

2005 Releases

May 16, 2006

37 HONORED AS BIG WEST SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

IRVINE, Calif. --- Thirty-seven student-athletes from the cross country and track and field programs were recognized as 2005-06 Big West Conference Scholar-Athletes during the department's annual banquet Monday night at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

A total of 152 UCI student-athletes earned the award this year. The cross country honorees are Russell Bush, Samantha Costantini, Adrian Doty, Elaine Gillespie, Amber Gordon, Matt Grilli, Sky Johnston, Erinn Kim, Jennifer Lewis, George Morris, Nick Mosey, John Peate, Candice Proctor, Jamie Schwab, Greg Thompson, Kelli Vanderburg and Rusty Whisman.

The track and field honorees are Mike Beerer, Michael Cao, Lauren Collins, Ian Connell, Aaron Corbett, Taylor Cusick, Tracy Dantema, Lorraine Dawkins, Ryan Hershey, Storm Huie, Kym Kroh, Fred Lee, Jenny Lee, Aaron McAllister, Brian Moon, John Kluve, David Santos, Kristen Silverman, Danielle St. John and Sharitie Williams.

Requirements for the award include maintaining a minimum 3.0 grade-point average (GPA) over three quarters or a 3.2 GPA over two quarters for freshmen and transfers. Student-athletes must also earn letters in their respective sports. The Scholar-Athlete Award was implemented by the Big West Conference to honor those student-athletes that have maintained a high level of scholastic excellence while participating in intercollegiate athletics. UCI expanded the award to include teams that do not participate in Big West-sponsored sports.

December 15, 2005

9 UCI CROSS COUNTRY ATHLETES NAMED BIG WEST ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE

IRVINE, Calif. --- Nine UC Irvine cross country student-athletes have been named to the Big West Academic All-Conference team for fall sports.

From the women's team, Erinn Kim, Jennifer Lewis, Candice Proctor and Kelli Vanderburg were honored. On the men's side, Dan Driscoll, Matt Grilli, Sky Johnston, George Morris and Greg Thompson received recognition.

To be eligible for the All-Academic team, student-athletes have to maintain a 3.2 cumulative grade-point average, complete one full academic year at the institution prior to the season for which the award was received (at least a sophomore academically) and compete in at least 50 percent of their team's meets.

UCI had a total of 14 student-athletes on the All-Academic team that included 95 honorees from the eight member institutions.

November 12, 2005

UC IRVINE WOMEN PLACE 9TH, MEN'S TEAM 15TH AT NCAA WEST REGIONAL

STANFORD, Calif. --- The UC Irvine women's cross country team finished ninth in the NCAA West Regional at the Stanford University Golf Course Saturday.

The host Cardinal won the meet with 24 points, Arizona State was second with 48 and Washington finished third with 117. UCI totaled 310 points, one ahead of Long Beach State.

Stanford's Arianna Lambie was the individual champion with a time of 19:29.3 over the 6,000-meter course.

UCI senior Amber Steen finished 26th with a time of 21:13.4, redshirt freshman Laura Olvera was 42nd (21:33.8), sophomore Marie Nguyen placed 62nd (21:54.5) and sophomore Candice Proctor 77th (22:16.3). Sophomore Erinn Kim finished 111th (22:50.7), senior Kelli Vanderburg was 117th (22:58.0) and freshman Samantha Costantini was 132nd in 23:16.6.

Arizona, with four runners in the top six spots, won the men's competition with 33 points, Stanford was second with 80 and Arizona State third with 100. UCI placed 15th with 473 points. Robert Cheseret of Arizona was the individual champion with a time of 30:03.3 over 10,000 meters.

UCI freshman Nick Mosey was 74th (32:07.4), freshman Sky Johnston was 91st (32:53.1), sophomore Russell Bush finished 103rd (33:10.6) and sophomore George Morris was 105th (33:20.2). Junior Matt Grilli placed 110th in 33:31.2, freshman Rusty Whisman was 121st (33:44.5) and sophomore Adrian Doty was 133rd (34:15.2).

