

BACK-TO-BACK CHAMPIONS. With pride in their hearts and victory in their smiles, Cagayan State University delegates and officials strike a pose during the awarding ceremony at CSU Carig Red Eagle Gymnasium after securing the overall championship in both sports and socio-cultural events at CaVRASUC 2025.

ZYRA AGUSTIN,THE CSU COMMUNICATOR

JEROME RAMIREZ

Cagayan State University (CSU) cemented its supremacy in the Cagayan Valley Regional Association of State Universities and Colleges (CaVRASUC) 2025 after it emerged as the overall champion in both the sports and socio-cultural category, outperforming five other universities in a heated battle of skills, talent, and creativity.

Falling behind Isabela
State University (ISU) by
14 points in the previous
CaVRASUC socio-cultural
events, CSU brought its
comeback after bagging the
gold medal in the category,
earning a total of 120

points—16 points ahead of ISU, which placed second.

Following CSU and ISU, Philippine Normal University secured third place, while Nueva Vizcaya State University, Quirino State University, and Batanes State College claimed fourth, fifth, and sixth places, respectively.

Hosting the competition from March 24 to 28, CSU not only demonstrated its prowess in the socio-cultural field but also successfully defended its title as the overall sports champion while ISU secured second place and Nueva Vizcaya State University settled for third.

Winners in the sports events will represent the

region in the National State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SCUAA) which will take place in Camiguin Island on April 22-27.

Meanwhile, there will be no national level for the social-cultural events.

#### Pressured but prepared

CSU's dominance in the socio-cultural events was reflected in its strong performances across multiple categories after it secured first place in both visual arts and dance events, second place in musical events, and fifth place in performing arts.





THE EAGLE EYE is the official newsletter of Cagayan State University for the CavRASUC Games 2025 Coverage



Mark Adrian Guillermo, THE CSU PROMETHEAN

From the tensioned tracks and animated courts to the dazzled stages and astonished podiums, the CaVRASUC 2025 was truly an experience and an opportunity.

For the student-athletes, the event provided an opportunity to demonstrate their extraordinary power, speed, and precision on various sporting disciplines. For the student-artists, the event provided a platform to display their exceptional performance in different forms of art. For the spectators, the event opened a window for them to witness these incredible feats.

But, in addition to these break out of games and talents, from fist pumps to tears of joy, there was an overlooked but equally exciting element in the CaVRASUC 2025: the booths.

Laced in the CSU Andrews' Basketball Court were the different booths brimming with foods, souvenirs, anik anik, and everything in between. From the smoky smell of sizzling Korean BBQ to the colorful explosion of custom-designed shirts, these booths certainly contributed to the soul of the event.

#### No empty bags and empty stomachs

From morning until night, athletes and artists from different schools in the region flocked to the court to fill their stomachs with food and their bags with souvenirs.

Kosho Takoyaki's vendor, John Cedrick B. Pangilinan, shared, "Kapag mainit, mas dumadami ang costumer, and pagdating naman ng gabi is mas lalong dumadami kasi 'yong mga natutulog dito sa schools kasi naghahanap sila ng pagmemeryendahan."

This echoed life outside the court and stages during CaVRASUC 2025. After a tiring game or a long day, booths were waiting to fill the stomach and provide a sense of satisfaction for every player.

There was comfort and there was solace and that's one thing about such events, the food

"Ayos naman [ang bentahan] kaso ang init. Dinadagsa talaga siya." Michael John Cairel, the owner of Michael's Souvenir Shop, also shared.

Another thing about events is the souvenirs. Michael's Souvenir Shop, with its array of colorful bags, bracelets, and trinkets, became a go-to spot for players and visitors alike, despite the heat. It wasn't just about purchasing a memento; it was about capturing the essence of the event—memories in the form of souvenirs that would live on long after the games ended.

No matter the result of the competition, no one went home empty-handed. The booths ensured that no stomach and no bag was left empty. Whether it was food to satisfy the hunger or a souvenir to remember the event by, everyone had something to take home.

#### Not just a booth, but an opportunity

"Super thankful [ako sa CSU] kasi may mga business na mahirap makahanap ng puwesto, nagkaroon sila ng puwesto kahit sandali lang—one week—nakakuha sila ng place at nakakapagbenta sila." Kosho Takoyaki's John Cedrick Pangilinan expressed his gratitude to CSU for welcoming them and providing an opportunity for local businesses.

Pangilinan also shared that their business will officially open in April, but they saw CaVRASUC 2025 as a valuable opportunity for a dry run, allowing them to test their setup and operations before the official opening.

"Bali yong KaHombre T-shirt Printing Services kasi, kung saan may mga school activities, kumbaga sinusundan namin. Kaya kay ma'am Athena, na sobrang bait dahil napagbigyan kami makapagbenta ng t-shirt dito." Hidalgo Richard of KaHombre T-Shirt Printing Services also shared his appreciation for CSU, acknowledging the opportunity they were given to sell their shirts during the event.

"Start po kami matagal na, 2012 gano'n. Oo, rolling lang din po kami," Michael John Cairel, owner of Michael's Souvenir Shop, reflected on his experience with booth vendors who, like him, didn't have a permanent space. He also shared his gratitude to CSU, saying, "Ma'am, thank you po. Ang bait pala ng admin dito. Pinapuwesto niya po kami rito."

Jennie P. Blas of JMZ Korean Str-eat Food, on the other hand, expressed her gratitude in a different way, "Wala po siyang stalls, sir. Sa cart lang po siya—sa may cart lang po siya ng shawarma ng tito ko rin po. Kaya thankful po kami kasi isa po kami sa napili rito para magpuwesto. Ayun, thank you po."

#### The whole CaVRASUC experience

The CaVRASUC 2025 has truly opened opportunities, not only to the athletes, but also to our local vendors. So while we celebrate our victories or accept our defeats, let us also acknowledge the hard work and dedication of those who are behind the scenes, ensuring we have a variety of experiences to enjoy during the meet.

The CaVRASUC 2025 experience is not just a stepping stone for the athletes in their quest for victory but also for our local vendors, who, in many ways, are the unsung spirit of the event. Through their presence, they help create an atmosphere of unity, reinforcing the idea that success is not just about individual achievement but about supporting one another and growing together.





