



PAC-10 NEWS

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2008-09 PACIFIC-10 CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL HONORS JAMES HARDEN NAMED MEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR; ISAIAH THOMAS EARNS FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR HONORS; TAJ GIBSON EARNS DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR HONORS; JUSTIN DENTMON EARNS MOST IMPROVED PLAYER OF THE YEAR; LORENZO ROMAR HONORED AS COACH OF THE YEAR

WALNUT CREEK, Calif., – In a vote of the 10 Conference coaches, ARIZONA STATE sophomore guard **James Harden** has been named the 2008-09 Pacific-10 Men's Basketball Player of the Year, WASHINGTON guard **Isaiah Thomas** has been named Pac-10 Freshman of the Year; USC junior forward **Taj Gibson** has been named Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year; Washington senior guard **Justin Dentmon** has been named Pac-10 Most Improved Player of the Year and **Lorenzo Romar** of Washington is the Pac-10 Coach of the Year, Commissioner Tom Hansen announced today.

In a vote of the Pac-10 Coaches during their meetings last spring, the league restructured the All-Conference honors from three teams of five players each, to a 10-player first team and a five-player second team.

The Complete Conference Honors:

ALL-PAC-10 TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Name	School	Pos	Yr	Ht	Wt	Hometown (Last School)
Jon Brockman	WASH	F	Sr.	6-7	255	Snohomish, Wash. (Snohomish HS)
Chase Budinger	ARIZ	F	Jr.	6-7	218	Encinitas, Calif. (LaCosta Canyon HS)
Patrick Christopher	CAL	G	Jr.	6-5	215	Compton, Calif. (Dominguez HS)
Darren Collison	UCLA	G	Sr.	6-0	160	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Etiwanda HS)
Justin Dentmon	WASH	G	Sr.	5-11	185	Carbondale, Ill. (The Winchendon School, Mass.)
James Harden	ASU	G	So.	6-5	218	Los Angeles, Calif. (Artesia HS)
Jordan Hill	ARIZ	F	Jr.	6-10	235	Atlanta, Ga. (The Patterson School, N.C.)
Jeff Pendergraph	ASU	F	Sr.	6-9	240	Etiwanda, Calif. (Etiwanda HS)
Jerome Randle	CAL	G	Jr.	5-10	160	Chicago, Ill. (Hales Franciscan HS)
Taylor Rochestie	WSU	G	Sr.	6-1	186	Santa Barbara, Calif. (Tulane)

SECOND TEAM

Name	School	Pos	Yr	Ht	Wt	Hometown (Last School)
Taj Gibson	USC	F	Jr.	6-9	225	Brooklyn, N.Y. (Stoneridge Prep)
Daniel Hackett	USC	G	Jr.	6-5	215	Pesaro, Italy (St. John Bosco HS)
Josh Shipp	UCLA	G/F	Sr.	6-5	220	Los Angeles, Calif. (Fairfax HS)
Isaiah Thomas	WASH	G	Fr.	5-8	180	Tacoma, Wash. (South Kent School, Conn.)
Nic Wise	ARIZ	G	Jr.	5-10	177	Houston, Texas (Kingwood HS)

Honorable Mention (receiving at least three votes): Alfred Aboya (UCLA, Sr., C/F), Anthony Goods (STAN, Sr., G), Calvin Haynes (OSU, So., G), Lawrence Hill (STAN, Sr., F), Roeland Schaftenaar (OSU, Jr., F/C).

PAC-10 ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM

Name	School	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown (Last School)
DeAngelo Casto	WSU	F	6-8	229	Spokane, Wash. (Ferris HS)
DeMar DeRozan	USC	F	6-7	220	Compton, Calif. (Compton HS)
Jeremy Green	STAN	G	6-4	190	Austin, Texas (Bowie HS)
Jrue Holiday	UCLA	G	6-3	180	North Hollywood, Calif. (Campbell Hall HS)
Isaiah Thomas	WASH	G	5-8	180	Tacoma, Wash. (South Kent School, Conn.)
Klay Thompson	WSU	G	6-6	187	Ladera Ranch, Calif. (Santa Margarita HS)

Honorable Mention (receiving at least three votes): Kyle Fogg (ARIZ, G).

