



2016 Big West Track & Field



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Long Beach State Seeks Continued Success At Big West Challenge: The annual Big West Challenge, featuring teams from Cal State Fullerton, Long Beach State, UC Irvine and UC Santa Barbara, takes place Friday at the Titan Track Complex. It is a meet that LBSU has dominated, with the men looking for their ninth straight team title and the women searching for their third in a row.

Beach athletes already have racked up seven conference weekly awards for previous successes this season. Senior Willie Alexander has been named Track Athlete of the Week and Field Athlete of the Week once apiece, while fellow senior Kody Robison has notched Field honors twice. Freshman Courtne' Davis has collected Women's Track Athlete of the Week honors once. Herman Day and Riley Cooks were honored two weeks ago for their strong performances in the decathlon and heptathlon, respectively.

CSF, UCI and UCSB also have sported impressive marks from several athletes to form what promises to be a competitive meet. The Titans boast the top three sprinters in the 100m with freshman Thaddeus Lewis leading the way at 10.53 seconds. Lewis is also the Big West's fastest in the 200m with a top time of 20.92 at the March 18 Trojan Invitational. The Gauchos have senior Shyan Vaziri as the top 800m performer, as he went 1:49.48 at last week's Bruin Legends of Track Invitational. UCSB also features Tori Tsois, No. 1 in the 1500m with a best time of 4:21.38. The Anteaters point to a strong hurdlers group, including juniors Megan George in the 100h (13.28) and Lloyd Sicard in the 110h (13.91). Both athletes posted their conference-leading times at the UC Riverside Spring Break Invitational on March 24.

The four squads have also several outstanding performers in the field events with conference-best marks, including UCSB's Jessica Emde (women's high jump), Matthew Kuskey (men's javelin) and Melissa Rake (women's javelin), and Long Beach State's Michael Montgomery (men's pole vault) and Willie Alexander (men's long jump).

Big West Represented On National Leaders List: Several Big West athletes have posted national leading marks in 2016. They are as follows:

WOMEN

- Megan George, UC Irvine – 100H (13.28, UC Riverside Spring Break Invite, Mar. 24 - No. 15)
- Erika Barr, UC Davis – 3000 Steeple (10:08.63, Stanford Invitational, Apr. 1 - No. 8)
- Jessica Emde, UC Santa Barbara – High Jump (5-10, Bruin Legends Invite, Apr. 2 - No. 9)
- Danielle Taylor, Cal Poly – High Jump (5-9.25, Big West Double Dual, Mar. 12 - No. 17)
- Erinn Beattie, UC Davis – High Jump (5-9.25, Mondo Challenge, Apr. 2 - No. 17)
- Taylor Fleming, UC Riverside – Long Jump (20-3.5, UC Riverside Spring Break Invite, Mar. 24 - No. 16)
- Jorden O'Neal, UC Riverside – Long Jump (20-3, UC Riverside Spring Break Invite, Mar. 24 - No. 17)
- Breana Jemison, UC Riverside – Shot Put (54-3.75, UC Riverside Spring Break Invite, Mar. 24 - No. 14)
- Brianna Cueva, CSUN – Discus (179-11, Trojan Invitational, Mar. 18 - No. 13)
- Riley Cooks, Long Beach State – Heptathlon (5569, UC Riverside Spring Break Invite, Mar. 24 - No. 11)
- Taylor Fleming, UC Riverside – Heptathlon (5121, UC Riverside Spring Break Invite, Mar. 24 - No. 20)

