

## **2006 Releases**

**November 20, 2006**

### **LAURA OLVERA FINISHES 83RD AT NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**TERRE HAUTE, Ind.** - UC Irvine sophomore Laura Olvera (Whittier HS) finished 83rd out of 253 runners in the NCAA Championships Monday in Terre Haute. Olvera finished in a time of 21:57.4 on the 6K LaVern Gibson Championship Course at the Wabash Valley Family Sports Center. Olvera's finish is the highest finish for an Anteater since the 1999 season when Christy Villa earned All-American honors with a 29th place finish at the NCAA Championships.

**November 15, 2006**

### **UCI'S OLVERA, MICKELSON NAMED TO ALL-WEST REGION TEAM**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- UC Irvine's Laura Olvera and Sara Mickelson have been named to the All-West Region team selected by the NCAA Division I Cross Country Coaches Association.

Olvera, a sophomore, finished third at the NCAA West Regional to advance to the NCAA Championships in Terre Haute, Ind., Monday (Nov. 20). She was second at the Big West Conference Championships in San Luis Obispo Oct. 28.

Mickelson, a junior transfer from Loyola Marymount, was third at the Big West meet and 17th at the NCAA West Regional.

**November 13, 2006**

### **LAURA OLVERA COMPETES AT NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS MONDAY**

**Irvine, Calif.** --- UC Irvine sophomore Laura Olvera (Whittier HS) finished third in the NCAA West Regional Championships last weekend to qualify as an individual for the NCAA Championships at Terre Haute, Ind., next Monday (Nov. 20).

Olvera finished with a time of 21:16.20 over 6,000 meters at Blue Lake Park in Gresham, Ore., this past Saturday. She is the first UCI runner to advance to the NCAA Championships since Kareen Nilsson competed at the nationals in 2000.

The NCAA race will be competed on the Lavern Gibson Championship Course at the Wabash Valley Family Sports Center in Terre Haute. The 6,000-meter race is scheduled to begin at 12:00 p.m. (EST).

Olvera has been the Big West Conference runner-up the past two seasons.

**November 11, 2006**

## **LAURA OLVERA FINISHES THIRD AT NCAA WEST REGIONAL TO QUALIFY FOR NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS; UCI WOMEN PLACE 8TH; MEN 13TH**

Gresham, Oregon -- Sophomore Laura Olvera placed third individually to help the UC Irvine women's team to an eighth place finish at the NCAA Cross Country West Regional held at Blue Lake Park in Gresham, Ore. The Anteater men placed 13th overall.

The top-ranked Stanford women's team claimed the West Region title with a team score of 42 points, 30 points ahead of second place UC Santa Barbara (72). The top two teams advance to the NCAA Championships Nov. 20 in Terre Haute, Ind. Stanford junior Arianna Lambie won the individual title for the second consecutive year, covering the six kilometer course in 20:58.85.

The UC Irvine women placed eighth with a team score of 264. Olvera led the Anteater women, finishing third individually in a time of 21:16.20. The top four finishers from each regional that are not on qualifying teams automatically advance to the NCAA finals hosted by Indiana State University. Olvera becomes the first UCI runner to qualify for the NCAAs since 2000 when Karen Nilsson finished 103rd (21:59.5) in Ames, Iowa.

Junior Sara Mickelson placed 17th (21:51.11) and will wait to see if she will receive an at-large bid on Sunday (Nov. 12) when the rest of the NCAA field is set. Junior Marie Nguyen placed 42nd (22:31.18 42), while sophomore Emily Romo was 96th (23:31.35). Sophomore Samantha Costantini finished 114th (23:44.50), junior Megan Fairley was 126th (23:59.33) and junior Erinn Kim placed (24:05.22 127).

The UC Irvine men finished 13th with a team score of 374. The University of Oregon won the team title with 69 points, finishing 19 points ahead of Stanford (88).

