

## CROSS COUNTRY



meet, it was a solid year for the Toros cross-country team and its coaching staff. Senior Valarie Tucker (front left) did what coaches expect a senior to do, lead the team. Tucker would grab the top time in every meet this season, setting a Toro best at the UC Riverside Invite with a time of 20:31.1. "This cross country season was promising," begins head coach Warren Edmonson. "Every girl that returned lowered her time, which builds momentum heading towards next season. As a freshman, Brittany Masai did an outstanding job, she was in the running for CCAA Freshman of the Year, and the coaching staff is excited to see what she can accomplish next season. However, we are losing a senior in Tucker that worked very hard and was very consistent. She was the one that held the pieces of the puzzle together on this year's squad."



Senior forward Rachele McDonald (left) was a near unanimous choice for the 2006 Daktronics Far West Region Player of the Year, capping a career which also saw the Ventura native also claim her second California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) MVP honor in three years.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

McDonald's conference MVP selection headlined a list of five Cal State Dominguez Hills women's soccer players selected to the 2006 All-CCAA squads in 1st-team selection Corrie Hirokawa, 2nd-team honoree Sandy Lloyd and 3rd-team recipients Monique Castro and Krista Rojas. McDonald, who claimed her first CCAA MVP as a sophomore in 2004, led the Toros to an 11-8-1 overall and 10-5-1 CCAA record, missing out on the 4th and final spot in the CCAA Tournament by virtue of a tie-breaker. The crafty forward led the CCAA in points with 34, tied for league lead in assists with eight, and placed second with 13 goals, becoming just the second player to win the league's top award twice after Cal Poly Pomona's Ruth Van't Land first accomplished the feat in 1998 and 2000. Closing her career in a 2-1 overtime win at San Francisco State on October 22, the Ventura native sits 5th in CSUDH's record book for career points (90), tied for 5th in career goals (33) and tied for 6th with former All-America Heather Rolland in career assists (24). McDonald also is tied for 2nd in assists (12 in 2005), tied for 9th in points and tied for 10th in goals, all in a single season.



Next season, the Toros return 18 letter-winners, eight starters as well as their starting keeper, and look to send their 12 seniors back to the CCAA and NCAA postseason tournaments.

## MEN'S SOCCER

The agony and the ecstasy. Four days after claiming its 7th CCAA Championship, and first since 2002, and three days after being selected to host the 1st round of the NCAA Division II Far West Men's Soccer Regional, the top-seeded Toros were upended in overtime by 4th-ranked Seattle University in shocking fashion as the Redhawks used a collision deep in Toro territory to notch the game-winning goal, ending the Toros' season at 15-7-1.



Four days earlier in the CCAA Championship, however, senior Wilmer Lopez and freshman Derby Carrillo stepped up in the biggest match of their careers as CSUDH took the CCAA crown with a 2-1 win over cross-town rival Cal State L.A. In the match, Lopez distributed an assist on both CSUDH goals while Carrillo replaced an injured Kyle Polak (right) at the 33:14 mark of the first half and held the Golden Eagles scoreless in the title-clinching win.

After CSUDH scored at the 20:44 mark, Polak, Carrillo and the Toro defense refused to buckle, allowing Lopez to create scoring opportunities for Jesse Graham, who knotted the game at 1-1 in the 65th minute, and for Shogo Okuma, whose far-side header gave the Toros the lead for good two minutes later.

The Toros boasted three players who were named to the Daktronics 1st-team All-Far West squad in seniors Graham, Polak and LJ Reinhardt, and seven who were named 1st-team All-CCAA selections, including Graham, Polak and Sammy Rivas. With their 1st-team All-Region selections, Graham, Polak and Reinhardt all are eligible for All-America, which will be announced later this month.



The first season of the Randy Cline era came to an end as the Toros finished with an overall record of 8-18, and a conference record of 5-15. The five conference wins is three more than last season, and the eight total wins is two more than last season, with the five conference wins also being the most since the Toros won six in 2004.

## VOLLEYBALL



Individually, senior Nicole Hoffman (left) would etch her name in the Toros record books for block assists in a season, and total blocks in a career. Hoffman's 64 block assists this season ties her for 10th all-time, and her two-year total of 137 blocks places her in a tie for 10th for all-time career blocks. Fellow senior Maria Miranda (right) would also make her final year one for the record book, picking up 382 digs on the season to tie her for 5th all-time for digs in a season. In addition to Hoffman and Miranda, the 2006 season bade farewell to Shannon Finley, Denise Herrera, Courtney Spainhour, and Timary More. Junior setter Kayleigh Spratt moved herself into 6th place for career set assists with 1,028 in only her third season as a Toro.