November 7, 2005

ANTEATER TEAMS COMPETE AT NCAA WEST REGIONAL SATURDAY

REGIONAL AT STANFORD: The UC Irvine men's and women's cross country teams compete in the NCAA West Regional at the Stanford University Golf Course Saturday (Nov. 12).

The men's 10,000-meter race begins at 11:00 a.m. with the women's 6,000-meter competition at 12:15 p.m. The top two teams at the regional receive automatic berths into the NCAA Championships at Terre Haute, Ind., Nov. 21.

UCI SWEEPS BIG WEST WOMEN'S AWARDS: UC Irvine swept the 2005 Big West Conference women's cross country awards announced by the league office Nov. 3.

Senior Amber Steen (Newport Harbor HS/Univ. of Arizona) was named Big West Athlete of the Year, redshirt freshman Laura Olvera (Whittier HS) was selected Freshman of the Year and Vince O'Boyle was named Coach of the Year.

Steen, in her first season at UCI after transferring from Arizona, won the individual title at last Saturday's Big West Championships with a time of 20:55.5 over the 6,000-meter course at UC Riverside to lead the Anteaters to the team title for the 12th time since 1983.

Olvera finished second at the Big West Championships with a time of 21:00.3 and has finished in the top three at three of the five races she has competed in this fall.

O'Boyle, in his 24th year at UCI, received the 20th Big West Coach of the Year award in his career. He has earned the award 12 times in women's cross country, seven occasions in men's cross country and once in women's track and field.

12TH TITLE FOR UCI WOMEN: The UCI women's team, placing five runners in the top 11 spots, won the title of the Big West Conference Championships at Riverside Oct. 29. The Anteater men's team placed fifth.

November 3, 2005

UC IRVINE SWEEPS BIG WEST CONFERENCE WOMEN'S AWARDS

IRVINE, Calif. --- UC Irvine swept the 2005 Big West Conference women's cross country awards announced by the league office Thursday.

Senior Amber Steen (Newport Harbor HS/Univ. of Arizona) was named Big West Athlete of the Year, redshirt freshman Laura Olvera (Whittier HS) was selected Freshman of the Year and Vince O'Boyle was named Coach of the Year.

Steen, in her first season at UCI after transferring from Arizona, won the individual title at last Saturday's Big West Championships with a time of 20:55.5 over the 6,000-meter course at UC Riverside to lead the Anteaters to the team title for the 12th time since 1983.

Olvera finished second at the Big West Championships with a time of 21:00.3 and has finished in the top three at three of the five races she has competed in this fall.

O'Boyle, in his 24th year at UCI, received the 20th Big West Coach of the Year award in his career. He has earned the award 12 times in women's cross country, seven occasions in men's cross country and once in women's track and field.

"It's great to see Amber return to Orange County and run well, and it has been a pleasure coaching her," O'Boyle said. "She has tremendous talent but unfortunately, had some injuries that set her back while at Arizona. Here, she is starting to find herself again and it has been great to watch her gain the confidence back in her running ability. For her to receive this honor from the other coaches in the conference shows that they also notice her talent.

"This has been a great season for Laura from a young woman that has been developing over her last year here. With her redshirt year, she learned a great deal about herself and running, and it proves that good hard work and dedication can pay off. She has been consistent all year long and has dedicated herself to running at the next level.

"As far as the coach's award, that's an honor earned by the young women and the staff," said O'Boyle. "It's all encompassing as a team effort, not one person. Again, the young women worked hard during the summer and they set goals that they reached. It's extremely rewarding and emotional at the same time for me."

The Anteater men's and women's cross country teams compete in the NCAA West Regional at Stanford Nov. 12.

