

**2017 USA ULTIMATE
COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIPS
COMPLETE GUIDE**



We're back, folks! Another season in the books.

2017 delivered on the promise of drama. From Texas' upset of Stanford at Presidents' Day Invite to Colorado's stumbles at Easterns, the regular season packed punches early and often. Upstarts like Notre Dame Womb and Colorado State will bring new energy to Cincinatti this year, while stalwarts like Stanford Superfly and UNC add chapters to their legacies.

This weekend will feature some of the biggest stars the division has seen in years. UCLA's Han Chen, Dartmouth's Jaclyn Verzuh, and Texas' Julia Schmaltz will rule the skies, while UMass' Ben Sadok, Stanford's Elliott Chartock, and UNC's Matt Gouchoe-Hanas command the backfield.

We hope you'll use this guide throughout the weekend to follow your favorite teams, and to discover some new names to cheer for. Follow @UltiworldLive for updates, and settle in for the biggest weekend of the year.

- The Ultiworld Staff

ULTIWORLD

STREAMING SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MAY 26

10:30 AM | Stanford Bloodthirsty v. Colorado State Hibida (Men's Pool Play)

12:30 PM | Dartmouth Princess Layout v. Notre Dame Womb (Women's Pool Play)

2:30 PM | UNC Darkside v. Carleton CUT (Men's Pool Play)

4:30 PM | Texas Melee v. UBC Thunderbirds (Women's Pool Play)

SATURDAY, MAY 27

10:30 AM | Virginia Hydra v. Tufts Ewo (Women's Pool Play)

12:30 PM | Oregon Ego v. Wisconsin Hodags (Men's Pool Play)

5:15 PM | Prequarter (TBD)

SUNDAY, MAY 28

8:30 AM | Quarterfinal (TBD)

CHECK OUT OUR LIVE PAGE FOR MORE UPDATES!

WOMEN'S
WOMEN'S

POOL A

- (1) Stanford
- (8) Colorado
- (12) Carleton College
- (13) Pittsburgh
- (17) Ohio State

POOL B

- (2) Dartmouth
- (7) Notre Dame
- (11) Oregon
- (14) Florida
- (18) Delaware

POOL C

- (3) Virginia
- (6) UCLA
- (10) Tufts
- (15) Michigan
- (19) UC San Diego

POOL D

- (4) Texas
- (5) British Columbia
- (9) California
- (16) North Carolina
- (20) UConn

THE BRACKET

P2 of Pool B

P3 of Pool C

P1 of Pool A

P2 of Pool C

P3 of Pool B

P1 of Pool D

P2 of Pool D

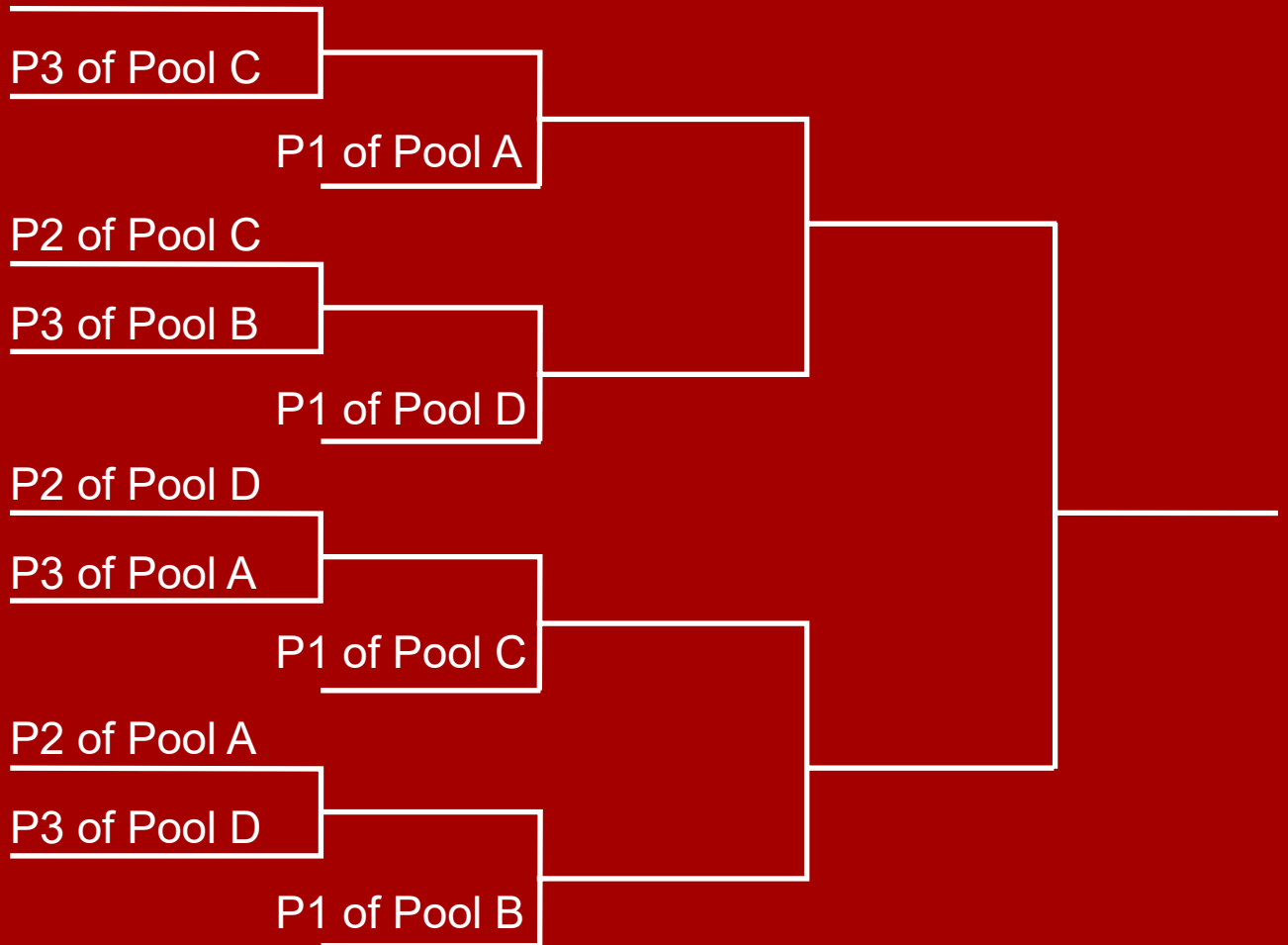
P3 of Pool A

P1 of Pool C

P2 of Pool A

P3 of Pool D

P1 of Pool B



1. STANFORD SUPERFLY

[@SUPERFLYULTI](#)

