

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. 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 joined the Mountain States Conference, essentially replacing Colorado, which left for the Big 7 two years earlier. The PCC continued as a nine-team conference through 1958.

In 1959, the PCC was dissolved and the Athletic Association of Western Universities was formed and Thomas J. Hamilton was appointed commissioner of the new league. The original AAWU membership included California, Stanford, Southern California, 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.

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

During the 2010-11 academic year, Scott helped deliver monumental changes that transformed the conference into a modern 12-team league by adding the University of Colorado and the University of Utah. The addition of CU and Utah led to an agreement to equal revenue sharing for the first time in conference history, created two divisions (North and South) for football only, established a football championship game for the first time ever, secured a landmark media rights deal that dramatically increased national exposure and revenue for each school and established the Pac-12 Network and Pac-12 Digital Network that guaranteed enhanced exposure across all sports.

Colorado accepted its invitation to join the Pac-12 on June 11, 2010, as the Buffaloes were the first domino to fall in a change of the national landscape which, in just one week, saw Nebraska also leave the Big 12 and join the Big 10, Boise State depart the WAC for the Mountain West, TCU jump from the MWC for the Big East, and then on June 17, Utah agreeing to join CU to make it an even dozen in the Pac-12. Big-time rivals for the first half of the last century, 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. During the 33 years between expansions, Pac-10 teams claimed 258 NCAA titles (130 women's, 128 men's).



Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott

At present, the Pac-12 sponsors 11 men's sports and 11 women's sports. Additionally, the conference schools are members of the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) in four other men's sports and three women's sports. CU participates in the MPSF in indoor track and now in women's lacrosse and has competed since 1950 in the Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Ski Association (RMISA) in skiing, which is a coed sport.

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

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.

The Pac-12 launched its China Initiative in 2011 as a way to proactively promote the Conference and member institutions through student-athlete exchanges and sport. In its first three years, Pac-12 student-athletes have enjoyed unique cultural and athletic experiences in China, and the Conference has gained significant brand exposure for the future and set a foundation for growth.

On the field, the Pac-12 rises above the rest, upholding its tradition as the "Conference of Champions[®]," claiming an incredible 137 NCAA team titles since 1999-2000, including 10 in 2013-14. That is an average of over 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 (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



PAC-12 CONFERENCE

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 coed).

Individually, the Conference has produced an impressive number of NCAA individual champions. Pac-12 student-athletes over the years have won 2,123 individual crowns (1,459 men's 664 women's).

On the women's side, the story is much the same. Since the NCAA began conducting women's championships 32 years ago, Pac-12 members have claimed at least four national titles in a single season on 23 occasions, including 13-consecutive years from 2000-2013. Overall, the Pac-12 has captured 150 NCAA women's titles, easily outdistancing the SEC, which is second, with 90. Pac-12 members have dominated a number of sports, winning 23 softball titles, 20 tennis crowns, 14 volleyball titles, 15 of the last 24 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 664 NCAA individual crowns, an average of nearly 21 championships per season.



Mads Stroem was the NCAA 20-kilometer freestyle champion as a freshman in 2014.

2013-14 REVIEW

In 2013-14, the Pac-12 Conference's 10 national titles came in the form of six men's and four women's crowns. Six different league schools claimed NCAA titles and, of the seven NCAA institutions to have won multiples titles, three were from the Pac-12. No other conference in the country had more than one team win multiple NCAA titles.

Oregon was one of three teams in the country to win three NCAA titles this academic season, its first time doing so. The Ducks took home the hardware in men's outdoor track & field, the program's first team title in the sport since 1984, and swept the men's and women's indoor national championships. An additional four teams in the country had two NCAA titles, including USC and UCLA. The Trojans continue to dominate the sports of men's water polo and men's tennis, winning a sixth-straight title in the pool and a fifth in six years on the court. The Bruins won the conference's third-ever women's soccer title and the program's first, while also taking home the women's tennis crown.

But it was the Buffaloes who kicked off the year for the conference winning its fourth NCAA men's cross country title. California was first in men's swimming, the program's third national championship in four years, and Stanford won its third women's water polo crown in four years, extending the school's streak of at least one NCAA team championship to 38 consecutive years.

Participation in the postseason was a common occurrence for the Pac-12 in 2013-14. Of the 22 sports it sponsors, 19 witnessed at least half its teams participating in NCAA or other postseason action. The men sent 79 of a possible 100 teams into the postseason (79.4 percent), while the women sent 83 of a possible 115 teams (72.2 percent).



CU claimed its fourth NCAA men's cross country title in 2013.