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The Echo 3

## Softball field dedicated

By Rich Culp

STAFF WRITER

The stands were crowded at Hutton Field in a dedication for North Campus' newest addition, the softball field, with \$500,000 donated from the Hutton Foundation.

The foundation is a philanthropic organization that provides funds for non-profits and encourages other organizations to do the same.

It is run by California Lutheran University alumni Tom and Susan Parker.

Susan Parker threw the opening pitch at Hutton Field, that wrapped up the dedication on Thursday.

The new field is replacing Gibello Field, located on campus near the Old West apartments.

Noting that Hutton Field provides the CLU softball team with one of the nicest fields in the SCIAC conference, Shauna Cogan, senior and CLU softball player said, "It is the best in our conference and will be for years to come."

Debra Day, CLU softball coach, said an improvement is the level playing field. This causes the balls to act more naturally.

Prudence Kjontvedt, assistant softball coach who was also a CLU softball player

and 2007 Scholar Athlete of the Year, believes that the new field will help on and off the grass.

"This field has already improved our leadership skills," she said.

Among the speakers at the ceremonial first pitch and dedication was the mayor of Thousand Oaks, Jacqui V. Irwin who is a CLU alumnus.

Irwin praised CLU for making significant improvements to all the facilities on campus not just the softball field.

"Education paired with sports provides a winning framework for the future," Irwin said.

She also said that CLU's



Photograph by Rob LeBaron

**Dr. Chris Kimball, provost, right, and Dr. Howard Wennes, interim president stand at Hutton field on North Campus.**

expanding of North Campus was an adventure and testimony to community spirit.

Hutton Field is more than just a field, it's a symbol of growth for CLU.

"The university has never been stronger in all aspects, and this field is a major part of that growth," said Dan Kuntz director of athletics and head soccer coach at CLU.