November 2, 2005

UC IRVINE WOMEN'S TEAM RANKED 7TH IN REGION

IRVINE, Calif. --- The UC Irvine women's cross country team, coming off winning the Big West Conference title last Saturday, moved up two spots to seventh in the latest Region 8 ranking by the Women's Intercollegiate Cross Country Coaches Association.

The Anteater men's and women's teams compete in the NCAA West Regional at Stanford Nov. 12.

October 29, 2005

UC IRVINE WOMEN'S TEAM WINS BIG WEST TITLE; STEEN, OLVERA FINISH 1-2

RIVERSIDE, Calif. --- The UC Irvine women's cross country team, placing five runners in the top 11 spots, won the title of the Big West Conference Championships at Riverside Saturday.

The championship was the 12th overall for the program and the first since 1999. Coach Vince O'Boyle's Anteaters finished with 29 points, two-time defending champion UC Santa Barbara was second with 66 and Long Beach State third with 75.

UCI senior Amber Steen finished first with a time of 20:55.5 over 6,000 meters at the UCR Agricultural Operations course. Redshirt freshman Laura Olvera placed second in 21:00.3, sophomore Marie Nguyen was sixth in 21:26.1, senior Kelli Vanderburg finished ninth in 21:34.2 and sophomore Candice Proctor was 11th in 21:47.5. Sophomore Erinn Kim placed 17th (22:01.9) and freshman Samantha Costantini was 30th (22:42.6) to round out the Anteaters' top seven.

"We had a race plan that was set and the women followed it perfectly," O'Boyle said. "I wanted them to be patient and that's exactly what they did. When Amber and Laura moved in on the leaders about 2,000 meters out, the others knew it was time to go as well.

"This is a relatively young team that has been very easy to work with all year. It is nice to see Amber Steen getting back in the fold and a year ago who could have predicted Laura Olvera would run this well all year.

"Having five in the top 11 is tremendous. Marie Nguyen was solid and it was great to see a senior like Kelli Vanderburg, who came back for her senior year of cross country, make all-conference," O'Boyle added. "I wish Candice Proctor could have cracked the top 10 to make all-conference and Erinn Kim ran a strong race.

"The team set a goal back in June and I am extremely happy for them as they have worked very hard for this day."

Cal Poly won its third consecutive men's title with 24 points, UC Santa Barbara was second with 38, Long Beach State third with 89, UC Riverside fourth with 129 and UCI was fifth with 140.

Chris Ashley of UCSB was the individual champion with a time of 23:51.7 over 8,000 meters. UCI freshman Nick Mosey finished 23rd in 24:52.2, sophomore Adrian Doty was 31st in 25:15.4 and freshman Sky Johnston 32nd in 25:30.0.

Sophomores George Morris (25:38.5), Russell Bush (25:43.2) and Tim Hearst (25:49.0) placed 36th, 37th and 38th, respectively, while freshman Rusty Whisman finished 40th in 26:11.8 to complete UCI's top seven runners.

Both Anteater teams will compete in the NCAA West Regional at Stanford Nov. 12.

October 24, 2005

ANTEATERS COMPETE AT BIG WEST CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS SATURDAY

CONFERENCE MEET IN RIVERSIDE: The UC Irvine cross country teams compete in the Big West Conference Cross Country Championships at Riverside Saturday (Oct. 29).

The men's 8,000-meter race begins at 8:00 a.m. with the women's 6,000 meters at 9:00 a.m. at the UCR Agricultural Operations Course.

HERE ARE UCI'S LINEUPS FOR SATURDAY (with last year's conference finish if applicable):

MEN

Russell Bush (So., 61st, 26:42.1)
Adrian Doty (So.)
Matt Grilli (Jr., 59th, 26:28.2)
Tim Hearst (So., 20th, 25:05.7)
Sky Johnston (Fr.)
George Morris (So.)
Nick Mosey (Fr.)
John Peate (Fr.)
Rusty Whisman (Fr.)