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SPECIAL COVERAGE: KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON THE 2025 CAVRASUC



HELAENA THEREESE MALANA, THE CSU PROMETHEAN S KING HARDEE II PIZARRO

In this current zeitgeist where gender equality is in the forefront of our social progress, addressing the deeply ingrained concept of toxic masculinity remains a crucial mission. Thus, it is imperative to represent this topic in events where the youth can take up a major role in, such as the Cagayan Valley Regional Association of State Universities and Colleges (CaVRASUC) 2025 Meet. The pageant of the event provided an avenue for discussion and advocacy proving that platforms celebrating sportsmanship and talent can also serve as catalysts for social change and spaces for advocacy.

#### Acting Like a Man

The question and answer portion posed a challenging question for the finalists: "How would you, as a male student leader, dismantle toxic masculinity and promote SDG 5, which is gender equality in your school and community?' This demonstrated the event's commitment to addressing social issues, and the contestants' attempts to answer the question reflected their growing awareness on gender equality.

Mr. CaVRASUC 2025, Roden Rasing from Isabela State University, underscoresd the importance of student leaders actively advocating for inclusivity and respect within the educational environment. "We are already living in a world where everyone needs a space to be loved, to be cared for, and to respect every one of us," he stated.

First runner-up Bryan Jser Sanchez from Cagayan State University elucidated the cultural transformation in masculinity, attributing it to the influence of K-pop. This phenomenon has liberated fashion and self-expression from the constraints of traditional gender norms.

Meanwhile, second runner-up Jay Denver Hernandez Isidro from Nueva Vizcaya State University focused on leadership and empowerment, encouraging young men to redefine their roles in society through hard work and perseverance.

#### What Constitutes a Man?

Toxic masculinity refers to a set of norms that uphold aggression, emotional suppression, and dominance as the attributes that make up a man. While masculinity itself is not inherently negative, toxic masculinity manifests when societal pressures force men to conform to rigid stereotypes that despises emotional vulnerability and empathy. This action harms both men and women, leading to issues such as gender-based violence, mental health struggles, and discrimination against those who do not conform to traditional gender roles.

A deeper analysis of gender norms reveals that rigid masculinity standards can negatively impact men's mental health. A study conducted by Anthony Warren on gender identity and psychological well-being (2024) revealed that the submission to traditional masculine norms, especially those that emphasize emotional suppression and self-reliance, is linked to an increased incidence of depressive symptoms and psychological distress. Therefpre, by redefining masculinity to include emotional openness and vulnerability, society can help men develop healthier coping mechanisms and interpersonal skills.

One of the biggest misconceptions surrounding toxic masculinity is that it equates to masculinity itself. However, masculinity is diverse and can and may include traits such as kindness, leadership, and resilience without being harmful. Another dangerous myth is that discussions on toxic masculinity are meant to attack men. In reality, these discussions aim to free men from harmful expectations that limit their emotional well-being and ability to form meaningful relationships.

#### Research has shown that toxic

masculinity is perpetuated through social institutions, peer reinforcement, and media representation. According to a study published in the Journal of Men and Masculinities by Carol Harrington (2020), Traditional masculine norms emphasize dominance, control, and emotional stoicism, which can lead to psychological well-being and interpersonal relationship issues. This suggests that challenging these norms is essential for creating a more inclusive and an emotionally supportive society.

#### No Man Left Behind

Events where the youth can convene, such as the CaVRASUC 2025, play a vital role in challenging societal norms and empowering the youth to become advocates of change, by providing a platform for young talent to address pressing social issues, these competitions help redefine masculinity in a way that is

inclusive, diverse, and progressive.

The fight against toxic masculinity does not end on the pageant stage. It permeates even in the classrooms, workplaces, and communities, where men and women alike must work together to foster a society that values respect and equality for their well-being As we move forward, we must ensure that discussions on masculinity focus not on division but on harmony where every individual, regardless of gender, is free to express their true selves without the fear from discrimination.







# THE VALLEY'S BEST from page 1...

In an interview, Jason Guzman, coach of CSU's folk dance team and Latin American dance sports team-both of which won first place—shared the challenges they  $\dot{\text{faced}}$  leading up to the competition, including the pressure of competing while representing the host school.

"To be honest, it's an additional pressure for us as a competing team and as the host school." Guzman said.

He added that their preparations were particularly challenging, as the competition coincided with their examination week. Despite this, the team remained committed to rigorous training, refining their performance from the fundamentals to more intricate routines.

"We try to add more flavor with the previous performances that we have done during the university meet, making them [participants] more prepared this time for CAVRASUC," he added.

Builder of character

CaVRASUC is an annual sports competition that not only gathers universities across the region to determine representatives for the National SCUAA Games but also fosters sportsmanship, camaraderie, and discipline.

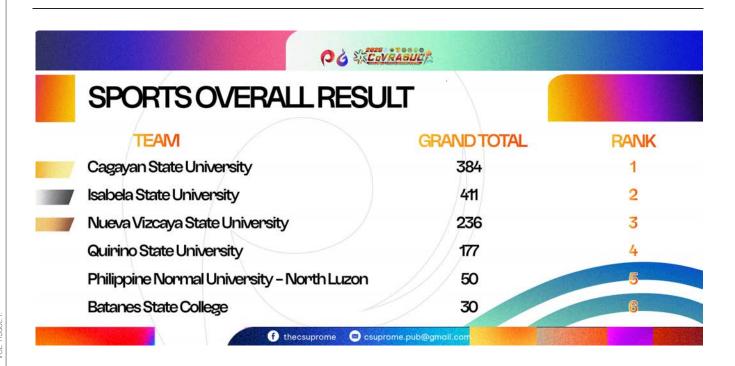
During the opening program, Dr. Juliet Paras, Director IV of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in Region 2, emphasized that students' participation in CaVRASUC embodies CHED's vision of

promoting holistic development in higher education where academic excellence is complemented by athletic achievements and cultural expression.

"CHED recognizes that sports play a crucial role in shaping well-rounded individuals by complementing academic learning with character development, leadership, and resilience," she stated.

With the theme "Unity in Diversity, Excellence in Action," Cagayan State University (CSU) proudly hosted CaVRASUC '25, wherein the sports events were held at CSU Carig, while the socio-cultural competitions took place at CSU Andrews.

