



2011 BIG WEST CROSS COUNTRY

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

Information Staff: Julie St.Cyr (Director of Communications)

For more information - Phone: (949) 261-2525 Fax: (949) 261-2528 email: jstcyr@bigwest.org

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Big West Announces Top Cross Country Awards

Irvine, Calif. - Cal Poly dominates Big West annual awards, picking up half of the 2011 Big West Conference cross country top honors. The remaining three awards were handed out to Long Beach State, UC Davis and UC Riverside.

On the men's side, Cal Poly head coach Mark Conover was tabbed 2011 Big West Men's Coach of the Year and Mitchell Moriarty picked up 2011 Big West Freshman of the Year honors. UC Riverside's Chad Hall earned the final men's award with the selection of male athlete of the year.

For the women, Long Beach State's Rosa Del Toro collected the 2011 Big West Women's Athlete of the Year accolade and UC Davis head coach Drew Wartenberg was named coach of the year. Meghan Breadmore nabbed the third Cal Poly award with the selection of 2011 Big West Women's Freshman of the Year.

UC Riverside received its first-ever Big West Cross Country Men's Athlete of the Year honor with this year's pick of Hall. After finishing in second place at last year's Big West Championship, the senior from Big Bear, Calif., took home the men's individual crown this year, finishing the 8k race in 23:41.9. Hall, who entered the event holding the conference's top time of the season in the 8K, became the first UC Riverside men's or women's cross country runner to win the individual crown since the program moved to Division I. The three-time Big West Men's Athlete of the Week led the Highlanders in all five meets this season, winning the individual title in three of the events - Nevada Chase Race, Bronco Invitational and Big West Championship.

Del Toro became the first Long Beach State 49ers to win the individual title at the Big West Championship last weekend and now becomes the first to earn Big West Women's Athlete of the Year honors. During the course of the season, she set school records in both at the 5K (17:09.8) and 6K (20:27.0) distances. Del Toro won the Fullerton Open and the Big West Championship, while finishing third at the UC Irvine Invitational and fourth at the Bronco Invitational. Her efforts led LBSU to a team victory at the Bronco Invitational and the program's highest finish at the conference championship, second place. The Van Nuys, Calif., native collected two Big West Women's Athlete of the Week honors this season - September 6 and October 17.

For the second straight year, and fifth time since the inception of the award in 2005, Cal Poly earned freshman of the year accolades with Moriarty's honor. Clocking in a time of 24:41, the Aptos, Calif., native was the highest freshman finisher at the Big West Championship with a 21st place ranking.

At the Big West Championship, Breadmore was the top freshman finisher with a fourth-place time of 20:42 in the 6K, tabbing her freshman of the year. She becomes the fourth Mustang to earn the distinction, with Kayleigh Tyerman picking the last award for Cal Poly in 2009. Breadmore, who never finished lower than 14th in any event in 2011, holds the conference's fourth-best performance in both the 5K (17:18.4) and 6K (20:42.8).

Conover guided the Cal Poly men's program to its 11th team title in the past 14 seasons after placing seven runners in the top 14 spots for 36 points. This is the ninth time the Mustangs captain has earned Big West Coach of the Year honors for his work with the men's cross country team.

Guiding the UC Davis women's team to its first Big West cross country title earned Wartenburg 2011 Big West Women's Coach of the Year honors. A year ago he won the same award for the men's program after piloting his club to its first Big West Championship. At the 2011 Big West Championship, UC Davis placed three runners in the top 10 and scored 47 points to lead the nine-team field for its first-ever Big West Cross Country Championship. Along with the conference meet, the Aggies won the Hornet Jamboree back on Sept. 10.

- 2011 Men's Athlete of the Year** - Chad Hall, UC Riverside
- 2011 Men's Freshman of the Year** - Mitchell Moriarty, Cal Poly
- 2011 Men's Coach of the Year** - Mark Conover, Cal Poly
- 2011 Women's Athlete of the Year** - Rosa Del Toro, Long Beach State
- 2011 Women's Freshman of the Year** - Meghan Breadmore, Cal Poly
- 2011 Women's Coach of the Year** - Drew Wartenburg, UC Davis

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