(28-3)

STORY

The defending champs had a rocky middle of their season, but started and ended it looking like the best team in the country. Their roster is an embarrassment of riches in skill, athleticism, and depth, and they should have little trouble getting to semis. Once there, though, Stanford will have to prove their worth, having gone 0-3 against fellow top five seeds on the year. If they can solve their woes against the country's top teams, they could become the first team to win consecutive titles since they won three straight from 2005-07.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Hallie Dunham (#84)

Monisha White (#14)

Courtney Gegg (#23)

Michelle McGhee (#18)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - National Champions

2015 - 2nd Place

2014 - 13th

2013 - 13th

2012 - 13th

2011 - 3rd

2010 - 13th

Total Nationals Appearances: 21

READ MORE:

[An Insatiable Blaze: The Fire Within Courtney Gegg](#)

[Monisha White's Callahan Video](#)

2. DARTMOUTH PRINCESS LAYOUT

[@PRINCESSLAYOUT](#)

(26-3)

STORY

One of the favorites to win the whole thing, Dartmouth has been a force all year. Their top end of talent is better than any other team's in the division and features loads of elite club experience and success. Tournament wins at Florida Winter Classic and Stanford Invite are the highlights so far, but Dartmouth looks poised to cap the season with a run at a championship. Their only potential weakness is their depth, but with such talent at the top, will it matter?

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Jaclyn Verzuh (#22)

Angela Zhu (#8)

Julianna Werffeli (#5)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 5th

2015 - 5th

2009 - 13th

200 - 15th

Total Nationals Appearances: 8

READ MORE:

[Dartmouth Pushes Past Texas In A Gritty Stanford Invite Final \(Women's\)](#)

[Dartmouth's Angela Zhu For Callahan](#)

3.

VIRGINIA HYDRA

[@HYDRANFRIENDS](#)

(37-2)

STORY

Coming off the best finish in team history, Virginia has firmly established itself as an elite program in the college women's division. While that's been the overarching goal, the next is to build a national title team. Last year's squad reached the semifinals, a feat they had never before accomplished, and this year's group looks capable of even more. They have ripped apart their competition and built the best record in the division. While their top players are talented, Hydra still thrives on their depth and system, which they know inside and out. Virginia has carved out their own spot and could forge a path to a first-ever title, cementing their spot in the pantheon of women's college ultimate.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Keila Strick (#44)

Tess Warner (#52)

Brandi Skanes (#7)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 3rd

2015 - 5th

2014 - 5th

2013 - 5th

2012 - 17th

2011 - 13th

Total Nationals Appearances: 9

READ MORE:

[Building A Beast: Hydra Finding Success Through Depth](#)

[Northwest Challenge 2017: Recap \(Women's\)](#)

4. TEXAS MELEE

[@TXMELEE](#)

(28-4)

STORY

Texas is looking for their first ever semis appearance as a program, but won't be content to merely get that far. They ended the regular season as the number one team in Ulti-world's Top 25, but enter Nationals off the back of a small blip in the form of a loss to Colorado in the South Central Regional final. Still, Texas managed to hang on to a spot for a top four seed and enter as one of the favorites to win the tournament. Their greatest weapon is their depth, and the team has been together for years now, so they're poised to bring the Melee program to all new heights.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Domenica Sutherland (#3)

Shiru Liu (#89)

Dre Esparza (#5)

Julia Schmaltz (#13)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 9th

2015 - 9th

2013 - 17th

2012 - 5th

Total Nationals Appearances: 12

READ MORE:

[Deep in the Heart of Texas](#)

[Dartmouth Pushes Past Texas In A Gritty Stanford Invite Final \(Women's\)](#)

[Shiru Liu's Callahan Video](#)

5. UBC THUNDERBIRDS

[@UBCWOMENSULTI](#)

(19-5)

STORY

Consistently one of the top ranked teams in the division, British Columbia is back and hoping they can break through to a final appearance or even a championship. While they lost one of the stars of the division, they didn't lose a step, turning to their depth and the next crop of young players. There's a seemingly endless pipeline of talented throwers joining their ranks, and grad student Laurel Oldershaw has been a wonderful defensive addition. With wins over top teams like Stanford and UCLA, it's clear they are capable of the tall task of breaking seed. Expect an explosive battle with Texas in pool play after Texas took them out in the Stanford Invite semifinals.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Ellen Au-Yeung (#21)

Janelle Siwa (#44)

Naomi Morcilla (#5)

Laurel Oldershaw (#23)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 5th

2015 - 3rd

2014 - 5th

2013 - 5th

2012 - 11th

2011 - 19th

Total Nationals Appearances: 13

READ MORE:

[Northwest D-I Regionals 2017: Tournament Recap \(Women's\)](#)

6. UCLA BLU

@BLUULTIMATE

STORY

UCLA brings a little something for everybody. Like slick break throws? Han Chen and Kathleen Lo have you covered. Like explosive blocks? Han Chen and Camille Wilson can scratch that itch. Like skying and layout grabs? Han Chen and Sylvia Liang got you. Like zone defense? They do that, too.

As you have surmised, you can expect heavy doses of Han Chen's playmaking. But it might be the team's ability to get contributions down the roster and execute their systems that define their success.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Han Chen (#25)

Camille Wilson (#18)

Sylvia Liang (#11)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

(29-6)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 5th

2015 - 13th

2014 - 9th

2012 - 12th

Total Nationals Appearances: 10

READ MORE:

[UCLA Outlasts Texas Again In Presidents' Day Final](#)



7. NOTRE DAME WOMB

[@NDULTIMATE](#)

(25-5)

STORY

No team has changed the narrative this year as dramatically as Notre Dame. After a lackluster start to the season, it looked like they would have to fight to even make it Nationals. Then, they showed up to Northwest Challenge as a lowly No. 16 seed and began scorching the field. They finished that tournament in 3rd place with only a loss to Stanford. Notre Dame proved they weren't a flash in the pan by winning Great Lakes Regionals. The team has never finished out of last place at Nationals. It's safe to say they are in line for the best season in team history.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Julia Butterfield (#25)

MK Andersen (#15)

Sarah Lipscomb (#)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2015 - 17th

Total Nationals Appearances: 4

READ MORE:

[Northwest Challenge 2017: Recap \(Women's\)](#)

[Julia Butterfield's Callahan Video](#)

8. COLORADO KALI

[@KALIULTIMATE](#)

(17-10)

STORY

Colorado ended their season with a truly stunning upset over Texas to win the South Central for the third successive season. Until Regionals, Colorado had not fared well at major tournaments, posting a 7-10 record at Presidents' Day, the Stanford Invite, and Northwest Challenge. That appears to put Colorado in a bit of a precarious position, especially in what should be a highly competitive Pool A.

