



Conference History

The roots of the Pac-12 Conference date back nearly 104 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 Atherton was commissioner in 1940 and was succeeded by Victor 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. Tom 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.

After a courtship of several months, Colorado accepted its invitation to join the Pac-12 on June 10, 2010, as the Buffaloes were the first domino to fall in a change of the national landscape. Within the next week, Nebraska also left the Big 12 to join the Big 10, Boise State departed the WAC for the Mountain West, and TCU jumped from the MWC for the Big East (before eventually landing in the Big 12). A week later on June 17, Utah agreed 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 years between expansions, Pac-10 teams claimed 258 NCAA titles (130 women's, 128 men's).



Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott

At present, the Pac-12 sponsors 11 men's sports and 13 women's sports. Additionally, the conference schools are members of the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) in four other men's sports and two women's sports. CU participates in the MPSF in indoor track 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's downtown district and are headquartered in the same building as the Pac-12 Network.

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, as in the first five years, Pac-12 student-athletes have enjoyed unique cultural and athletic experiences in several foreign nations. In the past year, the Pac-12 became the first conference to have all of its schools become members of the Green Sports Alliance.

On the field, courts and in the pools of play, the Pac-12 rises above the rest, upholding its tradition as the "Conference of Champions®," claiming an incredible 191 NCAA team titles since 1999-2000. For the 15th consecutive year, the Pac-12 had the most NCAA titles of any conference in the country, having won at least six every year from 2000-01 through 2018-19 and three of the seven awarded before the COVID-19 pandemic ended all competition in 2019-20; those include 51 over the last five years. No other conference has ever won 10 or more in a single athletic year, looking up at the record 14 the Pac-12 won in 1996-97 and 13 in 2016-17 and 2018-19. Even more impressive has been the breadth of the Pac-12's success, with championships coming in 31 different men's, women's and/or coed sports. The Pac-12 has led or tied the nation in NCAA Championships in 54 of the last 60 years (and was second four times and third twice), never finishing lower than third.



Spanning over a century of outstanding athletics achievements, the Pac-12 was the first conference to reach 200, 300, 400 and now 500 championships; despite having two fewer members than three of the other four so-called "Power 5" conferences, the Pac-12 outdistances the next conference by over 200 crowns (the Big Ten is a distant second with 291). In all, Pac-12 conference teams have won **529** NCAA Championships (305 men's, 193 women's, 31 coed).

Individually, the Conference has produced an impressive number of NCAA individual champions, as through the 2019-20 school year, **2,379** individual crowns have been won by Pac-12 student-athletes over the years (1,383 in men's championships, 808 in women's and 188 in coed, e.g. skiing).

And since the NCAA began conducting women's championships 38 years ago, Pac-12 members have claimed at least four national titles in a single season on 29 occasions, with a record 10 during the 2016-17 school year followed by another nine in 2017-18.

2019-20 QUICK REVIEW

In the 2019-20 shortened academic year, the Pac-12 won three of the seven NCAA championships that were contested before the pandemic cancelled everything after March 11; the titles came in men's water polo and women's soccer and volleyball.

Stanford also posted top-four finishes in women's cross country and men's soccer, while Colorado came in third at the men's cross country national meet and USC tied for third in men's water polo. Three-quarters of the NCAA Women's College Cup hailed from the Pac-12 for the first time ever with Washington State making its first-ever appearance in the national semifinal, joining the Cardinal and UCLA. The only other sport to have its championship held in 2019-20 was women's field hockey. The first championships of the spring – skiing – were halted at the midway point with no champion crowned, though Utah was ahead at the time.

Colorado last added to its national championship count in 2018-19 with the school's third women's cross country crown, bringing the school's total to 28. Last year, the Buffaloes finished third in men's cross country and 10th in women's cross country; but the skiing, indoor and outdoor track, lacrosse, men's and women's golf and tennis championships were canceled, along with both NCAA basketball tournaments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. CU has won 20 skiing titles (11 men's, one AIAW women's and eight coed) and eight cross country (five men's, three women's); the Buffs also were the consensus national champions in football in 1990, but since it is not an NCAA-sanctioned championship, it doesn't count toward the Pac-12's total of 529.



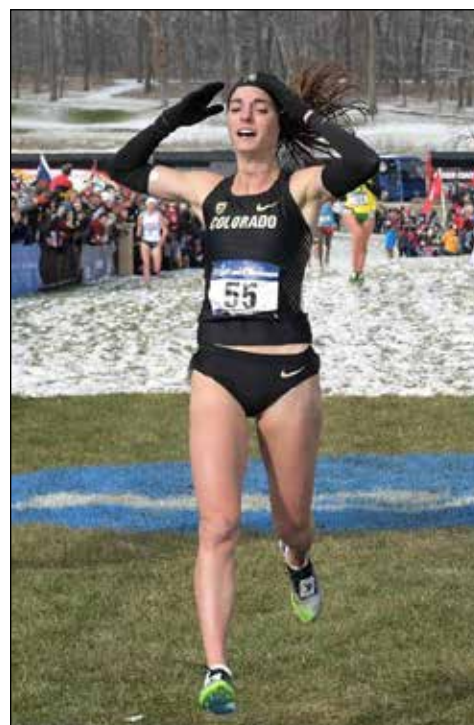
The CU women won the 2018 NCAA cross country title, their third overall.



Petra Hyncicova won both the classic and freestyle races at the 2017 NCAA's.



Erik Dengerud was the 2019 national freestyle titlist, winning his first NCAA race.



Dani Jones was a two-time NCAA champion, claiming the cross country and outdoor 5,000-meter run.