



2020-21 Annual Report



2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT

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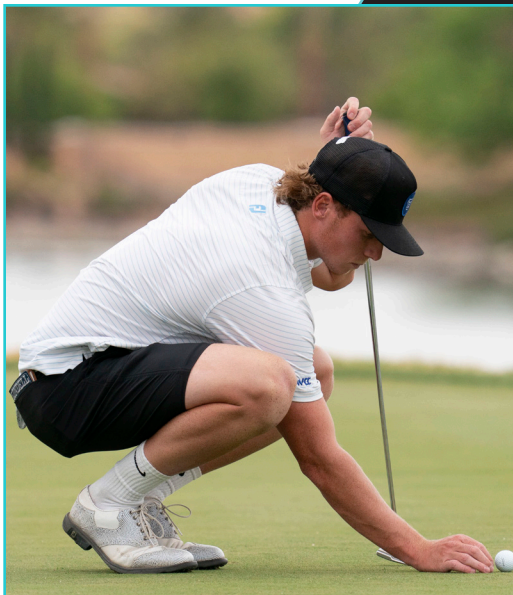
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from the commissioner **GLORIA NEVAREZ**



When we say West Coast Conference programs compete for national championships we absolutely mean it. WCC programs have met this mission each year, but 2020-21 was a historically-successful year with three team national championships, an individual NCAA title and eight top-four finishes for this great conference.

WCC programs flourished on the national level, despite a trying year outside of competition. As our country recovers from a pandemic that has impacted us all in some way in the past year, our 10 institutions showed their resolve. Each institution sacrificed a great deal in order to ensure a safe return to competition and meet the NCAA Resocialization of Sport Guidelines, as well as state and local measures. Leadership across our 10 campuses came together with a shared goal of safely returning to the competition we all love and missed last spring and fall. It was not easy navigating the protocols and financial challenges, but our membership was resolute in finding a way to provide the opportunity to safely compete this season. The 2020-21 season in no way had the form of a normal year, after postponing the fall seasons to the spring and postponing the start of the men's and women's basketball seasons. We successfully returned and quickly saw the great moments we had missed the previous eight months. The venues were empty of fans for

the most part as we all gathered on our televisions and devices to follow along and cheer our teams on. What was similar to years past was the passion,

the jubilation and the excitement of the return to competition. I can't express enough gratitude to the collaboration of our athletic directors and presidents to make the hope of a return to competition a reality this season.

When we came back, we came back strong. The BYU women's cross country program celebrated an NCAA Championship in a season that was shifted to the spring. BYU's Conner Mantz took home the NCAA Men's Cross Country individual title. It was another historic year for men's and women's basketball in the WCC, highlighted by multiple NCAA Tournament bids and the Gonzaga men's basketball program's run to the NCAA Championship game. LMU Beach Volleyball captured the WCC Tournament title and made a run to the NCAA Semifinals on the shores of Alabama in early May. Santa Clara women's soccer, as an 11-seed, took down the top seeds one-by-one on its way to capturing the fourth NCAA Championship by a WCC program in the Conference's storied history in the sport. The Broncos accomplished this feat, despite not gathering as a team to train until January. A week later, Pepperdine women's tennis had us all locked in on Orlando. The Waves advanced to the NCAA Championship match, taking Texas to the very end, before falling, 4-3. A few days later in Orlando, the Pepperdine doubles team of Guy Den Ouden and Adrian Oetzbach advanced all the way to the NCAA Doubles Semifinals. As the calendar turned to June, the success continued. Pepperdine was back in national title contention in Scottsdale, Arizona, at the NCAA Men's Golf Championships. The Waves, one of a conference-record three WCC men's golf programs to advance out of the NCAA Regionals along with San Francisco and San Diego, captivated the crowd at Grayhawk Golf Club and the national audience on the Golf Channel. The Waves won the NCAA Championship on the final hole to cap the most successful year in WCC history.

Outside of the competition stage, the WCC navigated the pandemic by ensuring the safe and responsible return to competition and instituting several cost-containment measures that put the WCC in a position for a full recovery. While these measures unfortunately included the cancellation of our baseball and men's and women's tennis championship events in 2021, we remain focused on bringing those events back in 2022. We were sad not to have the passionate WCC fanbase in Las Vegas supporting their programs at the University Credit Union WCC Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament in March and continue to work with our partners in Las Vegas to bring fans back to the event in 2022.

The past year has taught us to be resilient in the face of adversity. The WCC has not only showed its resiliency; the Conference has managed to thrive. We Create Champions in the West Coast Conference. All the hard work behind the scenes by our member institutions was rewarded with the celebration of victory and the hoisting of hardware this spring.

Some solutions were not the easiest this past year, however, working together, we found the best path to move forward and provide our student-athletes with the opportunity to compete. I am so thankful and proud of all that was accomplished and am excited to see our programs continue to make history in 2021-22. We Create Champions in the West Coast Conference, champions in competition and leaders in life.

Together, **We Create Champions.**

Regards,

Gloria

OUR MANTRA *We Create Champions*

VISION

The West Coast Conference competes for national titles across sports, strengthens all sports through success in men's basketball, and is recognized nationally for holistically developing student-athletes into champions in sport and as leaders in life.

MISSION

To enhance the holistic development of student-athletes through the fostering of an environment of athletics and academic excellence consistent with that of a premier, nationally prominent NCAA Division I athletics conference; and to create inclusive and equitable opportunities representative of the respective faith-based missions and values of the West Coast Conference institutions.

STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE



APR

The data reflects a four year average from 2016-17 to 2019-20:
NCAA data is based on 2018-19 numbers, as there was no public release in 2019-20.

- « The total number of WCC teams that have been counted in the APR is 130.
- « Both WCC Men's and Women's basketball have a higher APR average than last year's national average.
- « Ninety-nine WCC teams have an APR that exceeds the relevant sport NCAA average (June 2020: 86, June 2019: 83 teams)
- « Thirty-nine WCC teams from 10 institutions have perfect APR scores (1000).
- « WCC equaled or outperformed last year's national average in 12 of 15 sports (80%; June 2020: 60%).