They've struggled all year against elite competition, but the Regionals win over Texas means they might be peaking at just the right time. They've made it to bracket play in each of the last two seasons, but they'll need to play like the did at Regionals rather than the rest of their season if they are to make it three in a row.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Kirstin Johnson (#9)

Kelsey Bennett (#99)

Nhi Nguyen (#3)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 5th

2015 - 5th

2014 - 13th

Total Nationals Appearances: 15

READ MORE:

[Kirstin Johnson's Callahan Video](#)



9.

CALIFORNIA PIE QUEENS

[@PIEQUEENS](#)

(25-12)

STORY

California has steadily improved throughout the season: they reached the final at Santa Barbara Invite, upset Oregon at Presidents' Day Invite, and then went 5-2 at Stanford Invite. They lost close games at Northwest Challenge, yet they dominated at Southwest Regionals, only losing to UCLA and Stanford.

California plays high tempo ultimate paired with smart, tailored defenses designed by head coach Manisha Daryani. This year's Pie Queens are peaking at the perfect time to generate upsets in Pool D, and perhaps even crack prequarters.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Anna Wysesen (#1)

Alison Griffith (#15)

Jackelyne Nguyen (#24)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 13th

2012 - 9th

Total Nationals Appearances: 13

READ MORE:

[Stanford Cruises Past California In Santa Barbara Invite Final](#)

[Alison Griffith's Callahan Video](#)

10. TUFTS EWO

[@EWONEWS](#)

STORY

Tufts makes its well-deserved return to the Nationals field after a two year absence. They've put together an impressive regular season, but haven't played as many games against Nationals caliber opponents as some of their competitors. They have a number of exciting game breakers and the talent to make a run, but their lack of experience at the top level means they will have to learn and adjust on the fly to make that happen.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Rachel Kramer (#28)

JoJo Emerson (#10)

Megan Wilson (#36)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

(28-4)

NATIONALS RECORD

2014 - 9th

2013 - 5th

2012 - 3rd

2011 - 15th

Total Nationals Appearances: 11

READ MORE:

[Queen City Tune Up 2017: Tournament Recap \(Women's\)](#)

[Rachel Kramer's Callahan Video](#)

11. OREGON FUGUE

[@OREGONFUGUE](#)

(27-13)

STORY

Just seeing Oregon as the no. 11 seed feels like it signals the end of a storied era. In the past 7 years, Oregon has won three titles and been to the final five times. Last year was one of the two times they didn't make the final. This year's team, however, is probably sick of hearing about where Fugue has been and wants to show us where they are going. The break-neck speed of their offense and freewheeling throwing are still signatures. Their energy and tempo can change games very quickly. They'll certainly want to change their track record against the teams seeded above them, as they went 2-13 against them this season. But never ever count out Fugue.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Ella Hansen (#43)

Hayley Wahlroos (#27)

Sarafina Angstadt-Leto (#14)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 3rd

2015 - 17th

2014 - National Champions

2013 - 9th

2012 - 5th

2011 - 17th

Total Nationals Appearances: 16

READ MORE:

[Hayley Wahlroos' Callahan Video](#)

[Northwest Challenge 2017: Recap \(Women's\)](#)

12. CARLETON COLLEGE SYZYGY

@SYZYGYULTIMATE (23-9)

STORY

It's insane to think that, over 30 years, Carleton has only missed out on Nationals 3 times. Basically, it isn't Nationals without Syzygy there. And they are back after getting upset in the North Central Regional final last season. You can expect more of what you've come to love about Carleton: versatility, depth, skill, and challenging matchups. They are capable of running multiple sets, and a large portion of their roster is comfortable cutting or handling. They tore through North Central Regionals this year, leaving little doubt about the region's best team, and they have their sights set on showing that they have what it takes to surprise those who have underestimated them.

NATIONALS RECORD

2015 - 3rd

2014 - 5th

2013 - 2nd

2011 - 12th

Total Nationals Appearances: 27

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Claire Thallon (#5)

Katie Ciaglo (#45)

Claire Rostov (#14)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

READ MORE:

[North Central D-I Regionals 2017: Tournament Recap \(Women's\)](#)

13. PITTSBURGH DANGER

[@DANGERULTIMATE](#)

[23-7]

STORY

As a team that's been near the top for a little while now, it may come as a surprise that Pittsburgh has not made quarterfinals in their recent run as a relevant national program. This year represents as good a shot as they're likely to get, with veteran stars Carolyn Normile and Linda Morse leading the way. With a second place finish at Northwest Challenge and their second consecutive Ohio Valley Regional title in their back pocket, they'll now seek to cap off a strong season with a strong Nationals performance for the first time.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Carolyn Normile (#36)

Linda Morse (#8)

Katie Cleveland (#23)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2015 - 17th

2014 - National Champions

2013 - 9th

2012 - 5th

2011 - 17th

READ MORE:

[Linda Morse's Callahan Video](#)



14. FLORIDA FUEL

[@FUELENFUEGO](#)

(33-10)

STORY

Florida is the fourth team in 5 seasons to claim the Southeast crown and is making its first Nationals appearance since 2012. The senior-laden group has had a surprisingly strong season, putting together impressive tournament performances at Florida Winter Classic, Queen City Tune Up, and Centex, and then obliterating everyone they've played so far in the series. While facing a long shot to make a run to the bracket, they will be a resilient and scrappy out for anyone they face in Cincinnati.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Kelsea LeBeau (#80)

Lucy Berman (#8)

Danielle Cordes (#19)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2012 - 13th

Total Nationals Appearances: 6

READ MORE:

[Dartmouth Delivers, Florida Surprises At Florida Winter Classic](#)

[Southeast D-I Regionals 2017: Tournament Recap \(Women's\)](#)

15. MICHIGAN FLYWHEEL

[@UMICHTFLYWHEEL](#)

(18-12)

STORY

A veteran-laden team with high hopes beyond those of a no. 15 seed, Michigan presents a real challenge to any team overlooking them. While Hannah Henkin and Tracey Lo have earned reputations as premier handlers, it is Michigan's depth that they believe could be their trump card.

