



2010 BIG WEST SOFTBALL

Big West Conference - 2 Corporate Park, Suite 206, Irvine, CA 92606

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Cal Poly Named Preseason Softball Favorite in Tight Coaches Poll

IRVINE, CALIF. – In what could be one of the closest Big West races in recent memory, defending champion Cal Poly was named the favorite to claim the conference softball title in a tight vote of the league's eight head coaches.

The Mustangs received four first place votes on the way to 56 points, with second place Long Beach State nabbing one first place vote and 51 points. Just one point behind the 49ers was Cal State Fullerton, which grabbed two first place votes. UC Santa Barbara came in fourth place with 43 points, while Cal State Northridge grabbed the final first place vote on the way to 28 tallies for the fifth position. UC Davis came in sixth with 25 points, while Pacific (19) and UC Riverside (16) wrapped up the 2010 preseason poll.

Cal Poly, which won its second Big West title in three years in 2009, set program DI records for overall (41) and conference victories (18) and also won its first postseason game at the Division I level. **Jenny Condon**, the 2009 Big West Coach of the Year, returns four position starters, two starting pitchers and nine letterwinners to the diamond in 2010. Headlining the returnees is multipurpose threat junior **Anna Cahn**, the 2009 Big West Pitcher of the Year, 2009 third team Easton All-American and first team All-Big West selection as a pitcher and utility player. Cahn went 28-7 with a 1.80 ERA and 160 strikeouts in 252.2 innings in the circle, while batting .338 with six homers, 41 RBI, 30 walks and 53 hits. The Mustangs are also buoyed by the return of 2009 Big West first teamer senior **Krysten Cary** (.270 BA, 14 HR, 42 RBI) and 2009 second team All-Conference selections senior **Helen Peña** (12-5, 1.45 ERA, 78 K, 111.1 IP) and junior **Stephanie Correia** (.260 BA, 2 HR, 16 RBI).

Long Beach State made its second NCAA appearance under **Kim Sowder** a year ago, going 35-21 overall and 15-6 in Big West play. The 49ers have five position starters, three pitchers and 13 letterwinners returning to the field in 2010. The strength of the LBSU roster is the pitching staff, headlined by junior **Brooke Turner** and sophomore **Taylor Petty**. Turner, a first team All-Big West choice in 2008 and second teamer in 2009, was 18-13 with a 2.35 ERA, six shutouts, 22 complete games and 157 strikeouts in 185.0 innings. Petty, a first team All-Big West selection a year ago, was named Co-Freshman Pitcher of the Year after going 15-4 with a 1.39 ERA, four shutouts, 15 complete games and 134 strikeouts in 150.2 innings. Offensively, LBSU must replace a majority of its lineup due to graduation but has a returning first team All-Star in **Ashley Weber** (.317 BA, 24 R, 53 H, 9 2B, 17 RBI, 26 SH). Sowder is looking for a heralded newcomer class to add offensive punch in the 49er push for the postseason.

Cal State Fullerton made the 27th postseason appearance in program history a year ago, bouncing back from a sub-.500 2008 season to go 30-21 overall and 17-4 in Big West in 2009. The Titans have a solid core in place for the 2010 season as four position starters, three starting pitchers and 10 letterwinners return to the fold. Leading the charge for CSF's ninth conference championship is 2009 first team All-Big West selection junior **Ari Cerventes**. She was one of two 20-game winners a season ago and also posted a 2.23 ERA with 127 strikeouts in 225.2 innings. Cerventes isn't the only outstanding performer in the circle for the Titans as honorable mention All-Big West honoree sophomore **Krystal Heinle** returns. She went 10-8 with a 2.82 ERA and 91 strikeouts in 121.2 innings. Head coach **Michelle Gromacki** is looking for offensive stars in the class of nine newcomers, but still has capable bats in first team All-Conference choice junior **Torrie Anderson** (.284 BA, 11 HR, 35 RBI, 28 R) and junior **Trina Harrison** (6 HR, 20 RBI).

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2010 BIG WEST PRESEASON SOFTBALL COACHES POLL		
No.	Team	Pts.
1.	Cal Poly (4)	56
2.	Long Beach State (1)	51
3.	Cal State Fullerton (2)	50
4.	UC Santa Barbara	43
5.	Cal State Northridge (1)	28
6.	UC Davis	25
7.	Pacific	19
8.	UC Riverside	16

First-place votes are in parentheses