

Contact: David Eadie  
Phone: 916.444.1600

# NEWS RELEASE

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

## COA Announces U.S. Bank Student Athletes of the Month

**Sacramento, CA** . . . The California Community Colleges Commission on Athletics (COA), in partnership with the California Community College Sports Information Association (CCCSIA) today named Tracy Ryan (Sacramento City College, softball) and Pearson Smith (Long Beach City College, basketball) the COA/U.S. Bank Student Athletes of the Month for February.

**Tracy Ryan**, a sophomore pitcher for Sacramento City College, was a perfect 7-0, with 1 save, through the month of February. She helped the Panthers to a 15-1 start and a 2-0 mark in the Big 7 Conference. Ryan has pitched 41.2 innings and recorded 61 strikeouts and issued only 7 walks. She has thrown four complete games and notched two shutouts this season. Ryan has surrendered 24 hits, allowed 9 earned runs to cross the plate and has an ERA of 1.51. When she isn't pitching, she can be found in the outfield and leads the team at the plate with a batting average of .571. Ryan, a Business Economics major, is an honor roll student who volunteers at a local convalescent home in her free time. Sacramento City is currently enjoying a 19-game winning streak and the latest poll has the Panthers ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in Northern California and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state.

**Pearson Smith**, a sophomore guard for Long Beach City College, was named the South Coast Conference South Division Player of the Year after leading LBCC to its second straight conference championship. Smith returned to LBCC this season after serving three years in the U.S. Army, including time in Iraq. He was a freshman on LBCC's 2000-01 squad. Smith led the SCC South Division by averaging 21.1 points per game. He was also sixth in the division with 7.3 rebounds per game and averaged 2.5 assists. His leadership on and off the court has been invaluable to LBCC this season and helped the Vikings reach the quarterfinal round of the California Community Colleges Commission on Athletics Basketball Championships presented by U.S. Bank, where he led the team with 17 points in an 84-79 loss to state runner-up West Valley College.

U.S. Bank is the "Official Financial Services Provider" of the COA and California community college athletics. U.S. Bank is also the official presenting sponsor of all California community college championship events, including the 2005-06 COA Championship Festival in Fresno, CA.

U.S. Bancorp (NYSE: USB), with assets of \$209 billion, is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest financial holding company in the United States. The company operates 2,419 banking offices and 5,003 ATMs, and provides a comprehensive line of banking, brokerage, insurance, investment, mortgage, trust, and payment services products to consumers, businesses, and institutions. U.S. Bancorp is the parent company of U.S. Bank. Visit U.S. Bancorp on the web at [www.usbank.com](http://www.usbank.com).

To view the latest news, information, and updates of all 23 COA-sanctioned sports, visit [www.coasports.org](http://www.coasports.org).

Student athlete biographies provided by the CCCSIA.

COA