GSR

NCAA data is based on 2018-19 numbers, as there was no public release in 2019-20.

- « WCC GSR average is 91, last year's national average was 88.
- « WCC equaled or outperformed the NCAA DI average for 8 out of 10 institutions.



STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE

engagement highlights

The Conference hosted multiple WCC SAAC videoconferences throughout the academic year. The meetings provided an opportunity to discuss WCC and NCAA governance, campus SAAC initiatives and NCAA legislative proposals with a specific emphasis on the topics of mental health, transfer rules, and diversity and inclusion initiatives.

The Conference hosted an educational webinar for student-athletes, entitled “Starting the Conversation of Race and Antiracism in the WCC.” The Conference’s continued goal is to provide student-athletes with tools and awareness regarding leadership skills, which will be helpful as student-athletes grow as leaders on their campuses and move forward to create an inclusive and anti-racist environment for our student-athletes.



student-athlete advisory committee

During the 2020-21 academic year, the WCC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) continued to discuss innovative ways to activate the student-athlete voice and enhance the student-athlete experience.

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (EDI), formed in 2019, was expanded in 2020 and features a student-athlete subcommittee with representatives from each member institution.



COMPETITIVENESS



4

NATIONAL TITLES

BYU'S CONNER MANTZ

BYU WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

SANTA CLARA WOMEN'S SOCCER

PEPPERDINE MEN'S GOLF

26

NCAA

TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS

5

TOP-FOUR TEAM FINISHES

BYU WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

GONZAGA MEN'S BASKETBALL

LMU BEACH VOLLEYBALL

SANTA CLARA WOMEN'S SOCCER

PEPPERDINE WOMEN'S TENNIS



Kelsey Turnbow
Santa Clara



Roxie Wiblin
San Diego

51

ALL-AMERICANS

BASEBALL

BRETT HARRIS, GONZAGA
ALEK JACOB, GONZAGA
THOMAS LUEVANO, USD
SAM BROWN, PORTLAND
JACK COSTELLO, USD
GABRIEL HUGHES, GONZAGA
LUKE KEASCHALL, USF
ANDREW PINTAR, BYU

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

SELENA MAROLF, LMU
REKA ORSI TOTH, LMU

MEN'S BASKETBALL

COREY KISPert, GONZAGA
JALEN SUGGS, GONZAGA
DREW TIMME, GONZAGA
JOEL AYAYI, GONZAGA
ALEX BARCELLO, BYU

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

LAUREN GUSTIN, BYU
JILL TOWNSEND, GONZAGA
JENN WIRTH, GONZAGA

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

CONNER MANTZ, BYU
CASEY CLINGER, BYU

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

ANNA CAMP, BYU
AUBREY FRENTHWAY, BYU
WHITTNI ORTON, BYU
ANNA PATAKI, POR
SARA MUSSELMAN, BYU

MEN'S GOLF

JOEY VRZICH, PEPPERDINE
DYLAN MENANTE, PEPPERDINE
JOE HIGHSMITH, PEPPERDINE
RJ MANKE, PEPPERDINE
JOSHUA MCCARTHY, PEPPERDINE

ROWING

KADEE SYLLA, USD

MEN'S SOCCER

NOEL CALISKAN, LMU



Corey Kispert
Gonzaga

WOMEN'S SOCCER

MIKAYLA COLOHAN, BYU
ALEX LOERA, SANTA CLARA
KELSEY TURNBOW, SANTA CLARA

SOFTBALL

RYLEE JENSEN, BYU

MEN'S TENNIS

AUGUST HOLMGREN, USD
GUY DEN OUDEN, PEPPERDINE
ADRIAN OETZBACH, PEPPERDINE

WOMEN'S TENNIS

JESSICA FAILLA, PEPPERDINE
ASHLEY LAHEY, PEPPERDINE

VOLLEYBALL

KENNEDY ESCHENBERG, BYU
TAYLEN BALLARD-NIXON, BYU
WHITNEY BOWER, BYU
ROXIE WIBLIN, SAN DIEGO
RACHEL AHRENS, PEPPERDINE
SHANNON SCULLY, PEPPERDINE

2021 AWARDS



**MIKE GILLERAN MALE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
COREY KISPert
GONZAGA**

**POSTGRADUATE FEMALE SCHOLARSHIP
OLIVIA HOJ-SIMISTER
BYU**



**MALE SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD
RYAN BISHARAT
SAN DIEGO**



**#WCCREPRESENT AWARD
SAINT MARY'S VOLLEYBALL**

**MIKE GILLERAN FEMALE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
ASHLEY LAHEY
PEPPERDINE**



**POSTGRADUATE MALE SCHOLARSHIP
ROSS MELDRUM
SAN DIEGO**



**FEMALE SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD
KRISTIN GUNNARSDÓTTIR
PACIFIC**

WCC BY THE NUMBERS

.890

Career winning percentage for BYU's Heather Olmstead - best among active NCAA Division I volleyball head coaches



328

Career steals for Pacific's Valerie Higgins - good for second place among Division I women's basketball leaders in 2020-21



33

Consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances for Pepperdine women's tennis

Landen Bourassa
San Francisco

45.74

Field goal percentage for WCC men's basketball programs - best conference shooting percentage in Division I in 2020-21



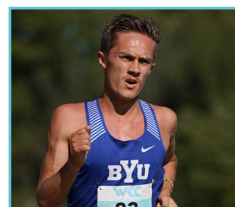
.834

Career winning percentage for Gonzaga's Mark Few - best of all-time



116

Career points for Santa Clara All-American Kelsey Turnbow - tops among active Division I women's soccer leaders



22.1

Number of seconds between individual champion BYU All-American Conner Mantz and the second place finisher at the 2021 NCAA Cross Country Championship

