



2016 Big West Baseball



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Big West All-Conference - June 1, 2016

Big West Announces Baseball Honors

Irvine, Calif. — The 2016 Big West Conference Champion, Cal State Fullerton, walked away with three top honors, while Long Beach State nabbed two and Cal Poly grabbed the final accolade. Dalton Blaser was named Big West Field Player of the Year, while his teammate Colton Eastman earned Big West Freshman Pitcher of the Year honors. Rick Vanderhook was the final Titan to be selected as he picked up yet another Big West Coach of the Year award. Long Beach State's Darren McCaughan received the distinction of Big West Pitcher of the Year, while the Dirtbags' Garrett Hampson was recognized as the Big West Defensive Player of the Year. The final honor, Big West Freshman Player of the Year, was handed out to Cal Poly's Nick Meyer.

McCaughan becomes the first Long Beach State player to earn pitcher of the year honors since Andrew Liebel received the distinction in 2008. The Downey, Calif., native currently sports a league-leading 1.98 earned run average, which ranks him 24th in the nation. In 104.1 innings pitched, McCaughan struck out 74 batters while allowing just 23 earned runs en route to a 10-1 record. He becomes the first 10-game winner for Long Beach State since Cesar Ramos won 10 games back in 2005. The two-time Big West Player of the Week honoree, who's limiting his opponents to a .191 batting average, tossed a one-hit complete game shutout against San Jose State on May 14, a first for the sophomore.

Blaser, who concluded the regular season with a conference-best .362 batting average, becomes the second straight Titan, and 14th overall, to earn Big West Field Player of the Year. Hailing from Roseville, Calif., Blaser continued to improve at the plate as the season progressed, blasting an impressive .419 batting average in conference-only contests. For the year, he notched 71 hits, 38 RBI and scored 28 runs while striking out just 18 times. The senior earned Big West Player of the Week honors after hitting .800 with three consecutive multi-hit games against UC Riverside.

Picking up Long Beach State's first-ever defensive player of the year accolade is Hampson. The shortstop from Reno, Nev., headlines a Dirtbag defense that paces the Big West and ranks 10th in the country with a team fielding percentage of .979. In 258 chances, he recorded 89 putouts and 166 assists while committing just three errors for a .988 fielding percentage. Hampson's 166 assists places him second in the Big West. The 5-11 junior is also a catalyst on offense as he currently sits first in the league with 53 runs scored and is tied for fourth in hits with Blaser, Big West Field Player of the Year, with 71.

Donning orange and blue for the first season, Eastman is already making a name for himself on the mound as he headlining the number one pitching staff in the country with a personal ERA of 2.11, second-best in the conference. The freshman from Fresno, Calif., is the third Titan in four seasons, and seventh overall, to earn the Big West Freshman Pitcher of the Year award. In 94.0 innings of work, Eastman (8-2) struck out 93 batters while allowing just 22 earned runs. He bookended his freshman campaign with Big West Player of the Week honors. In his first collegiate start, he guided CSF to its first victory at Stanford's Sunken Diamond since 2002 as he retired the first 16 batters he faced. In his final start of the regular season, with sole possession of the conference crown and the NCAA automatic qualifier on the line, Eastman allowed just one run in a career-long 8.1 innings of work to defeat rival Long Beach State. He did not walk a batter and struck out nine Dirtbags in a pressure-packed 2-1 victory.

Meyer, who started 50 of Cal Poly's 57 contests at the catcher position, finished 2016 third on the Mustangs' squad with a .301 batting average. During his freshman campaign he recorded 52 hits and 21 RBI while scoring 22 runs. His appearances at the plate became stronger as he entered conference play, owning a .337 hitting percentage in conference-only contests to rank ninth. Meyer was also dependable on defense, sporting the team's third-best fielding percentage of .982 behind the plate. His 369 putouts ranks him sixth in the league. Meyer becomes the third Mustang to garner Big West Freshman Player of the Year accolades after Matt Jensen (2009) and Mitch Haniger (2010) did so in back-to-back years.

Vanderhook collects his second consecutive, fourth overall, Big West Coach of the Year honor after guiding the Titans to their 21st Big West title with a 17-7 record. The Titans are about to embark on their 25th consecutive NCAA appearance this weekend, the third-longest active consecutive streak in the nation, as they head to the Starkville Regional to battle Mississippi State, La Tech and Southeast Missouri State. The Cal State Fullerton pitching staff will carry the nation's best ERA of 2.21 into the postseason. Vanderhook's Titans have been in and out of the polls all season and finished the regular season with a 21st ranking. Cal State Fullerton has now earned 14 coach of the year accolades.

Long Beach State paces the conference with six All-Big West First Team selections, while Big West Champion Cal State Fullerton earned three selections. UC Irvine and UC Santa Barbara nabbed two honorees apiece and Cal Poly and UC Riverside garnered one award each.

The complete 2016 All-Big West selections are on the following page.

