



# 2017 Big West Women's Water Polo

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

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**For Immediate Release - Wednesday, May 3, 2017**

## **UC Irvine, Long Beach State Earn Premier Awards**

IRVINE, CA – UC Irvine and Long Beach State representatives landed the major awards to highlight the announcement of the 2017 Big West Women's Water Polo All-Conference Team.

UC Irvine junior utility Mary Brooks headlined the recipients as two-time Player of the Year while Anteater mentor Dan Klatt earned Coach of the Year honors. The Freshman of the Year award went to Long Beach State goalkeeper Eirini Patras.

Brooks (Fresno, Calif./Clovis West HS) is just the second repeat Big West Player of the Year and she is the sixth Anteater recipient. This is Brooks' third award in three years after also garnering Big West Freshman of the Year honors in 2015. The junior led UCI with 63 goals on the year, including a season-high six scores against UC Davis in the semifinals of the Big West Tournament. Brooks then went on to net four goals in the title game to help the Anteaters to a thrilling 8-7 sudden victory win to claim the championship and earn Most Valuable Player recognition. The junior's 2.17 goals per game average is second-best in league.

In his 13th year at the helm, Klatt led his team to its sixth Big West Tournament title and seventh regular season crown after finishing league undefeated at 5-0. The Anteaters are the only Big West program to ever finish conference play unbeaten and Klatt has helped his team to a 5-0 mark in the Big West four times. After earning the No. 1 seed, Klatt led the 'Eaters to a tournament sweep after a dominating 14-2 win versus UC Davis in the semifinals and an 8-7 sudden victory title-clincher in the finals. UCI will make its third NCAA Tournament appearance in four years after earning the No. 4 seed. This is Klatt's sixth Big West Coach of the Year honor in nine seasons as a conference-sponsored sport.

An Athens, Greece native, Patras is the first 49er to ever claim Big West Freshman of the Year accolades. The goalie led the league with 227 saves on the season for an 8.72 saves per game average. The first year helped her team to just its second appearance in the Big West Tournament title game after a couple of thrilling overtime wins. Patras led the Beach to a 7-6 OT victory over defending champion UC Santa Barbara and recorded a game-high 10 saves, then posted 14 stops in the semis to help the 49ers to an 8-7 OT win. Her 14 saves rank fourth-best in the Big West Tournament record book for stops in a single contest.

The all-conference first team features a slate of first-time honorees in Long Beach State's Christina Kotsia, CSUN's Madeleine Sanchez, UC Davis' Greta Kohlmoos and UC Irvine's Kelsey Thornton. Brooks represents the Anteaters for the second time as a first-team honoree while Hawaii's Irene Gonzalez and Chloe Barr two-time recipients for the Rainbow Wahine.

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## 2017 BIG WEST WOMEN'S WATER POLO ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

### FIRST TEAM

<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Madeleine Sanchez	CSUN	Jr.	Attacker	Murrieta, Calif.
Christina Kotsia	Long Beach State	Sr.	Defender	Athens, Greece
Eirini Patras	Long Beach State	Fr.	Goalie	Athens, Greece
Greta Kohlmoos	UC Davis	Jr.	Center	Livermore, Calif.
Mary Brooks	UC Irvine	Jr.	Utility	Fresno, Calif.
Kelsey Thornton	UC Irvine	Sr.	Attacker	San Clemente, Calif.
Chloe Barr	Hawai'i	Jr.	Utility	Adelaide, Australia
Irene Gonzalez	Hawai'i	So.	Attacker	Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

### SECOND TEAM

<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Alexandra Massier	Long Beach State	Jr.	Defender	Regina, Saskatchewan
Virginia Smith	Long Beach State	Jr.	Utility	Maple Ridge, British Columbia
Paige Virgil	UC Davis	Jr.	Utility	Murrieta, Calif.
McKenna Mitchell	UC Irvine	Sr.	Center	Santa Ana, Calif.
Annika Nelson	UC Irvine	Sr.	Goalie	Upland, Calif.
Taylor Shore	UC Santa Barbara	Sr.	Utility	Corona, Calif.
Claire Nixon	Hawai'i	Jr.	Utility	Staffordshire, England

### HONORABLE MENTION

<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Tori Morrissey	Long Beach State	So.	Attacker	Maroubra, New South Wales
Gabby Pierandozzi	UC Irvine	Sr.	Defender	Whittier, Calif.
Cambria Shockley	UC Irvine	Sr.	Defender	Diamond Bar, Calif.
Kate Pipkin	UC Santa Barbara	So.	Utility	Costa Mesa, Calif.
Femke Aan	Hawai'i	So.	Utility	Oostzaan, North Holland, Netherlands
Carla Abellan	Hawai'i	So.	Attacker	Sabadell, Catalonia, Spain

### 2017 BIG WEST PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Mary Brooks, UC Irvine

### 2017 BIG WEST FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

Eirini Patras, Long Beach State

### 2017 BIG WEST COACH OF THE YEAR

Dan Klatt, UC Irvine