



# 2013 Big West Men's Soccer

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## Big West Announces 2013 Men's Soccer All-Conference Team

**IRVINE, Calif.** – UC Irvine and UC Santa Barbara claimed the majority of the major awards to highlight the announcement of today's 2013 Big West Men's Soccer All-Conference team. Anteater seniors **Enrique Cardenas** and **Marco Franco** were selected the Big West Midfielder of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year, respectively. **Tim Vom Steeg** of UC Santa Barbara claimed Coach of the Year honors while prized pupil **Ismaila Jome** received Freshman of the Year accolades. Meanwhile, Cal Poly's **Mackenzie Pridham** earned his second straight Offensive Player of the Year. **Omar Zeenni** of UC Davis also received a coveted piece of the hardware as the conference's Goalkeeper of the Year.

Cardenas (Coachella, Calif./Coachella Valley HS) became the third Anteater to claim the Midfielder of the Year honor, following in the footsteps of Brad Evans (2004) and Matt Murphy (2006). The senior tied for third in the Big West with seven goals while ranking third in points (19) and shots (56). Cardenas scored a team-leading three game-winning goals, and his five career clinchers are tied for No. 10 in UCI history. In a 2-1 win over then-No. 11 UCLA on Sept. 19, Cardenas notched a pair of goals.

Franco (Chino Hills, Calif./Chino Hills HS) joined Saul Wolf (2001) and David Sias (2008) on the list of UC Irvine performers to claim Defender of the Year recognition. The anchor of a stingy backline, the senior helped the Anteaters tie for second-lowest goals against average (0.91) in the Big West, allowing just 18 goals in 19 games. Franco also played a large role in UCI's league-leading seven shutouts while starting all 19 contests.

Vom Steeg added a fourth Coach of the Year award to his mantle in addition to hardware he received in 2004, 2005 and 2010. He guided the Gauchos to a 7-0-3 conference mark, the Big West North Division title and a No. 1 seed in this week's conference tournament. With a 12-4-3 record, the Gauchos have recorded 10 or more wins for 13 straight years under Vom Steeg's tutelage. He reached a career milestone earlier this season as he secured his 200th career win on Sept. 20 in a 3-1 triumph against Yale. The winningest head coach in UCSB and Big West history, Vom Steeg's troops have climbed as high as No. 12 in the national polls. His 2013 squad is only the second team in Big West lore to complete conference play with an undefeated record, joining the 2002 UCSB squad on that list.

Jome (Banjul, Gambia/Prairie Seeds Academy) represents a long line of young, highly recognized talent in the UC Santa Barbara program. He became the fourth Gaucho in the last five seasons to be named Freshman of the Year, following Ema Boateng (2012), David Opoku (2010) and Machael David (2009). The only freshman named to the all-conference first team, Jome tied for fourth on the Big West leaderboard with six assists, and his 10 points tie him for third on the squad. Jome was the only Gaucho to start all 19 games, and the team went 6-0 when he amassed at least one point.

Pridham (Santa Cruz, Calif./Bellarmine College Prep) is the lone repeat major award honoree as the Offensive Player of the Year for the second straight time. After scoring 11 goals in 2012, Pridham trumped that effort this season with a Big West-leading 14 strikes, a figure that is tied for second nationally. Of his 14 goals, a league high-tying five have produced game-winners. His 12 career game-winning goals rank third all-time in Big West history, while he is tied for No. 11 on the career list with 27 goals. Pridham's 14 goals and 31 points are both ranked No. 3 on the Cal Poly single-season list.

Zeenni (Arcadia, Calif./Crespi Carmelite HS) earned the distinction of being the first Goalkeeper of the Year in UC Davis history. The senior ranked second in the Big West in goals against average (9.86), tied for third in shutouts (5) and fourth in save percentage (.785). With 51 saves this season, Zeenni became the Aggie career record holder with 215 stops. In a 1-0 blanking of Sacramento State in the regular season finale, Zeenni registered his 18th career shutout, which tied him for No. 10 on the Big West career list with Fresno State's Chato Elgorriaga (1983-85). Entering the Big West Tournament, Zeenni's name is also splashed across the conference record book in career categories such as goals against average (0.97 - No. 9), minutes played (6,058 - No. 8), matches in goal (67 - No. 5) and wins (28 - No. 8).

Mackenzie Pridham was the only repeat selection to the all-conference first team as he earned his second citation. Cal State Northridge led all schools with four first-team representatives, while Cal Poly and UC Santa Barbara had three apiece. Nine seniors, one junior, two sophomores and one freshman comprised the first team.

