JAMBAR *Scholar-Athlete* of the Week

Justin Pretre

Recognized for utilizing the Athletic Study Center and campus resources upon arrival at Cal, fully committing to a transformative process of growth via passion and purpose. As a result, Justin has an excellent command on how to properly navigate the curricular and co-curricular educational opportunities that the university offers. He has also been proactive in engaging with major advisors, gaining and owning autonomy over his unique scholarly journey. With avid interests in ancient history and creative writing, Justin is in pursuit of double-majoring in English and History, and has experience with historical research and writing in the archaeological study field. Beyond the classroom, he has worked with athletes across 28+ sports teams within Cal Athletics, via the Student Athlete Business Network, learning to leverage student-athlete characteristics in job recruitment and in the workplace; represented the Canadian National Team at the U20 World Athletics Championships in Lima, Peru; and most recently, served as an intern with the Museum of Northern Arizona in the research and collections department, engaging hands-on with Ancestral Puebloan artifacts from the four corners region. Justin truly embodies what a Cal student-athlete should be, paving a holistic path with meaningful engagement, and setting the bar high for his peers, challenging them to strive for relevance and greatness.

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Nieve Courtney

Recognized for overcoming major exploration obstacles in pursuit of paving a meaningful academic path that aligns with her interests and aspirations. Nieve encountered some challenges with her major path in the Spring 2025 semester when she realized she did not want to continue pursuing Integrative Biology at Cal. She felt overwhelmed and stressed in her STEM-based courses, and it was having an impact on her overall wellbeing and performance beyond the classroom. Instead of settling for a path of least resistance, Nieve was honest with herself about her dilemma, and she was proactive about asking for help. By connecting with multiple advisors she was able to create a plan that allowed her to shift into the Interdisciplinary Studies Field major and still maintain her original graduation timeline. Beyond her own self advocacy, careful planning, and persistent communication, Nieve is now mentoring other student-athletes in the Scholar-Athlete First-Year Seminar to embrace the transition process of identity, community, and academy by maintaining consciousness of self, in relation to others, and within different situations they may encounter in their journey.

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Bryan Bogne

Recognized for demonstrating eagerness to learn new paths for growth and development, specifically through his use of time management and organizational strategies, as well as other significant academic habits. After starting his Cal journey a bit inconsistently, Bryan has truly become a model student who is able to balance being an All-American on the field while excelling in rigorous interdisciplinary courses. He is a solid example of learning from mistakes and growing as a person incrementally, while always maintaining his strong morals and values along the way. By engaging with his mentors, advisors, and academic support staff, he has shown a strong commitment to self- improvement and a willingness to learn from others' experiences. Recently, Bryan has taken on a much larger leadership role on the field for his team as well, truly embodying the foundational principles that guide Cal's Rugby Program. Witnessing him become someone that younger players look up to and see as an example of hard work and determination is truly exciting. We anticipate that Bryan's success in the classroom and on the field will naturally translate into his future career, beyond campus borders.

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Olivia Sharratt

Recognized for embarking on a transformative journey at Berkeley, seeking and discovering relational opportunities for growth via mentorship, apprenticeship, and leadership. Olivia was asked to step into a leadership role after just her first year, and she has continued as Field Hockey Team Captain through her sophomore, junior, and now senior year at Cal. Her stewardship is sought in other campus spaces, serving as a Core Team Leader and President of Athletes in Action, a student-athlete faith-based organization. Olivia has also represented her Berkeley peers on the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, implementing strong verbal communication skills to address 20+ student-athletes and 2 staff in advisory meetings; and proactively engaging with college athletics stakeholders in decision-making with regards to team schedules that prioritize the physical and mental health of student-athletes. Currently, in the Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (URAP) she's effectively using her Data Science degree to examine sports analytics alongside a renowned campus faculty member, leveraging data-driven methodologies to solve complex problems and uncover meaningful insights. Olivia leads with profound humility, gentleness, kindness, and respect, setting the bar high for herself academically and athletically, while raising the bar for her teammates, so they can reach their full potential.

JAMBAR *Scholar-Athlete* of the Week

Alex Aney

Recognized for demonstrating self-efficacy via application of course content to projects and expansion of a broad professional network in connection to career interests. While pursuing a major in Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences at Cal, Alex also started doing research on Quantum Computing and Error Correction alongside PhD students, investigating theoretical bounds and constructing quantum codes with provable error resilience, and breaking down recent research, including Google's DQI paper, to tackle open problems in quantum error correction. This past summer, he started his engineering internship to work on the Tennis Ball Collection Robot innovation, reprogramming a Roomba with a Raspberry Pi 5 and OpenCV, enabling accurate real-time tennis ball detection and navigation, designing a chassis in CAD with drive and caster wheels, integrating a pickup mechanism to funnel balls into a collection basket, and implementing custom electronics (motor drivers, buck converters, and logic-level shifters) for multi-voltage power distribution. Beyond the classroom and the court, Alex has also worked on several projects including Ping Pong Ball Launching Machine, Treble Boost Circuit, Five-Stage Pipelined CPU Implementation, and Data Structures and Algorithms Projects, broadening his knowledge and skills with an array of pursuits, strategically building a bridge between passion and purpose.