

2005-06 Game Recaps

March 10, 2006

LONG BEACH STATE STUNS UC IRVINE WITH LAST-SECOND SHOT

ANAHEIM, Calif. --- Aaron Nixon hit a three-point shot from the left corner as time expired to lift Long Beach State over UC Irvine, 75-73, in a Big West Conference Tournament semifinal game at the Anaheim Convention Center Friday night.

With the win, LBSU advances to Saturday night's championship game against Pacific while the Anteaters end their season 16-13 overall.

UCI had taken the lead 73-72 on a tough, left baseline shot by senior guard Shamar Armstrong with 15 seconds remaining. With two fouls to give, Armstrong committed a pair of fouls to run the clock down to 5.2 seconds. UCI defended well on the final play as Nixon drove to the left side, nearly lost his balance, then hit the last shot while almost falling out of bounds.

Nixon led all scorers with 28 points as he hit 10 of 16 field goals including 6 of 9 threes. Jibril Hodges added 18 points (6 of 11 threes) and Shawn Hawkins scored 16 points (4 of 5 treys) as the 49ers (18-11) converted 17 of 34 shots from three-point range in winning their seventh straight game.

Senior guard Ross Schraeder led UCI with 17 points, sophomore center Darren Fells had 13 points and seven rebounds, and junior post Mark Kelley scored 11 points off the bench. Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald recorded 10 assists and four steals.

The Anteaters shot 64 percent from the field in the first half in taking a 45-38 lead at the break despite 10-of-17 threes by LBSU in the opening 20 minutes.

In a game that saw 11 lead changes, the 49ers steadily cut the deficit and forged ahead by six points at 68-62 (6:38) and 72-66 with 3:44 left. Kelly then converted a traditional three-point play with 3:29 remaining and Schraeder followed a missed shot on the right side with 2:16 left to pull the Anteaters within 72-71. After Hawkins missed a three-point attempt for LBSU with 51 seconds left, the Anteaters ran the clock before Fitzgerald missed a three-pointer with 22 seconds remaining. Armstrong came up with the loose ball in a scrum and put UCI ahead 73-72 before Nixon hit the winning shot.

UCI, which had committed a season-high 22 turnovers in a 93-73 loss to LBSU last Saturday night, had just 10 Friday. The Anteaters outrebounded the 49ers 35-28 and outscored LBSU in the paint, 40-8.

Schraeder ends his career as UCI's all-time leader in three-point field goals with 233 and Fitzgerald ranks fourth in career assists with 342.

March 4, 2006

LONG BEACH STATE RUNS PAST UC IRVINE 93-73

IRVINE, Calif. --- Long Beach State assembled an impressive scoring display in the second half in winning its fifth straight game as the 49ers defeated UC Irvine, 93-73, in the regular-season finale for both teams at the Bren Center Saturday night.

LBSU, which trailed by 21 points at 31-10 with 11:54 left in the first half, turned the tables in the second half as the 49ers outscored the Anteaters 53-27 in the final 20 minutes for the easy Big West victory. LBSU took the lead for good at 63-61 on a jumper by junior guard Aaron Nixon with 11:34 remaining in the game.

Nixon led LBSU (16-11, 9-5) with 24 points, including 16 in the second half when he was 8 of 12 from the field. Shawn Hawkins added 19 points and six rebounds as five 49ers scored in double figures. LBSU, which leads the nation in scoring, shot 41 percent in the first half and 65 percent in the second half to finish at 52.1 percent for the game.

UCI senior guard Ross Schraeder, playing in his final home game, led the Anteaters (16-12, 10-4) with 25 points as he hit 9 of 11 field goals including 5 of 6 threes. Senior guard Shamar Armstrong added 11 points, six rebounds and three assists. Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders scored 10 points and senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald had 10 assists and nine points.

UCI did shoot 53.1 percent from the field for the game and hit 13 of 27 threes for 48.1 percent. The Anteaters, after missing their first three-point attempt of the game, hit seven straight treys in building their large lead in the first half. UCI hit 10 of 18 threes in the opening 20 minutes.

The Anteaters committed a season-high 22 turnovers, 15 coming in the second half. LBSU scored 34 points off turnovers compared to none for UCI. The 49ers outscored the Anteaters 40-16 in the paint.

UCI had already secured the No. 2 seed for next week's Big West Conference Tournament at the Anaheim Convention Center as the Anteaters have an automatic berth into a semifinal game Friday night at 9:00. LBSU is the third seed and will play a quarterfinal game Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

February 23, 2006

UC IRVINE TOPS UC DAVIS 82-68

DAVIS, Calif. --- UC Irvine connected on 56 percent of its three-point shots in defeating UC Davis, 82-68, in non-conference action at Davis Thursday night.

The Anteaters (16-11), who shot 53 percent from the field for the game, hit 9 of 16 threes, led by junior forward Nic Campbell who was 4 of 6 in tying his career high for three-point field goals in a game.

