



2015 March Stars of the Month

PROFESSIONAL

KRAIG CHILES, Soccer, Sockers, Poway High alumnus—Chiles captained Team USA to the first-ever WMF World Cup championship, capping off the nationwide tournament with a 5-3 victory over Mexico. He led the tournament in goals (10) and points (18) as the U.S. won six games over seven days in three states.

KAWHI LEONARD, Basketball, San Antonio Spurs—With the former Aztec back in the lineup, the Spurs finished the month on a roll, qualifying for the post-season. Leonard averaged 19.3 points with 7.3 rebounds and league-high 2.7 steals per game while being touted for NBA Defensive Player of the Year honors.

AMATEUR

NORMAN POWELL, Basketball, UCLA, Lincoln High Alumnus—Powell improved his pro draft stock in a big way by leading the Bruins into the Sweet 16 before falling to Gonzaga. Powell averaged a team-high 16.4 points a game, including 17.2 in Pac-12 Conference play. He led the teams with 66 steals.

HEATHER THOMPSON, Women's Basketball, CSUSM, Escondido High alumnus—A senior, Thompson led CSUSM its second-straight Association of Independent Institutions Conference title and second consecutive appearance in the NAIA Nationals. Thompson averaged 15.8 points, 10.3 rebounds and 3.5 blocks per game with a pair of double-doubles.

J.J. O'BRIEN, Men's basketball, SDSU—Averaging 13.1 points, 4.6 rebounds, O'Brien shot 46 percent from the field and 81 percent from the free-throw line to lift the Aztecs to the Mountain West regular season championship and an appearance in the NCAA Tourney. O'Brien earned NABC all-District 17 first-team honors.

DAVID HILL, Baseball, USD—Hill was dominant in five appearances, allowing just one earned run bolstering a 0.24 ERA in 31.0 innings. During this stretch, Hill recorded 37 strikeouts, issued only 10 walks, while opponents only hit .133 off of the right-hander. On the season, Hill is 5-2 with a 1.64 ERA and leads the team in strikeouts with 57.

LORENA BAUER, Softball, SDSU, Steele Canyon alumnus—A senior, Bauer led the Aztecs to a 12-5 record, including a 6-0 mark in MWC play. She batted .476 (20-for-42) with eight home runs, 22 RBIs and scored 14 runs. She set Aztec single-game records with 3 home runs and 7 RBI in a win over Boise State.

PAIGE VON SPRECKEN, Softball, USD—Just a freshman, Von Specken is already making her mark. In 15 games she went 8-3 with a 1.09 ERA while holding batters to a .194 average. Her 15 wins on the season are the second most in the nation among freshmen. In ten starts, she gave up one earned run or less eight times with three shutouts.

TROY CRUZ, Baseball, UCSD, Bonita Vista alumnus—Cruz posted a 4-0 record with a 2.10 ERA over 25.2 innings and 24 strikeouts against a single walk. All four outings came in CCAA play. He capped the month with an 8-inning performance in a win over Sonoma State to pad the Tritons' lead atop the CCAA. On the season he is 5-2 with a 2.55 ERA.

HIGH SCHOOL

MAI-LONI HENSON, Girls Basketball, La Jolla Country Day—For a team to win a state championship as the Torreys did in Division V, you need a go-to player. Henson was just that averaging 17.0 points, 11.6 rebounds and five assists a game. The junior assumed the leadership role on the young LJCD squad.

RALPHY TOVAR, Wrestling, Poway—Saving the best for last, the Titan senior swept his way to the state title at 147 pounds, capturing all of his matches in Bakersfield, helping lift Poway to a second place finish in the team race. Tovar finished 52-2, winning the Division II, Masters and state championships.

ISAI AGUILA, Boys Soccer, Chula Vista—It isn't always the scorers who have the most important plays in a game. Aguila stepped up big when the Spartans were tied 2-2 with Woodland Hills El Camino Real in the Southern California Division I championships, setting up teammates with assists for scores leading to a 4-2 victory.

FALEPOLIMA AVIU, Softball, Rancho Buena Vista—Talk about dominant. Aviu, a senior outfielder, compiled a .706 batting average (24-for-34). Headed to Oklahoma, she slammed six homers while driving in 14 runs. She only struck out once in the first 11 games while committing just two errors in the field.

DREW FINLEY, Baseball, Rancho Bernardo—Before the season, Finley was considered the No. 1 returning pitcher in the section—possibly the nation. In his first three starts he certainly lived up to the part, compiling a 3-0 record with a 1.09 ERA. That included a 1-hitter over Rancho Buena Vista in the North County Tournament.

JESSICA CLEGG, Girls Soccer, Cathedral Catholic—As the Cathedral Catholic girls swept to the Southern California Division III championship, the anchor of the team was the senior forward. By season's end Clegg had 11 goals and 13 assists, starting all 31 games (25-4-2). She finished her career with 21 goals and 35 assists.