The Toros will return five juniors, one sophomore, four freshman, and three redshirts for next season. With many key players returning, the Toros should be one of the surprise teams in the always-competitive CCAA Conference next year.



CSUDH Athletics would like to thank its corporate partners:



## NEWS AND NOTES

CSUDH Athletics welcomes you to the Toro Quarterly, where you can catch up with what's happening in the world of Toro Athletics.

### MADNESS AT MIDNIGHT

A packed contingent of well over 2,500 Toro faithful showed their support at the first-ever "Madness at Midnight" event, kicking off the men's and women's 2006-07 basketball season at Cal State Dominguez Hills.



The brainchild of CSUDH Athletics Marketing and Promotions Coordinator Alonzo Green, the standing room-only crowd was introduced to this year's men's and women's teams by Dennis Lien, the voice of the Toros for over a decade, and Assistant Athletics Director Lamel Harris, who successfully undertook the role of emcee.

Both the CSUDH dance and cheer teams added to the festive atmosphere with their routines, while the men's and women's basketball squads entertained the audience with 3-point shooting and dunk contests.



Additionally, "The Stampede" was formally introduced to the crowd, an ever-growing group committed to showing and voicing support to all CSUDH athletic teams at their home events.

Presented by CSUDH Athletics and Associated Students Incorporated and sponsored by Schools Federal Credit Union, "Madness at Midnight" ran from 10:30 pm until 12:30 am, with Warehouse Shoe Sale supplying the deejay.

### GIVING AN ASSIST TO TOROS ATHLETICS

Schools Federal Credit Union is one of our newest corporate partners, and is making a positive impact not just for CSUDH Athletics, but also the entire Toro family. Recently, we spoke with Ellen Trapp, VP of Member Development.

What's your favorite part about the partnership with CSUDH athletics?

Working with student athletes who are driven to succeed in sports and education, and providing the resources they need to become financially fit and successful both now and after graduation.

How has the partnership benefited Schools FCU thus far?

Because our name is displayed prominently, we're reaching more students, staff, athletes, professors and even alumni every day. Many are joining to take advantage of the services available from CSUDH's official financial institution.

What's the one message you'd like to get across to our student-athletes?

Success in sports requires practice, study, dedication, and a clear sense of purpose. Financial fitness is the same. I'd like student-athletes to think of us as a personal fiscal fitness coach who's here to help them succeed financially.

Any big changes at the credit union?



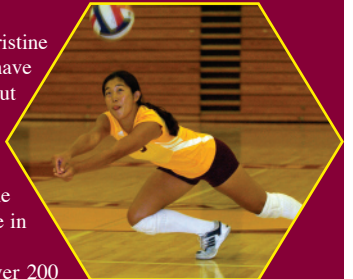
The big change is actually happening on the CSUDH campus. We're opening a branch in the student center, where we'll be more accessible to the students and staff. This is in addition to our ATMs in campus Grab & Go locations.

Anything else you'd like to add?

We're very proud of our partnership with the university, and look forward to serving students, staff, alumni and their families today, and in the future. For more information, call us at 866-459-2345 or visit [SchoolsFCU.org](http://SchoolsFCU.org).

## STILL A COMPETITOR

Former Toro volleyball standout Christine Tran, also a current Toro assistant coach, may have finished her volleyball career two years ago, but she has not lost her flare for competition.



In early November, Tran and two fellow students submitted a music video titled "The Idiot" they created at the end of last year in the CSU Media Arts Festival, and won second place in the music video category.

The CSU Media Arts Festival received over 200 entries representing 15 Cal State Universities.

The Media Arts Festival was established in 1991 to give talented students studying film, video, and interactive media within the 23-campus California State University system an opportunity to present their work for critical review. In 2000, the Media Arts Festival expanded its mission to include helping students of the CSU bridge the gap between students and working professionals.

In an effort to realize its expanded mission, the Festival now includes three days of seminars and events geared to helping students of the CSU become better prepared to work in the entertainment and media industries.

During her two-year Toro career (2003-04), Tran competed in 53 matches, pounding down 414 kills and picking up 549 digs, finishing fourth on the team in kills and second (behind the libero) in digs both seasons.

Additionally, the outside hitter from Cypress, CA, added 49 total blocks and 60 service aces.

Tran, who received her degree in Digital Media Arts-T.V. Production from CSUDH in May of 2006, is currently working for the Spherion Company, located in Irvine, CA.

### GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

With an invitation from the Dig 4 Kids Foundation, the 2006 CSUDH women's volleyball team took time out of practice to visit Carson High School to work with 5th graders and the Carson High Volleyball team, helping with their homework and speaking to them about the value of an education and pursuing their dreams, balancing sports and school, as well as using sports as a tool to help them reach their goals in whatever field they decide to undertake.