Meanwhile, NVSU will host next year's CaVRASUC 6





# #CaVRASHOTS



































Isabela State University (ISU) upset defending champion Cagayan State University (CSU) in Men's and Women's Volleyball to wrest two golds in a jampacked Red Eagle Gymnasium, March 27.

ISU's netters carried a twice-to-beat advantage entering the gold medal match after an undefeated run in the eliminations, putting an end to CSU's gold medal streak in both men's and women's events.

The crowd's favorite CSU men's smashers were denied the chance to keep their throne, succumbing to ISU spikers in a four-set thriller, 25-18, 21-25, 27-25, and 25-14.

CSU committed multiple unforced errors in the opening set, which granted ISU a stretched lead and prevented the host school from making a comeback attempt.

Spikers Mark Aldrei Capili and Bryan Dumlao maneuvered CSU's scoring run in Set 2, unleashing solid attacks off excellent sets by Trenz Gian Constantino to tie the set at 1 apiece.

With the tension at its peak, CSU roared back late in Set 3, hammering down forceful spikes to tie the score at 23 and threaten a comeback, but ISU responded with lightningfast plays, dismantling CSU's momentum before Jerald Guiuo delivered a crushing spike to seal

Riding that surge, ISU stormed into Set 4 with a blistering 5-0 run, keeping CSU on the ropes. Team Captain Roque Raunch Bautista

spearheaded the charge, unleashing relentless kills before delivering the final, championshipwinning strike that deflected off CSU's blockers, cementing ISU's triumph.

Moreover, Bautista attributed their win to their team's change of tactics after their second

"Tinignan namin kung paano 'yung puwesto ng mga players tapos in-apply lang namin 'yung number tactics para makapuntos at maipanalo ang laban," said Captain Bautista. ("We observed the positioning of the opposing players and then applied the number tactics to score and win the game.")

Meanwhile, winning coach Jacinto Lappay Jr. highlighted their victory as historic since it was his dream to bring his team to the nationals as a coach under a different state university.

"Naging coach ako sa CSU for almost six years and naging player ako ng CSU. I made history back then as an athlete and now I made history as a coach of a different SUC," said head coach Lappay. ("I became a coach at CSU for almost six years and I was also a player at the same university. I made history back then as an athlete and now I made history as a coach of different SUC.")

Further, ISU women's hitters claimed a ticket to the nationals through straight sets in the finals, 25-21, 25-20, and 25-16, ending the championship streak of CSU in women's volleyball.

ISU's Martin and Cutaran duo put up a blazing show inside the court, smashing kills and drops to claim the opening set.

Silver medalists CSU attempted for a comeback in the second after surging to a 7-0 run to cut the lead to one, 14-15, but ISU's great ball placement restricted CSU from taking the lead, which earned them the second set win.

ISU's smart plays forced CSU to engage in consecutive errors, establishing a wide advantage for ISU early in the third set, and penetrated CSU's defense before a service error from the host concluded the match.

Team Captain Loriel Castillo described their play in the championship as calm and balanced, which is crucial for ISU's historic win despite the crowd's cheering for the host school.

"Mas kalmado 'yung laro namin ngayon kasi ito 'yung turo sa amin kahit na ganito 'yung crowd na puro mga supporters ng CSU. Ang pinunta naman namin dito ay lumaban at maglaro at masaya ako dahil nagbunga 'yung pinaghirapan namin," Castillo said. ("Our game this time was calmer because it was taught to us that it does not matter even if the majority of the crowd are supporters of CSU. Our goal here is to fight and play and I am happy for the fruits of our hardwork.")

Both the men's and women's teams of ISU will advance in the national round which will be held at Camiguin province in Mindanao. 6

## CSU downs NVSU, ISU to rule badminton men's doubles

LYKA RESURRECCION THE CSU PROMETHEAN **©** JESSA MAE TUMANGUIL

Cagayan State University's(CSU) badminton duo Fritz Jomer Rolloque and Wilmar Paet booked their ticket to the National SCUAA Men's Doubles Tournament set for April in Camiguin.

The duo, after defeating Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU) and Isabela State University (ISU), clinched a gold medal finish in the tournament at Pick Master Badminton Tuguegarao, March 27.

Rolloque and Paet squared up against NVSU in the first doubles match, claiming the first frame, 21-17 and dominating the second set, 21-9.

In the fourth match, the formidable duo outduelled Bernico Bascos and Marion Yarcia of ISU, with a commanding 21-19, 21-7 victory to seal CSU's second consecutive win.

However, ISU advanced to the championship match after overcoming Quirino State University in the semifinals.

CSU wrapped up the men's doubles tournament with an unscathed 3-0 winloss record after registering 2-0 in the championship game against ISU, 21-15, 21-19.

Rollogue and Paet capitalized on Bascos and Yarcia's miscues, jumping to an early

6-1 lead in the first set of the championship games. Errors from CSU gave ISU points to close the gap to 10-8 at the break, but errors befell both players approaching the deciding point, allowing CSU to close out the set convincingly with a score of 21-15.

The second set saw a more focused ISU rally back with commanding smashes, mounting a 12-9 lead at the halfway point, but CSU regained its momentum with tricky placings and well-executed drop shots, securing a narrow 21-19 win.

Aware of ISU's aggressive court presence, Rolloque and Paet expected a challenging match, especially with Yarcia's strong offensive and defensive play, but remained confident in their strategy.

"In-expect po talaga namin na malakas ang ISU. Si Yarcia kasi magaling siya sa defense and offense pero nagkataon na kaya naming depensahan and sabayan 'yung galaw niya. Sobrang dikit 'yung laban kanina pero hindi namin inisip na matatalo kami kasi ang only goal namin ay manalo," Rolloque said in an interview after the championship game. 6





## **CSU tops Men's,** Women's **Taekwondo** Poomsae. Kyorugi

**₽** RICARDO JR. CARDENAS, THE CSU PROMETHEAN

Cagayan State University (CSU) exhibited perseverance and indomitable spirit as it reaped the overall championship title in both men's and women's division of Taekwondo, held at Robinson's Place Tuguegarao, during the fourth day of Cagayan Valley Region Association of State Universities and Colleges (CaVRASUC).

In the Poomsae male and female division, CSU bagged three gold medals while they swept six gold medals in Kyorugi, both male and female divisions, topping the gold medal tally with a total of nine gold medals.

