



# 2014 Big West Men's Soccer

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## Big West Announces 2014 Men's Soccer All-Conference Team

**IRVINE, Calif.** – The North Division monopolized the major awards as the announcement of the 2014 Big West Men's Soccer All-Conference team took place today. The trio from North Division champion UC Santa Barbara took home three of the awards with **Nick DePuy** getting the Offensive Player of the Year nod, **Kevin Garcia-Lopez** earning Defensive Player of the Year and **Axel Mendez** Freshman of the Year. Cal Poly teammates **Chase Minter** and **Wade Hamilton** were tabbed Midfielder of the Year and Goalkeeper of the Year, respectively, while Sacramento State's **Michael Linenberger** garnered Coach of the Year honors.

Nick DePuy became the sixth UC Santa Barbara representative to earn the top offensive player award as he terrorized opponents to the tune of nine goals in 12 appearances since transitioning up top from the midfield. After providing the game-winning goal in his debut at forward against San Diego State, DePuy scored eight more times during Big West play, including five goals of the game-winning variety. In fact, the Irvine, Calif. native has scored UCSB's last six goals while recording the game-winning or game-tying goal in four straight. DePuy's six game-winning goals rank No. 1 in the Big West and he is second with 10 total goals. The first Gaucho to score double-digit goals since Luis Silva had 17 in 2011, DePuy also ranks second in the Big West in points (21) and shots (59). The sophomore's overtime goal in the 94th minute of Wednesday's 2-1 victory at Sacramento State helped the Gauchos secure a 14th straight season of 10 or more wins.

The fourth Gaucho in the last six years to be named the conference's top defensive player, Kevin Garcia-Lopez (Torrance, Calif./North HS) spearheaded one of the top defensive units during Big West play. He helped anchor a defense which allowed opponents to score just nine goals through 10 conference games, tying the team for the second-lowest goals against average (0.84). The senior also played a key role in a pair of crucial shutouts against UC Davis and Cal Poly, in which the two opponents were held to a combined three shots on goal. Starting 15 of the 16 matches he appeared in, Garcia-Lopez also amassed one goal and one assist for three points.

Axel Mendez (Los Angeles, Calif./Cathedral HS) continues a long line of outstanding players to enter the UC Santa Barbara program, becoming the third straight and fifth in the last six years to receive Freshman of the Year acclaim. The forward tied for third on the squad with nine points on three goals and three assists. Mendez also ranked second on the squad – and ninth in the conference – in shots taken (44). He directly contributed to three victories with game-winning goals against Colgate (Sept. 12) and Sacramento State (Oct. 22), along with the game-winning assist in the Big West opener versus CSUN (Oct. 2).

Becoming the program's first Midfielder of the Year, Cal Poly's Chase Minter (Heath, Texas/Rockwall-Heath HS) led his squad in goals (7), assists (5) and points (19). On the Big West leaderboard, he tied for third in goals, tied for first in assists, and was third in points. The junior recorded his first career brace in a 3-1 win at North Carolina State (Aug. 31) and posted another two goals later on in the season against Cal State Fullerton. Minter's 53 shots also ranked fifth overall in the Big West.

Wade Hamilton is Cal Poly's second individual to claim the distinction as the conference's top netminder, joining Eric Branagan-Franco in 2008. The native of Murrieta, Calif. topped the Big West with 96 saves, the third-best single-season total in Mustang history. Starting all 19 matches in helping Cal Poly to an 8-7-4 overall record, Hamilton stopped five or more shots on 12 occasions, including a season-high tying nine saves against North Carolina State, UC Riverside and UC Santa Barbara. Hamilton posted a 1.20 goals against average while playing all 1,806 minutes in goal, and he ranked fourth among Big West backstops with an .800 save percentage.

In Sacramento State's third season as a Big West associate member in men's soccer, Michael Linenberger earned his first conference Coach of the Year award. He led the Hornets to a three-win improvement in the conference win column after they had finished last in the North Division in 2013. At 4-5-1 for third place in the North, the Hornets are headed for their first Big West Tournament appearance when they take on UC Irvine this Saturday. They used two key late season wins against Cal Poly and UC Davis – and a tie against the Aggies – to reach the postseason. Linenberger also has guided Sacramento State to a +3 improvement in overall wins.

Four players earned repeat selections to the all-conference first team – CSUN teammates **Sagi Lev-Ari** and **Trevor Morley**, Cal Poly junior **Matt LaGrassa** and UC Santa Barbara sophomore **Ismaila Jome**. Cal Poly and UC Santa Barbara led the way with three first-team selections apiece, while CSUN, UC Irvine and UC Riverside all had multiple representatives as well. Five seniors, five juniors, and three sophomores comprised the first team.

The complete 2014 All-Big West Men's Soccer Team can be viewed on the following page:

# 2014 ALL-BIG WEST MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

## FIRST TEAM

<i>Player</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Hometown</i>
Nick DePuy	UC Santa Barbara	Sophomore	Forward	Irvine, Calif.
^Sagi Lev-Ari	CSUN	Senior	Forward	Haifa, Israel
Chimdum Mez	Sacramento State	Senior	Forward	Sacramento, Calif.
Michael Salazar	UC Riverside	Senior	Forward	Cayo, Belize
Eduardo Calzada	UC Irvine	Junior	Midfielder	South Los Angeles, Calif.
^Ismaila Jome	UC Santa Barbara	Sophomore	Midfielder	Banjul, Gambia
Chase Minter	Cal Poly	Junior	Midfielder	Heath, Texas
^Matt LaGrassa	Cal Poly	Junior	Midfielder	Elk Grove, Calif.
Otis Earle	UC Riverside	Senior	Defender	London, England
Kevin Garcia-Lopez	UC Santa Barbara	Senior	Defender	Torrance, Calif.
^Trevor Morley	CSUN	Junior	Defender	San Diego, Calif.
Michael Sperber	UC Irvine	Sophomore	Defender	Palm Desert, Calif.
Wade Hamilton	Cal Poly	Junior	Goalkeeper	Murrieta, Calif.

