



2008 Big West Baseball



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All-Conference - May 26, 2008

Big West Announces 2008 Baseball Awards

Irvine, Calif. — The competitiveness of the Big West Conference was shown throughout the season and in this year's annual awards as the league awarded the first-ever tri-pitcher of the year and co-player of the year, among other accolades, as selected by the nine Big West coaches. Headlining the nation's second-best pitching staff earned UC Irvine's Scott Gorgen a share of the 2008 Easton Big West Pitcher of the Year honors. Completing the trio of pitchers is Cal State Fullerton's Jeff Kaplan and the league's ERA leader Long Beach State's Andrew Liebel. UC Davis' Jake Jefferies and Long Beach State's Shane Peterson were named 2008 Easton Big West Co-Player of the Year for their dominance at the plate. UC Santa Barbara's Mario Hollands collected 2008 Easton Big West Freshman Pitcher of the Year honors and Ryan Pineda was tabbed Easton Big West Freshman Player of the Year. Guiding Long Beach State to a share of its first conference title since 2003 earned Mike Weathers Easton Big West Coach of the Year.

The 2008 Preseason All-America selection, Gorgen, constructed a stellar season on the mound that includes a league-best 109 strikeouts, a mark that pegged him as UC Irvine's all-time strikeout leader with 313 career strikeouts. Gorgen also ranks second in the league in innings pitched (104.0) and earned run average (1.90). As the Friday-night starter, the Concord, Calif., native owns a 10-3 record and is the catalyst of a UC Irvine pitching staff that boasts a 2.87 team ERA, second best in the nation. Gorgen, two-time Big West Player of the Week this season, is a semifinalist for the Golden Spikes and Roger Clemens awards. One of his more impressive performances of the season came early on in the year when he logged his seventh career complete game, a one-hit shutout against San Francisco on March 4. He struck out 12 batters and issued one walk, while facing just two over the minimum.

As the Friday-night starter for the Cal State Fullerton Titans, Kaplan owns an 11-1 record in 15 starts with seven of his wins coming against Big West foes, which helped the Titans collect a share of their 15th Big West title. With the 2008 award, Kaplan becomes the 10th Titan to earn the distinct honor and fourth in the last five seasons. His 11 wins places him among the nation's top 10 in victories this season. Prior to the start of postseason, the Dana Point, Calif., native has tossed 99.0 innings and recorded 82 strikeouts, ranking him fourth in the conference. Kaplan earned conference player of the week accolades after pitching a complete-game shutout and fanning 11 batters against Cal State Northridge.

Liebel, a 6-0 senior from Pomona, Calif., finished the regular season 8-3 with a 1.81 ERA and 92 strikeouts in 109.2 innings. The right-hander led the Big West in ERA, innings pitched and complete games (4). He also ranked second among league hurlers in strikeouts, tied for fourth in wins and third in opponent batting average (.235). Liebel issued only 17 walks while starting all 14 games he appeared in. He continues a long line of outstanding pitchers to don the Long Beach State uniform, becoming the sixth 49er to earn the highest distinction and first since Jered Weaver won back-to-back honors in 2003 and 2004. A two-time Easton Big West Pitcher of the Week, Liebel lasted no less than 6.0 innings in any start, and allowed two earned runs or less in 10 of his 14 starts. Liebel also is among the list of semifinalists for both the Golden Spikes award, given to the nation's best player, and the Clemens Award, which recognizes the nation's top pitcher.

Jefferies' power at the plate not only placed him among the top in the conference rankings, but guided the UC Davis Aggies to the NCAA Division I Baseball Tournament in their first season competing on the Division I level in the Big West Conference. The junior catcher owns a league-leading 93 hits, while also ranking second in batting (.396), fourth in on base percentage (.453), tied for third in RBI (54) and doubles (20) and fourth in total bases (127). A nightmare for pitching staffs all across the country, Jefferies ranks among the nation's top five in toughest to strike out. The Merced, Calif., native opened the season going 80 at bats without being struck out, the nation's top performance at the time. The Johnny Bench and Golden Spikes semifinalist registered 27 multi-hit contests and strung together the league's fourth-longest hitting streak (15).

