sixth goal of the season. We had chances to double the lead but closed the match out with a 1-0 victory. I am real proud of the team's performance against a dynamic opponent. 2-0-1 in Conference USA play with a big one coming up at home this Saturday night.

Looking forward to Saturday night's home match versus a very talented Florida International squad. Kick-off is at 7:00 and we need your ENERGY.

Just shot today's episode of ["Fish Off The Pitch" with guest Niko Hansen](#).

Your support drives our players.

See you tomorrow night....**GO LOBOS!**

Fish

**Oct 2, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

New Mexico Lobo Soccer kicked off our move to Conference USA in grand fashion! We got back last night from a very taxing trip to West Virginia and have begun preparation for Friday night's home match versus UNC Charlotte. I'm going to keep things short and sweet.

We've played two matches since my last Lobo Faithful update and the results have been mixed. Crazy season thus far but our players have been tremendous. Unified, confident, hard-working,

committed... a mixture of managing stress, expectations and luck have been the difference. We wrapped up non-conference play against UC Davis last Friday night and played well. We didn't find the net and gave up a late one against the run of play....same story, different night. Teams are excited to play at our stadium, and we are getting everyone's best. It's the price to pay for being good and having an incredible home atmosphere. A problem everyone wants to have.

Quick and challenging turn-around for the conference opener 72 hours later, and the boys' response was a fantastic one. I'm really proud of the team's effort and quality of play but am disappointed with several of our results. Eight regular season games remain, we are playing very well, coming off a great offensiveness night and are in charge of our own destiny. I like this team and am very excited about what lies ahead!

***LOBOS VS UC DAVIS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH 7:00 PM ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.***

We played extremely well in the run of play, created great chances and dominated possession and opportunities. 18-4 advantage in shots, 11-2 corner kicks, out GK made "0" saves. We gave up a soft penalty kick early, missed a penalty kick and gave away a back-pass to our GK late for the winner. 2-1 win UC Davis. It was very discouraging to drop a match when you play so well. Even though a pattern had developed, we had an emotional "heart to heart" as a team and have moved on. We're ready for great things. Our boys are focused, unified and confident. Our challenge is to deal with pressure and distractions at home (undefeated on the road this season) and enjoy the moment. Excited to get back on the field!

***LOBOS VS MARSHALL UNIVERSITY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH 7:00 PM HUNTINGTON, W.V.***

After a long day of travel Sunday, the boys didn't miss a beat. We came out firing and scored three "class" goals to bring home a 3-1 victory over a combative Marshall team. The lone blemish was off a very questionable penalty call from a deep set piece. I'm real proud of the team and it was great to see three goals from players we are counting on: Calderon, Hansen and McKendry. Good things to come!

We are ready to get on a streak! Really excited for Friday night's home match versus UNC Charlotte at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is healthy and ready to go! Hope everyone can make it out for the match and support your Lobos.

Just shot today's episode of ["Off the Pitch"](#) with guest Ben McKendry.

Thanks for all your support and see you Friday night.

LOBOS!

FISH

To read the FishBlog in its entirety, [click here](#).

**Sep 25, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

University of New Mexico Soccer has experienced a very "surreal" three-game stretch. Highs and lows, luck, fate, circumstance, redemption, "staying the course", "in due time", "reap what you sow".....there are a million clichés, justifications and rationalizations for outcomes in sport. As coaches, we try to identify and define what went right, what went wrong and the rationale behind

every result. We try to make it a science rather than an art. Sometimes logic and sense are trumped by luck? Rather than re-live the past two games (not sure I can handle it), I'm going to give you the short and skinny version.

### **FRIDAY OCTOBER 23RD 7:00 PM LOBOS VS DRAKE AT LOBO SOCCER COMPLEX**

Not sure what my thinking was coming into this match. We lost a tough one the previous Sunday and luck hadn't gone our way. Drake is a good team, not a great team. They're very defensive, with nothing to lose coming to New Mexico. I was confident in our team and excited to get things back on track. The boys were sharp from the kickoff. It was a pretty dominant performance offensively: 13-4 advantage in shots, 7-2 in corner kicks and our keeper was not challenged to make a single save the entire match. As the game progressed, the self-imposed pressure and stress began to take a toll on our team. We wanted it so bad that we began to really push...not the mark of a mature, confident team (which I think we are). With 2:30 left on the clock, a series of miscues and a perfectly lofted ball found a Drake attacker between our center backs. One-time finish and it was 1-0 Drake.

We battled and created a final quality chance but found ourselves on the wrong side of the scoreboard. Incredible! Two matches in a row where we dominated, failed to take our chances and came away devastated. Never happened before (two in a row), but there were some great lessons learned....for all of us. We have to control what we have control over and never lose confidence or let pressure/stress get the upper hand. Understand that the result will come if patient and detail-oriented. Don't push too hard, don't get stretched and stick to the process. Despite the loss, the team was remarkably understanding and confident in our ability. I was really proud of their reaction and everyone was ready to get back on the field versus Santa Barbara three days later.

### **LOBOS VS CALIFORNIA SANTA BARBARA MONDAY OCTOBER 23RD 7:00 SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA**

What a great test for the team. Coming off two dominating performances resulting in losses, what would our response be to a match against an excellent team in one of the most challenging environments in college soccer? The Lobo performance was a tremendous one! We were tough, focused, confident and patient. Santa Barbara was very dangerous for the opening 25 minutes and put us under a great deal of pressure via direct play. Our defenders stayed the course, defended well, as we made some adjustments and weathered the storm. We re-gained our footing and got a hold of the game the final 15 minutes of the first half.

The second half was ours! The boys kept the ball, defended intelligently, ferociously and played with patience and confidence. As the clock wound down to the final minutes of the match, it looked like overtime. With 15 seconds left on the clock, James Rogers got ahold of the ball deep in the UCSB half...pass to Niko Hansen in the box....Hansen with a near post blast with twelve seconds remaining on the clock. It was 1-0 Lobos with a well-deserved outstanding victory. In a fairly even match statistically, it was an 8-6 Lobo advantage in shots, 8-5 corners and Lisch challenged to make one save. I was really proud of the team and the display of maturity, focus and confidence.

Just filmed the [latest episode of "Fish Off The Pitch"](#) and [spoke candidly with host Richard Stevens about the emotions experienced over the past two matches](#). It should post tonight. I went out on a limb and broke out one of my favorite shirts.

We are back home this Friday to close out non-conference play.

### **LOBOS VERSUS UC DAVIS FRIDAY - OCT 27TH 7:30 PM - UNM SOCCER COMPLEX**

Looking forward to getting back in front of our home crowd.

Thanks for all your support and GO LOBOS!

Fish

**Sep 18, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

Losing is painful! University of New Mexico Men's Soccer has tasted defeat for the first time this season, and we are really struggling with our mortality. Naivety, confidence, arrogance... We were under the illusion that we wouldn't drop a game. It's time to move on and prepare for the next one. The mark of a great team and great players is learning from defeat and being good losers. You don't make it a habit and never enjoy defeat, but be gracious in defeat. Let me recap last weekend...put it behind us... and get ready for Friday night's home match versus Drake and the season ahead!

### **LOBOS VS SANTA CLARA FRIDAY NIGHT SEPTEMBER 13TH 7:00 PM**

One game at a time has been our mantra and Santa Clara was going to be a tough opponent. After a tough start to the season, playing on the road at New Mexico was the Broncos' opportunity to get the season back on track. After a week of torrential downpours, the field was soft and traction was difficult. I was really proud of our team. Santa Clara made the game a war: direct play and a battle for first and second balls. Our boys really handled themselves and came away with a deserving 1-0 victory. James Rogers off a Michael Calderon assist in the 64th minute. Goalkeeper Michael Lisch was challenged to make only one save and we outshot the Broncos 15-6 with 4-2 advantage in corner kicks. The majority of the match was played in our opponents half. Not an easy game but few are. Great to see the team get the victory in a tough match, not at our best.

### **LOBOS VS CALIFORNIA STATE NORTHRIDGE SUNDAY NIGHT SEPTEMBER 15TH 6:00 PM**

Northridge is a soccer playing team; over playing at times. This was the game we were eagerly awaiting. It was two undefeated opponents going head to head. I felt we were very well prepared and had our tactics right. Press them high when presented with the opportunity, stay compact and drop if they broke our pressure. Two biggest threats were their left winger and target center forward.

The game opened as planned. We controlled the ball, played in their half and created chances. Everything was going right except finding the back of the net. 27th minute against the run of play, the CSUN forward hit a rocket from the top of the box, we defended properly and the ball bounced wide with a wicked spin. It was a crazy bounce right to the left foot of their winger who finished far post with precision. Down a goal, we kept on attacking with a vengeance. Seven minutes later, again against the run of play, Northridge found their second. This time a combination of poor defending, luck and great finishing. 2-0 Matadors, but we stayed the course and continued to create chances the final eleven minutes of the half. Even though down two goals, we felt fairly good about things at the half. Luck would have to even out.

19 minutes into the second half, we were awarded a penalty kick as a result of some tremendous combination play in the box. Calderon slotted it away....2-1 and we felt good. We continued to have the bulk of possession and began to commit numbers forward in search of the equalizer. We lost a bit of defensive focus and the center forward we warned the back four about, created space for himself in transition and finished with class off a direct ball to make it 3-1. 20 minutes left in the match and we pressed on and attacked with a passion. We found our second in the 88th minute, but couldn't find the equalizer (had a great chance in the final 10 seconds). 3-2 loss and a very tough one to swallow. We outshot CSUN 22-8, had twelve corner kicks to their none, and Lisch was challenged to make 2 saves. What a disappointing result, but I was happy with the vast majority of our play. How will we cope with the loss and will we learn from the experience?

Our challenge is to quickly get over Sunday's result and prepare for our match this Friday night against Drake. The boys will be ready, and we all are excited to get back out in front of the Lobo Faithful. Thanks for your incredible support and see you Friday night.

[This week's episode of "Fish off the Pitch" will be posted later today](#) with Riley McGovern this week's guest.

Without beating the proverbial "dead horse", [we need your membership in our Golden Goal Club, the Lobo Men's Soccer Booster Club](#). Our success is based on your support:

Thanks again and GO LOBOS!

*FISH*

To read the FishBlog in its entirety, [click here](#).

**Sep 11, 2013**

**Lobo Faithful:**

Brutal road trip to the east coast! Time change, traffic, humidity, lots of people, delays.....very different environment from the "Land of Enchantment". There was also no green chile either. The University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer Team covered quite a few miles and time zones this past weekend. We departed early Thursday morning for Richmond, Virginia and a Friday night match versus newly 17th ranked Virginia Commonwealth. 4

Our hotel was right in the middle of the historic district. Richmond was the capital of the Confederacy during the Civil War with southern hospitality and a very different vibe. Southern Colonial architecture and a constant reminder of the South and the "War Between the States". The boys didn't comment too much about the significance of this time in our country's history. The international boys were very intrigued and seemed to show the greatest interest. From Richmond, we traveled two hours to Washington D.C. Saturday afternoon, for Sunday's match versus eleventh-ranked Georgetown. The Hoyas were a NCAA finalist last year and are coached by Albuquerque native, Brian Weise. Two big time matches on the road. We would know a lot more about our team come Sunday night!

I have officially switched into "in-season coaching mode". It's four and hopefully, five months of total immersion. Coaching is an emotional roller-coaster. I think winning is more about relief and getting to live another day or week. Losing, is painful and the walls seem to be coming down on top of you. As a collegiate coach, you try to rationalize that you are working for an educational institution, you are developing young men, you are a community servant.....winning is secondary. The reality, is that the majority of people gauge your success by the numbers following your name. To watch my contemporaries go through the emotions of a game is painful. Experiencing them myself, even more so... Regardless of the level we are coaching, you want to win more than anything in the world!

I just got done watching the post-game interview of an old friend's first game as a head coach in the NFL. My first job was at Fort Lewis College and Casey Bradley came in with me as a first year assistant football coach. We both were ambitious and competitive....too competitive. Basketball, fishing, recruiting, who could work harder and longer hours....it never stopped. After watching his interview following a drubbing at the hands of Kansas City (his first game as head coach), I felt for him. He is making millions of dollars, but dying inside. The ones who want you to win the most, are your family members. If you win, things are good at home. If you lose, sleepless nights and a zombie buying time until the next game and a chance for redemption. Luckily, all is good in my house.....for at least another week!

## **LOBOS VS. #17 VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH RAMS**

VCU is a very talented team with plenty of firepower. We played them in 2004 and this year's team was very similar: speed, skill and wide open play. We came out very strong and had the upper hand from the opening. The only time VCU threatened, was a result of direct play over the top or second balls in high areas. We defended well and scored a great goal in the 43rd minute. James Wypych got service from the left flank for a James Rogers finish. It was 1-0 Lobos heading into halftime. We came out strong in the second and the game was very comfortable. In the 55th minute, big ball over the top and our GK hesitated on his line. Their blazing forward got a toe on the ball and found the back of the net. 1-1 with the goal coming against the run of play. Play evened out a bit and the match finished in a very disappointing 1-1 tie. We outshot VCU 21-5 and hit the post on two occasions. It was a tough one. VCU proved to be a class team, beating #5 Maryland 3-2 on Sunday. After playing 110 minutes of soccer, I was worried if the boys would have their legs on Sunday at #11 Georgetown?

## **LOBOS VS. #11 GEORGETOWN HOYAS**

BIG MATCH! Two top collegiate teams figuring out how good they are early season! The boys seemed fresh and very focused. A real testament to the work they put in over the summer. We were tremendous in the first half. Excellent on the ball and our defense was stellar. We created chances, but couldn't find the net. Things evened out in the second half, but neither team could finish and we entered overtime for the second time in three days. It was a true test of our fitness and resolve. Four minutes into the second overtime period, James Rogers wriggled free for a close range shot....reflex save by the Hoya keeper and the ball bounced back to freshman Nick Rochowski. "Big Chow" unleashed a left footed rocket far post and found only net. 1-0 Lobos in overtime. A great win for the entire team and a real confidence builder. Can't say enough about our teams toughness and resiliency. For the match, we outshot Georgetown 15-7 and had 9 corner kicks to their 0. A very mature and well-rounded performance!

Two great tests this weekend at the Lobo Soccer Complex, as we host our annual TLC Heating, Plumbing and Cool Invitational. We play Santa Clara this Friday night at 7:00 pm and #11 ranked Cal State Northridge Sunday at 6:00 pm. Two challenging matches and the boys are itching to get back on the field.

We need your support and your membership in our booster club, the Golden Goal Club. Here's [the link to the brochure](#).

[This week's episode of "Fish Off The Pitch"](#) will air late this afternoon.

Thanks for your support and see you Friday night at 7:00 pm.

GO LOBOS!

Coach Fish

**Sep 4, 2013**

### **Lobo Faithful:**

The 2013 University of New Mexico Soccer Season kicked off in grand fashion Friday night. Lobos versus Villanova. 2,800 in the stands, clear blue skies and LOUD! 500 Vuvuzela's were distributed to the Lobo Faithful in attendance and the match atmosphere was electric. I felt good about our preseason and exhibition matches; we were able to evaluate all our players and saw which

combinations worked best. After battling some pre-season injuries, we were able to put a very strong team out versus Villanova.

We knew we had quality in attack, but were unsure how everyone would respond to the opening match and initial nerves. Our concerns were quickly put to rest. We were good from the kickoff and put Villanova on their heels. 21 minutes in, [James Rogers](#) finished off a [Michael Calderon](#) corner kick to go up 1-0. Things were looking good.

In sports, the natural tendency is to mentally let down after a goal, touchdown or three-pointer. We talk about this as a team and constantly put emphasis on the minutes immediately following a goal. 40 seconds after scoring our first goal of the year, we gave up our first goal of the year. Uncharacteristic mistakes from veteran players. One on one and an episode, which will not be repeated.

We regained focus and eight minutes later [James Rogers](#) was brought down in the box following some dynamic combination play in the attack. Calderon slotted the PK... 2-1 Lobos and no looking back.

Five minutes later, Rogers with some great work on the right flank and cross to [Riley McGovern](#)...one time finish from Riley's head: 3-1 Lobos.

Three minutes later and Riley returned the favor with a great ball to Rogers from the end line to make it 4-1. This is how the first half closed.

Four minutes into the second half saw freshman, [Niko Hansen](#), find the net for his first collegiate goal with the assist from freshman [Josh Goss](#). 5-1 Lobos.

In the 80th minute Wehan with a great assist to Calderon for Calde's second of the match. In the 82nd Hansen with his second of the match and career, 7-1 Lobos. The scoring finished up in the 82nd minute with Villanova scoring their 2nd of the match to make the final 7-2 Lobos. Plenty of action, with the only negative being the two goals allowed. Everyone is healthy and excited to get back at it this Friday night at Virginia Commonwealth.

We take off early Thursday morning for Richmond, Virginia and Friday's 7:00 pm match versus Virginia Commonwealth. VCU is coming off an NCAA 2nd round appearance and a "Top 25" preseason ranking. They're a very talented, attacking team. Recovery day Saturday and off to the Nation's capital Sunday to face the pre-season #2 ranked and 2012 national runner-up, Georgetown Hoya's at noon. One game at a time. The boys are focused and excited for the upcoming challenges. For streaming information and live stats, [click here](#).

We shot the second episode of "Fish off the Pitch" today and the cut version will air this afternoon. [Here's the link](#).

If you haven't already joined the Golden Goal Club, the Lobo Men's Soccer booster club, we need your support. [Here's the link](#).

Thanks for all your support and GO LOBOS!

Coach

To read the FishBlog in its entirety, [click here](#).

**AUG 28, 2013**

**LOBO FAITHFUL:**

Catch the action this Friday night, August 30th, 7:00 PM at the Lobo Soccer Complex: Season Opener. It's LOBOS versus Villanova Wildcats. Pre-game DJ on stage outside the stadium at 5:00, tailgating encouraged and bring your noisemakers! 500 vuvuzela's, drums and cow bells will be distributed prior to kick-off. It's going to be LOUD and ACTION PACKED!

Pre-season has come and gone in the blink of an eye. We returned Sunday afternoon from our four-day Colorado road trip/exhibition matches versus Air Force and Denver University. We learned a great deal about ourselves and have really grown from the experience. We played Air Force on Thursday night and put a very young squad on the field. Seniors Venter, Kafari, Calderon and Meile (junior) and Wehan (redshirt freshman) didn't suit up with all five nursing minor injuries. The kickoff was changed to 5:00 PM to avoid rain and lightning....didn't work. Five minutes into the match, the skies opened up. After a 40 minute delay, the match was moved to the Falcon Indoor Facility. A 120 x 70 pitch is a tough place to play.

Early in the first half, we dealt with more adversity. Junior midfielder Adrian Mora Delgado went down with a knee injury. We adjusted and finished out the first half with several quality chances. The second half started well, but we gave up a transition goal 20 minutes in and began to chase the game. Air Force defended well and scored against the run of play as we pushed for the equalizer: 2-0 Falcons. It was a costly lesson both in terms of result and losing Mora Delgado to a serious knee injury. Our young boys got a taste of Division I Soccer and the mentality and toughness it takes to win. We asked for challenges and adversity and got just what we asked for and more.

We traveled north on I-25 Friday afternoon in preparation for Saturday night's match versus Denver. Sharp training session Friday afternoon with Venter, Calderon, Kafari and Wehan back in the line-up. 7:00 scheduled kick-off and once again, the weather wasn't kind to us. After a 60 minute delay, the skies cleared and we got things rolling on a wet, slippery field. I was real proud of our performance. We dealt with the conditions and scored a great goal in the 75th minute to win the match 1-0. Freshman Niko Hansen with the goal off the work of James Rogers. The team showed mental and physical toughness and quality in attack. We got everything out of the trip we could ask for (except for the injury to Adrian).

All home matches will be streamed live this season. Our media department has invested a great deal of resources into video production and the streaming of home soccer matches will be high quality. [Here is the link to Friday night's stream](#). Once our new website is up and running, there will be a direct link on the men's soccer home page for streaming. Streaming will be free this year.

"FISH OFF THE PITCH" LoboTV and host Richard Stevens will produce a weekly Lobo Men's Soccer Coaches Show featuring Lobo players and myself. Filming will take place Wednesdays with the finished product up late afternoon (first episode filmed today).

All Tuesday 11:30 Media Luncheons will be streamed live by Lob TV and will be archived on the Lobo Men's Soccer webpage. Review of previous match(s) and preview of upcoming match(s). Check the newly-redesigned GoLobos.com to watch these weekly press conferences.

Don't forget to join the Golden Goal Club, the exclusive booster club of Lobo Men's Soccer. 100% of membership dollars go directly to our program. We need your support! [Here is the GGC Brochure](#).

Lobo Soccer Season Passes can still be purchased for \$50 and there are still a few remaining Lobo Scarves available for free with purchase (\$30 Value). [No waiting in line!](#)

Thanks for all support and see you Friday night. We need you to be participants, not spectators. Bring the noise.

GO LOBOS!

Coach Fish

**Aug 21, 2013**

**Lobo Faithful:**

The 2013 University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer season has arrived! After five days of intense pre-season training, the University of New Mexico Men's Soccer team kicked off exhibition play versus Grand Canyon University this past Saturday night. It was a great home atmosphere with 1700+ in the stands and beautiful weather.

It was a match of two halves: inconsistent play in the opening 45 minutes and excellent play in the second half. We came out on top 3-1 with mixed feelings. You're never as sharp as you hope to be early season. Our positioning and spacing were a tad off and passes and timing were just missing, which is to be expected.

It's a very confident team with some big decisions ahead regarding playing time. What I'm most proud of is our leadership, unity and desire to always be at our best. This is a very impressive group of young men, and it will be interesting to see if/how dynamics change as playing roles are defined: excitement, satisfaction and disappointment. These are yearly questions, and I expect the best from this group. We had some strong performances from freshmen [James Wypych](#) and [Niko Hansen](#) with class goals and the third coming off the head of [Kyle Venter](#). Dynamic group of newcomers with exciting times ahead!

We depart this afternoon for Colorado Springs and Thursday's match versus Air Force (exhibition match #2). **GAME TIME HAS BEEN CHANGED TO 5:00 PM DUE TO EXPECTED EVENING THUNDER STORMS.** We are looking forward to seeing our adjustments and response to some critical video analysis. We will field a very young line-up, as we hold out some veterans carrying nagging injuries. **SATURDAY NIGHT at 7:00 pm, we play our final exhibition versus Denver University in Denver.** We are really excited for the trip and ready to get things rolling.

[There is still an opportunity to purchase your LOBO PRIDE PASS for \\$50. It includes admission to all home men's and women's soccer games.](#) The first 500 to purchase get a Lobo Scarf for free (\$30 value). There are about 50 scarves left, so don't wait!

THE GOLDEN GOAL CLUB IS THE EXCLUSIVE BOOSTER CLUB FOR MEN'S SOCCER. We need your support! Our goal is to be the top program in the country and to accomplish this, [We need your assistance with operating costs. 100% of your membership dollars go directly to our program.](#)

**THE SEASON OPENER IS FRIDAY, AUGUST 30TH AT 7:00 VERSUS VILLANOVA.** Bring your noisemakers and help make our home game environment the best and loudest in the country. See you soon, thanks for all your support.

GO LOBOS!

FISH

**Aug. 7, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

**University of New Mexico Lobo Men's Soccer** pre-season training kicks off bright and early Monday morning, August 12th. I'm really excited about this team! Excellent leadership, maturity, desire, cohesiveness, passion, depth, talent, skill, speed... the boys are focussed, fit and ready to get the season underway. I wanted to make sure everyone had the [opportunity to purchase your season tickets early \(only \\$50\) and get a free Lobo Soccer Scarf \(\\$30 value\)](#). 10 home matches, no waiting in line, action-packed entertainment and a great value. Our home matches are going to be loud, fast-paced and we need you to be a participant, not a spectator. YOU are part of our TEAM. Get your season pass now and plan on tailgating prior to all our home matches and BRING THE NOISE.

Former Lobo, [Blake Smith](#), [scored a clinical MLS match winner for the Montreal Impact in extra time last weekend](#) versus Sporting Kansas City. Blake's goal celebration brings back great Lobo memories.

***WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!*** The Golden Goal Club is Lobo Men's Soccer's Booster Club. 100% of membership dollars go directly to our program. With increasing costs, and the move to Conference USA, we need to raise \$80,000 this year to cover operating expenses (team travel, recruiting and equipment). We need your help! Here is the link to the 2013 Golden Goal Club Brochure. Hope you can join us in our pursuit of EXCELLENCE!

I will keep you posted as preseason gets underway and look forward to seeing everyone at our first exhibition match on August 17th! LOBOS VERSUS GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY (EXHIBITION MATCH) 7:00 PM AUGUST 17TH AT THE LOBO SOCCER STADIUM.

Thanks for your support and GO LOBOS!

[Jeremy Fishbein](#)

To read the FishBlog in its entirety, [click here](#).

**July 9, 2013**

University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer Update....Excitement around the corner!

Lobo Faithful:

The dog days of summer have arrived and summer camps are rocking. 250+ kids a week for two weeks: energy to burn, sunscreen in their eyes, blisters, sunburn, bee stings, too much gatorade, stinky socks.....the works. We're hard at it and realizing the impact our team has on the young soccer players of New Mexico. I couldn't be prouder of our guys and the role models they have become. Lobo Men's Soccer had another great semester in the classroom with a team gpa of 3.4 for the spring. Levi Rossi was named Lobo Club Male Student-Athlete of the year and everyone was very involved and committed to the community. Incredible group of young men. Our players are all back working camps and/or going to summer school and the vibe is tremendous.

It was a pretty wonderful summer for the boys. Riley McGovern spent a month in New Zealand training at the Ole Academy and playing matches in Wellington. James Rogers spent three weeks in Sweden training with professional clubs. Adrian Mora Delgado is finishing up an internship with a local engineering firm and our four seniors trained with MLS clubs around the country. Kafari, Lisch and Venter trained with Sporting Kansas City, Calderon with Real Salt Lake, Kafari with the Seattle

Sounders and Kafari and Venter closed out their June with the Colorado Rapids. All four got a great taste of professional soccer and what it will take to play at the next level upon graduation.

Last years seniors are all doing well. Levi Rossi is living in New Zealand coaching and playing. Vic Rodriguez, coming off a season in Guatemala, is looking for a new professional club, Travis Campbell is playing semi-professional soccer in Tucson and moving back to Albuquerque at the end of the month. Nik Robson is pursuing professional playing opportunities in England, Devon Sandoval [is playing very well for MLS's Real Salt Lake](#) and Blake Smith is [finding his form with MLS's Montreal Impact](#).

With the season right around the corner, media releases promoting the upcoming season are starting to surface and [our players are receiving quite a bit of attention](#). Exciting times ahead for Lobo Soccer. Pre-season camp kicks off August 12th and our first match is an exhibition at the Lobo Soccer Complex vs Grand Canyon University on Saturday night, August 17th at 7:00 pm. We have a special promotion going on right now! You can purchase a season pass for \$50 (Lobo Pride Pass) and receive a Lobo Soccer Scarf for free with your purchase (\$30 value). 10 home matches, no waiting in the ticket line and a great scarf! Contact Dom Romero at [dom@unm.edu](mailto:dom@unm.edu) to reserve your pass. We have a limited number available, so don't wait. Can't wait for the season and thanks for your incredible support. GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

**May 14, 2013**

Lobo Faithful:

Summer is right around the corner.....semester exams passed, individual meetings complete, closing team meeting a success.....time to kick the feet up and relax...only in retirement! What a tremendous year for Lobo Men's Soccer. The reward for hard work and success is continued hard work. This week has been our first "out of the fire" and has allowed time to reflect on the past nine months. What an honor to coach and work with such an incredible group of young men and to be involved in such a vibrant and passionate community. Our players are committed to excellence in the classroom, in the community and on the playing field. Lobo Faithful: Thank you for being enthusiastic and supportive members of Lobo Men's Soccer! You motivate all of us on a daily basis and make us better! I wanted to pass on some information regarding the spring season, recruiting, 2013 schedule and Lobos in the Pro's.

We completed our spring playing season on April 27th in Denver versus Creighton University (Final Four participants the past two years). A great performance by the boys as we concluded our spring undefeated with a record of 5-0-1. The passion to compete, unity, leadership and desire to win was demonstrated every minute of every match. Lobo Men's Soccer is about EXCELLENCE! [Here is the GoLobos.com Spring Re-cap.](#)

Recruiting is a never ending component of collegiate athletics. I am very excited about our two latest signings for the upcoming season. Rene Reyes and Oniel Fisher will be joining us this fall and both bring maturity, international experience and flair to our program. Rene played for Jacksonville University this fall, where he was a member of the freshman All-Conference Team and Oniel was a junior college All-American and won a National Championship at Tyler Junior College. [Rene and Oniel are dynamic players who will complement their Lobo teammates.](#)

Our 2013 Schedule has been finalized and looks to be the most complete and challenging schedule in our history. With our move to Conference USA, we will be tested coast to coast, while facing the top competition in the country. This may be the best schedule in the country! [The Lobos will be tested every match and our home supporters will be treated to some incredible match-ups.](#)

Lobos Devon Sandoval and Blake Smith faced off this past Saturday as rookie professional players in MLS, as Real Salt Lake traveled to Montreal to face the Impact. [Blake Smith assisted on the game winner](#) for Montreal and laid claim to bragging rights. Sandoval scored his first professional goal the previous match. [Here is video footage of Devon's goal.](#)

I will keep in touch over the summer and look forward to seeing all of you this fall. Thanks for your continued support and GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein  
Lobo Soccer

**March 2, 2013**

**LOBO FAITHFUL:**

Exciting times for University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer! Our most successful fundraising event to date took place last Sunday night, [Victor Rodriguez](#) just signed his first professional contract and our spring schedule has been released.

Sunday night was a huge night for our program. Great Friend of Lobo Soccer, Mark Gorham, with the help of former Lobo Soccer Captain, Jason Hix, put on an incredible fundraising event featuring former New Mexico Governor and Presidential candidate, Gary Johnson. Gorham, Hix and Johnson helped the program raise \$50,000 over the course of the night. The evening's program featured a presentation by Gary Johnson on his climb of Mt. Everest. Incredible event and the Albuquerque community came out in force to support Lobo Soccer. [Read more about the fundraiser here.](#)

The team's recent accomplishments and highlights were shown to the crowd at the event. You can watch that [video here.](#)

[Victor Rodriguez](#), our senior goalkeeper from Las Cruces, just signed a professional contract with Antigua GFC in the Primera Division de Ascenso of Guatemala. Vic graduated in December and is currently in Antigua, Guatemala, one of the most beautiful cities in Central America. I will keep you posted on how his season progresses. Vic joins [Devon Sandoval](#) and [Blake Smith](#) as professional players from this fall under contract, with [Nik Robson](#) currently in camp with the Minnesota Stars.

Our spring match schedule has been released with some great matches at home and on the road.

[Here is our 2013 Spring Schedule.](#)

Exciting times ahead for Lobo Soccer. I will keep you posted throughout the spring!

Coach Fish

**Feb. 7, 2013**

**LOBO FAITHFUL:**

EXCITING TIMES FOR LOBO SOCCER! Want to get a good bit of information out to you, and I know you are itching to hear the latest and greatest regarding New Mexico Soccer. I'm real of proud

of our teams commitment to academic excellence. The team gpa for the fall semester was 3.43! One of our best semesters ever. Three players were drafted by Major League Soccer (MLS) teams in the January draft: [Blake Smith](#) was drafted by the Montreal Impact with the 8th pick of the draft, [Devon Sandoval](#) was drafted by Real Salt Lake with the 29th pick and [Nik Robson](#) was drafted by Toronto FC with the 39th pick of the supplemental draft. All three are currently in preseason camp and are doing well.

Yesterday was NATIONAL SIGNING DAY, and we are very excited about our 2013 RECRUITING CLASS. Eight new Lobos, five of whom started classes in January and are in their fourth week of training with the team. Here is the link to our [website article](#) with pictures and bio info.

COME JOIN LOBO MEN'S SOCCER AT OUR PREMIER FUNDRAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR featuring presidential candidate and former New Mexico Governor, Gary Johnson, on Sunday, February 24th. Gary Johnson will speak and show slides of his unique and inspiring climb of Mt. Everest along with dinner. Single seats are available for \$150 and sponsored tables of ten start at \$1,500. All proceeds will go directly to the Lobo Men's Soccer program via The Golden Goal Club (501 C3). If you have any questions or want to RSVP, please contact Dom Romero at [dom@unm.edu](mailto:dom@unm.edu) or call (505)205-7809. Here are the specifics with brochure below:

### [Lobo Soccer Fundraiser](#)

Where:

Hotel Albuquerque  
310 Rio Grande Blvd. S.W.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

When:

Sunday, February 24th  
VIP reception/cash bar 5:30 - 6:30 pm  
Dinner & presentation 6:30 pm

Sponsorship Levels:

Gold Sponsorship Level \$5,000.00

Includes one table for ten and a private VIP Reception with Governor Gary Johnson, [Jeremy Fishbein](#) and select players from The University of New Mexico Men's Soccer team.

Silver Sponsorship Level \$1,500.00

Includes one table for ten.

Individual seats can be purchased for \$150.00

**Dec. 12, 2012**

**Lobo Faithful:**

University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer is shutting it down for 2012. Great season, incredible supporters and everyone is ready for the Holidays and some down time.....everyone except for the coaching staff. We'll have a bit of relaxing and then recruiting and then getting ready for an exciting 2013! Just wanted to, once again, thank the Lobo Faithful for your tremendous support and wish all of you a wonderful holiday season. Our six seniors will be missed.....never replaced, but new players will fill their vacated roles and try to reach the high standard they have set.

