

## UAA Defending Champions, But Chico State Top Ranked

Alaska Anchorage is the defending champion in both the men's and women's divisions, but Chico State brings the top national rankings into the 2011 NCAA Division II West Regional cross country championships this Saturday at Plantes Ferry Sports Complex in Spokane.

The women's 6,000 meter race begins at 10:30 a.m. followed by the men's race at 11:30. The top four team finishers in both the men's and women's races and the top two individuals not on one of the qualifying teams will return to Spokane in two weeks for the NCAA Division II national meet.

The UAA men ended Chico's eight-year reign as champions a year ago in the regional meet in Bellingham edging the Wildcats 49-54. During Chico's eight-year title reign its *average* margin of victory had been 53 points.

Chico, which is ranked fifth in the latest USTFCCCA men's national poll, posted a near perfect score of 16 in winning its 10<sup>th</sup> straight California Collegiate Athletic Association championship Oct. 22 in Santa Rosa, Calif.

Chico placed 10 runners among the top 11 led by individual champion Adrian Sherrod, who edged teammate Isaac Chavez for first place. Sherrod, who finished 23<sup>rd</sup> in the 2010 regional meet, was clocked in a time of 25:39.0, one-tenth of a second ahead of Chavez who placed fourth in last year's regional in a time of 31:44.9 and is the top returning regional finisher.

Alaska Anchorage brings a No. 7 national rank into the regional meet after successfully defending its GNAC title in Yakima with a team score of 27. The Seawolves are one of three GNAC nationally ranked teams along with Western Washington (20<sup>th</sup>) and Western Oregon (23<sup>rd</sup>).

UAA's Micah Chelimo, who placed sixth in last year's regional meet, won the GNAC individual title in a 8,000 meter time of 24:24. Chavez and Chelimo are among eight of last year's Top 15 regional finishers to return.

Also back is Jake Parisien of Alaska Anchorage (7<sup>th</sup>), Barak Watson of Northwest Nazarene (8<sup>th</sup>), Spencer Hunt of Saint Martin's (9<sup>th</sup>), Joey Kochlacs of Chico State (11<sup>th</sup>), Anthony Costales of Chico State (12<sup>th</sup>) and Kipkorir Mutai of Grand Canyon (14<sup>th</sup>).

Mutai finished second in the PacWest Conference meet last weekend in back of three-time champion Amos Maru of Academy of Art. AAU is a provisional NCAA school and isn't eligible to compete in the regional meet.

Three regional teams are ranked in the latest USTFCCCA women's national poll, including Chico State (5<sup>th</sup>), Alaska Anchorage (7<sup>th</sup>) and Western Washington (16<sup>th</sup>). Chico has won four straight CCAA team titles and UAA has won the last two women's regional titles.

Led by Alia Gray who finished first in a time of 21:07.1, Chico outpointed Cal Poly Pomona 37-98 to win the CCAA women's title, while GNAC individual champion Ruth Keino led Alaska Anchorage to the GNAC title outpointing provisional member Simon Fraser 31-76.

Keino is the top returning finisher from last year's regional meet when she led a 2-3-4 finish for the Seawolves covering the course in a time of 22:01.2. Miriam Kipng'eno, who placed third and Shoshana Keegan, who finished fourth, also are back for the Seawolves.

Other Top 15 finishers back from last year's regional include Lauren Breihof of Western Washington (6<sup>th</sup>), Tiffany Dinh of Cal Poly Pomona (8<sup>th</sup>) and Chico's Jonah Weeks (9<sup>th</sup>) and Stephanie Consiglio (11<sup>th</sup>). Dinh finished second behind Gray in the CCAA meet.

While the CCAA and GNAC champions will probably battle it out for the regional crowns, Cal Baptist, which swept the PacWest Conference team titles, will not be afforded that opportunity as they are in their first season transitioning from the NAIA.

PacWest women's individual champion Rachel Young of Dixie State will be competing. She won the PacWest title in a 5,000 meter time of 17:52.3.

BYU-Hawaii's men who placed third and its women who finished second had the best team finishes in the PacWest championships among the NCAA eligible teams.