MEN

- Thaddeus Smith, Cal State Fullerton – 200m (20.92, Trojan Invitational, Mar. 18 - No. 24)
- Trevor Halsted, UC Davis – 10,000m (29:14.73, Stanford Invitational, Apr. 1 - No. 25)
- Lloyd Sicard, UC Irvine – 110H (13.91, UC Riverside Spring Break Invite, Mar. 24 - No. 22)
- Myles McDonald, UC Santa Barbara – 400H (51.55, Aztec Invitational, Mar. 24 - No. 23)
- Nick Woolf, Cal Poly – 3000 Steeple (8:48.03, Stanford Invitational, Apr. 1 - No. 11)
- Kyle Clancy, UC Davis – High Jump (7-0.25, Mondo Challenge, Apr. 2 - No. 24)
- Michael Montgomery, Long Beach State – Pole Vault (17-1.5, Trojan Invitational, Mar. 18 - No. 19)
- Willie Alexander, Long Beach State – Long Jump (25-10, Trojan Invitational, Mar. 18 - No. 4)
- James Hubbard, Long Beach State – Discus (190-2, Trojan Invitational, Mar. 18 - No. 12)
- Robert Marlow, Long Beach State – Hammer (215-2, Trojan Invitational, Mar. 18 - No. 17)
- Kody Robison, Long Beach State – Hammer (214-1, Trojan Invitational, Mar. 18 - No. 21)
- Herman Day, Long Beach State – Decathlon (7249, UC Riverside Spring Break Invite, Mar. 24 - No. 5)
- Tyler Nelson, UC Santa Barbara – Decathlon (7097, Sam Adams Combined Events, Apr. 1 - No. 10)
- Devin Bennett, Cal Poly – Decathlon (7087, Jim Klein Multi-Events, Mar. 17 - No. 11)
- Jacob Rickman, Cal Poly – Decathlon (6653, Jim Klein Multi-Events, Mar. 17 - No. 19)
- Wyatt Thompson-Siperon, UC Santa Barbara – Decathlon (6589, Sam Adams Combined Events, Apr. 1 - No. 21)

Renovated Jack Rose Track To Host Big West Championships: Long Beach State's Jack Rose Track recently underwent a multi-million dollar renovation that will allow the school to host the 2016 Big West Track and Field Championships in May on FOX Sports Prime Ticket. For the first time since 2005, the Beach will also be able to hold their annual home meet, the Beach Invitational, on campus. The centerpiece is the track, but when all phases are complete, the stadium will sport a seating capacity for 5,000 that ultimately will be able to host major invitational meets as well as the NCAA and U.S. Track and Field Championships.

Upcoming Schedule

Thursday, April 7

UC Davis at Sun Angel Classic (Tempe, AZ)

Friday, April 8

Cal State Fullerton at Big West Challenge (Fullerton, CA)

Long Beach State at Big West Challenge (Fullerton, CA)

UC Davis at Mesa Classic (Mesa, AZ)

UC Davis at Sun Angel Classic (Tempe, AZ)

UC Irvine at Big West Challenge (Fullerton, CA)

UC Riverside at Sun Angel Classic (Tempe, AZ)

UC Santa Barbara at Big West Challenge (Fullerton, CA)

Hawai'i at Rainbow Relays (Honolulu, HI)

Saturday, April 9

CSUN at Baylor Invitational (Waco, TX)

UC Davis at Sun Angel Classic (Tempe, AZ)

Hawai'i at Rainbow Relays (Honolulu, HI)

2016 Big West Track & Field Athletes Of The Week

PERSONAL BESTS SET FOR TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETE OF THE WEEK HONOREES

Three schools were represented in the latest edition of the Big West Track and Field Athlete of the Week awards with personal-bests the ongoing theme.

Cal Poly senior Nick Woolf (Norco, Calif./Roosevelt HS) earned Big West Men's Track Athlete of the Week accolades for his performance at the prestigious Stanford Invitational. He established a personal-best in the 3,000m steeplechase for the second straight year in the event. Woolf finished second in Section 2 with a time of 8:48.03, edging the 8:48.91 mark he offered at the NCAA West Regional a year ago. He moved up to No. 6 in school history in the event, while his time ranks No. 1 in the Big West, No. 7 in the West Region and No. 11 nationally.