Our sports information department put all the season accomplishments/honors together for a soon to be released final re-cap. I've copied the major points and pasted below. Some other well deserved news which just came in today, Associate Head Coach [Paul Souders](#) was named the Far West Region Assistant Coach of the Year for the second year in a row. He is now up for National Assistant Coach of the Year. I'm really proud of this year's team and all that they accomplished. The boys excelled in the classroom, in the community and on the field of competition. Thanks again and I will be in touch come January.

GO LOBOS!

[Jeremy Fishbein](#)

### **2012 Lobo Soccer Season**

- 17-4-1 Final Record
- Regular Season MPSF Champs - 8<sup>th</sup> Regular season MPSF Conference title, 11<sup>th</sup> overall (including MPSF Tournament titles)
- Ninth NCAA Tournament appearance in eleven seasons
- Two straight NCAA Sweet 16's (Fourth overall)
- One of only 8 teams in nation to make Sweet 16 last two seasons
- 11-0 victory over UNLV was most goals in program history against a NCAA Division I opponent. The match saw [Devon Sandoval](#) become the first player since [Jeff Rowland](#) in 2005 to record a hat trick. His three goals and two assists were the third-most points in a conference match in MPSF history.
- Lobos were named to TopDrawerSoccer's National Team of the Week six different times. [Devon Sandoval](#) three times, [Victor Rodriguez](#) once, [Kyle Venter](#) once and [James Rogers](#) once. Sandoval was the three-time MPSF Player of the Week as well.
- The 35 wins in 2011 and 2012 tie the most wins in a two-year span in program history. The 2004 and 2005 teams also had 35 wins.
- [Jeremy Fishbein](#) surpassed Klaus Weber for the all-time win record at UNM. His record at New Mexico is now 154-48-26 in eleven seasons.
- The Lobos had the highest number of different players score a goal in the nation. 15 different Lobos combine to score 53 goals this season. Those 53 goals in 22 matches made UNM second in the nation in goals per game.
- [Blake Smith](#) finished second in the nation with 13 assists. That was the second-most assists in a season in program history.
- Devon Sandoval's 15 goals and seven assists put him in the top ten in college soccer in total goals and total points this season. He leaves in the program in the top ten all-time in the same two categories in team history.
- New Mexico posted eleven shutouts this season, which was the third most in program history

- UNM ranked in top 25 in NSCAA rankings the entire season. Reached as high as third (Final poll comes out tomorrow)

### The Post-Season Awards:

- MAC-Hermann Semifinalist: [Devon Sandoval](#) (Third time in program history)
- All-MPSF:
  - First Team: [Devon Sandoval](#), [Blake Smith](#), [Kyle Venter](#), [Victor Rodriguez](#)
  - Second Team: [Michael Calderon](#), [Michael Kafari](#) and [Levi Rossi](#)
  - Third Team: James Rogers, [Travis Campbell](#), [Matthew Gibbons](#)
  - Newcomer of the Year: [Ben McKendry](#)
- All-Region:
  - First Team: [Blake Smith](#), [Devon Sandoval](#) and [Kyle Venter](#)
  - Third Team: [Michael Calderon](#)
- NSCAA All-America:
  - Second Team: [Devon Sandoval](#)
  - Third Team: [Kyle Venter](#)
- College Soccer News All-America:
  - Second Team: [Devon Sandoval](#)
  - Third Team: [Kyle Venter](#)
- [TopDrawerSoccer.com](#) National Team of the Season
  - Second Team: [Kyle Venter](#)
  - Freshmen Second Team: [Ben McKendry](#)
- College Soccer News All-Freshmen Team: Second Team: [Ben McKendry](#)
- Capital One Academic All-American: [Levi Rossi](#) (Third Team)
- Capital One Academic All-District Team: [Levi Rossi](#), [James Rogers](#), [Adrian Mora Delgado](#)
- NSCAA Team Academic Award: Ninth time in ten years. 3.30 team GPA ranked in top 25 nationally
- [Blake Smith](#) and [Devon Sandoval](#) received invites to the MLS Player combine. New Mexico is one of only 13 schools in the country to have multiple players invited to the MLS Player combine. Only 54 players in the nation are invited to this.

**Nov. 28, 2012**

### Lobo Faithful:

The dreaded closing email of the 2012 season: a tremendous University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer season came to a disappointing and premature end last Sunday in Storrs, Connecticut. Our boys played dynamic, attacking soccer versus the UConn Huskies, but couldn't put away the chances which would have brought victory. We had great opportunities when up 1-0 and again in the final minutes of regulation when tied 1-1. Luck was not on our side and unfortunately, luck played a role in the final outcome, 104 minutes of beautiful soccer, only to end in the second period of overtime.

[Here is the link](#) to the website article on the UConn match recap.

I will get a more in-depth email out in the next couple of weeks reviewing the 2012 season and the academic and on-field accomplishments of our players. 17-4-1 with wins over national powers UCLA, SMU and Virginia highlighted the season. Our six seniors will be greatly missed and their leadership will fuel the program for years to come. Vic Rodriguez, [Travis Campbell](#), [Levi Rossi](#), [Blake Smith](#), [Devon Sandoval](#) and [Nik Robson](#) have set the bar high for Lobo Soccer.

Our program needs your financial assistance! We need to supplement our operating budget by approximately \$50,000 per year to maintain our current standards. If you haven't already joined the Golden Goal Club, your membership is needed. The GGC is the Lobo Men's Soccer Booster Club and 100% of membership dollars go directly to our program. [Here is the link to the Golden Goal Club Brochure](#).

Thanks again for your incredible support this season and every season. Have a wonderful Holiday. GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,  
[Jeremy Fishbein](#)

**Nov. 21, 2012**

**Lobo Faithful:**

It was a tremendous team performance from the University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer Team Sunday night. 3-1 home victory over perennial ACC power, University of Virginia, in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Our boys were focused, confident and hungry to get the NCAA post-season rolling! From the opening minute, we came out "guns a-blazing"! Can't say enough about our team unity, leadership and toughness!

[Game re-cap and highlight video link](#)

[Link to the post game press conference](#)

The reward for hard work and success is; more hard work! With Sunday's victory, the Lobo's advance to the NCAA "Sweet 16". Off to Storrs, Connecticut and a challenging match versus fourth-seeded University of Connecticut Huskies. We depart Friday afternoon for Sunday's 1:00 pm kick-off (11:00 am in the Mountain Time zone). Below are the links for the NCAA's free live video stream of the match and links to Live Stats and the UCONN campus radio broadcast.

[Live Stats](#)

[Radio Broadcast/Audio Stream](#)

[Video Stream](#)

On behalf of our program, I can't thank you enough for your incredible support. The team plays for and with our Lobo Faithful. Your energy is passed on to us, and we feel an obligation to represent all of you in the highest fashion. I am proud to coach such a wonderful team of committed and high achieving young men. The NSCAA just announced us as recipients of the "NSCAA Team Academic Award", with a team grade point average of 3.30. Our players are committed to EXCELLENCE: Academic, Social and Athletic.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and I will keep you posted.

GO LOBOS!

Coach

**Nov. 16, 2012**

### **AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM COACH FISHBEIN**

#### **LOBO FAITHFUL:**

University of New Mexico Men's Soccer is playing in the NCAA Tournament for the 10th time in the past 12 years. With a 16-3-1 regular season record, the Lobos received the #13 seed in the 48 team bracket. With a "Top 16" seed, we secured the all-important first round bye and second-round home match.

The Lobos play Virginia, the winner of Thursday's contest between them and Lafayette College, Sunday night, November 18 at 7 p.m. The Cavaliers are a perennial power out of the ACC, and it will be a hard-fought match on Sunday.

Tickets can be purchased [on-line](#) or at the Lobo Ticket Office in the Northeast corner of The Pit on Friday the 16th from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Last year's second round home match was a sellout and over 2000 people were turned away at the gate. We anticipate Sunday's match to be a full house and advise the Lobo Faithful to purchase your tickets early and arrive at the stadium 40 minutes prior to kickoff, ensuring good seats.

Per NCAA rules, the game will kick off at 7:00 pm sharp! I know a lot of people are tailgating prior to the game. Lets make it an ELECTRIC NIGHT!

Our team is energized by the Lobo Faithful! The boys are focussed, healthy and excited to play!

Thanks for your incredible support and see you Sunday night at 7:00 p.m.

GO LOBOS!

**Nov. 11, 2012**

#### **Lobo Faithful:**

Heartbreaking loss in penalty kicks today in the MPSF Tournament Final. Leading 1-0 in regulation time, Air Force scored an incredible tying goal from 25 yards with 16 seconds remaining in the match. 20 minutes of overtime failed to produce a goal, and the match was decided on penalties. Air Force had our number this season. For the record books and NCAA Tournament seeding, the game is recorded as a tie. We finished the regular season/MPSF Tournament with a record of 16-3-1, as we enter NCAA postseason play. With the shootout victory, Air Force moves on the NCAA Tournament with the MPSF Tournament title.

Lobo Soccer invites all of you to join us tomorrow, Monday, November 12th, for the NCAA Tournament Selection Show. Coaches Bar and Grill located at 1414 Central Ave SE (87106 - (505) 242-7111) will be our hosts. The show will air promptly at 3:30 Mountain time, so I recommend

everyone arrive around 3:00 to ensure a good seat. Hope all of you can join us! Your support drives our program.

Tomorrow is a celebration of a tremendous regular season and the beginning of a great NCAA Tournament run. We are anticipating a home match either this Thursday or Sunday. Check [golobos.com](http://golobos.com) tomorrow night for our NCAA seeding, date, location and time of our first match. Thanks for all your support, continued support and see you tomorrow.

Sincerely,

[Jeremy Fishbein](#)

Lobo Men's Soccer

**October 10th, 2012**

Lobo Faithful,

The collegiate soccer season is an incredibly condensed four months (if you make it to the National Finals). It's 20 regular season contests, conference tournament and NCAA Tournament in those four months. Training begins mid-August in 100-degree heat, and the NCAA Championships conclude mid-December in the cold of winter. The weather is transitioning here in Albuquerque and with this transition, we are fighting our worst enemy, the FLU! Cold weather gear is being issued to the team this morning (hats, gloves and heavy jackets) in preparation for our weekend trip to Colorado and the conditions we will face the next two months.

The team is back to good health, and we seem to have encountered and overcome the first major obstacles of the season. The mental grind of being on top, national rankings, being a professional prospect, uncertainty about what lies beyond graduation..... will I ever play?... am I good enough to play here?... the coaches don't value me... I'm tired of just training and not seeing game time.... should I go to another school?.....I'm better than the guy playing in front of me... I don't like this style of play....

Player management become one of the most important elements of the job. The mental pressures of the season are what really wear you down. Being on top and staying on top is draining. The Lobos are everyone's big game and you get your opponents "A" game every match. It's a good problem to have, but quite a challenge. Our non-conference matches were against top opponents who played us "straight up". All proud, accomplished teams who felt they were better than us and aimed to prove it via quality soccer. They didn't know our team, and we didn't know them. They were great, exciting games. Conference play is a different animal. Ten fierce matches with little rest, played over six weeks (single match weekends bookend four weekends of two matches). We've played the majority of our conference opponents for years and know each other inside and out. There is no fear, and teams are honest with themselves (the majority) and know it's best to not play us in an open match. What we face, are well-organized, defensive teams, who look to beat us on the counter attack and on set pieces. This is what we faced this past weekend versus Air Force and Denver.

**LOBOS VS AIR FORCE ACADEMY: OCTOBER 5, 2012 7:00 PM. ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO**

Friday night was a perfect evening for soccer. Great crowd, perfect weather and we opened the match very well. Ball speed was excellent, good movement and we were creating chances. Air Force was compact in the back and played with a very defensive mindset. Their major threats were two excellent attacking players, their tenacity and opportunities off long throw-ins or dead balls. Despite creating numerous scoring opportunities, we couldn't find the net. As the game wore on, Air Force

became more defensive and committed to defending. For the match we held an 18-5 advantage in shots and our keeper was challenged to make only one save. It was a pretty one-sided affair outside of the scoreboard. Ultimately, soccer is about scoring goals, not possession or shots. As the clock ticked down in regulation time, 0-0 remained on the scoreboard.

Overtime! Air Force couldn't have drawn up their game plan any better. Three minutes into the first overtime, they won a throw-in deep in our half. A long throw into the six-yard box, mayhem and the ball finds it way into our net. 1-0 Falcons in a crushing defeat. It was our first home loss in two years. Welcome to conference play! Here's [the recap](#) from our website.

## **LOBOS VS UNIVERSITY OF DENVER: OCTOBER 7, 2012 1:00 PM. ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO**

It was another challenging match versus a very familiar opponent. Denver has had an excellent season so far and came into the match ranked in the "Top 40". They're a well-balanced team with pride and some offensive weapons. This being said, their game plan was very similar to that of Air Force.... maybe a bit more open, but they would protect their goal and defend deep with numbers. We rebounded well from Friday night's loss and really got the Pioneers on their heels early. 7-1 advantage in shots the first half and we created several chances which should have been goals.... needed to be goals! We were scoreless going into half time, and we were confident going into the second half. We continued to play well and create chances, but couldn't find the net. Denver dropped even deeper and absorbed our pressure. After 90 minutes, still deadlocked at 0-0.

We held an 18-11 advantage in shots and a 11-4 advantage in corner kicks. The game was played in our offensive half. Overtime again and we were committed to winning this one. In the second overtime, off a long diagonal ball from Michael Calderon, Devon Sandoval read a defenders miscue and calmly slotted the ball into an empty net in the 105th minute. Not the way we wanted to win the match, but a tremendous display of perseverance and confidence. 1-0 Lobos. Match re-cap from our website.

Don't ask why, but we are off to Colorado Springs and Denver this weekend to face two familiar opponents.... very familiar. It's Air Force Friday night at 7:00 and Denver, Sunday at 1:00. Normally, this trip would be a nightmare, but this time it's going to be a great challenge. Our team is excited to play Air Force on a bigger field and show what we are about. The same can be said for Denver. I feel good about things and am very excited to see our reaction and how we play. We depart Thursday and return Sunday night.

Hope to see the Colorado Lobo Faithful out in force this weekend.

Thanks for your continued support and GO LOBOS!

Coach

**October 2nd, 2012**

Lobo Faithful:

Same old story line: regardless of the opposition, throw out the records and the rankings. Rarely is there an easy match in collegiate soccer! We opened MPSF Conference play this past weekend in Houston versus conference newcomer, Houston Baptist University. My previous experiences in Houston, have involved wonderful people, humidity and a lot of rain! This trip was wet, wet and more wet! We were scheduled to play Saturday night at 7:00 PM, things were looking good right up until 4:00 when the rain really started to come down. We had been warned that HBU's field had poor drainage and a downpour could cause serious issues. It was not our night. We warmed up for the

match, but as the rain continued to come down, the officials deemed the field unplayable. Game postponed! A good thing, as a sloppy field would have been an equalizer. Fortunately, we had a mid-day departure and HBU was able to secure a site with artificial turf for Sunday... at 8:00 AM. Not the preferred time for a collegiate match, but our boys stayed positive and spirits were high to get the game in.

### **NEW MEXICO VS HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY. SEPTEMBER 30th, 8:00 AM (CT) HOUSTON, TEXAS**

5:00 AM (4:00 New Mexico time) wake up and energy levels were good. We opened the match with some tremendous soccer... everything but putting the ball in the net. In the 15th minute, against the run of play, HBU scored a great goal against our defense. Wake up call! The boys remained calm and quickly got back in sync and got a hold of the match. We didn't finish our chances, but optimism was high going into halftime.

18 minutes into the second half, Devon Sandoval played a great ball to Nik Robson at the top of the box and the Kiwi blasted the ball to the left of the GK to even the match 1-1. We continued to put the heat on HBU, and 14 minutes later we scored a beautiful goal! Blake Smith found the ball on the right flank and played a central ball to Robson.... Nik back-heeled the ball to the far post to James Rogers, and James calmly slotted the ball across the GK for our second and winning goal. 2-1 Lobos. We closed the game out and felt good about the result. 16-8 advantage in shots, 12-1 advantage in corner kicks and Vic with four routine saves. Not the prettiest game, but we dealt with adversity and came out on top versus a hungry team. We are 8-1-0 on the season (1-0-0 in conference), and I am proud of the boys! [Link to match re-cap.](#)

We are back home this weekend for matches versus the Air Force Academy on Friday night at 7:00 PM and Denver University Sunday at 1:00 PM. Great rivalries and both games will be action-packed.

Thanks for your continued support. GO LOBOS!

Coach

### **September 26th, 2012**

Lobo Faithful:

On to Conference play! It's ten games, which will require grit, determination, skill, tenacity, fitness, strength, focus and maturity. We will play in some of the most challenging venues in the West. There's excitement for the battles ahead. Our non-conference slate is behind us. Sunday's match was the conclusion of eight tremendous matches leading into Mountain Pacific Sports Federation play. Of our opponents, seven were 2011 NCAA Tournament participants and UCLA, UAB, SMU, Dartmouth, Tulsa and Cal Irvine have had spells in the national "Top 25" this season. The non-conference goal was to play the best and to prepare for our defense of the MPSF Title... Mission accomplished!

### **LOBOS VS FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY. 7:00 PM SEPTEMBER 21, 2012: ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO**

Fairfield traveled across the country to face the Lobos. Connecticut is a long way from the Land of Enchantment! The Stags are a quality team, fresh off a run in the 2011 NCAA Tournament. Mature, tough and determined to come west and make their mark. Not this year! Our boys were ready for this one, as were the 2000+ in the stands. We wanted to play soccer, but were ready to go toe to toe with a physical team. Fairfield was determined to make the match a war: aerial balls, set pieces, direct play with the goal of intimidation and breaking up the rhythm of the match.

17:33 into the match, Devon Sandoval put tremendous pressure on the back four, capitalized on a Fairfield miscue. Running full stream at one of the center backs, Sandoval caused a rushed back pass... over the keeper and Devon slotted the ball into the empty net. 1-0 Lobos. We continued to control the half but failed to connect on the crucial second goal. We convincingly got a hold of the match in the second half and were rewarded in the 81st minute when a Blake Smith rocket was blocked and James Rogers followed up to make it 2-0 Lobos. This is how the match finished with the stats all in the Lobos' favor: 19-5 in shots, 13-4 advantage in corner kicks, Vic Rodriguez challenged to make only 1 save the entire match (1st half).

Fairfield committed 21 fouls to our nine and received a late red card and three yellows. No Lobos were booked. Pretty nasty match, but our boys won both the physical battle and played with quality. Here's [a link](#) to the website article.

**LOBOS VS NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY. 1:00 PM SEPTEMBER 23, 2012:  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO**

It was another opponent traveling a great distance to face the Lobos. Sunday was all Lobos! What made the day so special was the opportunity to remember Lobo Patrick Grange and help promote ALS awareness and fundraising. The starting team wore Grange #4 shirts for the introduction and money was raised at the gate for ALS research. Incredible event, and we feel so fortunate to be able to stay connected to Pat and to be involved with the fight against ALS.

We challenged the boys to come out strong and lock down the match early. 19:40 into the match, Blake Smith worked his magic on the right flank, cut inside and played a beautiful left footed ball to the far post... Sandoval with a great run, nodded the ball into the net. 1-0 Lobos. Ten minutes later a great flick from Carson Baldinger played into the path of a charging Sandoval , which led to our second goal of the match. 2-0 Lobos. We couldn't find the third and went into halftime hungry to put the game out of reach. 22 minutes into the second half some great individual work by Blake Smith put the match away. 3-0 Lobos. Very convincing win with the stats to prove it: 18-9 advantage in shots, nine-three in corners and Vic Rodriguez and Javier Lane combined for three saves and the shutout. [Link to the GoLobos.com recap.](#)

For his efforts over the weekend, Devon Sandoval was named to the [Top Drawer Soccer National Team of the Week](#) for the second time this season and Devon was also named [MPSF Player of the week for a third time.](#)

We are off to Houston on Friday and our Conference opener versus Houston Baptist Saturday night at 6:00 (MT). If you haven't already joined our booster club, the Golden Goal Club, [here is the link to the brochure.](#) We need your support!

Thanks for all your support and GO LOBOS!

Coach

=====

**September 19th, 2012**

Lobo Faithful:

Sorry I'm a day or two late getting my "Lobo Faithful" email out to you. Last weekend's matches really took it out of me. The emotional roller coaster of a tense match or in this case, matches, puts an unbelievable beating on your mind and body. Seldom are there easy games in collegiate soccer. Anytime you face a team of 19-23 year-old young men who are fit, committed, focused and

combative, you have to bring your "A" game. Coming off a season in which we achieved the #1 regular season ranking, and currently being ranked in the top 10, only adds fuel and incentive to our opponents fire.

As of last Sunday, we have played six of our 18 regular season matches. Five of our six opponents were NCAA Tournament teams in 2011 and all six have been ranked in the national "Top 30" during the first four weeks of this season (UCLA, SMU and Irvine all in the "Top 15" at some point this season). I have been very impressed with our team and the boys' ability to overcome the myriad obstacles they have faced. The manner in which they've embraced the challenge of having a "target on our chest" had been mature, inspiring and impressive. Playing the underdog role is easy, but being the favorite is difficult. Our team relishes the challenge; appreciating and honoring the respect and accolades we have received. To be the best, you have to be cohesive, driven, hard-working, talented and a bit lucky. Luck always rears its ugly head at some critical point in the season.

Here I am, in bed writing to you at 10:00 pm on a Tuesday night.... probably rambling... Monday was a recovery session in the morning and today was an off day for the team. Kids are in bed, my wife continues to think I am crazy, and I am ready to put last weekend to rest and focus my full attention on our upcoming matches and tomorrow mornings training session.

### **LOBOS VS DARTMOUTH: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2012: 7:00 PM, ALBUQUERQUE, NM**

Dartmouth is one of the strongest teams in the Ivy League with a quality coach, tremendous work ethic and a few special players. Smart kids from throughout the USA and foreign lands fill their roster. We were confident going into the match, but at the same time, cautious. It was a beautiful night for soccer with 4,000 supporters in the stands and the energy was tremendous. Great warm-up and we were firing on all cylinders. 1:30 into the match, two of our defenders went for the same aerial ball (textbook thing not to do.... one attacks ball and other gives cover) there was a collision with neither getting a piece of the ball. The ball bounces perfectly to the Dartmouth forward, who calmly slots it past our keeper. 1-0 Dartmouth just 90 seconds into the match. Unbelievable! To the boys credit, there was no reaction just back to business.

One minute later, tremendous solo effort from Michael Kafari on the flank, shot and rebound to Devon Sandoval who blasted the ball into the upper net. 1-1 with two goals in opening three minutes of the match. The early fireworks had just begun. Seven minutes later there was some uncharacteristic sloppy defending on our left flank, great finish, 2-1 Dartmouth.

Eight minutes later, great effort from James Rogers to Michael Calderon. 2-2 at the 18 minute mark of the match. My heart was pumping and who knows the effect on my internal organs. What a way to make a living. To the boys' credit, they never faltered and stayed the course. We really go a hold of the match and started to play some beautiful soccer. While we didn't find the net the remainder of the half, we felt very good going into halftime.

The second half was all Lobos. Our play was rewarded in the 60th minute when Ben McKendry punched in the rebound off a Blake Smith shot. 3-2 Lobos and we closed out the match with class and skill. Goalkeeper Vic Rodriguez didn't have to make a save the entire second half and we finished the match with a 20-8 advantage in shots and 7-1 advantage in corner kicks. Despite the dominating statistics, it was not an easy game to stomach. [Link](#) to the match recap.

### **LOBOS VS UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IRVINE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2012: 1:00 PM, ALBUQUERQUE, NM**

Cal Irvine has had great success the past couple of years. Deep runs in the NCAA Tournament and top-level professional players have come from their ranks. This year's team was following suit with quality results and a high national ranking. We had a lot to prove to ourselves coming off Friday's

inconsistent, but promising performance. Our goal was a complete game from minute one to minute 90. We were pretty close... three seconds away from our goal.

The sun was intense, the heat was turned up and 1,800 faithful in the stands for a challenging Sunday match. We came out strong and did everything right except put the ball in the net. The first half ended deadlocked 0-0, but we felt Irvine would fade as the game progressed. 15 minutes into the second stanza, tremendous combination play from Sandoval, Smith and Rogers with James Rogers putting the finishing touch on the collaborative effort with a great finish. 1-0 Lobos and cruising.

Irvine appeared dead and it seemed a matter of time before we would finish the match off with a second goal. As the seconds ticked off the clock, the goal never came. 15 seconds left in the match and Irvine awarded a direct kick 30 yards from our goal. Service into our box, clearance by our keeper and with 3 seconds on the clock, a one-time finish from outside the box to knot the score at 1-1. Unbelievable. Never has this happened to a team I've coached. Irvine didn't have a shot on our goal the entire second half.

Sudden death overtime, two periods of ten minutes. The boys were determined to not let this one slip away. First overtime... no reward.

As the seconds ticked down, Irvine went into a defensive shell. With a minute left on the clock, a barrage of shots on the Irvine goal earned us a corner from the left side. In-swinging corner from McKendry, class header from Carson Baldinger... 2-1 Lobos in OT.

Another dominating performance but a nail biter. 18-11 advantage in shots and 10-2 advantage in corners with Vic not challenged to make a save the second half or OT. Big win for the boys and a great display of confidence and perseverance. As for me, what a weekend! [Link](#) to match re-cap.

We need your support and your membership in our booster club, the Golden Goal Club. We strive to be the best collegiate men's soccer program in the country. 100% of membership dollars go directly to Lobo Men's Soccer. We needed to raise over \$40,000 to cover our operating expenses. Here is the link to our [Golden Goal Club Brochure](#). We need you as a member!

We are back at home this weekend for two more big ones! Fairfield University from Connecticut on Friday night at 7:00 pm and Northern Illinois Sunday at 1:00 pm. Both were NCAA Tournament participants in 2011. Our goal and challenge is to put away our chances and keep a clean sheet. I feel good about this team and our best soccer is still ahead of us.

The University of New Mexico Soccer Team aspires to achieve EXCELLENCE every time we step onto the playing field.

Thanks for all your support and GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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**September 10th, 2012**

Lobo Faithful,

The University of New Mexico Soccer home opener was scheduled for 7:00 pm, Friday night the 7th, versus #25 ranked UAB. Huge crowd expected.... Field perfect.... Great media exposure... I was thinking a sell-out! Mother Nature wasn't kind to the Lobos. After perfect weather all week,

unexpected and unseasonable clouds and rain pelted the Lobo Soccer Complex Friday night. The stands were still crowded with over 3,000 Lobo Faithful willing to brave the elements, until lightning ruined a bit of the fun. Before the match could kick off, lightning caused a 30-minute delay. Our supporters stayed tough and watched the first half in a downpour! The good news is our newly-sodded field drained well and hardly took a beating. More on the game later.

A special promotion by our marketing department had the Lobos wearing custom "Nuevo Mexico" jerseys with vintage turquoise and red lettering. The jerseys looked incredible and received national exposure in several publications. The boys loved the look, and the fans were fired up! Here is some info on the custom jerseys and how to get replicas and game worn jerseys:

"Nuevo Mexico" replica t-shirts for sale at the Lobo Den Store in The Pit. These t-shirts are awesome! Limited availability and going fast. [Click on the link for more information](#) and where to buy.

Our department is auctioning off some team issued/game worn "Nuevo Mexico" jerseys on GoLobos.com if you are interested, [here is the link](#) to purchase official jerseys from the match.

### **#8 LOBOS VS #25 UAB: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH, 7:00 PM. ALBUQUERQUE, NM**

The boys were pumped to be back at home and playing in front of our home supporters.... The best in the country! James Rogers was back in the lineup for his first minutes of the season, but we were without Blake Smith. Pit was a pretty exciting attacking group complementing a veteran defensive unit. We were excited to get back on the field.

The opening half was played in a downpour. UAB was a very physical team built for direct play, playing off second balls and set pieces. One of the tallest teams we've ever faced. The rain and slippery field played into UAB's strengths. The game would be a battle with a bit of soccer thrown in. We "weathered the storm" and our boys challenged for every tackle and aerial duel. We couldn't develop a playing rhythm but hung tough and dealt with the elements.

The rain cleared and the second half provided a much different environment. Our players took full advantage of the good conditions and took it to UAB. We connected passes, changed the point of attack through our fullbacks and created chances. In the 57th minute, some wonderful combination play involving Michael Calderon and Nik Robson, led to a world-class strike from Robson. Nik collected from Calderon and hit a left-footed blast from 20 yards to notch his first goal of the season and put the Lobos up 1-0. 20 minutes later, Calderon would once again be involved in a Lobo finish. Beating his man off the dribble, Calde fired a shot, which the Blazer GK could only block. Great follow up by Rogers with a left footed finish. 2-0 Lobos and Rogers finding his first goal of the season. Great game for the Lobos and our most complete 90 minutes of the young season. We battled when we needed to battle and played quality soccer when the elements allowed. It was a very composed and well-played match. 2-0 Lobos over #25 UAB with Robson and Rogers tallying their first goals of the season. Link to [article](#) and [video](#).

UAB was our first of five consecutive matches at home. We face "top 30" Dartmouth this Friday at 7:00 and #15 UC Irvine on Sunday at 1:00 pm. Two exciting matches versus nationally ranked opposition.

Thanks for all your support and GO LOBOS!

Coach

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**September 3rd, 2012**

Lobo Faithful,

EXCITING NEWS! University of New Mexico Men's Soccer is officially joining Conference USA as an affiliate member for the 2013 season and beyond. Conference USA was the highest rated (RPI) Division I Soccer Conference in the country last year. This move will mean more "big time" games in Albuquerque. The nine-team Conference includes South Carolina, Kentucky, Tulsa, UAB, Charlotte and Old Dominion; all perennial NCAA Tournament teams. Conference USA will help us meet our goal of providing the best soccer in the country to our supporters, the people of New Mexico and our players. Check the Lobo website at [www.golobos.com](http://www.golobos.com) for more information this week.

Tough weekend in Tulsa! Our third weekend in a row on the road and the boys are excited to be back home for our next five matches. Our home opener is this Friday night at 7:00 pm versus #25 University of Alabama Birmingham. Today is Labor Day and I'm laboring! University of Tulsa and #20 SMU were our opponents this past weekend. The team was healthy, prepared and excited to play two top opponents. Cutting to the chase!

### **LOBOS VS UNIVERSITY OF TULSA: 8:00 PM FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2012. TULSA, OKLAHOMA**

We all were excited to get back on the field, test ourselves against quality opposition and get better. Tulsa is an excellent program whose players are committed to playing skillful, attacking soccer. This year's team is very good! Great evening for soccer and the pace of the match was tremendous from the get go.

The opening 15 minutes were back and forth, but we settled in and really got a hold of the game. Our reward came in the 25th minute: left back Mattie Gibbons played an entry ball from the left flank and finished his run into the box. Ball bounced out wide to winger Blake Smith, who whipped in an out swinging cross which found Gibbons at the top of the six-yard box for a precision header. 1-0 Lobos and the game seemingly in control.

In soccer, things can change in an instant. Three minutes later, a Lobo miss-clearance and Tulsa hits a shot from inside our box. Routine reflex save by GK Patrick Poblete and the rebound hits the arm of Travis Campbell. Unintentional and play continues... Whistle... An intentional handball is called by the official saying Campbell's arm prevented the ball from going into the goal. It was an automatic red card and penalty kick awarded. Unbelievable! A game-changing call which is very, very rare. 19 out of 20 times the same official would have called it differently. I couldn't believe it. Tulsa buried the PK and we were challenged to play a man down, ten versus eleven.

Our boys adjusted immediately and finished out the half without further incident. We discussed tactics at half time and reviewed our switch to a 4-4-1 formation, which limited our ability to press from higher areas and required us to really stay compact and pick our attacking moments. We played to perfection... in every way except putting the ball in the net. In the second half, we out-shot Tulsa 10-4 and had a 5-0 advantage in corner kicks in spite of being a man down. We dominated play and had two golden chances in addition to several half chances. No goals and we ventured into overtime encouraged.

Two minutes into the first overtime, a deflected shot, bobbled...rebound... goal... our 23 match undefeated streak over. 2-1 Tulsa in overtime. Our boys' reaction was excellent.

We understood there were opportunities to finish off the match, and we didn't capitalize on them. A great lesson was learned and on to Sundays match versus nationally-ranked SMU. [Link to article.](#)

### **LOBOS VS SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY: 1:30 PM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2012. TULSA, OKLAHOMA**

The mark of an excellent team is the ability to rebound from a tough loss... Rebound with a vengeance. The boys were ready to compete and get back to winning ways. The toughest opponent of the day would prove to be the weather. Over 100 degrees with humidity only known to the South and Midwest. SMU is always a tough opponent with a roster stocked with decorated players from around the country. We started very slow and seemed to have trouble adjusting to the heat. In the 18th minute we were punished for poor defending and went down 1-0.

We regrouped and fought back. Our reward came six minutes later, when the "Costa Rican Connection" leveled the score: Calderon corner kick to Adrian Mora Delgado coming off the CK: 1-1 and the first half finished without further excitement.

Pretty slow paced 45 minutes with SMU taking 4 shots to our 3. The boys were pissed at half time. They were focused and ready to get back on the field. The second half was Lobo Soccer at its finest! We out-shot SMU 19-2 and GK Victor Rodriguez challenged to make only one non-threatening save in the half. Goals from Devon Sandoval and Blake Smith made it 3-1 Lobos at the final whistle. It should have been 5-1. Quality soccer for the final 45 minutes of the match! [Link to article](#)

The weekend was quite a learning experience. The end of an incredible streak and the beginning of a new one! The team is very focused and ready to play in front of our home crowd. Sunday was goalkeeper Vic Rodriguez's first game back after a two-match suspension dating from last years NCAA Tournament and James Rogers will be back Friday for his first match of the 2012 season. Our home match versus UAB this Friday at 7:00 will be action packed.

