



2018 BIG WEST SOFTBALL

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

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Five Clubs Earn League's Major Awards

IRVINE, CALIF. -- After the 2018 regular season, five clubs brought home the league's major softball awards.

Long Beach State claimed three of the honors as **Cielo Meza** was named Pitcher of the Year, **Naomi Hernandez** earned Freshman Field Player of the Year and **Kim Sowder** claimed a share of the Coach of the Year honor. Sowder claimed the award with **Kelly Ford** of regular season champion Cal State Fullerton, marking the first time since 2008 that the league's top coaching honor was shared. CSUN's **Savannah Horvath** was named Player of the Year while Defensive Player of the Year accolades went to **Hannah Rodriguez** of UC Riverside. The Freshman Pitcher of the Year honor went to UC Davis' **Brooke Yanez**.

Earning her second major Big West award after being named Freshman Pitcher of the Year in 2017, Meza (Fillmore, Calif.) lead the league with 22 wins, 217 strikeouts and a 1.48 ERA. The sophomore righty has started 30 games, tossed 16 complete contests and has recorded a league-leading nine shutouts on the year. In 170.0 innings of work, Meza has allowed just 36 earned runs and held opposing batters to .141 average. Meza also tossed two no-hitters in her second season in the circle for the Beach, the first on March 3, versus No. 21 Minnesota and the second coming less than a month later on March 31 against Hawai'i. To add to her decorated campaign, the sophomore set a Long Beach single-game record for strikeouts with 17 against the Rainbow Wahine, just a day before her third-career no-no. Among the national ranks, Meza's 3.38 hits allowed per seven innings is ninth-best in the NCAA, while her nine shutouts on the year are 14th. The sophomore also earned two Big West Pitcher of the Week honors this season.

Rodriguez, a junior from Brawley, Calif., was a rock at shortstop for the Highlanders as she committed just two errors in 178 chances, good for a .989 fielding percentage. Rodriguez did not commit an error after March 16, a 26-game errorless string. The junior also recorded 91 assists and turned five double plays. She spearheaded a solid defensive unit that contributed to 14 shutouts, the most of any squad in the Big West.

After becoming the first freshman since 2015 to earn three Big West Pitcher of the Week, Yanez claimed Freshman Pitcher of the Year honors after a stellar campaign for the Aggies. The Ventura, Calif. native recorded 15 wins in her rookie season to go along with an ERA of 1.75, the second-best in conference. In 187.2 innings of work the freshman tossed 23 complete games, recorded 190 strikeouts (second-most in league) and allowed opposing hitters to bat just .184. Yanez gave up one run or less in 13 of her 29 appearances and recorded at least four strikeouts 25 times.

Hernandez is the first Long Beach State freshman to earn Big West Freshman Field Player of the Year honors since 2013 and the third all-time recipient from the Beach. The Corona, Calif. native owns league-highs in batting average (.388), hits (71) and doubles (18) while also posting four home runs, 36 RBI, a .552 slugging percentage and the third-best on-base percentage in the league at .462. Over the course of the season, Hernandez recorded 21 multi-hit games and drove in a season-high four runs on Feb. 18 as part of a three-for-five day at the plate.

Ford's Coach of the Year honor is historic as she becomes the first coach in league history to win the award in three consecutive seasons. Ford led the Titans to their third straight Big West title, the first club to accomplish the feat since Fullerton went on a four-year run of crowns from 2000-03. The Titans went 18-3 to claim the 2018 title, powered by a 10-game win streak in conference play from April 14 to May 5. The conference record is the best finish for the program since the 2003 squad went 20-1. Ford has also led CSF to 16 or more conference wins in each of the last three years.

Sowder earned Coach of the Year honors after a 42-12 overall record that earned the Beach an at-large bid into the NCAA Tournament. The Beach appeared in the Top 25 of a national poll for 11 straight weeks, earning its highest rank of the season at No. 17 earlier this year. The Beach ranks in the top 25 in multiple categories in the NCAA leaderboard, including batting average (.307 – 25th), doubles per game (1.65 – 6th), fielding percentage (0.975 – 20th) and win-loss percentage (0.778 – 14th). LBSU will make its 24th NCAA postseason appearance and is searching for its sixth Women's College World Series appearance.

Horvath wrapped up one of the most decorated careers in CSUN history with her first Player of the Year honor. She is the third Player of the Year from CSUN in the last four years, following Taylor Glover who won the award in 2017 and Katie Hooper in 2015. The senior leads the league in home runs (16), runs (60) total bases (132), slugging percentage (.781) and on base percentage (.507) while ranking second in doubles (16), third in RBI (41) and second in stolen bases (24). The senior also ranks in the top 25 in multiple categories nationally including slugging percentage (.781 – 23rd), total bases (132 – 16th) and runs per game (1.02 – 22nd).

The league's first team features UC Riverside's Jenna Curtan and CSUN's Horvath who are making their third and fourth appearances on the league's top list, respectively. Horvath becomes just the ninth player to earn four-time first team honors, while Curtan is the 36th player all-time to earn three first team accolades. The full All-Conference teams are available on the following page.