WOMEN

Kendall Bruton (Fr.)
Samantha Costantini (Fr.)
Amber Gordon (So., 64th, 23:16.2)
Erinn Kim (So., 50th, 22:46.7)
Marie Nguyen (So., 21st, 21:49.1)
Laura Olvera (Fr.)
Candice Proctor (So., 33rd, 22:04.4)
Amber Steen (Sr.)
Kelli Vanderburg (Sr., 40th, 22:19.8)

The Anteater men's team finished fourth and the women's team was fifth at last year's league meet.

UCI head coach Vince O'Boyle, in his 24th season, offers these observations on the 2005 Big West meet:

"On the men's side, defending champion Cal Poly is the heavy favorite entering the meet with UC Santa Barbara, Long Beach State, Cal State Fullerton and us battling for the next four spots.

"As far as the women's race, I would have to say that UC Santa Barbara is the pre-meet favorite based on how their season has gone, but I feel it will be a close race between them, Long Beach State and ourselves."

The Anteater men's program has won nine Big West titles since 1977 and the women have captured 11 league championships since 1983.

October 21, 2005

UCI WOMEN'S TEAM FINISHES 6TH AT TITAN INVITATIONAL

FULLERTON, Calif. --- With the top runners idle from competition this week in preparation for the Big West Conference Championships at UC Riverside next week, UC Irvine did manage to field a women's team at the Titan Invitational on the Cal State Fullerton campus Friday.

UCI finished sixth with 132 points as the Cal Coast Track Club won the title with 27.

Ceci St. Geme of Cal Coast won the 5,000-meter race in 16:47. Elaine Gillespie of UCI placed 28th in 19:14 and teammate Jenny Lewis followed in 29th in 19:15. Lauren Morten was 39th (19:35), Jamie Schwab 46th (19:49) and Lauren Jerd 50th (20:04).

Four Anteater men also competed in the meet. Bryan Lopez finished 35th with a time of 26:12 over the 8,000-meter course. Pete Smith was 49th (26:37), Brian Brierly 50th (26:38) and Greg Thompson placed 57th in 27:02.

October 17, 2005

ANTEATERS PREPARE FOR BIG WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS OCT. 29

BIG WEST MEET NEXT: UC Irvine's top runners will be idle from competition this week in preparation for the Big West Conference Championships at UC Riverside Oct. 29.

UCI will have some representation at the Cal State Fullerton Invitational this Friday (Oct. 21).

ANTEATER WOMEN WIN CAL POLY INVITATIONAL: The UCI women's team won the title of the Cal Poly Invitational Saturday at the Fairbanks Memorial Course in San Luis Obispo. UCI finished with a total of 46 points and Loyola Marymount was second with 63 in the 12-team field.

The Anteater men's team finished third with 71 points as Cal Poly won the title with 21 and UC Santa Barbara placed second with 45.

October 15, 2005

UC IRVINE WOMEN'S TEAM WINS CAL POLY INVITATIONAL

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. --- The UC Irvine women's cross country team won the title of the Cal Poly Invitational Saturday at the Fairbanks Memorial Course in San Luis Obispo.

UCI finished with a total of 46 points and Loyola Marymount was second with 63 in the 12-team field.

Anteater redshirt freshman Laura Olvera was the top collegiate finisher as she placed third overall with a time of 17:53.8 over 5,000 meters. Senior Amber Steen followed in fourth at 17:58.1, Marie Nguyen finished 15th (18:21.9), Erinn Kim was 17th (18:37.4), Candice Proctor placed 18th (18:41.1), Kelli Vanderburg was 20th (18:56.6) and Kendall Bruton was 28th in 19:09.0 to complete UCI's top seven.

Stephanie Rothstein, competing unattached, was the individual winner in 17:22.6.

The Anteater men's team finished third with 71 points as Cal Poly won the title with 21 and UC Santa Barbara placed second with 45.

