



2018 Big West Track & Field



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Five Schools Head South For Triton Invitational: A quintet of Big West schools have made the Triton Invitational their meet of choice for this weekend's competition. Cal State Fullerton, CSUN, Long Beach State, UC Irvine and UC Santa Barbara all will send contingents to the two-day meet in La Jolla.

Remainder Of Schedule: In other action this week, CSF also will send squad members to the Highlander Twilight and Cerritos Invitational. UC Riverside, as host of the Highlander Twilight, welcomes in Southern Utah and Azusa Pacific in addition to CSF. UC Davis is also hosting its own Woody Wilson Classic. Cal Poly is the lone Big West squad competing in the Rafer Johnson/Jackie Joyner-Kersey Invitational. Brooke Tjerrild will attempt to win for the fifth straight time in the pole vault in as many competitions.

Record Breaker: UC Irvine junior Barbara Coward's improvement in the women's hammer dovetailed into a school record performance last Friday at the Big West Challenge. On her home track at Anteater Stadium, Coward uncorked a mammoth throw of 187-07 to establish a UCI record, breaking Bridget Devaney's two-year old record of 182-05. Coward ranks first in the Big West in that event, as well as the discus, which she also won at the Big West Challenge with a season-best throw of 169-03.

Davis, Smith Run Fast At Big West Challenge: Long Beach State junior Courtne' Davis tied her personal best of 11.50 in the 100-meter dash to win the event at the Big West Challenge last weekend. That time ranks No. 1 in the Big West. She leads a strong Beach sprinter corps that sports the No. 1 conference performer in the 100-meters, 200-meters, 400-meters, 4x100 relay and 4x400 relay. On the men's side, Cal State Fullerton junior Thaddeus Smith, who is the Big West co-leader in the 100-meters, took over the top spot on the 200-meter leaderboard with a time of 21.00 at the Big West Challenge.

Big West Athletes Rank Nationally: The Big West features some of the nation's top performers in a variety of track and field events, based on reported marks in Track & Field Reporting Results System (TFRRS). Six women and five men are appearing in the national top 25 entering this week's meets. UC Santa Barbara senior Jenna Hinkle is the lone Big West athlete to be represented in two events – No. 13 in the 1,500 meters (4:19.11 at Aztec Invitational) and No. 18 in the 5,000 meters (16:07.85 at Stanford Invitational). Along with Hinkle, the other highest nationally ranked Big West female athletes are CSUN freshman De'Andrea Young and Hawai'i sophomore Lily Lowe. Young achieved her No. 13 mark in the 400 hurdles at the Stanford Invitational after clocking a 58.15. Lowe's signature event, the high jump, resulted in a distance of 5-10.00 at the Rainbow Relays. On the men's side, Cal Poly senior Swarnjit Boyal is No. 16 nationally in the 10,000 meters as he ran 29:05.54 at the Stanford Invitational. Joining him atop the list of Big West men's competitors is UC Davis sophomore Steven Childs, who leapt 25-05.25 in the long jump at the Titan Team Challenge.

BIG WEST NATIONAL RANKINGS – TOP 25 ONLY

WOMEN

Name, School	Event	Time/Mark	Rank	Meet
Jenna Hinkle, UC Santa Barbara	1500m	4:19.11	13	Aztec Invitational
Jenna Hinkle, UC Santa Barbara	5000m	16:07.85	18	Stanford Invitational
De'Andrea Young, CSUN	400 Hurdles	58.15	13	Stanford Invitational
Hope Bender, UC Santa Barbara	400 Hurdles	58.68	17	Big West Challenge
Lily Lowe, Hawai'i	High Jump	5-10.00	13	Rainbow Relays
Brooke Tjerrild, Cal Poly	Pole Vault	13-07.25	20	Cal Poly Invitational
Kiely Gode, UC Santa Barbara	Long Jump	20-02.50	24	Aztec Invitational

MEN

Name, School	Event	Time/Mark	Rank	Meet
Swarnjit Boyal, Cal Poly	10,000m	29:05.54	16	Stanford Invitational
Steven Childs, UC Davis	Long Jump	25-05.25	16	Titan Team Challenge
Kordell Hampton, UC Santa Barbara	Discus	186-09	17	Aztec Open
Jonathan Broadhead, Long Beach State	Decathlon	6,822 points	23	UCR Spring Break Classic
Drake Foote, UC Davis	Decathlon	6,759 points	24	Hornet Invitational

Big West Track & Field Championship Visits CSUN: CSUN will serve as the host of the 2018 Big West Track and Field Championships. The Matadors last hosted the event in 2013. The Matador Track & Field Complex will host the multi-events competition on May 4-5 and the full portion of the meet on May 11-12. FOX Prime Ticket will air four hours of coverage on Saturday, May 12, beginning at 2:00 p.m. (PT) and continuing through the awards ceremony for both winning squads.