On the other hand, Isabela State University (ISU) earned seven golds while Quirino State University (QSU) pocketed four golds, and Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU) snatched two golds.

Meanwhile, CSU's Taekwondo coach Rachelle Joy Verzon showed her gratitude prior to the victorious result of Taekwondo where she felt so blessed.

"Sobrang feeling blessed and saya kasi alam kong trinabaho ng mga athletes yung victory nila. Blood, sweat, tears, and tons of sacrifice din ang binuhos nila para dito," coach Verzon stated in an exclusive interview. (I feel so blessed and happy because I know the athletes worked hard for their victory. They poured blood, sweat, tears, and tons of sacrifice for this.)

Furthermore, coach Verzon also shared their strategies, emphasizing discipline and camaraderie which makes the athletes be better both in sport and

"Discipline talaga yung number 1 na needed... As a coach, yung pakikisama din yung isa sa mga foundation ng samahan namin with the team. I made sure na naaalagaan ko sila and they can be open about matters in the team sa akin that led us in making strategies to make them better athletes, this applies both on their sports and personal lives," coach Verzon added. (Discipline is really the number 1 thing needed. As a coach, camaraderie is also one of the foundations of our relationship with the team. I made sure that I took care of them and they could be open about matters in the team with me that led us in making strategies to make them better athletes, this applies both on their sports and personal lives.)

Meanwhile, CSU's Allysha Mae Taguiam, champion of the Taekwondo Poomsae-Individual and Team Category, described factors that helped them in their intensive preparation prior to the Taekwondo competition.

"Before the competition, we are mentally and physically prepared and the most important is asking the guidance of God throughout the whole training process," Taguiam revealed.

The winning teams will collaboratively train for the upcoming week-long national games of State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SCUAA) to be held in Camiguin Island on April 22 to 26.



### Pascual-Pascual outplay Consina-Calma, bats home to championship, 6-1

I FLORIMAE DOMINIQUE TULIAO & SHANIAH MAGUDDAYAO, THE CSU PROMETHEAN

Excitement filled the diamond as two powerhouse duos - Jonnalyn Pascual-. Krisha Pascual and Therese Consina-Christine Calm — went head-to-head, each driving their teams toward a crucial twice-to-beat advantage at the Cagayan Valley Regional Athletics Association of State Universities and Colleges (CaVRASUC) Games

Home heroes CSU made an explosive start, lighting up the first inning with a five-run surge. Pascual J. delivered back-to-back RBIs, while Pascual K. stole home after Calma's throw behind the plate, leaving Batanes State College (BSC) scoreless and scrambling, 5-0.

Remaining steadfast despite their defensive blunder at the earlier inning, Consina-Calma battery duo displayed their signature coordination, preventing CSU from stretching their lead with back-to-back strikeouts and putouts, putting a close to the second inning with

BSC keeping shore of their defense, subdued CSU's plate appearances to a four, allowing CSU only one run to the home. Keeping the pressure

on, CSU continued their assault with a strikeout and flyouts setting the scoreboard to 1-0.

Still searching for their first run, BSC leaned on third-baseman Anay, who snagged back-toback pop-out hits from CSU. Desperate to put BSC on the board, Consina made an aggressive dash around the bases, finally reaching home after a timely hit from Bunog, cutting the deficit

Both teams, unyielding to the heat, carry stand on their assaults, second-baser Adami of CSU latching on to successive pop-outs, and Consina-Calma duo of BSC securing back-to-back K's, leaving the pitch 0-0.

On the other side of the pitch, NVSU started with an explosive 4-point lead away, sustaining both gears, subduing ISU to 9-2 and finishing with

In the end, BSC failed to defend its undefeated streak, falling to 2-1. They now brace for a crucial showdown against NVSU, where the winner will earn the right to challenge the unbeaten home favorites, Cagayan State University, for the championship. 6

#### Merah Murung's stellar Granger seals 3-0 win vs NVSU in Men's MLBB finals

DARYLL JONES A. LACUESTA.. THE CSU PROMETHEAN

Sealing a championship game in a clean 3-0 victory, Cagayan State University's (CSU) Khasmeer Jerome "Merah Murung" Birzuela recorded a godly 10/0/4 with a 100% teamfight-participating Granger against Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU) during the Mobile Legends: Bang Bang Men's Final Round held at the College of Information and Computer Sciences Faculty Office, CSU-Carig, March 27.

Merah Murung, along with the CSU Men's team, displayed a combination of hero mastery, patience and almost precise in-game decisions and shotcalls, leaving NVSU hopeless to win a national ticket.

In the first game, Kyle John "Demonkyle" Ayun-ayun displayed his dexterity on an unkillable 7-0-7-KDA Hayabusa, outplaying five members of the opposing team by taking down Dazai's Jawhead of NVSU despite low hitpoints (HP) during the first turtle take by NVSU's Fanny by Kisei.

Hayabusa, together with the right shotcalls by Marc Gemmuel "Kaido" Duropan with his portal-maker hero Chip, led NVSU unable to score the remaining turtles of the game and widened NVSU's margin of error, ending in a commanding 19-7 victory with a more than 10,000-gold lead, 1-0.

In the second game, slight mistakes were committed by CSU during the early game as Kisei's Lukas of NVSU took the first turtle objective and initiated a two-to-none kills, but later committed likewise after attempting to take

down the godly Merah Murung's Granger, ending the latter to record a triple kill and a full chance of CSU to take the newly-spawned level one lord.

Moreover, Ackel Jay "Xenu" Correa's Zhuxin displayed a commendable positioning with full utility of hero's main damage skill, Fluttering Grace, leading CSU to take the second game as well, 21-12, with an impressive 6 kills and 10 assists with no deaths, 2-0.

The third game was seen with Merah Murung picking a Granger once more, which dominated his lane with NVSU's Ruby during the first few minutes of the game. However, despite the gold advantage, reckless and untimed calls were committed by Kaido's Chip, widening the kill gaps between the opposing teams, but still retaining the gold balance.

