

# 2013 BIG WEST WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL



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## All-Conference Honors - Monday, December 2, 2013

### Big West Announces All-Conference Awards

Irvine, Calif. - All three Big West Conference champions were recognized among the top honors handed out today as part of the 2013 All-Big West accolades. University of Hawai'i senior Emily Hartong collected her second straight Big West Volleyball Player of the Year award and UC Santa Barbara's Ali Spindt was named Big West Freshman of the Year. For the second consecutive year Big West Co-Coach of the Year honors were handed out, this time to Cal State Northridge captain Jeff Stork and UC Santa Barbara leader Nicole Lantagne Welch.

Hartong guided Hawai'i to a share of its second straight Big West Conference championship with a 13-3 mark. The 6-foot, 2-inch outside hitter paced the league and ranked eighth in the nation with a 4.64 kill average, while hitting .289 on the season. She also tallied a league-leading 5.19 points per set average to place ninth in the country. Over the course of the season the Los Alamitos, Calif., native collected three Big West Player of the Week awards to increase her career total to seven. Her first honor of the season came the first week of the season after leading the Rainbow Wahine to a victory over No. 1 Texas, their first win over a No. 1-ranked opponent since knocking off UCLA in 2000. With this year's honor, Hartong becomes Hawai'i's seventh Big West Player of the Year recipient and the second Rainbow Wahine to win the award twice as Tee Williams-Sanders nabbed the honor in 1988 and 1989.

In her first season representing UC Santa Barbara, Spindt posted a 2.83 kills per set average while hitting .243. She also ranks second on the team with a 2.94 dig average and a 3.2 points per set average. The outside hitter from Menlo Park, Calif., was named Big West Player of the Week on Nov. 18 after leading the Gauchos to a 2-0, which included a five-set victory over league-leading Northridge that placed the Gauchos in contention of the conference crown. For the weekend, she averaged 4.00 kills, 3.38 digs and 0.25 service aces per set. Spindt is the second consecutive Gaucho to garner freshman of the year honors as Taylor Formico nabbed the award in 2012.

For the second time in three years Stork captured Big West Coach of the Year honors. The 2013 season has become a memorable one for the Matadors as they claimed a share of their first-ever Big West volleyball championship with a 13-3 record, their highest win total since joining the Big West in 2001. They also received an at-large selection to the NCAA Tournament to make their first appearance since the 2004 season. In his 12th season at the helm of the Northridge program, Stork led the squad to a 23-6 overall record, its highest win total since the team posted a 23-8 mark in 1994.

In her first season at the helm of the Gauchos, Lantagne Welch guided the Gauchos to a share of their first conference title since 2005 when they shared the title with Long Beach State. UC Santa Barbara is set to compete in its first NCAA Tournament since 2009 thanks to earning the league's automatic qualifier due to a head-to-head tiebreaker against Cal State Northridge and Hawai'i. The Gauchos got off to a shaky start in 2013, posting a 5-9 mark with three of those losses coming against top 10 opponents. As conference play approached, they turned things around and went on to tally an impressive 13-3 record, which included wins over nationally-ranked Hawai'i and Cal State Northridge. This is the first time UC Santa Barbara has earned the coach of the year distinction since Kathy Gregory collected the award in 2009.

Six teams were represented on the first team with UC Santa Barbara and Hawai'i leading the pack with four selection apiece, while Cal State Northridge received three nods. Long Beach State and UC Davis each received two honors while Cal Poly earned one selection.

Cal State Northridge duo junior Casey Hinger and senior Sydney Gedryn are making their third appearance on the first-team list. Natalie Allen (Cal State Northridge), Devon Damelio (UC Davis), Emily Hartong (Hawai'i), Chisom Okpala (Long Beach State), Leah Sully (UC Santa Barbara) and Mita Uiato (Hawai'i) appear on the elite list for a second time.

The complete 2013 Big West All-Conference Team is on the following page.