Upcoming Schedule

Friday, April 13

- Cal State Fullerton at Highlander Twilight (Riverside, CA)
- Cal State Fullerton at Triton Invitational (La Jolla, CA)
- Cal State Fullerton at Cerritos Invitational (Cerritos, CA)
- CSUN at Triton Invitational (La Jolla, CA)
- Long Beach State at Triton Invitational (La Jolla, CA)
- UC Davis at Woody Wilson Classic (Davis, CA)
- UC Irvine at Triton Invitational (La Jolla, CA)
- UC Riverside at Highlander Twilight (Riverside, CA)
- UC Santa Barbara at Triton Invitational (La Jolla, CA)

Saturday, April 14

- Cal Poly at Rafer Johnson/Jackie Joyner-Kersey Invite (Los Angeles, CA)
- Cal State Fullerton at Triton Invitational (La Jolla, CA)
- Cal State Fullerton at Cerritos Invitational (Cerritos, CA)
- CSUN at Triton Invitational (La Jolla, CA)
- Long Beach State at Triton Invitational (La Jolla, CA)
- UC Davis at Woody Wilson Classic (Davis, CA)
- UC Irvine at Triton Invitational (La Jolla, CA)
- UC Santa Barbara at Triton Invitational (La Jolla, CA)

2018 Big West Track & Field Athletes Of The Week

BIG WEST CHALLENGE COMPETITORS NET TRACK & FIELD WEEKLY HONORS

A representative from each of the four competing schools – Cal State Fullerton, Long Beach State, UC Irvine and UC Santa Barbara – at the 26th annual Big West Challenge earned Track and Field Athlete of the Week distinction.

Cal State Fullerton junior **Thaddeus Smith** (Pasadena, Calif./Damien HS) earned his third career Big West Men's Track Athlete of the Week award as he helped the Titans to the team title at the Big West Challenge. Smith won both the 100-meter and 200-meter dash for the second week in a row. In the 100m, he clocked 10.57. His time of 21.00 in the 200m represented the fastest in the Big West this year and placed him at No. 20 in the West Region. Smith, who won the award twice as a freshman, also competed in the 4x400 relay, and helped the Titan quartet to a season-best time of 3:12.53 for second place in the event.

Earning her first career Big West Women's Track Athlete of the Week award, UC Santa Barbara junior **Hope Bender** (Newport Beach, Calif./Newport Harbor HS) contributed to the school's third straight Big West Challenge team title. Bender did her work in the hurdles, winning both the 100-meter and 400-meter races. She really impressed in the 400-meter hurdles with a season-best time of 58.68 seconds – the No. 2 mark in the Big West this season. Bender won the event by nearly a whopping four seconds, and shaved time off her No. 2 all-time mark at UCSB (58.87) to inch closer to the school record of 58.32 by Amanda Rodriguez in 2013. Bender also won the 100-meter hurdles rather handily in 13.86 seconds, trailing her season-best and No. 1 Big West mark of 13.62 set on Mar. 31 at the Legends Invitational.

Long Beach State junior **Nico Hudson** (Hanford, Calif./Kings Christian HS) became the first two-time winner of Big West Men's Field Athlete of the Week honors this season with a pair of solid performances in the hammer throw and discus. Hudson captured gold in the hammer at the Big West Challenge with a heave of 201-04 (61.36m), surpassing the 200-foot mark for the first time in his career. He is also just the eighth 49er in program history to break the 200-foot plateau. That mark is also No. 2 in the Big West, No. 24 in the West Region and No. 54 nationally. The performance bettered his previous PR by eight feet, seven inches. Hudson also notched a third place finish in the discus with a throw of 170-04 (51.93m). He set another lifetime best with that effort, improving by two and a half feet.

