



WWPA Names Annual Award Winners

Junior Andy Stevens repeats as Player of the Year, while Air Force's Cruz Smithson earns Newcomer of the Year and Jeff Ehrlich earns Coach of the Year.

Los Angeles, CA (Nov. 18, 2009) – For the second consecutive season LMU goalie Andy Stevens was named the Western Water Polo Association Men's Player of Year as voted on by the league's 13 coaches. Air Force freshman Cruz Smithson was named Newcomer of the Year while the Falcons' Head Coach Jeff Ehrlich was named Coach of the Year.

All told 28 student-athletes were honored for their performance in the pool this 2009 season.

Stevens led the Lions to a national ranking as high as No. 5 and was key in leading the Lions to a number three ranking nationally in team defense, allowing just 6.13 goals per game. He played in all 23 games for Lions, helping them to the No. 1 seed in the upcoming WWPA Men's Water Polo Championship hosted by Chapman on Friday, Nov. 20 – Sunday, Nov. 22.

As for Cruz, he had an impressive first season of collegiate water polo, ranking tied for second on the team with 39 goals. He, along with coach Ehrlich, led the Falcons to the No. two seed in the upcoming championships with a 17-12 overall record and 10-4 mark in the WWPA.

In addition to the Player of the Year honor for Stevens, he also earned first-team All-WWPA honors for the second consecutive year. Joining him on the first team is teammate and junior Ikaika (Andrew) Aki, Air Force senior Alex Churnside, UC San Diego senior Steven Donohoe, Redlands senior Ryan Floersch, UC Davis junior Carlos Martinez and Santa Clara senior Jack Wall.

Second-team All-WWPA honors went to LMU sophomore Edgaras Asajavicius, LMU junior Tibor Forai, UC San Diego senior Peter Gresham, Pomona-Pitzer junior Ben Hadley, Air Force senior Jack Hines, UC Davis junior Cory Lyle, Chapman senior Alex Mule, Santa Clara junior Nick Poggetti and Whittier senior Casey Regher. Earning honorable mention honors was Claremont's sophomore Brian Chong, Whittier junior Rilesh Desai, Santa Clara senior Liam Farrell, Cal Lutheran senior Matt Heagy and Air Force senior David Ostrom.

Finally, earning WWPA All-Freshman team honors was Smithson of Air Force, Colin Hicks of UC Davis, John Butler of UC San Diego, Taylor Roszokos of Chapman, Mark Hudall of Pomona-Pitzer, Brian Baier of Claremont and Patrick Weiss of Santa Clara.

2009 Western Water Polo Association Men's Water Polo Honors

Player of the Year: Andy Stevens (RS Jr.) – GK – Loyola Marymount

Newcomer of the Year: Cruz Smithson (Fr.) – Utl. – Air Force

Coach of the Year: Jeff Ehrlich – Air Force

First-Team All-WWPA

Ikaika (Andrew) Aki (Jr., Utl) – LMU
Alex Churnside (Sr., Utl) – Air Force
Steven Donohoe (Sr., Utl) – UC San Diego
Ryan Floersch (Sr., Ctr) – Redlands
Carlos Martinez (Jr., Utl) – UC Davis
Andy Stevens (Jr., GK) – LMU
Jack Wall (Sr., Dr.) – Santa Clara

Second-Team All-WWPA

Edgaras Asajavicius (So., Dr.) – LMU
Tibor Forai (Jr., Utl) – LMU
Peter Gresham (Sr., 2MD) – UC San Diego
Ben Hadley (Jr., Utl) – Pomona-Pitzer
Jack Hines (Sr., 2MD) – Air Force
Cory Lyle (Jr., Att) – UC Davis
Alex Mule (Sr., Utl) - Chapman
Nick Poggetti (Jr., 2M) – Santa Clara
Casey Regher (Sr., GK) – Whittier

Honorable Mention All-WWPA

Brian Chong (So., Utl) – Claremont
Rilesh Desai (Jr., Att) – Whittier
Liam Farrell (Sr., Utl) – Santa Clara
Matt Heagy (Sr., 2MO) – Cal Lutheran
David Ostrom (Sr., GK) – Air Force

WWPA All-Freshman Team

Cruz Smithson (Utl) – Air Force
Colin Hicks (Att) – UC Davis
John Butler (Dr) – UC San Diego
Taylor Roszkos (GK) – Chapman
Mark Hudall (Dr) – Pomona-Pitzer
Brian Baier (Utl) – Claremont
Patrick Weiss (2MD) – Santa Clara

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