The University of La Verne softball team claimed the 2016 SCIAC softball championship after posting a 25-3 record in the regular season.

It is the Leopards’ first SCIAC crown since 2004 and the program’s eighth overall.

Senior Katherine Kibbe was named the SCIAC Athlete of the Year after putting up elite numbers both in the pitcher’s circle and in the batter’s box. She posted a 21-6 record, recorded 114 records and recorded a 1.84 ERA in 167 innings. As a hitter, the Rohnert Park native hit .352 with four home runs, 25 RBI and 18 runs scored.

Joining Kibbe on the All-SCIAC squad were Mackenzie Dutton, Sienna Kendricks, Alexis Schiff and Raeleen Tellez.

In addition to the players, the coaching staff led by Julie Smith received the Coaching Staff of the Year accolades.
Andrew Carrasco and the men’s 4x100m relay team of Nick Gonsalves, Joshua Francis, Robert Oshodin and Austin Warrington of the La Verne track and field team both earned All-America status after stellar showings at the 2016 NCAA National Championships.

Carrasco unleashed a personal- and school record toss of 188 feet, 5 inches in the hammer throw to jump nine seeds and finished seventh overall.

The relay team also finished seventh in the championship race with a time of 41.46 seconds.

**Women’s Water Polo finishes 2nd in SCIAC**
The La Verne women’s water polo team finished second in the SCIAC after reaching the SCIAC Postseason Tournament for the first time in program history. La Verne notched eight conference wins for the first time ever and snapped years-long losing streaks against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, Pomona-Pitzer and Redlands. The Leopards also earned four wins against NCAA Division I teams. Guarina Garcia and Stephanie Rosero were named to First Team All-SCIAC and Willo Rodriguez was named Coach of the Year.

**Tennis finishes 5th in SCIAC**
The La Verne tennis team topped Occidental and Caltech in the SCIAC Women’s Tennis Championships to clinch fifth place in the final standings.

Bridget Etchegaray was named to Second Team All-SCIAC—her second such honor—after going 4-6 in conference singles play and 5-5 in doubles.
UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE
ATHLETICS

Quick Hits

Garcia, Rosero named ACWPC All-America
Guarina Garcia and Stephanie Rosero of the La Verne women’s water polo team were named to Association of College Water Polo Coaches All-America Teams. Garcia was named to First Team while Rosero was tabbed Second Team. Garcia scored a team-high 63 goals this season and was the only freshman selected to the All-SCIAC squad. Rosero, a junior transfer who was coming off a seven-year hiatus from the game, scored 62 goals while providing steady leadership.

Softball trio named NFCA All-West Region
Mackenzie Dutton, Alexis Schiff and Katherine Kibbe of the La Verne softball team were named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Second Team All-West Region after leading the Leopards to a SCIAC championship. Dutton hit 10 home runs and drove in a team-high 48 runs while batting .403. Kibbe went 21-6 with an 1.84 ERA as a pitcher and hit .352 with four home runs as a hitter. Schiff hit a career-high 12 home runs and knocked in 34 runs while hitting .397.

Alec Spencer named PING All-West Region
Alec Spencer of the University of La Verne men’s golf team was named to the NCAA Division III All-West Region team. Spencer won two individual medals this season and averaged 75.16 strokes per round. He won the prestigious West Cup for the second year in a row and won SCIAC No. 2, both of which featured multiple top-25 teams and top-ranked individual players. Spencer was also named a semifinalist for the 2016 Jack Nicklaus National Player of the Year Award.

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La Verne honors 62 seniors at 2016 Blanket Awards
A total of 62 University of La Verne senior student-athletes were honored at the 2016 Senior Blanket Awards on May 12 at the Mountain Meadows Golf Course.

Nick Gonsalves of track and field and men’s soccer and Travis Sparks-Jackson of football were named as the Anthony P. Scafani Award recipients as the top senior male athletes. Brittany Yaxley of volleyball earned the Jesse Iles Scafani Award as the top female athlete.

Gonsalves won a national championship in 2014 as a part of the winning 4x100 relay team. Sparks-Jackson was named a 2015 D3football.com All-American and became La Verne’s all-time rushing champion. Yaxley won two All-America awards and led the Leopards to two NCAA National Championship appearances in four years.

Shannon Irwin of women’s basketball and Darrin Bangle of men’s soccer were named the 2015 La Verne Scholar Athletes of the Year. Irwin is a Kinesiology major who graduated with an overall GPA of 3.95. Bangle graduated with a 3.87 GPA as a Mathematics major.