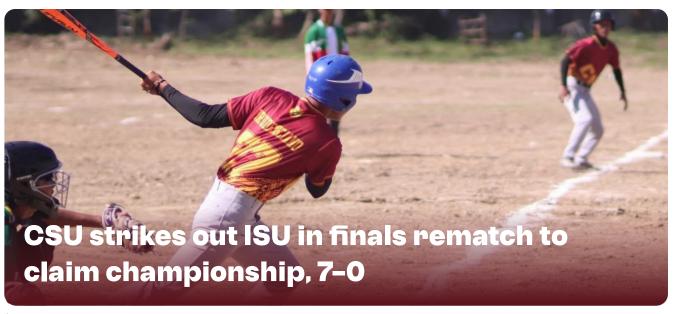
NVSU capitalized CSU's misplays in hopes to reclaim a series point, but Merah Murung's unkillable and all-rounder Granger pushed the thriller until the 18th minute mark, putting up 10 kills, 4 assists and no deaths, ending their run in a

Meanwhile, the Women's MLBB Championship Round between CSU and Isabela State University (ISU) ended with the former winning the series via Game 4 win by default, 2-1 to 3-1, after a tournament guideline violation was committed by two players of the latter.

CSU Men's and Women's MLBB teams are expected to represent Cagayan Valley in the upcoming national State Colleges and Universities Athletics Association Games to be held at Camiguin this April. 6







PAUL VINCENT MARGALLO, THE CSU PROMETHEAN

O JAN LORD PAGULAYAN. THE CSU PROMETHEAN

TUGUEGARAO CITY – Ballpark Defenders Cagayan State University completed its championship run and claimed National SCUAA competition ticket, seven runs to nothing, stopping Isabela State University's hunger for revenge as the 2025 Cagayan Valley Regional Association of State College and Universities (CaVRASUC) Baseball tournament came to a close March 27, 2025, held at CSU's diamond pitch.

After dropping ISU yesterday in the upper brackets semifinals, CSU jumped the pitch in the opening frame with maroon-colored pitcher Fantonia delivering two strikeouts and a flyout to stop Isabelino's quest for championship chances in the opening frame.

Catcher-positioned batter Rey from

Cagayan led the team to score three straight runs in the first inning hitting the ball for a solid second base followed by Balisi and Fantonia's effort both with another second base and stolen bases respectively.

Drought rained upon the Isabelinos with consecutive fly-outs and strikeouts precisely delivered by one of yesterday's heroes, pitcher Fantonia

Hot handed Rey continued the trend and once again started another four straight in the succeeding inning ending with Fantonia's stolen base before ISU surrendered as the score grew to seven runs to nothing.

Maroon Coach Erick Masirag expressed that adjustments are to be made before and during the game like how their gameplay changed throughout the tournament before and during facing ISU in the semis and the finals.

"Walang gigigil sa pag-palo, basta pumalo ka at kumarga" said coach Masirag when asked what the game plan was during the match.

After being relegated to the lower brackets, ISU outhit Quirino State University ten to four runs within five innings to face the waiting CSU team held earlier that day.

Opening frame drought did not stop ISU as runs rained down upon the next innings with three in the second, five within the third, and one a piece in both fourth and final innings.

CSU with the win in the bag, will be competing in this year's National SCUAA to be held in Camiguin next month.

# ISU powers past CSU for Gold, 65-58, defends title in Women's 5x5 Basketball

**1** JEREMY JIM OLALDE, THE CSU PROMETHEAN

Defending champion Isabela State University (ISU) retained its throne in Women's 5x5 Basketball after outplaying Cagayan State University (CSU) in the finals, 65–58, held at Red Eagle Gymnasium on March 27.

ISU recovered from a 9-point CSU cushion in the opening frame, improving their defense in the succeeding quarters to clinch the gold medal.

Maryjoy De Paz and Chrisia Gali tandem carried CSU in the opening quarter, disrupting their opponents' half-court offensive set and driving hard to the paint for fast break points, but Joycelle Ballad connected on a buzzer-beater drive shot to trim down the lead to single digit, 27-18.

ISU clamped down on defense in the second quarter, holding CSU to just eight points while dominating the boards with offensive rebounds. Jenalyn Canceran capitalized on second-chance opportunities, putting in easy baskets to make a 12-point turn-around heading into halftime.

CSU struggled to connect baskets in the third frame as ISU sustained its tight defense, charging their way for easy layups to establish a 9-point advantage, 58-49. Joy Cambi and Chrisia Gali's chemistry ignited a late spark for CSU, providing hopes of a comeback despite a slow start in the fourth quarter; however, CSU ran out of time to propel the match into overtime, rewarding ISU back-to-back

Meanwhile, Canceran remained focused on their match against CSU and emphasized their tight defense after the opening frame to dismantle CSU's dynamics.

"Nagfocus lang kami sa loob ng court tapos nagtulungan kami ng mga teammates ko para makapuntos at trinabaho namin talaga 'yung dispensa namin," said Canceran.

Moreover, Domingo Ramos, head coach of ISU, was forced to change his team's transition as he sent his point guards inside for a solid defense.

"Natalo kami sa transition sa first quarter kaya nag-adjust kami sa transition. Pinababa naming 'yung point guard and at the same time, hinigpitan namin ang aming dipensa," Ramos said.

ISU's back-to-back championships strengthen its reputation as a team to beat in the regionals, surging towards gold and earning a ticket to the national games in Camiguin province. &







Cagayan State University (CSU) demonstrated resilience and willpower after beating Isabela State University (ISU) in the Sepak Takraw Men's Finals showdown to strip them of the title, 2-0 held March 27 at the CSU Carig Sepak Takraw Court.

The intensity of the game matched the heat of the scorching sun as CSU and ISU went head to head for the championship match, determined to seize the crown.

In a fierce back-and-forth battle filled with powerful kills, relentless exchanges, and electrifying crowd energy, both teams fought tooth and nail in the first set of the regu, reaching a deadlock at 14-all before CSU held their ground and sealed a thrilling 17-16 victory to claim the first match.

The second regu featured spectacular plays from both sides, key players from both teams, including CSU's Paul Puzon and ISU's John Patrick Baquiran, exchanged electrifying bicycle kicks and cartwheel shots in a thrilling display of

talent

CSU took the first set 17-14, but ISU responded with a 15-11 win in the second set to force a deciding third set.

CSU, carrying its championship poise, started the third set in dominant fashion to maintain its momentum, punishing the defense with ferocious kicks and kills to complete a sweep and the championship title, 2-0.

