Athletics

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 indefinable 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.

Baseball—Dave Taylor helped build the Chico State baseball program into a perennial national contender as the head assistant/pitching coach from 1997-2004. He was hired to take over the program as the head coach in 2006 and the Wildcats’ success continues. The Wildcats have reached the postseason ten of the last 12 years and made seven appearances in the NCAA Division II College World Series in Montgomery, Alabama, winning the National Championship title in 1997 and 1999. The 4,200-seat Nettleton Stadium has added to the excitement of the sport and gives Wildcat baseball fans a wonderful place to take in a ballgame.

Men’s Basketball—The Chico State men’s basketball team is under the direction of Head Coach Greg Clink, hired in 2008 to take over for retiring 21-year coach Prescott “Puck” Smith. Clink has a connection to the Wildcats’ past, having played for Smith in the 90’s, and a vision for the Wildcats’ future. Chico State has always put an exciting style of play on the court and will strive to return to the NCAA tournament, as they did in 2004 and 2005. A main feature in the basketball schedule each year is the annual Mac Martin Chico Invitational Basketball Tournament, originating in 1960.

Women’s Basketball—The Chico State women’s basketball program, under the management of Head Coach Brian Fogel, continues an exciting, winning tradition. The Wildcats advanced to the NCAA tournament the last six years and had their best showing in the University’s history at the 2006 tournament, where they advanced to the Final Four. With that effort, the program established itself as one of the top in the conference, region, and the nation. The annual Coslet Classic tournament gives Wildcat basketball fans an early-season look at the team and its Division II competition.

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, Dominican Hills; CSU, Los Angeles; CSU, Monterey Bay; CSU, San Bernardino; CSU, Stanislaus; Humboldt State; Sonoma State; San Francisco State; and UC San Diego. It is a scholarship Division II conference whose teams have won over 145 NCAA National Championships.

Facilities
Facilities include two gymnasiums with four competition-size basketball 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; handball/ racquetball courts; and athletic training rooms.
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 numerous trips to the National Championships, highlighted by nine straight top-ten national finishes for the men's program and six straight top-ten finishes for the women's program. Cross country is one of the programs that has attracted national exposure for the University and the athletic department over the last several years.

Men's Golf—The men's golf team is under the direction of Head Coach T.L. Brown, who was hired in 2007. In his first year on the job, Brown led the Wildcats to the team's first NCAA West Regional appearance in three years. The team plays a fall and spring schedule, building up to the CCAA Championship, West Regional, and National Championship. The Wildcats practice on three Chico courses and host an invitational each year.

Women's Golf—An assistant since 2000, Kathy Dais, was hired as the program's first full-time head coach in 2007. The program has been ranked among the top 25 in the nation throughout five of the program's eight years in competition, and received a top-ten ranking in 2005. The team plays a fall and spring schedule, leading up to the West Regional, and National Championship. 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 has been consistently ranked as one of the top teams in the CCAA. Felipe Restrepo, hired in 2008, plans to build the program up to the West Regional, and National Championship. The Wildcats practice on three Chico courses and host an invitational each year.

Women's Soccer—The women's soccer 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. The Wildcats have established themselves as a force in the west region, advancing to the NCAA tournament in 2004, 2005, and 2007. The program has consistently maintained an impressive graduation rate, with several student-athletes achieving national recognition in the classroom as well as on the field.

Softball—The Chico State softball program, 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. The team returned to the NCAA tournament in 2005 and Head Coach Jamie Brown, hired in 2006, is looking to return to the national

The Wildcats made their first NCAA Tournament West Regional appearance in 2006 after a 14-year hiatus from the event. With a steady flow of talented recruits and an experienced coach at the helm, the future promises to be bright.

Athletic Training—The Chico State athletic training program, under the direction of Head Athletic Trainer Scott Barker, ATC, offers a practical learning environment for graduate students aspiring to the field of athletic training. The program prepares students for a career in the athletic training profession including high school, collegiate, professional, and sports medicine clinics. The experience includes assisting the certified athletic trainers with injury prevention, injury evaluation, and injury management. The students also receive valuable field experience by working with Chico State’s 13 intercollegiate athletic teams, including coverage of daily practice and home and away events. Athletic training is an allied health profession.