508

Career wins for Santa Clara women's soccer head coach Jerry Smith - third among active coaches



95

Consecutive weeks Gonzaga men's basketball has been ranked in the Associated Press top-25 national poll



13.8

Steals per game for San Diego women's basketball - tops in Division I in 2020-21



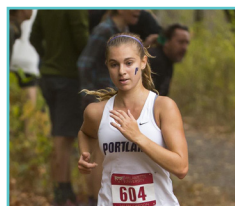
435

Career assists in WCC games for Pepperdine's Colbey Ross - most in Conference history



49

Shots under par for Pepperdine men's golf at the 2021 WCC Championship, shattering the previous conference tournament record



4.0

GPA for Portland's Sofia Castiglioni who collected NCAA Elite 90 honors posting the top GPA of any student-athlete competing at the 2020 NCAA Women's Cross Country Championship



398

Career blocked shots for BYU's Sara Hanson - good for 16th among all-time Division I leaders



44

WCC Regular Season Championships for Pepperdine men's tennis - most in conference history



.207

Team Goals Against Average for WCC Champion LMU - tops among Division I men's soccer leaders



Solymar Colling
San Diego

CROSS COUNTRY



BYU Women's Cross Country
2020 National Champions



Conner Mantz
2020 NCAA Individual Champion

WOMEN'S

« The WCC set a new record with three teams competing in the NCAA Championship: **BYU**, **Portland** and **San Francisco**.

« The WCC's five All-Americans are the most in conference history, besting the previous mark of four set in 2018 and 2019.

« **Portland** senior **Sofia Castiglioni** was awarded the NCAA Elite 90 honor for women's cross country. The accolade is presented to the senior with the highest GPA to compete in the NCAA Championship.

« **Gianna Sbarbaro** of **San Diego** is the first Torero to have competed at Nationals.

BYU « NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

« The BYU women's cross country team captured the first National Championship in women's cross country for the WCC.

« BYU's Diljeet Taylor was named the 2020 NCAA Division I Women's Cross Country Coach of the Year.

« BYU Women's Cross Country named 2020 National Scholar Team of the Year.

Whittni Orton
BYU Cross Country



MEN'S

« The WCC set a new record with three teams competing in the NCAA Championship: **BYU**, **Gonzaga** and **Portland**.

« **BYU's Conner Mantz** became the first WCC student-athlete to win the NCAA Championship.

« **Mantz** was named the 2020 NCAA Division I Men's Cross Country National Scholar Athlete of the Year & National Men's Athlete of the Year.

« **Jack Davidson** became the first Bronco to qualify for the NCAA Championship and he finished 65th overall for **Santa Clara**.

«The WCC sent three teams to the NCAA Championship, including No. 16 overall seed **BYU**, **Pepperdine** and **San Diego**.

« The **Cougars** defeated UCLA, before falling to No. 1 overall seed Wisconsin in the Sweet 16. **Pepperdine** and **San Diego** advanced to the second round of the NAAs in Omaha, Nebraska.

« **BYU** claimed the 2020 WCC Spring Championship, completing the conference slate 15-1. **Whitney Bower** claimed the WCC Player and Setter of the Year, while **Heather Olmstead** was honored as the WCC Coach of the Year.

« Six individuals from the WCC earned AVCA All-America honors in **Kennedy Eschenberg**, **Taylen Ballard-Nixon** and **Bower** of **BYU**, **Shannon Scully** and **Rachel Ahrens** of **Pepperdine** and **Roxie Wiblin** of **San Diego**.

« **Pepperdine** head coach **Scott Wong** captured his 100th career victory during the season.

« Final Rankings: **BYU (15)**, **Pepperdine (20)** and **San Diego (21)** each finished ranked in the top-25 of the final AVCA national poll.



BYU Volleyball
2020 WCC Champions



Noel Caliskan
LMU

men's soccer

« MAC Hermann Trophy Semifinalists: **Noel Caliskan (LMU)**.

« No. 17 **LMU** advanced to the NCAA Tournament with a bye to the second round.

« The **Lions** claimed the WCC crown with an unbeaten conference record (5-0-2) and earned a spot in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

« **Jacob Jackson** ranked first in the NCAA in goals against average (0.207) and helped the **Lions** to rank first in team goals against average (0.207) and shutout percentage (0.778). **Jackson** also ranks second in save percentage (0.905).

« **Saint Mary's Boyd Curry** scored three game-winning goals, which ranks 14th in the nation.

« **LMU's** men's soccer staff was named United Soccer Coaches West Region Staff of the Year - the second so honored from the WCC in three seasons (**Saint Mary's**, 2017).

« **LMU** matched a WCC record, allowing just two goals during WCC play.

« The **Lions** finished the season ranked No. 17 in the final United Soccer Coaches Poll, while **Saint Mary's** was in the "Receiving Votes" category.



Jacob Jackson
LMU

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Santa Clara Women's Soccer
2020 WCC Champions



« The 11-seed, **Santa Clara** won the Conference's fourth women's soccer National Title, defeating No. 1 Florida State in Penalty Kicks (4-1). Izzy D'Aquila scored the PK to seal the championship.

« **Santa Clara's Kelsey Turnbow** was named Offensive Most Outstanding Player and **Alex Loera** was named Defensive Most Outstanding Player for the 2020 Women's College Cup.

« **BYU** and **Santa Clara** ranked in the top-10 nationally in assists per game, points per game, and scoring.

« After scoring 47 goals on the season, **BYU** ranked second nationally.

« **BYU** head coach **Jennifer Rockwood** earned her 400th win on March 6, with a 3-1 win over LMU.

« No. 11 **Santa Clara** and No. 12 **BYU** made it to the NCAA Tournament. Since 2015, four WCC programs have won 23 NCAA Tournament matches: **BYU** (5), **LMU** (2), **Pepperdine** (2) & **Santa Clara** (14).

« Six WCC student-athletes were named to the United Soccer Coaches All-West Region first team.