UCI was 21 of 21 from the free-throw line in winning its third straight game as the Anteaters improved to 8-4 in road games this season. UCI had 19 assists on its 26 baskets in the game.

Sophomore center Darren Fells posted his third double-double of the season, and fifth of his career, with 17 points and 13 rebounds (ties his career high). Campbell and sophomore forward Patrick Sanders scored 16 points each and Sanders recorded a career-high four assists. Senior guard Shamar Armstrong scored 10 points off the bench and senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald

had a game-high seven assists. Fitzgerald is tied with Lloyd Mumford (1992-94) for fourth in career assists at UCI with 322.

David Carter led UC Davis (8-17) with a career-high 19 points off the bench. Phil Rasmussen and Rommel Marentez scored 12 points apiece for the Aggies, who had five players in double figures.

UCI shot 62 percent from the field in the first half and led 40-28 at the break. The Anteaters extended their lead to 23 points twice in the second half, the last coming at 66-43 on a three-pointer by Armstrong with 11:36 left. The Aggies were able to close to only within 12 points on several occasions.

"Offensively, I was pleased with how we shared the ball," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "We shot the ball well, moved the ball well and I thought it was a good overall team effort. That was the best we have played, especially in the first half, in some time."

UCI ends the regular season hosting Long Beach State in a Big West Conference game March 4 at 5:00 p.m. (Fox Sports Net West 2). The Anteaters have already clinched a top-two seed and an automatic berth into the semifinals of the Big West Conference Tournament at the Anaheim Convention Center March 10.

February 18, 2006

UC IRVINE HOLDS OFF DRAKE 70-67

IRVINE, Calif. --- Junior forward Nic Campbell and senior guard Ross Schraeder combined for 38 points and senior guard Aaron Fitzgerald hit four free throws in the final 19 seconds as UC Irvine held off Drake, 70-67, in a non-conference BracketBuster game at the Bren Events Center Saturday night.

Campbell scored 20 points, hitting 8 of 11 field goals while tying his career high with four three-point baskets (in six attempts). He scored 13 of his points in the first half as the Anteaters led 38-31 at the break, shooting 54.5 percent from three-point range in the opening 20 minutes.

Schraeder hit 5 of 9 field goals (4 of 5 threes) en route to 18 points. Fitzgerald scored 11 points and registered a game-high seven assists. Patrick Sanders and Darren Fells pulled down a game-high eight rebounds each. Fells has 43 boards in the past five games.

Sophomore guard Chris Bryant scored 11 points and five other Bulldog players scored eight points each to lead Drake (12-16), which has lost seven games by a combined total of 17 points this season. UCI knows that feeling also as the Anteaters have dropped six games this season by a cumulative total of 13 points.

UCI (15-11) looked to be in complete control Saturday night as the Anteaters built a 53-35 lead on a three-pointer by Schraeder with 13:30 left but the Bulldogs capitalized on a full-court press to pull within one point twice late in the game, the last coming at 68-67 on a basket by Al Stewart with 8 seconds left. Stewart fouled Fitzgerald on the ensuing throw-in and the Anteater point guard converted both free throws with 5.6 ticks remaining. Drake's Brent Heemskerk's three-point attempt was off the mark as time expired in the first meeting between the schools.

UCI has its last two regular-season games over the next two weeks, beginning with a non-conference contest at UC Davis Thursday night at 7:00. The Anteaters host Long Beach State March 4 at 5:00 p.m. in their final Big West game of the season. UCI is already guaranteed of a

top-two seed and an automatic berth into the semifinals of the Big West Tournament at the Anaheim Convention Center March 10.

February 15, 2006

**UC IRVINE TOPS UC RIVERSIDE 63-37;
EARNS AUTOMATIC BERTH INTO BIG WEST TOURNAMENT SEMIFINALS**

IRVINE, Calif. --- Sophomore center Darren Fells scored 11 points and grabbed eight rebounds while senior guard Ross Schraeder added 10 points to lead UC Irvine past UC Riverside, 63-37, in Big West Conference action at the Bren Events Center Wednesday night.

The victory, coupled with Cal Poly's 64-37 loss at UC Santa Barbara, guarantees the Anteaters (14-11, 10-3) of a top-two seed and an automatic berth into the Big West Conference Tournament semifinals Mar. 10 at the Anaheim Convention Center.

UCI scored the final 23 points of the first half to lead 35-12 at the break as the Highlanders (3-19, 3-8) went scoreless in the last 8:14 of the opening half. Fells scored 10 of his points in the first 20 minutes and UC Riverside shot just 18 percent from the field in the half to the Anteaters' 50 percent.

The Highlanders closed to within 43-26 on a pair of free throws by Larry Cunningham with 12:02 left in the game but UCI then went on a 12-1 run to enjoy its largest lead of the night at 55-27 on a jumper by Schraeder with 6:27 remaining.