Thanks for all your support and GO LOBOS!

Coach

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## **August 27th, 2012**

Lobo Faithful,

17 regular season matches lie ahead for New Mexico Lobo Soccer. We returned from Los Angeles Saturday afternoon, in time for more soccer! Two big games were played on Sunday: U-11 Vipers and U-12 Riot. My nine and eleven-year-old daughters were fired up for their early season matches. In full uniform two hours before kickoff, firing balls off the walls of our dining room. Only a matter of time before they will need to learn a trade: plastering skills and window replacement will be their best bet.

When you come home from a road trip with a win, life is good and you can really enjoy time with your family. When you come home from a loss, the walls are coming down on top of you and it's hard to be a "fully present" husband and dad. The happiest people during our undefeated season last year were my family. I was in a pretty good mood the entire season. Not sure if I recommend marrying a coach.

The other big match this weekend, was Lobos versus Bruins. Season opener against UCLA at Drake Stadium in the center of Westwood...images of John Wooden, Arthur Ashe, Kareem, Jimmy Connors and other sports icons adorned the walls outside our locker room.... national television audience.... UCLA men's soccer; winners of four national titles, 29 straight NCAA appearances, producer of the greatest number of professional soccer players, 2011 NCAA semi-finalist....#2 pre-season ranking in NSCAA poll.... Our boys were excited to play, but were relaxed and confident that

we would come away victorious. What a great feeling to lead a group of young men into a battle most would consider "an inferno with slim odds of coming out the victor". Our team is fearless, unified, confident and prepared. They are a group of warriors who live for the opportunity to face "the best competition they can find". We flew into LAX late Thursday morning and faced our greatest challenge straight away, Los Angeles freeway traffic. Seven miles took us an hour. This would be a constant theme throughout our trip. An hour fighting demonic traffic to the stadium for Thursdays training session and an hour fighting the same relentless opponent getting to Friday's match. A very challenging trip logistically.

#### **#6 LOBOS VS #2 UCLA: FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2012: 7:00 PM LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

The message to the team was unity, confidence, compactness, relentless pressure and mental and physical toughness. It was a wonderful night for soccer with an excellent playing surface and energized crowd. Pre-game activities were choreographed to the second because of the live television broadcast, but kickoff took place without a hitch. The opening minutes saw both sides feeling each other out with direct play and conservative attacks. UCLA was committed to playing out of the back, while our approach was to play a bit more direct: get the ball into their half and attack off seconds and press when we gave the ball away.

The Bruins saw more of the ball in the early going and had the better of play. Chances for both sides came in transition, and I thought we had the best chance early with Michael Calderon barely missing the net off a tremendous Sandoval pass. Patrick Poblete was solid in goal for us. This was Pat's first collegiate start and what a way to be initiated! With two minutes remaining in the first half, we lost our focus/froze up while attacking and being the recipient of a reckless challenge we thought was a "for sure" foul. No whistle and UCLA maturely countered and slipped their right wing behind our left back. Great service and finish...1-0 Bruins going into halftime.

We remained on the field for halftime and emphasized our need to stay composed, stay compact, press mercilessly, win all challenges and get our attacking players in dangerous positions. Looking into the boys' eyes, I could see confidence and excitement... We were motivated and up for the challenge. The match was a tale of two halves. The Lobos were on fire from the whistle. Twelve minutes into the half, right back, Levi Rossi played a beautiful ball far post to Devon Sandoval...great header...1-1 and it was ON!

Three minutes later Sandoval's flick to the back post with Blake Smith slotting it home....2-1 Lobos. Seemed like we had a hold of the game. Soccer is a game of momentum and the elation of scoring often leads to an opening for your opponent.

Less than two minutes after taking the lead, we committed a sloppy foul 35 yards from our goal. An early season miscue and we failed to mark the runners on the ensuing direct kick. Great driven ball into the box and a world-class header from twelve yards leveled the match at 2-2. What an emotional roller coaster!

We settled and once again took control of the match. Confidence was high and 13 minutes later (75th minute), Sandoval notched his second goal of the match.... 3-2 Lobos and we were pressing for a fourth. The last 15 minutes were tense, with Poblete marvelous in the net. We had our chances to put the game away, but failed to "seal the deal". A barrage of shots from UCLA in the final minute were thwarted by Poblete and, we came away with a tremendous victory over an excellent Bruin team. Great way to kick off the season! [GoLobos.com game recap](http://GoLobos.com).

#### [Devon Sandoval named to National team of the week](#)

I can't tell you how proud and encouraged I am about this team. Our boys play for each other and for all our supporters. We are back on the road this Thursday to Tulsa, Oklahoma to face the University of Tulsa and #16 SMU. Two great challenges and we will be ready!

Thanks for your support and GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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## **August 21st, 2012**

Lobo Faithful:

University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer Supporters: THE SEASON IS FINALLY HERE! Hope everyone is ready for an action packed season and our season opener on the road vs #2/#4 UCLA this Friday night. The match will be televised nationally on the Pac-12 Network (information below).

We just returned from Southern California and exhibition matches vs Cal State Northridge and San Diego State. I am really impressed and proud of our team. 26 young men who have dedicated themselves to EXCELLENCE: academically, socially and athletically. We flew into Burbank, California on Wednesday and made our way down the coast to San Diego. Along the way, the boys really got to know each other and we all developed an even closer bond. Northridge and San Diego State are both NCAA Tournament-caliber teams who would challenge us to be at our best. Our players were generally healthy with a few knocks from preseason still effecting a few of the boys. Everyone, except returning All-American, Kyle Venter, suited up for Thursday's match versus Northridge. We played a regulation 90 minute match, followed by an overtime period. Venter was back for Saturday's match versus SDSU and everyone was in uniform and ready to play the final exhibition (90 minute match followed by an overtime). Highlights from both matches can be viewed in the Season I episode of "Off the Pitch", which is included in a link in the bottom of this post.

### **LOBOS VS. NORTHRIDGE (@CSUN): AUGUST 16TH 7:00 PM**

Perfect night for soccer! The field was in immaculate condition, and the CSUN game operations staff ran a flawless show. Our boys were ready! We started Sandoval high with transfer Michael Calderon underneath, Blake Smith on the left, James Rogers on the right, Michael Kafari and Adrian Mora Delgado in the central midfield, Mattie Gibbons as our left fullback, Travis Campbell and Nick Meile played as central defenders, Riley McGovern played on the right flank and Javier Lane was in the net. Both teams started slow. The adjustment to playing someone in another jersey took a bit.....took a bit too long. In the 10th minute, a slip in the back by one of our defenders led to a great finish by CSUN. The honeymoon was over. Ten minutes into the season, and we were chasing the game. To the boys credit, no panic, just controlled fury and the confidence that our goals would come. We found our rhythm late in the first half and really took over the match in the second half. It was a matter of time before the ball would find the the back of the net. In the 73rd minute, freshman and Canadian U-20 International, Ben McKendry, hit a blast from outside the box to even the score. 10 minutes later, junior transfer and former Costa Rican Youth International, Michael Calderon would hit another blast from long range to make it 2-1 Lobos. We closed out the final 7 minutes with great maturity and came away on top, 2-1.

The overtime would provide more excitement. Freshman and Orange County native, Chris Wehan, found the net early off a Riley McGovern cross to go up 1-0. Great homecoming moment for Chris, as the stands were full of family and friends. Northridge evened things up with an incredible far post strike 15 minutes later to even the score. Despite quality chances, we weren't able to score another and the overtime period ended 1-1. 25 players saw the field (everyone but Venter) and we learned a great deal about ourselves. [Here is the match recap.](#)

### **LOBOS VS SAN DIEGO STATE (@SDSU): AUGUST 18TH 1:00 PM**

It was a much different environment than Thursday and a much different team. The match was played in the heat of the day, and SDSU played direct and physical. Another great test. The goal of the trip, was to play two tough exhibition matches against teams with contrasting styles. We got what we asked for. The changes in the starting line-up were: Venter stepped into the center of our back line for Miele, Travis Campbell replaced McGovern as right back, New Zealand Youth International and transfer, Nik Robson, replaced Rogers on the right wing and Patrick Poblete manned the goal.

The field was bumpy, and we had trouble getting a grip on the game early. A mistake in the back and in the 14th minute we found ourselves down 1-0. Two games in a row we were punished by an early miscue. Once again, the boys re-grouped immediately and took over the match. Great strike by Michael Calderon in the 36th minute tied the game 1-1 and Carson Baldinger hit the winner off a Casey Phillips service in the 66th minute. We played well outside of an unfortunate and uncharacteristic early mistake. 2-1 Lobo's after 90 minutes. Once again, we played overtime and couldn't find the net. 0-0 to close out the day, with all 26 players seeing the field. [Here is the match recap.](#)

I'm pretty excited about this team. Great leadership and chemistry, with our new players looking to make an impact! Here is information from our Sports Information Department on the television broadcast of our opening match this Friday vs UCLA:

"The Pac-12 Conference is broadcasting the match on its National Conference-wide network (not one of its regional networks). According to the Pac 12, those with Comcast in most of the Albuquerque area will be able to watch it on channel 284. The Pac-12 Network is provided by a wide range of carriers throughout the nation in addition to Comcast. To see if the Pac-12 Network is available in a specific city, supporters can use this [website](#). For those whose cable provider does carry the Pac-12 Network, you can also watch it via live streaming on [www.pac-12.com](http://www.pac-12.com) but only with a validation code from your provider, which is given when you purchase the channel. That means you can only watch it online if you have ordered the network through your cable provider." Coach Brandon Moss, our in-house video expert and Director of the Lobo Soccer Series "Off the Pitch", has produced the first episode of the 2012 season. Michael Calderon, the marksman responsible for two pre-season goals, is the featured guest. Here is the link to a tremendous video with highlights from both exhibition matches:

[First episode of 2012 "Off the Pitch"](#)

I can't wait to get rolling and want to thank you for your tremendous support. GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein  
Lobo Soccer

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**August 14th, 2012**

Lobo Faithful:

Just finished Day #7 of preseason training, and the boys are tired of kicking each other and are ready to play someone in a different uniform. The University of New Mexico men's soccer team departs for Southern California tomorrow afternoon for exhibition matches versus Cal State Northridge on the 16th at 7:00 pm and San Diego State on the 18th at 1:00 pm. Excitement is high and I feel really good about this team. Our seniors have done an incredible job leading and our new additions have fit in seamlessly. A few boys have some knocks and bruises, but all 26 players should see the field this weekend.

I wanted to pass on links to recent articles relating to the program:

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[Link to Men's Soccer home page](#) (quality video attached to several of the articles including season preview).

[Lobo Men's Soccer ranked #2 in the country](#) by College Soccer News in preseason rankings.

[Sandoval and Venter named to Hermann Trophy watch list](#) (top 42 players in the country nominated for Division I National Player of the Year)

[Great video produced by Univision!](#) Classic dubbing due to my poor Spanish.

Our season opener vs UCLA will be televised nationally by the Pac-12 network (kickoff 7:00 pm Pacific time on August 24th).

Home opener vs UAB Friday, September 7th at 7:00.

If you haven't already joined our Golden Goal Club, the Lobo Men's Soccer Booster Club, we need your support. Our goal is to be the best program in the country. [Here is the link to the GGC brochure!](#)

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Thanks for all your support. GO LOBOS!  
Coach

**July 31, 2012**

Lobo Faithful:

The 2012 University of New Mexico Soccer Season is right around the corner. The team has been working hard and everyone is excited to get rolling! I wanted to pass on some important news and information:

Our home opener versus nationally-ranked Alabama-Birmingham has been moved to Friday night, September 7th at 7:00 pm (previously scheduled for September 8th). Our stadium playing field has been re-graded and re-surfaced with a scientifically engineered Bermuda turf. New covered benches and goals will add to our home game presentation. Excitement awaits!

If you haven't reviewed our 2012 schedule, [click here for the latest version](#) (7 of the first 8 matches vs 2011 NCAA Tournament participants).

WE NEED YOUR HELP. The only way we can continue to compete at the highest level of collegiate soccer is with your financial support. The Golden Goal Club is the exclusive booster club for Lobo Men's Soccer. 100% of your membership dollars go directly to our program. Our challenge is to raise \$60,000 per year to supplement fall and spring travel, recruiting, nutritional products and technology. We strive to provide the best environment in the country for all of our players. Our goal is to be the BEST PROGRAM IN THE NATION. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions pertaining to our fundraising needs. [Here is the link to the Golden Goal Club brochure](#) (you can print brochure and all mailing and membership information is listed).

I will stay in close contact throughout preseason and look forward to seeing all of you this fall. Training kicks off August 8th and our first exhibition match takes place August 16th in Los Angeles, California. GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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**June 15, 2012**

Lobo Faithful:

Summer in New Mexico is in full swing and the change of pace has been nice.....for a while! I can't tell you how proud and impressed I was with our Lobo Men's Soccer team this spring. The final team grade point average for the spring semester was 3.39 and the boys trained incredibly hard. Community involvement and mentorship were also a major part of our spring. Our commitment to EXCELLENCE was all encompassing. You can read Richard Steven's spring wrap-up article [right here](#).

Our 2012 schedule has been finalized and its one of our best ever! Matches vs UCLA, SMU, Tulsa, UAB, Dartmouth and UC Irvine highlight our non-conference matches. Seven of our eight non-conference opponents were 2011 NCAA Tournament participants. Here is the link to the [website article and full 2012 schedule](#).

We just announced our final addition to this years recruiting class. Ben McKendry from Vancouver, Canada will be joining our program this fall. Ben plays as an amateur for the Vancouver Whitecaps of the MLS and also represents Canada with their U-20 National Team. Ben is an excellent student and shares the academic, community and athletic values of our program. You can read about Ben's signing and what he brings to the table [right here](#).

Lobo James Rogers is currently on tour in South America with the USA U-20 National Team playing matches vs Uruguay and Chile. This is James second call up to the U-20's with the goal of representing the USA at next summers U-20 World Championships.

I am very excited about the upcoming season and look forward to playing entertaining, attack-minded soccer! Have a great summer and I will stay in close contact. Jeremy Fishbein Lobo Soccer

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**April 23, 2012**

Lobo Faithful:

Words can't describe the emotions, memories, feelings and love expressed and experienced yesterday at the University of New Mexico Soccer Stadium. We were honored to host the memorial service for Lobo Soccer Player, Patrick Grange, who passed away on April 10th from ALS at the age of 29. Eighteen months ago he was playing soccer with our team, not a worry in the world....soon after, confined to a wheel chair and facing what others said was an incurable disease. Pat handled this challenge with courage, grace, passion and a fighting spirit. The message Sunday rang loud and clear: live every day to the fullest, leave the physical world without regrets and display love and respect to everyone around you. This week has been one of great introspection. What is my role and responsibility as a coach of young men, what is my role in the community and what can be learned from this emotional and surreal experience.

As a men's collegiate coach, your true payoff is not winning matches and championships. Your payoff is seeing your players develop into outstanding individuals, community members, leaders, husbands and fathers. This is what you aspire to be a part of. I am privileged and honored to have shared amazing and life defining moments with my players the past twenty years. We have shared the highest highs and some of the lowest lows (passing of a teammate). While Pat Grange passed

away too soon, it was comforting and satisfying to see the thousands of people he touched in his short time on earth.

My relationship with Pat was a light one for the most part, but on occasion, he opened up to me. My last deep conversation with him (one of only two or three) took place less than a year into his battle with ALS. He was adjusting to his motorized wheel chair and his ability to speak was in decline. I was with Pat, his parents and Brandon Moss at the Grange's home. I asked Pat to go outside with me and share a few minutes alone. He hadn't mastered the wheel chair remote controls and was banging into things on his way out. I told him that I felt sorrow that much of our relationship was me pushing him to work harder, be more ambitious....school, relationships, job..... and my hope was that he knew how much I cared about him, loved him and would do anything for him. We spoke about his life, was he satisfied with what he had accomplished, what he hoped his legacy would be and I asked him if he was afraid of dying. He said he wasn't. The hardest conversation I have ever had with a player. My father is the only other person I have ever asked that question. I am very fortunate to have been intimately connected to Pat and to be a part of his life. Seeing how he managed ALS and how he lived life on his own terms made me proud of him, proud of the man he became and proud to be his coach.

Jeremy Fishbein

Lobo Soccer

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**March 28, 2012**

Lobo Faithful:

Hope you are enjoying the early days of spring in your neck of the woods. Clear blue sky's and wonderful warm weather here in Albuquerque. I'm real excited about our team.....incredible group! We kicked off our spring campaign in Casa Grande, Arizona two and half weeks ago with two matches vs NASL Professional side, FC Edmonton. We opened on March 11, with a 0-0 draw and concluded the trip on the 13th, with a disappointing 3-1 loss vs our neighbors from the North. We played very well and had chances to win both games. Our finishing was a bit off and a few youthful mistakes were capitalized on by experienced professional players. These matches were a tremendous way to kick off our spring season and gave an instant introduction to our young boys on what lies ahead. An abbreviated spring break as a result of our travel and the boys have been back at it hard the past two weeks.

***LOBOS VS DEFENDING DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPION, FORT LEWIS COLLEGE, THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 31ST, AT 10:00 AND 3:00 ON ROBERTSON FIELD (SOUTH OF OUR GAME FIELD).***

The 10:00 match will be a regulation 90 minutes and the 3:00 contest will be 60 minutes. We travel to Dallas to play SMU on April 14th and will back in New Mexico on ***SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST, TO PLAY THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY AT 3:30 AT THE TAOS ECO PARK, IN TAOS NEW MEXICO.*** We will close out our spring schedule in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 29th, with matches vs UC Irvine and UNLV.

2011 Lobo Captain Lance Rozeboom has experienced the highs and lows of professional sports in the blink of an eye. Lance signed a professional contract with DC United of Major League Soccer three weeks ago and was slated to start his first professional match last Saturday vs the Vancouver Whitecaps. Three days before the game, Lance tore his ACL in a training session tackle. Fortunately, Lance signed a guaranteed contract and will be provided with the best in rehabilitative

care. Surgery went well and Lance is motivated to get back on the field prior to the end of the MLS season. Enjoy every day and savor every opportunity.

Lobo freshman, James Rogers, [has just been called into training camp with the USA U-20 National Team](#). James will travel to Portland, Oregon April 9-16th. This is James first call up to a youth national team. I am confident that he will do well and we are all very excited for him. I will keep you posted.

Thanks for all your support and hope to see you at our spring matches. GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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**February 17, 2012**

New Mexico Lobo Soccer News....Lobo Reality TV star...MLS players.....New Recruits....

Not sure where to start with all the latest New Mexico Lobo Soccer News? I am going to change from my usual format and just spit things out. Winter training is going great and I can't say enough about our players. Team chemistry is tremendous, new leaders have emerged and the commitment to our community and to all those who support us is fantastic! Here you go:

Graduating seniors Lance Rozeboom and Michael Green are currently in the final stages of MLS preseason camps (Rozeboom with DC United and Green with Toronto FC). Season opening rosters are close to being finalized and both Mike and Lance are doing extremely well. Rozeboom scored on a long-range blast against Real Salt Lake this past weekend (check out the game recap [here](#)) and I feel very optimistic that our boys will be playing professionally this season.

Here's a link to Lance's player bio with DC United: [Lance Rozeboom; Midfielder](#), and an article on Mike Green with Toronto: [Week 3: More Cuts Ahead?](#) Green is the last supplemental draft pick left at Toronto's preseason camp.

Former Lobo, Andy Boyens, has signed a new agreement with the MLS Los Angeles Galaxy and is an odds on threat to take away David Beckham's underwear modeling contract. Boyens is also the proud new father of a baby girl. (Boyens' player bio with L.A. can be found [here](#)).

BIG NEWS -- Former Lobo Goalkeeper and teen heartthrob, Andrew Weber, has hit the big time! Webs is a cast member on the CBS Reality Show "The Amazing Race". The first episode of the 20th competition will air this Sunday night, February 19th, at 8:00 pm ET (6 p.m. MT) on CBS. Here are some links to interviews with Andrew and his teammate and twin brother, Elliot, as the premier looms ahead: [Lobo Soccer Legend Gets Real on The Amazing Race](#); [The Amazing Race Season 20 Cast: Andrew and Elliot Weber](#)

Andrew is also currently playing for the MLS Seattle Sounders and is in the final stages of contract negotiations. His bio information with the Sounders is available [here](#).

Former Lobo, Dom Romero, has recently filled the position of Lobo Soccer Director of Operations. Dom is going to make a big impact on our program with plans of attaining his MBA degree here at UNM: [Lobo Soccer Adds Former Standout Dom Romero as Director of Operations](#).

Exciting new players joining the Lobo Soccer Family. We have signed six new players for the upcoming season. Michael Calderon and Joe Harris joined the team last month and freshmen Nick Rochowski, Chris Wehan, Chris Gurule and CJ Klepac will join us in the fall. Click the following links for the GoLobos.com signing day release ([Lobo Men's Soccer Welcomes Five to the Ranks for 2012](#)) and the release on the team's latest signee, Chris Gurule ([Fishbein Adds One More to 2012 Signing Class](#)).

We need your assistance! Join our Men's Soccer Golden Goal Club. 100% of membership dollars go directly to the program. Download the printable membership brochure here: [Lobo Men's Soccer Golden Goal Club](#)

GO LOBOS AND THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

Jeremy Fishbein

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**Jan. 10, 2012**

Lobo Faithful:

University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer kicks back into gear next week with early morning training on Tuesday, Jan. 17. The boys are ready to get the 2012 season underway! I want to share some great news with our Lobo Faithful:

Rising junior, Kyle Venter, was named first-team NSCAA Academic All-American and rising senior, Blake Smith, was named second-team NSCAA Academic All-American: [Venter, Smith Pick Up NSCAA All-American Honors](#)

Associate Head Coach, Paul Souders, was named Far West Region Assistant Coach of the Year by the NSCAA: [Fishbein, Souders Sweep Far West Regional Coaching Awards](#)

Graduating seniors, Lance Rozeboom and Michael Green just completed their final day of the MLS Combine in Florida with very good showings. The MLS Superdraft will take place on Jan. 12 at 2 p.m. eastern time on ESPN2.

You need to check this out! After hours of review, here are the ["Top 10" Lobo Soccer Goals of 2011](#)

Lobo Soccer needs your support! In order to continue to compete on a national level, we need you to join our Golden Goal Club, the booster club of Lobo Men's Soccer. Your membership goes directly to our program. Here's a link to the GGC Brochure: [Lobo Men's Soccer Golden Goal Club](#)

Thanks for your continued support and GO LOBOS!  
Jeremy Fishbein

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Dec. 16, 2011

Lobo Faithful:

I can't thank you enough for your tremendous support of the University of New Mexico Men's Soccer Program. The 2011 season was an amazing one! To play 24 straight matches without a loss is an incredible accomplishment (two exhibition and 22 regulation matches). I can't tell you how proud I am of all our players! I wanted to pass on the latest news in terms of player recognition and honors:

-Seniors Lance Rozeboom and Michael Green have been invited to the MLS Player Combine the first week of January. Only 52 seniors from across the country were invited. Both Lance and Mike should be drafted in the MLS entry draft the second weekend in January. I will keep you posted. Link to article: [Green and Rozeboom Invited to 2012 MLS Player Combine](#)

-Lance Rozeboom and Kyle Venter were named to 2011 All-American Teams. Link to article: [Two Lobo Men's Soccer Standouts Named All-Americans.](#)

-Levi Rossi named to 2011 Academic All-American Team: Link to article: [Rossi Named Third-Team Academic All-American.](#)

-Levi Rossi and Blake Smith were named to the District All-Academic Team.

-Devon Sandoval, Kyle Venter and Lance Rozeboom were named to the All-Far West Region 1st Team, Blake Smith was named 2nd Team All-Far West and Mike Green was named 3rd Team All-Far West. Five of the 33 top players in the Far West were Lobos! Link to article: [Three Men's Soccer Players Pick Up First-Team Regional Honors.](#)

**LINKS TO SOME GREAT VIDEOS AND PICTURES FROM THE SEASON:**

[2011 NCAA Tournament home game atmosphere vs. Duke](#)

[Lobo NCAA Crowd Picture 1](#) (courtesy of the Albuquerque Journal photo department)

[Lobo NCAA Crowd Picture 2](#) (courtesy of the Albuquerque Journal photo department)

[Lobo 2011 Highlight Video 1](#)  
(2:18 in the video is the Duke Highlights)

[Lobo 2011 Highlight Video 2](#)

[Lobo 2011 Highlight Video 3](#)

HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON AND I WILL KEEP YOU POSTED ON HAPPENINGS WITHIN THE PROGRAM. GO LOBOS!

JEREMY FISHBEIN

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**NCAA TOURNAMENT RIDE COMES TO AN UNIMAGINABLE END... UNDEFEATED SEASON FOR THE LOBOS!**

**November 28, 2011**

Lobo Faithful:

A fairytale season ends too early! Incredibly difficult to write this e-mail to the most fantastic group of supporters I have ever been surrounded by and involved with. Much of the teams sorrow, is associated with the feelings and obligation we feel towards our "Lobo Faithful". The outpouring of support, letters, e-mails, match attendance... the entire season has been unbelievable. You have motivated us to achieve what most would say "could never happen" -- an undefeated season. For those who aren't aware, our season came to an unimaginable end yesterday in Tampa, Florida. 110 minutes (90 minutes of regulation and 20 minutes of overtime) of fiercely contested "end-to-end" action. South Florida had a good bit of the play in the first half, but the Lobos took over in the second

half and overtime. I thought we were going to "close things out" during the final 20 minutes, out-shooting USF 4-0 in overtime, but the ball didn't find the back of the net. The game was officially declared a tie after 110 scoreless minutes, but a penalty kick shootout would determine which team would advance to the NCAA "Elite 8". The shootout went eight rounds with South Florida coming out on top. We finished the season with a record of 18 wins, 0 defeats and four ties. An undefeated season. With our two exhibition victories, the boys played 24 matches without a loss. Incredible maturity, focus, discipline and senior leadership -- every day and every game. I can't say enough about this group and the standard that they have set for our program. Seniors Lance Rozeboom and Mike Green were fantastic the entire season and leave an incredible legacy. Not sure what else to say right now. Thanks for everything and for making the New Mexico Soccer experience so special for everyone. The bar has been set high! Here is the match re-cap from our webpage: [Undefeated Lobos Knocked Out of NCAA in Penalty Kick Loss](#).

Once things settle down and we all catch our breath, I will send out a more detailed e-mail outlining the season and what lies ahead. Thanks for all the support and GO LOBOS!  
Jeremy Fishbein

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## November 22, 2011

Lobo Faithful:

The University of New Mexico Lobo men's soccer team continues to impress with tenacity, grit, resilience and explosiveness! Sunday, Nov. 20 was our opening match of the 2011 NCAA National Tournament. Duke University, the winner of Thursday night's NCAA opening round against Georgia State arrived in Albuquerque on Friday afternoon to face the Lobos in the second round of the NCAA Championships (Lobos with the No. 10 seed received a first round bye). What an atmosphere: 6,200 in the stands for the 7 p.m. kickoff and hundreds more watching from outside the fence line. The windscreens were pulled off the fence by the fans denied entrance. The game sold out several hours prior to kickoff and hundreds of disappointed fans were turned away at the stadium gates. The concern with having a bye is that you're thrown off your usual playing rhythm. Your opponent has played an NCAA match three days prior, is already battle tested and confident coming off an opening round victory. Duke appeared ready and their game plan was to defend with numbers and quickly counter-attack with their two dangerous forwards. Duke University is synonymous with athletic excellence and this year's soccer team was filled with USA Youth National Team members and high profile players from coast to coast. Andrew Wenger, Duke's top attacker, was named ACC Player of the Year and would prove to be a handful. I can't say enough about the crowd. The gates to the stadium opened at 6 p.m. and our supporters started flowing in. They didn't stop and the stands were filled to capacity by kick-off. The highlight video below shows a pretty incredible time progression of the stands filling: Nov. 20 -- [New Mexico vs. Duke highlight video](#). Our team's preparation and focus was excellent and the boys felt confident going into the match. We prepared like we have all season and great attention was paid to recovery, tactics and nutrition. Self-discipline has been a strength and is a result of great team leadership. We were a bit stiff at the kickoff, but quickly settled into the flow of the match. By flow, I mean back and forth for the opening 30 minutes. Duke was very content to play "back to front". The ball saw little of the grass and our defenders had to be good in the air. 0-0 at halftime, but we felt Duke would tire from the pace of the game and the second half would favor our style and approach. We came out very strong from the whistle and began to really get a hold of things. We possessed the ball, played out of the back and created chances from wide areas. In the blink of an eye, we made a slight mistake in the 51st minute (six minutes into the half) and Duke's star attacker, Wenger (No. 10) took full advantage, feeding his attacking partner for a tremendous transition goal. 1-0 Duke. We've been in this position before, kept our composure and immediately got back to business. Duke made some immediate tactical adjustments and moved Wenger back to a defensive position to preserve their lead. While this made them a bit better defensively, it took the pressure off our defense and allowed us to commit more

players to the attack. We started to pour it on and created attack after attack from the flanks. In the 75th minute a Duke defender picked up his second yellow card trying to defend against our crafty attackers and was given a subsequent red card (two yellows=red). Duke playing down a man, feeling the effects of the altitude and the Lobos sensing an even more distinct change in momentum. Our boys kept hammering away, but couldn't find the net. In the 82nd minute, Blake Smith found the ball 30 yards out after a Duke clearance. Blake took a forward touch while the ball was still bouncing and drove a rocket off the bounce to the keepers right. All net with the keeper only watching the ball sail by. 1-1 and our confidence was overflowing. Never as easy as it may appear. We really turned up the heat, but couldn't close the game in regulation. We were confident and poised going into overtime. Twenty minutes to finish off the match -- two ten minute sudden-death periods, otherwise known as "golden goal." Duke defended well and pushed everyone back to create a very compact defensive zone. Spaces were open in wide areas and our flank players were creating havoc for the outside defenders. We made a change in the overtime period, subbing Carson Baldinger for James Rogers. Carson is a finisher and is great in the air, and we felt our forwards would be seeing quite a bit off service. In the 98th minute left-back kiwi Mattie Gibbons received the ball about 35 yards out on the flank. Great far post delivery to a fading Devon Sandoval. Devon headed the ball back across the goal mouth and the dream ball was sitting right in front of Baldinger. Carson calmly finished on the back post with his head and emotions flowed from everyone. Duke players fell to the ground in agony and our players and supporters rejoiced. What an incredible moment to share with everyone. The fans invaded the field and everyone celebrated together. A group effort all year long and what a fitting way to celebrate the victory with our supporters. Here's a link to our website article: [Stevens: Baldinger's Golden Goal Keeps Lobos' Golden Season Alive](#) and here are highlights with the winning goal at the end: [Game Highlights](#).

["Off the Pitch"... with Carson Baldinger](#)

Here's an excerpt from a facebook entry from one of our supporters:

*"The atmosphere at last night's match could only be defined as electric. Our Lobo hearts sank with Duke's first goal early on. Then, an explosion of unbridled elation flooded us when we scored a goal to tie in the second half. Cheers, airhorns, and car horns blast long and loud from all around. Soccer aficionados armed with sideline coaching willed our defense to rarely allow the ball from occupying our half. One can only imagine the impending doom felt by the Duke keeper after witnessing the ball cross the mouth of his precious goal so many times. Nervously we awaited the start of the 10 minute extra time. Then, for the Lobo's grand finale, the match winning goal in extra time? Treated to a NCAA tournament spectacle like this in our home town?!?! And that was just among the mass of us who were on the outside of the East fence."*

We now get to enjoy Thanksgiving at home and then depart for Tampa, Florida on Friday for our third round match against the University of South Florida on Sunday, Nov. 27 at 6 p.m. The game will be streamed live over the internet at the following link: [UNM vs. USF webstream](#). South Florida is a very skillful, attack-minded team and will provide a great challenge. The boys are excited and confident. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving! Thanks for all of your support and GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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**November 14, 2011**

Lobo Faithful:

The University of New Mexico Men's Soccer Team will host the second round of the NCAA Division I Soccer Championships at the UNMSoccer Complex this Sunday night, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. The Lobos will play the winner of Thursday night's contest pitting Duke against Georgia State. The team and several hundred Lobo Faithful gathered at the Nob Hill Bar and Grill this afternoon for the NCAA selection show. While our No. 10 seeding wasn't what we expected (we were ranked No. 1 by every

major poll at the conclusion of the regular season/conference tournaments,) we are now solely focused on Sunday's Second Round NCAA match. We are in control of our own destiny and we will be prepared! When the NCAA selection committee convenes to draw up the bracket, the goal is to eliminate bias. The RPI is the primary tool used to keep objectivity and determine seedings. In the end, our strength of schedule is what held us back. When we set the majority of our non-conference schedule two years ago, we assumed several of our opponents would be "top teams" in 2011 and that our conference members would schedule aggressively. Things didn't play out as expected. Time to move on and we are very excited to have a first round bye and host the second round at home. We weren't disrespected or overlooked in any way. If the seedings were based on opinion, we would have been much higher. WE ARE READY AND EXCITED! Here is link to our webpage article on the NCAA Tournament and our seeding: [Lobos Slip to No. 10 on NCAA Bracket But Grab Home Game](#). SUNDAY NIGHT'S 7 p.m. MATCH WILL BE A SELL OUT. Only 6,200 tickets will be sold on a first-come basis. Tickets can be purchased now at The Pit ticket office (northeast corner of the basketball arena on University Ave) or online [here](#) (service charge will be included with online purchases). THIS GAME WILL BE A SELL OUT! BUY YOUR TICKETS RIGHT AWAY.