Senior Ricky Barnes placed 34th (31:14.87) to lead the Anteaters. Sophomore Nick Mosey followed in 45th place (31:37.07 45) and senior Tom Whelan was 92nd (33:00.63). Sophomore Sky Johnston finished in 101st place (33:13.93), while senior Matt Grilli was 105th (33:17.17), senior John Kluge was 110th (33:29.66) and senior Tim Hearst was 135th (34:22.37).

**November 7, 2006**

### **ANTEATERS COMPETE AT NCAA WEST REGIONAL SATURDAY**

**REGIONAL IN OREGON:** The UC Irvine cross country teams compete in the NCAA West Regional Saturday (Nov. 11) at Blue Lake Park in Gresham, Ore. The women's 6,000-meter race begins at 11:00 a.m. with the men's 10,000 meters at 12:15 p.m.

**PAIR OF THIRDS FOR UCI:** The UC Irvine cross country teams each finished third in the Big West Conference Championships at San Luis Obispo Oct. 28.

Laura Olvera (2nd) and Sara Mickelson (3rd) earned all-conference honors for the women's team while Ricky Barnes (6th) gained the distinction on the men's side.

**October 28, 2006**

### **UCI MEN'S, WOMEN'S TEAMS FINISH 3RD AT BIG WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS; OLVERA, MICKELSON FINISH 2-3 FOR WOMEN'S TEAM, BARNES 6TH FOR MEN'S SQUAD**

**SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. ---** The UC Irvine men's and women's cross country teams each finished third in the Big West Conference Championships at San Luis Obispo Saturday.

UC Santa Barbara placed seven runners in the top 10 to win the women's competition with 26 points, Long Beach State was second with 72 and defending champion UCI placed third with 75 points.

UCSB's Lauren Christman won the individual title with a time 21:07.5 over 6,000 meters at Fairbanks Memorial Course at Cuesta College. UCI sophomore Laura Olvera placed second in 21:23.9 and junior Sara Mickelson was third in 21:30.9 to earn all-conference honors.

Other Anteater finishes included Marie Nguyen in 12th (22:54.5), Emily Romo 29th (23:53.9), Megan Fairley 31st (24:07.5), Samantha Costantini 33rd (24:18.8), Amber Gordon 42nd (24:46.8) and Elaine Gillespie 45th (24:57.9).

Cal Poly won its fourth straight men's title with 29 points, UCSB was second with 33 and UCI third with 106.

Phillip Reid of Cal Poly won the individual title in a time of 25:45.6 over 8,000 meters. UCI senior Ricky Barnes finished sixth in 26:16.1 to gain all-conference distinction.

Nick Mosey of UCI finished 13th in 26:55.1, Sky Johnston was 30th (27:48.3), Matt Grilli 34th (28:03.0), John Kluve 35th (28:11.4), Russell Bush 38th (28:19.1), Tom Whelan 39th (28:20.2), Tim Hearst 41st (28:28.9) and Kareem Barghouti was 50th in 30:05.0.

The UCI teams compete at the NCAA West Regional in Portland, Ore., Nov. 11.

**October 23, 2006**

### **ANTEATERS COMPETE AT BIG WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS SATURDAY**

**CONFERENCE MEET IN SAN LUIS OBISPO:** The UC Irvine cross country teams travel to San Luis Obispo for the Big West Conference Championships Saturday (Oct. 28).

The women's 6,000-meter race begins at 10:00 a.m. with the men's 8,000 meters at 11:00 a.m. at the Fairbanks Memorial Cross Country Course at Cuesta College.

**UCI WOMEN'S TEAM DEFENDS TITLE:** The UCI women's team is the defending league champion, capturing last year's title with 29 points and placing five runners in the top 11 spots. Three of those runners will be competing for UCI this Saturday.

Sophomore Laura Olvera was named the Big West Freshman of the Year last season after she finished runner-up in the league race. Junior Marie Nguyen was sixth and junior Candice Proctor placed 11th a year ago.

Junior Sara Mickelson, a transfer from Loyola Marymount, has joined Olvera as the team's top two runners during the season. Mickelson finished ninth in last year's West Coast Conference Championships while at LMU.