2018 BIG WEST SOFTBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Player	School	Pos	B-T	Ht.	Year	Hometown
^Lindsey Chalmers	Cal Poly	P	R-R	5-9	Senior	San Ramon, Calif.
Stephanie Heyward	Cal Poly	UTL/P	R-R	5-4	Senior	Sacramento, Calif.
Deshea Hill	Cal State Fullerton	1B/3B	R-R	5-7	Freshman	Carlsbad, Calif.
Zoe Richard	Cal State Fullerton	1B	L-R	5-5	Sophomore	Highland, Calif.
Ari Williams	Cal State Fullerton	OF	R-R	5-10	Junior	Moreno Valley, Calif.
Bryanna Ybarra	Cal State Fullerton	INF	R-R	5-5	Senior	Torrance, Calif.
#Savannah Horvath	CSUN	SS/2B	R-R	5-6	Senior	Las Vegas, Nev.
Nichole Fry	Long Beach State	INF	R-R	5-4	Junior	Lake Elsinore, Calif.
Naomi Hernandez	Long Beach State	OF	L-R	5-4	Freshman	Corona, Calif.
^Cielo Meza	Long Beach State	P	R-R	5-7	Sophomore	Fillmore, Calif.
Taylor Rowland	Long Beach State	INF	L-L	5-7	Sophomore	Chino Hills, Calif.
Alyse Rojas	UC Davis	UTL	L-R	5-7	Freshman	Vacaville, Calif.
Brooke Yanez	UC Davis	P/INF	R-L	5-7	Freshman	Ventura, Calif.
*Jenna Curtan	UC Riverside	OF	L-L	5-5	Senior	Roseville, Calif.
^Nicole Lopez	Hawai'i	3B	R-R	5-7	Junior	'Aiea, O'hau

^ - Two-time first team All-Conference selection
 * - Three-time first team All-Conference selection
 # - Four-time first team All-Conference selection

SECOND TEAM

Player	School	Pos	B-T	Ht.	Year	Hometown
Chelsea Convisar	Cal Poly	SS	R-R	5-4	Senior	Sacramento, Calif.
Sophie Frost	Cal State Fullerton	P	R-R	5-8	Sophomore	Mill Creek, Wash.
Trish Parks	Cal State Fullerton	P	R-R	5-9	Junior	Chino Hills, Calif.
Julia Valenzuela	Cal State Fullerton	C	R-R	5-6	Sophomore	La Mirada, Calif.
Sammie Vandiver	Cal State Fullerton	OF	L-R	5-5	Senior	Huntington Beach, Calif.
Jessica Alexander	CSUN	INF	R-R	5-3	Sophomore	Oceanside, Calif.
Mackenzie Babbitt	CSUN	OF/1B	L-L	5-6	Junior	Hughson, Calif.
Hailey Dolcini	UC Riverside	P	R-R	6-0	Freshman	Ferndale, Calif.
Emma Ramelot	UC Riverside	INF	R-R	5-6	Junior	Riverside, Calif.
Hannah Rodriguez	UC Riverside	INF	R-R	5-4	Junior	Brawley, Calif.
Sierra Altmeyer	UC Santa Barbara	INF	R-R	5-6	Junior	San Diego, Calif.
Alyssa Diaz	UC Santa Barbara	INF	L-R	5-11	Sophomore	South El Monte, Calif.
Callee Heen	Hawai'i	C	L-R	5-8	Sophomore	Hollister, Calif.

HONORABLE MENTION

Player	School	Pos	B-T	Ht.	Year	Hometown
Hailey Martin	Cal Poly	1B	L-L	5-4	Sophomore	Tracy, Calif.
Brooke Clemetson	Cal State Fullerton	OF	L-R	5-6	Senior	Covina, Calif.
Megan Stevens	CSUN	OF/P	R-R	5-8	Sophomore	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.
Jessica Flores	Long Beach State	UTL	B/R	5-6	Senior	Riverside, Calif.
Lauren MacLeod	Long Beach State	C	R-R	5-9	Senior	Orange, Calif.
Devyn Magnett	Long Beach State	P	R-R	5-10	Sophomore	San Diego, Calif.
Grayce Majam	Long Beach State	INF	L-R	5-5	Senior	Pine Valley, Calif.
Katie Kibby	UC Davis	UTL	R-R	5-8	Sophomore	Vacaville, Calif.
Isabella Leon	UC Davis	UTL	R-R	5-5	Sophomore	Chula Vista, Calif.
Taylor Misfeldt	UC Riverside	P	R-R	5-6	Senior	Tracy, Calif.
Sammy Fabian	UC Santa Barbara	OF	L-R	5-3	Freshman	Glendale, Calif.

ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM

Player	School	Pos	B-T	Ht.	Hometown
Dakota Casper	Cal Poly	P	R-R	5-5	San Dimas, Calif.
Deshea Hill	Cal State Fullerton	1B/3B	R-R	5-7	Carlsbad, Calif.
Jillian James	CSUN	P	R-R	5-10	Henderson, Nev.
Naomi Hernandez	Long Beach State	OF	L-R	5-4	Corona, Calif.
Alysa Rojas	UC Davis	UTL	L-R	5-7	Vacaville, Calif.
Brooke Yanez	UC Davis	P/IF	R-L	5-7	Ventura, Calif.
Hailey Dolcini	UC Riverside	P	R-R	6-0	Ferndale, Calif.
Seanna Garewal	UC Riverside	OF	L-R	5-6	Banning, Calif.
Sammy Fabian	UC Santa Barbara	OF	L-R	5-3	Glendale, Calif.
Maci Fines	UC Santa Barbara	UTL	L-R	5-2	Elk Grove, Calif.

2018 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Savannah Horvath, CSUN

2018 DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Hannah Rodriguez, UC Riverside

2018 PITCHER OF THE YEAR

Cielo Meza, Long Beach State

2018 FRESHMAN PITCHER OF THE YEAR

Brooke Yanez, UC Davis

2018 CO-COACH OF THE YEAR

Kelly Ford, Cal State Fullerton
 Kim Sowder, Long Beach State

2018 FRESHMAN FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Naomi Hernandez, Long Beach State