

# 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



Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott

years between expansions, Pac-10 teams claimed 258 NCAA titles (130 women's, 128 men's).

At present, the Pac-12 sponsors 11 men's sports and 12 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, 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.

That same year, the Pac-12 also launched its Globalization Initiative to proactively promote the Conference and member institutions through student-athlete exchanges and sport. In the first four years, Pac-12 student-athletes have enjoyed unique cultural and athletic experiences in China, fielding full university and Pac-12 all-star teams in women's volleyball and men's basketball. The Conference and its member schools have 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<sup>®</sup>," claiming an incredible 140 NCAA team titles since 1999-2000. For the 10th consecutive year, the Pac-12 had the most or tied for the most NCAA titles of any conference in the country, winning at least six every year since 2000-01, including nine in 2014-15 (two claimed by **Colorado**: men's cross country and skiing). Even more impressive has been the breadth of the Pac-12's success,



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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 49 of the last 55 years, four of the exceptions being in 1980-81, 1988-89, 1990-91 and 1995-96 when the Conference finished second.

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 league teams zoomed past 450 titles, outdistancing the next conference by nearly 200. In all, Conference teams have won **478** NCAA Championships (291 men's, 158 women's, 29 coed).

Individually, the Conference has produced an impressive number of NCAA individual champions, as **2,208** individual crowns have been won by Pac-12 student-athletes over the years (1,333 in men's championships, 701 in women's and 174 in coed (e.g. skiing, fencing).

On the women's side, the story is much the same. Since the NCAA began conducting women's championships 34 years ago, Pac-12 members have claimed at least four national titles in a single season on 25 occasions, including 15-consecutive years from 2000-2015.



CU claimed its second straight NCAA cross country title in November 2014



CU won its 20th national championship in skiing in March 2015

## 2014-15 QUICK REVIEW

In the 2014-15 academic year, the Pac-12's nine NCAA titles came in the form of four men's and four women's and one coed team title. Five 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 only two programs in the country to win three NCAA titles in 2014-15. The Ducks successfully defended its indoor and outdoor NCAA Track & Field titles, and also won the women's outdoor crown for the first time in 30 years. **Colorado** and Stanford claimed a pair of titles, as well. The Buffaloes claimed the academic year's first NCAA title, taking home its second straight men's cross country crown in dominating fashion, posting a 33-point margin of victory. Colorado then grabbed the hardware in skiing, its third in five years and 20th in the history of the program.

Participation in the postseason was a common occurrence for the Pac-12 in 2014-15. Of the 22 sports sponsored, 20 witnessed at least half its teams participating in NCAA or other postseason action. The men sent 67 of a possible 97 teams into the postseason (69.1 percent), while the women sent 79 of a possible 115 teams (68.7 percent).



Volleyball senior Taylor Simpson was the state of Colorado's Female Athlete of the Year