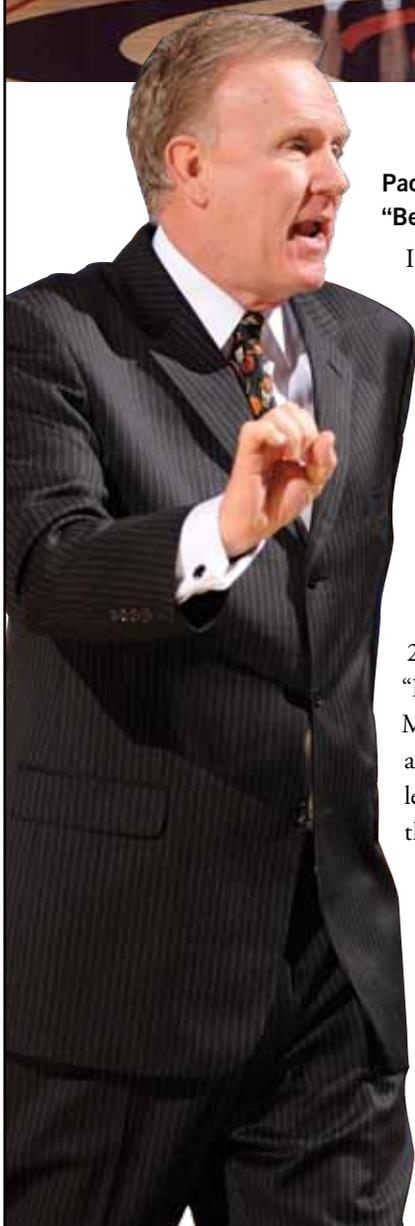


“Best of the Decade”

2004–05 men's basketball team



Pacific Basketball Sweeps “Best of the Decade”

In April, the online sports website Rivals.com from Yahoo Sports selected its “Best of the Decade” for the 31 NCAA Division I conferences. For the Big West, Pacific swept all three categories: Player, Coach, and Team of the Decade.

Christian Maraker '06, 2001–06, was selected as “Player of the Decade.” Maraker, from Sweden, was a three-time first-team all-league performer and was the Big West Player of the Year in '06. He helped the Tigers to three consecutive Big West titles and three consecutive NCAA appearances. Maraker finished his career

Head Coach Bob Thomason

averaging 13.4 points and 6.6 rebounds. He shot 48.8 percent from the floor and 79.7 percent from the line.

The “Coach of the Decade” was none other than **Head Coach Bob Thomason**. Thomason guided the Tigers to seven 20-win seasons and three

NCAA appearances during the decade. He also won league Coach of the Year honors three times. Pacific set a school record for wins in 2004–05 with 27. In February 2009, Thomason was honored as the Big West’s winningest coach, when he overtook Coach Jerry Tarkanian’s 205-win record with his 206th win in the Tigers’ game against U.C. Irvine.

Pacific’s **2004–05 men’s basketball team** was the pick for “Team of the Decade.” The Tigers dominated league competition, going 18–0 in conference play and winning the regular-season title by five games. They were seeded eighth in the NCAA tournament and beat Pittsburgh in the first round before falling to top-seeded Washington in the second round, finishing out the season at 27–4.



Christian Maraker '06



Women's Water Polo Comes Into Its Own

Tiger women's water polo capped its best-ever year with a Big West Conference Championship — and they're still feeling the thrill. "We just kept exceeding our goals each week, and we had to come up with new ones," said Head Coach Megan Thomson.

After snagging the championship with a 4–1 record in league play, the 12th-ranked team came in third in the Big West Women's Water Polo Tournament in Long Beach April 25 with a 7–5 victory over UC Santa Barbara. Pacific finished the season 23–10.

"Pacific has the opportunity to be really great," Thomson enthused. "It used to be about the other teams. Now it doesn't matter who the other teams are. We'll form our own culture around our own confidence."

When the program began in the late '90s, there was money for a coach and that

was it — no scholarships, and the equipment was all handed down from the men. They now have their own equipment and, with Thomson's coaching expertise and the addition of more scholarships, the Tigers have made an impressive leap forward.