Peterson, a 6-0 junior from Temecula, Calif., is the third 49er in the last eight seasons to earn the field player award, coming on the heels of current major leaguers Evan Longoria (2006) and Bobby Crosby (2001). Peterson is the fifth LBSU player overall to claim the award. He wielded a lethal bat as a starter in all 56 games, batting .399 with seven home runs and 50 RBI. Peterson led the Big West in average, on base percentage (.510) and walks (41). He had the ninth-most RBI among Big West players while ranking second in slugging percentage (.601) and sixth in hits (81). Peterson also led the team in runs scored with 49. A two-time recipient of Easton Big West Field Player of the Week accolades, Peterson tallied 22 multiple-hit and 11 multiple-RBI games.

Pineda led a Matador incoming class that featured 12 high school players and one junior college player to claim Easton Big West Freshman Player of the Year. He hit .325 on the season and registered a team-high 38 runs and 32 RBI. Blasting 17 doubles ranks the Las Vegas, Nev., native seventh in the Big West Conference. Pineda was clutch for Cal State Northridge during the 2008 campaign and he carried the momentum all the way through to his final at bat of the season where he blasted a walk-off solo home run that lifted the Matadors to a 6-5 victory over UC Davis in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Hollands has made an immediate impact on the UC Santa Barbara baseball program, earning a spot in the Gauchos' weekend rotation and being tabbed Big West Freshman Pitcher of the Year. In 14 starts, Hollands pitched 86.0 innings and posted a 4.03 ERA en route to a 7-3 record. The El Cerrito, Calif., native also recorded 61 strikeouts, second best on the Gaucho squad.

Long Beach State entered the 2008 season as the preseason favorite for the Big West title and the 49ers did not disappoint, tying Cal State Fullerton for the conference crown with a 16-8 mark in the final series of the season. Earning a share of its first conference title since 2003 and the conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Tournament solidified the 49er skipper for coach of the year. This is Weathers' second coaching honor during his seven-year stint at Long Beach State. In 2003 he received Big West Coach of the Year honors after guiding the 49er program to a conference title and a postseason run to the NCAA Super Regionals.

UC Irvine received four 2008 Easton All-Big West First Team nods to lead all conference teams. Cal Poly, Cal State Fullerton, Long Beach State, UC Davis and UC Riverside each placed two on the first team, while Santa Barbara claimed one spot. Long Beach State's Shane Peterson and UC Irvine's Scott Gorgen are making their second appearance on the first team list. The complete 2008 All-Big West selections are on the following page.

2008 Easton Big West All-Conference Team

2008 BIG WEST CO-PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Jake Jefferies, UC Davis
Shane Peterson, Long Beach State

2008 BIG WEST FRESHMAN PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Ryan Pineda, Cal State Northridge

2008 BIG WEST TRI-PITCHER OF THE YEAR

Scott Gorgen, UC Irvine
Jeff Kaplan, Cal State Fullerton
Andrew Liebel, Long Beach State

2008 BIG WEST FRESHMAN PITCHER OF THE YEAR

Mario Hollands, UC Santa Barbara

2008 BIG WEST COACH OF THE YEAR

Mike Weathers, Long Beach State

FIRST TEAM

Player	School	Ht.	B-T	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown
Jake Jefferies	UC Davis	6-3	L/R	Jr.	C	Merced, Calif.
Shane Peterson [^]	Long Beach State	6-0	L/L	Jr.	1B	Temecula, Calif.
Drew Garcia	UC Riverside	6-0	S/R	Jr.	2B	El Cajon, Calif.
Brent Morel	Cal Poly	6-2	R/R	Jr.	3B	Bakersfield, Calif.
Ben Orloff	UC Irvine	5-11	R/R	Jr.	SS	Simi Valley, Calif.
Erik Komatsu	Cal State Fullerton	5-10	L/L	Jr.	OF	Camarillo, Calif.
Logan Schafer	Cal Poly	6-1	L/L	Jr.	OF	Los Gatos, Calif.
Mike Zuanich	UC Santa Barbara	6-4	R/L	Sr.	OF	Torrance, Calif.
Ryan Scoma	UC Davis	6-2	L/R	Jr.	DH	San Carlos, Calif.
Aaron Wible	UC Riverside	6-3	R/R	Sr.	UTL	Riverside, Calif.
Scott Gorgen [^]	UC Irvine	5-10	R/R	Jr.	SP	Concord, Calif.
Jeff Kaplan	Cal State Fullerton	6-0	R/R	Sr.	SP	Dana Point, Calif.
Andrew Liebel	Long Beach State	6-0	R/R	Sr.	SP	Pomona, Calif.
Christian Bergman	UC Irvine	6-1	R/R	So.	RP	Altadena, Calif.
Eric Pettis	UC Irvine	6-2	R/R	So.	CP	West Hills, Calif.

