Athletics & Recreational Sports

Program
The appeal of Chico State athletics is the opportunity for student-athletes to compete at a high level while pursuing a quality education. The overriding factor in our athletic success is the Chico experience: an almost undefinable mood which makes the student-athlete perceive Chico as "home," not just a place to go to school. This factor, along with excellent coaching and fine facilities, has contributed to Chico's reputation of one of the top NCAA Division II athletic programs in the nation.

Facilities
Facilities include two gymnasiums with four competition-size basketball courts; six handball/ raquetball courts; two swimming pools; tennis courts; stadium and all-weather track; soccer and multipurpose fields; baseball stadium, softball diamond; putting greens and sand traps; weight training room; climbing wall; dance studios; and athletic training rooms.

Athletics
The intercollegiate athletics program sponsors 13 different sports, seven women's and six men's. In the fall of 1998, Chico joined the highly regarded California Collegiate Athletic Association, which is composed of 11 schools: Cal Poly Pomona; CSU, Bakersfield; CSU, Dominguez Hills; CSU, Los Angeles; CSU, Monterey Bay; CSU, San Bernardino; CSU, Stanislaus; Sonoma State; San Francisco State; and UC San Diego. It is a scholarship program at Chico State is one of the most successful women's sports on campus. In 2002 Head Coach Kim Sutton, who brought with her a tradition of winning, was hired as just the second coach in the program's 30-year history. Throughout this effort, the women's team has consistently maintained a graduation rate of 94 percent and better, with several student-athletes achieving national recognition in the classroom as well as on the field.

Women's Basketball—The Chico State women's basketball program continues an exciting, winning tradition. Head Coach Lynne DeYoung took over the program in 2002 and is focused on giving the athletes a fulfilling and successful experience. Consecutive trips to the NCAA tournament are proof that DeYoung's hopes have already become a reality. The annual Coslet Classic tournament gives Wildcat basketball fans an early-season look at the team and its Division II competition.

Cross Country—Gary Towne, a long-time cross country and track and field assistant, took over the cross country head coaching position in 1996. In recent years the teams have made several trips to the National Championships, highlighted by both men's and women's squads finishing fourth in the nation in 2003. Cross country is one of the programs that attracts a large number of participants each year.

Golf—The men's and women's programs are under the direction of Head Coach Keith Thomas, who took over in 2001 and has built the men's program into one of the nation's best. The teams play a fall and spring schedule, building up to the CCAA championship, West Region, and National Championship. Wildcat golfer J.J. Jakovac took home the prestigious Division II individual national title in 2003 and 2004. The Wildcats practice on three Chico courses and host an invitational each year.

Men's Soccer—One of the most respected and successful athletic teams on campus, the Chico State men's soccer team, coached by alumnus Mike O'Malley, has been consistently ranked as one of the top teams in the CCAA. The Wildcats have won 14 league championships, participated in 11 NCAA tournaments, and reached the national title match in 2003. Numerous players have gone on to play professional soccer in both the NASL and MISL. Chico's soccer team has a faithful following of students, alumni, and children and adults from the community.

Women's Soccer—The women's soccer program at Chico State is one of the most successful programs. In 2002 Head Coach Kim Sutton, who brought with her a tradition of winning, was hired as just the second coach in the program's 30-year history. Throughout this effort, the women's team has consistently maintained a graduation rate of 94 percent and better, with several student-athletes achieving national recognition in the classroom as well as on the field.

Softball—The Chico State softball program, under the direction of Head Coach Teri Rupe, is committed to academic as well as athletic success. The 2002 team made its first trip to a national championship in more than 20 years and finished as one of the top four teams in the nation. Wildcat softball combines speed and power on offense, with a focus on consistent pitching and solid defense, to create a level of play which is exciting to watch. Each year
promising young athletes are brought in from both the high school and community college levels to compete for starting positions.

**Track and Field**—Chico State has a rich tradition in track and field. Head Coach Kirk Freitas is respected throughout the region as one of the top coaches, and Oliver Hanf was hired as the head women’s track and field coach in 1998. At the national level, Chico State has earned more than 60 All-American certificates since 1990, which go out to athletes who finish in the top six places for each event at the Division II National Championships.

**Volleyball**—The Chico State women’s volleyball team is dedicated to achieving high standards for excellence, both on the court and in the classroom. Head Coach Cody Hein, who’s had great success at the Division II level, was hired in 2002 and is working toward bringing the team to the top of the conference standings. With a steady flow of talented recruits and an experienced coach at the helm, the future promises to be bright.

**Recreational Sports**

More than 7,000 students participate annually in Chico State Recreational Sports programs. Recreational Sports offers students the opportunity for fun, exercise, competition, social interaction, and stress release in an on-campus sports setting. This comprehensive recreational sports program includes activities for men, women, and coeducational groups. The program offers both competitive and recreational opportunities for students, staff, and faculty. All Recreational Sports programs are free to all current Chico State students.

Recreational Sports programming includes open recreation, recreational clubs, special events, intramural sports, and sport clubs.

**Open Recreation**

Several hours are reserved on a daily basis in each of the Recreational Sports facilities for student walk-in use. Students can play basketball in Acker Gymnasium, swim in Acker Pool, use the cardiovascular equipment in the fitness room, tone up in the weight room, or try the climbing wall.

**Intramural Sports**

Recreational Sports programs offer both competitive and recreational opportunities for student leadership. Sport Club teams receive partial funding from the university. Teams raise the remainder of their annual budgets through fundraising and team dues. Sport Club teams include men’s lacrosse, women’s lacrosse, men’s rugby, women’s rugby, inline hockey, men’s volleyball, women’s volleyball, men’s ultimate frisbee, women’s ultimate frisbee, field hockey, men’s water polo, women’s water polo, cycling, and water skiing.

**Job Opportunities**

Recreational Sports offers numerous on-campus employment opportunities each semester, employing approximately 50-60 students at any given time. Job opportunities include sports officials for all officiated intramural sports, sport supervisors for all intramural sports, facility supervisors for all open recreation activities, lifeguards for all pool programming, and climbing wall staff for instructing students on climbing wall techniques and safety.