« Four student-athletes were selected in the 2021 NWSL Draft. **Mikayla Colohan** (**BYU**), **Kelsey Turnbow** (**SCU**), **Alex Loera** (**SCU**), and **Joelle Anderson** (**Pepperdine**) were drafted.

« **Colohan**, **Turnbow**, and **Loera** earned All-America honors.

« **San Diego's Ellyn Casto** averaged 7.00 saves per game, ranking eighth nationally.

SANTA CLARA « NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

« **Santa Clara** gave the West Coast Conference's its 19th College Cup appearance. The 2020 College Cup marks the Broncos' 11th appearance.

« Since beating unseeded Ohio State 4-1 to open the NCAA Tournament, the **Broncos** have beaten no. 4 Arkansas (2-0), no. 14 Clemson (1-0), no. 2 North Carolina (3-1) and tied no. 1 Florida State (1-1) and claimed the title with a 4-1 advantage in penalty kicks.

« **Kelsey Turnbow** tallied four game winning goals to rank 10th nationally. The senior averaged 2.00 points per game, good for 11th nationally.

« **Santa Clara** head coach **Jerry Smith** became one of three NCAA soccer coaches to earn 500 wins. Smith reached the milestone with a 2-1 victory at BYU on March 13.

Izzy D'Aquila
Santa Clara



MEN'S BASKETBALL

« Three **Gonzaga** men's basketball players earned consensus All-American honors – **Corey Kispert** (1st), **Jalen Suggs** (2nd) & **Drew Timme** (2nd).

« **Gonzaga's Kispert** won the 2021 Julius Erving Award presented to the nation's top small forward. **Timme** won the 2021 Karl Malone Award presented to the nation's top power forward.

« **BYU's Alex Barcello** and **Gonzaga's Joel Ayayi** both earned AP All-American Honorable Mention selection.

« The five total AP All-American honors are the most in conference history.

« **Gonzaga's Mark Few** was named Werner Ladder Naismith National Coach of the Year and NABC National Coach of the Year.

« **Pepperdine's Colbey Ross** concluded his collegiate career as the first Division I player with 2,200 points, 800 assists and 400 rebounds, finishing with 2,236/854/455.

« **BYU** made its 30th overall NCAA Tournament appearance and fourth as a WCC member entering the 2021 event as a No. 6 seed. The Cougars are one of only 25 teams to make 30 or more tournament appearances.

« **Saint Mary's** advanced to its 14th consecutive postseason entering the 2021 NIT as a No. 2 seed.

« **Colbey Ross** closed his standout career leading Pepperdine to the 2021 CBI Invitational Championship.

« **Pepperdine** rolled to the 2021 CBI Invitational Championship becoming the second WCC program to win the post-season event. Santa Clara took home the hardware in 2013.



Colbey Ross
Pepperdine

« **Gonzaga** earned the No. 1 overall seed in the 2021 NCAA Tournament for the first time in program history and advanced to the second Final Four and second Championship game since 2017.

« **Gonzaga** entered the NCAA championship game winners of 35-straight games, the second best in WCC history.

« **Gonzaga's** 93-90 overtime thriller against UCLA in the NCAA semifinals was its 31st-consecutive win - the best single-season streak in program and WCC history. The previous record of 29 was held by San Francisco (1956 & 1977) and Gonzaga (2017).

« **Mark Few** has recorded 630 career wins. Few owns the top career winning percentage in Division I (630-125/.835).



Gonzaga Men's Basketball
2021 WCC Champions

« **Gonzaga** led the nation in multiple offensive categories, including: scoring offense (91.6), field goal percentage (54.9), two-point percentage (63.6), scoring margin (23.1) and points in the paint (49.5) - as of 3/30/21.

« **Gonzaga** was ranked No. 1 in the AP Poll for 17 consecutive weeks, extending its program record, and is the first WCC team to go wire-to-wire at No. 1 since San Francisco in 1955-56 and the first overall since Kentucky in 1914-15.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Jenn Wirth
Gonzaga
WCC Co-Player of the Year



Shaylee Gonzales
BYU
WCC Co-Player of the Year



« For the sixth time since 2012 the WCC sent two teams into the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament field.

« **Gonzaga** made its fourth-straight NCAA Tournament and 12th overall, while **BYU** earned its sixth appearance as a WCC member and first since 2018-19.

« **San Francisco** opened the 2021 WNIT by beating Houston 71-63 before falling to California Baptist 90-82.

« **Gonzaga** entered the 2021 NCAA Tournament ranked No. 14 in the AP Poll and No. 13 in the USA Today/WBCA Coaches polls. The **Zags** have been ranked or "receiving votes" for 55 consecutive weeks dating to Dec. 3, 2018.

« The **Cougars** upended Rutgers 69-66 before dropping a hard-fought 52-46 decision to eventual NCAA National Runner-Up Arizona in the second round.

« **Portland** won its first-ever postseason games beating Abilene Christian (67-42) and NAU (80-65) before falling to Cleveland State (67-64) in the title game of the Women's Basketball Invitational.

« Three WCC student-athletes earned All-American Honorable Mention selections this season, establishing a new conference record: **Gonzaga's Jill Townsend** and **Jenn Wirth** along with **BYU's Lauren Gustin**.

« **Gonzaga** concluded the 2020-21 regular season with a 24-game home winning streak after a 77-39 triumph over LMU in the finale (2/27).

« **San Francisco** freshman **Ioanna Krimili** ranked third in the nation in 3-pointers (88) and fifth in 3-pointers per game (3.52).

« **BYU** sophomore **Lauren Gustin** was fifth among Division I leaders in rebounds (12.8).

« **Pacific** senior **Valerie Higgins** was second in steals (84/3.82) in Division I.

« **Pacific's Higgins** became the first player in program history selected in the WNBA Draft, going to New York in the third round.

« **Townsend** earned Senior CLASS Award First Team All-American honors.