"Yung advantage na nakikita ko is actually may foundation kami, yung training namin, and yun ang pinaka foundation namin kung bakit natalo namin yung mga iba. Sagad kami sa training: alam naman natin yung pinakabasic yun para sa team, and sabi ko nga yung confidence, kasi yun ang mas mag bo-boost sa kanila para manalo yung isang team and yung ang nakita Kong advantage namin as a coach." Teophil Peralta, CSU's sepak takraw coach.

["The advantage that I see is actually our foundation—our training, which is the main reason why we defeated the others. We really pushed ourselves in training; we all know that's the most basic thing for the team, and as I said, confidence, because that's what will boost them to win as a team, and that's the advantage I see as a coach."]

CSU coach Teophil Penalta also attributed their win to the team's strong foundation and training.

Meanwhile, ISU coach Daryll Mark Allag cited the team's limited preparation time and the crowd's impact as factors in their loss.

"Our selection process wasn't ideal. If we'd had full force, we might have had a better chance. The crowd also played a significant role in our defeat," Allag said while also mentioning their lack of preparation time as a contributing factor.

CSU players are expected to dominate the selection process for the regional representatives of Cagayan Valley for the upcoming national competition on Camiguin Island.



Dominating both the Men's and Women's divisions, CSU Arnis team emerged as the undisputed force in Arnis competitions, claiming back-to-back championships at the CaVRASUC 2025 and solidifying their status as top contenders in the sport, March 26.

Shouts and cheers roared through the wide area of Robinson's Tuguegarao as the six universities clashed in the different

Arnis events for the past two days, where CSU reigned supreme, exhibiting the results of months of rigid training.

The team started their domination as they showcased their flawless and synchronized routines with the accuracy of execution in the Anyo categories, making them snatch 24 golds in the women's division, while 13 golds and 11 silvers in mens' leading the ranks over ISU and PNU

respectively.

Meanwhile, the men's division had a close-to-even battle against ISU in the padded stick events, where the both teams earned 4 golds and 2 bronze and only one silver medal difference with a 4-3 standing while the women's division continued to drag their opponents having 6 golds, 3 silvers and 1 bronze.

Although the women's division succumbed with the great endurance of the ISU contingents in the livesticks with the 2 golds, 2 silvers, 5 bronze tally lower than the opponent's 3,5,1 medals respectively, the men's division still upped their ranks by concluding the final category with 6,1,3 medal tally over the opponent's 2,5,3.

In an interview with one of their coaches, Rhea Dela Cruz concluded that their new 'Bagwis' training team has become effective as they were able to prepare longer this year.

"Right after the Intrams pa lang, kinuha na yung mga nanalo kahit yung mga natalo na magtraining kaya mas dumami at mas mahaba ang paghahanda," Dela Cruz said. ("Right after the Intramurals, the winners even the non-winners were invited for training, that is why they are more and more prepared.")

After the awarding, the team celebrated their success on a victory party and are now waiting for the results of the deliberation for the final list of region 2's contingents for the Upcoming National SCUAA to be held in Camiguin Islands.

### Two CSU's singles women defend championship in badminton

Cagayan State University's Cleojade Abad and Dorothie Onzo successfully defended their titles and each clinched a gold medal in Women's Singles A and B, respectively, at the CaVRASUC Games 2025 held at the Pick Master Badminton Center, March 27.

With relentless and well-placed smashes, Abad set the tone early in Singles A, overpowering Many Knoll Macato of Quirino State University (QSU) in the first set. However, Macato fought back in the second set, leveling the game.

Undeterred, Abad regained her momentum in the split set, securing the victory with scores

of 21–9, 14–21, 21–11.

Meanwhile, Onzo delivered a dominating performance in Singles B, leaving ISU's Joyce Javier little opportunity to turn the match around.

With quick footwork, precise drop shots, and powerful smashes, Onzo dictated the game from start to finish, sealing an overwhelming 21-3, 21-5 victory.

Their coach, Regie De Polonia, highlighted that while Onzo is a seasoned Palarong Pambansa player, Abad is a newcomer who has quickly made a name for herself.

In an interview, Onzo shared that her

dedication and extra training sessions played a crucial role in her victory.

"...Binigyan po kami ng time para magtraining sa school, and also, nagti-training po ako ng individual lang sa court po na isa dito sa Tuguegarao," she said. ("We were given time to train in our school, and also, I train individually in one of the courts here in Tuguegarao City.")

With their resilient performances and undeniable talent, Abad and Onzo's victories further cement CSU's dominance in women's badminton, proving that hardwork and perseverance continue to bring glory to their university.







Cagayan State University (CSU) put on a dominant showing, combining lightning-fast footwork and sharp offense to destroy Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU), 19-11, and defend its crown in Women's 3x3 Basketball at Red Eagle Gymnasium on March 28.

CSU ballers entered the finals match with a twice-to-beat advantage after a perfect run in the eliminations, charging with drive shots in a 10-minute thriller rematch against NVSU.

Starting the action with a 3-0 run, CSU made easy baskets off great assists by Brigette Ellein Conay to put NVSU's defense at test.

Team Captain Jarill An Sauadan and Jane Lagua surged to fast break points to widen the gap for CSU, 9-5, forcing NVSU to use their sole timeout.

Aubrey Kyrl Sedano connected three consecutive points after that break, extending CSU's scoring run to 9-0 as time passed the 3-minute mark.

NVSU responded with a 5-0 score run to cut the lead down to five, 11-16, as Team Captain Paula Fernandez carried her team through free throws and layups, entering the last minute of action.

CSU, however, remained calm and heightened its defense in the last seconds, ending NVSU's consecutive baskets before Sebano fired a beyond-the-arc shot to cement CSU's domination of the finals, 19-11.

Moreover, Sauadan drew inspiration from her final year with CSU, determined to defend their title and punch a ticket to the nationals.

"Last year ko na ngayon na maglaro kaya ito 'yung naging motivation ko para maglaro ng maganda ngayon at idala ang aking team sa national games," said Captain Sauadan. ("This year will be my last year to play, so I made it my motivation to play very well this time and to bring my team on the national games.")

CSU's win earned them the gold medal and will represent Region 2 in the national games, while NVSU and Isabela State University sealed the silver and bronze, respectively.

Meanwhile, CSU defeated NVSU first in the elimination round, 19-13, to improve to and outplayed ISU in their second game to improve to a 2-0 slate and copped the twice-to-beat advantage in the finals.