"Working with the kids was an invigorating experience," begins senior middle blocker Nicole Hoffman. "Hopefully we helped them realize that academics are a big part of their future, and that without spending time on their studies, sports will not be in their future."

Dig 4 Kids was founded in the spring of 2000 by Professional Beach Volleyball Player and Olympic Gold Medalist, Eric Fonoimoana, after he learned of the large disparity that existed in resources for youth athletic programs in disadvantaged communities.

"It was fun working with the kids," says junior TaMesha Jefferson. "I wish that I would have had a program like this to provide role models outside of my family that could have helped me with school and sports when I was growing up."

"Digging Education" is the primary activity of D4K, and is an innovative project that combines after school volleyball lessons with academic mentoring and tutoring. Students receive tutoring, mentoring, and life-lesson counseling, and then participate in volleyball instruction and training.

"The Digs 4 Kids program is doing a phenomenal job with helping to develop children of all ages," states CSUDH assistant coach Scott Davenport. "The kids enrolled in the program benefit by getting tutoring services at no cost while having role models who can help mentor them at an early age. Albert Hannemann and Eric are providing an invaluable service to our community and we are very excited about the opportunity to develop a strong relationship with them, and are looking forward to having our student-athletes consistently volunteer."

For more information about the Digs 4 Kids Foundation, visit their website <http://www.digforkids.org/>



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## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

It was another roller-coaster ride for the 2005-06 women's basketball team. After starting the season 6-2, including 1-1 in the CCAA, the Toros would go 1-4 in conference before turning everything around and winning five-straight.

After dropping their next game to Cal State L.A., the Toros would go to Bakersfield and upset the CCAA-leading Roadrunners in a double-overtime thriller, keeping CSUDH in the hunt for another trip back to the postseason. However, that momentum would quickly evaporate as CSUDH dropped the next four games before winning the last two of the season.

"I thought fatigue at the end of the season played a factor in us not finishing," begins head coach Van Girard. "I think that we were right where we needed to be with about four weeks to go, but I knew it was going to be a tough road with six of our last eight on the road. I believe the biggest test came against Cal State San Bernardino here in overtime; that was the one that knocked us out of the region."

The 2006-07 season should mark the beginning of a new level of success for head coach Van Girard and the women's basketball team, with the "Fab-Four" freshman class of 2004-05 now entering their junior seasons. Alana Bailey (3), Brittney Blankenship (2), Michelle Kribell (1) and Jessica Liang (4) now have two years of experience each under their respective belts to season their natural talents. Last season saw all four players establish new career highs in points and/or rebounds, with three of the players eclipsing the 20-point mark during the season.

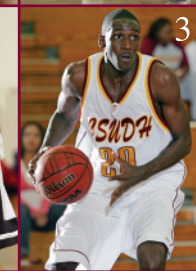


now?

"With four of our five starters back, plus players who saw consistent minutes off the bench, I see us challenging for a title," predicts Girard of his 2006-07 squad. "We are going to be a team that really looks to use the transition game more so than we ever have because we have more skilled athletes from 1 through 10 on the roster."

"I expect to play a lot of people, and I really feel like I could start with a group on Friday and start another group on Saturday, which is kind of the plan in order to avoid the fatigue that played a roll in our end-of-the-season let down."

"We have two goals this season, to challenge for a league title and to get back to the tournament."



## MEN'S BASKETBALL

The 2006-07 Cal State Dominguez Hills men's basketball team is ready. Ready with eight returning players on a team that improved by two wins in conference and four overall after welcoming 10 newcomers and a coach in just his second year with last season's squad. Ready after winning its last two regular season games of the year. And ready after five of its losses on the year were by three points or less.

In 2005-06, junior transfers Carlos Rivers (2) and Shamont Brown (3), who was named to the 2nd-team All-CCAA, led the Toro offense, averaging 13.4 and 12.0 points per game, respectively, while fellow junior transfer Trevon Bryant (1) anchored a revamped defense that saw him establish the CSUDH record for blocks in a single-season with 52, with his 2.36 blocks per game average placing him 15th in the NCAA. Bryant was so dominant, in fact, that he outdistanced the CCAA's runner-up finisher by 1.06 blocks per game (2.36 to 1.30).

Add to that defensive dominance a point guard in Rivers, whose season-high of 31 points highlighted eight total efforts of at least 20 points, and an all-purpose guard in Brown, who was the only player in the CCAA conference to make the top 20 in FG%, rebounds, steals, assists and scoring, and head coach Damaine Powell can't help but smile when pondering the possibilities of what will be his 3rd year on the sidelines of the Toros men's basketball program.