PAC-10 ALL-DEFENSIVE TEAM

Name	School	Pos	Yr.	Ht	Wt	Hometown (Last School)
Alfred Aboya	UCLA	C/F	Sr.	6-9	245	Yaounde, Cameroon (Tilton (N.H.) Prep Academy)
Darren Collison	UCLA	G	Sr.	6-0	160	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Etiwanda HS)
Taj Gibson	USC	F	Jr.	6-9	225	Brooklyn, N.Y. (Stoneridge Prep)
Daniel Hackett	USC	G	Jr.	6-5	215	Pesaro, Italy (St. John Bosco HS)
Jordan Hill	ARIZ	F	Jr.	6-10	235	Atlanta, Ga. (The Patterson School, N.C.)

Honorable Mention (receiving at least three votes): Venoy Overton (WASH, So., G), Jeff Pendergraph (ASU, Sr., F), Seth Tarver (OSU, Jr., G/F).

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: James Harden, Arizona State
FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR: Isaiah Thomas, Washington
DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Taj Gibson, USC
MOST IMPROVED PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Justin Dentmon, Washington
COACH OF THE YEAR: Lorenzo Romar, Washington

PAC-10 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

HARDEN becomes the third Arizona State player to earn Pac-10 Player of the Year, joining Eddie House (2000) and Ike Diogu (2005). He's also the third sophomore ever selected, joining California's Jason Kidd (1994) and Arizona's Mike Bibby (1998). Harden leads the league in scoring (20.8 ppg), 13th in rebounding (5.4 rpg), eighth in assists (4.1 apg), and second in steals (1.7 spg). Since the 1996-97 season, only five other players in the nation have averaged at least 20 points, five rebounds, four assists and shot over 50 percent from the field (courtesy of STATS LLC). He's posted 20 or more points 16 times this season, including a career-high 40 vs. UTEP (Nov. 30). In two seasons, he's accumulated 1,229 points.

PAC-10 FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

THOMAS becomes the fourth Husky to earn Pac-10 Freshman of the Year, and the first since Mark Pope was tabbed in 1992. Thomas was sixth in the league in scoring (15.4 ppg), which led all Pac-10 freshmen. He set a Washington freshman record by scoring 477 points this season, topping former Husky Spencer Hawes (461 points, 2006-07).

PAC-10 DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

GIBSON was key in guiding the Trojan defense with a league-leading 2.9 blocks per game. USC allowed the opposition just 63.4 points per game (fourth in the Pac-10) and its defensive field goal percentage of 40.7 percent ranked second in the league. Gibson posted four or more blocks in a game nine times this season, including four of the last five games. His 239 career blocked shots are tops on the USC career list and ranks third all-time in the Pac-10.

PAC-10 MOST IMPROVED PLAYER OF THE YEAR

DENTMON was second on the Washington squad, averaging 15.3 ppg (7th in the Pac-10), just two points behind team-leader and Pac-10 Freshman of the Year Isaiah Thomas. Entering the season, Dentmon had a career average of 9.4 points per game, while shooting 41.5 percent from the field and 30.7 percent from three-point range. This season, he shot 47.3 percent from the field, 43.2 percent from three-point range (7th in the Pac-10), and 83.7 percent from the free throw line (6th in the Pac-10). He also added 48 steals (1.5 spg) this season.

PAC-10 COACH OF THE YEAR

ROMAR, 50, has guided WASHINGTON to the Pac-10 title with a 14-4 league mark, and a 24-7 record overall. It's Washington's first Pac-10 title since sharing the crown with USC in 1985, and first outright title since 1953 (Pacific Coast Conference). Romar, who has guided the Huskies to their third 20-win season in the last five years, earns Pac-10 Coach of the Year honor for the second time as he was also tabbed by the coaches for the award in 2005. Only two other Washington coaches have received Pac-10 Coach of the Year honors - Bob Bender (1996) and Marv Harshman (1982, 1984). Romar has a career record of 237-166 (.588), while his Washington record stands at 144-78 (.649).

THE VOTE: Coach of the Year, All-Conference, All-Freshman, All-Defensive teams and Most Improved Player are voted on by the coaches. Coaches are not permitted to vote for themselves or their own players for the honors.