Gonzaga Women's Basketball
2021 WCC Champions



beach volleyball

« At the NCAA Championships, **LMU** was selected as the No. 5 seed and defeated No. 4 LSU and No. 1 UCLA to advance to the National Semifinals.

« **LMU** earned its first-ever NCAA Tournament bid.

« **LMU** checked in at No. 3, its highest national ranking in program history in the final AVCA rankings. **Pepperdine** finished at No. 14.

« It marks the fifth straight year a WCC team has advanced to the NCAA National Tournament (Pepperdine 2016-19)

« Pair **Seleena Marolf** and **Reka Orsi Toth** were named AVCA second team All-Americans - the first-ever Lions selected.



Jacinda Ramirez
LMU

LMU Beach Volleyball
2021 WCC Champions



Brad Rickel & Gonzaga Women's Golf
2021 WCC Champions

Jessica Mangrobang
Gonzaga

women's golf

« **Gonzaga** claimed the program's first-ever WCC Women's Golf championship in the second playoff hole, against **Pepperdine** at Reflection Bay Golf Club.

« **Pepperdine's Caroline Hwang**, the WCC Freshman of the Year, captured the WCC Championship individual title.

« **Gonzaga's Brad Rickel** was voted the WCC Coach of the Year following the Zags' run to the Conference title.

« **Pepperdine** earned an at-large selection to the NCAA Championships, as the No. 13 seed. The **Waves** finished eighth in the NCAA Regionals.

« **BYU's Allysha Mae Mateo**, the WCC Player of the Year, earned individual selection to the NCAA Regionals. She tied for 52nd overall in the NCAA Stanford Regional.



men's golf

« For the first time in conference history, three teams - **Pepperdine**, **San Francisco** and **San Diego** - earned bids to the NCAA Championships after finishing in the top-five of their respective regional tournament.

« **LMU's Gavin Cohen** and **Riley Lewis**, **BYU's Carson Lundell**, **Blake Hathcoat** of **Saint Mary's** and **Santa Clara's Matt McCarty** each earned individual selections to NCAA Regionals.

« **Pepperdine** captured its 21st WCC Championship in record fashion. The Waves claimed the title by 24 shots at the Reflection Bay Golf Club with a score of 49-under, nearly doubling the WCC record of 26-under the Waves set in 2018.

« **Clay Feagler** became the first-ever **Pepperdine** golfer to win WCC Championships medalist honors twice and the first repeat medalist in the conference since 2007.

« **Pepperdine**, which registered a program-record six tournament championships in 2020-21 was ranked in the top-25 of both the Golfweek and Golfstat polls all year long.

« **Dylan Menante** of **Pepperdine** claimed WCC Player of the Year honors, while **Michael Beard** was the Conference's Coach of the Year.

Dylan Menante
Pepperdine



PEPPERDINE « NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

« No. 2 seed **Pepperdine** men's golf captured the NCAA Championship with a 3-2 victory over Oklahoma in Scottsdale, Arizona. The Waves captured the second national title in program history.

« Five **Pepperdine** men's golfers were Golfweek All-America selections, including **Joey Vrzich (Second Team)**, **Dylan Menante (Third Team)**, **RJ Manke (HM)**, **Joe Highsmith (HM)** and **Joshua McCarthy (HM)**.

« **Pepperdine's William Mouw** was selected to play in the 2021 Walker Cup.

« **Menante** was named to the 2021 US Arnold Palmer Cup Team.

Pepperdine Men's Golf
2021 WCC Champions



men's tennis

« **Pepperdine's Guy Den Ouden** and **Adrian Oetzbach** reached the semifinals of the NCAA Men's Tennis Doubles Tournament, earning ITA All-American honors. They are the first Waves pair to reach the semis since 2006.

« **Pepperdine** claimed the WCC men's tennis title for the first time since 2013 and the 44th time in program history.

« No. 28 **Pepperdine** advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament after defeating UC Santa Barbara 4-1 in the opening round.

« **San Diego's August Holmgren** was named the WCC Player of the Year after finishing the season 14-3 in singles play and was the highest ranked singles player in the WCC (77).

« **Pepperdine's Guy Den Ouden** was voted the WCC Freshman of the Year. He's the first Wave to capture the award since 2010.

August Holmgren
2021 WCC Player of the Year



◀ women's tennis



Pepperdine Women's Tennis
2021 WCC Champions

Jessica Failla
Pepperdine

« **Pepperdine** reached the finals of the NCAA Women's Tennis Tournament for the first time in program and WCC history. The Waves knocked off previously-unbeaten and top-ranked North Carolina, 4-3, in the national semifinals.

« **Pepperdine** claimed its eighth straight WCC women's tennis title and 28th banner in program history.

« Fifth-ranked **Pepperdine** competed in the NCAA Tournament for the 37th time in program history, and the 33rd-straight season.

« **San Diego** earned an at-large bid for NCAA Tournament, marking consecutive appearances.

« **Pepperdine's Ashley Lahey** entered the 2020-21 season as the top-ranked singles player in the country, the first time a Wave has held the top spot.

◀ rowing

« **Gonzaga** won its 19th overall and sixth-consecutive WCC Championship, defeating **San Diego** by two points (40-38).

« The **Toreros** and **Bulldogs** split the WCC individual awards. **Gonzaga's Schuyler Peters** and **San Diego's Mady Kertin** were voted Co-Coxswains of the Year.

« **Kadee Sylla of San Diego** took home Rower of the Year.

« First-year **Gonzaga** boss **Andrew Derrick** was named WCC Coach of the Year.

« **Gonzaga's** varsity eight and four boats were seeded No. 18 and the second varsity eight was seeded No. 21 for the 2021 NCAA Championships. The Bulldogs turned in a strong final day of competition at Nationals, finishing 20th overall.

« For the first time in program history, **Pepperdine** reached the National Championship match.

« To get the to the NCAA Final, the **Waves** defeated unbeaten and No. 1 overall North Carolina, 4-3.