UCI freshman Nick Mosey finished ninth overall with a time of 26:50.9 over the 8,000-meter course. Sky Johnston placed 20th in 27:24.0, George Morris was 21st (27:24.4), Russell Bush finished 25th (27:37.8), Adrian Doty was 27th (27:47.0), John Peate was 34th (28:05.3), and Dan Driscoll was 41st (28:34.6) to round out the Anteaters' top seven.

Ben Bruce of Asics was the individual winner with a time of 25:42.2.

October 10, 2005

ANTEATERS COMPETE AT CAL POLY INVITATIONAL

ANTEATERS TRAVEL TO SLO: The UC Irvine cross country teams compete in the Cal Poly Invitational in San Luis Obispo Saturday (Oct. 15).

The women's 5,000-meter race begins at 9:00 a.m. with the men's 8,000 meters at 9:30 a.m. The meet is being conducted on the Fairbanks Memorial Cross Country Course at Cuesta College.

October 8, 2005

UC IRVINE MEN'S "B" TEAM FINISHES 7TH AT UCSD TRITON CLASSIC; WOMEN'S SQUAD PLACES 8TH

LA JOLLA, Calif. --- With the regulars taking the week off from competition, the UC Irvine men's cross country "B" team finished seventh in the UC San Diego Triton Classic Saturday.

The Mizuno San Diego club team won the 19-team meet with 55 points and UC San Diego was second with 70. UCI totaled 175 points led by John Peate, who finished 34th in 27:08.8 over the 8,000-meter course. Ricky Barnes, running unattached, won the individual title with a time of 25:25.4.

UCI's Bryan Lopez was 37th (27:21.0), Pete Smith finished 40th (27:30.3), Greg Thompson was 42nd (27:34.8) and Dan Driscoll placed 63rd in 28:00.5.

UC San Diego won the women's team title with 39 points followed by Indiana University-Purdue with 61. The UCI "B" team finished eighth with 194 points.

Mimi Hodgins of UCSD won the individual race with a time of 21:53.5 over 6,000 meters. UCI's Elaine Gillespie was 37th in 24:20.8, Jenny Lewis placed 42nd (24:25.9), Lauren Jerd was 45th (24:29.3), Lauren Morten finished 59th (24:46.2) and Jamie Schwab was 113th in 26:28.6.

UCI's top runners return to action in the Cal Poly Invitational at San Luis Obispo Saturday.



October 6, 2005

UC IRVINE'S AMBER STEEN NAMED BIG WEST CO-ATHLETE OF WEEK

IRVINE, Calif. --- UC Irvine senior Amber Steen has been named the Big West Conference co-Athlete of the Week in women's cross country following her performance in Oregon last Saturday.

Steen, a transfer from Arizona and a former Newport Harbor High standout, finished 13th of 138 runners with a time of 17:36.90 over 5,000 meters in the 31st annual Charles Bowles Invitational at Willamette University in Salem, Ore. Her finish led the Anteaters to a fourth-place showing in the 15-team field.

Steen shared this week's honor with Liz Camy of Cal State

Northridge.

October 3, 2005

ANTEATERS COMPETE AT TRITON CLASSIC SATURDAY

UCI SET FOR MEET AT UC SAN DIEGO: The UC Irvine cross country teams compete in the Triton Classic Invitational at UC San Diego Saturday (Oct. 8). The women's 6,000-meter race begins at 8:30 a.m. with the men's 8,000 meters at 9:30 a.m.

October 1, 2005

UCI WOMEN'S TEAM FINISHES 4TH AT CHARLES BOWLES INVITATIONAL; ANTEATER MEN PLACE 6TH

SALEM, Ore. --- The UC Irvine women's team finished fourth of 15 teams in the 31st annual Charles Bowles Invitational hosted by Willamette University in Salem, Ore., Saturday.

Washington won the title with 55 points, Oregon was second with 58 and Iowa third with 112. The Anteaters, led by senior Amber Steen and redshirt freshman Laura Olvera, scored 115 points.

