



# 2009-10 Big West Men's Basketball

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***UC Santa Barbara's Johnson Earns Player of the Year Honors***

## **Big West Announces 2009-10 Men's Basketball All-Conference Team**

**IRVINE, CA** – Regular season co-champion UC Santa Barbara claimed two of the top three yearly men's basketball awards with Orlando Johnson being named Player of the Year and Bob Williams Coach of the Year. Julian Welch of UC Davis nabbed Freshman of the Year accolades to complete the unveiling of the 2009-10 Big West All-Conference Team.

Johnson becomes the second Gaucho in the last three seasons - and fifth overall - to capture Player of the Year honors. The sophomore led the Big West in scoring at 18.0 points per game. He also ranked among the league leaders in several other categories, including rebounding (5.5 rpg - 13th), field goal percentage (.485 - 6th) and three-point field goal percentage (.396 - 10th). Johnson was the only Big West player to score double-digit points in every game this season, recording 20 or more points on nine occasions. The 6-5 guard erupted for a career-high 28 points in a key road win against fellow Big West co-champion Pacific on Feb. 4. Johnson's overall scoring average is the highest-ever by a Gaucho sophomore. Equally adept at playing inside or on the perimeter, Johnson has hit at least one three-pointer in 24 of 27 games.

Welch is the second UC Davis player to garner top freshman honors since the Aggies became official Big West members in 2007. Mark Payne won the award in 2008. Welch earned the recognition after ranking fourth on the team in scoring (7.3 ppg) although six teammates averaged more minutes per game than his 18.1. On a roster dominated by the trio of Dominic Calegari, Mark Payne and Joe Harden - who average a combined 47 of the team's 70 points per game - Welch managed to lead the Aggies in scoring three times. He exploded for a career-high 25 points at Cal Poly on Jan. 10, making 8 of 13 shots overall and 5 of 6 from three-point range. He also had 19 points in an upset win over Pacific on Feb. 10, snapping UCD's 49-game losing streak against its northern California rival.

Williams was named Coach of the Year for the third time in his 12 seasons at UC Santa Barbara. He also earned the honor in the 1998-99 and 2002-03 seasons. Williams led the Gauchos to an overall mark of 18-9 and a Big West regular season co-championship, which UCSB shared with Pacific at 12-4 in league play. The Gauchos collected their fourth regular season title under Williams, who led them to a three-way title in 2007-08 and the outright crown in 2002-03. Williams also guided UCSB to a Big West Western Division title in 1998-99. Williams is 197-155 at UCSB, and is tied for fifth all-time for most overall wins by a Big West coach. His Gauchos are the No. 1 seed in this week's Big West Tournament.

The Big West All-First Team features one repeat selection from the 2008-09 squad in UC Riverside junior **Kyle Austin**. Austin was the top scorer in conference games only at 19.4 points per game. Joining Austin and UCSB's Johnson on the team is Cal State Fullerton senior **Gerard Anderson**, Pacific senior **Joe Ford**, Cal Poly senior **Lorenzo Keeler** and Long Beach State sophomore **T.J. Robinson**.

The complete 2009-10 Big West men's basketball all-conference team is on the following page.

## 2009-10 BIG WEST MEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

### FIRST TEAM

Player	School	Ht.	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown
Gerard Anderson	Cal State Fullerton	6-6	Sr.	F	Los Angeles, Calif.
+Kyle Austin	UC Riverside	6-8	Jr.	F	Pasadena, Calif.
Joe Ford	Pacific	6-6	Sr.	F	Altadena, Calif.
Orlando Johnson	UC Santa Barbara	6-5	So.	G	Seaside, Calif.
Lorenzo Keeler	Cal Poly	6-2	Sr.	G	Escondido, Calif.
T.J. Robinson	Long Beach State	6-8	So.	F	West Haven, Conn.

### SECOND TEAM

Player	School	Ht.	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown
Dominic Calegari	UC Davis	6-10	Sr.	F	Berkeley, Calif.
Joe Harden	UC Davis	6-8	Jr.	G	Acampo, Calif.
James Nunnally	UC Santa Barbara	6-5	So.	F	San Jose, Calif.
Casper Ware	Long Beach State	5-10	So.	G	Cerritos, Calif.
Eric Wise	UC Irvine	6-5	So.	F	Riverside, Calif.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Player	School	Ht.	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown
Lenny Daniel	Cal State Northridge	6-7	Jr.	F	Richmond, Va.
Kenny Daniels	Cal State Northridge	6-4	Sr.	G/F	St. Louis, Mo.
David Hanson	Cal Poly	6-5	So.	F	Plymouth, Minn.
Michael Hunter	UC Irvine	5-10	Sr.	G	Aurora, Colo.
Jer'Vaughn Johnson	Cal State Fullerton	6-6	Jr.	F	Compton, Calif.
Jacques Streeter	Cal State Fullerton	6-0	So.	G	Los Angeles, Calif.
Sam Willard	Pacific	6-9	Jr.	F	Pierre, S.D.
Demetrece Young	Pacific	5-11	Jr.	G	Oklahoma City, Okla.

### ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM

Player	School	Ht.	Pos.	Hometown
Allen Huddleston	Pacific	6-1	G	Merced, Calif.
Lateef McMullan	UC Riverside	5-11	G	Gastonia, N.C.
Kyle Odister	Cal Poly	6-0	G	Sacramento, Calif.
Ryan Sypkens	UC Davis	6-4	G	Elk Grove, Calif.
Julian Welch	UC Davis	6-3	G	Elk Grove, Calif.

+ Two-time All-Big West First Team selection

### 2009-10 BIG WEST PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Orlando Johnson, UC Santa Barbara

### 2009-10 BIG WEST FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

Julian Welch, UC Davis

### 2009-10 BIG WEST COACH OF THE YEAR

Bob Williams, UC Santa Barbara