Last weekend's MPSF Conference Tournament was full of excitement. To make my usually long stories short, we defeated San Jose State 3-0 in Friday's semi-final ([New Mexico Nets Three to Blank Spartans](#)) and went to a penalty kick shoot-out to defeat Cal State Bakersfield in the conference tournament final on Sunday afternoon: [Lobo Men's Soccer Takes Title in PK's Over Bakersfield](#). We won the MPSF regular season title and MPSF tournament title and finished the season with a record of 17-0-3, remaining undefeated and the only Division I team in the country to go the entire season without a loss.

Thanks for your incredible support this season and every season. We look forward to seeing everyone this Sunday night at 7 p.m. at the Lobo Soccer Complex. Get your tickets now, arrive early to get good seats, wear your Lobo Red and bring the noise and ENERGY! GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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**November 6, 2011**

Lobo Faithful:

Incredible regular season for Lobo Men's Soccer! I can't say enough about the focus, resiliency, tenacity, leadership and teamwork displayed by our boys over the past 20 games (two exhibitions and eighteen regular season matches). I've never mentioned our record or national ranking in any of my Lobo Faithful e-mails. I figured I would wait until the regular season was over. The final buzzer Saturday night marked the completion of the regular season and the beginning of a new journey: the post-season. Play-offs are a different animal. Our approach to every game will remain the same, but the margin for error shrinks, pressure builds and the stakes are higher. In our opening team meeting early August, we discussed the different phases of the collegiate championship season: preseason training, the regular season (two exhibition matches, eight non-conference matches, ten conference matches,) the MPSF Conference Tournament and the NCAA Tournament. The conference tournament and NCAA tournament are single elimination -- anything can happen. At the end of the day, the true measure of a team is the day in, day out results over the course of a grueling 18-game regular season schedule. We traveled the country playing some of the nations top programs in very difficult venues. Heat, rain, snow, challenging travel... we saw it all. We played our final regular season match this past Saturday night, Nov. 5, and I'm proud to say, finished the season UNDEFEATED WITH A RECORD OF 16-0-2 (two ties on the road) and RANKED #1 IN THE NATION IN EVERY MAJOR COLLEGIATE POLL. Words can't express my pride in our team and how much I want to thank you, the Lobo Faithful, for your incredible support this season and every season. You are a major component of Lobo Soccer and give us energy and fuel our passion to compete. THANKS FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO FOR OUR PROGRAM.

We are off to Denver University and the MPSF Conference Tournament this Thursday. Having earned the No. 1 seed, we received a first round BYE and play in the first semi-final on Friday, Nov. 11th at 5 p.m. as of right now. We will play at 7:30 p.m. instead if Denver wins its quarterfinal match against Air Force. We're not sure who we'll play, but the boys will be ready! As always, we will have a target on our chests, but the challenge of testing ourselves and improving will be our driving force. The UNM Lobo Club will be sponsoring a bus trip to the MPSF Championship Tournament in Denver from Nov. 11-13th. The charter bus will depart Albuquerque early Friday morning and will return Sunday after the championship match. The cose is \$240 for bus, two nights lodging and match tickets. Please contact Carly Newlands at 505-925-5600 to make your reservations.

The NCAA SELECTION SHOW will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 14. Nob Hill Bar and Grill will be hosting this event: 3128 Central Avenue in Nob Hill, (505) 266-4455. The owners of Nob Hill, Matt and Michael Ludeman, have been incredible to the team this year in sponsoring all of our pre-game meals. I hope everyone can join us on for this special event and share the excitement with our entire team. We are planning on some home games in the NCAA Tournament! We really want to see you Monday if you can make it... mark you calendars for 2:30 p.m. on the 14th.

**NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. UNLV REBELS: SATURDAY, NOV. 5, 7 p.m. -- UNM SOCCER COMPLEX**

UNLV is a very talented and explosive team that hasn't gotten the results that it is deserving of. The team is made up of very crafty attacking players who are especially dangerous in transition. This final regular season match was going to be a tremendous challenge. I was confident that we would keep our focus and our "one game at a time" mentality, but wasn't sure how the emotions of "senior night" would effect Green and Rozeboom. 5,284 supporters braved the elements, filling the stands to make the environment electrifying. It was the largest regular-season crowd in program history. UNLV played loose and committed big numbers to the attack. They had nothing to lose and opened the game with some of their best soccer of the year. We kept our composure and were rewarded in the 40th minute, when Gio Rollie was brought down in the box after a tremendous first touch and run. Lance Rozeboom calmly stepped to the PK spot and buried the ball into the side netting. 1-0 Lobos going into halftime. The second half was some of our best soccer. UNLV didn't come out with the same energy and we really got ahold of the ball. Fifteen minutes into the second half, another foul in the box off of our combination play and we were awarded our second penalty kick of the match. Michael Green stepped up this time and banged the PK home to make it 2-0 Lobos. We continued to possess and create chances. In the 80th minute, a great shot from Adrian Mora Delgado was miraculously saved off the line by a UNLV defender, but Lawrence Robledo slotted home the rebound to tally our third goal of the match. 3-0 was the final result, with quality play from our entire team. The shutout was our tenth of the season. Here's the link to the website recap: [Seniors Fuel First Undefeated Season in Men's Soccer History](#).

Thanks again for your tremendous support and I will keep you posted on information related to the MPSF Tournament and the NCAA selection show next Monday. GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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**October 31, 2011**

Lobo Faithful:

It was great to be home for Halloween with my daughters. I'm writing you at 11:30 Monday night, three hours removed from trick or treating, sitting in bed, on my computer and not feeling too well. One chocolate, one gobstopper, one red licorice... some slimy sour snake like creature... five mini stickers... being the good dad that I am, I want to protect my kids from tooth decay. Too much candy isn't good for children. I raided my eight-year-old's Halloween bag and I'm hurting! She will resemble

an angry bee in the morning, but all I can say is, "must have been the tooth fairy." This weekend was a beautiful one for me. I felt so incredibly satisfied with my chosen profession and the ability I've been blessed with to touch so many lives in a positive fashion. At Friday night's game I saw two old friends and their grown kids from Gallup, who I first met 15 years ago running camps. They made the drive to watch our match. On Sunday, a team of eight-year-olds my good buddy Rob coaches came to our locker room before the game to meet the players and we gave Rob's son a replica jersey for his birthday (his dad got the jersey screened with his name on back). The boys had pizza and played soccer up until game time. On Sunday, the mother and sister of one of my first players from Fort Lewis College (I coached Rich over 16 years ago) drove down from Santa Fe to watch our game. Families from Taos, Farmington and Las Cruces made the trip to watch the Lobos. A group from the Zuni Pueblo made the two-and-a-half hour drive East to watch their first collegiate soccer game and stayed after the match to meet the team and take pictures. I am proud to coach at the University of New Mexico, proud to make an impact on this incredible state and am incredibly proud of our team. Our players come from all over the State of New Mexico, all parts of the United States, Africa, Costa Rico, New Zealand and they are hard-working, humble, respectful of their opponents and are driven to achieve excellence! We had quite a weekend of soccer too!

***NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. SACRAMENTO STATE HORNETS: FRIDAY, OCT. 28 -- UNM SOCCER COMPLEX, 7 p.m.***

Sacramento State is a quality team who have played in the last two NCAA Tournaments. Skilled, athletic and tough. A great test for the guys, who were excited to compete in front of our home supporters. Beautiful Friday night, 4,400 in the stands and our team didn't disappoint. We played one of our most complete matches in some while. We had a 17-11 advantage in shots, 8-1 advantage in corner kicks, only 7 fouls and our GK was only challenged to make four saves. We got at 'em early. In the 24th minute senior Michael Green blasted a cleared ball from outside the box for his first goal of the season. 1-0 Lobos and great to see Green get on the score sheet. We continued to dominate possession, but couldn't find the net as the clock ran its course going into halftime. Less than 20 minutes into the second half, a great ball from Kiwi Mattie Gibbons to Blake Smith who slotted it away for his 9th goal of the season. 2-0 Lobos and that's how the match finished. Very mature performance and great balance on both sides of the ball. Here's the link to the GoLobos.com recap: [Fishbein's Lobos No. 1 in 2-0 Shutout of Sacramento State](#).

***NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. SAN JOSE STATE SPARTANS: SUNDAY, OCT. 30, 2011 -- UNM SOCCER COMPLEX, 1 p.m.***

Another great test and opportunity to compete against a quality opponent. San Jose State has a storied tradition and this year's team is full of talented and successful players. 3,759 in the stands on a Sunday afternoon with perfect weather: sunny, mountains in the background and temperatures in the mid 60's. INCREDIBLE! The game opened rather slowly, with both teams feeling each other out and playing conservatively. We had a great chance in the opening five minutes, but didn't finish a tremendous opportunity to get on top. Pretty even first half, with the Lobos seeing more of the ball and getting San Jose to chase. We felt good going into the break and told the boys to stay the course and good things would happen. I felt we had the game in control and would put it away once we connected on one of our chances. For the match, we outshot San Jose 18-10, had a 9-2 advantage in corner kicks, committed only four fouls and our GK was challenged to make only three stops. Two minutes and fifteen seconds left on the clock and the scoreboard showed 0-0. Soccer is often an unkind sport. We dominated the match, but had nothing to show for it. Everyone kept their composure, with the confidence that San Jose would only score if we made a serious mistake. Our chances were increasing and our offense was clicking. The last 15 minute we pounded San Jose's goal, but their keeper was on fire! Finally, we were awarded a corner with just over two minutes on the clock. We've scored two goals off corners in our last three games and this could be it. Far post service from Michael Green to Kyle Venter who played the ball back across the box. Both Devon Sandoval and Levi Rossi soared for the ball and in slow motion we watched the florescent Nike ball hit the back of the net. Sandoval celebrated and Rossi slumped to his knees with his head in his

hands (banged heads with Sandoval). Sandoval goal! Lobos 1-0. Amidst the confusion, no one realized that Levi Rossi was actually the last to touch the ball and was in fact the goal scorer. Sandoval is a true forward... he'll take a goal any way he can get it. The clock ran its course and the Lobos with late game heroics win 1-0. Second shut-out of the weekend and another complete performance on both sides of the ball. Here's the link to the website article: [Midair Dramatics Produce Winning Header From Levi Rossi](#) and video highlights of the game: [New Mexico vs. San Jose State](#).

Lance Rozeboom and Victor Rodriguez were both recognized by Top Drawer Soccer this week: Rozeboom was tabbed as the 37th best upper-classman in the country and Vic was named to the National Team of the Week: [Lobos Retain One-Spot; Rozeboom and Rodriguez Recognized Nationally](#). Not sure how Green was over-looked, but he will have the last laugh when everything is said and done... you can count on this!

Check out this link to Mondays "Off the Pitch" interview with Mike Green recapping the weekend and video highlights from both matches: ["Off the Pitch"... with Michael Green](#).

Our final regular season match will take place this Saturday night, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. against UNLV here at the UNM Soccer Complex. Seniors Michael Green and Lance Rozeboom will be recognized prior to the game with their families. Sure hope everyone can come out for this one and help close out the regular season. Thanks for your tremendous support and GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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**October 24, 2011**

Lobo Faithful:

Final road trip of the year and one of the most challenging of my career. Departed Albuquerque Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. and landed in cold and damp Seattle three hours later. Played Seattle University Friday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. in 55-degree weather with a constant drizzle. Flew to Burbank, Calif., Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. Landed, rented four mini-vans and drove two hours to Bakersfield, arriving at 7:00 p.m. Sunday's match kicked off at 1 p.m. with the on-field temperature hovering around 90 degrees. A lot of numbers, a lot of emotion, logistical challenges and a very focused and determined group of young men. I am really proud of our players' approach to the road trip. We knew there would be challenges. We set goals for ourselves and were excited for the opportunity and test to overcome perceived obstacles.

**NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. SEATTLE UNIVERSITY: OCT. 21, 2011 3:30 p.m. SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**

Seattle University is a quality team that hasn't gotten the results they deserve. They've played the top teams in the country tough and their match against the Lobos was a chance to show their level to the country. We came in excited about the road trip and well aware of the target on our chests. The boys were ready...at least for the start of the match. Five minutes into the game we earned a corner off a quality attacking play. Mike Green drove a ball centrally and Kyle Venter soared above everyone for his fourth goal of the season to make it 1-0 Lobos. We controlled the tempo for the remainder of the half, but couldn't find the net. The second half had no rhythm or purpose. The Redhawks came out playing for their lives. Six minutes into the half, some sloppy defending on our part led to a deflection and an own-goal. Score was knotted at 1-1. Seattle came alive! We were on our heels for the next 20 minutes and never really got ahold of the game. Good defending and cool heads prevailed. In the 74th minute, Blake Smith took a corner kick from our right and after a knockdown, Carson Baldinger slotted away the rebound for what would prove to be the game-winner. 2-1 Lobos. We closed the game out and came away with a hard fought victory over a very talented, but unlucky Seattle side. Here's the re-cap: [Streak Stays Alive With 2-1 Win Over Seattle](#).

**NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY AT BAKERSFIELD: OCT. 23, 2011  
1 p.m. BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA**

This was the match-up we all looked forward to. Bakersfield has had a tremendous year, with only one loss on the season. Ranked No. 22 in the nation at the time and possessing three of the top attacking players in the West, this was going to be a true test of our metal. The travel and extreme weather changes would take a toll on the guys, but how much... who knew? The field looked great and we seemed up for the match. The 90-degree heat was a concern, but we were confident. Bakersfield really got on top of us early. They were flying and attacked with numbers. We weathered the storm for the opening 25 minutes and things settled in. We took a more defensive approach to the game and tried to clog up central areas in front of our back four. Green and Kafari played a bit deeper in the midfield than usual. In the 41st minute Michael Green played a driven corner into the box... great timing by Carson Baldinger... 1-0 Lobos against the run of play. We went into the intermission thankful and encouraged. The second half started out well for both teams and an uncharacteristic mistake in the back by Bakersfield in the 68th minute was pounced on by Blake Smith. Blake "picked the defenders pocket" and calmly slotted home his eighth goal of the season to make it 2-0 Lobos. Baldinger was playing with a caution and made his second youthful error one minute later. Second yellow equals red! Lobos down a man and facing a desperate team. Our boys defended with every ounce of energy left in their bodies and closed out the remaining 21 minutes. The game became a bit of a war, with eight yellow cards shown in the second half. I would have liked to have seen a bit more composure from some of our young guys, but important lessons were learned. Our mistakes won't be repeated. 2-0 Lobos in a hard fought match. We were warriors on the day. Here's the recap: [2-0 Shutout over CSUB Leaves Lobos Undefeated Through 2011 Road Schedule](#).

Glad to be back home and really looking forward to the next two weekends at home. For his two game winning goals, freshman Carson Baldinger was named to the Top Drawer Soccer National Team of the Week. Here's the link to the article on Team of the Week and National Rankings: [Lobos Named New No. 1 by Top Drawer; Baldinger Makes Team of the Week](#). Big one this Friday night at 7 p.m. against Sacramento State and again on Sunday at 1 p.m. against San Jose State. Thanks for all your support and GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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**October 17, 2011**

Lobo Faithful:

First and foremost, I want to thank our incredible supporters for all their efforts this weekend and every weekend. Describing you as "fans" is selling you short. Our supporters are participants, not observers. You are an integral piece of our team, a source of energy and the driving force behind our passion to play attractive, attacking soccer. 3,758 in the stands Friday night for a very late kickoff following the women's overtime match (sorry if the kids who lasted were a bit sluggish Saturday) and 4,781 faithful came out for Sundays mid-afternoon match. Thank you, thank you! The New Mexico Soccer Experience is a special one for all of us!

Exciting weekend of soccer for the Lobos. The boys had a great week of training and were very focused going into a unique situation. Playing Denver and Air Force on back-to-back weekends was a first. There were positives and negatives and our approach was to identify specific challenges and find ways to be better with a week's worth of preparation. While we defeated Denver and Air Force on the road the previous weekend, we felt we could have been much better. This was our chance to learn from what we did well and improve on areas that we felt could have been better. A great learning opportunity.

**NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. DENVER PIONEERS: FRIDAY, OCT. 14, 2011 -- 7:45 p.m. KICKOFF -**

## **- UNM SOCCER COMPLEX**

Denver has always been a tremendous rival, but recently our duels have become more and more intense. Prior to this match, the last nine encounters have been decided by one goal or less (tie). We played well last weekend in Denver and came away with a hard fought 3-2 victory. Friday night was a tale of two halves. We opened the match with a very wide open playing formation: split our center backs, pushed our fullbacks high and dropped Michael Green deep to make play. I liked our shape, but our quality was poor. Too many balls given away and Denver was very good in transition. Vic Rodriguez was tremendous the first half and kept us even despite our poor quality and decision making. In the 41st minute, Patrick Pacheco played a splitting ball to Lawrence Robledo on the right flank and Lawrence beat his man inside the box with a great first touch and was taken down by the second defender. Penalty kick. Lance Rozeboom confidently stepped to the spot and buried the ensuing kick into the side netting. 1-0 Lobos. This is how the half ended and we felt fortunate going into intermission. Not our best, but good defending, a lead and the opportunity to be much better in the second half. The main topic of our halftime talk, was to "not overplay". Be a bit more direct, turn their defenders around, play off second balls, create chances - make life difficult for their defenders and force them to attack from deeper areas, don't gift them opportunities in transition. The second half was quite the display. We got after them right from the kickoff. Three minutes in, Blake Smith took an in-swinging (left footed from the right side, bending in towards goal) corner and found freshman Carson Baldinger on the far post. 2-0 Lobos. Carson's second strike of the season. We continued to attack the next 23 minutes and got a good grip on the game. The 72nd minute was when the fireworks began. Freshman Giovanni Rollie picked up a ball just past midfield on our right flank and attacked space. Gio got past his man, saw an opening on the far post from 25 yards, made an early decision and precision finish...3-0 Lobos. Four minutes later, Sandoval to Blake Smith who slotted across his body with his right foot. 4-0 Lobos. Two minutes later, Sandoval with a solo effort off a bouncing ball... 5-0 Lobos. Eight minutes later James Rogers off a rebound from a Pacheco blast... 6-0 Lobos. Not much more to say - explosive and exciting. The biggest positive of the night was our ability to change the game with players coming off the bench. Robledo, Baldinger, Pacheco, Kafari, Miele, Mora, Lane and McGovern all made us better. Total team effort! Here's the GoLobos.com game re-cap: [Six goals for Nation's No. 6; Lobos Complete Season Sweep on Denver.](#)

## **NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. AIR FORCE ACADEMY: SUNDAY, OCT. 16, 2011 -- 2 p.m. KICKOFF - UNM SOCCER COMPLEX**

What a tough, committed bunch of young men who represent the United States Air Force Academy. Future officers who know how to compete! This game is always a challenge. We opened the game very well, playing more directly with a tactical approach very similar to our second half against Denver. Air Force attacks with five players high and you cause yourself big problems if you give the ball away in your own half. We were very good the opening 20 minutes and earned a penalty kick in the 27th minutes. Lance Rozeboom beat two in the box and was taken down by the third. Usually, you don't allow the man taken down for a penalty to take the kick, but Lance is the man we've put in charge of PK's and he was determined to finish what he created. Clinical finish... 1-0 Lobos. We finished out the half with several chances, but couldn't find the net. The second half would prove to be a challenge. It was unusually hot with the temperatures in the high 70's. The combination of heat and hard hitting opponents began to take its effects. We couldn't find the important second goal and battled for 45 minutes. Not our best soccer, but we showed great resilience and ground out the second half. Final score 1-0 Lobos to close out the weekend. GoLobos.com game re-cap: [Stevens: Lobos Win in a 1-0 Grind Over Air Force.](#)

Wonderful weekend of soccer at the UNM Soccer Complex. Two shutouts and we keep rolling. Two players who are making us better every day are freshmen Josh Dye and Casey Phillips. Josh and Casey are most likely redshirting this fall and will have four years of eligibility remaining. Incredible attitudes every day, hard working and determined to make an impact. I can't say enough about both and know they will make significant contributions on the field in the near future. We are off this Thursday to Seattle, Wash. and Bakersfield, Calif. for our final road trip of the regular season (last

two weekends are at home). We play Seattle University this Friday at 4:30 p.m. Mountain Time and plan on watching Stanford play the University of Washington later on Friday night at 7 p.m. Pacific Time. Its going to be a tough one for me to watch. Former Lobo assistant coach, Jamie Clark, is the head man at Washington and Lobo alum Jeff Rowland is an assistant coach for the Huskies. Lobo Alum, Mike Graczyk, is an assistant coach for Stanford. I wouldn't mind seeing a tie. We will have dinner Thursday night at the home of Sean Horan, a former player from Fort Lewis College, from the first collegiate team I coached. Need to make sure the old stories are kept to a minimum. Thanks again for your tremendous support and GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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**October 11, 2011**

Lobo Faithful:

Colorado weather is like a \_\_\_\_\_. You fill in the blanks. Sunny and hot and in the blink of an eye, rain and snow -- all in 48 hours. After opening up conference play last weekend with 98 degree Las Vegas heat, we were all looking forward to the more comfortable conditions of Colorado. The report said intermittent rain, highs in the 60s and lows in the upper 40s. Perfect soccer weather. Having played matches in Colorado for the past 20 years, I was experienced enough to prepare for all conditions. Our boys had short and long sleeve jerseys, extra socks to switch out at half time, heavy jackets, gloves, hats... the works. We were ready for a blizzard. All this being said, there I was on the sidelines in Colorado Springs, wearing shorts and freezing my &\*% off for 90 minutes. Superstition hurts at times. Our annual two-match road trip to Denver and Colorado Springs is seldom an easy one. Two quality teams in Denver University and the Air Force Academy, big fields with tough footing and hard charging opponents. We opened the trip up Friday night in Denver and worked our way south to play Air Force on Sunday. The journey started on a high note with a tremendous dinner Thursday night at the home of John and Mary Rossi, grandparents of junior defender Levi Rossi. Last year's meal at the Rossi's fueled the way to two victories. We were counting on a repeat performance. Another highlight of the trip was our bus driver, Jerry Buckner -- a true blue "Cherry and Silver" Lobo. A graduate of the University of New Mexico who played lineman for the Lobo football team in the 70's. Jerry is an "old school Texan" -- cowboy boots, chewing tobacco, drinks his coffee black, likes a good steak and a good tale. By the end of the trip we had him turned upside down: Jerry was drinking latte's with soy milk, eating tofu and professing his love of soccer and declaring "the beautiful game" the world's best sport! I was real proud of the boys preparation for the trip and their confidence and humility.

***NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. DENVER PIONEERS: FRIDAY, OCT. 7, 8 p.m. -- UNIVERSITY OF DENVER CIBER FIELD***

Denver University is always a tough match for us. The defending MPSF regular season champions are a team that always give us its best. We entered the match atop the conference standings with a target clearly outlined across our chests. There were some gamesmanship issues prior to the kickoff, with Denver trying to give us only 15 minutes on the game field prior to kickoff (we were playing the 2nd match of a double header with a late start of 8:15). After some jawing between the coaches and game management staff and we managed to get 20 minutes of warm up time on the field. Not a big deal, but you've got to stand your ground at all times. We started strong and were well prepared for Denver. We anticipated they would play one high, defend deep and look for counters and set pieces. They played two up and pressed us higher than anticipated. We adjusted and had a good handle on the match. In the 16th minute, Blake Smith got a hold of a loose ball in the box and slotted it home. 1-0 Lobos. We looked comfortable and needed to find the second goal to change the tempo of the game. No such luck. Five minutes from our strike, we defended a long throw-in very poorly and the Pioneers evened the match 1-1. The coaching staff was irate. We've worked on defending set pieces and knew this was going to be Denver's strength. 1-1 going into half time and we had a game on our hands. Ten minutes into the second half, some nifty 1-v-1 work on the left flank by a Denver flank man led to a great far post serve and header... 2-1 Denver. We

had to chase the match. The boys kept their cool and evened it up three minutes later with a tremendous finish from Devon Sandoval from just outside the box. We got the game back under control and played quality soccer for the next 25 minutes, but didn't find the net. In the 85th minute, Blake Smith found a ball on the right flank, cut it back and played a tremendous left footed cross back post. Left back, Kiwi freshman, Mattie Gibbons, saw space on the left flank and committed himself to making the far post run. One-time finish into the back of the net for Mattie's first goal on U.S. soil and a 3-2 Lobo lead which would hold for the remaining five minutes. 3-2 Lobo victory over a very talented Denver team. We had a tremendous following in the stands and the boys celebrated with the Lobo Faithful after the match. A wonderful mixture of family, friends, alumni and kids who attended our summer camps. Time to recover and prepare for Sunday's match against Air Force. Here's the website re-cap: [Lobos Remain Unbeaten After 3-2 Victory Over Denver](#).

**NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY: SUNDAY, OCT. 9, 1: p.m. -  
- AIR FORCE ACADEMY CADET SOCCER STADIUM**

Air Force is a team full of committed, hard working young men. They'd better be! They've been accepted into the Academy for a reason and the skills drilled into them are necessary for their future success and survival. I am always very impressed by these young warriors. This being said, I really enjoy our matches, especially when we come out on top. The weather couldn't make up its mind for our 1:00 kick off. After snow on Saturday, it looked like sun and 60 degree weather. The clouds showed up and it got cold real quick. Being the experienced veteran, I left my warm jacket and pants on the bus. I suffered throughout the match. We were very focused and knew we had to be at our best. The game started well and Air Force really pressed with an attacking mentality. They played a 4-1-2-3 and committed five to the attack at all times. Our challenge was to bypass their front five and get at the exposed defenders who held a very high line. In the 16th minute, great combination play between Devon Sandoval and Blake Smith got us on the scorer's sheet. Blake dribbled around the goalkeeper and calmly slotted away his chance. 1-0 Lobos. I felt this was a match we could make comfortable. Within 10 minutes, a big tangle up between our left back and an Air Force attacker, no foul called and a blast off the far post... 1-1 and the match was tight again. Tie score at the half, with our boys very focused and passionate about finishing the match on a positive note. We created chances in the second half, but couldn't find the net. Late in the game we really got a hold of the ball and with under a minute on the clock. James Rogers beat his man on the right and slipped a ball inside to Blake Smith. Blake skipped past his defender to the left and played a near post ball back across the grain into the corner to make it 2-1 Lobos with 44 seconds on the clock. The seconds ticked down and we closed the game out: 2-1 Lobos. A gutty performance and great win. Here's the website recap: [Smith Stuns Air Force With Final Minute Game-Winner](#).

A great weekend for Lobo Soccer and an enjoyable bus ride home. Jerry defined some phrases which I was always uncertain about. "Just over the hill" means 30 minutes. "A fer piece" means 2-3 hours. "Around the corner" is 10-30 minutes. "Almost home" is 20 minutes. Blake Smith was recognized nationally for his efforts, being named to two national "teams of the week" and also named MPSF Conference Player of the Week. All the boys were good and numerous players could and should have been awarded. Here's the release on Blake: [Smith Snags National and Conference Honors](#). We're back home for two this weekend. Denver and Air Force again. Not sure about the conference scheduling, but it will be interesting turning right around and playing the same opponents on our home turf. I'm looking forward to seeing how Denver and Air Force change tactically and what their energy will be like on the road. Our boys will be excited to play in front of our fans. Friday night at 7 p.m. against Denver and Sunday at 2 p.m. against Air Force. Both games will be double-headers with our conference leading women's program. Thanks for your support and GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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**October 3, 2011**

Lobo Faithful:

Las Vegas is a very tough place to play at night. UNLV's soccer field is partially lit from the lights of the strip. Commercial planes and private jets descend right on top of the field, billboards featuring scantily clad women are everywhere you look - a tough place for 18-23 year old young men to concentrate on 90 minutes of soccer. We knew the unique challenges facing us Saturday night. I was really proud of our team, our leadership, our maturity and our focus. The boys prepared well for this very challenging match and approached the trip to Las Vegas as a business trip. Saturday night's game was the opening conference match of the season. Both teams entered with a record of 0-0-0 and this was UNLV's opportunity to turn their season around and make a run at the NCAA Tournament. We had a target on our chests and knew the Rebels would be primed for the battle!

***NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. UNLV REBELS: OCT. 1, 7 p.m. -- LAS VEGAS, NEV.***

The trip into Vegas went smoothly. Great weather and the playing surface was in top condition. Our warm-up was sharp and the boys were prepared to play! UNLV is a very talented team but has a reputation for losing composure as the game progresses. They are well-coached and dangerous in the attack! We opened well, connecting passes and keeping a good rhythm to the game. In the 11th minute, the UNLV left winger hit a shot a player dreams of: great touch inside off a ball played over distance and a first-time shot from 25 yards into the top corner of the net. 1-0 Rebels! The game was on. We played tight and the game was back-and-forth the rest of the half. 1-0 going into halftime. UNLV changed their playing shape and really became compact in their defensive half. At the break, we spoke about the need to possess the ball, change the point of attack quickly, get our fullbacks into the attack, be patient and show maturity. It wasn't going to be easy against a well organized and hungry team. Nine minutes into the second half, our discipline and renewed focus payed off. Blake Smith played a second phase service off a corner into the box (we took a corner, the ball was cleared and Blake played another deep cross back into the box) and Kyle Venter challenged the keeper and powered the ball into the back of the net. 1-1! UNLV was crushed. Three minutes later, freshman Carson Baldinger notched his first goal of the year off a Devon Sandoval assist. 2-1 Lobos. The remaining 33 minutes were well played and the boys held on for a 2-1 victory. Not pretty, not easy, but courageous and hard-fought. A great win in a very challenging environment. There are no easy games and everyone will be gunning for us. Here's the re-cap from our website: [Another Comeback Song for the Lobos in Las Vegas.](#)

No rest for the weary. We are back on the road this upcoming weekend. Denver Friday night at 7 p.m. and Air Force on Sunday at 1 p.m. in Colorado Springs. Two big matches against quality opponents. Sophomore Kyle Venter was named the MPSF Player of the Week, as well as to the College Soccer News National Team of the Week. Both well deserved honors. Thanks for your incredible support. GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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**September 27, 2011**

Lobo Faithful:

Not sure where to start or where to end with today's Lobo Faithful. Sitting here in bed Monday morning at 6:30 a.m. and feeling the need to get quite a bit of information out to all of you while reflecting on a very full and satisfying weekend. Also feeling pretty sick to my stomach. I've been eating healthy, exercising, trying to keep up with the young boys on the fitness front. Sunday night

two friends and I were in charge of nine kids under the age of 12. Our wives were off at "book club," an excuse to get away from husbands, kids and talk about who knows what? We had the bright idea of feeding the kids a meal that they (we) could only dream of! Ribs, hot dogs, BBQ chips, sour cream green chile dip, chips and salsa, cowboy beans right out of the can.....a feast! I didn't hold back and I am paying the price. Quite surprised the wife didn't kick me out of the room or the entire house last night.....I put away at least a can of cowboy beans. We played at home Friday night against Loyola Marymount and a great deal has happened in the past 72 hours. I'm going to deviate from my normal format and just get out what's important.

Our incredible Sports Information Director, Kate Nicewicz, wrote a very touching article about Lobo Soccer Alum, Ben Ashwill, and the unveiling of his plaque in the soccer stadium: [Lost Lobo Honored at the UNM Soccer Complex](#). Ben is a special part of our program and we all miss him very much. Please have a look at this very special article. The plaque is on the concrete wall to your right when you enter the stadium and are walking towards the bleachers.

I was really proud of our team Sunday morning. Everyone joined alum Pat Grange and his family to participate in the "Walk to defeat ALS." Great turnout for this annual event held at Isotopes Park to defeat ALS. Coach Brandon Moss put together an outstanding video on the event (part of our "off the pitch series" ) and our boys participation: ["Off the Pitch"... Walk 4 Pat](#) (the first video listed).

Sophomore defender, Kyle Venter, was named a "team linchpin" by College Soccer News. Here's the link to the article on Kyle's well deserved recognition: [Venter Labeled a "Team Linchpin" by College Soccer News](#).

### **NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. LOYOLA MARYMOUNT: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD, 7 p.m. -- UNM SOCCER COMPLEX**

Perfect night for a soccer match. Our contest against LMU was the nightcap of a double header with our women's program. The ladies defeated Oklahoma 2-1 in a hard-fought match. While we were very well prepared and healthy, we knew that this was a huge match for LMU. A quality team that has been struggling to find their form. Our boys looked good in warm-up and were excited to play in front of an enthusiastic crowd of 2,700. The opening 45 minutes weren't what we trained for. We played a bit tight and didn't dictate the rhythm of the game. Uncharacteristic passing errors in the back created chances for LMU. We got through the first half unscathed and re-grouped at half time. My initial reaction was to really get into the team, but this wasn't what was needed. A relaxed, focused Lobo team was going to be successful and the second half brought out the best in the boys. Seventeen minutes into the 2nd half, Devon Sandoval beat two defenders down the left flank and played a great ball across the goal mouth. Gio Rollie made an excellent run from the right flank and re-directed the ball first time for his third goal of the season. 1-0 Lobos. The goal ignited the team and chances began to come our way. Thirteen minutes later, Sandoval created his own chance. Devon won a header, controlled the ball, turned and hit a rocket from 20 yards into the upper right corner. The keeper could only watch it sail by. Big time finish! 2-0 Lobos. We created several more quality chances, but didn't put the ball in the back of the net. Final score was 2-0 Lobos with Vic Rodriguez and our defense claiming their 4th shut-out of the season. We accomplished the majority of our team goals going into the match: two or more goals, shut-out and committing less than eight fouls. Here's the link to our website article: [Lobos Top Lions, 2-0, in Front of 2,696 Fans](#). With the win, we completed our non-conference matches undefeated with a record of 6-0-2. We now enter conference play with 10 matches over the next six weeks. Our conference opener is on the road in Las Vegas this Saturday night at 7 p.m. against a hungry Rebel squad. The team will be ready!