**BARNES LEADS UCI MEN'S SQUAD:** The Anteater men's team finished fifth in 2005 but is expected to move up this season on the strength of senior Ricky Barnes. He sat out last year but has been consistently strong this season, winning the UCI Invitational and placing sixth at the Stanford Invitational and 29th at the Pre-National meet. Barnes finished fifth at the 2004 Big West Championships.

Senior Tom Whelan, who also redshirted last year, placed 17th at the 2004 league meet.

**LAST YEAR:** UCI sophomore Nick Mosey finished 23rd, junior Adrian Doty was 31st and sophomore Sky Johnston was 32nd to form the Anteaters' top three finishers at last year's Big West meet.

**UCI LINEUPS:** Here are the UCI runners scheduled to compete Saturday (with their previous conference finish if applicable):

#### **WOMEN**

Samantha Costantini, So. (30th in '05)  
Megan Fairley, Jr. (redshirt last year; 45th in '04)  
Elaine Gillespie, Jr. (47th in '04)  
Amber Gordon, Jr. (43rd in '05)  
Erinn Kim, Jr. (17th in '05)  
Sara Mickelson, Jr. (transfer from LMU; 9th at '05 WCC Champs.)  
Marie Nguyen, Jr. (6th in '05)  
Laura Olvera, So. (2nd in '05)  
Emily Romo, Fr.

#### **MEN**

Kareem Barghouti, So.  
Ricky Barnes, Sr. (redshirt last year; 5th in '04)  
Russell Bush, Jr. (37th in '05)  
Matt Grilli, Sr. (46th in '05)  
Tim Hearst, Jr. (38th in '05)  
Sky Johnston, Jr. (32nd in '05)  
John Kluve, Sr. (45th in '04)  
Nick Mosey, So. (23rd in '05)  
Tom Whelan, Sr. (redshirt last year; 17th in '04)

**October 20, 2006**

#### **HACKER, MORTEN LEAD UCI AT TITAN INVITATIONAL**

**FULLERTON, Calif.** --- Freshman Colin Hacker led the UC Irvine men's team with an 18th-place finish and sophomore Lauren Morten paced the women's squad with a 29th-place showing in the Titan Invitational at Cal State Fullerton Friday.

Hacker covered the 8,000-meter course in 27:09.0 as Juan Mejia of Cal State San Marcos won the race in 25:49.0. UCI's Rusty Whisman finished 22nd (27:16.0), Bryan Lopez was 32nd (27:43.0), Brian Brierly placed 36th (28:03.0) and George Morris was 44th (28:18.0) to complete the Anteaters' top five.

UC Santa Barbara won the team title with 29 points while UCI finished fourth with 111.

Morten posted a time of 19:10.0 over 5,000 meters as Jenni Johnson of the Cal Coast Track Club won the race in 17:26.0. UCI's Kendall Bruton was 32nd (19:12.0), Jamie Schwab finished 47th (19:38.0), Tracy Dantema placed 59th (20:01.0) and Lauren Chramosta was 61st in 20:02.1.

The Cal Coast Track Club won the meet with 37 points and UCI was eighth with 186.

UCI competes in the Big West Conference Championships at San Luis Obispo Saturday (Oct. 28).

### **October 16, 2006**

#### **UCI COMPETES AT TITAN INVITATIONAL FRIDAY; BIG WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS AT SAN LUIS OBISPO OCT. 28**

**UCI STAYS IN COUNTY THIS WEEK:** The UC Irvine cross country teams will have representatives competing at the Titan Invitational Friday (Oct. 20) on the Cal State Fullerton campus.

The women's 5,000 meters begins at 4:30 p.m. with the men's 8,000 meters at 5:00 p.m.

**BIG WEST MEET NEXT:** The Big West Conference Championships will be contested in San Luis Obispo Oct. 28. The UCI women's team is the defending league champion.

