ATHLETICS

Historic Season for Tiger Hoops
As they bid farewell to the Big West Conference, men’s basketball played at the Big Dance, while women made it to the Sweet 16 for the first time in the Women’s NIT.
After roaring into the 2013 season with beyond-the-century-mark, program-best play, Pacific men’s and women’s basketball continued their history-making action into the postseason.

Tiger men, who finished the regular season with a record of 22–12, went on to win the Big West title and play in the Big Dance. They ultimately fell to No. 2 seed Miami in Austin.

It marked the ninth NCAA Tournament appearance for Pacific, who returned to the Big Dance for the first time since 2006. Retiring Head Coach Bob Thomason led the Tigers to the NCAA Championship for the fifth time in his 25th and final year as the head coach at Pacific.

Meanwhile, Tiger women battled the University of Arkansas at Little Rock on Pacific’s home court in the first round matchup of the Women’s National Invitation Tournament, returning to the tournament for the second straight season and third time overall. Clinching a second-round win against Washington, they went on to the third round for the first time in the team’s history in a matchup against Utah, ultimately losing in overtime.

The women’s team clinched a spot in the WNIT after winning the Big West Conference regular-season crown.

The best season in Pacific women’s basketball history ended with a 27–8 record, shattering a previous school record for wins in a season by 7.

Editor’s Note: Please look in your summer 2013 Pacific Review for more on Coach Thomason and his legacy.
The successful 2012–2013 basketball season marked the last in the Big West for Pacific. They will rejoin the West Coast Conference next year.

**Hoops High Points**

• **Women vs. CSU Bakersfield, 102–60**
  Tigers tied a program high for points against a Division I opponent. It also marked the first time since 1991 a Pacific basketball team scored more than 100 points.

• **Kendall Rodriguez, Erica McKenzie and Gena Johnson** became the 17th, 18th and 19th players in Pacific history to reach 1,000 career points.

• **Seniors Travis Fulton and Lorenzo McCloud** earned All-Big West Conference Second Team accolades.

• **Tiger men** tied a school record with their 13th home win of the season.

• **Women’s head coach Lynne Roberts** was named the Big West Coach of the Year, and all five of Pacific’s starters took home individual conference honors. **Seniors Kendall Rodriguez and Erica McKenzie** earned first team honors; junior Gena Johnson and sophomore Kendall Kenyon earned second team honors; and senior Ashley Wakefield received an honorable mention.
Three New Sports Teams Added at Pacific

This spring, University of the Pacific athletics expanded its roster with three new teams, welcoming Women’s Sand Volleyball, Women’s Outdoor Track and Field and the return of Men’s Soccer.

**Sand Volleyball** began competing this spring, while the track team was expected to begin limited competition also in spring. The soccer team will begin playing in fall 2014 and will launch into NCAA Division I competition in fall 2015. The soccer team is being created to take advantage of the new level of play that will be available to Pacific when it enters the West Coast Conference (WCC) in fall 2013, while the other two teams are being added due to popular demand. Pacific announced the change from the current Big West Conference to the WCC earlier this year.

**Men’s Soccer** will return to NCAA Division I status at Pacific for the first time since being discontinued after the 1985–86 season. The program will begin its run with recruited student-athletes in the fall of 2014 and will play a full NCAA Division I schedule as a part of the WCC in the fall of 2015.

**Women’s Outdoor Track and Field** will emphasize distance running events. The current coaches of Women’s Cross Country, Josh Jones, and Women’s Volleyball, Greg Gibbons, will lead those teams.

With the addition of these sports, Pacific will have 19 total sports—11 women’s and eight men’s.

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