ALL-TIME PACIFIC-10 CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL HONORS

SEASON	PLAYER OF THE YEAR	FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR*	DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR	MOST IMPROVED PLAYER OF THE YEAR	COACH OF THE YEAR
2008-09	James Harden, ASU	Isaiah Thomas, WASH	Taj Gibson, USC	Justin Dentmon, WASH	Lorenzo Romar, WASH
2007-08	Kevin Love, UCLA	Kevin Love, UCLA	Russell Westbrook, UCLA		Trent Johnson, STAN
2006-07	Aaron Afflalo, UCLA	Chase Budinger, ARIZ			Tony Bennett, WSU
2005-06	Brandon Roy, WASH	Luc Richard Mbah a Moute, UCLA			Ben Howland, UCLA
2004-05	Ike Diogu, ASU	Jordan Farmar, UCLA			Lorenzo Romar, WASH
2003-04	Josh Childress, STAN	Leon Powe, CAL			Mike Montgomery, STAN
2002-03	Luke Ridnour, ORE	Ike Diogu, ASU			Mike Montgomery, STAN
2001-02	Sam Clancy, USC	Salim Stoudamire, ARIZ			Lute Olson, ARIZ
2000-01	Sean Lampley, CAL	Luke Ridnour, ORE			Ernie Kent, ORE
1999-00	Eddie House, ASU	Casey Jacobsen, STAN			Steve Lavin, UCLA
1998-99	Jason Terry, ARIZ	Jason Kapon, UCLA			Mike Montgomery, STAN
1997-98	Mike Bibby, ARIZ	Michael Wright, ARIZ			Lute Olson, ARIZ
1996-97	Ed Gray, CAL	Baron Davis, UCLA			Ben Braun, CAL
1995-96	Shareef Abdur-Rahim, CAL	Mike Bibby, ARIZ			Bob Bender, WASH
1994-95	Ed O'Bannon, UCLA	Shareef Abdur-Rahim, CAL			Jim Harrick, UCLA
	Damon Stoudamire, ARIZ	Tremaine Fowkles, CAL			
1993-94	Jason Kidd, CAL	Brevin Knight, STAN			Lute Olson, ARIZ
1992-93	Chris Mills, ARIZ	Jason Kidd, CAL			Lute Olson, ARIZ
1991-92	Harold Miner, USC	Mark Pope, WASH			George Raveling, USC
1990-91	Terrell Brandon, ORE	Jamal Faulkner, ASU			Kelvin Sampson, WSU
1989-90	Gary Payton, OSU	Harold Miner, USC			Jim Anderson, OSU
1988-89	Sean Elliott, ARIZ	Don MacLean, UCLA			Lute Olson, ARIZ
1987-88	Sean Elliott, ARIZ	Mike Hayward, WASH			Ralph Miller, OSU
1986-87	Jose Ortiz, OSU	Gary Payton, OSU			Lute Olson, ARIZ
1985-86	Chris Welp, WASH	Sean Elliott, ARIZ	Keith Morrison, WSU		Walt Hazzard, UCLA
		Pooh Richardson, UCLA			Lute Olson, ARIZ
1984-85	Wayne Carlander, USC	Leonard Taylor, CAL	Nigel Miguel, UCLA		Stan Morrison, USC
1983-84	A.C. Green, OSU	Chris Welp, WASH	Butch Hays, CAL		Marv Harshman, WASH
1982-83	Kenny Fields, UCLA	Dave Butler, CAL			George Raveling, WSU
1981-82	Lester Connor, OSU	Johnny Rogers, STAN			Marv Harshman, WASH
1980-81	Steve Johnson, OSU	John Revelli, STAN			Ralph Miller, OSU
1979-80	Don Collins, WSU	Byron Scott, ASU			Ned Wulk, ASU
1978-79	David Greenwood, UCLA	Bryan Rison, WSU			Bob Boyd, USC
1977-78	David Greenwood, UCLA	—			Gary Cunningham, UCLA
1976-77	Marques Johnson, UCLA	—			Dick Harter, ORE
1975-76	Ron Lee, ORE	—			Dick DiBiaso, STAN
					George Raveling, WSU

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