



WWPA Names Annual Women's Award Winners

LMU's Nicole Hughes and Anne Scott take home Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year honors for 2009 season in WWPA action.

Los Angeles, CA (April 22, 2009) – Loyola Marymount senior Nicole Hughes has been named the Western Water Polo Association Women's Player of the Year while teammate, junior Anne Scott, has been named Newcomer of the Year in the WWPA's annual end of the season awards voted on by the coaches.

Thanks to another 20-win season and the No. 2 overall seed in the upcoming WWPA Championships, Cal State Bakersfield's Jason Gall has been named WWPA Coach of the Year. He led the Roadrunners to a first-round bye in the WWPA Championships that start this Friday at Santa Clara University. All told 28 student-athletes were honored for their performance in the pool this 2008 season.

Hughes and Scott gave the Lions an offensive punch that has the team on the verge of setting the all-time school record for goals in a season. Hughes solidified her status as the most prolific scorer in LMU history this season, setting the school mark for goals in a career (298), a season (107) and a game (eight). Hughes leads the WWPA in goals this season, averaging 3.7 per game. Scott finished her first season with 46 goals, 29 assists and 43 steals.

In addition to the Player of the Year honor for Hughes and Scott, both also earned first-team All-WWPA honors. Joining them on the first-team were goalie Veronica Campbell of Cal State Bakersfield, senior Sydney Gstettenbauer of UC San Diego, senior Amy Lamb of Santa Clara, senior Samantha Mullins of Sonoma State and senior Amanda Ortiz of Cal State Bakersfield.

Second-team All-WWPA honors went to junior Stephanie Heinrich of UC San Diego, senior Claire Linney of Santa Clara, senior goalie Lysa Lombard of Sonoma State, senior Alyson Moss of Cal State Bakersfield, sophomore Alison Pavlik of Colorado State, sophomore Diana Romero of LMU and junior Laurel Stricklin of Sonoma State.

Rounding out the 2009 All-Conference team with honorable mention honors were sophomore goalie Bryanna Burns of Cal State San Bernardino, junior Jenna Casady of Cal State East Bay, senior Sabrina Cook of Chapman, junior Kaitlin Hartman of Cal State San Bernardino, junior goalie Krystyna McCright of Colorado State, sophomore Nikki Smart of Cal State Monterey Bay and junior Heather Stewart of UC Santa Cruz.

Honoring the youth and future of the WWPA is the seven-member WWPA All-Freshman team, which was awarded to Kimberly Benedetti of LMU, Kallie Berry of Colorado State, Laura Espinosa of Santa Clara, Casey Flacks of LMU, Shannon McKenzie of Cal State Bakersfield, goalie Elise Pounce of LMU and Jessica Tran of UC San Diego.

**2009 Western Water Polo Association Women's Water Polo Honors
First-Team WWPA All-Conference**

Veronica Campbell (Sr., GK) - Cal State Bakersfield
Sydney Gstettenbauer (Sr., Dr.) - UC San Diego
Nicole Hughes (Sr., Utl.) - LMU
Amy Lamb (Sr., Utl.) - Santa Clara
Samantha Mullins (Sr., Att.) - Sonoma State
Amanda Ortiz (Sr., 2M) - Cal State Bakersfield
Anne Scott (Jr., Dr.) - LMU

Second-Team WWPA All-Conference

Stephanie Heinrich (Jr., Utl.) - UC San Diego
Claire Linney (Sr., 2M) - Santa Clara
Lysa Lombard (Sr., GK) - Sonoma State
Alyson Moss (Sr., 2M) - Cal State Bakersfield
Alison Pavlik (So., Att.) - Colorado State
Diana Romero (So., 2MD) - LMU
Laurel Stricklin (Jr., Att.) - Sonoma State

Honorable Mention WWPA All-Conference

Bryanna Burns (So., GK) - Cal State San Bernardino
Jenna Casady (Jr., Utl.) - Cal State East Bay
Sabrina Cook (Sr., 2M) - Chapman
Kaitlin Hartman (Jr., Utl.) - Cal State San Bernardino
Krystyna McCright (Jr., GK) - Colorado State
Nikki Smart (So., Att.) - Cal State Monterey Bay
Heather Stewart (Jr., AA) - UC Santa Cruz

WWPA All-Freshman Team

Kimberly Benedetti (2MD) - LMU
Kallie Berry (Att./Def.) - Colorado State
Laura Espinosa (2M) - Santa Clara
Casey Flacks (Dr.) - LMU
Shannon McKenzie (Utl.) - Cal State Bakersfield
Elise Pounce (GK) - LMU
Jessica Tran (Dr.) - UC San Diego

Player of the Year: Nicole Hughes (Sr., Utl.), LMU

Newcomer of the Year: Anne Scott (Jr., Dr.), LMU

Coach of the Year: Jason Gall, Cal State Bakersfield

Follow the championships online at www.WesternWaterPolo.org and on WWPA
Tournament Central: <http://www.santaclarabroncos.com/sports/w-wpolo/spec-rel/09-sacl-wwpolo-championships.html>.