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## 2013 Big West Women's Volleyball All-Conference Team

### 2013 BIG WEST PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Emily Hartong, Hawai'i

### 2013 BIG WEST FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

Ali Spindt, UC Santa Barbara

### 2013 BIG WEST CO-COACH OF THE YEAR

Jeff Stork, Cal State Northridge  
Nicole Lantagne Welch, UC Santa Barbara

#### FIRST TEAM

Player	School	Ht.	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown
Delainey Aigner-Swesey	Long Beach State	6-1	Sr.	Outside Hitter	Wrightwood, Calif.
Natalie Allen^	Cal State Northridge	6-1	Jr.	Opposite	Murrieta, Calif.
Ali Barbeau	UC Santa Barbara	6-1	So.	Outside Hitter	Salinas, Calif.
Devon Damelio^	UC Davis	6-1	Sr.	Opposite	Fairfield, Calif.
Sydney Gedryn%	Cal State Northridge	5-11	Sr.	Setter	San Jose, Calif.
Chelsea Hardin	Cal Poly	6-0	Sr.	Opposite	Honolulu, Hawai'i
Emily Hartong^	Hawai'i	6-2	Sr.	Outside Hitter	Los Alamitos, Calif.
Casey Hinger%	Cal State Northridge	6-2	Jr.	Middle Blocker	Fullerton, Calif.
Victoria Lee	UC Davis	6-0	Jr.	Middle Blocker	Cupertino, Calif.
Ali Longo	Hawai'i	5-6	Sr.	Libero	Littleton, Colo.
Chisom Okpala^	Long Beach State	6-2	Jr.	Middle Blocker	Yorba Linda, Calif.
Ali Spindt	UC Santa Barbara	6-0	Fr.	Outside Hitter	Menlo Park, Calif.
Leah Sully^	UC Santa Barbara	5-11	Sr.	Outside Hitter	Irvine, Calif.
Nikki Taylor	Hawai'i	6-3	Fr.	Outside Hitter	Honolulu, O'ahu
Katey Thompson	UC Santa Barbara	6-1	Sr.	Opposite	Newport Beach, Calif.
Mita Uiato^	Hawai'i	5-8	Sr.	Setter	Long Beach, Calif.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Player	School	Ht.	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown
Kalei Adolpho	Hawai'i	6-1	Jr.	Middle Hitter	Ho'olehua, Moloka'i
Marisa Bubica	UC Irvine	6-3	So.	Opposite/Outside Hitter	San Pedro, Calif.
Taylor Gruenewald	Cal Poly	6-1	Fr.	Middle Blocker	Southlake, Texas
Phoebe Grunt	UC Santa Barbara	6-4	Fr.	Middle Blocker	Alameda, Calif.
Mahina Haina	Cal State Northridge	5-11	Sr.	Outside Hitter	Honolulu, Hawai'i
Alyse Hensley	Cal State Fullerton	6-3	Sr.	Opposite	San Diego, Calif.
Bre Moreland	Cal State Fullerton	5-11	Sr.	Outside Hitter	Mission Viejo, Calif.
Katie Quinn	UC Davis	6-1	Jr.	Middle Blocker	San Anselmo, Calif.
Aly Squires	UC Irvine	6-1	Sr.	Outside Hitter	Santa Ynez, Calif.
Jade Vorster	Hawai'i	6-4	So.	Middle Blocker	Orlando, Fla.
Jenny Woolway	UC Davis	5-10	Sr.	Setter	San Diego, Calif.

#### ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM

Player	School	Ht.	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown
Shelley Anderson	UC Irvine	5-11	Fr.	Setter	Chino Hills, Calif.
Taylor Gruenewald	Cal Poly	6-1	Fr.	Middle Blocker	Southlake, Texas
Phoebe Grunt	UC Santa Barbara	6-4	Fr.	Middle Blocker	Alameda, Calif.
Cassidy Pickrell	UC Irvine	6-1	Fr.	Outside Hitter	Coppell, Texas
McKenna Painton	Cal State Fullerton	5-8	Fr.	Libero	Bakersfield, Calif.
Ali Spindt	UC Santa Barbara	6-0	Fr.	Outside Hitter	Menlo Park, Calif.
Nikki Taylor	Hawai'i	6-3	Fr.	Outside Hitter	Honolulu, O'ahu

^Two-time All-Big West First Team selection

%Three-time All-Big West First Team selection

\$ Four-time All-Big West First Team selection