### **October 14, 2006**

#### **UC IRVINE WOMEN'S TEAM FINISHES 19TH AT PRE-NATIONAL MEET; ANTEATER MEN'S SQUAD PLACES 30TH**

**TERRE HAUTE, Ind. ---** The UC Irvine women's cross country team finished 19th in the Pre-National Meet at Terre Haute, Ind., Saturday while the Anteater men's squad finished 30th.

Stanford won the women's competition with 45 points, Minnesota was second with 200 and Arizona State third with 224. UCI totaled 505 points in the 36-team race.

Michelle Sikes of Wake Forest was the individual champion with a time of 20:16.4 over the 6,000-meter course.

UCI sophomore Laura Olvera placed 22nd of 245 runners with a time of 20:42.2 and junior Sara Mickelson was 30th in 20:50.9. Marie Nguyen finished 84th (21:32.8), Erinn Kim was 178th (22:25.1), Samantha Costantini 191st (22:35.9), Amber Gordon was 195th (22:40.1) and Emily Romo finished 220th in 23:07.8.

Colorado captured the men's title with 75 points in the 36-school race, Florida State was second (141) and North Carolina State third (152). UCI scored 719 points for 30th place.

Martin Fagan of Providence was the individual winner with a time of 23:30.3 over 8,000 meters.

UCI senior Ricky Barnes finished 29th in the 243-runner field with a time of 24:11.6 and Sky Johnston was 140th in 25:08.2. Tim Hearst placed 171st (25:22.2), Nick Mosey was 182nd (25:28.3), Tom Whelan 197th (25:39.0), John Kluge 214th (25:51.7) and Matt Grilli finished 232nd in 26:20.1.

Some UCI runners will compete at the Cal State Fullerton Invitational Friday (Oct. 20) with the Big West Conference Championships in San Luis Obispo Oct. 28. The Anteater women's team is the defending league champion.

**October 9, 2006**

### **UCI COMPETES AT PRE-NATIONAL MEET SATURDAY**

**MEET AT INDIANA STATE:** The UC Irvine cross country teams travel to Terre Haute, Ind., for the Pre-National Invitational Saturday (Oct. 14). The races will be conducted at LaVern Gibson Course at the Wabash Valley Family Sports Center just east of Terre Haute.

**October 7, 2006**

### **COSTANTINI, BUSH LEAD UCI AT UCSD TRITON CLASSIC**

**LA JOLLA, Calif.** --- Samantha Costantini was the top performer for the UC Irvine women's cross country team and Russell Bush led the men's squad at the UCSD Triton Classic in La Jolla Saturday.

Costantini finished 14th over the 6,000-meter course with a time of 23:32.5. Elaine Gillespie was 24th (24:01.3), Megan Fairley placed 28th (24:09.4), Lauren Morten 34th (24:28.4) and Kendall Bruton 37th (24:38.8) to round out the Anteaters' top five.

For the UCI men's team, Bush was 23rd in 26:57.6 over 8,000 meters and Kareem Barghouti placed 28th in 27:03.5. Colin Hacker finished 32nd in 27:10.8, Rusty Whisman was 38th (27:29.4) and Adrian Doty was 41st in 27:35.5.

Most of UCI's top runners were idle from competition this week in preparation for the Pre-National Invitational in Terre Haute, Ind., next Saturday.

**October 4, 2006**

### **UC IRVINE'S SARA MICKELSON NAMED BIG WEST ATHLETE OF WEEK**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- UC Irvine junior Sara Mickelson has been named the Big West Conference Athlete of the Week in women's cross country following a strong performance at the Stanford Invitational last Saturday.

Mickelson finished fifth out of 124 runners with a time of 20:34 over 6,000 meters to help the Anteaters to a second-place team finish in the 17-school field. Her time is the fastest in the Big West this season.

She transferred this year to UCI from Loyola Marymount University.