"For the first time since I've been here, I know my personnel," says Powell confidently. "We kind of got on a roll toward the end but by that time, the season was over. But we felt good about ourselves. Now, we've got some talent and experience, and we were playing to that."

"We have the potential to have a breakthrough year."

Now a veteran of two seasons in the competitive CCAA Conference, Powell has a much better understanding of what it takes to not only compete, but what it takes to win.

"It's a tough conference with good coaches," he begins, "and almost every game throughout the conference comes down to the last minute or two. So who can execute during the last couple of minutes will decide victory or defeat."

"Our goal is to get to the playoffs somehow, something the program hasn't done in 20 years," Powell begins, reflecting on when men's basketball claimed a conference crown. "We think about it every day, we talk about it, and just work hard every day in practice to try to accomplish that goal and get into the playoffs. But we know it's gonna come down to execution," Powell says as his focus shifts back to the here, and the now. "That's what I've learned from not only last year, but the last couple of years, just focusing on execution at the end of the games."



## TRACK & FIELD

Last season was just another typical year for the Toros Track & Field team as April Panteau (below) brought home the CCAA title in the 200-meter dash and finished runner-up in the 400-meter dash, while teammate Evelyn Graham took the CCAA title in the 400-meter hurdles, the Toros' 4x400 relay team took home a third place finish, and Alexandra Anderson would earn All-American honors in the 100-meter hurdles.

Panteau would blaze down the track in the 200-meter dash in a time of 24.66, over a half second ahead of her competition, and then proceed to grab a runner-up finish in the 400-meter dash in a time of 55.72. Grace Fitchett also would have a strong conference championship, nabbing a second place finish in the 100-meter dash and the 100-meter hurdles, while fellow returning sprinter Shammeer Dawson finished fifth in the 100-meter dash to help CSUDH grab a 4th-place team finish.

After the CCAA Championships, junior hurdles specialist Alexandria Anderson (right) matched her personal best effort of 13.90 in the finals of the 100-meter hurdles at the NCAA D-II Outdoor Track and Field Championships, finishing 6th to take home her first-career All-America honor.

With Panteau, Fitchett, Anderson, and Dawson all returning this season, the coaching staff is expecting even more out of their highly-decorated roster.

The coaching staff is also excited about one of the new additions in junior Southwest Junior College transfer Danielle Lewis, who posted a runner-up finish in the 400 meters at the 2006 JuCo state championships last year.



## Toro Quarterly Credits

The Toro Quarterly is designed and edited by the Sports Information Department, with a special thank you to student assistant Adiana Vega-Howard. Photos courtesy of John Alexovich, Michael Foo, and Yary Photography.

## SOFTBALL

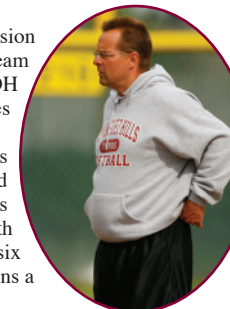
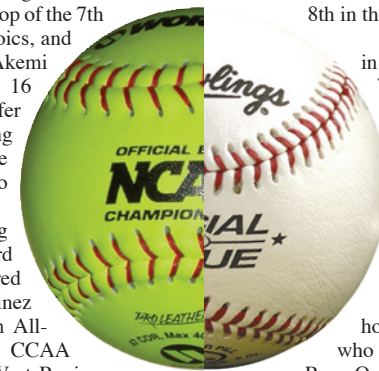


The 2007 season will mark a new beginning of sorts for the CSUDH softball team as it returns just three players from a squad that qualified for its fourth-consecutive NCAA postseason appearance and made the NCAA Far West Championship series after a 3-2 semifinal win over Humboldt State that sent the top-ranked Lumberjacks packing. Senior Araceli Martinez (left), whose home run in the top of the 7th inning provided the game-winning heroics, and sophomores Christine Bathauer and Akemi Fleming highlight a team that features 16 newcomers, including junior pitcher Jennifer Martinez, a transfer from Division I Long Beach State who will look to establish herself as a leader in the circle after the departure of ace Jackie Miller, who led the Toros to four wins in last year's postseason run and a 20-4 overall record.