2016 Big West All-Conference Team

2016 BIG WEST FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Dalton Blaser, Cal State Fullerton

2016 BIG WEST FRESHMAN FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Nick Meyer, Cal Poly

2016 BIG WEST PITCHER OF THE YEAR

Darren McCaughan, Long Beach State

2016 BIG WEST FRESHMAN PITCHER OF THE YEAR

Colton Eastman, Cal State Fullerton

2016 BIG WEST DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Garrett Hampson, Long Beach State

2016 BIG WEST COACH OF THE YEAR

Rick Vanderhook, Cal State Fullerton

FIRST TEAM

Player	School	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown
David Banuelos	Long Beach State	5-10	200	So.	C	Ontario, Calif.
Tanner Pinkston	Cal State Fullerton	6-6	240	Sr.	1B	Dublin, Calif.
Cole Kreuter	UC Irvine	6-0	182	So.	2B	Santa Barbara, Calif.
Zach Domingues	Long Beach State	5-10	175	Sr.	3B	Visalia, Calif.
Garrett Hampson	Long Beach State	5-11	185	Jr.	SS	Reno, Nev.
Dalton Blaser	Cal State Fullerton	6-1	195	Sr.	OF	Roseville, Calif.
Adam Alcantara	UC Irvine	6-0	200	Jr.	OF	Alta Loma, Calif.
Vince Fernandez	UC Riverside	6-4	205	Jr.	OF	Livermore, Calif.
Luke Rasmussen	Long Beach State	6-2	210	So.	DH	Los Gatos, Calif.
Brett Barbier	Cal Poly	5-11	190	Jr.	UTL	Danville, Calif.
Colton Eastman	Cal State Fullerton	6-3	200	Fr.	SP	Fresno, Calif.
Darren McCaughan	Long Beach State	6-1	195	So.	SP	Downey, Calif.
Shane Bieber	UC Santa Barbara	6-3	195	Jr.	SP	Laguna Hills, Calif.
Austin McGeorge	Long Beach State	6-2	210	Jr.	RP	Anaheim, Calif.
Kyle Nelson	UC Santa Barbara	6-1	175	So.	CP	San Francisco, Calif.

SECOND TEAM

Player	School	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown
Nick Meyer	Cal Poly	6-0	195	Fr.	C	Mission Viejo, Calif.
Daniel Jackson	Long Beach State	6-3	215	Jr.	1B	Pleasanton, Calif.
JJ Muno	UC Santa Barbara	6-0	175	So.	2B	Hermosa Beach, Calif.
Michael Sanderson	Cal Poly	6-0	185	Jr.	3B	Chico, Calif.
Timmy Richards	Cal State Fullerton	6-0	200	Jr.	SS	Long Beach, Calif.
Brock Lundquist	Long Beach State	6-0	205	So.	OF	Fountain Valley, Calif.
Tanner Bily	UC Davis	6-1	185	Sr.	OF	Anaheim Hills, Calif.
Mark Contreras	UC Riverside	6-0	183	Jr.	OF	Moreno Valley, Calif.
Austin Bush	UC Santa Barbara	6-6	265	So.	DH	Turlock, Calif.
Jerrold Bravo	Cal State Fullerton	5-10	205	Sr.	UTL	Cameron Park, Calif.
Connor Seabold	Cal State Fullerton	6-2	185	So.	SP	Newport Beach, Calif.
Elliott Surrey	UC Irvine	6-0	190	Sr.	SP	La Crescenta, Calif.
Austin Soddors	UC Riverside	6-3	185	Jr.	SP	Riverside, Calif.
Scott Serigstad	Cal State Fullerton	6-1	190	Jr.	RP	Placentia, Calif.
Justin Calomeni	Cal Poly	6-3	210	Jr.	CP	San Jose, Calif.

HONORABLE MENTION

Player	School	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown
Kekai Rios	Hawai'i	5-11	190	Fr.	C	Kahalu'u/O'ahu
Mitchell Holland	UC Irvine	6-0	210	Sr.	1B	Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.
Branden Berry	CSUN	6-1	210	Sr.	1B	San Diego, Calif.
Kyle Marinconz	Cal Poly	5-10	185	Fr.	2B	San Jose, Calif.
Michael Farris	UC Riverside	6-3	220	Jr.	3B	Garden Grove, Calif.
Ryan Clark	UC Santa Barbara	6-0	190	Sr.	3B	Fresno, Calif.
Jacob Sheldon-Collins	Hawai'i	5-11	185	Sr.	SS	Melbourne, Victoria
Clay Fisher	UC Santa Barbara	6-1	175	So.	SS	La Quinta, Calif.
Devon Gradford	UC Santa Barbara	6-2	195	Jr.	OF	Modesto, Calif.
John Schuknecht	Cal Poly	6-0	200	Sr.	OF	Palm Desert, Calif.
Andrew Calica	UC Santa Barbara	6-1	190	Jr.	OF	Chula Vista, Calif.
Cameron Olson	UC Davis	6-0	200	Sr.	DH	Yuba City, Calif.
Spencer Henderson	UC Davis	6-4	220	Sr.	UTL	Walnut Creek, Calif.
John Gavin	Cal State Fullerton	6-6	245	So.	SP	San Jose, Calif.
Robert Garcia	UC Davis	6-4	225	Fr.	SP	Manteca, Calif.
Kyle Von Ruden	Hawai'i	6-0	200	Sr.	SP	Sacramento, Calif.
Alex Fagalde	UC Riverside	6-3	220	Jr.	RP	El Dorado Hills, Calif.
Cody Culp	Hawai'i	5-11	185	Sr.	RP	Anacortes, Wash.
Matt Valencia	Hawai'i	6-0	220	Sr.	CP	Stockton, Calif.
Dylan Prohoroff	Cal State Fullerton	6-3	215	Jr.	CP	Placentia, Calif.