**October 2, 2006**

### **ANTEATERS COMPETE AT TRITON CLASSIC SATURDAY**

**ANTEATERS AT LA JOLLA THIS WEEK:** The UC Irvine cross country teams compete in the Triton Classic Saturday (Oct. 7) at UC San Diego. The men's 8,000-meter race begins at 8:30 a.m. with the women's 6,000 meters at 9:30 a.m. on the UCSD Campus Course.

**September 30, 2006**

### **UC IRVINE WOMEN FINISH 2ND, MEN 5TH AT STANFORD INVITATIONAL**

**STANFORD, Calif. ---** The UC Irvine women's cross country team finished second at the Stanford University Invitational Saturday on the Stanford Golf Course.

Stanford won the meet with 24 points, UCI scored 115 and Harding (Ark.) University was third with 116 in the 17-team field. Arianna Lambie of Stanford was the individual winner with a time of 20:13 over 6,000 meters in a field of 124 runners.

UCI junior Sara Mickelson, a transfer from Loyola Marymount, finished fifth in 20:34, sophomore Laura Olvera was sixth in 20:35 and Marie Nguyen placed 22nd in 21:43. Erinn Kim was 41st (22:18), Amber Gordon finished 48th (22:31), Emily Romo was 51st (22:35), Elaine Gillespie 56th (22:44), Samantha Costantini 60th (22:55) and Megan Fairley 67th (23:00).

The Anteater men's team finished fifth of 19 teams with 127 points. Stanford won the men's competition with 42 points, UC Santa Barbara was second with 56, Chico State third with 79 and California fourth with 113. Stanford's Neftalem Araia was the individual winner with a time of 23:31 over 8,000 meters.

UCI senior Ricky Barnes placed sixth with a time of 23:47 in the field of 222 runners. Tim Hearst was 30th in 24:38, Nick Mosey 32nd in 24:40 and Tom Whelan was 38th in 24:46. John Kluge finished 47th (24:59), Sky Johnston was 69th (25:20), Matt Grilli 91st (25:41), and Russell Bush placed 111th in 25:59.

The UCI teams compete at the UC San Diego Invitational Saturday.

**September 25, 2006**

### **UC IRVINE COMPETES AT STANFORD INVITATIONAL SATURDAY**

**ANTEATERS AT STANFORD SATURDAY:** The UC Irvine cross country teams travel north this week for the Stanford University Invitational Saturday (Sept. 30). The women's 6,000-meter race begins at 5:22 p.m. followed by the men's 8,000-meter competition at 5:48 p.m. at the Stanford Golf Course.

**UCI WOMEN WIN OWN INVITATIONAL:** The UC Irvine cross country teams have been idle from competition after opening their 2006 schedule hosting the UCI Invitational at Central Park in Huntington Beach Sept. 9.

Sophomore Laura Olvera and senior Ricky Barnes were named the Big West Conference Athletes of the Week Sept. 11 after winning the individual titles of the invitational.

The UCI women's team won the title of the invitational as Olvera and Sara Mickelson finished 1-2.

Barnes, coming off a redshirt year, won the men's five-mile race in 24:49.3 while UC Santa Barbara's Mike Chavez was second in 24:51.5. UC Santa Barbara won the men's team title with 37 points, UCI was second with 83 and Cal Poly third at 86 in the 15-team field.

## **September 12, 2006**

### **RICKY BARNES, LAURA OLVERA RECEIVE BIG WEST HONORS**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- UC Irvine's Ricky Barnes and Laura Olvera have been named the Big West Conference Athletes of the Week in men's and women's cross country after they won the individual titles of the UCI Invitational at Central Park in Huntington Beach this past Saturday.

Barnes, a senior coming off a redshirt year, won the men's five-mile race with a time of 24:49.3 in the field of 180 runners. His title helped the Anteaters to a second-place team finish. Barnes was an all-conference runner in 2004 when he finished fifth at the Big West Championships.

Olvera, a sophomore and the 2005 Big West Freshman of the Year, cruised over 5,000 meters with a time of 17:07.7 in the field of 185 runners at Central Park Saturday. Her first-place showing propelled the Anteaters to the team title.

