



2007 BIG WEST MEN'S SOCCER

Big West Conference - 2 Corporate Park, Suite 206, Irvine, CA 92606

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UC Santa Barbara Grabs Three of Six Big West Men's Soccer Awards

IRVINE, CALIF. – League champion and defending national champion UC Santa Barbara's outstanding regular season on the field was magnified Tuesday as the seventh-ranked Gauchos took home three of the six individual honors from the Big West. **Junior Chris Pontius** claimed Offensive Player of the Year, sophomore transfer **Ciaran O'Brien** was tabbed the midfielder of the Year, while senior **Andy Iro** became the first three-time winner of a major award with his selection as the Defensive Player of the Year.

Three different schools claimed the final three honors as senior Charles Alamo of UC Riverside was named the Goalkeeper of the Year, Cal Poly freshman David Zamora was named the Freshman of the Year and newcomer UC Davis had its head man Dwayne Shaffer named the Coach of the Year.

Pontius, a native of Yorba Linda, Calif., had a breakout season for league champion UCSB. The first team All-Big West selection returned to the striker position after two years in the midfield and delivered a league-best 11 goals and 24 points. He was at his best in the Gauchos' nationally televised 4-0 romp of UC Irvine October 3, netting a hat trick for his first career multi-goal game. The performance earned him Big West Player of the Week honors and national player of the week recognition from *College Soccer News* and *Soccer America*. He also scored twice off the bench in UCSB's 3-2 come-from-behind road win over Cal State Northridge November 13. The win gave UC Santa Barbara its fifth conference title and was its first win in Northridge since 2000.

Iro, a senior from Liverpool, England, lived up to his lofty reputation as one of the nation's premier defensive players with his league-record third Defensive Player of the Year nod. After being named a preseason first team All-America by several publications, a Hermann Award candidate and a LOEWS Senior CLASS award candidate, the rugged defender was the centerpiece of a UCSB defense that allowed 19 goals in as many games. Iro, a four-time first team All-Big West selection, led the Gauchos to a 0.95 goals against average and five shutouts.

O'Brien, who hails from Federal Way, Wash., showed people around the country why he was one of the most sought after transfers in the country. The sophomore, who played his freshman season at San Diego, was a playmaker in every sense of the word with seven goals and a league-best nine assists to pick up 23 points, second in the Big West. He has been on a tear of late, scoring five goals and picking up five assists in his last seven matches. Of the 17 goals scored during that span by UC Santa Barbara, O'Brien, a first team All-Big West honoree, has been directly involved in 10 of them. He also claimed three Big West Player of the Week awards and was named to the national team of the week by *Soccer America* and *College Soccer News* on three occasions.

Zamora, a freshman from San Jose, Costa Rica, paid immediate dividends in his first season in a Mustang uniform. The forward played and started all 19 matches for Cal Poly, leading the club in scoring with six goals and five assists for 17 points. The multi-skilled Zamora was stellar against conference opponents, tallying four goals and adding two assists. His best game came against UC Irvine October 10 when he recorded his first multi-goal game with a pair of scores and added an assist. In that match, he scored twice in little over a minute late in the second half to turn a 2-1 deficit into an eventual 3-2 victory for the Mustangs.

Alamo, a native of San Luis Obispo, Calif., became the first major award winner for the Highlanders in their tenure in the Big West Conference. The senior goalkeeper wrapped up his impressive career leading the Big West in saves (79), saves per game (4.16), third in shutouts (6) and fourth in goals against average (1.03). On the Big West career lists, the first team All-Big West choice ranks second with 67 matches in goal and seventh in shutouts with 16.

Shaffer led the Aggies to an impressive debut in the Big West on his way to top coach honors. UC Davis finished second in the Big West after going 7-3-2 against conference foes in its first full year as a Division I member. UCD's hard work paid off as the NCAA extended an at-large bid the Aggies for their strong season. Shaffer's club plays an uptempo brand of soccer that has them currently ranked eighth in the NCAA and tops in the Big West in goals per game (2.26).