UC Davis senior Erika Barr (Simi Valley, Calif./Simi Valley HS) also excelled in the 3,000m steeplechase at the Stanford Invitational, taking home Big West Women's Track Athlete of the Week honors. She finished fourth in Section 2 with a personal-best effort of 10:08.63, lowering her previous record by nearly a second. Barr bettered her time of 10:09.55 from Mt. SAC in 2015. The time bettered her No. 2 position on the program's career leaders list. Barr ranks No. 1 in the Big West, No. 4 in the West Region and No. 8 in the NCAA in the event.

Another Aggie, freshman Kyle Clancy (Davis, Calif./Davis HS), received recognition as the Big West Men's Field Athlete of the Week for his role in helping UC Davis finish in first place at the Mondo Team Challenge at Sacramento State. He became just the third Aggie to eclipse the 7 foot mark in the high jump. Clancy cleared 7-00.25 (2.14m) to capture first place, tying him for second on the program's career leaders list. His performance placed him at No. 1 in the Big West, tied for No. 14 in the West Region and tied for No. 24 in the country. He also shined on the track side, posting a first place finish in the 110 high hurdles in 14.62.

UC Santa Barbara freshman Hope Bender (Newport Beach, Calif./Newport Beach HS) garnered Big West Women's Field Athlete of the Week honors with the fourth-best points performance in Gaucho heptathlon history. She recorded 4,909 points at the Sam Adams Combined Events. Her mark is third-best in the Big West and No. 23 in the West Region.

Others nominated (Men's Track): Trevor Halsted (UC Davis); Shyan Vaziri (UC Santa Barbara)

Others nominated (Women's Track): Peyton Bilo (Cal Poly); Tori Tsois (UC Santa Barbara)

Others nominated (Men's Field): Alex Ziebart (Cal Poly); Tyler Nelson (UC Santa Barbara)

Others nominated (Women's Field): Erinn Beattie (UC Davis)

Big West Track & Field Athletes of the Week

<u>Track Athlete of the Week - Male</u>				<u>Track Athlete of the Week - Female</u>			
Date	Athlete, School	Yr.	Event(s)	Date	Athlete, School	Yr.	Event(s)
3/8	Thaddeus Smith, Cal State Fullerton	Fr.	100m, 200m, 4x100 relay	3/8	Janaya Shorty, Cal State Fullerton	Jr.	100m, 200m
3/15	Willie Alexander, Long Beach State	Sr.	100m, 200m	3/15	Taylor Fleming, UC Riverside	So.	100 Hurdles, 4x400 relay
3/22	Thaddeus Smith, Cal State Fullerton	Fr.	200m, 4x100 relay, 4x400 relay	3/22	Courtne' Davis, Long Beach State	Fr.	100m, 200m
3/29	Myles McDonald, UC Santa Barbara	Jr.	400H	3/29	Megan George, UC Irvine	Jr.	100H, 4x100 relay, 4x400 relay
4/5	Nick Woolf, Cal Poly	Sr.	3000m Steeple	4/5	Erika Barr, UC Davis	Sr.	3000m Steeple
4/12				4/12			
4/19				4/19			
4/26				4/26			
5/3				5/3			
<u>Field Athlete of the Week - Male</u>				<u>Field Athlete of the Week - Female</u>			
Date	Athlete, School	Yr.	Event(s)	Date	Athlete, School	Yr.	Event(s)
3/8	Kody Robison, Long Beach State	Sr.	Hammer	3/8	Breana Jemison, UC Riverside	Jr.	Shot Put, Discus, Hammer
3/15	Kody Robison, Long Beach State	Sr.	Hammer	3/15	Danielle Taylor, Cal Poly	So.	High Jump
3/22	Willie Alexander, Long Beach State	Sr.	Long Jump	3/22	Taylor Fleming, UC Riverside	So.	Long Jump
3/29	Herman Day, Long Beach State	So.	Decathlon	3/29	Riley Cooks, Long Beach State	Jr.	Heptathlon
4/5	Kyle Clancy, UC Davis	Fr.	High Jump	4/5	Hope Bender, UC Santa Barbara	Fr.	Heptathlon
4/12				4/12			
4/19				4/19			
4/26				4/26			
5/3				5/3			