

THE PAC-12 CONFERENCE

Conference History

The roots of the Pac-12 Conference date back 99 years to December 2, 1915, when the Pacific Coast Conference (PCC) was founded at a meeting at the Oregon Hotel in Portland, Ore. The original membership consisted of four schools - the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Washington, the University of Oregon, and Oregon State College (now Oregon State University). All still are charter members of the Conference.

Pacific Coast Conference play began in 1916 and, one year later, Washington State College (now Washington State University) was accepted into the league, with Stanford University following in 1918.

In 1922, the PCC expanded to eight teams with the admission of the University of Southern California (USC) and the University of Idaho. In 1924, the University of Montana joined the league roster, and in 1928, the PCC grew to 10 members with the addition of UCLA.

The Pacific Coast Conference competed as a 10-member league until 1950, with the exception of 1943-45 when World War II curtailed intercollegiate athletic competition to a minimum. During that time, the league's first commissioner was named. Edwin N. Atherton was Commissioner in 1940 and was succeeded by Victor O. Schmidt in 1944. In 1950, Montana resigned from the Conference and the PCC continued as a nine-team Conference through 1958.

In 1959, the PCC was dissolved and the Athletic Association of Western Universities (AAWU) was formed with Thomas J. Hamilton was appointed Commissioner of the new league. The original AAWU membership included California, Stanford, USC, UCLA and Washington. Washington State joined the membership in 1962, while Oregon and Oregon State joined in 1964. Under Hamilton's watch, the name Pacific-8 Conference was adopted in 1968. In 1971, Wiles Hallock took over as Commissioner of the Pac-8.

Ten years later, on July 1, 1978, the University of Arizona and Arizona State University were admitted to the league and the Pacific-10 Conference became a reality. In 1986-87, the league took on a new look, expanding to include 10 women's sports. Since then, the Conference has been considered the premiere league in women's athletics, securing the most NCAA titles in women's sports of any conference nearly every year.

Thomas C. Hansen was named the Commissioner of the Pac-10 in 1983, a role he would hold for 26 years until 2009, and was succeeded by current Commissioner Larry Scott, who took on the new role in July 2009.

During the 2010-11 academic year, the University of Colorado accepted its invitation to join the Pac-12 on June 11, 2010, and on June 17, 2010, the University of Utah agreed to join the Conference. The Buffaloes and Utes officially became the 11th and 12th members of the Conference on July 1, 2011, the first additions to the league since 1978.

It was during that 2010-11 academic year that Scott helped deliver monumental changes that transformed the Conference into a modern 12-team league. In addition to expanding to 12 teams, member institutions agreed to equal revenue sharing for the first time in the Conference's history, created two divisions - the North and the South, for football only and established a Football Championship Game for the first time ever. He also secured a landmark media rights deal that dramatically increased national exposure and revenue for each school, establishing the Pac-12 Networks and Pac-12 Digital Network that guaranteed enhanced exposure across all sports.

Currently, the Pac-12 sponsors 11 men's sports and 11 women's sports. Additionally, the Conference is a member of the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) in four other men's sports and three women's sports.

The Pac-12 Conference offices are located in the heart of San Francisco in the SOMA district.

Conference of Champions

Built on a firm foundation of academic excellence and superior athletic performance, the Conference ushered in a new era on July 1, 2011, officially becoming the Pac-12 Conference with the additions of the University of Colorado and University of Utah.

Just 27 days after the Conference officially changed its name, Commissioner Larry Scott announced the creation of the Pac-12 Networks on July 27, 2011, solidifying a landmark television deal and putting the Conference on the forefront of collegiate athletics. The Networks, including one national network, six regional networks, and a robust digital network marked the first-ever integrated media company owned by a college conference. In addition, the "TV Everywhere" rights allow fans to access Pac-12 Networks outside the home on any digital device, including smartphones and tablet computers.

On the field, the Pac-12 rises above the rest, upholding its tradition as the "Conference of Champions" claiming an incredible 131 NCAA team titles since 1999-2000, including 10 in 2013-14. That is an average of nearly nine championships per academic year. Even more impressive has been the breadth of the Pac-12's success, with championships coming in 28 different men's and women's sports. The Pac-12 has led or tied the nation in NCAA Championships in 48 of the last 54 years, the only exceptions being in 1980-81, 1988-89, 1990-91 and 1995-96 when the Conference finished second, and only twice finished third in 1998-99 and 2004-05.

For the ninth-consecutive year, the Pac-12 had the most NCAA titles or tied for the most of any conference in the country, winning at least six every year since 2000-01. No other conference has won double-digit NCAA crowns in a single year, the Pac-12 doing so seven times, including a record 14 in 1996-97.

Spanning nearly a century of outstanding athletics achievements, the Pac-12 was the first conference to reach 400 championships in 2010-11. With the inclusion of Colorado and Utah, the Conference surpassed another major milestone, with league teams capturing 450 titles, outdistancing the next conference by nearly 200. In all, Conference teams have won 469 NCAA Championships (287 men's, 154 women's, 28 combined).

Pac-12 members have won 287 NCAA team championships on the men's side, 83 more than the next closest conference. Men's NCAA crowns have come at a phenomenal rate for the Pac-12 - 16 basketball titles by six schools (more than any other conference), 54 tennis titles, 46 outdoor track & field crowns, and 28 baseball titles. Pac-12 members have won 25 of 45 NCAA titles in volleyball, 40 of 45 in water polo, 28 in skiing, and 24 in swimming & diving national championships.

Individually, the Conference has produced an impressive number of NCAA individual champions. Over 2,000 (2,167) individual crowns have been won by Pac-12 student-athletes over the years with 1,485 by male student-athletes.

On the women's side, the story is much the same. Since the NCAA began conducting women's championships 33 years ago, Pac-12 members have claimed at least four national titles in a single season on 24 occasions, including 14-consecutive years from 2000-2014. Overall, the Pac-12 has captured 154 NCAA women's titles, easily outdistancing the SEC, which is second with 93. Pac-12 members have dominated a number of sports, winning 23 softball titles, 21 tennis crowns, 14 volleyball titles, 15 of the last 25 trophies in golf, and 13 in swimming & diving.

Pac-12 women student-athletes shine nationally on an individual basis, as well, having captured an unmatched 682 NCAA individual crowns, an average of nearly 21 championships per season.