UCI sophomore forward Patrick Sanders snared nine rebounds and junior forward Nic Campbell added seven boards as the Anteaters out-rebounded UC Riverside 47-37. Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald had a game-high eight assists. Freshman walk-on guard Chad McDaniel scored his first Anteater basket on a layup for the final points of the game with 25 seconds left.

Steve Williams scored a team-high 10 points for the Highlanders, who shot 26.4 percent from the field in the game. Larry Cunningham had nine rebounds and David Misko pulled down seven boards.

The 37 points were the fewest allowed by UCI since a 91-23 win over Pomona-Pitzer Dec. 7, 2002, and the least yielded to a Division I school since a 57-37 victory at Saint Mary's Jan. 3, 2001.

The Anteaters host Drake in a BracketBuster game Saturday night at 7:00 at the Bren Center.

February 11, 2006

CAL POLY TURNS BACK UC IRVINE 61-58

IRVINE, Calif. --- Cal Poly knocked UC Irvine out of first place in the Big West Conference with a 61-58 win over the Anteaters before 4,500 in the Homecoming game at the Bren Events Center Saturday night.

Freshman guard Trae Clark scored 15 points off the bench, with 12 of them coming in the second half to lead the Mustangs (7-14, 5-4 Big West). Clark hit 5 of 7 field goals, including 3 of 4 from three-point range. Clark scored Cal Poly's final six points of the game in the last 1:14, including a jumper with 40 seconds remaining to give the Mustangs the lead for good at 59-58. He hit a pair of free throws in the final 5.5 seconds to seal the win. Junior forward Derek Stockalper added 11 points and seven rebounds for Cal Poly while sophomore guard Dawin Whiten scored 10 points.

Senior guard Shamar Armstrong led UCI (13-11, 9-3) with a career-high 16 points off the bench. Armstrong hit 6 of 8 field goals, including 2 of 3 treys. Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald added 13 points and five points for the Anteaters, who lost for the third time in their last four games. Sophomore center Darren Fells pulled down seven rebounds and scored eight points. Senior guard Ross Schraeder, who entered the game as UCI's leading scorer at 13.2 points per game, did not score for the first time in 63 games, dating back to a loss at Idaho Jan. 31, 2004, in his sophomore season.

Junior forward Joe Henry gave Cal Poly a 55-50 lead on a three-point play with 4:38 left before UCI scored the next seven points culminated by an Adam Metelski layup to give the Anteaters a 57-55 lead with 1:38 remaining. Clark then tied the game on a jumper before Fells hit 1 of 2 free throws to put UCI up 58-57 with 52 seconds left but Clark closed out the game with four straight points. A three-point attempt from 35 feet by UCI freshman forward Adam Templeton hit short off the rim just before time expired.

UCI, with its 9-3 (.750) conference record, trails Pacific (8-2, .800) by percentage points for first in the Big West. The Anteaters host UC Riverside Wednesday night in a Big West game at 7:00.

February 9, 2006

UC SANTA BARBARA DERAILED UC IRVINE 60-59

IRVINE, Calif. --- Sophomore forward Chris Devine scored 12 of his game-high 18 points in the second half to lead UC Santa Barbara over first-place UC Irvine, 60-59, in Big West Conference action at the Bren Events Center Thursday night.

Senior guards Cecil Brown and Joe See added 14 and 12 points, respectively, as the Gauchos improved to 9-11 overall and 2-6 in the Big West. Junior forward Glenn Turner pulled down a game-high 12 rebounds.

Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald led UCI (13-10, 9-2) with 17 points and eight assists while junior forward Nic Campbell scored 11 points. Sophomore center Darren Fells snared nine rebounds for the Anteaters.

Turner scored on a follow off a missed free throw by Alex Harris to give UCSB a 60-57 lead with 21 seconds remaining. Fitzgerald converted a layup with 12.7 seconds left to cut the deficit to 60-59 and UCI fouled Michael Chambers on the ensuing throw-in. Chambers missed the front end of the one-and-one but the Anteaters could not get a shot off in the final 11 seconds. After taking a 43-37 lead on a three-pointer by Fitzgerald with 13:34 left in the game, UCI went 8 1/2 minutes without a field goal. A trey by See gave the Gauchos a 54-48 lead with 3:47 remaining but UCI battled back to take a 57-56 lead on a layup by Fells at the 1:08 mark. Brown then put UCSB ahead for good at 58-57 on a jumper with 43 seconds left.

The Gauchos shot 63 percent from the field in the first half and led 29-28 at intermission. UCSB cooled off in the second half to shoot 45 percent for the game to UCI's 44 percent.

The Anteaters host Cal Poly in the Homecoming game Saturday night at 7:00.

February 4, 2006

UCI TOPS CSUN; SCHRAEDER PASSES 1,000 POINTS

NORTHRIDGE, Calif. --- Senior guard Ross Schraeder scored 13 first-half points to pass 1,000 for his career as UC Irvine defeated Cal State Northridge, 74-57, in Big West action at The Matadome in Northridge Saturday. With the win, the Anteaters, 13-9 overall and 9-1 in the conference, maintained their hold on first place. UCI went 6-1 on the road in Big West games this season as the Anteaters play their final four league contests at home.