With their experience and a deep bench, Flywheel hopes to replicate the level of play that earned them wins over Notre Dame, Colorado, and Carleton this season. In doing so, they could live up the legacy set forth by this historic program.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Hannah Henkin (#37)

Tracey Lo (#11)

Grace Denney (#44)

Leah Bar-On Simmons (#28)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 9th

2014 - 5th

2012 - 3rd

Total Nationals Appearances: 14

READ MORE:

[Great Lakes D-I Regionals 2017: Tournament Recap \(Women's\)](#)

[Tracey Lo's Callahan Video](#)

16. NORTH CAROLINA PLEIADES

[@UNC_PLEIADES](#)

(22-8)

STORY

North Carolina was once one of the central figures in the college women's landscape, but a four year absence from Nationals - spent mostly parked behind rising powerhouse Virginia - stole much of their shine. But they have finally found their way back to Nationals, in no small part due to the acquisition of Lindsay Soo as a grad student and the development of Elisabeth Parker. Star Jenny Wei is expected to return to the field after missing almost the entire season with injury, and is just what the doctor ordered after the team finished 3rd at Atlantic Coast Regionals.

NATIONALS RECORD

2012 - 5th

Total Nationals Appearances: 7

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Jenny Wei (#6)

Lindsay Soo (#1)

Elisabeth Parker (#9)

READ MORE:

[Queen City Tune Up 2017: Tournament Recap \(Women's\)](#)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

17 OHIO STATE FEVER

■ [@FEVERULTIMATE](#)

(24-11)

STORY

In early March, Ohio State's position for making Nationals was a bit dodgy. But in the end, they saved their season with a strong performance at Centex, finishing second, and comfortably made the field. They failed to win the Ohio Valley for just the second time, but Fever still brings a host of veteran playmakers to Nationals. Ohio State's biggest issue has not been talent, but playing to their capabilities at a consistent level. It's a big ask, but if they are able to put it all together this weekend, than they are certainly capable of reeling off a couple of upsets.

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 17th

2015 - 9th

2014 - National Champions

2013 - 9th

2012 - 5th

2011 - 17th

Total Nationals Appearances: 7

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Sadie Jezierski (#11)

Stephanie Miller (#5)

Alaine Wetli (#3)

READ MORE:

[Alaine Wetli's Callahan Video](#)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

18. DELAWARE SIDESHOW

[@UDSIDESHOW](#)

(17-9)

STORY

Delaware is making its first Nationals appearance since 2012, and they will certainly be playing the role of underdog. Few people would have predicted they would best North Carolina for second in the Atlantic Coast, though, so they appear to be relishing that role. They're a scrappy group led by a few excellent players with elite club experience, and if a few breaks go their way, they are capable of rattling off an upset or two.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Kat Ritzmann (#16)

Mackenzie Perkett (#2)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2012 - 9th

Total Nationals Appearances: 5



SIDESHOW

19. UC SAN DIEGO PSYCHOS

[@PSYCHOULTIMATE](#)

(24-14)

STORY

For the first time since 2007, UC San Diego broke out of the talent-heavy Southwest to qualify for Nationals. They stacked their regular season schedule with elite tournaments like Presidents' Day Invite and Northwest Challenge, and playing top competition paid off: they beat USC at Southwest Regionals to take the final bid.

UCSD has a strong core of athletic, skilled players, and they'll prove capable in their pool even if they struggle defensively. A pool play upset seems unlikely, but they could surprise teams in the placement bracket.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Dena Elimelich (#47)

Leanne Go (#60)

Maria Zavala (#10)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2007 - 9th

Total Nationals Appearances: 8

READ MORE:

[Southwest D-I Regionals 2017: Tournament Recap \(Women's\)](#)

20. U CONN HUSKIES

[@UCWULTIMATE](#)

(24-4)

STORY

As the lone first-timer in the women's field, Connecticut has to feel like winners already. They've been climbing the ladder in the Metro East for years and finally won the region for the first time. Their round 1 matchup with Cal will be their first game of the season against a Nationals team, so they aren't the most experienced team. But they sport only four losses this season and have beaten every single team that beat them this season. Their propensity to make plays in the deep space, on both offense and defense, will give them their best chance of the upset.

NATIONALS RECORD

2015 - 17th

2014 - National Champions

2013 - 9th

2012 - 5th

2011 - 17th

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Marissa Aldieri (#13)

Montana Bertoli (#12)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

READ MORE:

[Metro East D-I Regionals 2017: Tournament Recap \(Women's\)](#)

MEN'S
MEN'S

THE BRACKET

POOL A

- (1) Massachusetts
- (8) Washington
- (12) Stanford
- (13) Colorado State
- (17) Cal Poly-SLO