The complete 2013 All-Big West Men's Soccer Team can be viewed on the following page:

# 2013 ALL-BIG WEST MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

## FIRST TEAM

<i>Player</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Hometown</i>
Achille Campion	UC Santa Barbara	Senior	Forward	Paris, France
Sagi Lev-Ari	Cal State Northridge	Junior	Forward	Haifa, Israel
Mackenzie Pridham	Cal Poly	Senior	Forward	Santa Cruz, Calif.
Beto Velasquez	Cal State Northridge	Senior	Forward	Panorama City, Calif.
Enrique Cardenas	UC Irvine	Senior	Midfielder	Coachella, Calif.
Ismaila Jome	UC Santa Barbara	Freshman	Midfielder	Banjul, Gambia
Matt LaGrassa	Cal Poly	Sophomore	Midfielder	Elk Grove, Calif.
Chris Smith	Cal State Northridge	Senior	Midfielder	Palmdale, Calif.
Connor Drechsler	Cal Poly	Senior	Defender	Temecula, Calif.
Marco Franco	UC Irvine	Senior	Defender	Chino Hills, Calif.
Trevor Morley	Cal State Northridge	Sophomore	Defender	San Diego, Calif.
Peter Schmetz	UC Santa Barbara	Senior	Defender	Düsseldorf, Germany
Omar Zeenni	UC Davis	Senior	Goalkeeper	Arcadia, Calif.

## SECOND TEAM

<i>Player</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Hometown</i>
Edwin Rivas	Cal State Northridge	Junior	Forward	Los Angeles, Calif.
Christopher Santana	UC Irvine	Senior	Forward	Bishop, Calif.
Matt Wiesenfarth	UC Davis	Junior	Forward	Sacramento, Calif.
Fifi Baiden	UC Santa Barbara	Senior	Midfielder	Ajumako, Ghana
Carlos Benavides	Cal State Northridge	Senior	Midfielder	Woodland Hills, Calif.
Aaron Long	UC Riverside	Senior	Midfielder	Oak Hills, Calif.
George Malki	Cal Poly	Senior	Midfielder	Scottsdale, Ariz.
Brian Ford	UC Davis	Junior	Defender	Newport Beach, Calif.
Alex Henry	UC Davis	Senior	Defender	Poway, Calif.
Hayden Leslie	UC Riverside	Senior	Defender	Apple Valley, Calif.
Cesar Castillo	Sacramento State	Senior	Goalkeeper	San Rafael, Calif.

## HONORABLE MENTION

<i>Player</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Hometown</i>
Goffin Boyoko	UC Santa Barbara	Senior	Forward	Paris, France
Isaac Ikyurav	Sacramento State	Senior	Forward	Benue, Nigeria
Matt Sheldon	UC Davis	Junior	Forward	Portland, Ore.
Alex Aguiar	UC Davis	Senior	Midfielder	Atascadero, Calif.
Cameron Iwasa	UC Irvine	Junior	Midfielder	Sacramento, Calif.
Ian Ramos	Cal State Fullerton	Junior	Midfielder	Highland, Utah
Nick DePuy	UC Santa Barbara	Freshman	Defender	Irvine, Calif.
Ramon Martin del Campo	UC Davis	Junior	Defender	Chula Vista, Calif.
Tarek Morad	UC Irvine	Senior	Defender	Chino Hills, Calif.
Michael Breslin	UC Irvine	Sophomore	Goalkeeper	Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.

## ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM

<i>Player</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Hometown</i>
Pol Schonhofer Bartra	Cal State Northridge	Defender	Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain
Nick DePuy	UC Santa Barbara	Defender	Irvine, Calif.
Justin Dhillon	Cal Poly	Forward	Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.
Andrew Gosselin	Sacramento State	Defender	Sacramento, Calif.
Ismaila Jome	UC Santa Barbara	Midfielder	Banjul, Gambia
Ariel Lassiter	Cal Poly	Forward	Temecula, Calif.
Romario Lomeli	UC Riverside	Forward	Panorama City, Calif.
Dashiell MacNamara	UC Davis	Forward	San Francisco, Calif.
Josh McNeely	UC Santa Barbara	Goalkeeper	Calabasas, Calif.
Drew Murphy	UC Santa Barbara	Midfielder	Palos Verdes, Calif.
Michael Sperber	UC Irvine	Midfielder	Palm Desert, Calif.

### 2013 Big West Midfielder Of The Year

Enrique Cardenas, UC Irvine

### 2013 Big West Defensive Player Of The Year

Marco Franco, UC Irvine

### 2013 Big West Offensive Player Of The Year

Mackenzie Pridham, Cal Poly

### 2013 Big West Coach Of The Year

Tim Vom Steeg, UC Santa Barbara

### 2013 Big West Goalkeeper Of The Year

Omar Zeenni, UC Davis

### 2013 Big West Freshman Of The Year

Ismaila Jome, UC Santa Barbara