Schraeder hit 1,000 on his second three-pointer of the night with 9:09 remaining in the first half and has 1,007 points in 107 career games. Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald also scored 13 points and added nine assists while senior guard Shamar Armstrong joined the 13-point club for his career high off the bench. Sophomore center Darren Fells had seven points and a game-high 11 rebounds for UCI, which out-rebounded the Matadors, 42-26. Patrick Sanders added eight points and eight rebounds while freshman forward Adam Templeton came off the bench to register eight points and five boards.

Jonathan Heard led Northridge (8-11, 2-6) with 11 points while Calvin Chitwood, Rob Haynes and Mike Efevberha scored 10 apiece. The Matadors shot just 28 percent from the field in the opening 20 minutes as UCI built a 41-27 lead at the break. The closest Northridge could come in the second half was 46-36 on a pair of free throws by Heard with 16:22 remaining, but UCI's Dustin Price countered with two free throws 12 seconds later and the Anteaters gradually pulled away, building their largest lead of the night at 74-52 with 1:16 left.

UCI shot 59 percent from the field in the second half and 49 percent for the game. The Anteaters hit 11 of 23 three-pointers for 48 percent in the game.

UCI hosts UC Santa Barbara Thursday and Cal Poly Saturday (Homecoming) in 7:00 p.m. Big West games at the Bren Events Center.

February 2, 2006

PACIFIC HANDS UC IRVINE FIRST BIG WEST LOSS, 64-52

Stockton, Calif. -- Pacific went on a 19-7 run early in the second half to snap UC Irvine's eight-game winning streak with a 64-52 win at the Spanos Center Thursday.

Christian Maraker led the Tigers with 18 points and 10 rebounds, one of three UOP players to record 10 rebounds on the night. Anthony Esparza totaled 12 points and 10 boards, while Anthony Brown had eight points and 10 rebounds.

Sophomore Patrick Sanders led UCI with 15 points and a career-high four blocked shots. Sanders scored 12 of his 15 points in the first half. Freshman forward Adam Templeton came off the bench to add 11 points and four rebounds.

After UCI's Aaron Fitzgerald hit a pair of free throws to lead 36-32 with 18:18 to go, Pacific's Mike Webb drained a three-pointer at 17:54 marking the launch of the Tigers run.

"We didn't take care of the ball and didn't shoot well," head coach Pat Douglass said after the game. "They just out-played us in most aspects of the game."

In the first half, the Anteaters led 22-16 on a traditional three-pointer by Templeton at 7:58, before UOP scored the next 12 points culminating in a three-pointer by Esparza to take the 28-22 advantage at 2:55. The Tigers went on to lead 33-28 at the half.

UCI committed a season-high 21 turnovers. The Tigers capitalized scoring 29 points off turnovers. UCI's scored 10 points off UOP miscues. The Tigers were called for just six fouls on the night.

With the victory, the Tigers move to 15-6 overall, 5-2 in Big West Conference play, while the Anteaters go to 12-9 overall and 8-1 in conference action. UOP has won four straight and eight of their last 10 games.

January 28, 2006

UC IRVINE HOLDS OFF LONG BEACH STATE 73-67 TO MOVE TO 8-0 IN BIG WEST

LONG BEACH, Calif. --- Sophomore post Darren Fells recorded his second double-double of the season with 19 points and 10 rebounds to lead UC Irvine past Long Beach State, 73-67, in Big West Conference action at the Walter Pyramid Saturday. With the victory, UCI moves to 8-0 in the Big West for the program's best start since a 9-0 beginning to league play in 2000-01.

Senior guard Ross Schraeder scored 16 points, senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald had 13 points and five assists, and freshman forward Adam Templeton added 10 points and six rebounds. Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders hauled down nine boards in addition to scoring nine points for UCI (12-8 overall).

The Anteaters saw their 19-point lead of 50-31 with 9:03 remaining dwindle to three when Long Beach State's Shawn Hawkins hit a three-pointer with 45 seconds left to draw the 49ers within 70-67. Templeton then scored off a goaltending call off a right baseline drive with 18 seconds left and Fitzgerald made 1 of 2 free throws with 12 ticks remaining.

Jibril Hodges led Long Beach State (9-9, 4-3) with a game-high 24 points while Shawn Hawkins had 11 points and 10 rebounds. UCI committed 20 turnovers in the game to the 49ers' 14.

The Anteaters shot 41 percent from the field and Long Beach State 35 percent as the 49ers had their three-game winning streak snapped. UCI led 29-24 at halftime on the strength of 11 points from Schraeder and eight by Fells.

The Anteaters, who have won five conference road games this season, travel to Stockton to face Pacific Thursday night at 7:30 at the Spanos Center. UCI plays at Cal State Northridge next Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Those are the final league games away from home this season for UCI as the Anteaters play their final four Big West games at the Bren Center.