Junior **Barbara Coward** (Atwater, Calif./Buhach Colony HS) is UC Irvine's first honoree this year as she captured Big West Women's Field Athlete of the Week accolades after landing at the top of the conference leaderboard in the hammer and discus. Coward was a double champion at the Big West Challenge. She recorded two personal records in the hammer competition. Coward posted a 181-08 on her third attempt before exploding for a toss of 187-07 on her fourth and final throw. She shattered her PR coming into the meet by over 10 feet and broke the UCI record of 182-05 set by Bridget Devaney two years ago. Coward's throw is 35th in the NCAA West Region. A couple of hours later, Coward returned to win in the discus with a season-best and conference-leading toss of 169-03, leading the rest of the Big West by over eight feet. It was the second straight year she took gold in the discus at the Big West Challenge.

Others nominated (Men's Track): T'Jari Packard (CSUN); Michael Kojin (UC Riverside); Myles McDonald (UC Santa Barbara)

Others nominated (Women's Track): Samantha Huerta (Cal State Fullerton); Sydney Mosley (CSUN); Courtne' Davis (Long Beach State); Persis William-Mensah (UC Irvine)

Others nominated (Men's Field): Dwayne Lee (Cal State Fullerton); Daniel Swarbrick (CSUN); Kordell Hampton (UC Santa Barbara)

Others nominated (Women's Field): Caice Lanovaz (Cal Poly); Laura Hamann (Cal State Fullerton); Sydney Berry (CSUN); Kayla Thayer (UC Santa Barbara)

Big West Track & Field Athletes of the Week

<u>Track Athlete of the Week - Male</u>				<u>Track Athlete of the Week - Female</u>			
Date	Athlete, School	Yr.	Event(s)	Date	Athlete, School	Yr.	Event(s)
3/6	Rasaun House, Cal State Fullerton	Fr.	100m, 200m, 4x100m	3/6	Mikaela Adolphus, UC Davis	So.	200m, 400m, 4x400 Relay
3/13	Sean McDermott, Cal Poly	Jr.	3,000m Steeplechase	3/13	Maddie McDonald, Cal Poly	Sr.	3,000m Steeplechase
3/20	Anthony Easter, UC Davis	Fr.	110mH, 400mH, 4x400 Relay	3/20	Courtne' Davis, Long Beach State	Jr.	100m, 200m, 4x100 Relay
3/27	Sike Azu-Ironi, UC Santa Barbara	Sr.	100m, 200m	3/27	Jenna Hinkle, UC Santa Barbara	Sr.	800m, 1500m
4/3	Swarnjit Boyal, Cal Poly	Sr.	10,000m	4/3	De'Andrea Young, CSUN	Fr.	400mH
4/10	Thaddeus Smith, Cal State Fullerton	Jr.	100m, 200m, 4x400 Relay	4/10	Hope Bender, UC Santa Barbara	Jr.	100mH, 400mH
4/17				4/17			
4/24				4/24			
5/1				5/1			
<u>Field Athlete of the Week - Male</u>				<u>Field Athlete of the Week - Female</u>			
Date	Athlete, School	Yr.	Event(s)	Date	Athlete, School	Yr.	Event(s)
3/6	Nico Hudson, Long Beach State	Jr.	Hammer, Discus	3/6	Brooke Tjerrild, Cal Poly	Fr.	Pole Vault
3/13	Josh Carr, Long Beach State	Jr.	Hammer, Discus	3/13	Erykah McNairy, Long Beach State	So.	Hammer
3/20	Steven Childs, UC Davis	Jr.	Long Jump	3/20	Bria Palmer, Long Beach State	Jr.	High Jump
3/27	Erick Loomis, CSUN	Jr.	Hammer	3/27	Brooke Tjerrild, Cal Poly	Fr.	Pole Vault
4/3	Steven Childs, UC Davis	Jr.	Long Jump	4/3	Naiah Boardingham, Cal State Fullerton	So.	Long Jump
4/10	Nico Hudson, Long Beach State	Jr.	Hammer, Discus	4/10	Barbara Coward, UC Irvine	Jr.	Hammer, Discus
4/17				4/17			
4/24				4/24			
5/1				5/1			