# **NVSU hits bullseye,** clinches overall title in men's, women's archery divisions

PAUL VINCENT MARGALLO, THE CSU PROMETHEAN

TUGUEGARAO CITY - Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU) landed dead-center with 10 golds and a bronze medal to defend last year's throne, placing first overall in both men and women categories in this year's edition of the Cagayan Valley Regional Association of State College and Universities (CaVRASUC) Archery tournament held at CSU Carig Archery Range, March 27, 2025.

Day one and two top shooter Lexa Belle Mahor, lined up NVSU's first two gold medals topping the competition in both double 60 meters FITA Round women's division and women's olympic championship round division.

Mahor edged out Isabela State University's (ISU) Singueo during the gold medal match as she shot six to four, 14 of 30, 19 of 30, 16 of 30 and 20 of 30 over Singueo's 19 of 30, 20 of 30, 5 of 30 and 12 of 30 to conclude the women's individual competition.

The defending overall winners swept all three team competitions with three golds apiece for the men and women team competition and two gold medals in the mixed team event.

Mahor, along with Cristabel Basio and Icie Gutierrez, finished first in the women's team, derailing ISU's trio of Singueo, Ronabelle Tangonan and Pauleen Perang, five to four, taking home three more gold medals.

"Nag-go with the flow nalang kami. Ang ginawa namin is laruin yung

laro," said top archer Mahor after the tournament. ("We just went with the flow. And what we did is to play the game.")

Trio bowmen in bright yellowish green of Vizcaya, Rowen Ballesteros, Jomar Dacamay and Aaron Anthony Gano, arrowed in three more gold medals over Quirino State University's (QSU) six to two, 27, 29, 32 and 43 vs Quirino's 24, 40, 23 and 37.

The mixed doubles event saw the Mahor-Ballesteros duo clinch another gold, narrowly defeating ISU's Joshua Sebastian and Singueo, 5–3, with set scores of 26, 31, 23, and 31 against ISU's 31, 28, 23, and 23.

NVSU's head coach Joey Digz shared that their preparations such as competing in outside school archery tournaments and the teamwork inside worked for them and helped the group to be prepared and win this year's tourney.

QSU claimed second overall with a gold, four silvers and three bronze medals, placing second overall in men's division and bronze in women's division.

Tabununan claimed QSU's first gold with his top rank effort in men's double 70 meters FITA round shootout and claimed silver place in Olympic men's finals.

The orange-colored archers garnered three more silver and bronze medals in both divisions of the team event, placing second in men's division and third in women's division.



# BEEYOND NUMBERS:

## **MAKING ODDS EVEN**

I JOHN MARK QUILANG, THE CSU PROMETHEAN

Amid the overwhelming brigade of delegates from various state universities and colleges (SUCs), piling up while loudly chanting their cheers, a fearless eight-man team dares to stand against them—firmly gripping their swords and sticks, ready to fight relentlessly despite not having the strength in number as an advantage.

For the past two days, the open area of Robinson's Tuguegarao has transformed into a fierce battleground as arnisadors from different SUC contingents showcase their prowess in Arnis. The goal? To outmatch their rivals and bring home gold for their beloved institutions.

Among the contenders stands the Philippine Normal University-North Luzon (PNU-NL) squad but can they defy the odds and level the playing

#### THE ODDS IN NUMBER

Making their debut in Arnis, the team admitted the difficulty of traversing the strikers' journey. While other SUCs had delegations ranging from 30 to 40 members, PNUans had only eight representatives, rotating to compete in more than 60 sub-categories of the sport. As the games intensified, exhaustion began to show on their faces, their heavy breathing and sweat dripping down their cheeks despite the air-conditioned premises of the massive mall.

As an institution known for its concentrated specialization in teacher education, the team admitted that the high academic demands posed a

challenge in forming their squad, making it one of the major reasons why only a few made it to CaVRASUC—aside from the limited budget.

"Nakalimit lang po yung mga pinipili sa school namin kasi po, masyadong busy kasi mga teachers na nasa PNU," said Honey Rei Darapiza, one of their contingent members. ("There are only a limited number of students chosen in our school because the teachers at PNU are very busy.")

#### **MAKING IT EVEN**

Despite the doubled struggle in the competition—dealing with both the physical demands of the game and the pressure of being outnumbered—the team pushed through, hoping to bring pride to their 'Inang Pamantasan.' Their rebuttal to their own doubts: they did not come unprepared.

According to the team's narrative, they spent extra hours at the university over the past few months just to familiarize themselves with their routines. As their classes ended at 5 p.m., it became their habit to proceed to their innovation hub to meet and train.

"Yun nga po, kokonti kami tas madami sila...
Pero sige pa rin po kami para sa gusto po naming gawin. Focus lang (sa inensayo)," said Wissam Basilio, a PNU Arnisador, in an interview after the exhausting first day of their competition. (And yes, we are few, but they [opponents] are many, yet we still push forward with what we want to do. We must focus only on what we learned from

## FROM STEPPING FORWARD TO STEPPING INTO SUCCESS

After the intense two-day competition, the team reaped their victory with their heads held high as they earned a total of 49 medals, including 1 gold, 9 silvers, and 39 bronzes. With the downpour of medals, they even ranked third in the men's and women's divisions of the Anyo Category.

Despite the barriers they faced, their lack of numbers did not discourage them in the end. Instead, for them, their experience during this year's CaVRASUC will be their stepping stone to greater triumphs in the years to come. With a plan to prepare earlier and better, they aim for a bigger team, one large enough to compete in different events in the sport.

"...Ito yung tinatawag naming step-by-step para kami ay sumakses. Plano namin na mas magprepare pa next year at magrecruit pa ng mas maraming members," said Madonna Gonzales, their coach. ("This is what we call stepby-step to succeed. We plan to prepare better next year and recruit more members.")

In the end, the heavy breathing and excessive sweat were replaced by smiles of success each time they stepped onto the riser to receive their awards. Despite being the outnumbered team, their unwavering fighting spirit made each of their strikes among the strongest in the battle, even in their first try at CaVRASUC, where powerhouse schools are known to dominate.