The complete All-Big West Men's Soccer Team can be viewed on the following page:

2007 ALL-BIG WEST MEN'S SOCCER TEAMS

FIRST TEAM

<i>Player</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Hometown</i>
Chris Pontius	UC Santa Barbara	Junior	Forward	Yorba Linda, Calif.
Tino Nunez	UC Santa Barbara	Senior	Forward	Long Beach, Calif.
Eric Avila++	UC Santa Barbara	Sophomore	Forward	San Diego, Calif.
David Zamora	Cal Poly	Freshman	Forward	San Jose, Costa Rica
Ciaran O'Brien	UC Santa Barbara	Sophomore	Midfielder	Federal Way, Wash.
Alfonso Motagalvan	UC Santa Barbara	Junior	Midfielder	Gilroy, Calif.
Brennan Tennelle	UC Santa Barbara	Senior	Midfielder	San Diego, Calif.
Michael Farfan+	Cal State Fullerton	Sophomore	Midfielder	Chula Vista, Calif.
Andy Iro^	UC Santa Barbara	Senior	Defender	Liverpool, England
Sean Franklin++	Cal State Northridge	Senior	Defender	Palmdale, Calif.
Matt Tracy	Cal State Northridge	Senior	Defender	Newport Beach, Calif.
K.J. Lenehan	Cal Poly	Senior	Defender	Escondido, Calif.
Charles Alamo	UC Riverside	Senior	Goalkeeper	San Luis Obispo, Calif.

SECOND TEAM

<i>Player</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Hometown</i>
Nicholas Lind	UC Davis	Senior	Forward	Mission Viejo, Calif.
Gabriel Farfan	Cal State Fullerton	Sophomore	Forward	Chula Vista, Calif.
Quincy Amarikwa	UC Davis	Junior	Forward	Bakersfield, Calif.
Matt Murphy	UC Irvine	Junior	Midfielder	Anaheim Hills, Calif.
Rafael Garcia	Cal State Northridge	Freshman	Midfielder	Canoga Park, Calif.
Sule Anibaba	UC Davis	Junior	Midfielder	Davis, Calif.
Kyle Montgomery	Cal Poly	Freshman	Midfielder	Seattle, Wash.
Paul Cain	UC Davis	Senior	Defender	Redlands, Calif.
David Sias	UC Irvine	Junior	Defender	Fountain Valley, Calif.
David Lozano	UC Riverside	Sophomore	Defender	Dana Hills, Calif.
Kevin Guppy	Cal State Northridge	Junior	Goalkeeper	Chino Hills, Calif.

HONORABLE MENTION

<i>Player</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Hometown</i>
Nathan Paterson	UC Riverside	Sophomore	Forward	Modesto, Calif.
Andrew Villalobos	UC Riverside	Senior	Forward	Whittier, Calif.
Cito Soriano	UC Riverside	Freshman	Forward	Hesperia, Calif.
Anton Peterlin	Cal Poly	Junior	Midfielder	San Francisco, Calif.
Sunghyun Kim	Cal State Northridge	Sophomore	Midfielder	Los Angeles, Calif.
Skyler Thuresson	Cal State Fullerton	Senior	Midfielder	Long Beach, Calif.
Jon Curry	UC Santa Barbara	Sophomore	Defender	Sacramento, Calif.
Matt Sanders	Cal State Fullerton	Sophomore	Defender	Orange, Calif.
Casey Cordray	Cal Poly	Junior	Defender	Irvine, Calif.
Brandon Foster	UC Irvine	Senior	Defender	Pasadena, Calif.
Eric Branagan-Franco	Cal Poly	Junior	Goalkeeper	Napa, Calif.
Brent Douglas	Cal State Fullerton	Senior	Goalkeeper	Peoria, Ariz.

+ - Two-time All-Big West First Team selection

++ - Three-time All-Big West First Team selection

^ - Four-time All-Big West First Team selection

2007 Big West Offensive Player Of The Year

Chris Pontius, UC Santa Barbara

2007 Big West Midfielder Of The Year

Ciaran O'Brien, UC Santa Barbara

2007 Big West Defensive Player Of The Year

Andy Iro, UC Santa Barbara

2007 Big West Goalkeeper Of The Year

Charles Alamo, UC Riverside

2007 Big West Freshman Of The Year

David Zamora, Cal Poly

2007 Big West Coach Of The Year

Dwayne Shaffer, UC Davis