POOL B

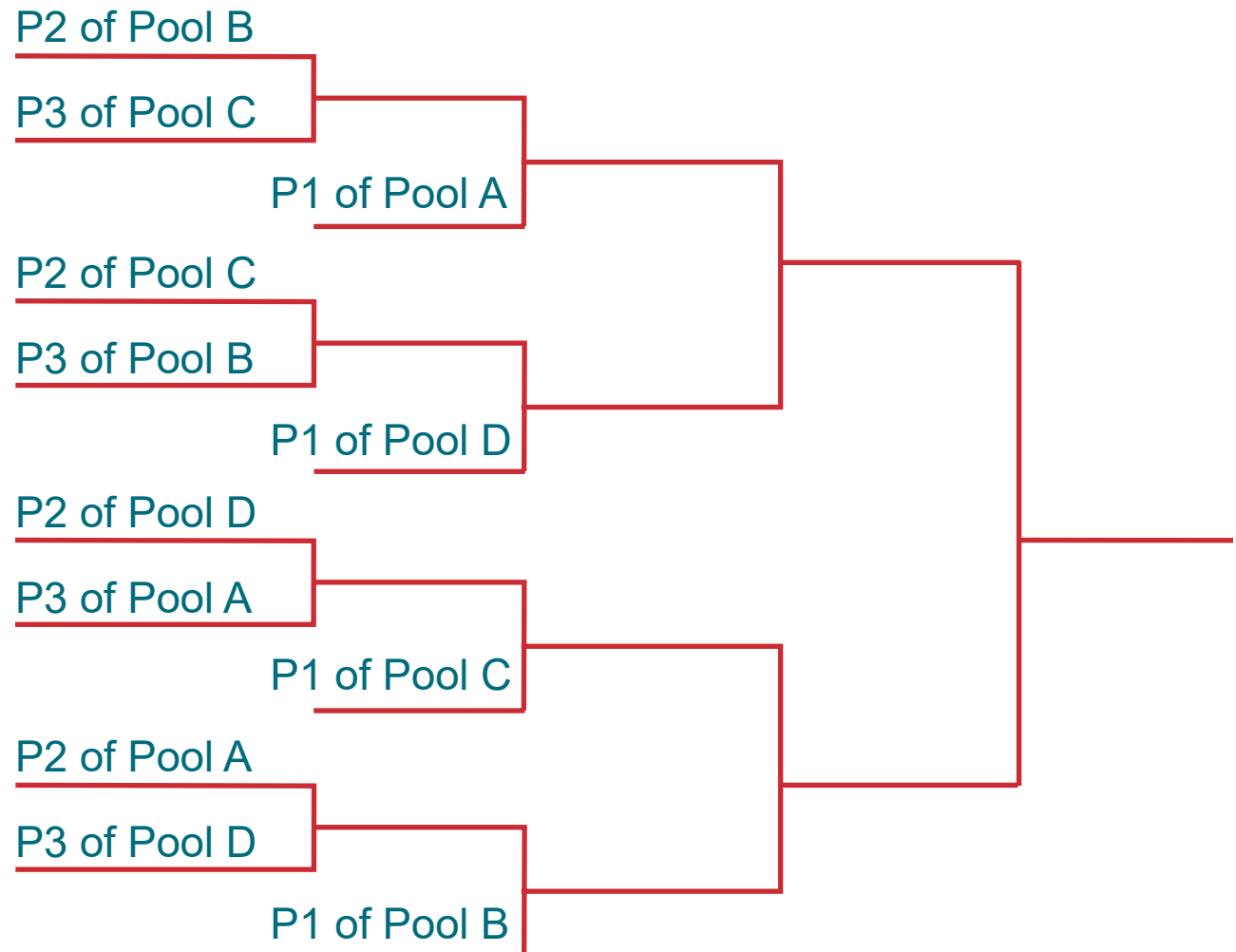
- (2) Pittsburgh
- (7) Michigan
- (11) UNC Wilmington
- (14) Texas A&M
- (18) Connecticut

POOL C

- (3) North Carolina
- (6) Carleton College
- (10) Colorado
- (15) Auburn
- (19) Oregon State

POOL D

- (4) Minnesota
- (5) Oregon
- (9) Wisconsin
- (16) British Columbia
- (20) Virginia Tech



1. UMASS ZOODISC

[@UMASSULTIMATE](#)

(21-2)

STORY

UMass' early exit from Nationals last year was an eye-opener. Certainly the exit of Jeff Babbitt last season left a gaping hole on the roster, but Zoodisc returned this season with a new attitude and new goals. Those attitudes and goals have led to a No. 1 ranking and titles at both Centex and Easterns.

Ben Sadok and Tannor Johnson are the transcendent talents on this team, but UMass is also happy to play to its depth and rely on the brilliant coaching of Tiina Booth and Russell Wallack to earn wins. Though Zoodisc carried the top seed into Nationals 2016, the team's approach is far different this season and it hopes that approach will lead to playing on Monday rather than declearing for the last time on Saturday.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Tannor Johnson (#15)

Ben Sadok (#3)

Brett Gramann (#18)

Nico Mueller (#34)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 9th

2015 - 5th

2014 - 13th

Total Nationals Trips: 8

READ MORE:

[Easterns 2017: Tournament Recap \(Men's\)](#)

[UMass Hands UNC Their First Loss In Centex Final](#)

[Ben Sadok's Callahan Video](#)

2. PITTSBURGH EN SABAH NUR

[@PITTULTIMATE](#)

(32-3)

STORY

When it comes to Pitt, reports of their death were greatly exaggerated. Even without the superb talents of Trent Dillon, Max Thorne, Pat Earles, and company, En Sabah Nur put together a fantastic regular season, highlighted by tournament wins at Florida Warm Up and Stanford Invite. With a trio of veteran handlers marshalling the offense and fifth-year Sam Van Dusen leading a surprisingly dominant defense, Pitt looks to reassert themselves as the best team in the country.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Sam Van Dusen (#24)

Carl Morgenstern (#9)

Jack Slevin (#88)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 3rd

2015 - 5th

2014 - 5th

2013 - National Champion

2012 - National Champion

2011 - 5th

2010 - 3rd

Total Nationals Trips: 13

READ MORE:

[Pitt Pounds Minnesota In Warm Up Final](#)

[Pittsburgh Offense Rises To Defeat Colorado In Physical Stanford Invite Final](#)

[Carl Morgenstern's Callahan Video](#)

ULTIMATE

3. UNC DARKSIDE

[@UNC_DARKSIDE](#)

(37-4)

STORY

UNC Darkside hasn't finished outside of the top four at the National Championship tournament since 2013, and this year doesn't seem like it's the year that will break the streak. UNC dominated the early season with impressive wins at Carolina Kickoff and Queen City Tune Up, and they didn't register their first loss of the season until the finals of Centex on a DGP defeat at the hands of UMass. However, disappointing Easterns results left plenty of questions in the air heading into AC Regionals. Darkside answered those questions by going undefeated in one of the most competitive Conference Championships and Regional tournaments in the country. Now Coach Mike Denardis and team leaders Matt Gouchoe-Hanas, Nathan Kwon, and Nick Macleod are hoping to answer one final question in the affirmative: Does UNC have what it takes to be the best team in the country?`

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Matt Gouchoe-Hanas (#21)

Nathan Kwon (#5)

Nick Macleod (#14)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 3rd

2015 - National Champions

2014 - 2nd

2013 - 5th

2012 - 13th

Total Nationals Appearances: 11

READ MORE:

[UNC Dominant, UCF Strong At Carolina Kickoff](#)

[Kwon And Long Lead UNC Past Georgia In Queen City Final](#)

