



BIG WEST WOMEN'S SOCCER

Big West Conference - 2 Corporate Park, Suite 206, Irvine, CA 92606
Women's Soccer Contact: Mike Villamor (Information Director)
Phone: (949) 261-2525 • Fax: (949) 261-2528 • email: mvillamor@bigwest.org

Preseason Poll Release - Wednesday, August 10, 2011

UC Irvine Favored To Win Women's Soccer Title

IRVINE, CA – The nine Big West women's soccer coaches selected UC Irvine to capture the regular season championship in 2011 as the conference released its annual preseason poll today.

The Anteaters collected seven of the nine first-place votes with Pacific and Cal Poly receiving one first-place vote apiece. UC Irvine garnered 78 overall points followed by Long Beach State with 70. The coaches predicted a logjam in the middle of the pack as only eight points separated third through sixth place. Cal State Northridge was picked to finish third with 52 points, while Pacific was fourth with 51 points. UC Santa Barbara finished with 48 points for fifth place and Cal Poly received 44 points for sixth. Cal State Fullerton (34 points), UC Davis (18) and UC Riverside (10) rounded out the poll, respectively.

UC Irvine is coming off an incredible 2010 season, the best in school history. The Anteaters finished 19-3-2 and advanced to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA Tournament, matching the Big West record for most overall wins and deepest postseason run. UCI also was the first women's soccer program to complete the conference ledger unbeaten and untied, winning the regular season crown with an 8-0-0 record. The Anteaters finished No. 14 in the final National Soccer Coaches Association of America poll and produced the school's first All-Americans in **CoCo Goodson** and Tanya Taylor.

The Anteaters open 2011 with a preseason ranking of No. 17 in the NSCAA poll. All-Big West First Team selections Goodson, senior **Judy Christopher** and junior **Mar Rodriguez** form a solid nucleus of seven returning starters. Goodson, the 2010 Big West Defensive Player of the Year, led the league circuit with five game-winning goals and ranked second with nine scores overall. Rodriguez and senior **Lexi Kopf** tied for ninth with six goals apiece, giving 2010 Big West Coach of the Year **Scott Juniper** plenty of scoring options. Juniper also welcomes a pair of heralded transfers in **Natalia Ledezma** (UCLA) and **Mady Solow** (Florida).

Long Beach State provided the only blemish on UC Irvine's otherwise perfect Big West report card in 2010. The 49ers knocked off the Anteaters on their home pitch in the Big West Tournament championship game. The triumph secured LBSU a trip to the NCAA Tournament as the league's automatic qualifier and tied the school record for wins with 14. With designs on overtaking UCI, the 49ers will look to All-Big West First Team performers **Shawna Gordon** and **Nadia Link** as the starting points. Gordon tied for eighth in the Big West with 15 points (4 g, 7 a) while Link's eight goals tied her for third-most among scorers.

Cal State Northridge returns a pair of all-conference standouts in senior defender **Brielle Slepcoff** and junior goalkeeper **Cynthia Jacobo** to build upon last year's tie for third in the regular season standings and Big West Tournament berth.

Pacific returns a core of seniors in **Angelica Figueroa**, **Kristina Wavomba** and **Alex Topp**, who helped the Tigers reach the league tournament last season. The Tigers also feature defender **Brittni Beeman**, the 2010 Big West Freshman of the Year.

The 2011 season begins on Friday, August 19.

###

2011 Big West Women's Soccer Preseason Coaches Poll		
No.	School	Pts.
1.	UC Irvine (7)	78
2.	Long Beach State	70
3.	Cal State Northridge	52
4.	Pacific (1)	51
5.	UC Santa Barbara	48
6.	Cal Poly (1)	44
7.	Cal State Fullerton	34
8.	UC Davis	18
9.	UC Riverside	10
() First-place votes		