Steen finished 13th of 138 runners with a time of 17:36.90 over the 5,000-meter course. Olvera was 16th in 17:38.50, Candice Proctor placed 22nd in 17:49.15, Marie Nguyen was 29th (18:09.40), Erinn Kim finished 35th (18:14.65), Kelli Vanderburg was 56th (18:37.65) and Samantha Costantini 60th in 18:40.10. Dee Olson of Idaho was the individual champion with a time of 17:01.50.

In the men's competition, UCI finished sixth with 191 points as Portland captured the title with 36 in the 11-school field.

UCI freshman Nick Mosey finished 33rd with a time of 24:46.20 over 8,000 meters. Sky Johnston placed 42nd in 24:57.10, Adrian Doty was 51st (25:15.40), George Morris 54th (25:19.40), Russell Bush 69th in 25:57.40, Matt Grilli was 76th (26:21.00) and Rusty Whisman finished 81st in 26:32.00. Mark Mandi of Washington won the race in 23:44.70.

The Anteater teams compete in the UC San Diego Invitational at La Jolla Saturday.

October 1, 2005

ANTEATER WOMEN'S SQUAD FINISHES 3RD AT UC RIVERSIDE MEET

RIVERSIDE, Calif. --- UCI also sent a women's team to the UC Riverside Invitational Saturday and the Anteaters finished third with 119 points as the Cal Coast Track Club won the meet with 31 points and Long Beach State was second with 35.

UCI's Jenny Lewis finished 18th in 19:17.60 over the 5,000-meter course. Lauren Morton was 24th (19:29.70), Elaine Gillespie was 26th (19:35.10) and Megan Fairley 33rd (19:47.80).

In the men's 8,000-meter race, UCI's Pete Smith finished 34th in 27:04.80, Bryan Lopez was 37th (27:06.50), John Peate 46th (27:38.30) and Brian Brierly 62nd (27:58.80)..

September 26, 2005

ANTEATERS COMPETE IN OREGON SATURDAY

UCI JOURNEYS TO SALEM: The UC Irvine cross country teams compete in the 31st annual Charles Bowles Invitational this Saturday (Oct. 1) at Salem, Ore. The meet is hosted by Willamette University at McCulloch Stadium and Bush Park.

The men's 8,000-meter race begins at 9:30 a.m. with the women's 5,000 meters at 10:10 a.m.

Last Saturday, the UCI women finished sixth and the men's squad was 12th in the Stanford Invitational.

September 24, 2005

UC IRVINE WOMEN'S TEAM FINISHES 6TH AT STANFORD INVITATIONAL; MEN'S SQUAD PLACES 12TH

STANFORD, Calif. --- The UC Irvine women's cross country team turned in a strong performance at the 32nd annual Stanford University Invitational as the Anteaters finished sixth of 32 teams at the Stanford Golf Course Saturday.

The host Cardinal won the title with 31 points and Chico State was second with 136. UCI finished with a total of 198 points.

Stanford's Arianna Lambie won the 6,000-meter race with a time of 21:15. UCI redshirt freshman Laura Olvera placed 19th of 227 runners in 22:23, Marie Nguyen was 27th in 22:33 and Candice Proctor finished 39th in 22:48. Amber Steen was 60th (23:18), Kelli Vanderburg placed 68th (23:27), Erinn Kim was 81st in 23:39 and Kendall Bruton was 89th (23:44) to complete the Anteaters' top seven.

UCI's men's squad finished 12th with 283 points as Stanford won the meet with 50. Liberty's Josh McDougal and Jordan McDougal finished 1-2 with times of 23:24 and 23:46, respectively, over 8,000 meters.

Freshman Nick Mosey led the Anteaters with a 50th-place finish of 25:08, Sky Johnston was 78th in 25:42 and Rusty Whisman finished 84th in 25:48. Adrian Doty placed 89th (25:53), Russell Bush was 93rd (25:56), George Morris finished 100th (26:01) and Matt Grilli was 117th in 26:11 to round out UCI's top seven.