4. MINNESOTA GREY DUCK

@1DUCK1LOVE

STORY

The reigning National Champions have acted like reigning champs for most of the year. Minnesota came back from the offseason with Snapchat Preludes to its Callahan videos and a play style that carried them to the title last year. Grey Duck has only lost one non-championship game all season long, a pool play game to Carleton at Florida Warm Up. Minnesota won Huck Finn and came in second at Florida Warm Up, Centex, and its own Conference Championship before winning the North Central title. Though three teams have managed to cobble together more impressive regular season records, Minnesota is led by Ben Jagt and a wealth of talent that has a Championship pedigree and eyes on the big prize. There is a lot to be said for a team that's been there before and Grey Duck is no stranger to a championship atmosphere.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Ben Jagt (#4)

Sam Bumsted (#41)

Charlie McCutcheon (#1)

Tristan van de Moortele (#99)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

(30-4)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - National Champions

2015 - 9th

2012 - 5th

2010 - 5th

Total Nationals Appearances: 6

READ MORE:

[Pitt Pounds Minnesota In Warm Up Final](#)

[Ben Jagt's Callahan Video](#)



5. OREGON EGO

[@EGOTIME](#)

(33-6)

STORY

And up and down regular season demonstrated both the tantalizing potential of this Oregon team, as well as the crippling inconsistency that makes it difficult to confidently pick them to win it all. In term of sheer talent, Oregon might have the best offensive line in the country. Bolstered by sterling rookie classes the past two seasons, Ego has the talent base to compete now while still keeping an eye on the future. With veteran playmakers holding down the offense, heralded rookies like Duncan Fitzgerald and Colby Chuck have been given the keys to the D-Line, and Oregon's prospects may depend on how those young players handle the pressure of Nationals.

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 9th

2015 - 2nd

2014 - 3rd

2013 - 3rd

2012 - 3rd

2011 - 5th

Total Nationals Appearances: 15

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Adam Rees (#24)

Colton Clark (#26)

Leandro Marx (#25)

Tim McGinn (#11)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

READ MORE:

[Adam Rees' Callahan Video](#)

6. CARLETON CUT

[@CUTRULES](#)

(26-8)

STORY

Is this the year? It seems to be the annual question regarding Carleton CUT- no other team stockpiles as much youth talent on a year to year basis, and thus no team has as as much expected of it. But CUT's 2017 iteration seems to be up to the task. Superstars Sol Yancuk, Henry Fisher, and Eric Taylor (all juniors) have been bolstered by a gaggle of supremely talented freshman, and few teams can even approach CUT's extreme depth. CUT is notorious for sacrificing regular season results for player development- we'll see if that strategy finally pays off this year.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Natan Lee Engel (#30)

Sol Yanuck (#2)

Henry Fisher (#10)

Alex Olson (#6)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 13th

2014 - 9th

2013 - 3rd

2012 - 3rd

2011 - National Champions

2010 - 2nd

Total Nationals Apperaances: 26

READ MORE:

[Easterns 2017: Tournament Recap \(Men's\)](#)

7. MICHIGAN MAGNUM

[@MAGNUMULTIMATE](#)

(28-5)

STORY

Michigan is the classic “hard hat and lunch pail” blue collar team, befitting of the state they hail from. They run pretty deep into their roster and get contributions from a bunch of guys you haven’t heard of, but probably should know. When their defense brings the energy, they can grind teams into dust. Because of their play style and ability, they don’t profile to massively outperform and underperform their seed. But Noah Backer, Jake Steslicki, Dan Lee, and the rest of Mag-nUM are sure to give their all in pursuit of exceeding expectations.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Noah Backer (#5)

Jake Steslicki (#10)

Dan Lee (#41)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 9th

2014 - 5th

2012 - 15th

2010 - 5th

Total Nationals Appearances: 15

READ MORE:

[Great Lakes D-I Regionals: Tournament Recap \(Men’s\)](#)

[Noah Backer’s Callahan Video](#)

8.

WASHINGTON SUNDODGERS

[@SUNDODGERS](#)

(26-10)

STORY

After a regular season full of decent yet unspectacular results, the Sundodgers hit their peak at Regionals, snapping a 20+ game losing streak to their Northwest rivals Oregon Ego to capture the regional title. Washington is at their best when running through their superstar Khalif El-Salaam, who, along with DY Chen and Steven Benaloh, will look to help the Sundodger hold their pool seed and enter the bracket for the first time since 2011.

UW will try to grind out methodical wins on the strength of their disciplined system, quality throwing depth, and a strong class of freshmen defenders. While their path will be rife with obstacles, the Sundodgers appear to be hitting their top gear at the perfect time.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Khalif El-Salaam (#3)

Dongyang Chen (#10)

Steven Benaloh (#14)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 17th

2013 - 13th

2012 - 13th

2011 - 11th

Total Nationals Appearances: 6

READ MORE:

[Northwest Challenge 2017: Tournament Recap \(Men's\)](#)

[Khalif El-Salaam's Callahan Video](#)

9. WISCONSIN HODAGS

[@HODAGLOVE](#)

(27-11)

STORY

Despite some early season injuries and inconsistencies, the Wisconsin Hodags come into Nationals hot. A fluke pool play loss to Iowa State at North Central Regionals drops them to a three seed, but make no mistake - this team is dangerous. Ross Barker and Avery Johnson are one of the scariest one-two punches in the division, while David Yu, Nick Ladas, and company have helped maintain Wisconsin's well-earned reputation for tenacious man defense.

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 5th

2015 - 13th

2014 - 5th

2013 - 9th

2012 - 2nd

2011 - 2nd

2010 - 11th

Total Nationals Appearances: 25

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Ross Barker (#25)

Avery Johnson (#7)

David Yu (#13)

READ MORE:

[Easterns 2017: Tournament Recap \(Men's\)](#)

[Ross Barker's Callahan Video](#)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

10. COLORADO MAMABIRD

[@CUMAMABIRD](#)

(25-7)

STORY

The Mamabird program remains one of the strongest in all of ultimate and this year marks their remarkable 20th straight trip to Nationals, leading all teams. They're regulars in the quarterfinals and many of their top players are vets who were on 2014's championship squad. Along with some playmaking rookies, Colorado's roster checks off every box of a contender. The doubts, however, come from a string of disappointing tournament showings at Easterns and in the Series. Can the boys from Boulder return to their dominant ways or have their flaws been exposed?