We are on the road the next two weekends: Vegas and then Denver/Colorado Springs. Conference play is always a challenge. A new season and everyone is 0-0-0 with the goal of winning the conference championship and receiving the automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. I feel great about our team. Thanks for your incredible support and GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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**September 20, 2011**

Lobo Faithful:

The long awaited return to the Buckeye State, the stomping ground of my youth! Our Friday night, Sept. 16 match against the defending College Cup Champion Akron Zips had been circled on our calendar for quite a while. Not only the chance to play one of the premier teams in the nation, but a tremendous opportunity to showcase our program across the country, as the game was televised nationally on the FOX Soccer Channel. Our second opponent of the weekend was Syracuse University out of the Big East Conference on Sunday Sept. 18. This was the second time we had traveled to Akron for their annual tournament. The last time was in 2007, where we came away with a win and a loss. Two big matches awaited us, with the concern being putting too much emphasis on the Akron game and losing sight of Sunday's neutral, midday game with a lesser atmosphere. Akron provided us with rooms for our three-night stay, and what unique accommodations. We stayed at the Quaker Square Inn, right next to the Akron campus. The Inn is constructed from 19th century mills and silos which were the beginnings of the Quaker Oats Company. Each room is perfectly round and is constructed within the cluster of 36 turn-of-the-century grain silos. The boys were intrigued and our two international players didn't know what to think. Always nice to mix a bit of history and culture into a trip. The game time atmosphere was first-class. Akron put on a show for the national television audience. Fireworks, pristine playing surface and a sold-out house! Quite a contrast to Sunday's noon match played in front of faithful family and friends.

***NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. AKRON ZIPS: FRIDAY, SEPT. 16, 7 p.m. -- CUB CADET FIELD, AKRON, Ohio.***

The boys were full of energy and confidence for this one. Our preparation was "spot on" and our team matched up extremely well against the then No. 4 ranked team in the nation. Akron is a very possession-oriented team comprised of high profile players from across the country and world. Our challenge was to break up their playing rhythm, press them deep in their half and really "get at 'em" in transition. I felt that our speed in attack, our toughness and ability in the air would cause them problems. The television coverage caused some slight adjustments to the timing leading into the match, but we were focused and didn't miss a beat. The opening 30 minutes were some of our best. We pressed high, connected our passes and created some great chances in transition. We were flying! In the 36th minute, Akron won a corner against the run of play. Great service, near post header deflected to the back post. 1-0 Zips. What a shock to the system. We continued to fight for the remaining 9 minutes of the half, but entered intermission down a goal. Our team has a lot of confidence and the boys were excited to get back at it for the remaining 45 minutes. Twelve minutes into the second half, Akron's star forward got tangled up with our defenders in a goal box melee and took a wild swing at our keeper, Victor Rodriguez. The center official consulted his assistant on the touchline, and awarded a straight red card. Akron was down a man for the final 33 minutes of regulation. We got a hold of the ball, but never really took charge of the match. In the 80th minute, we were awarded a direct kick 30 yards from the Akron goal. Kyle Venter came up big with his second goal in the past two games to tie it up 1-1 with 10 minutes remaining in regulation. We continued to press and attack but couldn't generate the winning goal playing up a man. Twenty hard-fought minutes of over time, but Akron held with the match finishing deadlocked 1-1. I loved our team's reaction: great sportsmen, but very disappointed with the tie. We expected to win the game from minute one and should have! Here is the link to the re-cap from our website: [Another Late Game Rally Leaves Lobos With a Draw at Akron.](#)

***NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. SYRACUSE ORANGE: SUNDAY, SEPT. 18, 12:30 p.m. -- CUB CADET FIELD, AKRON, Ohio.***

Sunday afternoon games are always challenging coming off a high energy Friday night match. This

one was a real concern going into the tournament. Syracuse is a team built for Sundays. Very physical, patient and looking to win on set pieces, transition and direct play. As soon as Friday night's match ended, we discussed the importance of Sunday's game and the need for extreme focus and maturity in our play. Our leaders quickly switched gears and were confident that we would be ready. Captain Lance Rozeboom took a hard knock on Friday, but appeared ready to play. He started the match, but had to come off in the opening 25 minutes. We played very maturely and controlled the match from the opening kickoff. It seemed to be only a matter of time before we found the net. We had an 11-0 advantage in corners for the match, a 17-7 advantage in shots, one save by our GK and only six fouls. Dominant statistics. Yet soccer rarely plays out exactly as expected. We controlled the match, created chances and played with great maturity for 80 minutes, but with a 0-0 score the boys started to show signs of fatigue and frustration. In the 81st minute our patience and perseverance payed off. Levi Rossi to Devon Sandoval on the back post to go up 1-0 with nine minutes on the clock. History tells you that teams lose focus right after scoring a goal. Not sure how it happened, but Syracuse won a throw in deep in our half off a poor clearance. Long throw in, bouncing ball, game tied 1-1 less than two minutes after a seemingly locked down affair. The game remained even for the duration of regulation and 20 minutes of "golden goal/sudden death" overtime to play. We stayed strong and confident. Six minutes into the first overtime, Levi Rossi took space on the right flank and played a tremendous near post ball to Devon Sandoval. Precision header...2-1 Lobos with the overtime victory. Great result! Here's the UNM website link: [Sandoval Strikes Twice Against Syracuse on Sunday](#).

We entered the weekend looking for two wins, but coming out with a win and a tie is a positive. We remain unbeaten on the season with a record of 5-0-2, with one remaining non-conference match. Our 2-1 win over Syracuse coupled with Akron's 1-0 victory over Cal Poly on Sunday gave us the tournament championship by way of a tie breaker (most goals scored on the weekend). Kyle Venter was named the tournament Defensive MVP, Devon Sandoval the Offensive MVP and Travis Campbell and Mattie Gibbons were named to the All-Tournament team. A total team effort with any number of Lobo players deserving of individual awards. Sandoval was also named MPSF Player of the Week. Our final non-conference match of the season is this Friday night at 7 p.m. at the UNM Soccer Complex against Loyola Marymount. STUFF THE STADIUM NIGHT! LMU was a 2010 NCAA Tournament participant and the Lions always give us a great match. It should be an attacking, action packed contest! Hope to see everyone on Friday night and thanks for your support. GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

**Editor's notes:**

- *The Lobos' claiming the championship title in the UA Tournament marked the first time since the tournament's inception in 2007 that a participating team other than Akron has come in first place.*
- *New Mexico's 1-1 tie with Akron on Friday night was the first time that Akron did not win a game outright in tournament history. The Zips were 8-0-0 prior to Friday's game against UNM.*
- *Akron head coach Caleb Porter had amassed a 61-0-0 record over six seasons when his team led the game at halftime. New Mexico foiled the record by entering intermission down 1-0, and coming back to tie the game 1-1.*
- *Devon Sandoval and Kyle Venter earned tournament MVP awards for the second consecutive week, having been named the Offensive and Defensive MVP's of the TLC Invitational.*

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**September 13, 2011**

Lobo Faithful:

This past weekend was action packed, stomach turning and full of excitement for followers of University of New Mexico Lobo Soccer. Coming off of a successful road trip to California last week, our team was eager to continue with our winning ways at home (we have home victories in our two

exhibitions and season opener against Towson). Our opponents were undefeated Columbia University from New York City on Friday night and the always tough Matadors of Cal State Northridge (coming off of an overtime loss to Akron) on Sunday at 1 p.m. Friday saw intermittent showers throughout the day and things didn't look promising for kickoff. Miraculously, the skies cleared and the game was played under perfect conditions. Sunday's match was hot, humid and sunny. What a contrast between the two games and a mental and physical challenge. We had a great week of training and confidence was high. We've repeatedly discussed our home field advantage and the necessity to win every game played in the Land of Enchantment. To really get to know our players and hear what's inside their heads, have a look at our "[OFF THE PITCH](#)" video series produced by Coach Brandon Moss. Make sure to watch "Beach Bound" if you want to see some real characters.

**FRIDAY NIGHT, SEPT. 16 -- NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. defending National Champions and fourth-ranked AKRON UNIVERSITY**  
**LIVE on the FOX SOCCER CHANNEL as the "GAME OF THE WEEK" -- 7 P.M. EASTERN TIME (5 P.M. MOUNTAIN).**

**NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY -- FRIDAY, SEPT. 9, 7 p.m. -- UNM SOCCER COMPLEX**

We watched quite a bit of tape on Columbia and felt that this would be a good match-up for us. The Ivy Leaguers had played three quality teams (garnering three wins) leading up to our match, but hadn't faced a multi-headed attack like ours: speed, skill, size and depth. We felt that if we could stretch the game, press them high in their defensive end and run at their back four, we would be successful. We stressed the importance of getting behind their defenders in the opening ten minutes and turning their back line around. Hats off to Columbia. They played great the opening 15 minutes. The game was played in our half and we couldn't escape. The Lions squeezed the field and we couldn't break out, but we defended very maturely and prevented any quality chances. Around the 15-minute mark, we began to get into a passing rhythm and got a hold of the match. The fireworks kicked off in the 21st minute with a clinical Devon Sandoval goal off of a James Rogers cross. 1-0 Lobos. Three minutes later, Rogers did it himself, beating four defenders with a solo run and finishing from the right flank. 2-0 Lobos. Six minutes later, it was Gio Rollie's turn, with a one-time finish from the top of the six yard box to make it 3-0 Lobos. Five minutes later, in the 37th minute, Levi Rossi followed up on a Carson Baldinger challenge to make it 4-0 Lobos. Four goals in 16 minutes. Hope no one left for the bathroom. Nick Miele, Riley McGovern and Javier Lane saw their first minutes as Lobos in the second half and the team didn't miss a beat. In the 56th minute, we gave up a direct kick from 30 yards and Columbia connected on an excellent set piece to foil our shut-out. Blake Smith closed out our scoring in the 69th minute to make it 5-1 Lobos. Final score 5-1 with a tremendous offensive performance from our boys. Columbia managed only one quality shot on goal and we showed great maturity in committing only three fouls over the entire match. The defense was once again first rate! Exciting and rewarding to see everyone play big minutes and our depth is very comforting as we get into the heart of the season. We would be rested for Sunday's match. Check out the website recap [here](#) with highlight video footage on the men's soccer main page.

**NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE: SUNDAY, SEPT. 11, 1 p.m. -- UNM SOCCER COMPLEX**

The Matadors of Northridge came into the game firing on all cylinders, coming off of a convincing 3-0 victory over Missouri State in Friday night's opening match of the TLC Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Invitational. We've been very fortunate against Northridge in our last three meetings and I wondered if we could make it four in a row -- never easy in soccer. This would be a real test for us. Coming off of a big victory, playing our first day game of the year and the excitement of the Akron game in less than a week. Our challenge would be to focus on the match at hand, display continued maturity and attack with the tenacity we had displayed thus far. I felt that if we did that, we would be very good. We opened strong and created several quality chances in the first 10 minutes. One or two should have been put in the net early. As the half progressed, it seemed like only a matter of

time. Against the run of play, an unbelievable blast from 30 yards in the 35th minute really woke us up. 1-0 Northridge and the reality of the game of soccer: "anyone can win on a given day with a bit of luck." A couple of fortunate goals by a lesser team, poor finishing from the stronger side, and you'll see an upset! The half finished 1-0 Matadors, but we came out of halftime highly confident and motivated. I was proud of our leaders and the boys were excited for the challenge at hand. We again dominated play, but couldn't put it into the back of the net. Things started to get tense as the clock counted down, but our confidence and tenacity never wavered. We made some adjustments with 12 minutes to go, going with an additional attacker in the back and playing with two high forwards. With slightly over six minutes remaining on the clock, a corner kick by lefty Blake Smith from the right. No one gets a clean head on it and a loose ball pin-balling around the box. Big center-back Kyle Venter put his foot through the ball and found the back of the net. 1-1 with Lobo confidence at an all-time high. The next two minutes were a blur. James Rogers to Devon Sandoval mid-way into the 84th minute to make it 2-1 Lobos and less than a minute later, Rogers to Blake Smith to make it 3-1 Lobos. Three goals in under two minutes. Attacking, action-packed soccer at its finest! The match finished 3-1 with our team gaining tremendous confidence coming from behind late in the match. Keeper Vic Rodriguez wasn't really challenged, making only two saves and great poise and maturity displayed by our team committing only four fouls throughout the match. [Here's the link](#) to the website recap with video highlights.

**LINKS TO IN-DEPTH LOBO SOCCER VIDEOS**

If you haven't seen our game highlight videos, check out this link to [Lobo TV](#). Click the Lobo TV button in the middle of the page to access all videos.

***FRIDAY NIGHT, SEPT. 16 -- NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. defending National Champions and fourth-ranked AKRON UNIVERSITY LIVE on the FOX SOCCER CHANNEL as the "GAME OF THE WEEK" -- 7 P.M. EASTERN TIME (5 P.M. MOUNTAIN).***

Our players are confident and excited for the upcoming weekend. This is a test we all look forward to. We depart on Thursday morning for Akron, Ohio to play Akron University on Friday and Syracuse University on Sunday. We are healthy, hungry and are scoring goals. Hope all the Lobo Faithful get the chance to watch us live. We return home for our final non-conference match of the year on Friday, Sept. 23 against Loyola Marymount University. Thanks for your continued support and GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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**September 6, 2011**

Lobo Faithful:

The weather is starting to cool down and fall is just around the corner here in New Mexico. My favorite time of year in the Land of Enchantment. Cool mornings and evenings, wonderful sunsets and the season is just heating up! After playing our first three matches of the year in the comfortable confines of the Lobo Soccer Stadium (two exhibitions and our opening match,) we ventured to the

West Coast to face two challenging opponents: California State University - San Luis Obispo and Santa Clara University. Cal Poly on Friday night and the Broncos of Santa Clara on Sunday night. A long road trip of four nights versus our usual three nights. Being a three day weekend with no classes on Monday, we played Sunday's match in the evening to provide more rest and a better atmosphere for the players. San Luis Obispo is a beautiful school right smack in the middle of the California Central Coast. We trained Thursday morning at home, flew into Oakland and drove four hours south, arriving at our hotel around 10:00 pm. A long day, but everyone was in great spirits. We expected a hard-fought game from the Mustangs of Cal Poly. Their field is long and very narrow (118' by 68') and their team plays to the dimensions: big hard running forwards, giant central defenders and a GK who plays very direct. The transition from the wineries and beach towns of Avila and Pismo Beach to the six lane highways of the Bay Area was quite a transition on the trip back North Saturday afternoon. Santa Clara has a very different feel - a manicured private school in the heart of the Bay Area. A storied soccer history highlighted by a National Championship and numerous famous alumni. Santa Clara mixes their game up, going very direct at times and also looking to play with finesse and flair. Two great tests for our team and we were excited and well prepared for the challenges.

***NEW MEXICO LOBOS VS CAL POLY MUSTANGS: FRIDAY, SEPT. 2, 7:00 PM - SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.***

A perfect night for soccer. The temperature was in the 60's, clear skies and a great crowd waving green checkered flags throughout the match. Cal Poly was flying from the kickoff. We opened very strong, possessing the ball and creating several scoring chances in the early goings. Cal Poly was playing at 100 miles per hour, back-to-front with physical players all over the field. They defended with five players and attacked with five players and didn't deviate from this formula. Very dangerous, but not very creative. That being said, they were very effective against us. The first half ended 0-0 with both sides getting a few chances but all in all, a pretty even 45 minutes. The second half proved to be a bit more exciting. The first 20 minutes saw us on our heels. Cal Poly really came at us and we failed to get a grip on the game. We defended with our lives and took pressure non stop. We had trouble getting out of our half, but defended with a great deal of maturity and held strong. Around the 65th minute we got our form back and played some quality soccer for the final 25 minutes of regulation. Both sides created some chances, but after 90 minutes, it was still 0-0 on the score board. 20 minutes of overtime and still no score. Tie and our coaches felt fortunate to keep the clean sheet and get out with a point (three points for a win and one point for a tie). The boys didn't take it so well. Our team is about winning, and a tie wasn't good enough in their minds. After winning our first three matches, this reality check will provide motivation throughout the season. Here's the link to the re-cap and box score: [Lobos Draw With Mustangs in Friday's Nightcap](#).

***NEW MEXICO LOBOS VS SANTA CLARA BRONCOS: SUNDAY, SEPT. 4, 7:00 PM SANTA CLARA, CALIF.***

Another wonderful evening at a top-flight venue. Santa Clara shares their facility, Buck Shaw Stadium, with the MLS San Jose Earthquakes and the field was beautiful. The fans got to see the real Lobos on this night! The mark of an excellent team is the ability to rebound from a tough match and play quality soccer 48 hours later. Our legs were still a bit heavy, bruises hadn't faded, muscles ached and egos still on the mend. We showed our class for 90 minutes. Santa Clara came into the match with a win and a Friday night tie against UCLA. They're an excellent team full of former US Youth National Team players and west coast stars. We were all over them from minute one. We moved the ball with speed and matched them physically. Despite our class, the first half ended 0-0, but the final result in our minds wasn't in doubt. In soccer, this is usually a pretty foolish assumption. Games can get away from you pretty quickly. Not this one. We started the second half right where we left off. Fifteen minutes into the half, freshman James Rogers worked some magic on the right flank and hit a sensational left footed blast from 20 yards out. 1-0 Lobos. Fifteen minutes later, Blake Smith made it 2-0 with a left footed blast of his own. Our defense stayed tight and we played out the final minutes of the match with great poise. 2-0 Lobo victory. A very complete performance from our

team. Here's the link to the website re-cap and box score: [Lobos Victorious in Sunday's Battle with the Broncos.](#)

Back to the friendly confines of our home stadium this weekend. We currently stand at 2-0-1 and have shut out all three opponents. I feel great about the team and we have some exciting play ahead of us. We host our annual TLC Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Invitational this weekend with matches against Columbia University from New York City and California State Northridge. Two great, challenging opponents! We kick things off Friday night at 7 p.m. against Columbia and play Sunday at 1 p.m. against Northridge. Thanks for all your support and see you this weekend. GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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### **August 29, 2011**

Lobo Faithful:

The 2011 season is officially underway! The Lobo Men's Soccer team kicked off the season Friday night under clear skies, in front of an enthusiastic crowd of nearly 2200, on a manicured surface with exciting times ahead! Quite a weekend of soccer for me. Most of you have a fairly romantic idea of what the life of a collegiate coach is like: coffee in the morning, two hours of practice, watch a bit of video, go out for lunch, go to the gym, winters and summer off -- I want that job! Saturday morning we had a training session for the boys who played low minutes, big minute guys had a recovery session and everyone lifted weights for 35 minutes to close out the session. Great spirits with Sunday off. I immediately got into the car and drove 30 minutes north for two soccer matches: U-10 and U-11 girls, my girls! Pretty nice change of scenery and much more enjoyable interacting with everyone at the soccer complex coming off a win. 90 degrees and sunny... just what my skin and eyes needed more of. Two exciting games and I managed to sit on the sidelines without sharing my opinion with anyone (one of the few parents to do so). Back out to the field early Sunday morning for more. The girls were playing in a season opening tournament and both had reached the semi-finals. To make it short, only one moved on and we finished the day after the third match with a first place medal and a broken heart. The highs and lows of sports and life. The real challenge of the day was still ahead of me. We fly out Thursday afternoon for our next two matches. When flying, we require our players to travel in coat and tie. This is often a challenge for new players, as many don't own a sports coat or suit. One in 10 know how to tie a neck tie. I went right from the fields to pick up Adrian Delgado from Costa Rico, Mattie Gibbons from New Zealand and James Rogers from Sierra Leone, as they all needed to purchase various items for travel. This experience was a prelude to shopping with soon to be teenage daughters. The tastes varied, each was hard to fit. After four different shops, we pretty much pulled it together. What an exhausting experience, which I don't wish on anyone. When it comes to the players, there always seems to be money for new gym shoes, the latest fashions, cell phone accessories, but money for dress cloths doesn't exist. To me, presenting yourself in the best possible manner is part of growing up.

### ***SEASON OPENING MATCH: LOBOS VS TOWSON UNIVERSITY 7:00 PM AUGUST 26TH AT THE LOBO SOCCER STADIUM***

Both sides opened the match a bit tight, but we quickly settled in and took control of the game. I was very proud of the maturity we displayed from the get-go. We started an experienced line-up with only one newcomer on the field, Mattie Gibbons at left back. Towson played a very attacking 4-3-3 with a holding center mid and two attacking central players. All three forwards took very high starting positions and there was a commitment to attack with five players at all times. We countered with a 4-2-3-1, which took on more of a 4-3-3 in attack. The primary difference in the teams tactically, was that we let our outside backs get very involved in the attack and pressed in higher areas. The first half saw the ball in the Towson half, but we struggled finding the final pass or hitting the target. Thirty

minutes into the half, we brought in the electric duo of freshmen Gio Rollie and James Rogers to play opposite of each other on the attacking flanks. Both are young, dynamic, attacking players. In the 44th minute, James beat two off the dribble on the right side and played a near post ball to a streaking Gio Rollie (made a diagonal run from the far post). 1-0 Lobos with the first goal of the season and of his career from red-shirt freshman Gio Rollie. The second half was full of exciting soccer. In the 76th minute, we drew a foul 25 yards outside the Towson box. Laurence Robledo saw a gap in the wall and placed the ball far post for his first goal of the season and a 2-0 Lobo lead. We failed to put the third in the net and the match ended 2-0 Lobos. A very complete performance in which we achieved many of our match goals:

- More shots than opponent: 20-6
- Fewer fouls
- First to score
- Shut out
- Two or more goals
- Goal off set piece
- No cards

A great way to start the season with much more excitement and challenges ahead! Here is the link to our website article: [Fishbein's Lobos Blank Towson](#). We fly out to Northern California Thursday for matches vs Cal Poly on Friday and Santa Clara Sunday. Two great teams and our first road matches of the season. I will keep you posted. Thanks for the support and GO LOBOS.

Jeremy Fishbein

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Aug. 22, 2011

Lobo Faithful:

Still 0-0-0... preseason wins don't count for much. New Mexico Men's Soccer kicks off the regular season this Friday night, Aug. 26th against Towson University at 7 p.m. under the lights of the UNM Soccer Complex. This past Saturday night we played our 2nd and final exhibition match against the Golden Hurricanes of Tulsa University. Tulsa has been a perennial "Top 20" team and this year they are once again regarded highly in the national polls. After a comfortable 2-0 win over Grand Canyon last Thursday, our boys were excited for a great challenge and anticipated a high-powered match. Its been all soccer for the past 11 days and reality hit everyone hard this morning - the illusion that they were professional soccer players is over. Classes started today with homework starting tonight. The challenge is to balance academics, social life and soccer. You can be really good at two of the three, and the plan is for them to be outstanding students and athletes.

***RECAP: New Mexico Lobos vs. Tulsa University Golden Hurricane - Saturday, Aug. 20, 7 p.m.***

The early goings belonged to the Lobos. Entering the match, our plan for the first 10 minutes was to press Tulsa high, get in behind their back four and display a great deal of energy and tenacity. If you missed the first 10 minutes, you missed some exciting soccer! Less than a minute into the match, we combined on the right flank and created a great opportunity - barely wide of the mark. In the 6th minute, Laurence Robledo beat one with a great first touch and the second off the dribble for his second goal of the exhibition season. 1-0 Lobos. Three minutes later, after relentless pressure, a Tulsa defender committed a handball in the box. Penalty kick. [Lance Rozeboom](#) slotted it away. 2-0 Lobos. In the 16th minute, [Blake Smith](#) split the Hurricane defense and scored an excellent goal, his second of the preseason. 3-0 Lobos after 16 minutes. A 3-0 lead is a pretty comfortable one, maybe too comfortable. Our players took their feet off the gas, too much so. We made some changes and didn't generate the same kind of energy for the remainder of the half. At halftime, we spoke of the importance of the first 10 minutes in the second stanza. Seven minutes in, we gave up a sloppy

direct kick from just outside of our box. Left-footed rocket. 3-1 Lobos. Our goal was to preserve the shutout and display maturity in managing the match, but that didn't happen as planned. Tulsa had a bit of a run, but we got the match back under control and created a few more excellent chances. 3-1 final with things still to work on. We had a 21-12 advantage in shots and an 8-0 advantage in corner kicks. All in all, it's hard to not be happy with the result. We scored goals and 21 players saw action, with the other two unable to play with minor injuries. Competition for playing time is going to be fierce. As a coach, this is a good problem to have, but a difficult one. Check out the golobos.com game recap and box score here: [Fire in the First Half Fuels Lobos to Victory](#).

**Remember, the season opener is this Friday night, Aug. 26 at 7 p.m. at the UNM Soccer Complex against Towson university out of Maryland.**

Thanks for your continued support. GO LOBOS! [Jeremy Fishbein](#)

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Aug. 19, 2011

Lobo Faithful:

The 2011 University of New Mexico Soccer Season has officially kicked off! Lobo Soccer faced its first outside competition (we've been kicking ourselves the past week) of the season last night in Grand Canyon University under the lights of the Lobo Soccer Complex. It was a beautiful evening with the threat of rain and lightning lingering throughout the match. The elements proved to be kind, the playing surface was a carpet and the atmosphere was tremendous for an exhibition game. It was the first of two exhibition matches prior to our season opener against Towson University on Aug. 26. Thursday was our ninth day together as a new team (pre-season camp kicked off on Aug. 10) and we displayed both great promise and early season challenges. As a coach, you have a clear vision of how you want to play, you have high expectations for your players and you want everything to go right from minute one. You quickly learn and realize that you only have limited control and things rarely go smoothly in the early goings. Twenty-one players (the three others rostered are currently resting minor injuries) saw the field last night, 10 making their debuts as Lobos. Everyone showed great promise and the ability to play at the highest level of Division I soccer. Our challenge is to find the best combination of players, maintain focus, keep everyone engaged and focused on continual development as young men and as a team. Its going to be an exciting season!

**RECAP: AUGUST 18TH - NEW MEXICO LOBOS vs. GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY**

I was very happy with the squad we put on the field to start the match: (back to front) Vic Rodriguez in the net, Kiwi freshman Mattie Gibbons on the left, [Levi Rossi](#) on the right and [Kyle Venter](#) and [Travis Campbell](#) filling out the center of our back line. Mike Green and [Lance Rozeboom](#) anchored the center of our midfield with [Blake Smith](#) and red-shirt freshman [Javier Gomez](#) on the flanks. [Devon Sandoval](#) played as the high striker with freshman [James Rogers](#) in behind. Three newcomers in Rogers, Gibbons and Gomez started the match and saw their first minutes as Lobos. We created several quality chances in the early going, but didn't capitalize. GCU tightened up their defense, dropped their back line deep and really packed it in with a compact block of eight defenders. Any space behind or centrally located disappeared. The challenge was to remain patient, possess with rapid ball speed and not lose focus in allowing counter attacks or set piece opportunities. We had several great sequences throughout the half, but didn't fill the net. In the later stages of the half, [Lawrence Robledo](#), red-shirt freshman [Carson Baldinger](#) and red-shirt freshman [Giovanni Rollie](#) saw their first minutes of the season. We made some changes at the half, with red-shirt freshman [Patrick Poblete](#) manning the pipes in place of Rodriguez. Seven minutes into the second half, our efforts were rewarded. Great combination play from [Blake Smith](#) and [Carson Baldinger](#) with [Blake Smith](#) slotting the opening goal of our season. 1-0 Lobos. We really began to find our playing rhythm and moved the ball quickly and skillfully. [Michael Kafari](#) and freshman [Adrian](#)

[Mora Delgado](#) "El Tico" took over the central midfield duties with [Patrick Pacheco](#) and [Lawrence Robledo](#) running the flanks. In the 74th minute, [Lawrence Robledo](#) put us up 2-0 with a splitting run and clinical finish. The final 16 minutes were action packed with dynamic attacking play from our boys. The ball was buzzing and GCU packed it in tighter and defended with their lives. Delgado rang the crossbar with a 20 yard blast, but the defense somehow held. We finished with a 2-0 final score and our supporters left the stadium excited by the promise of an action-packed season. Click the following link for the golobos.com game recap: [Lobos Blank Grand Canyon in Opening Exhibition of 2011 Season.](#)

Great match this Saturday night, August 20th at the Lobo Soccer Complex. #26 Lobos vs #15 ranked Tulsa Hurricanes: 7:00 pm. This will be the final exhibition prior to our season opener on the 26th. Tulsa is one of the most exciting attacking teams in the country.....lots of fire-power from both team in what should prove to be a tremendous match-up! Thanks for your support and GO LOBOS!

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Aug. 15, 2011

Lobo Faithful:

Hope your summer has been a great one! The New Mexico men's soccer season opener is right around the corner. I've switched to an Apple computer and have changed my e-mail account (same address) with the hope of making life easier in terms of technology and my ability to disseminate information - my Achilles heal so to speak. Where to start? We've just completed our first week of pre-season training and I couldn't be happier and more excited about our team. It's comprised of a tremendous group of young men, outstanding leadership, exciting newcomers, a real sense of passion and a commitment to EXCELLENCE. Our returning players have worked hard over the summer and haven't missed a beat from where we left off in May. The seven incoming freshmen bring a new freshness to the team and several will play significant roles this season. All are excellent students and high level players. We also have two new international players who weren't previously mentioned with our other signees, and Nicklas Savvolineon from Sweden will not be with us this fall. Both [Adrian Mora Delgado](#) from Costa Rica and Matt Gibbons from New Zealand played for their respective countries' Youth National Teams and both have quickly adjusted to their new surroundings and teammates (though they haven't tried green chile yet.) An article featured on golobos.com talks about Adrian and Matt and their unique connection to each other prior to their coming to New Mexico. The full article is available at this link [Lobo Men's Soccer Brings Former International Rivals Together](#). This is the site to check out for all of the most updated articles on Lobo Men's Soccer. Here is the link to our full roster for the upcoming season: [2011 Lobo Men's Soccer Roster](#).

**Some important dates for your calendar:**

Thursday, August 18th, 7 p.m. - First exhibition match of the year against Grand Canyon University at the Lobo Soccer Stadium.

Saturday, August 20th, 7 p.m. - Exhibition match against tenth-ranked Tulsa University at the Lobo Soccer Stadium.

Friday, August 26th, 7 p.m. - Regular season home opener against Towson University at the Lobo Soccer Stadium.

Friday, September 16th, 5 p.m. (MT) - New Mexico vs. no. 2 Akron on the Fox Soccer Channel. The match will be played in Akron, Ohio.

This year more than ever, we need your support and need you to join our booster club, The Golden Goal Club. 100% of membership dollars go directly to Lobo men's soccer. You can find more information about the program in our Golden Goal Club brochure, available at the following links: [Golden Goal Club \(front\)](#) and [Golden Goal Club \(back\)](#).

Thanks for your tremendous support and see you August 18th at our first match.GO LOBOS!

[Jeremy Fishbein](#)

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May 3, 2011

Lobo Faithful:

Returned from Las Vegas last night after wrapping up a very successful winter/spring campaign. The Lobos played two hard fought matches on Saturday, April 30th, finishing up our 10-match spring season with a record of 5-1-4, with the lone defeat coming from Edmonton FC, a second division professional side. While I'm not happy about the four ties, I think we would have won the majority of these matches had we played overtime. In terms of development and growth, this was possibly the best off-season the Lobo program has ever experienced. I can't say enough about our boys commitment to EXCELLENCE!

We brought a small squad to Vegas and faced the challenge of two tough matches in one day. This was our final spring date of competition and we felt great about the training and commitment of our players. The young boys have really grown over the past 3 1/2 months: physically, mentally, technically and tactically. We annually put our players through one of the most challenging winter/springs in the country. This is the foundation which our program is built on.

First match of the day was against Cal State Fullerton. A quality team from the Big West. We had a tremendous opening 20 minutes and were rewarded with a goal from [Devon Sandoval](#) with the assist from [Lawrence Robledo](#). We created chance after chance and finally found the net. In the 40th minute a long ball bounded into our box and Fullerton picked up a secondary ball and hit a laser from 30 yards to tie the game. Unfortunate, but we should have done better with the clearance and positioning for the second ball. Fullerton's only chance of the half and an incredible finish. We went up 2-1 in the 65th minute when freshman [Carson Baldinger](#) hit a one-time ball at the top of the box off a centering/dropped pass from [Levi Rossi](#). Tremendous poise and quality finish. Baldinger is special in front of the net and is coming back to form after redshirting this fall coming off meniscus surgery. In the 89th minute, Fullerton had a long throw-in find a runner on the far post to tie the game. Our goalkeeper was pinned and we lost our mark. Closing out games has been our challenge. No overtime was played. Disappointing finish to a great performance from our team. Had we finished our numerous chances, the game wouldn't have been close. As long as we continue to allow lesser teams to stay in matches, anything can happen. Mental focus for 90 minutes is required to be great! This being said, we played everyone with Holmes and Rodriguez splitting time in goal. Great goal from Baldinger. Expect many more from [Devon Sandoval](#) and [Carson Baldinger](#)!

Second match of the day was vs. UC Irvine. Another very competitive southern California team from the Big West. We came out slow the first 15 minutes with heavy legs, this being our second match of the day. We failed to connect our passes in the early going and chased the ball like chickens. The team was ignited by freshman [Michael Kafari](#) at the 15 minute mark, when he put in a bone-crunching tackle, came away with possession and initiated a counter attack. From this moment, we got a hold of the game and in the 18th minute [Lawrence Robledo](#) scored on a first-time ball inside the six-yard box, with the assist coming from [Devon Sandoval](#). Twelve minutes later, great individual work on the right flank by freshman [Riley McGovern](#) found [Devon Sandoval](#) far post for an easy tap-in to make it 2-0 Lobos. Irvine capitalized on an uncharacteristic Lobo mistake in the midfield in the

later moments of the game to cut the lead in half, but the match ended 2-1 Lobos. Poblete and Lane split time in goal for the Lobos.

