



@BigWest_MSoccer

BIG WEST MEN'S SOCCER

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

For Immediate Release - Thursday, August 21, 2014

UC Santa Barbara, CSUN Picked To Win Divisions

IRVINE, CA – The eight Big West men's soccer coaches tabbed UC Santa Barbara and CSUN as the favorites to capture the 2014 North and South Division championships, respectively, in the annual poll release today. In addition, the coaches selected an 11-player preseason all-conference team.

In the North Division, UC Santa Barbara collected all eight first-place votes for 32 points. UC Davis finished second with 20 points. Cal Poly came in third with 19 points while Sacramento State was picked fourth with nine.

Earning the nod to win the South Division was CSUN, which received six first-place votes and 30 points in the poll. UC Irvine, last year's South champion, placed second with 24 points and the two remaining first-place votes. UC Riverside and Cal State Fullerton were tabbed third and fourth with 14 and 12 points, respectively.

The Gauchos return six starters and 14 letterwinners from a 2013 squad that finished 12-6-3 overall and won the Big West South Division with a 7-0-3 record. A nationally seeded team in last year's NCAA Tournament, UCSB enters the campaign with a No. 18 ranking in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America preseason poll. Ismaila Jome, the 2013 Big West Freshman of the Year, is on the Preseason MAC Hermann Trophy Watch List, and anchors a young but talented Gaucho squad, which also features returning Big West All-Freshman Team members Drew Murphy, Nick DuPuy and Josh McNeely.

UC Davis and Cal Poly reached the Big West Tournament, and should contend for the North Division crown as the preseason all-conference team is comprised of two Aggies and three Mustangs.

CSUN, which has amassed a program Division I record-tying 15 victories in each of the last two seasons, is the favorite to win the South Division for the second straight year. The Matadors went 15-7-1 overall in 2013, finishing second in the South at 5-4-1, and advanced to the championship game of the Big West Tournament. Sagi Lev-Ari, who led the Big West with 16 goals and was named an NSCAA/Continental Tire First Team All-American, helped the Matadors earn a national seed in the NCAA Tournament. Lev-Ari enters his senior season on the preseason watch list for the MAC Hermann Trophy. The Matadors, ranked No. 24 in the NSCAA preseason poll, return two other 2013 all-conference selections in junior Trevor Morley (First Team) and senior Edwin Rivas (Second Team).

UC Irvine, last year's South Division and Big West Tournament champion, returns eight starters to the fold including All-Big West Honorable Mention recipients senior Cameron Iwasa and junior Michael Breslin. The Anteaters reached the NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 last year and finished with a No. 13 national ranking. UCI is ranked No. 16 in the NSCAA preseason poll.

The 2014 Big West Men's Soccer Preseason All-Conference Team consisted of 11 players on six different squads. Cal Poly had three selections (Justin Dhillon, Wade Hamilton, Matt LaGrassa) as did CSUN (Lev-Ari, Morley, Rivas) to lead all squads. UC Davis had two representatives (Matt Wiesenfarth, Ramon Martin del Campo), while UC Santa Barbara's Jome, UC Irvine's Iwasa, and Cal State Fullerton senior Ian Ramos rounded out the list.

- 30 -

2014 Big West Men's Soccer Preseason Coaches Poll

NORTH DIVISION

No.	School	Pts.
1.	UC Santa Barbara (8)	32
2.	UC Davis	20
3.	Cal Poly	19
4.	Sacramento State	9

SOUTH DIVISION

No.	School	Pts.
1.	CSUN (6)	30
2.	UC Irvine (2)	24
3.	UC Riverside	14
4.	Cal State Fullerton	12

() First-place votes

2014 Big West Men's Soccer Preseason All-Conference Team

Name	School	Pos.	Year
Justin Dhillon	Cal Poly	F	Sophomore
Wade Hamilton	Cal Poly	GK	Junior
Cameron Iwasa	UC Irvine	MF	Senior
Matt LaGrassa	Cal Poly	MF	Junior
Sagi Lev-Ari	CSUN	F	Senior
Ismaila Jome	UC Santa Barbara	F	Sophomore
Ramon Martin del Campo	UC Davis	D	Senior
Trevor Morley	CSUN	D	Junior
Ian Ramos	Cal State Fullerton	MF	Senior
Edwin Rivas	CSUN	F	Senior
Matt Wiesenfarth	UC Davis	F	Senior