

April 21, 2010

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Cal Poly Student Captures USA Triathlon National Title in Texas

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly student Chris Stehula captured his first national title at USA Triathlon’s Collegiate National Championship on April 17 in Lubbock, Texas.

Stehula covered the course in 1:48:54, took advantage of quick transitions and overtook runner-up Cedric Wane of Colorado on the run en route to the title.

Stehula, whose potential Top 10 finish a year ago was wiped out by penalty infractions, took full advantage of his opportunity this year.

“I’ve been thinking about this race since my disappointment last year - every day, just thinking, ‘I want to go win this; I want to go win this,’” said the 26-year-old. “There was so much emotion during the race, because I thought I’d lost it during the bike. In the last mile and a half I thought, ‘I think I’ve got this.’ I kept turning around, and I was so excited coming across that finish line.”

In addition, Cal Poly’s Men’s team placed third overall in the competition, behind the University of Colorado and the U.S. Military Academy. And Cal Poly’s combined men’s-women’s team placed fourth overall.

Stehula and the Cal Poly Men’s Triathlon Team compete as part of the university’s active Club Sports program through the Student Life and Leadership office. He is the Cal Poly team’s second ever individual national champion. Victor Plata won the title in 1997 (then went on to compete in the 2004 Olympics). And the Cal Poly squad won a team national championship in 2002.

For more on Cal Poly Club Sports, contact Everette Brooks, coordinator of University Clubs and Organizations, at 805-756-7009 or ebrooks@calpoly.edu, or log on to <http://www.studentlife.calpoly.edu/clubsports/>.

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