Quality day and great way to finish up a tremendous spring season. Thanks for all your support the past nine months and be prepared for an action packed 2011! The season opening match will be played on Friday, August 26th vs. Towson University at Lobo Stadium. I will get the schedule out to you in the next couple of weeks. Have a wonderful summer and GO LOBOS!

[Jeremy Fishbein](#)

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May 1, 2011

Lobo Faithful:

Returned from Las Vegas last night after wrapping up a very successful winter/spring campaign. The Lobos played two hard fought matches on Saturday, April 30th, finishing up our 10-match spring season with a record of 5-1-4, with the lone defeat coming from Edmonton FC, a second division professional side. While I'm not happy about the four ties, I think we would have won the majority of these matches had we played overtime. In terms of development and growth, this was possibly the best off-season the Lobo program has ever experienced. I can't say enough about our boys commitment to EXCELLENCE!

We brought a small squad to Vegas and faced the challenge of two tough matches in one day. This was our final spring date of competition and we felt great about the training and commitment of our players. The young boys have really grown over the past 3 1/2 months: physically, mentally, technically and tactically. We annually put our players through one of the most challenging winter/springs in the country. This is the foundation which our program is built on.

First match of the day was against Cal State Fullerton. A quality team from the Big West. We had a tremendous opening 20 minutes and were rewarded with a goal from Devon Sandoval with the assist from Lawrence Robledo. We created chance after chance and finally found the net. In the 40th minute a long ball bounded into our box and Fullerton picked up a secondary ball and hit a laser from 30 yards to tie the game. Unfortunate, but we should have done better with the clearance and positioning for the second ball. Fullerton's only chance of the half and an incredible finish. We went up 2-1 in the 65th minute when freshman Carson Baldinger hit a one-time ball at the top of the box off a centering/dropped pass from Levi Rossi. Tremendous poise and quality finish. Baldinger is special in front of the net and is coming back to form after redshirting this fall coming off meniscus surgery. In the 89th minute, Fullerton had a long throw-in find a runner on the far post to tie the game. Our goalkeeper was pinned and we lost our mark. Closing out games has been our challenge. No overtime was played. Disappointing finish to a great performance from our team. Had we finished our numerous chances, the game wouldn't have been close. As long as we continue to allow lesser teams to stay in matches, anything can happen. Mental focus for 90 minutes is required to be great! This being said, we played everyone with Holmes and Rodriguez splitting time in goal. Great goal from Baldinger. Expect many more from Devon Sandoval and Carson Baldinger!

Second match of the day was vs. UC Irvine. Another very competitive southern California team from the Big West. We came out slow the first 15 minutes with heavy legs, this being our second match of the day. We failed to connect our passes in the early going and chased the ball like chickens. The team was ignited by freshman Michael Kafari at the 15 minute mark, when he put in a bone-crunching tackle, came away with possession and initiated a counter attack. From this moment, we got a hold of the game and in the 18th minute Lawrence Robledo scored on a first-time ball inside the six-yard box, with the assist coming from Devon Sandoval. Twelve minutes later, great individual work on the right flank by freshman Riley McGovern found Devon Sandoval far post for an easy tap-

in to make it 2-0 Lobos. Irvine capitalized on an uncharacteristic Lobo mistake in the midfield in the later moments of the game to cut the lead in half, but the match ended 2-1 Lobos. Poblete and Lane split time in goal for the Lobos.

Quality day and great way to finish up a tremendous spring season. Thanks for all your support the past nine months and be prepared for an action packed 2011! The season opening match will be played on Friday, August 26th vs. Towson University at Lobo Stadium. I will get the schedule out to you in the next couple of weeks. Have a wonderful summer and GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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April 27, 2011

Lobo Faithful:

This past weekend was the was the highlight of my coaching career! I say this with complete sincerity. Lobo Men's Soccer hosted a banquet/fund-raiser for Alum Patrick Grange (diagnosed with ALS five months ago) on Friday night, April 22nd and hosted a silent auction/fund-raiser/alumni vs current Lobo match on Saturday the 23rd at the Lobo Soccer Stadium.

The banquet on the 22nd was a fairly intimate affair attended by 150 alumni, current team members and family, the Grange family and friends of the program. In addition to honoring Patrick Grange, we recognized Tom and Donna Ashwill (parents of alum Ben Ashwill who passed away in January of 2010), this years six seniors: Michael Reed, James Urbany, Ryan Farquharson, Andrew Parsons, David Murphy and Matt Armstrong and the 50 alumni in attendance. Stories were shared on Friday night, tears were shed and everyone came together as one big family and the shared energy was amazing. This is what Lobo Soccer is about: loyalty, helping a friend in need and coming together when times are tough.

Saturday nights silent auction/Grange Family fund-raiser/ALS fund-raiser/Alumni Game was attended by 3,000 Lobo Soccer Family members! Over \$35,000 was raised for the Grange Family and for ALS research. Breath-taking!! If you weren't in attendance, words can't express the event. 3,000 people shared this wonderful evening with Pat, his family and our entire program. I've never felt this way in my 19 years of coaching. I was speechless. I felt completely fulfilled. This was beyond wins and losses....it was unbelievable and everyone shared in this feeling. A couple of links about the event are included here: [a television piece on the event](#) and [some of the highlights from the match](#), both posted to Youtube. And [here is a great article and photo gallery](#) from our website.

Former Lobo soccer player and current Assistant Men's Soccer Coach, Brandon Moss, spearheaded both events and special thanks go out to Brandon's parents Wayne and Marcee Moss and his in-laws, Al and Cherri Porter, parents of former Lobo soccer player, Michael Porter. The entire event was staffed by volunteers and everything went flawlessly. This is the true spirit of the people of New Mexico! Please have a look at the video and photos. The entire Albuquerque community came together to share in this event. Volunteers and donors to the silent auction and game came out of the woodwork and people couldn't do enough. Thanks go out to all of you. I can't tell you how lucky I feel to be a part of LOBO SOCCER.

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein

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April 14, 2011

Lobo Faithful:

Hope this e-mail finds everyone enjoying the spring weather and the promise of a tremendous summer. All is well with New Mexico Lobo Men's Soccer. Wanted to touch base about our big fund-raiser on Saturday, April 23rd at 6:30 at the Lobo Soccer Stadium, for Lobo Soccer Alum Patrick Grange/ALS Research. Patrick finished his Lobo career in 2004 and four months ago was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). We are playing a benefit match against our alumni (four former MLS players and recent graduates) on the 23rd and will also host a silent auction with proceeds going to the Grange Family, ALS Research and Lobo Soccer. We have jerseys signed by Cristiano Ronaldo, Kaka, FC Dallas, Seattle Souders, golf packages, airline tickets etc. All items will be on display two hours prior to the game or you can contact Coach Brandon Moss at [bmoss@unm.edu](mailto:bmoss@unm.edu) for specifics or if you'd like to bid over the phone. This will be an incredible event and I hope everyone in town can attend and support the cause.

Lobo Men's Soccer is 4-1-1 this spring. Last weekend we played an action packed match vs Creighton University in Denver, Colorado. For those who have tried to forget, Crieghton defeated us soundly in the NCAA Tournament last year. The Blue Jays lost only one player to graduation and we fielded a very different and new line-up for the match. After 90 hard fought minutes, the Lobos came out on top 1-0 with a 71st minute goal from Blake Smith. Great win for us and a great opportunity for three players who redshirted this fall to see "big game action". The future looks bright!

On Saturday, April 16th, the Lobos face Denver University in Taos, New Mexico at 4:00 pm. We are the opening match of the new Taos Eco Park (read about Taos Eco Park [right here](#)). Taos Eco Park is a state of the art synthetic field which has received a FIFA 2-star rating. One of only four fields in the USA with this designation. This is going to be a great match, with two 2010 NCAA Tournament teams fighting for Regional bragging rights. Hope you can make it to Taos for this one!

Thanks for all your support and hope to see you in Taos and at the ALS Fundraiser on the 23rd. GO LOBOS! Jeremy Fishbein

### **2011 REMAINING LOBO SOCCER SPRING MATCHES**

- Saturday April 16th: 4:00 vs Denver University in Taos at Taos Eco Park
- Saturday April 23rd: 6:30 vs Alumni at Lobo Stadium
- Saturday April 30th: 8:00 am vs California Irvine and 2:00 vs Fullerton in Las Vegas, Nevada at UNLV

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March 23, 2011

Lobo Faithful:

New Mexico Men's Soccer is back at it...full speed! Three spring matches under our belt, spring break survived, warm weather, sunny sky's and five dates of competition remaining. We have a lot going on the next six weeks: April 23rd fund-raiser for ALS/Lou Gehrig's Disease and Alumni Patrick Grange and our Golden Goal Club Spring fund-raising drive.

March 10 and 12th we opened our spring playing season in Casa Grande, Arizona with two matches vs Edmonton FC from Canada (NASL Professional team) and a single match vs Grand Canyon University played in Phoenix. We kicked things off the morning of the 10th against Edmonton. First game of the season and the end result was 1-1. I thought our boys showed well in their first test as a

new team. Four redshirt freshmen saw their first collegiate action and we played well against a seasoned professional team. The recap is here

March 12th would prove to be a real test: 10:30 match vs Edmonton and 7:00 match vs Grand Canyon. The evening match was intended to be a real mental and physical test, seeing as GCU would be fully rested. The morning match proved to be a challenging one. Edmonton scored two goals off set pieces in the opening 35 minutes. Impatient defending on our part and poor marking on the ensuing direct kick and corner. We were punished for our two mental mistakes. Great teaching points and areas we will get much better at. We played well in the run of play and scored in the 40th minute to make it 2-1 at halftime. We opened the second half very well and gave several young players their first run. Two more mistakes which can be chalked up to youth and early season jitters and Edmonton finished their chances. Tough result, but not indicative of our play. Our opponents were professionals and their experience, physical maturity and focus showed. Two great games to open up our spring. The evening match vs Grand Canyon was an opportunity to give several players their first taste of collegiate competition. A tough match physically and mentally with the Lobos coming out on top 2-0. Our coaching staff was pleased with the trip and felt valuable lessons were learned. We returned to Albuquerque on Sunday the 13th and the boys took off for spring break. Click hereto read the recaps of the two matches.

On Saturday, April 23rd at 6:30 pm, our program will be hosting a fund-raising event for ALS/Lou Gehrig's Disease and former Lobo Soccer Player Patrick Grange (2004). Pat was diagnosed with ALS six months ago at the age of 28. Our current team will face our alumni in the Lobo Soccer Stadium. The alumni team will feature four former MLS players and will provide a great test to our team. Here is the link to the event: GO LOBOS!  
Jeremy Fishbein

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October 12, 2010Lobo Faithful:

Not sure where to start? I've done my soul-searching, I've climbed the highest mountain, I've reviewed the statistics, I've cried to my mom.....I've worn my kids silly bands for good luck, I haven't changed my socks ....this past weekend was dreadful. Yes, we have great young men on our team: they work hard, they are good friends to each other, they are talented, they care, they are good students, they are involved in the community...they do things right. Why aren't we finishing opportunities and winning more games? The obvious answer isn't that obvious. The man piloting the ship is me and I need to do a better job. This needs to be my initial reaction: blaming the players isn't the answer. Probably too hard on myself, but I need to do a better job on several levels. I need to eliminate outside distractions and be focused on keeping things simple and efficient. Too much managing and not enough hand's on getting after it! This being said, the boys need to re-gain their confidence, need to have fun and play to win, rather than play to not lose. The loss of Ryan Farquharson (broken leg) is greater than anticipated. Ryan was our most physically dominant player and led by example each and every day. Without Ryan, a great deal of the weight in terms of leadership, has fallen on Michael Reed. Our entire team must carry the load, not Reed. If I didn't mention it, we lost both matches at home this past weekend. This has never happened at home! We out-shot both teams, dominated the vast majority of play, but didn't put either game away. The positive, is that we still have 7 regular season matches remaining and then the conference tournament. The tournament winner receiving the automatic NCAA bid. I fully expect us to turn things around, win the conference and go to the NCAA Tournament. Anything less, will be a disappointment. Here are my brief run downs on the weekends games:

**LOBOS VS DENVER UNIVERSITY: Friday, October 8th, 7:00 PM**  
LOBOTV HIGHLIGHTS: [Denver 1, UNM 0](#)

We came out very strong, but didn't put the ball in the net the first half. Second half was all Lobos, but couldn't finish. In the 65th minute, Denver had their lone shot of the half. Service from deep, defender lost his mark...open header: 1-0 Denver. Our keeper didn't make a single save the entire

second half and only one the first half (they had one shot on goal the entire game). We out-shot Denver 21-4 for the game. 8-2 advantage in corner kicks. We lost 1-0. We attacked well, played in Denver's half, created chances, had corner kicks...no goals and gave up a soft one. Incredible!

**LOBOS VS AIR FORCE: Sunday, October 10th, 1:00 PM**

LOBOTV HIGHLIGHTS: [Air Force 3, UNM 2](#)

This was a must win match. We came out well, but played a bit tight. Understandable, but we are too good to play this way. We out shot Air Force 12-2 in the first half, but didn't finish. 6 minutes into the second half, Michael Reed hit a great right footed shot to put us on the scoreboard. 1-0 Lobos and looking good. In the 71st minute, against the run of play, the ball bounced to an Air Force attacker on the right side of our goal about 25 yards out. He beat two defenders off the dribble, our center back stepped late and he hit a far post blast to even the score 1-1. We stayed composed, but two minutes later, a shot from deep and our GK bobbled the shot, follow-up, 2-1 Air Force. 16 minutes remaining and I still felt confident. Four minutes later against the run of play, great shot from 25 yards, 3-1 Air Force. Bad dream? Three goals in 6 minutes. Never has happened to a team I've been involved with as a player or coach. We kept fighting and got a goal back in the final minute to make it 3-2. Out-shot Air Force 22-14, 4-1 Corners.....the statistics do lie! A very bad loss!!

Where to go now? Crazy scheduling by the conference office; we play Denver, in Denver Friday night and Air Force in Colorado Springs on Sunday. I am ready to go right now. What a test for all of us. I believe in our boys and am excited to just get out and play. No more worries about rankings, seedings....lets just get after it. I think you will see some good results this weekend and a focused Lobo team the remainder of the year. Thanks for all your support. GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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Lobo Faithful:

Oct. 5, 2010

Lobo Men's Soccer opened conference play last weekend with our first of ten conference matches. After a tremendous three-game preseason and seven match non-conference schedule, we embark on the journey which will decide our post season fate! The Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF), has grown into an eight-member soccer conference: two four-team divisions. Each team will play a double round robin in division and will play each non-division member one time. A conference tournament will be played at the conclusion of the regular season with the tournament winner getting the automatic NCAA Tournament bid. Our division consists of UNLV, Denver, Air Force and New Mexico. Non-division opponents are Seattle, Bakersfield, San Jose and Sacramento State. Ten games, all against hungry, quality opponents. We have a target on our chest and we always get our opponents best performance! Things kicked off last Friday night at home vs UNLV.

**LOBOS VS UNLV: Friday, October 1st 7:00 PM Albuquerque New Mexico**

UNLV is always a very dangerous team. Very talented players who can cause you great problems if they have time on the ball and stay organized. This years Rebel team is no different: excellent attacking players who come alive when on the ball. Defensively, not as excited or organized. Great environment for a collegiate match: 2,600 fans, perfect weather and the excitement of playing under the lights. This would be the marquee match of UNLV's season in terms of environment. They were up for the challenge! UNLV played a very offensive 3-5-2 formation, attacked with six players and always kept players high regardless of possession. Dangerous in transition and attack minded. The Rebels "Live or die by the sword", the sword being goal scoring and attacking play. We came out focused and fresh. Fifteen minutes in, we were rewarded with a tremendous goal from sophomore, Patrick Pacheco. Great individual work to create an unassisted goal from the right hand side. 1-0

Lobos. We got hold of the match and created some quality chances, but couldn't put the crucial second goal away. The fear of a one-goal lead is that your opponent is always one lucky strike or deflection away from evening things up. In the 73rd minute..... UNLV's forward hit an incredible shot....nothing we could do about it...top right corner and our GK could only wave as it sailed by. It was 1-1 with 17 minutes remaining. The game went from comfortable to stressful in a matter of seconds. What an incredible strike from distance! We created some chances in the waning minutes, but regulation ended even, 1-1. The boys were confident entering overtime, but one never knows when it's sudden death. Nine minutes into the first overtime, senior Michael Reed beat two player off the dribble and played a beautiful pass to junior Michael Green. Green slotted the ball away with seconds left on the clock to win the match in thrilling fashion. An important win and a reminder that every game is going to be a war!

**[LOBO TV: Highlights of New Mexico's Win Over UNLV](#)**

This weekend we play two more at home: Denver on Friday night the 8th and Air Force on Sunday the 10th. We will get two players back for the remainder of the season. Blake Smith has been cleared to play after breaking his collar bone in our final exhibition match vs Fort Lewis and Levi Rossi is back after a Four-game absence due to sickness. We will be a much more dynamic and well-rounded team. Hope to see everyone this Friday night at 7 p.m. and GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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Lobo Faithful:

September 29, 2010

I received a great e-mail from friend and leadership consultant, Brian Cooke yesterday. The timing was right and the theme really hit home. In his e-mail, Brian said "One of the hallmarks of the happiest, healthiest and most successful leaders I know, is their skill, ability and unwavering commitment to be positive, generous and appreciative no matter whether they are winning or losing." Brian also posed the question "How well do you recognize and express daily appreciation for your many privileges and good fortune?"

Last weekend was quite an experience for our team. We traveled across the country to Hannover, New Hampshire to play Dartmouth College. A very difficult journey, but a tremendous test for our team. The significant event of the trip wasn't the game itself, but the horrible injury incurred by one of our senior captains, Ryan Farquharson. Early in the second half, Ryan went in for a tackle and broke his leg. Saying it was only a break, is an understatement. A total break of his tibia and fibula, both compound fractures. The game was stopped for 20 minutes and an ambulance came on the field and took Ryan directly to the hospital. The 20 minutes I spent hugging Ryan while waiting for the ambulance was surreal. I've spent hundreds of hours with him over the past three and a half years. Good times and bad. The whole spectrum of emotions was covered in what seemed a lifetime. When outlining practice last night and penciling in who would play where I was about to pencil in his name, as this is what I've done for four years, and I remembered that he wouldn't be practicing with us again. Incredible! Ryan was unable to fly back with the team and underwent successful surgery on Sunday and returned to Albuquerque on Tuesday. Ryan is one of the most dedicated and focused individuals I have ever coached. A tremendous student and one of the fittest, strongest and toughest players on our team. A role model for what a college athlete should be. To see his senior season ended in this fashion was devastating to all of us.

Click [HERE](#) for the Men's Soccer Golden Goal Club Brochure.

**LOBOS VS DARTMOUTH COLLEGE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 5:00 PM**

We never showed up against Dartmouth. This was our 10th match of the year (3 exhibitions and our 7th regular season match) and it was the first time we played poorly. I can't blame the travel, the opponent....no excuses. This being said, we had our chances and failed to convert. In the 80th minute, Dartmouth scored off a corner kick to win the match. Incredibly disappointing, but a game we must use as a learning tool. Dartmouth was very defensive and direct. They played to their strengths and were very intelligent in their decision making. Their chances came off of our mistakes. Rather than look for excuses, we are moving forward as a team. We are now onto conference play. A 10 game season with the first three matches at home. We open conference play this Friday night vs UNLV at 7:00 PM. Our boys will be ready and are motivated to get back on the playing field. Thanks for your support and see you Friday night. GO LOBOS!

Jeremy Fishbein

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## September 22, 2010

Lobo Faithful:

Quite a weekend of soccer at the University of New Mexico Soccer Complex. Two big matches for the Lobos, two shut-outs, but not the final results we were looking for. The Harvard match on Sunday, would be our fifth match out of six, facing a "Top 25" opponent. The players on our team are wonderful to coach. Their passion, commitment, drive and desire are infectious. We play attractive, athletic, entertaining, skillful and attacking soccer. This being said, you can attack all day long, but the ball has to hit the back of the net to win matches!

Click [HERE](#) for the Men's Soccer Golden Goal Club Brochure.

If you aren't a current member of the Golden Goal Club, we need you on board! The only way we can continue to compete at our current level, is with your support. Lobo Men's Soccer receives 100% of proceeds received through Golden Goal Club membership.

Coach Brandon Moss has taken Lobo Soccer into the 21st Century with our Lobo Men's Soccer Twitter Account. I'm still not sure what Twitter is, but every article written about our team, exclusive "Off the Pitch" videos with current Lobo players and Lobo TV video links can all be found at [twitter.com/lobomenssoccer](http://twitter.com/lobomenssoccer). Have a look and get the inside scoop on Lobo Soccer and all the inside news.

## LOBOS VS UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 7:00 PM

The University of Buffalo traveled quite a distance to participate in the Nike/Lobo Invitational. Two great games against Far West opponents; New Mexico and Santa Barbara. Buffalo entered our match with a three game win streak and a reputation as an athletic and talented team. Great crowd of 2400 and our boys were up for the competition. Our goal going into the weekend was to tighten up our defense, keep possession of the ball and work on our transition game. Buffalo made things difficult, in that they played a very defensive game and rarely attacked with more than three players and usually defended with 10. While we enjoyed the majority of the possession, we didn't find the net until the 42nd minute when freshman defender Kyle Venter played a beautiful ball into the box which was redirected by sophomore Josh Caffey, into the back of the net to make it 1-0 Lobos going into the half. The second half saw the Lobos keep the ball, create opportunities, but play very conservatively. While not the most exciting soccer, I thought we played a very mature game and never left ourselves open for a counter attack. While out shooting Buffalo 8-2 and possessing a 9-4 advantage in corner kicks, we failed to score a second goal and the match ended 1-0 Lobos with Victor Rodriguez getting the shut-out in goal (first start of his career). The victory set up the marquee match of the tournament for us, #6 Harvard on Sunday.

**Lobos vs #6 HARVARD: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 12:00 NOON**

A lot of emotions involved in this game. Harvard's rookie head coach, Carl Junot, walked the Lobo sidelines for 7 years as an assistant coach and associate head coach. I enjoyed every day during the 7 years we worked together. Carl was instrumental in all the success we've had as a program. I can't say enough about Carl and what a great coach, friend, husband and father he is. As soon as he was offered the head job at Haavaad, Carl brought Mike Graczyk on as his assistant coach. Mike spent five years as a Lobo net minder and was one of the finest young men and goalkeepers I have ever coached. Mike served as a team captain and led our program to the NCAA National Championship Match in 2005. Mike will become a tremendous head coach if this is the path he chooses. All this being said about Carl and Mike....I wanted to kick their #@\$! The boys were up for this game. Focused and ready! The first half started out very well for us with several chances created by our attacking players in the early going. Harvard then settled in and played a great first half. They pressed us high up the field and their back line squeezed play and didn't let us find space in behind. We failed to find a passing rhythm and didn't turn their back four around. Shots were pretty even and neither team created great chances. We identified our weaknesses at half time and the second half saw a different Lobo Team. It was one-way traffic the second half. We out-shot the Crimson 11-1 and peppered their goal. What a performance from their keeper. We missed several great chances and couldn't put them away. After an excruciating 20 minutes of overtime, the score remained 0-0. What a game emotionally and physically. As it turned out, Harvard missed their flight and were forced to spend an extra night. Most college students would be pumped. Not these boys. They had the books out and weren't going to fall behind. Missing a day of class would be hard to make up. I got to spend some time with their team and can't tell you how impressed I was by them. Very mature, intelligent and appreciative young men. They all said Harvard was pretty tough! The best part of Harvard missing their flight, was that I got to go to dinner with Carl, his parents, his brother Bill, who I coached for two years (one at Incarnate Word and one year at UNM), my family and my mom. My daughter Alisa, said she was glad it was a tie. I guess if we were to tie anyone, it would have to be Carl and Mike.

Click [HERE](#) for video highlights from the Harvard match

"Live Free or Die"! Off to the great state of New Hampshire to face Dartmouth College (founded 1769) this Saturday at 7:00. Our second Ivy League opponent and our final non-conference match of the regular season. Dartmouth is a perennial NCAA Tournament Team and will provide another great challenge for our team. Thanks for your support and GO LOBOS!

Click [HERE](#) for coach Fishbein's Tuesday press conference.

Jeremy Fishbein

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**Sept. 15, 2010**

Lobo Faithful:

The reality that our team is mortal, soccer is a cruel game and "the better team doesn't always win" has finally sunk in. 46 hours since our match vs the University of Portland and I'm finally ready to move on. Losing really hits me hard....maybe too hard. Initially, I am in denial and am numb to reality. I usually fall asleep fairly easily, but then wake up around 2 or 3 in the morning (1:43 this Monday morning to be exact). Tossing and turning and reviewing the costly sequence of plays over and over and over and over.....again.

We played very well Friday vs #16 Georgetown, defeating the Hoyas 3-1. We were prepared and excited for this match against the #16th ranked team and took care of business. 4400 loud and

supportive fans in attendance, great energy and a tremendous atmosphere for a soccer match at any level: collegiate or professional. Went up 3-0 and gave away a late goal to make things look a bit closer than they actually were.

Click [HERE](#) for Georgetown Video Highlights.

Sunday's game vs #18 Portland was the killer. An afternoon game without the same electricity: a loyal crowd of 2400 in the stands, very hot with the sun beating down and the players legs still a bit heavy. We talked about the challenges and our boys were ready. We out shot Portland, 17-4, had a 7-1 advantage in corner kicks, our GK made 1 save and Portland's GK made 6.....the stats show total domination, but the result shows otherwise. A cruel, cruel game!

Click [HERE](#) for Portland Video Highlights.

Box scores and game recaps can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

Before I forget, I am posting the link [HERE](#) to the PDF for our Golden Goal Club. The Golden Goal Club is our men's soccer booster club. Money goes directly to our program and we really need your help to keep things moving forward with our program. We need your support!! Our goal is to run the best program in the country. Without the support generated by the Golden Goal Club, we can't continue to move forward.

We have great games ahead of us and it doesn't get any easier. The next two are at home ... Friday night vs Buffalo and Sunday vs #6 Harvard. You have to play the best to be the BEST! The ultimate site to keep up to date on Lobo Men's Soccer is our Twitter account. Sign up at the link at the top of the page! Thanks for your continued support and see you this Friday night!

GO LOBOS!  
Jeremy Fishbein

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### **Sept. 8, 2010**

Lobo Faithful:

TWO BIG HOME MATCHES THIS WEEKEND at the New Mexico Lobo Soccer Complex. Friday night, September 10th at 7:00 p.m. vs #16-ranked Georgetown and Sunday, September 12th at 1:00 p.m. vs #18-ranked Portland. Come support your LOBOS!

Here is the [link](#) to the most recent Lobo Soccer Video taken during our match vs Santa Barbara last Saturday night.

Lobo Men's Soccer has finally figured out the value of social networking and we are now up on Twitter! Click on the link above to sign up for the most recent updates about New Mexico Men's Soccer: links, video, pictures, rankings etc.

Thanks for your continued support and see you this weekend!  
Jeremy Fishbein

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**Sept. 7, 2010**

Lobo Faithful:

Hope everyone enjoyed their three-day weekend. No rest for the weary! Our boys will be hitting the field at 10:30 this morning after reviewing Saturday night's video. I can't tell you how impressed I am with our players and with our team leadership. Seniors Mike Reed, James Urbany, Ryan Farquharson, David Murphy and senior transfer Matt Armstrong set the tone every day. They are about EXCELLENCE: academic, social and on the playing field. Great internal leadership is what makes a team!

We are now two games into the season and I feel very good about things. Our next four matches are at home and we will continue to get better on a daily basis. Saturday night's match vs #5 ranked University of California Santa Barbara was a "Classico". The Gauchos are one of the premier teams in the country and play with incredible passion and fire. We went into the match expecting to win and expecting to go toe-to-toe in the physical battles and beat them with unity and skill. Our schedule doesn't lighten up. #21 Saint Louis and #5 UCSB to start and Top 25 Georgetown and #15 Portland coming up this weekend here at home. We want to compete against the top teams in the country and plan on defeating them! This is what we train for and why players come to New Mexico. TO BE THE BEST!

***LOBOS VS #5 UC SANTA BARBARA***

Great atmosphere in the stadium. 3200+ in the seats and the place was rocking! UCSB put their best team in years on the field. 5 internationals, youth national team players from three countries and a very veteran team (all juniors and seniors). We started four sophomores, one freshman, four seniors and two juniors. Our boys came to play! We pressured them from the get go. Nine minutes into the match after Lobo dominance, we found the back of the net. Devon Sandoval picked up a loose ball and slotted it far post to make it 1-0 Lobos. The next 35 minutes were played in the UCSB half, but we couldn't put the all important second goal away. The Gauchos are too good to think there wouldn't be ups and downs to the match. When you have the momentum, you need to finish.

The second half started out pretty even and then UCSB got a hold of the game for a solid 10-minute stretch. We dropped a little too deep, got stretched and allowed them to get in a passing rhythm and get numbers in to attack. In the 55th minute, UC Santa Barbara capitalized. US U-20 National Team player Sam Garza scored on an incredible no-angle finish. Great goal! 1-1 and the next 35 minutes saw both teams battle and create half chances. 20 minutes of overtime and the score remained 1-1. A fair result with both sides getting chances and playing some wonderful soccer. The stats told the tale: 11-10 in shots, both keepers made 3 saves and fouls were fairly even. Great game which we could have put away early! Our young boys saw valuable minutes in a big contest. This will prove to be very valuable as the season progresses.

This weekend will provide us with two more tremendous tests. Georgetown on Friday night at 7:00 and Portland on Sunday at 1:00, with both matches here at the UNM Soccer Complex. Georgetown comes into our match 2-0-0 with a big win over #20 Michigan State this weekend and a "Top 25" ranking. Portland is 1-1-0 and will come into the weekend ranked in the "Top 20", as they were #15 at the beginning of the season. Come out and support your Lobos and thanks for the incredible support!

See you Friday night!  
Jeremy Fishbein

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**Sept. 3, 2010**

Lobo Faithful:

The 2010 season is underway! Wednesday night was the season opener for New Mexico Men's Soccer. #21 ranked St. Louis University traveled to The Land of Enchantment to face the Lobos. Beautiful late summer night with 2000+ in the stands to support the home team. I can't say enough about our supporters. Wednesday nights are tough ones for students and families. The atmosphere was tremendous and the energy from the stands fueled our desire. Below is my recap with some wonderful news at the bottom of the page:

***LOBOS VS #21 SAINT LOUIS BILLIKENS***

Both teams were a bit tight from the kick-off. Exhibition games are different than regular season matches. This one was for keeps. After five minutes we started to find our rhythm. In the 11th minute, we gave up a set piece to the left of our goal against the run of play. Driven ball into the box, deflection off the top bar, goal St. Louis. What a way to start! Full credit to the boys. We stayed the course, connected passes and continued to play in the St. Louis half. We were confident and never panicked. Our reward came in the 32nd minute. Shot inside the box from sophomore Devon Sandoval, too much for the keeper to hold and sophomore Levi Rossi slotted away the rebound to make it 1-1. We continued to press, but couldn't find the net the remainder of the half. We were confident and relaxed at half and knew the drill to find success. Five minutes into the second half, senior captain Michael Reed played a right-footed ball from the left flank into the box. Great timed run by freshman Michael Kafari and a beautiful soaring header to the far post...2-1 Lobos. We continued to press and find space. In the 59th minute, junior Lance Rozeboom unleashed a rocket from 25 yards to make it 3-1. We continued to attack, but couldn't put the deciding fourth goal away. With 6 minutes left on the clock we gave away a throw-in deep inside our half. St. Louis had a very long throw and their #11 rifled the ball into the box. A deflection off one of our players and the game was again tight: 3-2 Lobos. We killed off the final minutes to preserve the victory. Way too close in a match in which we out-shot the Bilikens 21-4. None the less, a great result against a top team.

Click the [LOBO TV button](#) and a video with highlights of the St. Louis game will appear on the right hand side of the page.

Great news came our way today. Notre Dame transfer, Matt Armstrong, has been patiently sitting on the bench waiting for his NCAA Waiver to be processed. Matt has trained with us every day, but hasn't seen the field in our exhibition matches or Wednesday night. Matt was a US Youth National Team player and was a three-year starter for the Irish (started every game all three years) and is one of the best mid-fielders in the country. We got the call today from the NCAA and Matt is eligible to play in our remaining games. He will be a big boost to our team.

This Saturday night, September 4th at 7:00 PM, #5 ranked Santa Barbara comes to Albuquerque for a single match. This will be a big one! A 90 minute battle against one of the best teams in the country. We need your support!! Lets pack the stands and bring the energy.

GO LOBOS!  
Jeremy Fishbein

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**Aug. 30, 2010**

Lobo Faithful:

New Mexico Men's Soccer has completed preseason and the "real deal" kicks off this Wednesday night at 7:00 in the Lobo Soccer Stadium. Lobos vs the #21 ranked St. Louis University Bilikens!

A hard fought victory last Friday night, witnessed by 2000+ Lobo Faithful, was the final piece to a very successful preseason. 3-0-0 with victories over two "Top 25" Division I programs and the #1 ranked Division II program. The overtime victory over Fort Lewis College, the defending Division II National Champion, was bittersweet, as sophomore attacker Blake Smith suffered a collar bone injury that is being evaluated by our athletics training staff and the match was marred by dangerous play and poor sportsmanship. For Fort Lewis, this match was their World Cup. As a former Division II coach (at Fort Lewis), playing against a big name Division I team is your chance to show that "David can beat Goliath". Fort Lewis came out flying and not much soccer was played.

