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## About the Pacific West Conference (PacWest)

Central Washington University Athletics

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## Pacific West Conference

The Pacific West Conference, with roots extending back to 1981, is one of the most successful and well-respected athletic programs in the West.

Sixteen schools, located in seven different states, are currently members of the conference. The newest members are Seattle University, which began competition in the PacWest this fall, and Northwest Nazarene (Idaho), which will officially begin competing in the conference in the 2000-2001 school year.

Lewis-Clark State officially withdrew from the conference last spring, electing to maintain its NAIA affiliation. Simon Fraser, which also competes as a NAIA school, will be considered a scheduling partner next year after competing as a member this year.

PacWest teams won NCAA Division II national titles in volleyball (Hawaii Pacific) and softball (Humboldt State) and NAIA titles in softball (Simon Fraser) and baseball (Lewis-Clark State) last season.

The Pacific West Conference was initially formed by a merger of the Great Northwest and Continental Divide conferences in May of 1992. Then in the fall of 1998, the conference merged with five teams from the Pacific Northwest Athletic Conference. Independents BYU-Hawaii, Hawaii Pacific and Humboldt State also joined the far-flung affiliation.

In volleyball and men's basketball, Central competes in the West Division along with Seattle University, St. Martin's, Western Oregon, Seattle Pacific, Western Washington and Humboldt State. The women's basketball league includes the West Division schools along with Alaska-Anchorage, Alaska-Fairbanks, Montana State - Billings and Western New Mexico.