Both Anteater teams compete in the Willamette Invitational at Salem, Ore., Saturday.

September 19, 2005

ANTEATERS COMPETE AT STANFORD INVITATIONAL SATURDAY

AT STANFORD SATURDAY: The UC Irvine cross country teams return to competition Saturday (Sept. 24) in the 32nd annual Stanford University Invitational at the Stanford Golf Course. The women's 6,000-meter race begins at 5:15 p.m. with the men's 8,000 meters at 5:45 p.m. UCI trained at Mammoth this past week after opening the season in its own invitational Sept. 10. Redshirt freshman Laura Olvera was named the Big West Conference Athlete of the Week following her third-place finish in the UCI Invitational.



September 14, 2005

UC IRVINE'S LAURA OLVERA NAMED BIG WEST ATHLETE OF WEEK

IRVINE, Calif. --- UC Irvine redshirt freshman Laura Olvera (Whittier HS) has been named the Big West Conference Athlete of the Week in women's cross country.

Olvera finished third among 179 collegiate runners in the UCI Invitational at Central Park in Huntington Beach last Saturday to lead the Anteaters to a second-place finish in the 17-team field.

Her time of 18:38.7 over 5,000 meters was nearly two minutes faster than she ran on the course a year ago when she competed unattached.

UCI, which is training at Mammoth this week, returns to action at the Stanford Invitational Sept. 24.

September 12, 2005

ANTEATER TEAMS TRAINING AT MAMMOTH

IRVINE, Calif. --- The UC Irvine cross country teams are training at Mammoth this week before returning to competition at the Stanford University Invitational Sept. 24.

September 10, 2005

ANTEATER WOMEN'S TEAM FINISHES 2ND, MEN'S SQUAD 4TH AT UCI INVITATIONAL

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. --- The UC Irvine women's cross country team finished second of 17 teams and the men's squad was fourth in a 12-school field in the UCI Invitational at Central Park in Huntington Beach Saturday morning.

Chico State won the women's team title with 48 points, followed by UCI with 78 and Long Beach State with 95. Katie Lee of Chico State won the 5,000-meter race in 17:59.1.

UCI redshirt freshman Laura Olvera was third in 18:38.7 and senior Amber Steen placed 13th in 18:54.5. The Anteaters' Candice Proctor was 15th (18:55.6), Marie Nguyen was 17th (18:57.4), Erinn Kim finished 30th (19:22.7), Kelli Vanderburg was 42nd in 19:48.9 and Samantha Costantini placed 44th in 19:52.1 to complete UCI's top seven runners.

Chico State also captured the men's team championship with 18 points, Long Beach State was second with 63, UC Santa Barbara third with 104 and UCI finished fourth with 119 points.

Scotty Bauhs of Chico State won the 7,000-meter race in 22:14.7. UCI freshman Nick Mosey finished 16th in 23:19.7, Adrian Doty was 23rd (23:33.8), Sky Johnston 24th (23:33.9) and Rusty Whisman 25th (23:38.1). Tim Hearst finished 32nd in 23:46.1, George Morris was 43rd (24:11.4) and Matt Grilli was 44th (24:14.1) to round out the Anteaters' top seven.

When combining the times for the collegiate and open runners, former UCI standout Kim Ramirez, competing for the See Jane Run Track Club, placed second overall in the women's 5,000 meters with a time of 18:23.1.

Both UCI teams will train at Mammoth for a week before returning to competition in the Stanford Invitational Sept. 24.

September 6, 2005

ANTEATERS HOST UCI INVITATIONAL SATURDAY

UCI HOSTS INVITATIONAL SATURDAY: The UC Irvine cross country teams open the 2005 season hosting the UCI Invitational at Central Park in Huntington Beach this Saturday (Sept. 10). The women's 5,000-meter race begins at 9:00 a.m. followed by the men's 8,000 meters at 9:45 a.m.

