



2010 BIG WEST CROSS COUNTRY

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

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UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara Each Claim Two Major Cross Country Honors *Cal Poly and UC Irvine Also Nab Awards*

IRVINE, CALIF. – UC Davis and UC Santa Barbara not only came out winners at last weekend's Big West Cross Country Championships, but also came away with the most major awards as both schools nabbed two honors.

The Aggies won the Men's Athlete of the Year in Jon Peterson as well as the Men's Coach of the Year in Drew Wartenburg. The Gauchos were honored with the Women's Athlete of the Year in Amanda Moreno and the Women's Coach of the Year in Pete Dolan. The two remaining awards went to Cal Poly and UC Irvine freshmen as the Mustangs' Chris Frias was the Men's Freshman of the Year, while the Anteaters had Colleen Lillig named the Women's Freshman of the Year.

Peterson, a native of Clovis, Calif., is in the midst of an impressive season for UCD. The junior has won four of his five races to date, including last week's Big West Championships. He blazed to a finish of 23:40.2 for the individual crown at the conference meet, the second-best 8K time in the Big West this season. He also posted an excellent time of 23:45.1 with his victory at the Bronco Invitational on October 16. Peterson, who also claimed Men's Athlete of the Week honors on September 29, led UC Davis to its first men's cross country title in its Big West and Division I history.

Moreno, who hails from Escalon, Calif., continued the tradition of stellar Gaucho runners with her award, the fourth time in five seasons that a UCSB women's runner has come away with the Athlete of the Year. Moreno has finished as UCSB's top runner all season long, punctuated by her resounding win at the Big West Championships. She finished with a time of 19:57.0, becoming the first runner in Big West history to finish the championship 6K in under 20 minutes and shattering the previous record by more than 12 seconds. Moreno, who won a Women's Athlete of the Week accolade on October 13, also posted the best 5K time in the league with an astounding 16:48 at the Notre Dame Invitational.

Frias, a native of Ventura, Calif., was a standout performer for the Mustangs in his debut season. The redshirt freshman added to his stellar season with a 12th place finish at the Big West Championships, putting up a time of 24:42. Frias also ran well at the Pre-National Invitational, posting a time of 24:59.0 in the prestigious meet. This also marks the fourth time in six seasons that a Cal Poly runner has come away with the Men's Freshman of the Year honor.

Lillig, who hails from San Ramon, Calif., is the first Women's Freshman of the Year recipient for UCI since Laura Olvera claimed the honor in 2005. She posted three top 20 finishes during the season, two of which were top five showings. At the Big West Championships, Lillig was the top freshman finisher with a 23rd place showing in 21:29.5. She also put up a solid 47th place showing in a tough field of 212 runners at the Stanford Invitational.

Wartenburg becomes the first UC Davis coach to win the Coach of the Year honors in the program's DI and Big West history, as well as the first UCD men's award winner in program history. He piloted a club that won the Big West title for the first time, snapping a seven-year run of championships by Cal Poly. Two of his runners finished in the top three of the Big West Championships, leading the club its record-setting achievement. The Aggies also had a successful season prior to the conference meet as they won the Hornet Jamboree on September 11 and also recorded a third place finish at the Bronco Invitational October 16.

Dolan led his club to its second consecutive Big West title and its fourth championship in the last five years. Winning the Coach of the Year award is not a foreign notion to Dolan as he claims his sixth honor in the past eight years. It's also his eighth title overall which is second to UC Irvine head coach Vince O'Boyle, who has won 10 career coaching awards. Dolan coached the individual winner of the 6K women's Championship race for the sixth time in the past eight years and led his squad to three top 10 finishes in seven meets.

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2010 Men's Freshman of the Year - Chris Frias, Cal Poly

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2010 Women's Athlete of the Year - Amanda Moreno, UC Santa Barbara

2010 Women's Freshman of the Year - Colleen Lillig, UC Irvine

2010 Women's Coach of the Year - Pete Dolan, UC Santa Barbara