

## **West Coast Schools Announce Formation of Collegiate Triathlon Conference**

LOS ANGELES, CA (February 10, 2006) – A coalition of collegiate triathlon teams from across the states of California and Nevada have announced the creation of the first collegiate triathlon conference in the United States. The West Coast Collegiate Triathlon Conference (WCCTC) is now the official governing body for collegiate triathlon among west coast schools. Initial members of the conference include CSU Long Beach, CSU Sacramento, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, SDSU, Stanford, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, USC, and University of Nevada - Reno.

“The WCCTC is the first legitimate organization to provide a well-defined structure for intercollegiate competition in the history of the sport,” says Marcus George, president of the UCLA Triathlon Team and one of the WCCTC’s founders. “USA Triathlon hosts an annual collegiate National Championship, but one race per year is not adequate to support this growing segment of the sport. The purpose of the WCCTC is to develop collegiate triathlon by providing an opportunity for athletes to race among their peers at reasonable prices. An official season with team and individual rankings will encourage participation by teams across the conference.”

The WCCTC Competition Guide lays out the conference structure, rules of racing, and bylaws. “The conference spent the last several months outlining our vision for intercollegiate competition in triathlon,” says George. “2006 will be a pilot year -- a test for the program that we have proposed. We will identify failures and successes and make changes accordingly. If the program is successful on the west coast, we hope that other collegiate programs from across the country will adopt it as well.”

The conference season is composed of races organized by several university teams. These races are also open to the public and often used as fundraisers for the host team. The public is encouraged to support collegiate triathlon by participating in these races. In addition, the WCCTC often adds outside events to the official calendar. Race directors interested in adding their event to the official collegiate calendar must meet several requirements and submit an application to the WCCTC.

A points-based scoring system will be used to rank both teams and individual athletes over the course of the season. Points are awarded to the first 50 male and female finishers of each race. Team rankings are determined by adding the individual points that each team scores. Conference champions will be crowned at an award ceremony on May 7<sup>th</sup> following the conclusion of the season at the Wildflower Olympic Triathlon.

Collegiate teams interested in joining the WCCTC are required to be officially recognized by their post-secondary institution. Individuals must be full-time students in order to participate in WCCTC competitions.

The conference is governed by team representatives from each member organization as well as a Board of Trustees. The WCCTC is currently seeking applications for the Board of Trustees, which will be composed of volunteers from the general triathlon community. Interested parties should contact Marcus George.

For additional details about the WCCTC, including conference teams, upcoming races, race results, conference standings, press releases, and other newsworthy events, visit <http://wcctc.pengra.com>. Questions should be directed to Marcus George at [triteam@ucla.edu](mailto:triteam@ucla.edu).