January 25, 2006

UCI DEFEATS CAL STATE FULLERTON 83-68 FOR BEST BIG WEST START IN 5 YEARS

IRVINE, Calif. --- Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders posted his first collegiate double-double with a career-high 18 points and 10 rebounds as UC Irvine topped Cal State Fullerton for the second time in five days, 83-68, in Big West Conference action at the Bren Events Center Wednesday night. The win boosted UCI's league record to 7-0 for the program's best start in five years since the 2000-01 squad opened conference play 9-0.

Freshman forward Adam Templeton also recorded his first UCI double-double with 10 points and 10 boards in 30 reserve minutes. Sophomore post Darren Fells had 12 second-half points, hitting 5 of 7 field goals. Senior guard Ross Schraeder and junior forward Nic Campbell scored 10 points each for the Anteaters, who improved to 11-8 overall. Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald had nine assists along with six points.

Sophomore guard Frank Robinson led Fullerton (9-8, 3-5) with 17 points off the bench. Freshman guard Jerard Moret added 13 points and senior guard John Clemmons 10 points.

UCI went on an 18-6 run in the final 6 1/2 minutes of the first half to lead 38-29 at halftime. The Anteaters built an 18-point lead at 54-36 on a jumper by Sanders at the 12:39 mark of the second half before the Titans closed to within 10 at 54-44 on a field goal by Bobby Brown with 9:43 left. UCI eventually pulled away and had its largest lead of the night at 83-62 on a pair of free throws by Fells with 1:26 remaining.

The Anteaters shot 58 percent from the field in the second half and 50 percent for the game. The Titans shot 36 percent on the night.

UCI faces three straight conference road games, beginning Saturday at second-place Long Beach State (9-8, 4-2) Saturday at 5:00 p.m. at the Walter Pyramid.

January 21, 2006

UC IRVINE MOVES TO 6-0 IN BIG WEST WITH 67-59 WIN AT CAL STATE FULLERTON

FULLERTON, Calif. --- Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald scored 22 of his game-high 28 points in the second half to lead UC Irvine past Cal State Fullerton, 67-59, in Big West Conference action at Titan Gym Saturday afternoon. With the win, UCI (10-8) moved to 6-0 in conference play for the program's best league start since 2001-02 when the Anteaters also won their first six Big West games.

Fitzgerald hit all five of his field-goal attempts, including a trio of threes, in the second half and added 9 of 11 free throws in recording his season high for points. Junior forward Nic Campbell added 15 points, hitting 5 of 9 field goals, while senior guard Shamar Armstrong contributed eight points, three steals and two assists off the bench. Junior guard Dustin Price had five points and two steals in a reserve role for UCI.

The Anteaters shot just 31 percent from the field in the first 20 minutes as Fullerton led 24-23 at the break. UCI warmed up in the second half, shooting 58 percent and hitting 7 of 11 threes.

Jamaal Brown led the Titans (9-7, 3-4) with 16 points and eight rebounds while Justin Burns added 13 points. Bobby Brown and Jermaine Harper scored 11 points each.

Fullerton built a 38-31 lead on a layup by Burns with 14:12 remaining in the game before Fitzgerald scored 14 points to key a 25-3 run by UCI to go up 56-41 at the 7:55 mark. The Titans made one last push, closing to within 63-59 on a trey by Jamaal Brown with 36 seconds left but Fitzgerald converted 4 of 6 free throws to close out the scoring.

The Orange County rivals meet again Wednesday night at 7:00 at the Bren Events Center.

January 19, 2006

UC IRVINE WINS 71-61 AT UC RIVERSIDE TO GO TO 5-0 IN BIG WEST

RIVERSIDE, Calif. --- Freshman forward Adam Templeton recorded career highs of 18 points and seven rebounds off the bench to spark UC Irvine to a 71-61 win at UC Riverside Thursday night as the Anteaters improved to 5-0 in the Big West Conference.

Templeton was 7 of 10 from the field, including 3 of 6 on threes. Five of his seven boards came off the offensive glass. Junior forward Nic Campbell added 12 points and sophomore post Darren Fells had 11 points and eight rebounds for UCI, which improved to 9-8 overall.

The Anteaters opened the game by scoring the first 17 points in less than six minutes and led 22-2 with 12:31 left before the Highlanders (2-14, 2-4) battled back to trail only 41-29 at halftime.

Steve Williams scored a game-high 23 points for UCR, which closed to within 59-56 on a three-pointer by Rickey Porter with 5:11 remaining in the game. Fells then converted a traditional three-point play for a 62-56 lead with 3:56 left and the Anteaters were able to pull away for the 10-point win.

UCI, which hit seven of its first 10 shots, was 53 percent from the field in the first half and 50 percent for the game while the Highlanders hit 37 percent from the field. The Anteaters were 10 of 23 from three-point range and UCR hit 5 of 24.