I JEREMY JIM OLALDE, THE CSU PROMETHEAN

MARIE ANGELA ZALUN, THE CSU PROMETHEAN

With their backs against the wall after Game 1 slip, Isabela State University's (ISU) stormed back to life, to avoid squandering their twice-to-beat advantage and force a winner-takes-all showdown after Juspher Malana caught fire from beyond the arc in the final quarter of Game 2, draining clutch three-pointers to fuel ISU's explosive 84-77 comeback win over Cagayan State University (CSU) at Red Eagle Gymnasium on March 28.

ISU snatched the gold medal from CSU after a 13-0 run in the fourth frame, ending CSU's reign in the men's 5x5 basketball, which settled for silver.

Seizing the momentum from their opponents' sluggish start, ISU dominated the paint with inside-the-paint shots, while CSU's power players struggled to find their rhythm, leaving ISU a 10-point lead in the opening period, 22-12

Bryan Dupaya and Roman Karlo Allayban of CSU worked together in the second quarter to cut the lead to a single digit, 23–26, driving with easy baskets, but the latter absorbed an injury in the 4-minute mark after Dhen-Mark Soriano of ISU was called for a pushing foul.

Despite Allayban's exit, Dupaya unleashed an attack inside for an equalizer, 26-all, before ISU's shooting spree began in the last two minutes, regaining their lead, 37-32 at halftime.

CSU's Bryan Siriban and Nike Madrid connection opened the third quarter with a

three-pointer, which signaled the host's 8-0 run to snag the upper hand, 47-41.

Sustaining their momentum at the half mark, CSU shooters improved their offense to surge into a 10-0 rout, 54-41, penetrating ISU's dynamics that forced them to carry out turnovers.

John Lester Furigay of CSU was called for his second unsportsmanlike foul early in the decider, forcing him to be disqualified from playing, which fueled the flame into much more intense action on the court.

The defending champion was distracted by that call, as Malana started to seize the opportunity to put up a shooting show, firing three beyond-the-arc shots followed by a fast break point to embarrass CSU in front of the crowd. 68-63.

Twenty-two-year-old Malana kept his high percentage field goals and banked in another eight points off two three-pointers, registering 19 points in total for ISU in the fourth quarter alone before being fouled out after his fifth personal foul.

CSU tried to close the gap in the last minute of action, connecting free throws and a 3-point shot, but ISU's dominant comeback was too much for them to handle as CSU surrendered its crown and denied the dream for a back-to-back gold.

Malana was motivated by his dream to be a national player and to play in the national games, surging to a fiery show in the final quarter to win the match.

"Pangarap kong maging national player at makalaro sa nationals kaya binigay ko yung best ko sa last quarter para maipanalo yung laro," said Malana. ("It is my dream to be a national player and play in the nationals that's why I gave my best in the last quarter to win the match.")

Meanwhile, head coach Atty. Christopher Vea, who became emotional, attributed his team's win to his players' fighting spirit and determination

"Hindi insurmountable amount ang six points na lamang ng CSU kaninang third quarter kaya binuhos ng players ang lahat ng effort nila sa final quarter kasi nandun yung dedication nilang manalo," said head coach Vea. (CSU's six-point lead in the third quarter is not an insurmountable amount, so the players poured all their effort into the final quarter because their dedication to winning was there.")

Moreover, CSU propelled the match into a do-or-die game after demolishing ISU in the first round of the finals, 75-60, held on March 27.

Dupaya-Allayban-Lana squad charged their way to victory after the trio rained fast break points and perimeter shots in the final quarter for a double-digit victory, entering the decider match.

Further, ISU will represent the region in the national games, which will be held at Camiguin island, while NVSU sealed the bronze medal.

CSU finally got their revenge after losing to QSU in the finals last year.  ${\it C}$ 



LHYCA JOI AGRESSOR, THE CSU PROMETHEAN 

WILLIAM FURIGAY, THE CSU PROMETHEAN

Cagayan State University's (CSU) Karatedo team dominated the mat with a powerhouse performance in both the Men's and Women's Kumite categories, outclassing Isabela State University (ISU) in the Team Karatedo Tournament on March 27 at Robinson's Place Tuguegarao.

CSU's Kumite team, composed of 9 studentathletes, 4 men and 5 women, competed in various categories, securing all 9 gold medals against ISU's 8 players, 5 men and 3 women.

In the men's individual category, CSU's Clyden Jude Ubias (-75kg), Alben Cangas (-84kg), and Mark Paul Butac (-55kg), along with ISU's Mark Luis Alicum (-60kg), Karl Dominic Ruscal (-67kg), and Rommel Andres (+84kg) provided a competitive stage where both contenders demonstrated their prowess, each taking home a gold medal.

"Tumatak lang po sa isip ko. Sabi po ng Sensei namin na kapag mas malaki yung kalaban, mas malaki yung tanget; kapag mas maliit ka, mas mabilis kang gumalaw. 'Yon lang po ang ginawa kong sandata para manalo po," Ubias shared, explaining his winning technique.("It just stuck in my head. Our Sensei told us that the bigger the enemy, the larger the target; the smaller you are, the more agile you will be. That was the only

weapon that I used to win.")

Conversely, ISU's Ramiefel Soriano (-56kg), Janine Daguiaog (-61kg), and Kristhiana Vidad (+68kg) excelled in the women's individual tournament, winning 3 gold medals, while their CSU opponents, Althea Suliday (-50kg) and Micaela Rafal (-68kg), clinched 2 gold medals in their respective Kumite categories.

Furthermore, CSU's Kata Karatedo athletes made a significant mark in the competition, achieving a 5–0 gold medal sweep in the men's category and a 4–0 sweep in the women's category, contributing to the team's overall success.

The CSU women's karatedo coach Marvin De Ocampo shared their belief in the players' success.

"Yung cheer ng mga dearest CSU students, iyon ang nakikita kong nagpalakas ng mga loob ng nila (CSU Karatedo players) para mas ganahan silang maglaro nang maayos kanina," De Ocampo said. ("The cheering from the dearest CSU students, that is what I observe that gives the players courage to motivate them in their respective matches.")

"...Maganda ang laro. Ang ganda ng performance ng mga players sa parehong universities," he added. ("The matches were incredible. The performance of players from the universities were outstanding.")

This victory further solidifies the university's growing reputation as a breeding ground for talented athletes, enhancing its impressive list of athletic accomplishments and positioning it as a strong contender for the upcoming national SCUAA championship title.  $\mathcal{E}$ 