SECOND TEAM

Player	School	Ht.	B-T	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown
Chris McMurray	UC Santa Barbara	6-1	R/R	Jr.	C	Mission Viejo, Calif.
Wes Dorrell	Cal Poly	6-2	L/R	So.	1B	Clovis, Calif.
Adam Ching	Pacific	5-8	S/R	Sr.	2B	Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.
Ty Kelly	UC Davis	6-0	S/R	So.	3B	Tracy, Calif.
Patrick Rose	UC Santa Barbara	5-11	R/R	Sr.	3B	Laguna Niguel, Calif.
Shane Carlson	UC Santa Barbara	6-0	R/R	Jr.	SS	Stevenson Ranch, Calif.
Joey Gonzales	UC Riverside	5-10	L/L	So.	OF	Riverside, Calif.
Josh Fellhauer	Cal State Fullerton	5-11	L/L	So.	OF	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.
Ollie Linton	UC Irvine	5-8	L/L	Jr.	OF	Winnetka, Calif.
Luke Yoder	Cal Poly	6-0	R/R	So.	DH	Bakersfield, Calif.
Richard Cates	Cal State Northridge	5-11	L/R	Jr.	UTL	Yuba City, Calif.
Cory Arbisio	Cal State Fullerton	6-3	R/R	Jr.	SP	La Mirada, Calif.
Mike Ford	UC Santa Barbara	6-3	R/R	So.	SP	Scottsdale, Ariz.
Eddie Gamboa	UC Davis	6-2	R/R	Sr.	SP	Merced, Calif.
Michael Martin	UC Santa Barbara	6-2	R/R	Sr.	RP	Red Bluff, Calif.
Justin Fitzgerald	UC Davis	6-4	R/R	Jr.	CP	Cloverdale, Calif.
Edwin Quirarte	Cal State Northridge	6-2	R/R	Jr.	CP	Oxnard, Calif.

HONORABLE MENTION

Player	School	Ht.	B-T	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown
Joe Oliveira	Pacific	6-0	R/R	Jr.	C	San Diego, Calif.
Eric Oliver	UC Santa Barbara	6-1	R/R	Jr.	1B	Irvine, Calif.
TS Reed	Cal State Northridge	5-6	R/R	Fr.	2B	Murrieta, Calif.
Jason Tweedy	Long Beach State	5-11	L/R	Sr.	2B	Newark, Calif.
Ryan Pineda	Cal State Northridge	6-0	R/R	Fr.	3B	Las Vegas, Nev..
Christian Colon	Cal State Fullerton	6-0	R/R	Fr.	SS	Corona, Calif.
Danny Espinosa	Long Beach State	6-0	S/R	Jr.	SS	Santa Ana, Calif.
Jason Corder	Long Beach State	6-2	R/R	Sr.	OF	Mission Viejo, Calif.
Jonathan Jones	Long Beach State	5-10	R/R	Jr.	OF	Vacaville, Calif.
Ryan Lee	Cal Poly	6-0	R/R	Jr.	OF	Los Altos, Calif.
Nick Longmire	Pacific	6-2	R/R	Fr.	OF	San Diego, Calif.
Ryan Royster	UC Davis	6-1	L/L	Sr.	OF	Sacramento, Calif.
Gary Brown	Cal State Fullerton	6-0	R/R	Fr.	UTL	Diamond Bar, Calif.
John Parham	Cal State Northridge	5-9	R/R	Jr.	UTL	Rialto, Calif.
Phil Hann	Cal State Northridge	6-2	R/R	Sr.	SP	Huntington Beach, Calif.
Brad McAtee	UC Davis	6-5	R/R	Jr.	SP	Poway, Calif.
Bryce Stowell	UC Irvine	6-2	R/R	So.	SP	La Habra, Calif.
Andy Suiter	UC Davis	6-3	L/L	So.	RP	Woodside, Calif.
Adam Jorgenson	Cal State Fullerton	6-0	R/R	Sr.	RP	Costa Mes, Calif.

[^]Two-time All-Big West First Team selection