



BIG WEST CONFERENCE

Big West Conference - 2 Corporate Park, Suite 206, Irvine, CA 92606
Staff: Mike Villamor (Assistant Commissioner - Men's Basketball Contact)
Phone: (949) 261-2525 • **Fax:** (949) 261-2528 • **email:** mvillamor@bigwest.org

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Long Beach State, Pacific Selected For Ramada Worldwide BracketBusters TV Package

IRVINE, CA – Pairings for the 11th annual *Ramada Worldwide BracketBusters* – a two-day men's basketball event pitting NCAA Tournament hopefuls Feb. 22-23 – were announced today on ESPN's *Ramada Worldwide BracketBusters* Selection Show. Long Beach State and Pacific drew two of the 13 nationally televised assignments in the package.

The 13 *Ramada Worldwide BracketBusters* games will be aired across a variety of platforms, including ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU and ESPN3. The matchups were selected from a pool of 122 teams from 15 conferences. ESPN2 will have a minimum of three BracketBusters games (an additional two games are designated as flex picks for either ESPN or ESPN2 determined approximately one week before the games) and ESPNU and ESPN3 will each host four games.

Long Beach State (13-8, 9-1 Big West) hosts Stephen F. Austin of the Southland Conference on Friday, Feb. 22 at 6:00 p.m. (PST) on ESPNU. The 49ers, with a season-best eight-game win streak fueling their recent success, are 38-7 at the Walter Pyramid over the last three-plus seasons. They also have won 23 consecutive home games against Big West opposition. This is the fourth time in the last five seasons LBSU is appearing in a televised *Ramada Worldwide BracketBusters* game – Green Bay (2009, ESPNU), Montana (2011, ESPN2) and Creighton (2012, ESPN2) represented the previous matchups.

Pacific is led by 25th-year head coach Bob Thomason, the conference's all-time leader in overall and conference victories. He ranks eighth among the nation's current coaches for longest tenure at a university. The Tigers (13-8, 7-2) sit in second place in the league standings as they prepare to travel to the Mid American Conference's Western Michigan for their *Ramada Worldwide BracketBusters* contest on Saturday, Feb. 23 at 11:00 a.m. (PST) on ESPN3. Pacific is making its third television appearance in the event, having hosted UTEP (ESPN) in 2005 and New Mexico State (ESPNU) in 2010.

Ramada Worldwide BracketBusters Televised Pairings • All Times Eastern

Friday, February 22

North Dakota State at Akron • 7 p.m. • ESPN2/WatchESPN
Stephen F. Austin at **Long Beach State** • 9 p.m. • ESPNU/WatchESPN

Saturday, February 23

Iona at Indiana State • 11 a.m. • ESPNU/WatchESPN	Detroit at Wichita State • 4 p.m. • ESPN or ESPN2/Watch ESPN
Eastern Kentucky at Valparaiso • 1 p.m. • ESPNU/WatchESPN	No. 16 Creighton at Saint Mary's • 6 p.m. • ESPN or ESPN2/Watch ESPN
Canisius at Vermont • 1 p.m. • ESPN3	South Dakota State at Murray State • 8 p.m. • ESPN2/Watch ESPN
Pacific at Western Michigan • 2 p.m. • ESPN3	Denver at Northern Iowa • 8 p.m. • ESPN3
Montana at Davidson • 3 p.m. • ESPNU/WatchESPN	Ohio at Belmont • 10 p.m. • ESPN2/Watch ESPN
Northwestern State at Niagara • 3 p.m. • ESPN3	

The eight remaining Big West teams not selected to compete in a televised *Ramada Worldwide BracketBusters* game are slated to play non-conference opponents on Saturday, Feb. 22. Those matchups are as follows:

Non-Televised Big West Home Games

Loyola Marymount at **Cal Poly**
Northern Colorado at **UC Davis**
Sacramento State at **UC Santa Barbara**
Northern Arizona at **Hawai'i**

Non-Televised Big West Away Games

Cal State Fullerton at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
Cal State Northridge at Southern Utah
UC Irvine at Texas-Arlington
UC Riverside at Portland State

The *Ramada Worldwide BracketBusters* concept, named because of the success of participating teams from these conferences in NCAA Championship play through the years, provides participating programs with an opportunity to play top non-conference opponents roughly three weeks before Selection Sunday. Each conference selects its participating teams before the season, and the matchups for the event are determined by ESPN in conjunction with the conferences.

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