## NCAA Division II West Regional History (Since 1996)

<b>Men</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Team Champion</b>	<b>Runnerup</b>	<b>Individual Winner</b>
1996	McKinleyville, CA	Cal Poly Pomona (47)	Hawaii Hilo (87)	Dan Reed, UC Riverside, 32:43
1997	Pomona, CA	Cal Poly Pomona (23)	UC Davis (66)	Rondie Gibbs, Cal Poly Pomona, 31:18
1998	Bellingham, WA	UC Davis (40)	Humboldt State (69)	Christian Friis, Hawaii Pacific, 31:51
1999	Rocklin, CA	UC Davis (33)	Chico State (67)	Jeff Kaiser, UC Davis, 32:23
2000	Chino, CA	UC Davis (17)	Chico State (57)	Jeff Kaiser, UC Davis, 33:10
2001	Bellingham, WA	UC Davis (27)	Chico State (89)	Christian Madsen, Hawaii Pacific, 32:07
2002	Fresno, CA	Chico State (43)	UC Davis (86)	Paul Kezes, Western Washington, 31:58
2003	Chino, CA	Chico State (28)	UC San Diego (79)	William Ngetich, Hawaii Pacific, 31:41
2004	Bellingham, WA	Chico State (30)	Cal Poly Pomona (73)	Mark Batres, Cal Poly Pomona, 32:09
2005	Chino, CA	Chico State (23)	Cal Poly Pomona (97)	Patrick Boivin, Chico State, 31:24
2006	Oroville, CA	Chico State (32)	Cal Poly Pomona (116)	Todd Iacovelli, Hawaii Pacific, 31:59
2007	Boise, ID	Chico State (39)	Western Washington (93)	John Riak, Saint Martin's, 30:33
2008	LaJolla, CA	Chico State (28)	Alaska Anchorage (67)	Scott Bauhs, Chico State, 32:16
2009	San Francisco, CA	Chico State (42)	Western Washington (74)	Marko Cheseto, Alaska Anchorage, 30:43
2010	Bellingham, WA	Alaska Anchorage (49)	Chico State (54)	Marko Cheseto, Alaska Anchorage, 31:21
<b>Women</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Team Champion</b>	<b>Runnerup</b>	<b>Individual Winner</b>
1996	McKinleyville, CA	Seattle Pacific (56)	UC Davis (59)	Martha Pinto, Cal State L.A., 18:30
1997	Pomona, CA	UC Davis (46)	Seattle Pacific (56)	Sarah Shuler, UC Davis, 17:56
1998	Bellingham, WA	UC Davis (29)	Seattle Pacific (71)	Sarah Shuler, UC Davis, 21:34
1999	Rocklin, CA	UC Davis (53)	Seattle Pacific (104)	Nina Christensen, Hawaii Pacific, 21:50
2000	Chino, CA	Central Washington (60)	UC Davis (69)	Yvonne Liebig, UC Davis, 22:45
2001	Bellingham, WA	UC Davis (44)	Humboldt State (133)	Nina Christensen, Hawaii Pacific, 21:37
2002	Fresno, CA	UC Davis (86)	Chico State (91)	Ann Marie Housen, Cal State L.A., 21:27
2003	Chino, CA	Chico State (38)	UC San Diego (124)	Chelsea Smith, BYU-Hawaii, 20:55
2004	Bellingham, WA	Chico State (49)	UC San Diego (96)	Chelsea Smith, BYU-Hawaii, 21:43
2005	Chino, CA	Chico State (42)	UC San Diego (62)	Miriam Hodgins, UC San Diego, 22:00
2006	Oroville, CA	Cal State L.A. (67)	Seattle Pacific (70)	Jessica Pixler, Seattle Pacific, 20:47
2007	Boise, ID	Seattle Pacific (45)	Cal State L.A. (54)	Jessica Pixler, Seattle Pacific, 19:53
2008	LaJolla, CA	Chico State (60)	Seattle Pacific (92)	Jessica Pixler, Seattle Pacific, 20:58
2009	San Francisco, CA	Alaska Anchorage (35)	Chico State (58)	Jessica Pixler, Seattle Pacific, 20:09
2010	Bellingham, WA	Alaska Anchorage (40)	Chico State (55)	Sarah Porter, Western Washington, 21:22