Thomson is a native of Wellington, New Zealand, and she has built an international team. Two Kiwi freshmen were outstanding players for the Tigers this year. Goalie Brooke Millar '13 and Jasmine Myles '13 were named to the Big West All-Conference Team along with juniors Dara Tawahara '11 of Honolulu and Bridget Geck '11 of Huntington Beach, Calif. Myles was the Big West's and Pacific's leading scorer with 80 goals in 32 games.

There were no seniors on the 2010 team, and 10 juniors will be returning, Thomson said. "This is really exciting for them. We've been able to recruit some of the best kids in the country and good things are happening."

Other Spring Sports Stand-Outs

Tiger women's tennis standout **Jenifer Widjaja '11** of San Roque, Brazil, played in the NCAA Division I singles championships for the second year in a row. The Big West Women's Tennis Athlete of the Year, the junior was undefeated in conference play. She had a 30–7 overall record,

which gave her Pacific's record for most wins in a single season.



Men's tennis player **Artem Gramma '11** of Kiroj Roj, Ukraine, claimed Athlete of the Year honors in the Big West, closing out the season with a six-match winning streak. He finished with a 15–6 spring record.

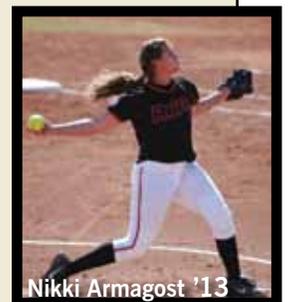
Pacific softball player **Nikki Armagost '13** was named the Big West Freshman Pitcher of the Year, also earning All-Big West First Team honors along with teammate **Megan Hom '13**.

Karie Wilson '10 was named to ESPN The Magazine's Academic District VIII



First Team, and earned All-Big West Second Team honors along with teammate **Lindsey Pierce '11**.

T.J. Bordeaux '11 claimed his third straight all-conference selection when he was named to the All-Big West First Team in golf. He had the best scoring average for the Tigers during season play.





Pacific Baseball Salutes Veterans

During the 2010 baseball season, the Pacific Tigers hosted eight “Salute to the Troops” events at all Sunday home games. Veterans received free admission and were recognized during each game, and the baseball team wore camouflage jerseys.

The grand finale of Salute to the Troops on Memorial Day weekend included participation by various military groups from the region. The day’s highlight was the landing of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter and an OH-58 Kiowa helicopter on the practice field next to the main playing field by the California

Army National Guard. Other activities included the Travis Air Force Base Honor Guard presentation of the colors and a reading of the names of San Joaquin servicemen and women fallen in action, followed by a 21-gun salute and the playing of “Taps” by Pacific Veterans Organization member Jonathan Hess ’11.

Above: Pacific baseball players pose with the CH-47 Chinook helicopter that landed next to Klein Family Field at the last “Salute to the Troops” event Memorial Day weekend. Camouflage uniforms worn during the games were auctioned off to benefit local veterans outreach programs.

Baseball on the Rise

It was one of the best seasons in Tiger baseball history, but a disappointing final three weeks kept the team from a sparkling league finish. Losing a three-game series to UC Santa Barbara at Klein Family Field on May 30, the team posted a 31–23 record for the season, an even 12–12 in league play.

“We’re not happy with how we finished, but hopefully we will learn from this,” Head Coach Ed Sprague said. “We did a lot of good things. We played hard and we got the community behind us. We’re an offensive club and we just

didn’t swing bats at the end.”

Pacific finished the year with the most wins over Division I teams in program history, and set records for most hits with 629, highest batting average with .325, the most saves in a single season (12) and the highest fielding percentage of .971.

Six Tigers made the Big West All-Conference team, with five tapped by Major League Baseball. On the second day of the first-year player draft, outfielder Nick Longmire ’11 was the top Tiger chosen, taken in the fifth round by the St. Louis Cardinals. Longmire

finished as the top hitter in all 24 Big West Conference games, earning All-Big West honorable mention. Catcher Joe Oliveira ’10 went to the Baltimore Orioles in the 15th round, also receiving Big West honorable mention. Earning All-Big West Second Team were second baseman J.B. Brown ’11, who was chosen by the New York Mets in the 114th round, and third baseman Mike Walker ’10, chosen by the Milwaukee Brewers seven picks after Brown. Tiger relief pitcher

Hunter Carnevale ’10 made All-Big West first team and was chosen by the Mets on the third day of the draft in the 33rd round.

Nick Longmire ’11