« **Lahey** was named the Mike Gilleran WCC Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year after being named an All-American and Academic All-American.

« The Waves swept the WCC Awards as **Lahey** was named the WCC Player of the Year, **Taisiya Pachkaleva** the Freshman of the Year, and **Per Nilsson** the Coach of the Year.

Gonzaga Rowing
2021 WCC Champions





Ashley Trierweiler
2021 WCC Defensive Player of the Year



« **BYU's** head coach **Gordon Eakin** collected his 700th career coaching win 7-5 vs. No. 25 Baylor on April 2.

« **Santa Clara's Ashley Trierweiler** finished ranked fourth among Division I leaders in batting average at .481.

« **BYU's Rylee Jensen** capped off the season ranking fifth nationally in slugging percentage (0.546), batting average (0.330), and doubles per game (1.75).

« **BYU** secured its seventh-consecutive WCC title.

« The **Cougars** made their 17th NCAA Tournament appearance, playing in the Tempe Regional and falling to Virginia Tech in the Regional Final.

« Four WCC student-athletes earned spots on the Pacific Region squad - **BYU: Jensen** (1st), **Violet Zavodnik** (2nd) and **Autumn Moffat-Korth** (2nd); **Saint Mary's: Sofia Earle** (3rd).

Alek Jacob
Gonzaga



« **Gonzaga** claimed the 2021 WCC regular season championship for the first time since 2017, and played in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2018. The Zags earned the No. 2 seed in the Eugene Regional, the highest seed in program history.

« Second-seeded **Gonzaga's Alek Jacob** pitched a complete-game shutout against third-seeded LSU in the opening game of the Eugene Regional. Jacob finished the effort with 9 strikeouts.

« **San Francisco** head coach **Nino Giarratano** earned his 600th career NCAA victory after winning two of three games at then-No. 2 UCLA to open the 2020-21 season.

« **Gonzaga's Brett Harris** was selected as a Senior CLASS Award Second Team All-American. He was also recognized as a Third Team All-American by Collegiate Baseball. Harris led the Zags in many offensive categories and graduated with a 3.51 GPA.

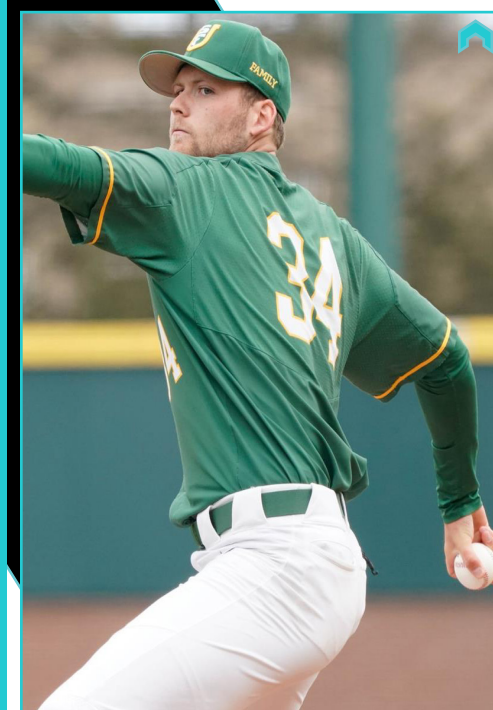
« **Gonzaga's Gabriel Hughes** was named a Freshman All-American by Collegiate Baseball.

« **Alek Jacob** of **Gonzaga** pitched a no-hitter against Pepperdine on April 16th - the fifth occasion in program history. He earned Second Team All-American honors by Collegiate Baseball.

« **San Francisco's Landen Bourassa** tied a 75-year-old program record by striking out 16 batters on April 23rd against Portland.

« Seven former baseball players from five different WCC teams began the 2021 Major League Baseball season on opening day rosters: **Kris Bryant** (USD), **Corbin Burnes** (SMC), **Adam Cimber** (USF), **David Fletcher** (LMU), **Marco Gonzales** (GON), **Tony Gonsolin** (SMC), and **Kyle Zimmer** (USF).

Landen Bourassa
San Francisco



NATIONAL EXPOSURE



broadcasts

« Viewership for WCC men's basketball conference games on ESPN, ESPN2 and ESPNU increased by 12% from the previous year.

« Viewership for WCC men's basketball conference games on CBS Sports Network increased by 31% from the previous year.

« The men's basketball championship game of the 2021 University Credit Union WCC Tournament on ESPN was viewed by 1.2 million people, a 22% increase in viewership from the 2020 men's basketball title game. It was the most viewed game in four seasons.

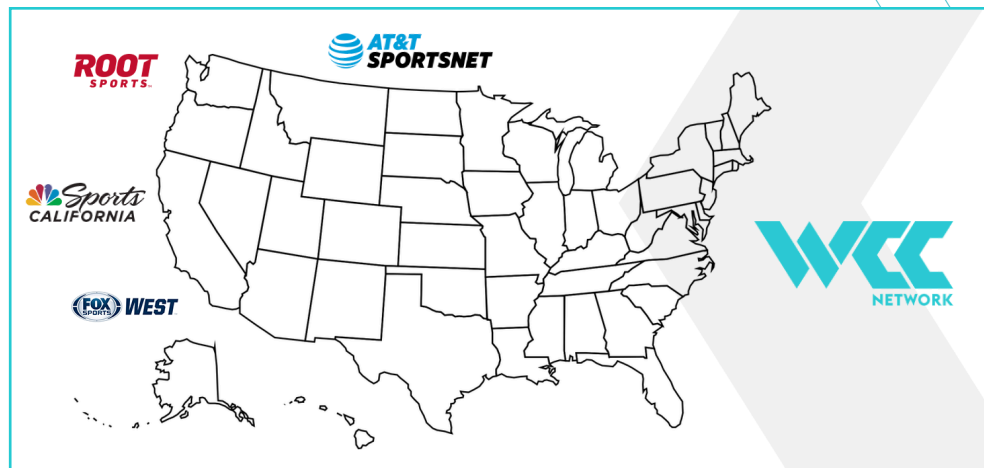
« The women's basketball championship game of the 2021 University Credit Union WCC Tournament on ESPNU was viewed by 47,677 people, a 26% increase in viewership from the 2020 women's basketball title game.

