May 18, 2006
For Immediate Release

Contact: Meryl Rodgers, Team President
(530) 400-7271
msrodgers@calpoly.edu
Lacrosse Team Web http://www.calpoly.edu/~wlacclub/index.html

Eric Thomas, Head Coach
(805) 459-0520
erict94@hotmail.com

Cal Poly Women's Lacrosse is No. 1 Team in the Nation

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- For the sixth year in a row, the Cal Poly Lady Mustangs Women's Lacrosse team returned home victorious from national collegiate championships, finishing the season as the No. 1 team in the nation.

After a battle with arch rivals University of Michigan in Dallas the weekend of May 13, the score was Michigan 7, Cal Poly 12.

The Cal Poly Men's Lacrosse team also ended the season well, finishing at No. 8 in the nation after championships the same weekend.

The women's season started with the fourth head coach in as many years. Head coach Eric Thomas had spent the three previous seasons working with the team, however, and had high expectations. "From the first day of practice, I knew our team had all the right chemistry to win our sixth national championship," said coach Thomas. "I am continually amazed at the heart and talent of the Cal Poly players. From the moment they got to practice in January, they played together as a team. They all work together to help everyone improve and that is the secret of our success."

The Women's Lacrosse team season started strong with very convincing wins over the team's league opponents. But then in mid-season, California's unbelievable winter rains dealt the team a blow: they were unable to practice for seven weeks.

The Lady Mustangs then traveled to Colorado State University, Fort Collins, for a tournament with the best teams in the country. "We played amazingly well considering our lack of practice, but fell short to Colorado State University and Michigan," Thomas said. "CSU is the team we beat for the championship last year and is an incredible team. But the loss to CSU didn't sting as bad as the loss to Michigan, a team we knew we could beat."

After returning from Colorado, the Lady Mustangs faced UCSB and Santa Clara University -- winning both games. "By the time league championships came around, we were back to ourselves, blowing away the competition to win the championship. Once we got back to form, our team was untouchable," Thomas said. On its path to the title, the team defeated No. 15 Oregon 19-3, No. 7 Florida 18-2, and No. 6 Colorado 10-6.

In the playoffs, the Cal Poly Women's Lacrosse team extended its all-time winning streak at nationals to 21-0 by
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