UCI meets Cal State Fullerton twice in five days beginning Saturday afternoon at 2:00 at Titan Gym. The cross-county rivals will tangle again Wednesday night at 7:00 at the Bren Center.

January 15, 2006

UC IRVINE MOVES TO 4-0 IN BIG WEST WITH 70-61 VICTORY OVER PACIFIC

IRVINE, Calif. --- Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald scored 16 points and added seven assists to lead UC Irvine over Pacific, 70-61, in Big West Conference action at the Bren Events Center Sunday afternoon. With the victory, UCI remained the only undefeated team in league play at 4-0.

Fitzgerald scored all 16 of his points in the second half, hitting 4 of 5 field goals including 3 of 4 threes in the final 20 minutes. Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders scored a career-high 15 points, including 12 in the first half, for the Anteaters (8-8 overall). Junior forward Nic Campbell added 11 points and senior center Adam Metelski scored 10 points, hitting 5 of 5 field goals, in 14 minutes off the bench. Freshman forward Adam Templeton also provided a spark off the bench with five points and six boards. Junior guard Dustin Price was another catalyst off the Anteater bench as he scored three points and added two rebounds and two assists. UCI's bench outscored the Tigers' reserves 20-2 for the game.

Senior guard Johnny Gray led Pacific (11-6, 2-2) with 20 points and junior center Michael White added 13 points. Senior forward Christian Maraker, who entered the game averaging 18 points, scored nine points and grabbed nine rebounds.

Pacific opened the game with a 13-2 run in the first seven minutes before Sanders helped the Anteaters close to within 28-25 at halftime. UCI, which shot 33 percent from the field in the opening half, shot 63 percent in the second half. After Pacific led 46-41 on a basket by Gray with 11:27 remaining, the Anteaters scored eight straight points, capped by a three from Templeton, to lead 49-46 with 9:24 left. Gray then hit a trey to tie the game at 49-49 with 9:06 remaining and Fitzgerald and White traded baskets for a 51-51 score at the 7:34 mark.

Metelski scored the next six points for a 57-51 UCI lead with 5:35 remaining and the Anteaters eventually pulled away, building their largest lead at 70-58 with 24 seconds left.

The win marked the first for UCI over Pacific in the last five meetings between the schools.

The Anteaters travel to UC Riverside Thursday for a 7:00 p.m. Big West game.

January 13, 2006

UC IRVINE DEFEATS CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE 76-62 TO MOVE TO 3-0 IN BIG WEST

IRVINE, Calif. --- Four UC Irvine players scored in double figures as the Anteaters defeated Cal State Northridge, 76-62, in Big West Conference action at the Bren Events Center Friday night. The victory gave UCI (7-8) a 3-0 start in conference play for the first time since the 2001-02 season when the Anteaters opened league play with six straight wins.

Senior guard Ross Schraeder scored 17 points, including 13 in the second half to lead UCI. Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald added 16 points (14 in the second half) and nine assists while sophomore forward Patrick Sanders notched a career-high 14 points and junior forward Nic Campbell scored 13 points and tied his career high with nine rebounds.

UCI shot 62 percent from the field in the second half and hit 7 of 11 threes in the final 20 minutes. The Anteaters converted 19 of 21 free throws in the second half and 21 of 23 in the game. UCI shot 51 percent from the floor for the contest and out-rebounded the Matadors 35-23.

Junior center Thomas Shewmake led Northridge (6-7, 1-2) with 14 points and six rebounds while Mike Efevberha and Calvin Chitwood added 10 points each.

UCI streaked to a 24-7 lead in the opening 13 minutes before the Matadors went on a 14-0 run to close the gap to 24-21 at halftime. A three-pointer by Rob Haynes gave Northridge a 47-44 lead with 11:04 left in the game but a three by Campbell and five straight points from Darren Fells put

UCI ahead 52-47 with 9:24 remaining. After a three-point field goal by Shewmake drew the Matadors within one at 53-52 at the 7:46 mark, the Anteaters capitalized on back-to-back threes by Schraeder and Sanders and eventually pulled away. UCI hit 15 of 16 foul shots in the final 5:56 to secure the win.

The Anteaters host Pacific Sunday in a Big West game at 2:00 p.m. at the Bren Events Center.

January 9, 2006

**UCI FINISHES ROAD SWEEP WITH 70-66 VICTORY OVER UC SANTA BARBARA;
ROSS SCHRAEDER BECOMES UCI'S ALL-TIME THREE POINT LEADER**

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. --- Senior guard Aaron Fitzgerald led UC Irvine with 15 points and five assists in a 70-66 victory over UC Santa Barbara Monday night in Big West Conference play at the Thunderdome.

UCI junior forward Nic Campbell finished with 13 points and senior Ross Schraeder added 14 points with 11 of them coming in the second half.

The 'Eaters led 29-28 at half and shot 54% from the field in second half while Santa Barbara shot 61% in the second half. The was game tied 59-59 with 3:06 remaining on a three-pointer by Cecil Brown, who came off the bench to lead UCSB with 15 points on the night.

