

By: Gabriel Valdes

Editor: College Soccer

Weekly Contributor: PacWest Conference Opens New Doors For Men's Soccer

Co editors: Maxwell Reckerman & Nathan Freitas

Before kicking off the 2024-25 season, the PacWest Conference concluded that they would be introducing a conference tournament for men's soccer. The first inaugural tournament was set to take place November 14-16 at Great Park in Irvine, CA. Like most other collegiate conference tournaments, it would consist of the top 4 ranked teams at the end of the regular season in a single elimination format. For teams not nationally ranked, the tournament is a great additional route to make the NCAA national tournament and win a conference title at the same time.

This year the top 4 teams in order were: Point Loma, Menlo College, Westmont, and Vanguard. However, with this being Menlo and Vanguard's first year in the PacWest, they were ineligible to compete in a conference tournament per NCAA rules. 5th and 6th place runners up, Hawaii Hilo and Fresno Pacific made the tournament in place of the 2 ineligible universities. In the first round Fresno Pacific managed to pull off the upset with a 1-0 victory against Point Loma. Westmont bested Hilo 2-1 in overtime. The championship game between Westmont and Fresno Pacific was a 5 goal thriller but Westmont ultimately ended up on top, winning the first ever Men's soccer PacWest tournament 3-2 and topping the conference with a bid to the national tournament.

Bio: Gabriel Valdes is freshman graphic design major and exploring business and marketing studies. He is a member of the men's soccer team and interests include music and any outdoor activities.