



## SOFTBALL

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## 22nd-Ranked UIC Softball Kicks Off Season in San Diego

UIC to face No. 15 Long Beach State, San Diego State and San Diego

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With its No. 22 preseason fresh in hand, the UIC softball team travels to California to prove that it's national ranking is justified.

The Flames will play in two tournaments over the weekend, both in San Diego. UIC will face San Diego and San Diego State in a one-day tournament on Friday before playing in a three-team tournament at San Diego State on Saturday and Sunday.

In addition to San Diego State, the Flames will also see Long Beach State in the second tournament. The 49ers are also nationally ranked, bringing a No. 15 ranking into the San Diego State Tournament.

"San Diego State and Long Beach State are loaded," said UIC Head Coach [Mike McGovern](#). "We are definitely going to see some tough competition, but I think we are ready for it. These games will be a great way for us to start the season."

Long Beach State is coming of a 34-21 season in which they won the Big West Conference championship. San Diego State also had an impressive 1999 season, going 24-24 and finishing third place in the Western Athletic Conference.

While UIC might be the only local team at the two San Diego tournaments, McGovern says that the Flames might end up with more than their fair share of the crowd.

"We are going to have a large contingent of UIC fans in San Diego," he said. "Many of our players are from California, and we are expecting their friends and families to come support our program. It is really help getting the name 'UIC' out in other parts of the country, and I think that's a huge plus for both our team and for the university."

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Senior All-American Samantha Iuli will return to her hometown of San Diego to help UIC kick off the 2000 season.

