In only its third year as a Division I sport at Pacific, the Pacific men’s soccer team racked up an outstanding 13–4–2 record and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. It was the first NCAA tournament appearance in program history.

It was an astounding comeback from the Tigers’ 1–15–1 record last season. Their 11.5 win-loss improvement is tied with two other teams for the best turnaround in NCAA history.

Following the season, Head Coach Ryan Jorden was named the West Coast Conference Coach of the Year, and the Tiger coaching staff, including assistant coaches Jordan Ferrell, Matt Gow and Avneet Shergill, was named the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Division I Far West Region Staff of the Year. Defender Tristan Blackmon ’18 was named an NSCAA All-American, the only player from a West Coast Conference institution this year on an All-American team.

“The success our team has achieved this season confirms my belief that we have one of the very best coaching staffs in the western United States, if not the entire country,” said Head Coach Ryan Jorden.

Community support for the team has been exceptional, as shown by the Tigers finishing in the top 50 in the nation in home attendance in their inaugural season at Knoles Field.

Men’s soccer’s meteoric comeback

One of the best turnarounds in NCAA history

Stockton Athletic Hall of Fame inducts Coach Kolze

Brian Kolze marked his silver anniversary as head coach for Pacific women’s softball with induction into the Stockton Athletic Hall of Fame. Kolze, entering his 25th year as head coach, has won over 700 games leading the Tigers, and has been named Coach of the Year by the conference four times (1998, 2001, 2002 and 2011).

The Stockton native began his softball career at UNLV in 1988, helping the team to two College World Series as an assistant (1990 and 1991). Since coming to Pacific in 1992, he has led the Tigers to 16 winning seasons and eight NCAA Tournament appearances. Seven of Kolze’s former assistants have gone on to become collegiate head coaches, with five of those coaching at the Division I level. He has coached six NFCA All-Americans and 18 NFCA All-Region honorees.
Matching funds will grow impact of gift to $3.9 million

The generosity of a devoted Tiger basketball enthusiast will impact the lives of students for generations to come. A $2.6 million gift from the trust of Helen Harney Crittenden — the largest single gift dedicated to scholarships for Pacific student-athletes — funded three endowed scholarships to benefit students in the men’s basketball program.

“I am delighted that watching our Tigers play gave Mrs. Crittenden such joy,” said President Pamela Eibeck. “In turn, her legacy will help them achieve their dreams in basketball and in life.”

Crittenden, who passed away in March 2016 at age 98, was a longtime Stockton resident and a descendant of a pioneer family. Wife of the late Bradford Crittenden ’34, Helen always enjoyed watching Pacific men’s basketball and donned the Tigers’ orange and black with great pride and enthusiasm.

Crittenden’s gift will be matched using Powell Match funds, growing the impact of the gift to about $3.9 million. The Powell Match, part of the Powell Fund created by a $125 million gift from the estate of the late former Pacific regents Robert C. and Jeannette Powell, matches new endowment gifts for scholarships and academic programs.

Volleyball alumna and Olympian

Jen (Joines) Tamas inducted into WCC Hall of Honor

Former four-time Pacific women’s volleyball All-American Jennifer (Joines) Tamas ’05 was inducted into the West Coast Conference’s (WCC) ninth annual Hall of Honor class at a special ceremony on March 4. Tamas becomes the fourth Tiger to be inducted into the Hall of Honor after Ron Cornelius ’81 (men’s basketball), Elaina Oden ’90, ’92 (women’s volleyball) and Keith Swagerty ’67 (men’s basketball).

“I have a lot of pride in having played at University of the Pacific. It offered me a lot of opportunities both on campus and in my future career playing professionally,” said Tamas.

“I learned from great role models at University of the Pacific, and to be included in any sort of recognition with them is a huge honor. I’m very happy Pacific joined the WCC. It’s a great fit for the university, and the teams are thriving.”

Tamas is one of the most decorated female athletes in Pacific history. During her four-year career with the Tigers, the 6-foot-3 middle blocker was the only player to be named a four-time All-American. She also was voted a four-time All-Big West selection, the 2000 Big West Freshman of the Year and the 2003 Big West Player of the Year. Tamas helped guide her squad to two 28-win seasons, a Big West title and four berths in the NCAA Tournament, including one Sweet 16 appearance.

From 2000 to 03, Tamas rewrote the Pacific record book, setting career marks for kills, kills per set, attacks, attack percentage, points and points per set. She finished second all-time in block assists, total blocks and blocks per set. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication from Pacific in 2005 and was inducted into the Pacific Athletics Hall of Fame in 2016. As a middle blocker with the United States Women’s National Team, Tamas made more than 60 appearances in eight years, serving as captain for four years. She assisted the U.S. to silver at the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics and helped lift the country to gold at the 2012 Pan-American Cup. She played professionally for eight years in Japan, Italy, Russia, Azerbaijan and Puerto Rico.