Both UCI teams return to action at the Stanford Invitational Sept. 30.

## **September 11, 2006**

### **BEN CESAR RESIGNS AS ASSOCIATE COACH AT UC IRVINE FOR POST WITH ASICS**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- Ben Cesar, who has been a member of the UC Irvine track and field coaching staff for the past eight years, has announced his resignation to become Marketing Manager for Running Athletes at Asics America Corp.

Cesar joined the Anteater staff as an assistant coach in 1998 and was promoted to associate head coach in 2001. He was a member of the Philippine National Track team from 1993-97 and was that nation's champion in the 100 and 200 meters from 1995-97.

Cesar ran track at UCI from 1991-92 before finishing his career at UCLA (1993-94). He is a 1995 graduate of UCLA with a B.A. degree in environmental studies and geography.

"It is with great sadness that I leave the UC Irvine Track & Field Program," Cesar said. "My decision to pursue a new professional challenge was especially difficult because I am leaving a great group of returning athletes and a talented group of incoming freshmen and JC transfers.

"I would like to thank (head coach) Vince O'Boyle for giving me the opportunity to come back and coach at UC Irvine, and my athletes for allowing me to share with them my knowledge and passion for the sport.

"I am honored to have been a part of the great tradition that is UC Irvine Track & Field, and have every confidence that the success of the program will continue with this year's team and future teams," Cesar added.

### **September 9, 2006**

#### **ANTEATER WOMEN'S TEAM WINS UC IRVINE INVITATIONAL; UCI'S LAURA OLVERA, RICKY BARNES CAPTURE INDIVIDUAL TITLES**

**HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif.** --- Laura Olvera and Sara Mickelson finished 1-2 to lead the UC Irvine women's cross country team to the team title of the UCI Invitational at Central Park in Huntington Beach Saturday.

Olvera, a sophomore, covered the 5,000-meter course in 17:07.7. She was the Big West Conference Freshman of the Year last season. Mickelson, a junior transfer from Loyola Marymount, was the runner-up in 17:31.1 in her inaugural competition with the UCI program.

Junior Marie Nguyen placed ninth in 18:40.4, junior Amber Gordon was 17th (18:52.8), junior Erinn Kim 21st (19:01.5), sophomore Samantha Costantini 23rd (19:07.6) and junior Elaine Gillespie finished 25th in 19:12.5.

CI won the meet with 40 points, UC Santa Barbara was second with 44 and UC San Diego third with 89 in the 18-team field.

UCI senior Ricky Barnes, coming off a redshirt year, won the men's five-mile race in 24:49.3 while UC Santa Barbara's Mike Chavez was second in 24:51.5.

Anteater junior Tim Hearst was 16th in 25:36.9, sophomore Nick Mosey placed 19th in 25:41.7 and senior Tom Whelan finished 23rd in 25:48.5. Junior Sky Johnston was 24th (25:50.3), junior Russell Bush 32nd (26:05.7) and senior John Kluge placed 40th (26:19.1) to complete UCI's top seven.

UC Santa Barbara won the men's team title with 37 points, UCI was second with 83 and Cal Poly third at 86 in the 15-team field.

Both Anteater teams return to action at the Stanford Invitational Sept. 30.

### **September 5, 2006**

## **ANTEATERS HOST UC IRVINE INVITATIONAL SATURDAY**

**SEASON BEGINS AT CENTRAL PARK:** The 2006 season begins Saturday (Sept. 9) with the UC Irvine Cross Country Invitational at Central Park in Huntington Beach. The women's 5,000-meter race begins at 9:00 a.m. with the men's 5-mile competition at 9:45 a.m.

**COACH O'BOYLE:** Vince O'Boyle is in his 25th season as head coach of the Anteater cross country teams. He was named Big West Coach of the Year in 2005 after guiding the UCI women to the Big West Conference title. O'Boyle has been named conference Coach of the Year 20 times (12 in women's cross country, seven in men's cross country and once in women's track and field).