**56
NATIONALLY
TELEVISED
BASKETBALL GAMES**

**17
WCC BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENT GAMES
TELEVISED NATIONALLY
ALL 17 MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GAMES**

**600+
WCC NETWORK
LIVE BROADCASTS
PRODUCED AT TV QUALITY IN HD**

**20
TELEVISED GAMES
ON MULTIPLE
REGIONAL SPORTS
NETWORKS**



social media

TWITTER

@WCCsports ↑ 5% 11,687 followers
@WCCHoops ↑ 10% 8,534 followers

INSTAGRAM

@WCCsports ↑ 32% 8,510 followers

FACEBOOK

/WCCsports ↑ 3% 12,819 likes

YOUTUBE

/WCCsports ↑ 25% 2,670 subscribers

**13,914,702
IMPRESSIONS
@WCCHOOPS
TWITTER 81% INCREASE**

**4,051,300
IMPRESSIONS
@WCCSPORTS
TWITTER 51% INCREASE**

**2,756
NEW FOLLOWERS
WCCSPORTS
INSTAGRAM**

**370,530
IMPRESSIONS
WCCHOOPS
TWITTER 72% INCREASE**



NCAA conferences generating the most interactions on official social accounts (IG+TW+FB) in April 2021.

SkullSparks.com/analytics



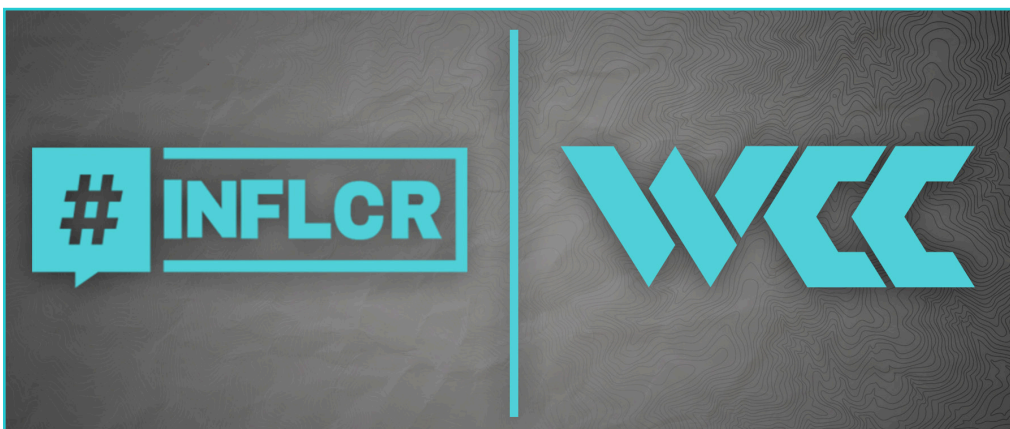
NCAA CONFERENCES / SOCIAL INTERACTIONS GENERATED APRIL 2021 / SKULLSPARKS

NATIONAL EXPOSURE

« wcc all-access

« WCC All-Access tells the story of the West Coast Conference, its institutions, its teams, and its student-athletes – both on and off the field. The fast-paced show features interviews with WCC coaches and student-athletes, the most exciting highlights, and compelling feature stories.

« New episodes premiere each month on NBC Sports California, ROOT Sports Northwest, AT&T SportsNet Rocky Mountain, Bally Sports West, Bally Sports San Diego, Stadium, YouTube TV, and the WCC Network.



« wcc partners with inflcr

« In January, the West Coast Conference and INFLCR entered into an innovative multi-year partnership to empower WCC student-athletes to share content in a collaborative model that builds individual and institutional brands on social media. The WCC was the first conference to provide league-wide support for its member institutions in a partnership with the INFLCR platform that will enhance the overall engagement and brand identity of the conference and its men's and women's basketball programs.

« Student-athletes, coaches, staff and other brand ambassadors gained access to thousands of photos, videos, and graphics produced by the member institutions, delivered through the INFLCR software and mobile app and shared on their personal and team social-media channels.

ESPORTS

« The WCC continued its exploration into the esports space in 2020-21, partnering with Van Wagner and Mainline on an eight-conference Collegiate sports Invitational. This invitational, which featured 73 teams and 200 players, was held virtually in February. The event generated more than 22.5 million social media impressions and more than 506,000 total views over 20+ hours during its live broadcasts. LMU, Pacific, Pepperdine and San Francisco each represented the WCC in the event, with Pacific earning the 2020-21 WCC esports championship and advanced to the eight-team playoff.

« In May, the WCC joined nine other conferences in partnering with Van Wagner to compete in the Collegiate Esports Invitational.



FINANCIALS

« financial highlights

While the Conference was unable to have any spectators or revenue at the University Credit Union WCC Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament, it nonetheless successfully navigated the COVID-19 pandemic by reducing expenses by more than 20%, allowing the WCC to complete all of the sport seasons and all but two of the season-ending championship events. The Conference moved to a virtual office environment in August and later extended the remote office setup to January 2022 to realize additional cost savings. The cost containment measures put in place in 2020-21 have positioned the Conference for a full financial recovery.

WE CREATE CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE



The West Coast Conference proudly announced the adoption of the “Russell Rule” as the first conference-wide diversity hiring commitment in Division I. The “Russell Rule” is named in honor of WCC and NBA legend Bill Russell and is the main part of a groundbreaking series of initiatives implemented under the “We Create Champions for Change” platform.

The “Russell Rule” requires each member institution to include a member of a traditionally underrepresented community in the pool of final candidates for every athletic director, senior administrator, head coach and full-time assistant coach position in the athletic department.