Senior Shamar Armstrong put UCI back up by three, 62-59, as he hit a three with 2:28 left. Campbell hit a three-pointer with 1:21 remaining in the game to give the Anteaters a six point lead, 65-59. Brown cut the Anteater lead to four points on jumper before Aaron Fitzgerald knocked down a pair of free throws with 40 seconds left to make it 67-61 in favor of UCI. Chris Devine made a layup with 23 seconds left to cut the lead back down to four points, but Armstrong stole the ball and then went 1-2 from the line with 10 seconds left to put UCI up 68-63. A three-pointer by Joe See with seven seconds remaining got the Gauchos within two points at 68-66. Campbell sealed the victory with a pair of free throws with five seconds left.

Ross Schraeder became UCI's all-time leader in three-pointers as he went 4-10 on night giving him 203 in his career, passing Jeff Herdman who made 201 threes from 1987-1991. This is the first time in three years that UCI has won consecutive conference road games dating back to February of 2003 when UCI won at Utah State February 13th and at Idaho February 15th.

"I'm pleased to go on the road to have only four turnovers in the game," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "We've been working on taking better care of the ball. Each night in the Big West is going to be a war. Hopefully our kids will go back and build off this confidence for the rest of the season."

"I thought the big bucket of the night was Nic Campbell's three with 1:21 left to give us a six point lead," Douglass said. "Our defense picked up and a couple kids came off the bench and gave us a boost. The kids really played hard in the first half, but couldn't make any threes. We really picked it up in the second half going 6-12 beyond the arc."

As a team, UC Irvine made 11 3-pointers and snapped UC Santa Barbara's seven-game home winning streak.

The Anteaters return home Friday, January 13th as they face Cal State Northridge at 7:00 p.m. in a Big West Conference showdown at the Bren Events Center.

January 7, 2006

FITZGERALD'S 3-POINT SHOT LIFTS UC IRVINE OVER CAL POLY 69-67

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. --- UC Irvine senior guard Aaron Fitzgerald hit a three-point shot from the right side with seven seconds remaining to lift the Anteaters past Cal Poly, 69-67, in Big West Conference action at Mott Gym in San Luis Obispo Saturday.

Cal Poly's Trae Clark had hit a three with 39 seconds left to give the Mustangs a 67-66 lead before UCI used most of the shot clock prior to Fitzgerald's game-winner. Clark missed a shot in the lane with three seconds left and Shamar Armstrong grabbed the rebound for UCI, which snapped a five-game losing streak in winning its Big West opener. The loss dropped Cal Poly to 2-1 in the conference and 4-9 overall.

Sophomore post Darren Fells led the Anteaters (5-8, 1-0) with 14 points and six rebounds. Fells scored his eight second-half points in the final 3:35 and hit a pair of free throws with 1:07 remaining to give UCI a 66-64 lead.

Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders scored a career-high 13 points, Armstrong added a career-high 12 points and junior forward Nic Campbell scored 10. Fitzgerald had a game-high eight assists with his nine points. Senior guard Ross Schraeder, who did not attempt a shot in the first half, scored nine points following intermission and hit his only three-point attempt, giving him 199 career treys, two behind UCI's all-time leader Jeff Herdman, who made 201 from 1987-91.

UCI shot 77.8 percent (14/18) from the field in the second half, including 4 of 4 on threes. The Anteaters made 12 of 14 (.857) free throws in the final 20 minutes.

Junior forward Derek Stockalper led Cal Poly with 19 points, burying 4 of 5 threes. Clark added 17 points off the bench and Chaz Thomas scored 13 points.

Cal Poly built a 33-25 lead at halftime as Stockalper scored 11 points and Clark 10.

The Mustangs led 53-44 on a jumper by Clark with 9:17 remaining before UCI went on a 13-2 run, capped by a steal and layup from Dustin Price, to go up 57-55 with 4:28 left. The teams had four ties after that before Clark and Fitzgerald traded threes at the end.

"We couldn't have done much better offensively in the second half," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "Cal Poly defended us well and they obviously did a good job on Ross Schraeder. Clark played very well for them off the bench. We hadn't won a game in a month so hopefully we can build off this. It was a good win being our conference opener on the road."

Fitzgerald admitted that he was not the primary option on UCI's final play. "We were running a play for Ross Schraeder, but they were all over him and the play kind of broke down," he said. "Darren Fells set a screen and I just wanted to get a shot up as I knew the shot clock was winding down.

"The last four or five games we did not execute very well late in the game, so we definitely wanted to improve on that," Fitzgerald added.

UCI plays at UC Santa Barbara Monday night at 7:00. The Gauchos are 6-7 overall and 1-2 in the Big West.

January 4, 2006

UC DAVIS TOPS UC IRVINE 66-63

IRVINE, Calif. --- Senior forward Phil Rasmussen and freshman guard Vince Oliver scored 15 points each to lead UC Davis over UC Irvine, 66-63, in non-conference action at the Bren Events Center Wednesday afternoon.