**UCI WOMEN RETURN 7 FROM CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM:** The UCI women's team returns seven of the nine runners who competed on the Anteaters' Big West Conference championship team last year.

Sophomore Laura Olvera was conference runner-up last season when she was named Big West Freshman of the Year. Junior Marie Nguyen placed sixth in the 2005 league meet to earn all-conference honors and junior Candice Proctor was 11th in the Big West meet.

Others returning from that team include junior Erinn Kim (17th at the '05 league meet), sophomore Samantha Costantini (30th), junior Amber Gordon (43rd) and sophomore Kendall Bruton (50th).

The team is also bolstered by the addition of junior Sara Mickelson, a transfer from Loyola Marymount. She finished ninth in the West Coast Conference Cross Country Championships last fall and was a NCAA-regional qualifier in track in the 5,000 meters.

Amber Steen-Moore, who won last year's conference individual title en route to Big West Athlete of the Year recognition, is assisting with the UCI team this season.

**COACH O'BOYLE ON THE UCI WOMEN'S TEAM:** "I feel this veteran team has the potential to repeat as conference champion if everyone had a good summer of training and we develop like we did last year. UC Santa Barbra will be returning a good group of redshirts and Long Beach State is much improved so I feel it will be these three teams who will be competing for the conference championship."

**BARNES, WHELAN LEAD MEN'S TEAM:** The UCI men's team will be led by seniors Ricky Barnes and Tom Whelan, the team's top two runners in 2004 before redshirting last year. Barnes finished fifth in the '04 conference meet and Whelan placed 17th.

The Anteaters finished fifth in the 2005 conference championship. Sophomore Nick Mosey was 23rd in last year's Big West meet, juniors Adrian Doty and Sky Johnston 31st and 32nd, respectively, sophomore George Morris was 36th, junior Russell Bush 37th, junior Tim Hearst 38th, sophomore Rusty Whisman 40th and senior Matt Grilli 46th.

**COACH O'BOYLE ON THE UCI MEN'S TEAM:** "I think this men's team might be the best squad we have had in a long time. They have been working hard over the summer with a group of them training together at Mammoth. Ricky Barnes, Tom Whelan and John Kluve return from a redshirt year to join everyone back from last year's team. I am looking forward to seeing how hard they work and develop to come together."

**August 16, 2006**

**BIG WEST CONFERENCE CROSS COUNTRY PRESEASON POLLS**  
**UCI Women Picked to Finish 2nd, Men's Team Selected 3rd**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- The defending conference champion UC Irvine women's cross country team has been picked to finish second and the Anteater men's squad third in the Big West Conference preseason coaches' polls released today.

UC Santa Barbara was chosen to finish first ahead of the UCI women's squad. The Anteaters return Laura Olvera, last season's Big West Freshman of the Year and conference runner-up, along with all-league performer Marie Nguyen, who placed sixth in last year's Big West meet. Junior Candice Proctor also returns after finishing 11th last year.

Cal Poly was picked to win its fourth straight men's title, followed by UC Santa Barbara and UCI. The Anteaters will be led by seniors Ricky Barnes and Tom Whelan, the team's top two runners in 2004 before redshirting last year. Sophomore Nick Mosey finished 23rd in last year's conference meet.

**2006 BIG WEST CONFERENCE CROSS COUNTRY PRESEASON COACHES' POLLS**

	<b>WOMEN</b>	<b>PTS.</b>		<b>MEN</b>	<b>PTS.</b>
1.	UC Santa Barbara (7)	63	1.	Cal Poly (7)	49
2.	UC Irvine	53	2.	UC Santa Barbara	41
3.	Long Beach State	48	3.	UC Irvine	34
4.	Cal Poly (1)	38	4.	UC Riverside	25
5.	UC Riverside	30	5.	Long Beach State	24
6.	Cal State Fullerton	28	6.	Cal State Fullerton	15
7.	Cal State Northridge	18	7.	Cal State Northridge	8
8.	Pacific	10			

*( ) - First-place votes in parentheses*