## SECOND TEAM

<i>Player</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Hometown</i>
Justin Dhillon	Cal Poly	Sophomore	Forward	Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.
Marc Fenelus	Cal State Fullerton	Senior	Forward	Providenciales, Turks and Caicos
Cameron Iwasa	UC Irvine	Senior	Forward	Sacramento, Calif.
Matt Sheldon	UC Davis	Senior	Forward	Portland, Ore.
Drew Murphy	UC Santa Barbara	Sophomore	Midfielder	Palos Verdes, Calif.
Ian Ramos	Cal State Fullerton	Senior	Midfielder	Highland, Utah
Juan Samayoa	CSUN	Sophomore	Midfielder	Simi Valley, Calif.
Kip Colvey	Cal Poly	Junior	Defender	Picton, New Zealand
Brian Ford	UC Davis	Senior	Defender	Newport Beach, Calif.
Ramon Martin Del Campo	UC Davis	Senior	Defender	Chula Vista, Calif.
Ashkan Khosravi	UC Riverside	Junior	Goalkeeper	Dallas, Texas

^Two-time All-Big West First Team selection

### 2014 Big West Midfielder Of The Year

Chase Minter, Cal Poly

### 2014 Big West Defensive Player Of The Year

Kevin Garcia-Lopez, UC Santa Barbara

### 2014 Big West Offensive Player Of The Year

Nick DePuy, UC Santa Barbara

### 2014 Big West Coach Of The Year

Michael Linenberger, Sacramento State

### 2014 Big West Goalkeeper Of The Year

Wade Hamilton, Cal Poly

### 2014 Big West Freshman Of The Year

Axel Mendez, UC Santa Barbara

## 2014 ALL-BIG WEST MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

### HONORABLE MENTION

<i><b>Player</b></i>	<i><b>School</b></i>	<i><b>Year</b></i>	<i><b>Position</b></i>	<i><b>Hometown</b></i>
Ludwig Ahl	UC Santa Barbara	Freshman	Forward	Stockholm, Sweden
Kaba Alkebulan	Cal Poly	Freshman	Forward	Carmichael, Calif.
Gor Kirakosyan	UC Irvine	Senior	Forward	Burbank, Calif.
Axel Mendez	UC Santa Barbara	Freshman	Forward	Los Angeles, Calif.
Mats Bjurman	UC Irvine	Junior	Midfielder	Irvine, Calif.
Ryan Gross	UC Davis	Junior	Midfielder	Davis, Calif.
Romario Lomeli	UC Riverside	Sophomore	Midfielder	Panorama City, Calif.
Garrett Losee	Cal State Fullerton	Senior	Midfielder	South Jordan, Utah
Dennis Martinez	UC Irvine	Senior	Midfielder	Palmdale, Calif.
Mario Ortiz	UC Irvine	Sophomore	Midfielder	Los Angeles, Calif.
Steve Palacios	Cal Poly	Senior	Midfielder	San Clemente, Calif.
Duncan Backus	UC Santa Barbara	Junior	Defender	Highland Village, Texas
Bryan Breslin	UC Irvine	Senior	Defender	Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.
Stephen Copley	UC Riverside	Sophomore	Defender	Torrance, Calif.
Philipp Dominique	UC Riverside	Junior	Defender	Redlands, Calif.
Mynor Giron	CSUN	Senior	Defender	Van Nuys, Calif.
Andrew Gosselin	Sacramento State	Sophomore	Defender	Sacramento, Calif.
Patrick Hickman	CSUN	Sophomore	Defender	Bountiful, Utah
Lucas Mohageg	UC Davis	Junior	Defender	Los Altos, Calif.
Colin Okirie	Cal State Fullerton	Junior	Defender	Royal Leamington Spa, England
Gabriel Quintero	Cal State Fullerton	Senior	Defender	Colton, Calif.
Michael Breslin	UC Irvine	Junior	Goalkeeper	Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.
Armando Quezada	UC Davis	Sophomore	Goalkeeper	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.
Jeff Salt	Cal State Fullerton	Junior	Goalkeeper	Fontana, Calif.

### ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM

<i><b>Player</b></i>	<i><b>School</b></i>	<i><b>Position</b></i>	<i><b>Hometown</b></i>
Miguel Acevedo	UC Davis	Midfielder	Pacoima, Calif.
Ludwig Ahl	UC Santa Barbara	Forward	Stockholm, Sweden
Kaba Alkebulan	Cal Poly	Forward	Carmichael, Calif.
Evan Barrett	UC Davis	Midfielder	Sacramento, Calif.
Joe Bolous	Cal Poly	Forward	Redwood City, Calif.
Robert Coronado	Cal State Fullerton	Midfielder	La Habra, Calif.
Ryo Fujii	UC Santa Barbara	Midfielder	Torrance, Calif.
Paul Geyer	Sacramento State	Midfielder	Sacramento, Calif.
Axel Mendez	UC Santa Barbara	Forward	Los Angeles, Calif.
Jeff Quezada	UC Santa Barbara	Defender	Glendale, Calif.
Ricardo Ruiz	UC Riverside	Midfielder	Lake Elsinore, Calif.