An early seat piece goal in the 24th minute by FLC set the tone for the match and the Skyhawks were content to sit back and absorb our pressure. We turned it on in the second half and were rewarded with the equalizer in the 84th minute, Lawrence Robledo to Devon Sandoval to send it to overtime. We were confident and had the better of the game the last 45 minutes. Our momentum carried into the sudden death overtime and we put the game away 1:40 into the first period with another Robledo to Sandoval goal, to win the match 2-1. Great finish to a tough match.

Big one this Wednesday night! 7:00 at the UNM Soccer Stadium with the Lobos opening the season vs #21 ranked St. Louis University. Hope everyone can make it out to the match and support your Lobos! Thanks for the incredible support and GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein

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**Aug. 25, 2010**

Lobo Faithful:

The 2010 season is upon us and the University of New Mexico Men's Soccer Team is ready to roll! We returned Sunday night from hot and humid Tulsa with two exhibition matches under our belt. On Friday the 20th, the Lobos faced the #5 ranked University of Tulsa and on Sunday, Top 25, Missouri State. Both Tulsa and Missouri State were NCAA Tournament participants in 2009 and look to get back to the dance this year. The heat index in Tulsa was well above 100, with the temperature hovering around 100 and the humidity through the roof. Our boys knew they would face numerous opponents. Our match on Sunday, would prove to be the greatest test of character. Missouri State would play us fresh and we would be competing after playing a full match 48 hours prior in a raging inferno. Staying hydrated was a challenge.

Without going into my usual detail/excess, the boys passed this first test with flying colors. A 3-2 victory over Tulsa on Friday night, was what you would expect from a first game. Great play at times, with nerves and miscues mixed in. We found the net in the final 6 minutes to close the match. A great win against a top team at their home venue.

Sunday would prove to be a test of our mental strength and character. I was real proud of the team. We controlled the tempo of the match and kept our focus and desire throughout. We created some tremendous chances in the first half, but couldn't find the net. Early in the second half we found our mark to go up 1-0. Despite several more chances and the vast majority of possession, the game finished 1-0 Lobos.

Two quality results and the team continues to gel and improve. We play our final exhibition match this Friday, August 27th, vs the defending NCAA II National Champion, Fort Lewis College Skyhawks. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:00 pm at the Lobo Soccer Stadium. The regular season kicks off on Wednesday, September 1st, vs Nationally ranked St. Louis University. More details to come. Thanks for your support and see you soon.

Coach Fishbein

## February 18, 2010

Lobo Faithful:

Quite a bit of exciting Lobo Soccer news. Winter training has been tremendous and our players and coaching staff are extremely enthusiastic about our current group. With the graduation of five seniors, the team has taken on a new identity. New leaders emerge as young players mature. The 2010 Lobos will be a very unified, athletic, skillful, hard-working, and attack-minded group. Our recruiting class for the fall is one of our best ever. The eight-member class is comprised of young men who are excited to be Lobos and each will bring qualities to enhance our program. My "last but not least" piece of news is an update on three former Lobos who have recently signed professional playing contracts. Here you go!

Eight new Lobos will join our program in the fall, including seven freshmen and transfer Devon Sandoval. Devon is currently training with the team and will have three years of eligibility remaining. Click [HERE](#) for the link to the article from our website with bio info and pictures of the incoming class.

Chris Wright, who finished his Lobo playing career in 2008, just signed a professional contract with FC Energie Cottbus of the 2nd Bundesliga in Germany. Chris is already playing matches for the reserve team and looks to move into the first team soon. Chris is the prototype German forward and will be very successful. Click [HERE](#) for a link to a recent article about his signing.

Euan Holden, who completed his eligibility as a Lobo this past fall, signed last week with Vejle BK in Denmark. Euan was drafted by the Houston Dynamo of the MLS, but felt a move to Europe would be more beneficial at this stage of his professional career. Click [HERE](#) for a link to an article about Euan's signing.

Justin Davis, who finished his Lobo playing career this past fall, is currently in pre-season camp with defending MLS Champion Real Salt Lake. Justin was Salt Lake's second-round draft choice, and the team looks to play him as a left sided defender or midfielder. I am confident that Justin Davis will be very successful as a professional: he is smart, tenacious, athletic, and has a special left foot. Justin will join former Lobos Andy Boyens, Lance Watson, Andrew Weber and Mike Graczyk in the MLS this season. Boyens will also play for New Zealand in this summer's World Cup in South Africa.

I'm very proud of all that our current and former players are achieving off and on the field. The goals of our program remain unchanged: EXCELLENCE IN THE CLASSROOM, IN THE COMMUNITY AND ON THE PLAYING FIELD. Thanks for all your support. GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**January 25, 2010**

Lobo Faithful:

It is with great sorrow that I pass on the following information to all of you: Last Thursday night, former New Mexico Lobo Soccer standout, Ben Ashwill, passed away in a three-car accident in east-central New Mexico at the age of 26. Ben played for the Lobos from 2002-2005 and was the recipient of numerous academic and athletic honors. He was a three-time Academic All-American, a four-time All-MPSF Conference selection, and a freshman All-American. Ben was possibly the toughest player I have ever coached. He was a tremendous teammate and friend who always put team goals first and left everything on the field regardless of the situation or opponent. Ben will be missed greatly, but never forgotten by anyone associated with Lobo Soccer. Here is the link to the article from our athletic department website:

[New Mexico Men's Soccer Remembers Ben Ashwill](#)

The memorial service for Ben will be held on Wednesday, January 27th at 10:00 a.m. at St. John's United Methodist Church on 2626 Arizona Street NE, Albuquerque, N.M. (one block east of the intersection of San Pedro and Menaul). A reception will immediately follow the service. If you would like to send a letter of sympathy to Ben's parents, Tom and Donna, and sisters, Brandi and Tamara, the family's home address is 7101 Vista del Arroyo NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87109.

Once things settle down, I plan on sitting down with the Ashwill family to discuss an appropriate way in which everyone associated with Lobo Soccer can remember and acknowledge Ben's incredible contributions to our program. I will let all of you know the family's wishes and how you can be involved.

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**November 23, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

The 2009 Lobo Men's Soccer Season came to abrupt conclusion Thursday night in front of 3000+ stunned Lobo fans. Our season ended in the first round of the NCAA Tournament with a loss to the Portland Pilots in the 7th minute of overtime. The 2009 season was one of ups and downs, but all in all, a successful campaign. I'm very proud of our five seniors: Simon Ejdemyr, Stephen Brown, Euan Holden, PJ Wilson and Justin Davis. Each has made a lasting impression on our program and will go on to live very successful lives. The boys dealt with pressure throughout the season and handled themselves with class and composure. No one wants to stop....it doesn't seem possible that our next official game won't be until September 1, 2010.

Senior Simon Ejdemyr was just named to the ESPN Academic All-American First team for the second year in a row. Simon was the top vote getter amongst all Division I Soccer Student/Athletes and was named "Academic All-American of the Year". Here is the link to the story: [Ejdemyr Headlines CoSIDA Academic All-America Teams](#)

Chris Wright, who finished his Lobo playing career in 2008 and is scheduled to graduate with a degree in Biology this December, was a finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship. The Rhodes Scholarship is one of the most prestigious post-graduate scholarships in the world. Chris was one of

12 finalists for 2 scholarships. While not selected, Chris represented the University of New Mexico and the Lobo Soccer program in incredible fashion and will go on to do incredible things.

Andrew Boyens, who finished his playing career and graduated from the University of New Mexico in 2006, just qualified for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, while representing his native New Zealand. Andrew currently plays professionally for the New York Red Bulls of Major League Soccer.

**November 19, 2009: NCAA First Round: Lobos vs. Portland Pilots 7:00 PM**

I don't have it in me to say too much about this game. We came out on fire and took it to Portland. In the 34th minute, Michael Green beat his defender left to right and slotted a ball to the far post for Lance Rozeboom. 1-0 Lobos. We outshot the Pilots 12-2 in the first half and our GK was never challenged. We should have put them away with a second goal. The second half was a bit more even, but the Lobos still owned the game. In the 83rd minute, a direct kick from deep in the Portland half was launched into our box. Quality clearance by Simon Ejdemyr and a miss hit from a Portland player bounced into the box...finish...1-1 with 6 minutes left. We kept the pressure on and continued to dominate through the opening minutes of overtime. 4 minutes into the overtime, the Portland GK was ejected for throwing an elbow and things looked good. We continued to attack and in the 7th minute of overtime, we lost the ball in transition...quick counter...ball behind our back 4.....goal Portland. 2009 season over! Story of the season: we out shot Portland 21-10, 6-4 in corners, their GK made 7 saves, our GK 2...our failure to score the decisive second goal and inability to lock down the lead. Important lessons were learned, albeit painful ones.

Thanks for your incredible support this year and every year. I will keep you abreast of season ending honors for the players and wish everyone a tremendous holiday season. GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**November 16, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

Mixed feelings about last weekend's MPSF Conference Championships, but great news just came across the TV screen 60 minutes ago. The University of New Mexico will host the first round of the NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championships this Thursday, November 19th at 7:00 PM. The Lobos will play the University of Portland at the UNM Soccer Complex. Go to [www.golobos.com](http://www.golobos.com) for ticket information. We are healthy, excited and will be ready to play! Lets pack the stands and bring back the energy of 2005 when we sold out the stadium on our way to the NCAA Finals!

Last weekend's MPSF season-ending tournament was hosted by Denver University. The Lobos had a first round bye and faced Denver in the semi-finals on Friday night. An early goal from Justin Davis was all that we needed and we held on for a well-played 1-0 victory. This semi-final match set up Sunday's final between the #2 seed Lobos and #1 seed Sacramento State (who defeated UNLV in overtime on Friday). A winter storm hit Denver on Saturday and the status of the game was touch and go. The grounds crew from Denver did an incredible job making the field playable and the Championship match kicked off at 1:30. It was a crazy and very disappointing Final...for us. We went up 1-0 midway through the first half off a Stephen Brown header. Sacramento State equalized early in the second half. We then went up 2-1 off a Justin Davis header. The game was fairly one-sided and we hit the post off a set piece and created 3-4 other quality chances to put the game out of reach. We didn't take advantage of our chances and Sac State finished off their lone remaining

chance to tie the score at 2-2 with just under 8 minutes in the match. The 20-minute overtime period (two ten minute sudden victory halves) was all Lobos. I'm not sure how we didn't finish our chances..they were on a platter! Penalty kicks to determine the Champion (the game is declared a tie, but the 5 penalty kicks would determine the Champion). We shot second, so the initial pressure was on Sac. They hit their first, as did the Lobos. They missed their second and we made ours. Both teams made their 3rd and 4th round shots and Sac hit the opening PK of the final 5th round. We stepped up to seal the victory, but were denied. Sac hit their 6th and we missed our 6th. Sac State 2009 MPSF Champions and recipients of the automatic NCAA bid. We felt that we would receive an at-large bid regardless of the outcome of the match. Lucky for us, this proved true! Not the way we wanted to get in, but we are in and playing our first round match at home!

Hope to see the Lobo Faithful this Thursday night at 7:00 PM as we face the University of Portland in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Go to [www.golobos.com](http://www.golobos.com) for ticket information. Lets pack the stands and sell out the stadium! Thanks for all your support. GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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## **November 9, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

Lobo Men's Soccer concluded the regular season Saturday night in front of a raucous home crowd of 3000+. Perfect weather, great energy, and the ideal way to send our five seniors out in style. Stephen Brown, Justin Davis, Simon Ejdemyr, Euan Holden and PJ Wilson each donned the Lobo jersey for their final regular season contest as Lobos. Saturday night's match vs. UNLV would decide the #2 seed in the November 12th-15th MPSF Tournament hosted by Denver University and the subsequent first round bye. This was a big one!

### **Saturday, November 7th: Lobos vs. UNLV 7:15 Kick-off**

We were ready for this one! The boys came out firing on all cylinders. Four minutes into the match, Stephen Brown played a ball back to Michael Green about 15 yards from goal. Green hit it first time into the back of the net. 1-0 Lobos in the early going. The ideal way to start a game! The rest of the first half was fairly uneventful. UNLV played very directly and we never really got hold of the game. We resorted to playing much like UNLV and failed to connect passes and play in the style we are accustomed too. We discussed things at halftime and a very focused and disciplined Lobo team took the field for the final 45 minutes. I thought we played beautiful soccer the second half. Great ball speed, movement and combination play. Our skill was rewarded in the 66th minute with a tremendous solo effort by Michael Green. Green's second goal of the match and a 2-0 Lobo lead. We finished out the match in style with contributions from six players off the bench. Red-shirt freshman goalkeeper, Justin Holmes, was in net for the second straight match and was rewarded with his second consecutive shutout. A great game for the Lobos and the ideal way to enter the conference tournament next weekend in Denver. Our five seniors led the way!

With Saturday's, victory, the Lobos secured the #2 seed in the MPSF Tournament and will play in the semifinals on Friday, November 13th. Depending on who we play, the match will be at either 5 or 7:30 p.m. at Denver University. We won't know our opponent or game time until Thursday evening. I feel great about the team and the attitude heading into post-season competition. Our schedule and opponent will be updated on our webpage at [www.golobos.com](http://www.golobos.com). Thanks again for your incredible support and we hope to see the Lobo Faithful in Denver on Friday night. GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**November 3, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

I can't believe our 17-game regular season is almost over. We've experienced extremes: 100 degree weather in Tulsa.... 30 degrees and snowing in Colorado. We've played in front of 4000+ fans and in front of 50 fans. Well-manicured grass fields and small artificial turf fields. Opponents who play attacking, skillful soccer, and others who play physical, direct, and defensive soccer. Through thick and thin, I am very proud of our team and the manner in which they've represented our University and state. They are quality students who make a difference in our community. We still have a lot of soccer in us and our best is still ahead of us. Great teams finish strong and I have faith in our boys!

We got back late Sunday night from our yearly Northern California road trip. Sacramento State and San Jose State are always tough matches. They're two proud programs who don't receive the recognition they deserve. Both teams are always up for their match vs. New Mexico. This year proved to be no different! Sac and San Jose were off to their best conference starts in years. Both entered the weekend 4-0 in conference play, with the Lobos entering the weekend with a conference mark of 3-1. With 7 conference games on the schedule, this weekend would prove vital to everyone's goal of receiving a first round bye in the conference tournament (top 2 teams receive a bye). Spirits were high entering the trip and we were focused and ready!

**October 30, 2009: Lobos vs. Sacramento State 3:30 Kick-off**

Our preparation was very good and the boys were ready for the always-tough away match vs. the Hornets. The field was hard and bouncy. The game started with the Lobos on our heels. We couldn't get into a good playing rhythm and we seemed tight. We were playing "not to lose," rather than "to win." We made it through the first half with the score tied at 0-0. Everyone settled down at the half and we went out for the second half re-charged and focused. A different team took the field. We created chances and got a hold of the game. Against the run of play, we gave up a corner kick in the 57th minute. A bouncing ball in the box and a Sac player got a toe on the ball and poked it out of our keeper's grasp. 1-0 Sacramento, but we were creating quality chances and stayed positive. We continued to press, but it was to no avail. In a very tough match, Sac came away with a very well played victory. The pressure was on us to come out of the weekend with a split, putting ourselves into possession of the second spot in conference. San Jose would not be easy.

**November 1, 2009: Lobos vs. San Jose State 1:00 Kick-off**

San Jose's Spartan Stadium is the most difficult venue we ever play in. The field is very small (110 x 67) and the touch line is less than 5 feet from a concrete wall in many places (definitely a safety issue). The field is lined for football and this summer they switched from natural grass to artificial turf. A tremendous home field advantage for the Spartans. Our boys were focused and we came out ready to battle. With the field dimensions, we knew the game would be very physical and direct. San Jose is extremely good at home and their team is well-suited for the dimensions of their field. The first half was fairly even, with San Jose having more shots, but all from distance. Redshirt freshman Justin Holmes made his first starting appearance in goal for the Lobos. We discussed the nature of the game at halftime and reiterated that the game would be tight and, most likely, a single mistake would dictate the outcome. The second half was back and forth, with both sides creating half chances. After the 90 minutes of regulation, the score was locked at 0-0. Overtime! We always have

confidence in ourselves come overtime. The boys were ready. Six minutes into the first period, we were awarded a direct kick deep in our half. Simon Ejdemyr played a long ball to Justin Davis about 25 yards and to the left of the San Jose goal. Davis won the header and flicked it directly behind to Stephen Brown's well timed run from the left flank. Brown took a touch inside and slotted a right-footed ball far post for the sudden victory winner! 1-0 Lobos in a fiercely contested match. With the win, we gained sole possession of second place in the conference (second place doesn't sound right). We have one regular season match remaining this Saturday night, November 7th, at home vs. UNLV at 7:00. Saturday night will also be senior night. Simon Ejdemyr, Justin Davis, PJ Wilson, Euan Holden and Stephen Brown will all be recognized prior to the match. We need your support this Saturday. Come out and how! GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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### **October 27, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

Better late than never! Still getting the chill out of my bones from the Colorado trip last weekend. Two tough games against quality opponents! Friday night's game vs. The Air Force Academy was played in cold, cold weather. We broke out the winter jackets and cold weather gear. Sunday's game vs. Denver was played in intermittent snow and rain. While our results were mixed, we played quality, attacking soccer and the team's focus and desire is where it needs to be!

### **Friday, October 23rd: Lobos vs. Air Force 7:00 PM**

Crazy game. Another example of how cruel soccer is. We outshot the Academy 15-6, 6-2 in corner kicks, 6-0 in shots on goal....our goalkeeper didn't make a save the entire game. With 5 minutes left in the match, we were called for a handball in our box. Penalty kick...finish...1-0 Air Force and that's how it finished. Our inability to finish our chances cost us this one. We played the entire game in their half, created chances and even had a goal called back. If you can't find the net, you can't win games! The boys stayed focused and positive and we mentally moved on to Sunday's contest vs. the defending conference champion Denver Pioneers.

### **Sunday, October 25th: Lobos vs Denver University 12:00 Noon**

The weather report called for snow and rain coming in at 2:00. The original kick off was scheduled for 1:00, but was moved game time to noon to beat the weather. In spite of the time change, we still fought intermittent snow, but there was no accumulation at any time. This was a big game for us...a must win! 15 minutes into the match, Michael Reed got forward from his position as right back. Reed beat his man inside and unleashed a left footed blast from 25 yards. Far corner netting...1-0 Lobos! 10 minutes later, Denver was awarded a free kick 35 yards from our goal. Our goalkeeper misjudged the shot and watched it sail over his head into the net. A very uncharacteristic mistake, but a costly one. We got right back at 'em and were rewarded in the 42nd minute. PJ Wilson beat his man inside from the right flank and finished near post with his left. 2-1 Lobos and that's how the match ended. I felt we got a bit complacent with the lead and were comfortable defending. No great chances for Denver, but the game was closer than it needed to be. 1 and 1 for the weekend, but playing well. We are now off to Northern California for two big matches vs Sacramento State on Friday and San Jose State on Sunday. Sac and San Jose are 4-0 in conference play and we are 3-1. Need I say more! We will be ready and the team is excited to show our stuff. We return home on November 7th for our final regular season match vs UNLV and Senior Day! Thanks for all your support and GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**October 19, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

What a weekend! I'm still coming down from yesterday's emotional roller coaster. The difference between winning and losing..... Conference play opened this weekend with two home matches to kickoff the 7-game Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Conference slate. Conference newcomers, Seattle University and California State Bakersfield, made their debuts in the Duke City. Friday night was picture perfect in every way: 65 degrees, not a cloud in the sky, slight breeze, 3000 in the stands.....the place was rocking at kickoff.

**Friday, October 16th: Lobos vs. Seattle University 7:15 PM**

Seattle is a quality team without the results they deserve. Quality, attractive soccer with a lot of heart. The key to this match would be to score early and let our opponent chase the game. The first half was all Lobos, minus the ball finding the net. The boys were relaxed at half time and confident. Patience and confidence would be key. Four minutes into the second half, a long ball from the back found Justin Davis checking back for the ball...flick behind to streaking freshman, Josh Caffey (had his clothes on). Josh with a deft touch past a defender, coolly slotted the ball away for a 1-0 Lobo lead. In spite of a 19-10 shot advantage, 5-1 corner kick and 8-1 shots on goal advantage, 1-0 proved to be the final score. We were very mature in our handling and managing of the lead. Coupled with safe and quality defense, we closed the game out in convincing fashion. It would have been nice to take the pressure off with another goal or two, but a well played match with a deserving result. There will be no easy games in conference play.

**Sunday, October 18th: Lobos vs. California Bakersfield 1:15 PM**

The Roadrunners are another conference newcomer with a great history of soccer at the Division II level. They are a passionate, attacking team who will prove to be a very competitive Division I program in the near future. They are off to a tremendous start this year and would prove to be a very formidable foe. Coming off a 3-1 victory over UNLV Friday night in their conference debut, we felt Bakersfield would come out of the blocks on fire. If we could get on the board in the early going, this was a game we could put up some points. In the first 15 minutes we created quality chances, but once again, didn't find the net. In the 32nd minute, against the run of play, Bakersfield was awarded a penalty kick. Not the best defending from our end and a call which could have gone either way. Clinical finish and we were chasing the game, down a goal. Whenever you are down a goal, the game changes. The fear of being down two goals lingers in the back of your head and the desire to even up the score often caused overzealous attacking. Our boys fought back and put the Roadrunners on their heels. We were confident at the intermission, reminding ourselves to "stay the course" and the goals would come. The second half was all Lobos. By the end of the match, we outshot CSUB 26-14, 13-5 advantage in corner kicks, 10-4 shots on goal.....with one minute left on the scoreboard, we were losing 1-0. Eerily reminiscent of our second game of the season vs. San Francisco. There was no quit in the boys. With 39 seconds left on the clock, Stephen Brown found the far post with a tremendous shot off a rebound. Overtime and we had the run of play and confidence on our side. Eight minutes into the first overtime, Justin Davis hit the game-winner. Big time victory and a great confidence builder for the team. I'm really proud of the boys and the manner in which they handled adversity. Five conference matches remain with the next four on the road. Thanks for all your support. GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**October 8, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

Gutted, bummed, sick to my stomach...just got done playing handball off the curb...very tough result last night vs. Cal Irvine. I don't have anything witty or intriguing to share with you, other than expressing my incredible sorrow about the match. Our 10 game non-conference schedule finished up last night at the Lobo Soccer Complex. 9 of the 10 teams we played were ranked in the national "Top 25" at some point this season, and we played three teams who reached the "Top 10". University of California Irvine was our final opponent. The Anteaters made it to the Elite 8 in last year's NCAA Tournament and are a quality team with some special players. The diminutive Irving Garcia would prove to be our greatest nemesis.

**October 7, 2009: Lobos vs. California Irvine 7:15 PM**

The first 25 minutes of the match were beautiful soccer. I couldn't ask for more from our team...except for putting the ball in the net. We possessed the ball, had great movement and created quality chances. In spite of our play, neither team could find the net in the first half. The second half saw play even out and the physical and mental wear and tear of our brutal schedule started to show on our boys. In the 80th minutes, the Anteaters had a throw-in deep in our half. A long throw, a glancing header and a brilliant half volley from Irving Garcia put Irvine on the scoreboard, 1-0. To our teams' credit, there was no quit in them. Five minutes later, we had a throw-in of our own deep in the UCI half. Great throw from Justin Davis, near-post flick from Simon and the score was 1-1. We had one more great chance in the dying minutes of regulation, but the shot was cleared off the line. We were confident going into over-time, but it was not to be this night. 6 minutes into the first overtime, a transition ball behind our back four and Garcia got loose. Two of our defenders recovered, but Garcia hit a near post blast which glanced off the crossbar and bounced just across the goal line. 2-1 Irvine in overtime. A heart breaker! We now enter MPSF Conference play on October 16th, with the next 9 days off. Our 10 game non-conference schedule allowed us to test ourselves against the nation's best. We had some great results and some disappointing losses and finished 6-4-0. Our challenge now: to physically, mentally, and emotionally recover and prepare for our 7 hard-fought conference matches. Next Friday night, October 16th is the conference opener vs. Seattle University and it will also be "Stuff the Stadium" night. Our goal is to pack the house. The atmosphere will be electric. Thanks for all your support and we will see you next Friday night at 7:00 PM. GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**October 5, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

Great weekend for Lobo Men's Soccer and an incredible weekend for me! Saturday night's match vs. California State Northridge was a big test for our team. Back at home, coming off a tough loss to Stanford.....CSUN is a dynamic, attacking team who has been in and out of the "Top 20" all season. The American Cancer Society sponsored the match to promote "cancer awareness" and our players donned pink jerseys in honor of the event! The weather was perfect and the moon was full. 3200+ in the stands and the atmosphere was ideal for a big night from the Lobos! What made the weekend and match special for me was the fact that my wife was out of town for four days and I was experiencing single parenthood for the weekend (Thursday-Sunday). It was my 8- and 6-year-old daughters, Hanna Montana, the Jonas brothers, Harry Potter, Demmi Lovato, and dad! My wife was in Palm Springs, California playing in the USTA Adult National 5.0 Tennis Championships. My wife is/was quite a tennis player. She played here at UNM, represented Mexico internationally and played professionally for several years. She hasn't played much the past 12 years, but caught the bug again this year. She was asked to play for a 5.0 Albuquerque women's team, which was going to compete for State and Regional Title. 5.0 is the highest level outside of professional. Her team won the Regional Title, which was played here in Albuquerque, and qualified for Nationals. USTA National Championship October 1-4th was circled on our calendar and I was prepared and excited to take the girls! The time spent with my daughters was incredible...not easy...but wonderful. They came to practice, to our pre-game meal, to the training room...banged on the locker room door. I went to their soccer practices, violin lessons, soccer games, did homework, prepared dinner....my wife will say "I do this all the time, haven't you noticed...don't make a big deal out of it." The four days really put things in perspective: family first! I sure hope I set a good example for our players that being a good husband and father takes effort and dedication. I hope that I do this every day!

**October 3, 2009: Lobos vs. California State Northridge 7:30 PM**

We were focused and ready for this game. We started out strong and controlled the early moments of the match. In the 10th minute, Mike Green cut inside from the left flank after receiving a ball from Ryan Farquharson. From 25 yards, Green unleashed a rocket that found the upper right hand corner of the net. 1-0 Lobos and we were rolling! We continued to create chances, but couldn't put the ball in the net for the remaining 35 minutes of the half. We felt good going into the intermission, but wanted some cushion. The next 29 minutes saw both teams connecting passes, but few quality chances were created. I thought we defended very intelligently and didn't give CSUN any openings. In the 84th minute, Mike Green did it again! A long ball behind the Matador defense with the GK charging out of his box. Green touched it by him from deep in the corner and from what looked like an impossible angle, drove the ball into a keeper-less net. 2-0 Lobos and a great victory!

This Wednesday night, October 7th, we conclude our non-conference schedule with a home match vs. #22 University of California Irvine at 7:00. Irvine is an exciting, attacking team and we look forward to playing them at home. I sure hope we get all the LOBO FAITHFUL out for this one! As for my wife's weekend, the team from Albuquerque brought home the National Championship! They played teams from Northern California, Tennessee, Virginia, New York and brought the hardware back to New Mexico! My girls won both their games and we took care of our business. I perfected my skills in the kitchen, putting incredible meals on the table: grilled cheese, peanut butter, jelly and bananas, Honey Nut Cheerios with special sauce, and other personal secrets! See you Wednesday night and thanks for all your support. GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**September 27, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

Southwest Airlines still provides peanuts and crackers for free and no charge for baggage. A little consolation after today's match vs. Stanford, but not enough to make me feel remotely well. I'm sitting next to junior midfielder Ryan Farquharson 30 minutes into our flight from Oakland and still digesting this afternoon's result. This road weekend was a big one for the Lobos. Coming off three successive wins (#10 Notre Dame, Cal Davis and Gonzaga) with matches vs. #4 ranked Cal Berkeley and a resurgent 5-1-0 Stanford (getting "top 20" votes), would show us where we stand. The week's preparation was excellent with the focus on Friday's game vs. Cal. Stanford was the host for the weekend's tournament with the Air Force Academy rounding out the field. Stanford set things up intelligently for themselves: a 7:00 pm night game vs. Air Force on Friday, while Cal and the Lobos fought it out in the 90 degree heat on Friday afternoon at 4:30. When I get to sit next to one of our players on a flight, it's always a great occasion to really talk. They have nowhere to go, they're trapped at 30,000 feet! After dodging several of my questions: what do you want to do after college...how are things at home with your family....what's new with your social life...Ryan opens up a bit more than usual. He's thinking of moving to Tibet and spending a solid year in meditation deep in a cave.....he's moving to Alaska and getting work on a fishing boat from the TV show "The Deadliest Catch". But don't worry, I get the standard answers. Not really sure yet...I still have time to figure it out....kinda seeing a girl....brother and sister are good.... Ryan is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, has a 3.2 GPA and is a great leader...he will be very successful in whatever he chooses to pursue.

**Friday, September 25th: Lobos vs. Cal 4:30 PM**

This was a BIG game. Cal has been on a roll. Ranked #4 in the country and coming off convincing wins, we were excited for the challenge. It's a pretty great feeling to go into a game of this magnitude and feel very confident in your team. Whenever we step on the field, we expect to WIN. After watching two of the Golden Bears games on tape, we felt that we not only matched up well: but were better if we played to our strengths! The first 20 minutes of the match were back and forth with Cal seeing more of the ball and getting some decent looks at our goal. We weren't playing to our potential and looked a bit tight. 21st minute: two quick Lobo passes down the left flank, Stephen Brown with a crafty move past his man coming inside...great service across the face of the goal...James Urbany making a hard run to the far post splitting the fullback and centerback.... 1-0 Lobos: executed like you draw it up. 20 more minutes of the Lobos seeing more and more of the ball and against the run of the game, Cal with a long throw-in from the left touch line. Great header, 1-1 with 4 minutes left in the half. What a devastating blow. We identified some tactical adjustments with our wide players and felt good going into the second half. The play was all Lobos. A 9-4 UNM advantage in shots and Cal was physically wearing down. As the minutes counted down, it looked like overtime. Lobo corner kick from the right side with 1:30 left on the clock. Justin Davis with an in-swinging corner (left footed bending in towards the keeper) skips past the first defender and the man sitting next to me right now, Ryan Farquharson, knocks it into the near post netting. 2-1 Lobos with 90 seconds remaining in the match. Quality defending and the Lobos knock off #4 ranked Cal in a very high paced, well-played match. Both goals came from third-year Lobo midfielders. Stanford's evening match vs. Air Force ended in a 3-2 Cardinal victory without the effort the score line may imply. Stanford came into our Sunday match-up with a record of 5-1-0 after the win. Our game took a huge physical and mental toll on the team, but we had to recover quickly. Big one on Sunday for the Lobos!

**Sunday, September 27: Lobos vs Stanford 12:30 PM**

Our recovery from Friday's intense match was very good. The boys did everything in their power to prepare for Sunday: recovery drinks right after Friday's game, static stretching, ice baths, pool recovery session Saturday morning, light movement prior to lunch and proper nutrition and rest. We seemed good on Sunday morning after 42 hours rest, but only time would tell. Our coaching staff watched Stanford's match on Friday night. We felt that if we played intelligently, got quality minutes from players off the bench and finished our opportunities, we would get the result. The first 10 minutes of the match was all Lobos. Two great chances on goal and we felt really good about things. In the 11th minute, against the run of play, a bouncing ball deep in our half, some unlucky deflections, a great cross and finish by Stanford and we now had to chase the game down a goal. Stanford went from playing an attacking style with a high back line to a very defensive posture defending with big numbers. We continued to play well and created several excellent chances, chances we should and need to put away! Stanford was good on the counter, but only created fairly harmless shots from 25-30 yards. GK Fite was tested once and made an excellent save. We had a good talk at half time and were confident going into the final 45 minutes. Once again we created quality chances, but didn't put balls on frame (on goal). Stanford played very defensively and got tremendous play from their keeper. As the game progressed, it was very evident that our boys didn't have the legs they are accustomed to: touches a bit off, shots too high or wide...the minutes continued to tick and we kept pushing. With five minutes left, we moved a defender up top to give a final push. 90 seconds left on the clock, a Stanford Clearance with numbers in transition. Shot, save, finish...2-0 Stanford. Our dreams of a weekend sweep were dashed. Pretty devastating for all of us. Stanford was smart in how they set up their tournament and stacked the deck in their favor. We need to learn from our mistakes and move on. Two big ones at home vs. "top 25" opponents. Saturday night, October 3rd, we host Cal State Northridge at 7:00 and on Wednesday, October 7th, we host Cal Irvine at 7:00. We will spend today and tomorrow recovering from the weekend (active recovery session and light weights today and Tuesday completely off) and will get back at it Wednesday morning. See you this weekend and GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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## **September 22, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

Wonderful weekend for Lobo Men's Soccer. After four back and forth season-opening games, we got things right this weekend. What an electric atmosphere Friday night: 2800+ in the stands for an "overly" exciting and action packed match (was more exciting than it should have been). Sunday's crowd of 1800 was equally enthusiastic and vocal, and brought out the best in our team. Having the support of our home crowd and getting to spend the weekend with family and friends was rewarded with two quality performances. Our sports information department put together a nice two minute video on the weekend. Click [HERE](#) and the video will show up on the right hand side of the page: titled TLC/Nike Invitational.

Richard Stevens also wrote a very nice piece on freshman and native New Mexican, Patrick Pacheco, and his first career goal scored over the weekend. Click [HERE](#) for the story.

