

Azusa Pacific Men's Soccer Cougar Profile



MEMBERSHIP: National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)

CONFERENCE: Golden State Athletic Conference (GSAC)

WHAT KIND OF THINGS DO WE LOOK FOR IN A PLAYER?

- **TECHNIQUE:** All good players must have the technical ability to play at a high level. This is the foundation upon which good soccer is built and a priority for all Cougar soccer players.
- **TACTICAL UNDERSTANDING:** Players must have the ability to read the game well and have a good understanding of the overall tactics of the game. Azusa Pacific soccer puts a premium on those players who have intelligence and insight on the field.
- **SPEED AND ATHLETICISM**—The physical demands of the college game are great and every player must have the technical speed and athletic ability to play at the level.
- **PERSONALITY AND CHARACTER**—The last aspect of a high level players are things that cannot be measured. We look for toughness, courage, communication, discipline and integrity. These are important characteristics for our players to have.

STYLE OF PLAY: We play possession style, building out of the back and through the midfield focused on ball circulation between all our players. Therefore it is essential that all of our players, defenders, midfielders, and forwards are technically sound. Generally, we will play a 4-4-2 system with zonal defending but we are willing to adapt our system of play to meet the individual qualities of our players.

FORMER COUGARS IN PROFESSIONAL SOCCER:

- **Steven Lenhart (2007):** Drafted by MLS Columbus Crew 2007
- **Andriy Budnyy (2005):** Playing Premier League in the Ukrainian Premier League
- **Morgan Cathey (2005):** Playing for Ajax Cape Town in South African Premier League
- **Jake Ward (2002):** Former member of the MISL San Diego Sockers
- **Matt Evans (2001):** Former member of PSL champion Utah Blitzz
- **PJ Brown (1998):** Drafted by MLS Colorado Rapids 1998, former A-League player in San Diego.
- **Carlos Ochoa (1997):** Member of the Mexican National Team and Chivas Guatalajara

ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS: Scholarships are awarded by the coaching staff and given to those players who are able to play at a high level and can have immediate impact in the team.

APU ACCEPTANCE STANDARDS (for class of 2009)

- 910 SAT or 19 on the ACT
- 2.8 GPA
- If one of the above standards are not met, APU may look at class rank

Note: The acceptance standards at APU change from year to year so these scores are subject to change. In some cases, APU will accept players who fall below APU acceptance standards but still meet the NAIA minimums.

NAIA STANDARDS FOR ELIGIBILITY

IMPORTANT: In order to be eligible, according to NAIA rules, **you must meet two of the following three requirements.**

1. 860 on SAT or 18 on ACT (**Note:** Scores must be made in one sitting—test scores cannot be combined from two separate tests; SAT 860 score is from Verbal and Math sections only)
2. 2.0 GPA in high school
3. Class rank in the top half of graduating class

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS/ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

For general information on the school, visit our website: www.apu.edu

For specific information on academic scholarships visit:
www.apu.edu/sfs/undergrad/institutionalaid/apuscholarships/

For information on the admissions process including an online application visit:
www.apu.edu/apply/dom/ugrad

THE RECRUITING PROCESS

We are committed to finding top-level players who also fit into the environment of Azusa Pacific University. The team is chosen through the recruiting process as opposed to pre-season open tryouts. Therefore, it is important for interested players to understand the following process:

1. **High School Elite Camp:** Open to all players who are entering 10th grade to 12th grade. This camp is designed to give high school players the first hand experience of what it means to play at the collegiate level. Club and college coaches from southern California will direct the players in this high level environment and try to give the players a taste of competition at the next level. This camp serves as the primary way we evaluate players to identify if they are a good fit for the program at Azusa Pacific University. For more information can be found under the **camps** tab on our website.
2. If you are unable to attend our camp, we need to get to know you as a player and there are three initial ways this is done:
 - Email your player profile
 - Send us a game/highlight DVD. **Make sure to clearly identify your jersey color and number**

Mail to: *Azusa Pacific University*
 Attn: Men's Soccer
 901 E. Alostia Ave.
 Azusa, CA 91702.

 - Email your game schedule if you play club soccer, or will be attending a tournament, in Southern California. We actively recruit many of the club tournaments including Nomads, Temecula, Surf Cup and Cal South National Cup.
3. You need to get to know us as a program. If possible, plan to see us play a game in order to get a first hand look at the level of play, the team's style, and the

atmosphere surrounding a game. More insight into our program can be found under the **stories** tab on our website

4. **Visits:** After you have been identified as a potential recruit, the coaching staff at Azusa Pacific can set up a time for you to come and train with the team. According to NAIA rules, we are allowed to have recruits come in and train with our team with the coaching staff present. This is a great benefit that allows both the player and the coach to make a proper evaluation. Players are allowed to train with us at anytime during their high school careers so juniors are welcome. This visit does not count against your NCAA official visits. If you are interested in coming for a visit please contact us.