



California Community College Athletic Association *Athletes of the Month – May 2009*

For the Month of May 2009, the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) and the California Community College Sports Information Association (CCCSIA) is proud to announce Curtis Mitchell (Track and Field) of Southwestern College and Missy Mendoza (Women's Softball) of Mt. SAC as the May Athletes of the Month for their outstanding performances.



CURTIS MITCHELL (SO) **Southwestern College** **Men's Track and Field**

Mitchell defended his 2008 state championship performances in the 100 Meters and 200 Meters to become only the second person in California Community College History to win back to back titles in those two events. His winning time of 10.31 in the 100 meters ranked him in that event, at the time, one of the top 50 athletes in the world. His 200 meter winning time of 20.58, ranked him in that event, at the time, the third fastest collegian, number seven American and number 26 in the world.

Mitchell was named Foothill Conference Athlete of the Year and State Championship Athlete of the Meet. He concluded his outstanding community college career, undefeated in the 200 meters, with only 2 losses in the 100 meters. Mitchell will attend Texas A&M on a full ride scholarship next season.



MISSY MENDOZA (SO) **Mt. San Antonio College** **Women's Softball**

Mendoza was renamed "Miss May" as she helped lead the Mt. SAC Mounties to the 2009 California State Championship and a State Tournament MVP Award with her powerful bat. Mendoza hit **four** amazing game winning homeruns and nearly hit the homerun cycle with one solo, 2 three-run and one grand slam homerun during the championship month.

During Mendoza's amazing month of May, she batted .518 (batting average) with 14 hits (27 at bats), 9 runs, 14 RBI and 4 home runs. Three of Mendoza's game winning homeruns were blasted during the last three state championship games held at the Salinas Sports Complex in Salinas, California. At the state championships with the Mounties trailing number one ranked Cypress College in the bottom of the 7th inning, with two outs, Mendoza blasted a 3 run game winning home run. During the state championship game against Sierra College, Mendoza completed her domination of opposing pitchers with a grand slam homerun that put the Mounties ahead and captured the state championship title. For her outstanding batting, Mendoza was named State Tournament MVP.

MEN'S HONORABLE MENTION

DENNIS ALIOTTA **Moorpark College** **Men's Track and Field**

Aliotta was a two-event state champion at the California State Community College Track and Field Championships. His winning shot put mark of 60'07.75" was the top 2009 community college mark in the nation. His winning Hammer Throw mark of 181'02" demolished the field by over 6 feet. Along with his two State Championships, Aliotta also placed 7th in the Discus Throw to score a total of 22 points, leading the Moorpark College Men's Track and Field Team to a State Runner-Up finish with 58 points. Aliotta maintains a 3.37 GPA and will be attending Coastal Carolina University on Scholarship.

ZACK JOHNSON **Ohlone College**

Men's Baseball

Freshman Third Baseman, Zach Johnson, led Ohlone Baseball to the Northern Regional Championship over Chabot College during the month of May. During the two contests against Chabot, Johnson was 5 for 7 with a double, homerun and 7 RBI. He also excelled at the Super-Regional Championships going 4 for 8, with a homerun, 3 singles and 2 RBI. During the 4 play-off games, Johnson batted an astonishing .563 going 9 for 16, with 2 homeruns, one double, 6 runs and 8 RBI with a slugging percentage of 1.000 and a .636 on base percentage. Johnson led Ohlone in every major offensive category and was named to the All-Coast Conference First Team.

RUSTY PRICE

Modesto Junior College

Men's Track and Field

Price peaked at the right time and was the State Runner-Up in both the Hammer and Discus Throw at the 2009 California State Track and Field Championships held at the College of San Mateo. He also placed 3rd in the Shot Put, securing All-American status in three events and scoring 22 points for Modesto. Modesto placed 12th as team at the state championships with a score of 27. Price also captured the Northern California Shot Put Championship.

COOPER THOMPSON

Bakersfield College

Men's Track and Field

Thompson captured the "triple crown" by capturing his conference, regional and state championship titles in the javelin for the Renegades. He set the Western States Conference Record with a throw of 208'06". At the state championships Thompson came from behind to throw 222'00", winning the state title, breaking the State Championship Record and shattering the Bakersfield School record (former record 193'03"). He is currently ranked number two in the nation among community college javelin throwers and will compete at the USA Track and Field Junior National (under 19 years old) Track and Field Championships in late June. What may be the most amazing thing about Thompson, a freshman, is that he began throwing the javelin this past February. In three short months, his first legal mark of 132'00" has since been improved by over 90 feet.

JULIAN SALINAS

Cuesta College

Men's Track and Field

Sophomore Decathlete Salinas is one of the finest all around athletes in Cuesta history. This season he finished 8th at the State Track and Field Championships in the decathlon (5657 points) and also added a 7th place finish in the javelin. Salinas has been the Cougars top multi-sport athlete over the past two seasons. Salinas was one of only two Cuesta male athletes to score at the state championships for the Cougars. Salinas ranks in the All-Time Top Ten at Cuesta in four events- #4 Decathlon (5,678 points), #5 Javelin (184'11"), #6 110 Hurdles (16.02) and #9 Long Jump (21'08.25").

BRETT WALLACH

Orange Coast College

Men's Baseball

Wallach lead the Orange Coast College Pirates to their first state championship since 1980. In the month of May, Wallach batted .400 (16 for 40) with seven RBI and on the mound, Wallach went 3-0 with a save in four appearances with 21 strikeouts. All three wins and his save for the month came in the playoffs as the Pirates went 8-1 in the postseason. In the state championships, Wallach allowed just two runs over six innings with eight strikeouts against Diablo Valley, then came back the next day to post a 1-2-3 out ninth inning in OCC's 10-7 championship-clinching win over San Joaquin Delta. For the season, Wallach had a record of 10-1 with a 2.26 ERA, striking out 111 batters in 103 2/3 innings. At the plate, he batted .371 with three home runs and 48 RBI, notching 66 hits and scoring 35 runs in 45 games played. Wallach was named the Orange Empire Conference Player of the Year, Southern California Player of the Year and was named to the All-American Team.

WOMEN'S HONORABLE MENTION

ASHLEY LITCHFIELD

Ventura College

Women's Tennis

Litchfield captured the Southern California and State Championship title in women's single play. She becomes the Lady Pirates very first state champion in Women's Tennis. She helped lead the Pirates to a 9-3 overall record and a third place finish in the Western States Conference.

JAMIE MILLER

Ohlone College

Women's Softball

Miller led the Renegades to the California State Community College Softball Championships. The team shortstop and leadoff hitter, she was named team MVP, All-League First Team, All-Northern California First Team and was named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-American Team capturing the "Golden Shoe Award" as the leading base stealer in the state. Miller scored 47 runs in 51 games played. She recently received her AA degree and will graduate with a GPA of 3.4.

CHRISTINE WEINREICH

Cuesta College

Women's Track and Field

Freshman thrower Weinreich is on the verge of becoming the greatest thrower in Cuesta History. She contributed four new records this season and broke two marks, including one of her own, at the 2009 Southern California Regional Championships. She qualified for the 2009 State Track and Field Championships in the hammer and discus and finished 5th and 6th in those events, respectively. She currently holds the hammer record with a throw of 151-2. She also broke Debra Hiner's 1976 discus record, which was the oldest mark on the Cuesta books, with a throw of 141'01". An injury kept Weinreich from competing in shot put during the post-season, however her throw of 42'08" ranks second all-time at Cuesta. Weinreich is only a freshman and will look to improve her marks and solidify the title of Cuesta's greatest thrower in 2010.