## **Friday, September 18th: Lobos vs University of California at Davis 7:00 PM**

The boys were focused and ready for this match. UC Davis was great in 2008: reaching the third round of the NCAA Tournament. Off to a mixed start this year, the Aggies are a skillful and physical team. Going into the game, we felt that we needed to get on the scoreboard early, take Davis's

enthusiasm out of the game and turn a game of emotions into a game of quality and skill. The opening 10 minutes was everything we could ask for... except for the ball hitting the net! Right from the get go, Justin Davis slipped behind the UC Davis back four and hit a blast from 30 yards which glanced off the upper bar....several more quality chances and great goal keeping by the Davis keeper kept the game scoreless in the early going. After dominating the game for the first 37 minutes, we gave the Aggies an opening in the 38th minute. A poor defensive clearance led to a Aggie corner kick. Lofted service, great header, Lobos down 0-1. The remaining 7 minutes of the half played out without significant action and we went into the intermission disappointed, but confident. Twelve minutes into the second stanza, Stephen Brown received the ball high up the field on the left flank....pass into Mike Green, back to Brown and a right footed bending ball from 25 yards....far corner netting. Big Time goal! With renewed energy and confidence, we continued to attack. Fifteen minutes later, a great ball over the top to Justin Davis with only the goal and keeper ahead of him. The last defender clipped Justin and the official pointed to the penalty spot. Simon Ejdemyr stepped to the spot and slotted the ensuing kick to the keepers left to make it 2-1 Lobos. We created several more chances, but managed the remaining clock and came away with a well played 2-1 victory over a quality opponent. Sunday's match would now be the challenge. Our opponent, Gonzaga, won their Friday night match with an overtime victory over the University of Binghamton from upstate New York.

**Sunday, September 20: Lobos vs Gonzaga 1;30 PM**

The Zags entered the match with a record of 4-1-1 and received national "top 25" votes in the week leading up to our match. A very well balanced, battle-tested team. This game would be a test of our maturity and focus. Friday night games under the lights are often won with emotion and energy. Sunday afternoon matches are more of a chess match. We put Gonzaga in "check" in the early going. In the 18th minute, freshman Patrick Pacheco received the ball on the right flank, took a touch inside, beat the first defender and unleashed a rocket from 25 yards....upper near post netting..1-0 Lobos. We continued to play well for the remaining 26 minutes of the half, but couldn't put another one away. The second half started out "on fire." Two minutes in, right back Michael Reed played a beautiful entry ball into Mike Green and the "Green Machine" or "Green Bean" took a touch and hit the sweet spot to make it 2-0 Lobos. We continued to press and were rewarded with our third goal four minutes later, when James Urbany hit a rebound through the crowd for his first goal of the season and our third of the match. We created several more chances, but failed to convert. It was a very well balanced game which saw keepers Victor Rodriguez and Justin Holmes share the shut out. We are now off to Northern California to play #5 ranked University of California and "top 25" Stanford. No hiding for the LOBOS! Thanks for the support and see you soon.

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**September 14, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

Returned late last night from Chicago. We cut it pretty close, figuring we wouldn't catch any traffic on the drive from South Bend, Indiana to Chicago O'Hare Airport on a Sunday afternoon. Road construction and downtown traffic raised the blood pressure. We made it...hungry and out of breath. Quite a weekend for the team. We traveled into a "hornets nest" and came out with only a few welts. Two games on the road vs. powerhouse programs: #12 ranked Indiana and #10 ranked Notre Dame.

**Friday, September 11th: Lobos vs #12 Indiana 5:00 PM**

We felt very prepared for this match. From the two Indiana games we were able to watch on video, we felt the Hoosiers were a good match up for us. They played in a 3-5-2 formation, with a deep center-midfielder. Our 4-4-2 with a deep forward made for a great tactical battle. Our boys were relaxed and focused going into the game. What a great feeling to go into a road match vs a #12 ranked opponent and feel confident. I'm really proud of this team and the effort and preparation they have put into the season. Pretty even match for the first 25 minutes and the last 20 minutes of the first half was all Lobos. We created quality chances, but couldn't finish. The score at half time was 0-0, but we were confident. The second half started well for us. 13 minutes in we were rewarded with a beautiful combination goal: Lance Rozeboom to Michael Green to Justin Davis for the finish. 1-0 Lobos and looking good. In soccer, its common for a team to give up a goal, right after scoring a goal. Mental focus, or the lack of immediately following elation. This is something we talk about all the time. One minute later, 1-1. A poor clearance on our part, poor marking and a great finish by Indiana. We battled back and got a hold of the game again. In the 75th minute, great ball from Green to Stephen Brown, 2-1 Lobos. Four and half minutes later, miscue in the back, 2-2. Incredible! I think we are a mature team, but two mental breakdowns at inopportune moments. Pretty even game and we were confident that we would put one more away. With three minutes on the clock. We give Indiana a deep throw-in, fail to mark short....cross...near post finish and we let the game slip away. 3-2 loss to a team we were much better than. I great lesson learned: focus is required for 90 minutes to beat quality opposition. We discussed the game, watched the video and reviewed a few key points on Saturday. We were excited to play the #10 ranked Irish on Sunday!

**Sunday, September 13th: Lobos vs #10 ranked Notre Dame 2:00 PM**

Notre Dame was coming off an easy 3-0victory Friday night. The Irish, as the home team, played under the cool evening sky and rested their top players for much of their match. We were coming off a battle in the heat of the afternoon. No excuses. Our boys were as ready as I've ever seen them. The team looked sharp in our warm-up and appeared confident for a great game. We got at em right away. In the third minute, Notre Dame played a harmless long ball over the top and mis-communication ensued between our defender and goal keeper. Our back played the ball back to the keeper....the problem was that the keeper was stepping up to play the ball. We could only watch as the ball slowly, ever so slowly trickled across our goal line. 1-0 Notre Dame three minutes in. Not the way to start a match. No worries. We stayed composed and got a hold of the game. In the 38th minute, a tremendous diagonal ball from right back Michael Reed to Justin Davis on the left flank. Touch and finish. Back to even: 1-1! We gained momentum and continued to cause problems for the rest of the half and into the second half. Three great chances, but we failed to convert. The minutes ticked off and overtime! Two ten minute sudden death periods. We win all overtimes was our mantra! 1:48 into the first overtime period, Stephen Brown from the right side of midfield, played a diagonal ball behind the Notre Dame right back. Justin Davis with a big touch and then out-muscling two defenders, a far post rocket which glanced off the inside of the far post. 2-1 Lobos in overtime. A great win! Tremendous demonstration of commitment, desire, quality and teamwork!

We are now back home for two big matches this weekend at the Nike/TLC Plumbing and Utilities Invitational. University of California Davis on Friday at 7:00 and Gonzaga, Sunday at 1:30. We will be rested and ready to get rolling in front of our home fans. Thanks for all your support and see you this Friday night!

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**September 6, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

What a tremendous turnout for our home opener last night! A sea of red, the steady beat of drummers, positive energy and the optimistic attitude of all who braved the ominous threat of late summer rain and lightning. The weather held and proved to be perfect for soccer, unlike the outcome of our match. After a sleepless night drifting in and out of semi-consciousness, I figured it would be cathartic to write this painful e-mail and then move on to our next match. Fueled up with my second cup of coffee at 6:00 am Sunday morning, here I go:

**September 5, 2009: Lobos vs. #22 San Francisco 7:00 PM**

San Francisco is a team we've had a good deal of success against the past three years. We watched video of their season-opening 4-1 victory over UMKC and felt we matched up very well against the Dons. Their attacking front four players were quality (played a 4-3-3 with a high center midfielder), but they had questions in the back. The game started out very well for us and we controlled the tempo and created numerous scoring chances in the early going. We were unable to put the ball into the net and the first half ended 0-0. The glaring negative of the first half was a knee injury to Dom Romero. Dom has battled back from two previous knee surgeries to his right knee and this time it's his left knee. We will know specifics in the next two days. We identified some areas we could improve upon at half time and felt good going into the second stanza. The possession and opportunities were all Lobos. We created chance after chance, but couldn't finish. We out shot USF 17-9 and had five corner kicks to the Dons' one. These statistics are misleading, in that they only had one decent scoring chance and we had 6-8 excellent chances in front of their goal. The game was being played in the USF defensive half and it seemed only a matter of time before we put one on the scoreboard. As the remaining time on the clock began to tick away, we upped our attack and continued to press. With 6 minutes remaining, against the flow of the game, USF linked two passes in transition and slipped behind our back four to score a well executed goal. We continued to fight, but couldn't find the net. A pretty incredible result, but soccer is a cruel game. If you allow your opponent to stay in the game late, anything can happen. I thought we played very well and created tremendous chances. Our challenge is to quickly move on, learn from our mistakes and prepare for our upcoming match. Things don't get any easier. We are off to the Midwest and the "Lion's Den". We depart this Thursday for South Bend, Indiana and matches vs. two "Top 10" teams, Indiana and Notre Dame. I'm excited for these tests against the nation's best. Thanks again for your incredible support.

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**September 3, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

The New Mexico Men's Soccer Team is excited and ready to play our home opener this Saturday night, September 5th, at 7:00 PM vs the #22 ranked University of San Francisco Dons. We are expecting a record turnout and the atmosphere will be incredible! Wear red and prepare for an action packed match. We just returned from St. Louis and our season opening match on September 1st vs the #21 ranked St. Louis University Billikens.

**September 1, 2009: Lobos vs #21 St. Louis University 7:00 PM**

What a tremendous way to open the season. Playing a nationally ranked opponent in one of the greatest venues for collegiate soccer, St. Louis Universities Hermann Stadium. The field was manicured to perfection, 70 degrees and the soccer mad St. Louis fans turned out in numbers. Our coaching staff felt well prepared after three successful exhibition matches and two weeks of intensive training. More importantly, the boys felt prepared, confident and relaxed going into what is typically a very tense opening match. We were focused and ready to battle for 90 minutes. We started 5 seniors, 5 juniors and one sophomore. An experienced group with quality on the bench itching to make their mark. The opening 25 minutes was basically two teams finding their regular season form and playing it safe. This being said, we created the better of the chances and put good pressure on the Billikens in the early goings. Things started to open up at about 25 minutes. We found our passing rhythm, upped the tempo of play and began to play in the St. Louis half of the field. In the 35th minute, Dom Romero timed a great run behind the Billiken defense and was brought down in the penalty box. Penalty kick Lobos. Simon Ejdemyr stepped up to the 12 yard spot with confidence and slotted the ensuing kick to the keepers left. 1-0 Lobos. The half ended without further scoring and we went into the intermission cautious, but feeling good about our play.

The second half was all Lobos. We got right after 'em. 5 minutes into the second half, Mike Green slipped a beautiful ball to Justin Davis on the left side: JD took a great touch and finished with perfection. 2-0 Lobos with 40 minutes remaining on the clock. 2-0 is not a comfortable lead to have. One goal and you lead is far from safe. The third goal is the key one. Eleven minutes later, our wish came true. An explosive move down the right flank by James Urbany, a perfect near post cross from James to a streaking PJ Wilson. 3-0 Lobos with a goal just like you draw it up! What a great way to start the season! I'm real proud of our team. Their dedication to excellence the past 8 months showed. Exciting soccer to come from this group!

Hope to see all of you this Saturday night at 7:00 in Albuquerque. Thanks for all your support and GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**August 24, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

Returned late last night from Tulsa, Oklahoma. Two exhibition matches vs #12 ranked University of Tulsa and Oral Roberts University this past weekend. Preseason is officially over with the opening day of classes today. The reality of the term "Student Athlete" has kicked in for the players. Before I give you the rundown on the weekend, I wanted to make sure you had a chance to download the brochure for our Lobo Men's Soccer Booster Club, the Golden Goal Club:

Click [HERE](#) for your 2009 Golden Goal Club brochure.

If the brochure doesn't pop up, just click "complete version" and it should appear.

Our sports information department just completed a short video from our preseason training with some clips and interviews. Here is the link for the soccer home page and the video will appear on the right hand side of the page:

[PRESEASON VIDEO](#)

## **LOBOS VS #12 UNIVERSITY OF TULSA AND ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY**

The entire team blasted off from the Albuquerque Sunport Thursday morning at 9:40. The boys looked sharp in coat and tie and things went without a hitch on the always challenging first trip of the year. We arrived in Tulsa, checked into our hotel and headed off to the University of Tulsa for a light training session. Friday nights game was scheduled for a 7:00 kickoff, so we got out for another training session Friday morning. The game field was like a putting green, the stands were full and the atmosphere was tremendous for an exhibition match. Tulsa entered the match ranked #12 in the country and our boys were fired up to play! We got right at em from the kickoff. Justin Davis created two good chances in the first three minutes and in the fourth minute Stephen Brown blasted a volley into the net off a Justin Davis throw-in. 1-0 Lobos. We continued to play well and were rewarded again in the 40th minute with a tremendous goal from Dom Romero. Dom cut inside from the left flank and hit a beautiful bending ball to the far post with the inside of his right foot. Big Time goal! 2-0 Lobos at half. Two minutes into the second half, we made an unforced error and gave Tulsa a direct kick at the edge of our box. Great finish and our lead was cut in half. We were unfazed and put our third goal on the board in the 63rd minute from a 50 yard blast from Stephen Brown. Brown caught the keeper off his line and hit a tremendous shot from deep. 3-1 Lobos. In the 75th minute, another preseason error and we gave up a very soft goal to make it 3-2. The match finished 3-2 Lobos and we were able to play 8 players off the bench (6 seeing their first collegiate minutes) against a nationally ranked opponent. The costly mistakes won't be repeated!

Sundays match vs Oral Roberts would be the real challenge of the trip: physically and mentally. Second match in three days against a fresh opponent...heat, humidity and not the same excitement playing against an unranked opponent in a relaxed environment. The Tulsa match was easy to get up for: great teams keep their focus every match and execute regardless of fatigue or atmosphere. I was very proud of our teams preparation for the ORU game. We played very well from the kickoff. In the 17th minute, Michael Green fed a wonderful ball to PJ Wilson who slotted it away from 20 yards for the games first goal. We continued to play well and started to make substitutions in the 30th minute. Two minutes into the second half, Stephen Brown found PJ from the left flank and PJ finished with his head for our second goal and the brace. We continued to put pressure on ORU for the remainder of the half, but couldn't find the net. We were able to play 12 players off the bench and everyone who was healthy saw the field.

I'm real happy with our preseason and look forward to getting the season rolling. We play our final exhibition match at home this Thursday at 7:00 vs The University of Southern Colorado. We open up the season in Saint Louis on Tuesday, September 1st vs the nationally ranked Billikens. SLU will stream the game live. Our home opener is on Saturday, September 5th vs nationally ranked San Francisco. No hiding this year! I'll keep you posted. GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**August 10, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

The New Mexico Men's Soccer Season is just around the corner. We start pre-season training this Saturday and the boys are ready to GO! I thought you'd like to read this article if you haven't come across it:

[STEVENS: Leadership a Key for UNM's 2009 Soccer Season](#)

We've spent a great deal of time the past 8 months developing our leadership and team unity. Leadership, Unity and a belief in "understanding ones individual role on the team" will be keys to our success this season. I feel confident that everyone is on board and the right people are filling the necessary roles.

Click [HERE](#) for our Golden Goal Brochure. The Golden Goal Club is our men's soccer booster club. Contributions go directly to men's soccer. Your continued support allows us to work towards our goal of achieving EXCELLENCE: academically, socially and on the field.

I will keep in close contact and will update you once pre-season kicks off. Thanks for your support. GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**June 3, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

Just wanted to pass on the 2009 University of New Mexico Men's Soccer Schedule. Here is the release from our Sports Information Department:

[Men's Soccer Announces 2009 Schedule](#)

There is a link in the article which will allow you to download the schedule. I think this may be our most challenging schedule in the past 8 years. I'm very excited about our team and really look forward to seeing how we compete against the the country's best. Thanks for all your support and I will keep in contact over the summer. Make sure you are fit and ready for the season: preseason training starts on August 14th! See you soon.

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**May 28, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

Summer has arrived and it's moving way too quickly! Just wanted to keep everyone updated with the latest "Lobo Soccer News". We recently received our final two signed NLI's (National Letter of Intent) for the upcoming season. Johan Bergstrom and Brendon Boucaud will be tremendous additions to our program. Their signings, bring the incoming class to a total of 9 exciting and dynamic players. Brandon and Johan bring maturity, international flair, high level playing experience and leadership to our program. Here is the link for the press release on these two fine young men:

[Men's Soccer Adds Two to 2009 Roster](#)

Not sure if you had the chance to read a wonderful article on the Lobo Website at [www.golobos.com](http://www.golobos.com) about former Lobo goalkeepers Andrew Weber and Mike Graczyk. Andrew and Mike are both currently playing professionally for the San Jose Earthquakes of Major League Soccer (MLS). Here is the link to the article:

[STEVENS: Ex-Lobo Goalies Battling It Out for MLS Playing Time](#)

Our 2009 schedule will be released in the next two days and its possibly the most challenging schedule we've every had. It will be posted on [www.golobos.com](http://www.golobos.com). You have to play the best, to be the BEST! I'll stay in close contact and hope you are prepared for an exciting fall season! Have a fantastic summer.

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**February 24, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

Hope all is well in your neck of the woods. Life here in New Mexico is wonderful! Its been a very mild winter and the team has enjoyed the beauty of the outdoors the past two months. We just put the finishing touches on our latest Lobo Soccer video, which highlights our winter team training. The team has really put in the work the past five weeks. Here's the link to the video:

[Winter Training Highlight Video](#)

We're finalizing our spring playing schedule and I will get it out to you once final. Thanks for the support.

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**February 5, 2009**

Lobo Faithful:

Hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the winter months. It's been a wonderful, sunny winter here in New Mexico...too long without soccer. The Lobo Men's Soccer Team is done licking our wounds from the fall and the boys have really attacked their winter workouts with a vengeance! We have been back at it since the start of school on January 20th and I'm really proud of our players work ethic and commitment to being their BEST! There is a renewed sense of commitment and the realization that team goals must come first and success comes from hard work and dedication.

Yesterday, February 4th, was a big day for us; National Signing Day. We signed six tremendous recruits for next season. Here is the link to the article on our website:

[Men's Soccer Inks 6 to National Letters of Intent](#)

A brief bio of each player, a picture and my media interview on the incoming class should all pop up. This is a tremendous group of young men who will add a great deal to our program. Each is very academically motivated, team oriented, hard-working, passionate and goal driven. I feel that this is one of the top recruiting classes in the country.

The three New Mexico boys: Patrick Pacheco, Julian Roberts and Lawrence Robledo are all very familiar with our program and will join a long list of tremendous local players who have played for the Lobos. We have watched them over the years and they will bring a great deal of pride and passion to our team. They have played club soccer together for a number of years and have known nothing but success. They are all proven winners.

The two Texans, Josh Caffey and Blake Smith, are both outstanding students and soccer players. Josh and Blake are standouts on the national youth soccer stage and both are incredibly hard working and athletic players who know nothing but success.

Kyle Venter from Colorado, is another terrific student and is a natural leader and a fierce competitor. Kyle has captained his High School and club teams the past two years and is a young man who demands excellence from everyone around him. Kyle will make us better!

I will keep in touch as the spring playing season approaches. Thanks for all your support and GO LOBOS.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**Nov. 19, 2008**

Lobo Faithful:

Despite a fantastic finish to the 2008 New Mexico Men's Soccer Team's regular season last weekend, the campaign is unfortunately over. 11-6-2 with wins over the #4 and #5 seeded teams in the NCAA Tournament wasn't enough to keep our season and dreams alive. We have no one to blame but ourselves. We were more talented than all but one of our opponents (Akron who was our equal and whom we defeated), but mental mistakes, accountability issues and a failure to put team goals #1 contributed to our early exit. This season will prove to be one of the most important in my coaching career and will teach our players a life long lesson.

"The whole is greater than the sum of the parts"

After 17 games of ups and downs, the boys put it all together for the final push last weekend. Going into our matches, we knew that anything less than two victories would put us out of contention for an NCAA at large tournament birth. Two wins wouldn't guarantee anything, but it would give us a fighting chance to keep our season alive. Friday nights match vs The Air Force Academy was electric. From the kickoff, we showed the fighting spirit which had been missing much of the season. 21 minutes into the match, a tremendous strike by Jack Smithson found the back of the net from 25 yards. 1-0 Lobos and we kept pouring it on! We were rewarded again in the 37th minute with a great piece of finishing by Justin Davis. A ball over the top and the Air Force keeper came off his line; JD

calmly lifted the ball over his head with a crafty flick to double the lead, 2-0 Lobos. This was the score entering the half. 7 minutes into the second stanza, Chris Wright got on the scoreboard with a nice finish from inside the box. 3-0 Lobos. We kept pressing looking for our fourth goal, when a counter attack by the Academy found success with a well placed far post shot. 3-1 Lobos. Still pressing, Chris Wright pounced on a loose ball for his second goal of the match in the 78th minutes to make it 4-1 Lobos and this is how the match ended. A great team victory, with one more match to complete the weekend and the regular season.

Sundays match vs Denver University was a big one for many reasons. Most importantly, it was our chance for redemption and the opportunity to keep our dream of a fifth straight NCAA post season appearance alive. Denver hadn't lost a match in their last 10 games and were playing quality soccer. There was a different vibe in the locker room for this match. An energy which had been absent for quite a while. Upon leaving the locker room, I felt very confident going into this match! The game started on fire for the Lobos. Shot after shot and corner kick after corner kick. The Denver goalkeeper was a brick wall and we couldn't find the net. He made 4 point blank saves, while our keeper was never tested and didn't have to make a save the entire half. 0-0 going into the half. The second half saw more Lobo attacking play. In the 67th minute, Chris Wright beat his man off the dribble and was pulled down in the box. Penalty! Simon Ejdemyr calmly slotted the ensuing kick into the side netting to make it 1-0 Lobos. We continued to attack but failed to score another goal. The final state showed the Lobos holding a 16-5 advantage in shots and the Denver keeper making 8 saves, while our GK was never tested (didn't make a save the entire game). The 1-0 story line made the game look closer than it actually was. A quality win, with a great team effort. Everyone on the same page. With this win, we finished the regular season with record of 11-6-2 and a 7-3 conference mark.

We had to make a difficult call on Monday. Should the entire team go to Coaches Bar and Grill to watch the NCAA selection show, or should we play it safe and stay undercover in the safe confines of our locker room? We decided that we would rejoice or suffer in the eyes of the three television stations who would cover the selection show. 8 teams from the West were called: 4 conference winners and 4 at-large. We were the #5 at large team and found ourselves out of luck for the first time since 2003. A very humbling experience for all of us.

Over the course of the season, we defeated the #4 and #5 seeded teams in the entire NCAA Tournament (Michigan State and Akron), but still failed to catch the eyes and hearts of the selection committee. We slipped up vs lesser opponents.

I'm most disappointed for our three graduating seniors: Mike Porter, Jack Smithson and Chris Wright. All are warriors who have given their heart and soul to the team. Each we be a very successful man in their chosen fields. They all will be missed.

The lesson to be learned from this season, is that to be successful, you have to come out and play as a team every game for 90 minutes. Individual play must be put aside, with team goals always being the focus. This was the most talented team I've ever coached: players 1-25 are all capable of being excellent collegiate players. The saying, "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts" could never be more applicable. We all have learned a great lesson and I think this season will prove to one of most profound learning experiences for all involved. The same mistakes will not be repeated! Thanks for your incredible support this year and get ready for an exciting 2009! GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,

Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**Nov. 11, 2008**

Lobo Faithful:

A weekend of mixed results and crushing emotions. Going into the weekend's road matches with Sacramento State and San Jose State, we knew that two victories were required to stay alive in the conference race.

On Friday, we took care of business with a 2-1 hard fought overtime victory over Sacramento State. After going down a goal in the first half, Simon Ejdyr evened up the score with a well placed penalty kick early in the second half and Justin Davis blasted the winner from 20 yards in the 3rd minute of the second overtime. Not the prettiest of games, but we fought hard and got the needed result. Sunday didn't prove to be as kind.

We drove to San Jose Saturday morning and were unable to get on the game or training field. The Spartans had a home football game and their facilities staff wasn't too accommodating. The soccer team shares a grass stadium with football and with the rain which hit Northern California, the field was a mess down the center. Four minutes into the match, we were caught sleeping as a ball was slipped between two of our defenders. 1-0 Spartans. From this point on, San Jose packed it in and defended fiercely. We controlled the game, but couldn't really move the ball due to field conditions. The only way to goal, was through service from wide areas and second balls in the box. We didn't execute on numerous chances and saw our plans for a fifth straight conference title crushed.

Denver University clinched the MPSF Title with their 1-0 win over Air Force on Saturday. Hard to believe, but for the first time since 2000, the Lobos are out of the conference race prior to the final game.

Our final two games will prove to be a great test of character and a chance to send our three seniors out in style here at home. This being said, we still have a chance at receiving an NCAA at-large bid with two wins in our final contests. Regardless of how the season plays out, Mike Porter, Jack Smithson and Chris Wright will finish their careers with great distinction.

The regular season finishes up at home with matches this Friday night at 7:00 vs Air Force and Sunday at 1:00 vs Denver. Thanks for the continued support and GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,

Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**Nov. 5, 2008**

Lobo Faithful:

Six conference matches down, four to go. No margin for error and we are playing with confidence and scoring goals. Friday nights home Halloween encounter vs UNLV was more exciting/scary than necessary. We were well prepared for the match and there was a great desire to get a result after a disappointing loss in Las Vegas two weeks ago. The week leading up to the game was our first week with all players healthy and training (minus the three players out with season ending injuries).

The game started out well and the match was played in the Rebel half with the majority of possession by the Lobos. Our play was rewarded in the 41st minute, when a direct kick taken by Jack Smithson found Justin Davis on the far post. 1-0 Lobos going into half time. The second half started strong, but in the 56th minute, UNLV was awarded a penalty kick on a questionable handball against the run of play. Nice finish and the game was even, 1-1. We quickly gathered our wits and moved the ball around nicely. In the 64th minute, PJ Wilson was taken down in the penalty box and the official pointed to the penalty spot. Simon Edjymr slotted away the ensuing penalty kick to make it 2-1 Lobos. With a bit of comfort, we continued to play well and put a third goal on the board in the 76th minute off a throw-in. Zach Tierney to Justin Davis and a great finish by Mike Porter. 3-1 Lobos. UNLV had no quit in them and with four minutes left on the clock, a miscue in the box and a great finish by UNLV, made it 3-2. We held on with intelligent play the remaining four minutes and came away with a 3-2 victory. Our fifth win in the last six matches.

We travel to Northern California this upcoming weekend for matches vs Sacramento State and San Jose State. Thanks for the support and GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,

Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**Oct. 28, 2008**

Lobo Faithful:

New Mexico Men's Soccer has won four of our last five matches and we are ready for a big one at home this Friday night vs UNLV. We played in Vegas two weeks ago and lost a very disappointing game, 2-1. This Friday night will be a different story!

We just put the finishing touches on a three minute video "The life of a Lobo Soccer Player". [Here is the U-tube video link.](#)

Last weekend we battled the Stanford Cardinal in a non-conference home match on Friday night. Great crowd, beautiful evening and the right result! We played well at the kickoff, but lost rhythm about 15 minutes into the match. In the 29th minute, Stanford scored a quality combination goal to go up 1-0. Something wasn't clicking with us and the past 15 minutes had been chaotic. We were without the services of captain Simon Ejdyr (central defender) and the resurgent, David Murphy (coming back from knee surgery). We didn't know what was happening...confidence, fear... Without gaining back control of the match, we held ground for the next 5 minutes. In the 35th minute, we got what we had been looking for: a world class goal from PJ Wilson to even the score at 1-1. PJ hit a side volley from 30 yards which brought everyone to their feet. We finished out the half with a sigh of relief and re-grouped at halftime.

The second half proved to be all Lobos. We created numerous chances and got a tight grasp on the match. In the 83rd minute we were finally rewarded for the numerous chances we had been creating: tremendous combination play between Michael Green and Justin Davis led to the winning Lobo goal by Davis. 2-1 Lobos in a "much too entertaining" match. Spirits are high going into this weekends re-match with UNLV. Thanks for the support and GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,

Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**Oct. 20, 2008**

Lobo Faithful:

The Vegas jinx continues! Tough match on Friday night in the "Sin City". The team trained with skill and passion all week and the boys were very sharp going into Friday nights road match vs the Rebels of UNLV. We were without the services of captain Simon Ejdyr for the second game in a row, but the remainder of the team was fit (Euan Holden not 100% back from injury, but now training and fit to play on the 24th). We came out strong and created numerous scoring chances in the first half. Chances don't equate to goals and our inability to finish early would prove fatal. The first 45 minutes ended deadlocked at 0-0. We felt good about our play in the first stanza and felt the the goals would come. Complacency and overconfidence were our only concerns.

Looking and feeling good for the second half kickoff, disaster struck. 7 minutes into half, a Lobo give-a-way in the Rebel half, good transition, two passes and a deflected shot found the corner of our net. 1-0 UNLV in what had been a very one-sided match up until this point. 90 seconds later, still rattled by our misfortune, a give-a-way at midfield and an incredible finish by UNLV: 2-0 UNLV and total disbelief on the field and on our bench. To the boys credit, we battled back and created quality chances, but couldn't complete the final pass or the necessary finish. In the 80th minute, a great cross from Justin Davis found Chris Wright who nodded it into the net to draw us within one. We created several more dangerous chances over the final 10 minutes, but couldn't capitalize. We out-shot, had more corner kicks, our keeper made half the saves asked of his counterpart, but we came out on the wrong end of the 2-1 score sheet. What a gut wrenching result for the Lobos!

We now stand at 6-5-2 for the season and 3-2-0 in the conference with five conference matches remaining. With the UNLV loss, we no longer control our own destiny and will rely on Denver dropping a match prior to our final game (vs Denver) on November 16th. Our home game this Friday night is a non-conference match vs Pac-10 foe, Stanford. Another quality opponent who should give us a great test. Thanks for your unconditional support and GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,

Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**Oct. 14, 2008**

Lobo Faithful:

A quality and refreshing weekend for New Mexico Men's Soccer. Two big home matches vs always difficult California opponents; San Jose State and Sacramento State. San Jose and Sacramento State are both off to their best starts in recent history and this weekends matches would set the tone for the conference championship race. We had an excellent week of training coming off our win over Air Force last Sunday and the team seems to have made peace with the pressure which surrounds them every game.

Friday nights match vs San Jose was a battle for the first 45 minutes. Both teams came out strong, with San Jose playing some of their best soccer with great confidence. The second half proved to be all Lobos, but owning possession and creating scoring chances doesn't always equate to scoring goals and winning games. We played great soccer for 45 minutes and dominated the second half. Beautiful to watch, but stressful from the bench. We couldn't put the ball in the net, but played very, very well. Regulation ended 0-0, but we were creating chances and felt good going into overtime. We were rewarded right away. Two great scoring chances in the first minute and a half and in the second minute of overtime, Jack Smithson beat his man to the end line and served a great ball into the box. Justin Davis made a well timed run from the left flank and headed the ball near post for the "sudden victory" goal and a 1-0 Lobo win. It sure was good to get an overtime victory.

Sunday's game vs Sacramento would be a challenge. Afternoon game, smaller crowd and heavy legs. We warmed up well and came out on fire! Four minutes in, we had throw-in 30 yards from the Sac State goal. Zach Tierney found Simon Ejdemyr's head near post for a flick far post. Justin Davis read the play and made a great run across the face of the goal and netted his second goal in two games. 1-0 Lobos and looking good. Three minutes later, we were awarded a penalty kick. Simon Ejdemyr slotted the ball into the side netting to make it 2-0 Lobos in the early going. To Sacramento States credit, they battled on and we failed to put away the deciding third goal. While we dominated play for the next 60 minutes, a two goal lead isn't a safe one. As fate would have it, in the 69th minute, Sac State was awarded a very questionable penalty. Well placed shot and the score was now 2-1 Lobos. The next 21 minutes were tense, but we defended well and came away with a 2-1 victory. Our first weekend sweep of the year.

We play Friday night in Las Vegas. Always a difficult place to play with the inherent distractions. I feel very good about our team and am excited for our remaining 7 matches. We are still without the services of two key players, PJ Wilson and Euan Hoden, but we hope to see them back in the next two weeks. Thanks for all your support and GO LOBOS!

Sincerely,

Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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**Oct. 7, 2008**

Lobo Faithful:

Lobo Men's Soccer is finally..... ready to roll! We are close to full strength, humble(d), excited, positive and everyone feels energized and ready to attack our upcoming matches. Expect EXCITEMENT in the upcoming weeks. We opened conference play on the road this past weekend.... unfortunately with mixed results.

On Friday, October 3rd, we kicked off the conference slate with a very disappointing 1-0 road loss to Denver University. We were without the services of 4 starters (3 players for previous playing infractions and one player with injury), but still felt very confident with the line-up we put on the field. I felt that we saw the better of play in the first half and played some of our best attacking soccer of the year. 5 minutes into the second half, Denver was awarded a direct kick 30 yards from our goal. Not a real dangerous situation, but one never knows. On the ensuing play, the ball deflected off one of our players (covering space wide of the wall), changed direction and hit the outside of the post. The rebound bounced perfectly to a Denver player, who tapped it into the net for a 1-0 lead. We battled back, but couldn't find the well protected Denver net. The 1-0 loss was a hard one to swallow. Once again, "Lady Luck" wasn't on our side.

On Sunday the 5th, two of the four missing players were back and the team finally hit stride (remaining two still out with injuries). A convincing 4-0 victory over Air Force in always difficult, Colorado Springs. The bus ride home was bittersweet, but confidence appears to have returned.

This years team is very talented and we have played tremendous soccer for long stretches in every game. Its now crunch time and the margin for error is very slim. We are back at home this weekend for two big matches: San Jose State, Friday at 7:00 PM and Sacramento State on Sunday at 1:00. Thanks for your continued support and we hope to see you in the stands this weekend! Friday night is "Pack the Stadium" night and all tickets are \$2.00.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Fishbein  
Head Men's Soccer Coach  
University of New Mexico

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