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 5th

2015 - 5th

2014 - National Champions

2013 - 9th

2012 - 9th

Total Nationals Appearances: 20

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Mark Rauls (#0)

Wes Chow (#21)

Erik Hotaling (#6)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

READ MORE:

[Colorado Takes Down Cal Poly-SLO In Show Of Early Season Force](#)

[Mark Raul's Callahan Video](#)

11. UNC-W SEAMEN

[@SEAMENUKIMATE](#)

(22-6)

STORY

It's been another season filled with controversy for the reputed bad boys of college ultimate, but the focus at Nationals will be squarely on if they can reach their tantalizing ceiling. Jack Williams is perhaps the most explosive player in the men's division, and with Austin McGrayne to help terrorize the deep lanes, the Seamen are capable of sky-ing opponents right out of the game. But the team has had trouble consistently setting up their playmakers and 2017 has featured some befuddling losses to teams well outside of the Nationals picture. If they can play to their talent, they will be remembered for their on field performance

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 13th

2015 - 9th

2014 - 3rd

2013 - 5th

2010 - 5th

Total Nationals Appearances: 15

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Jack Williams (#11)

Austin McGrayne (#33)

JD Hastings (#7)

READ MORE:

[UNC Wilmington Coach Suspended By USAU For Ethics Violations](#)

[Jack Williams' Callahan Video](#)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

12. STANFORD BLOODTHIRSTY

[@STANFORDBLOOD](#)

(26-8)

STORY

Stanford finally broke through to the big show this year after losing in the game-to-go three of the past four seasons. The talent has been in place for Bloodthirsty for a few years, but now they'll have their chance to showcase it on the big stage. The star of the show is Callahan nominee Elliott Chartock, whose mark-shredding breaks and dime hucks keep the Stanford side stack humming. His favorite downfield target is Nolan Walsh, who has established himself as an elite isolation cutter. On the other side of the disc, Breakout Player of the Year candidate Gabriel Hernandez and Bloodthirsty's finally healthy roster make them a three seed in Pool A; look for them to not only make the bracket but also challenge for the quarterfinals.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Elliott Chartock (#10)

Gabriel Hernandez (#23)

Nolan Walsh (#17)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2011 - 5th

Total Nationals Appearances: 21

READ MORE:

[Southwest D-I Regionals 2017: Tournament Recap \(Men's\)](#)

[Elliott Chartock's Callahan Video](#)

13. COLORADO STATE HIBIDA

[@CSUHIBIDA](#)

(26-9)

STORY

Hibida will mark their program's first ever Nationals appearance this year, a result of a three year-building process. After missing Regionals in 2014, CSU has improved every year and finally broke through the powerhouse trio at the top of the South Central.

The star for Hibida is Cody Spicer, an ace defender whose versatility and athleticism allow him to neutralize opposing stars regardless of position. CSU also benefits from a wealth of youth ultimate talent among their underclassmen, giving them quality depth. Hibida is the betting man's pick to break seed and advance to bracket play out of Pool A.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Cody Spicer (#34)

Jake Servaty (#9)

Jake Marrapode (#16)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

This is their first appearance at Nationals.

READ MORE:

[Centex 2017: Tournament Recap \(Men's\)](#)

[Cody Spicer's Callahan Video](#)



14. TEXAS A&M DOZEN

[@DOZENULTIMATE](#)

(24-9)

STORY

Ultiworld's 2017 college preview began its assessment of A&M with a vote of confidence: "Stick a fork in 'em, they're done". But Dozen has spent this spring proving that they're more than the leftovers from departed star players.

Led by Carter Hollo and Zack Marbach, A&M has used that depth to surprise opponents at every turn, including a victory over rival Texas to capture the final bid out of the South Central. Underestimate them at your peril.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Zach Marbach (#22)

Carter Hollo (#13)

Connor Cole (#80)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 9th

2015 - 9th

2014 - 17th

Total Nationals Appearances: 5

READ MORE:

[Florida Warm Up 2017: Tournament Recap \(Men's\)](#)

[Zach Marbach's Callahan Video](#)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

15. AUBURN AETOS

[@AUBURNULTIMATE](#)

(22-11)

STORY

By now there are few that follow college ultimate that don't know the name Hank Womble but what many may not realize is that Womble's steady attitude on the sidelines is a perfect mirror for Auburn's steady results this season that crescendoed into a dominant performance at SE Regionals. Auburn has relied on its team-first philosophy to produce results over the last three years and throughout the season, Aetos never doubted its commitment to that philosophy.

Last year Auburn stayed true to its style and that resulted in the team playing spoiler by winning their pool as the no. 16 seed. This is not a low seed to be trifled with and they've earned their opponents' respect the hard way.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Martin Newman (#23)

Michael Volz (#27)

Eric Sjostrom (#5)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 5th

2015 - 13th

Total Nationals Appearances: 3

READ MORE:

[Turning Fluke Into Tradition: Auburn's Rise In An Ultimate Desert](#)

[Hank Womble's Callahan Video](#)

16. UBC THUNDERBIRDS

[@UBCMENSULTIMATE](#)

STORY

Losing in games-to-go the past two seasons, UBC finally got over the hump and into the Nationals field in 2017. Without many marquee wins on the season, few would expect UBC to be able to fight their way out of a top-heavy Pool D. But if history is any indication, things get weird in Pool D at Nationals, and a team that has consistently beaten the teams they are supposed to all season - like UBC - could have just the mental focus and calm demeanor to weather the storm.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Hugh Knapp (#77)

Allen Greer (#55)

Victor Cheng (#7)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

(21-12)

NATIONALS RECORD

2011 - 9th

Total Nationals Appearances: 3

READ MORE:

[Northwest D-I Regionals 2017: Tournament Recap \(Men's\)](#)

17. CAL POLY-SLO SLOCORE

[@CORE_ULTIMATE](#)

(29-13)

STORY

After shocking the division last year as the underdog champion of the Southwest, SLOCORE played the entirety of 2017 as a favorite to return to Nationals on the strength of a strong freshmen class, led by Justin Ting, and a wealth of returning talent. Despite some drama, Cal Poly's brilliant final day of the regular season secured the Southwest second bid, and SLOCORE won it as the second qualifier out of the region. They return to Nationals aiming to turn their accrued experience into a cinderella run to the bracket.