The WCC has partnered with human rights activist and pioneer for racial equality, Dr. Richard Lapchick, the founder and Director of The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES), to develop an annual race and gender report card on the demographics at each WCC institution and the Conference office.

Russell, an 11-time NBA Champion, a two-time NCAA Champion and a Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient as a life-long advocate for social justice, embraced the opportunity to promote equitable opportunities in college athletics.

Led by Gloria Nevarez, the first Latinx Division I Commissioner, the WCC continues to be a trailblazer for change.

“We look forward to working with the WCC to enhance transparency to their diversity and inclusion efforts and to assist them as they become a role model for institutions and conferences everywhere,” Dr. Lapchick commented. “I am very appreciative of the leadership of Commissioner Gloria Nevarez, who got the approval of the Conference presidents to undertake the first conference-wide Racial and Gender Report Card.”

The “Russell Rule” is part of several significant initiatives associated with the “We Create Champions for Change” platform that received unanimous support from the WCC Presidents’ Council.

“The West Coast Conference is committed to providing a diverse and inclusive environment that ensures equality and respect for everyone,” commented University of San Diego President James T. Harris, the chair of the WCC Presidents’ Council. “The WCC is a leader in establishing a diversity hiring commitment that speaks to the Conference’s core values of inclusion. The Conference has been committed to this work for many years, including the hiring of our Commissioner Gloria Nevarez, the first Latinx to lead a NCAA Division I athletic conference. Thanks to her leadership and the great work of the WCC Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the Presidents’ Council unanimously approved this groundbreaking new initiative.”

Led by Nevarez, the WCC is committed to providing an inclusive environment and developing initiatives that combat racism and social injustice. The “We Create Champions for Change” platform will continue to guide conversations and actions in pursuance of equity, diversity and inclusion in the WCC.

WE CREATE CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE INITIATIVES

DIVERSITY HIRING COMMITMENT

The “Russell Rule” is the first conference-wide diversity hiring commitment in Division I.

EDUCATION

Conference-wide series of anti-racism educational webinars for coaches, administrators and student-athletes on June 29, 2020. Participants included more than 500 student-athletes and more than 400 coaches and administrators.

POLICY MAKING

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (EDI), formed in 2019, will be expanded with representation from all 10 institutions. This group will feature a student-athlete subcommittee with representatives from each member.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

A Civic Engagement Pledge to facilitate annual voter education and registration for student-athletes.

VIDEO CAMPAIGN

The “We Create Champions for Change” video message, featuring representatives from all 10 institutions, will be played prior to WCC contests and will be included in WCC Network programming as well as digital and social platforms.

JUNETEENTH

Beginning in 2020, the Conference office observes Juneteenth as an official

IT IS MY HOPE

THE WEST COAST CONFERENCE INITIATIVE
WILL ENCOURAGE
OTHER LEAGUES AND SCHOOLS
TO MAKE SIMILAR COMMITMENTS.
WE NEED TO BE INTENTIONAL
IF WE’RE GOING TO MAKE REAL CHANGE

FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR

IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN COLLEGE ATHLETICS.
I’M PROUD TO ASSIST THE WCC AND
COMMISSIONER GLORIA NEVAREZ
BY ENDORSING THIS MOST
IMPORTANT INITIATIVE.”

- BILL RUSSELL

THE “RUSSELL RULE” IS THE RESULT OF
GROUNDBREAKING WORK OF THE
WCC PRESIDENTS AND EDI COMMITTEE.

BILL RUSSELL IS
THE GREATEST BASKETBALL PLAYER &
SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATE
THE NATION HAS SEEN.
HE IS A CHAMPION FOR CHANGE.

IT IS OUR BELIEF THE WCC “RUSSELL RULE”
WILL LIVE UP TO HIS LEGACY.

OUR GOAL IS THAT THE DIVERSITY
OF OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES IS REFLECTED IN THOSE
THAT **LEAD & MENTOR THEM**
AND PROVIDES A HOLISTIC AND INCLUSIVE
EDUCATION DURING THEIR TIME AT WCC INSTITUTIONS.”

- COMMISSIONER GLORIA NEVAREZ

LEADERSHIP

Over the course of the 2020-21 academic year, the WCC was involved in serving on 23 Cabinets/Committees. The WCC has key individuals in leadership roles including Commissioner Gloria Nevarez serving on the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Oversight Committee and Knight Commission, and University of San Diego President James Harris serving on the NCAA Division I Board of Directors, where he is the Chair of the Infractions Process Committee.

COMMITTEE NAME	NAME	INSTITUTION
Baseball Rules Committee	Chris Standiford	GON
Board of Governors	James Harris	USD
Division I Board of Directors	James Harris	USD
Division I Board of Directors Infractions Process Committee	James Harris	USD
Division I Competition Oversight Committee	Renee Baumgartner	SCU
Division I Council	Renee Baumgartner	SCU
Division I Degree Completion Award Committee	Karen Peters	POR
Division I Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee	Thad Satre	LMU
Division I Legislative Committee	Shannon Strahl	GON
Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Committee	Glenn Layendecker	WCC
Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Committee	Jason Brough	POR
Division I Men's Basketball Oversight Committee	Gloria Nevarez	WCC
Division I Men's Golf Committee	Connie Hurlbut	WCC
Division I Nominating Committee	Karen Peters	POR
Division I Presidential Forum	Thayne McCulloh	GON
Division I Progress Toward Degree Waivers Committee	Chad Gwilliam	BYU
Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee	Nikki Leishman	UOP
Division I Women's Basketball Competition Committee	Melissa Barlow	WCC
Division I Women's Rowing Committee	Thad Satre	LMU
Division I Women's Soccer Committee	Scott Leykam	POR
Division I Women's Softball Committee	Ashley Armstrong	LMU
Knight Commission	Gloria Nevarez	WCC
Women's Beach Volleyball Committee	Joan McDermott	USF

23 Cabinets/Committees with WCC Representation in 2020-21