



BIG WEST CONFERENCE

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2008-09 Big West Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year

Steffi Wong, Cal Poly (Markham, Ontario, Canada) – A member of one of the nation's top doubles teams, Steffi earned All-Big West First Team in doubles in 2008 with partner Brittany Blalock. The Mustang duo advanced to the NCAA Tournament in doubles and finished the season ranked No. 46 nationally. Steffi also excels in the classroom as a member of the Honor Roll and Dean's List. The junior, a biomedical engineering major, is considering medical school upon graduation.

Jenae Gibbens, Cal State Fullerton (San Diego, Calif.) – Jenae's academic and athletic career exemplifies the well-rounded student-athlete. In addition to being named to the CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America First Team and one of 10 finalists for the Lowe's Senior CLASS award, the senior center back for the women's soccer team is a two-time All-Big West First Team honoree. She finished her senior season tied for the team lead in scoring with 13 points on three goals and seven assists. The seven assists ranked her third in the league and tied her for second on the Titan single-season list. The 2007 Big West Defender of the Year is one of nine Titans to be named to at least three All-Big West teams and one of only eight with a pair of first-team kudos. Outside of campus life, Jenae has coached a local high school team for the last four years. A business and marketing major, Jenae hopes to play soccer in Europe and pursue a career in the hospitality industry, specifically hotel management and event planning.

Jaclyn Rymer, Cal State Northridge (Bakersfield, Calif.) – Jaclyn earned All-Big West First Team honors in 2008 on the heels of receiving second team accolades as a freshman in 2007. One of the toughest outs in the country, she struck out only eight times all of last season. In addition, she hit a team-leading .400 in Big West play. In the community, Jaclyn was a volunteer for Mastering Abilities Riding Equines, helping people with disabilities through therapeutic horseback riding. She also volunteered with Heartfelt, an organization that served underprivileged kids. Jaclyn also utilized her sports backgrounds as an intern in the Athletic Media Relations office at CSUN. The journalism major aspires to be involved in magazine publication, learn to play the piano, travel to Australia and Spain, and improve her kick-boxing skills upon graduation.

Lauren Sims, Long Beach State (Fullerton, Calif.) – Lauren has accumulated a plethora of academic honors while a member of the women's basketball team. In addition to belonging to the President's Honor Roll and the Golden Key International Honors Society, Sims was named a CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District VIII Second Team member in 2007-08 and 2008-09. She also received the NCAA Student-Athlete National Conference Participant Award in 2008. On the court, the team captain ranks seventh all-time in school history in three-point field goal percentage. Lauren led the Big West in that category with a .382 mark in 2007-08. She also finds time to serve in a number of volunteer capacities, including the St. Mary's Medical Center Clinical Care Extender, Southern California Special Olympics, Long Beach marathon and the Big West Charity Coin Drive. Her post-graduation goals include medical school and volunteering abroad with Doctors Without Borders.

Randi Schuler, UC Davis (Woodland, Calif.) – Randi's interests are as involved and varied as her accomplishments on the tennis court. She earned All-Big West First Team honors in singles and Honorable Mention plaudits in doubles in 2008 as well as being named the UC Davis Team MVP. The team's captain and an English/Pre-Med major, Randi has made the UC Davis Dean's List and Intercollegiate Athletics Honor Roll for four consecutive quarters. She originally wrote a short story that she eventually expanded into a full-length fantasy novel titled *Lords of Power*. Randi completed the novel in summer 2007 and is currently in the editing process before meeting with a literary agent to discuss publication. She intends for the book to be the first in a planned trilogy. Randi has volunteered at the UC Davis Medical Center and Cats About Town Society (CATS), a feline rescue organization to help find homes for cats who otherwise would be euthanized. Her future goals include entering medical school, becoming a spine surgeon and continuing to write fiction.

Lauren Kellerman, UC Irvine (Escondido, Calif.) – The American Volleyball Coaches Association named Lauren a 2008 Division I Honorable Mention All-American after she recorded 349 kills, 259 digs and 38 total blocks. She is just the third Ant eater to earn All-America honors. Lauren has compiled four all-conference selections and three Big West Player of the Week awards during her career. A four-time Academic All-American, she is interested in pursuing law school. The sociology major and management minor is active in the community as well, coaching and serving as a mentor to the girls in the Orange County Volleyball Association and Community & Youth Programs Sports Camps through UCI. Kellerman also served as an English tutor in Italy during a study abroad experience this past year.

Danielle Evans, UC Riverside (Pomona, Calif.) – Danielle has lettered three years with the Highlander cross country and track and field program, earning All-Conference in the 800 meters event. She was a regional qualifier in the 800m and finished 12th at the Big West Cross Country Championship. In addition, she serves as the Student Athlete Advisory Committee President and with the CCSA Board. She also performs with the Young Adult choir at her church. An Economics major, Danielle has her sights set on law school after graduation.

Katy Freeman, UC Santa Barbara (Concord, Calif.) – Katy has enjoyed a decorated career as a Gaucho swimmer, earning 2008 Honorable Mention accolades in the 200 breaststroke. She also won titles in the 100 breast, 200 breast and 200 IM at the 2008 Big West Championships and earned 2006 Big West Freshman of the Year honors. Katy earned All-American honors at the NCAA Championships and finished 10th overall at the 2008 Olympic Trials. Selected to represent the United States at the 2009 World University Games, Katy balances her athletic career with strong academics, evidenced by being named a 2008 Academic All-American and a recipient of the 2008 Golden Eagle Ring Award. A sociocultural linguistics major, Katy has been accepted into Teach for America following graduation.

Meghan Mullen, Pacific (South San Francisco, Calif.) – Meghan competed for four years on the Tiger women's cross country team, running a personal-best 23:38 in the 6K at the Chico Invitational in 2006. She has earned numerous academic awards, including Pacific Scholar-Athlete, Pacific Athletic Director's Honor Roll and Big West Scholar-Athlete. A political science major, Meghan is active with community activities that include Adopt-A-Family, Trick or Treat on Weber Street, the Big West Coin Drive and Pacific Sports Day. Meghan also has garnered the Pacific Tigers Leadership Award and is president of the Honor Society Mortar Board. She aims to pursue a career in politics.