

For Immediate Release
Baseball

May 20, 2003

Cal State Fullerton's Costa and Long Beach State's Alvarez and Weaver Earn Top Billing

IRVINE, Calif. – The 2003 Big West Baseball All-Conference Team was announced today, and headlining the group was Cal State Fullerton outfielder **Shane Costa** (Visalia, Calif.) and Long Beach State pitchers **Abe Alvarez** (Fontana, Calif.) and **Jered Weaver** (Simi Valley, Calif.). Costa was named Big West Player of the Year while Alvarez and Weaver were named Big West Co-Pitchers of the Year. Long Beach State's **Mike Weathers** earned Big West Coach of the Year in only his second year as 49er skipper.

Costa helped Cal State Fullerton to the league's best regular season record (43-13), batting .382 with 24 doubles, four home runs, 50 RBI and 26 stolen bases. The junior finished first in the league in doubles and stolen bases, second in batting average, third in hits (87) and fourth in RBI. Costa was a first team All-Big West selection last season and had been named Big West Player of the Week on five occasions, including twice this season. He ranks in the top 10 all-time in conference history in doubles (59) and triples (11). Costa is the first Titan player since Spencer Oborn in 1999 to earn top individual honors.

Weaver and Alvarez became the nation's first-ever duo from the same team to garner conference co-pitcher of the year honors. Alvarez, last season's Pitcher of the Year, became the first individual in Big West history to earn top pitching honors for two straight years. The duo combined for a 22-3 record (Weaver 12-3, Alvarez 10-0) and finished second and third in conference in ERA (Weaver 2.11, Alvarez 2.48), respectively. Weaver led the Big West in strikeouts (125), wins and innings pitched (110.2), while holding batters to a league-low .183 average. The sophomore right-hander earned Big West Pitcher of the Week honors four times this season. Alvarez, a junior left-hander, finished tied for third in wins, fifth in strikeouts (86) and averaged 6.78 innings per game, which was second-highest in the Big West. Alvarez is on pace to become the fourth hurler in conference annals to go undefeated with a minimum of 10 decisions.

Weathers earned Big West Coach of the Year after guiding his ballclub to its first Big West championship since 1998. In only his second season at the helm, Weathers led the program to its third straight season of 35-plus wins and third consecutive postseason appearance. Against arguably the toughest schedule in the nation, Long Beach State went 16-10 against top 25 opponents, including series victories over LSU, Baylor and UC Riverside. The 49ers lost only one series this season to a non-Big West school (Arizona State). The 49ers also led the nation in fielding percentage and ranked in the top five in earned run average. Weathers is the first 49er skipper since Dave Snow in 1997 to garner top conference coaching acclaim.

- more -

2003 Big West Baseball All-Conference Teams

First Team

<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>B-T</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Todd Jennings	Long Beach State	6-0	R-R	Jr.	C	Orangevale, Calif.
Kevin Mangels	UC Riverside	6-5	R-R	Jr.	1B	Danville, Calif.
Adam Leavitt	Cal Poly	5-9	R-R	Jr.	2B	Thousand Oaks, Calif.
Tony Festa	UC Riverside	6-2	L-R	Jr.	3B	Danville, Calif.
Randy Blood	UC Riverside	5-10	L-R	Sr.	SS	Costa Mesa, Calif.
Shane Costa	Cal State Fullerton	6-1	L-R	Jr.	OF	Visalia, Calif.
Ryan Harvey	UC Riverside	6-0	R-R	Jr.	OF	Riverside, Calif.
Brian Wahlbrink	UC Riverside	6-3	R-R	Sr.	OF	Anaheim, Calif.
Brad Davis	Long Beach State	6-2	R-R	So.	UT	Mission Viejo, Calif.
Cory Lake	Pacific	5-10	R-R	Sr.	DH	Kennewick, Wash.
Abe Alvarez	Long Beach State	6-3	L-L	Jr.	SP	Fontana, Calif.
Jaymie Torres	UC Riverside	5-11	R-R	Jr.	SP	Riverside, Calif.
Jered Weaver	Long Beach State	6-6	R-R	So.	SP	Simi Valley, Calif.
Chad Cordero	Cal State Fullerton	6-0	R-R	Jr.	RP	Chino, Calif.

Second Team

<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>B-T</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Brian Emmons	UC Riverside	6-3	R-R	Sr.	C	Norco, Calif.
Richie Burgos	Cal State Fullerton	6-0	L-R	Jr.	1B	Glendora, Calif.
Justin Turner	Cal State Fullerton	5-11	R-R	Fr.	2B	Lakewood, Calif.
Adam Heether	Long Beach State	6-1	R-R	Jr.	3B	Ripon, Calif.
Troy Tulowitzki	Long Beach State	6-2	R-R	Fr.	SS	Sunnyvale, Calif.
Danny Dorn	Cal State Fullerton	6-2	L-L	Fr.	OF	Diamond Bar, Calif.
Sam Herbert	Cal Poly	5-10	R-R	Jr.	OF	Davis, Calif.
Chris Klemm	UC Irvine	6-2	L-L	Sr.	OF	Whittier, Calif.
Mark Wagner	UC Irvine	6-0	R-R	Fr.	UT	Lakewood, Calif.
Nic Rodriguez	UC Santa Barbara	5-11	S-R	Sr.	DH	Albuquerque, N.M.
A.J. Shappi	UC Riverside	6-2	R-R	So.	SP	Yorba Linda, Calif.
Brett Smith	UC Irvine	6-5	R-R	So.	SP	La Habra, Calif.
Jason Windsor	Cal State Fullerton	6-2	R-R	Jr.	SP	Saratoga, Calif.
Neil Jamison	Long Beach State	6-3	R-R	So.	RP	San Diego, Calif.

Honorable Mention

<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>B-T</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
P.J. Pilittere	Cal State Fullerton	6-0	R-R	Jr.	C	Walnut, Calif.
Justin Smyres	Cal State Fullerton	6-0	R-R	Sr.	SS	Paso Robles, Calif.
Kyle Boyer	Cal State Fullerton	6-1	R-R	Jr.	OF	Temecula, Calif.
Pat Breen	Cal Poly	6-3	L-L	Jr.	OF	Santa Ana, Calif.
John Bowker	Long Beach State	6-2	L-L	Fr.	OF	Sacramento, Calif.
Matt Cunningham	UC Riverside	6-2	R-R	So.	OF	Northridge, Calif.
Sergio Pedroza	Cal State Fullerton	6-0	L-R	Fr.	DH	Covina, Calif.
Wes Littleton	Cal State Fullerton	6-3	R-R	Jr.	SP	Oceanside, Calif.
Dustin Miller	Cal State Fullerton	6-4	S-R	Fr.	SP	Diamond Bar, Calif.
Leo Rosales	Cal State Northridge	6-1	R-R	Sr.	SP	Los Angeles, Calif.
Carlos Muniz	Long Beach State	6-1	R-R	Sr.	RP	Wilmington, Calif.
Steve Schroer	UC Irvine	6-2	R-R	So.	RP	San Clemente, Calif.

2003 Big West Player of the Year

Shane Costa, Cal State Fullerton

2003 Big West Co-Pitchers of the Year

Abe Alvarez, Long Beach State

Jered Weaver, Long Beach State

2003 Big West Coach of the Year

Mike Weathers, Long Beach State