



Top Pick: Aaron Poreda shows off the form that attracted the Chicago White Sox to draft him 25th overall.

White Sox Take USF's Poreda in First Round of Draft

Junior left-handed pitcher Aaron Poreda became the first USF baseball player ever drafted in the first round of the Major League Baseball amateur draft when he was selected 25th overall by the Chicago White Sox in June.

The Moraga native, who finished his career on The Hilltop ranking third in career victories (17), is currently pitching for the Great Falls White Sox in the Rookie Pioneer League.

"When I came to USF, this was a major stepping stone because of the elevated level of play," Poreda

said. "I didn't know if I was good enough to compete at this level. After my freshman year of coming out of the 'pen I knew I had the ability to compete at this level, but didn't know if my arm could go through the wear and tear as a starting pitcher."

He said the highlight of his USF career came during his sophomore year, when the Dons made the NCAA Regionals for the first time and beat Nebraska.

"Pitching against Nebraska with 10,000 fans in red screaming is a moment that I'll never forget," he said. "This was also another step in my career because I knew that if I can compete on this stage against the No. 6-rated team in the country I could compete against anyone."

The following year, major league scouts began making regular appearances at USF games. "Every time I picked up a baseball there were 20 to 30 scouts judging and probing me," he said. "I tried to focus on the stuff I could control and just let the pieces fall. Most importantly, I was just making the best out of my opportunity and trying to have fun."

Poreda left USF ranking third in school history wins (17), sixth in ERA (2.61), and seventh in strikeouts (169).

In addition to Poreda, four more USF baseball players are set to enter the next phase of their careers after signing professional minor league contracts. Infielder Brian Chavez signed with the New York Yankees, right-hander Daniel Morales with the Cleveland Indians, right-hander John Quine with the Oakland A's, and Luke Sommer with the Chicago Cubs.

This year saw the most USF players drafted in a single class in program history. [USF](#)

USF Runner Breaks Portland's 29-Year Winning Streak

USF senior Cheyne Inman in October won the individual title at the WCC Cross Country Championships, breaking the University of Portland's 29-year run of claiming that title. Inman (right) also broke a school record with a time of 25:20 in the 8K race.

"Considering Portland's long tradition of success, Cheyne's win today was a significant milestone for our program," said Head Coach Helen Lehman-Winters.

The men's team finished fourth overall, while the women for the second consecutive year finished second in the meet, behind Portland. However, this year's finish marked the best finish in USF women's history. Leading the women was senior Jennifer Hartford, who earned All-WCC First Team honors for the second consecutive year by placing fourth overall with a time of 21:18, the fastest 6K time on any course in school history. [USF](#)



New Women's Golf Coach Joins USF

Ria Quiazon, a professional golfer and UC Berkeley golf standout, has been named head women's golf coach at USF.



Quiazon

Quiazon's professional career included competition in the 2006 Women's World Cup in South Africa and the 2004 U.S. Women's Open. She also played for the Philippine Ladies National Team.

"Ria has all the qualities we were looking for in a coach, she knows the game and how to promote it and shares our belief in putting the student first in student-athlete," said Athletics Director Debra Gore-Mann.

A native of the Philippines, Quiazon has called the Bay Area home for more than 20 years. She started the golf program at James Logan High School in Union City, where she captained the boys team all four years. She went on to lead the women's team at Berkeley and as a senior, the team enjoyed a record-breaking season, winning seven tournaments including the Pac-10 and NCAA Western Regional Championships. California went from a team barely in the top-50 to a team ranked second in the nation. **USF**

Fiesta Bowl to Honor 1951 Football Team

Members of USF's 1951 football team will be the honored guests at the Jan. 2 Fiesta Bowl in Glendale, Ariz. The team will be recognized during a special pre-game ceremony, and will be the subject of a halftime video to be aired nationwide.

Often called the best in college football history, the team never received an invitation to bowl game after its undefeated season. When it was suggested the team drop its African American players to receive a bid, it refused.

The team came to be known as "undefeated, untied, and uninvited." Many players went on to have successful football careers after USF, yet they never had the chance to experience a bowl game. **USF**

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Shortstop Shines as Valedictorian

The life of a student athlete is a demanding juggle between athletics and academics, especially in a sport like baseball, where the athletes train year-round. But for three-year starting shortstop Tavo Hall, the rigorous schedule helped him thrive in both arenas. In May, he was named valedictorian of his class.



Hall delivered the commencement address May 18.

The international studies major was eligible to be valedictorian by maintaining a grade-point average above 3.85. In 2006, Hall suffered a broken hand in mid-March and missed more than 20 games before returning to lead the Dons to the first West Coast Conference Championship and the first NCAA Regional berth in school history.

"I was really impressed by the coaching staff and what they've stressed as far as their philosophy of putting academics first and the type of people they wanted to recruit," Hall said in an interview with *USA Today*. "I don't know that what I do is much different than what a lot of other guys on the team do. They're really doing some great things." **USF**

Athletes Honored for Academics

USF placed 94 student-athletes on the 2006-07 West Coast Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll, which recognizes individuals with a GPA of at least a 3.0. Among the students chosen, 14 earned gold honors, 23 earned silver, and 57 earned bronze.

Thirteen USF student-athletes were selected to the 2007 West Coast Conference Spring Academic teams. The baseball team led the Dons with four selections, while men's and women's golf each had three student-athletes selected.

In another academic honor for the Dons, the women's basketball team placed 16th among Division I programs for academic success as released by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA). The Dons, under first year head coach Tanya Haave, boasted a team combined GPA of 3.38 for the 2006-07 school year.