

# **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 30, 2007

## **COMMISSION ON ATHLETICS AND SCHOLAR-BALLER™ ANNOUNCE FALL ACADEMIC CHAMPIONS PROGRAM**

Orlando, FL, January 30, 2007 - This fall marked the Second Annual Commission on Athletics Championship Festival held in Fresno, California by the COA, the governing body of California's community college athletic system. Beginning November 12, 2006, community college athletic teams competed for their respective titles in women's golf, women and men's cross country, women and men's water polo, women's volleyball, women and men's soccer, wrestling and football. Scholar Baller is proud to recognize champions in the classroom through the partnership of the COA and the Scholar-Baller™ organization.

The COA is closing out year one in the three year partnership with Scholar-Baller™. Scholar-Baller™ is a conceptualization that promotes a desire and willingness for students to accept the challenge of harmonizing academics and athletics. The term Scholar-Baller™ stresses the importance of a lifelong commitment to learning. A Scholar-Baller™ is someone who succeeds academically and who accepts the challenge of balancing playbooks with textbooks.

Currently there are six schools in the COA deemed official Scholar-Baller™ schools. They participate in the incentive and/or the curriculum program that has been established based on theory and practice. Student-athletes who maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better during the academic calendar year will receive a ThinkMan™ or ThinkWoman™ patch to wear on their jersey and/or warm-up signifying that they are a Scholar-Baller™. The question remains...who's Scholar-Baller™ at your community college?

|           | <b>W. Golf</b>             | <b>W. Cross Country</b>    | <b>M. Cross Country</b>       | <b>W. Water Polo</b>        | <b>M. Water Polo</b>    |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Champion  | Santa Barbara City College | Orange Coast College       | San Bernardino Valley College | Long Beach City College     | Long Beach City College |
| Runner-up | College of the Canyons     | Glendale Community College | East Los Angeles College      | Riverside Community College | West Valley College     |

|           | <b>W. Volleyball</b>       | <b>W. Soccer</b>        | <b>M. Soccer</b> | <b>Football</b>               | <b>Wrestling</b>    |
|-----------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Champion  | Orange Coast College       | Santiago Canyon College | Cerritos College | El Camino College of Torrance | Fresno City College |
| Runner-up | Los Angeles Pierce College | Cypress College         | Taft College     | City College of San Francisco | Sierra College      |

Scholar Baller is proud of these teams as well as all others competing this fall in the Championship Festival. The Festival concludes March 8<sup>th</sup> through March 11<sup>th</sup> when the COA Men and Women’s Basketball Championships are held at Fresno’s Selland Arena.

All champion and runner-up teams will receive Scholar-Baller™ gear in recognition of their talents and accomplishments. Specifically, one player on each championship and runner-up team will receive a Scholar-Baller™ hat that indicates “Highest GPA” on the back of the hat.

You can find more information on Scholar-Baller™ at [www.scholarballer.org](http://www.scholarballer.org) or call 734-717-3775.

**About the COA**

The Community College League of California Commission on Athletics (COA) is a non-profit organization per IRC Section 501 (c)(3). The COA establishes the rules and regulations to administer the athletic activities of the nearly 25,000 student athletes at California's community colleges. To view the latest news, information, and updates of all 23 COA-sanctioned sports visit [www.coasports.org](http://www.coasports.org).

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