RESULTS: Final results of both races will be posted on this site, hopefully around noon Saturday, as well as at <http://www.flashresults.com/flashwest/>

HEAD COACH VINCE O'BOYLE: Vince O'Boyle is in his 24th year as head coach of the Anteater cross country teams. He has been named Big West Conference Coach of the Year 18 times in cross country and once in women's track and field. He is assisted in cross country by former Anteater standout Kim Ramirez, who finished sixth at last year's Big West Conference Championships.

LAST YEAR: The UCI men's squad finished fourth and the women's team fifth in the Big West Conference Championships last year in Riverside. Both teams went on to place 11th in the NCAA West Regional at Fresno.

The top two performers from the Anteater men's team at last year's conference meet are expected to redshirt this season. Ricky Barnes (fifth at the '04 Big West meet) and Tom Whelan (17th) each have one year of eligibility remaining.

Other top returnees on the men's side scheduled to compete this season include sophomore Tim Hearst (20th at the '04 Big West meet), senior John Kluve (45th), senior Silvestre Uribe (55th), junior Matt Grilli (59th) and sophomore Russell Bush (61st).

"The Big West Conference has improved tremendously the past several years, especially since Cal Poly not only won the last couple of conference championships, but placed in the NCAA championships as well," O'Boyle said.

"This has resulted in the rest of the conference stepping up their distance programs, and rising to the challenge. We are no exception.

"Our men's team will be very good, and they have worked very hard over the summer. Sky Johnston, who redshirted last cross country season, had an outstanding track season with lifetime bests in both the 800 and the 1500 meters, and he qualified for the conference track and field championships.

"Adrian Doty (sophomore) also ran lifetime bests in the 800 and 1500 and will be returning as well. Matt Grilli ran his lifetime best last track season and qualified for the conference championships in the steeplechase.

"With the improvement of the returning athletes, the summer training that they have put in, and the addition of freshmen Rusty Whisman (Crescenta Valley HS), Nick Mosey (Servite HS) and Solomon Seleshi-Tesfaye (Los Osos HS), who have all had outstanding high school careers, this team has the potential to place in the top three in the conference this season," O'Boyle added.

Sophomore Marie Nguyen leads the veterans on the women's team after she placed 21st at the 2004 Big West Conference Championships. Sophomore Candice Proctor finished 33rd, senior Kelli Vanderburg was 40th, sophomore Megan Fairley 45th, sophomore Elaine Gillespie 47th, sophomore Erinn Kim 50th and sophomore Amber Gordon 64th.

"This is a very young and talented women's team," O'Boyle said. "Last year we had six freshmen in the Big West Cross Country Championships, The six returning athletes who had lifetime bests in track are: Candice Proctor in the 1500 and the 5000, Megan Fairley in the 1500 and the 5000, Laura Olvera in the 800 and the 5000, Erinn Kim in the 5000, Elaine Gillespie in the 800 and the 1500, and Marie Nguyen in the 1500 and 5,000 meters. This group of talented women ran consistently all year, and showed great improvement.

"With the addition of transfer student, Amber Steen (Sr., Newport Harbor HS & Univ. of Ariz.), and freshman Samantha Costantini (Mater Dei HS), this team could be a big surprise in the Big West Conference Championships.

"Amber Steen, coming home from three years at the University of Arizona, was 34th at the NCAA West Regional Cross Country Championships last year, and ran a lifetime best in the 1500 meters. She will help the team greatly with her running talent and leadership qualities.

"Samantha Costantini led her Mater Dei team to the CIF Championship, (Southern Section) and her team placed second in the state meet, with Samantha placing eighth. In track, she ran lifetime bests in both the 800 and the 1600 meters. Samantha is also an additional asset to our team," said O'Boyle.

"This team, despite being young, has gained some great experience since last year, and could have an outstanding season as well."