Last year, the Toros finished with a 46-11 mark, equaling the highest number of wins in a season and setting the team record for fewest losses. CSUDH also boasted eight players who garnered individual honors in Amy Thomas (2nd-team All-CCAA), Martinez (NCAA All West Region Tournament), Perry-Brown (2nd-team All-Region, 1st-team All-CCAA, All-West Region Tournament, CCAA POW), Miller (2nd-team All-Region, 1st-team All-CCAA, All-West Region Tournament, 4-time POW), Jennifer Wilson (2nd-team All-CCAA, POW), Kate Groden (2nd-team All-CCAA), Kristine Minter (2nd-team All-CCAA, 2 - t i m e PiOW) and Lori Moreno (2nd-team All-CCAA).

Three Toros also were named to the NCAA Division II Softball Championship West Region All-Tournament Team in Martinez, Miller and Cindy Perry-Brown, while CSUDH set seven overall team records and tied the mark for victories after setting nine team marks last season.

Head coach Jim Maier (right), who completed his 6th year at the helm of the Toros softball program, achieved his own milestone on February 28, 2006, as the Toros blanked the University of Mary, 3-0, giving Maier his 200th career victory as the softball team's head coach. In his six years, Maier has tallied 230 victories, an average of 38.3 wins a season.



## MEN'S GOLF



The Toros welcome four members back from last year's squad that made great strides on the links. Senior Chris Whitaker (right), along with junior Matt Giamberdino (left) and sophomores Miguel Saucedo and Naraj Dhruv all hope to make a dent in a CCAA Conference that has been dominated by Cal State Bakersfield, Cal State San Bernardino and UC San Diego over the past years.

Last season, Saucedo was the top Toro finisher in CSUDH's final two competitions on the year, including the CCAA Championships where he completed the two-day event tied for 34th place. A week earlier, Saucedo paced the Toros at the 33rd Annual Buzzini/Stanislaus Golf Invitational.

Then freshman Dhruv took his turn atop the Toro leader board in CSUDH's second competition of the season, taking a 56th place finish at the 56th Annual Southern California Intercollegiate, hosted by UC San Diego.

Not to be outdone, then sophomore Giamberdino began the season with the Toros' top finish at the Cal State Bakersfield Invite.

With four seasoned veterans and a contingent of newcomers including senior Zach Jones, juniors Raphael Malabanan and Jeff Ronk and freshman Keith Johnson II, the Toro linksters look to cause waves near the top of the CCAA Conference and establish CSUDH golf as the viable contender it aims to be.



### Women's Softball

Date	Opponent	Time
Fri., Feb. 9	*Cal State Monterey Bay (DH)	1 pm
Sat., Feb. 10	*Cal State Monterey Bay (DH)	11 am
Sat., March 3	*UC San Diego (DH)	Noon
Fri., March 9	*Chico State (DH)	1 pm
Sat., March 10	*Chico State (DH)	Noon
Fri., March 23	*Cal State Bakersfield (DH)	1 pm
Sat., March 24	*Cal State Bakersfield (DH)	Noon
Thu., April 5	*Sonoma State (DH)	1 pm
Fri., April 6	*Sonoma State (DH)	1 pm

\* Denotes CCAA contest  
DH - Double Header

### Men's Baseball

Date	Opponent	Time
Sat., Feb. 3	Cal State L.A. (DH)	11 am
Sat., Feb. 10	Cal State San Marcos (DH)	Noon
Thu., Feb. 15	Southern Utah University	2 pm
Fri., Feb. 16	Southern Utah University	2 pm
Sat., Feb. 17	Southern Utah University (DH)	11 am
Fri., Feb. 23	*Cal State Monterey Bay	2 pm
Sat., Feb. 24	*Cal State Monterey Bay (DH)	11 am
Sun., Feb. 25	*Cal State Monterey Bay	Noon
Fri., Mar. 9	*Sonoma State	2 pm
Sat., Mar. 10	*Sonoma State (DH)	11 am
Sun., Mar. 11	*Sonoma State	11 am
Wed. Mar. 21	Pace University (NY)	2 pm
Sat., Mar. 31	*UC San Diego (DH)	11 am

### Men's Baseball Cont.

Date	Opponent	Time
Thu., Apr. 5	*Cal Poly Pomona	2 pm
Fri., Apr. 6	*Cal Poly Pomona	2 pm
Sat., Apr. 14	*Cal State L.A. (DH)	11 am
Fri., Apr. 20	Grand Canyon University	2 pm
Sat., Apr. 21	Grand Canyon University (DH)	11 am
Sun., Apr. 22	Grand Canyon University	11 am
Fri., Apr. 27	*Chico State	2 pm
Sat., Apr. 28	*Chico State (DH)	11 am
Sun., Apr. 29	*Chico State	11 am
Thu., May 3	*Cal State San Bernardino	2 pm
Fri., May 4	*Cal State San Bernardino	2 pm

\* Denotes CCAA contest, DH - Double Header