They have the talent to hang with and beat just about anybody, though their offensive inconsistency occasionally lets games slip out of hand. But, if the right team shows up to Cincinnati, Cal Poly could snag a spot in prequarters.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Cameron Wariner (#24)

Nathan Pettyjohn (#9)

Ian Sweeney (#33)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 17th

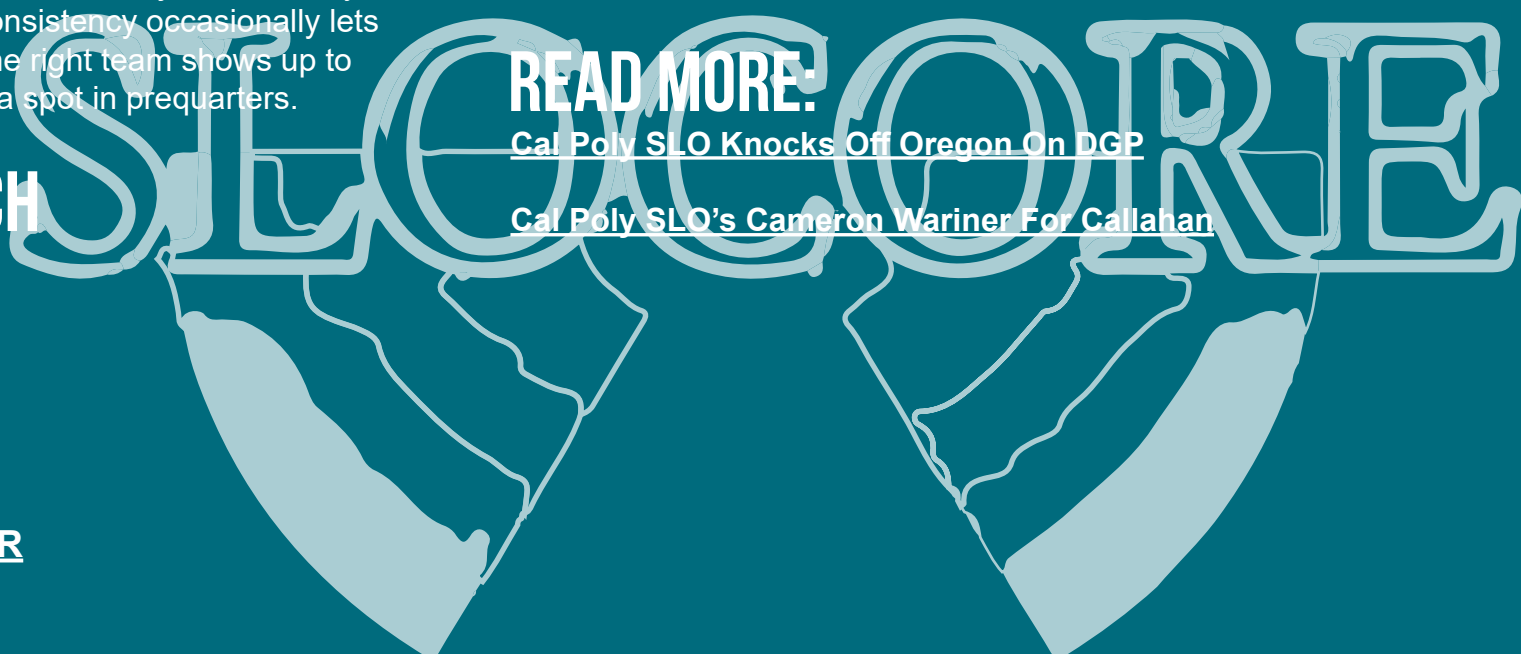
2015 - First appearance

Total Nationals Appearances: 4

READ MORE:

[Cal Poly SLO Knocks Off Oregon On DGP](#)

[Cal Poly SLO's Cameron Wariner For Callahan](#)



18. UCONN GRIND

[@UCONNGRIND](#)

(22-12)

STORY

The Metro East champions for the second straight year, Connecticut has supplanted Cornell as the yearly representative from the much-maligned region. But they did not go quietly in last year's debut, upsetting UNC Wilmington in pool play. Guess who's on the schedule again this year? Mike Rice and Gavin Clemmey lead the attack for Grind, but they spent the year developing down the roster. That shows in their record, which was vastly improved by crushing every team they played in the Series. UConn was competitive in a stiff Easterns field, dropping close games and beating Colorado, their statement win of the year. They won't be an easy out.

NATIONALS RECORD

2016 - 13th

Total Nationals Appearances: 2

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Michael Rice (#3)

Pat Kunkel (#96)

Jake Hansen (#77)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

19. OREGON STATE BEAVERS

[@OSU_ULTIMATE](#)

(26-17)

STORY

It's a banner year for Oregon State men's ultimate, evidenced by their first ever Nationals invite. While the Northwest region was gift-wrapped a bid by BYU, Oregon State had to earn the hotly contested bid in a challenging Regional Championship. They also earned valuable experience by winning the Stanford Open and claiming a spot the Stanford Invite. Along the way, they nabbed some nice wins over teams in the Nationals field, proving that the Beavers are showing up with validated hopes of playing spoiler. Their veteran leadership has nothing to lose and everything to play for.

NATIONALS RECORD

This is their first appearance at Nationals.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Sam Amaro (#1)

Quinn Buermeyer (#62)

Aaron Peterschmidt (#0)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

READ MORE:

[Northwest D-I Regionals 2017: Tournament Recap \(Men's\)](#)

20. VIRGINIA TECH BURN

[@VTBURN](#)

(18-16)

STORY

Burn began the spring as one of the teams hyped to break out. It took until April for them to live up to that, with a win at Easterns over Stanford, their marquee result of the season. At Regionals, it seemed like they would fizzle, down 10-6 to NC State in quarterfinals. But Virginia Tech clawed their way back into the game, breaking to win and advancing to a juicy semifinal and game to go. That victory could be their rallying point, and there's plenty of talent on this Burn team to bely their low seed. Few No. 20 seeds have been as dangerous as Virginia Tech.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Joe Freund (#42)

Tyler Vincent (#18)

Adam Norrbom (#43)

[CLICK FOR FULL ROSTER](#)

NATIONALS RECORD

This is their first appearance at Nationals.

READ MORE:

[Virginia Tech On The Brink Of A Breakout Year](#)



LET THE GAMES BEGIN