Rommel Marentez added 14 points as the Aggies sent the Anteaters to their fifth consecutive defeat and seventh in the past eight games.

UCI led 34-28 at halftime and led 52-45 with 9:40 left in the game before the Aggies started their rally.

Marentez hit back-to-back baskets at 4:42 and 4:22 remaining in the game and Thomas Juillerat hit a pair of free throws with 2:15 left as UC Davis turned a 59-54 deficit into a 60-59 lead. A layup by Oliver with 1:43 remaining extended the lead to 62-59 before UCI junior forward Nic Campbell cut the margin to 62-61 on a jumper with 1:22 left. Juillerat hit two more free throws with 56 seconds remaining and Kyle Brucculeri hit one of two from the foul line with 41 ticks left for a 65-61 lead. Aaron Fitzgerald hit a jumper for UCI with 33 seconds left to cut the deficit to 65-63 before Rasmussen hit one of two free throws with 18 seconds left for the final margin.

Senior center Adam Metelski led UCI (4-8) with a career-high 17 points on 7-of-12 shooting and he tied his career high with seven rebounds. Campbell and sophomore forward Patrick Sanders scored 12 points each while senior guard Ross Schraeder had 10 points. Sophomore post Darren Fells pulled down a game-high 12 rebounds.

UCI shot just 29.6 percent from the floor in the second half, including 1 of 8 on threes. UC Davis (4-9) converted 5 of 11 treys in the second half and 10 for 21 in the game. The Aggies shot 47.8 percent from the field for the game while the Anteaters hit 43.1 percent.

UCI opens Big West Conference action on the road against Cal Poly Saturday at 4:00 p.m. The Anteaters travel to UC Santa Barbara for a 7:00 p.m. league game Monday.

December 30, 2005

UW-GREEN BAY DEFEATS UC IRVINE 77-65 AT ONEIDA HOLIDAY CLASSIC

GREEN BAY, Wis. --- Wisconsin-Green Bay ended the game with a 29-14 run and defeated UC Irvine, 77-65, in the Oneida Holiday Classic at the Resch Center Friday night.

Classic MVP Josh Lawrence scored 21 of his game-high 28 points in the second half to spark the Phoenix. Lawrence, a junior forward, hit 7 of 8 shots, including 5 of 5 threes, in the final 20 minutes as UWGB improved to 6-7 on the season. Ryan Evanochko added 15 points and nine assists while Mike Schachtner scored 11 points.

Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders led UCI with a career-high 12 points, hitting 5 of 7 field goals including several spectacular follow dunks.

Darren Fells had 11 points and a game-high eight rebounds, Nic Campbell also scored 11 points and snared seven boards, while Ross Schraeder and Adam Metelski scored 10 points each. Schraeder, who scored 19 points in Thursday's loss to Arkansas-Monticello, was named to the All-Classic team.

UCI, 4-7 overall, has lost six of its last seven games. The Anteaters built a 23-11 lead on a jumper by Campbell with 10:13 left in the first half before UWGB cut the margin to 33-30 at halftime. A layup by Fells gave the Anteaters a 51-48 lead with 11:03 remaining in the game before the Phoenix went on its game-ending run. A pair of free throws by Lawrence capped a 14-4 run to give UWGB a 62-55 lead with 5:44 left.

The Phoenix shot 61.5 percent from the field in the second half and 51 percent for the game to UCI's 44.6 percent. UWGB was 15 of 20 from the free-throw line while UCI hit all eight of its attempts. The Anteaters out-rebounded the Phoenix 32-28.

"Wisconsin-Green Bay is a fine club and they shot the ball well," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "Lawrence and Evanochko really stepped up for them in the second half.

"I was pleased with our effort as we played with greater intensity than the previous night. We will build off this and we have to work on putting more possessions together."

December 29, 2005

ARKANSAS-MONTICELLO STUNS UC IRVINE 81-64 AT ONEIDA CLASSIC

GREEN BAY, Wis. --- UC Irvine sustained its fifth loss in the last six games as Arkansas-Monticello stunned the Anteaters, 81-64, in the Oneida Holiday Classic at Green Bay, Wis., Thursday night. The Boll Weevils shot 51 percent from the field for the game and hit 20 of 24 free throws in the second half to become the second Division II school to defeat UCI this season.

UAM led 36-32 at halftime, despite a made shot from beyond half court by Anteaater senior guard Ross Schraeder to end the first half. UCI sophomore forward Patrick Sanders, making his first start, hit a three-pointer to cut the margin to 36-35 with 19:13 remaining in the game.

The Boll Weevils built a 49-40 lead on a layup by Nate Newell with 13:35 left but a three-pointer by Schraeder drew UCI within 53-51 at the 11:15 mark. UAM junior guard M'Jumbe Williams, who led all scorers with 23 points, answered with a trey at the other end and the Boll Weevils gradually pulled away, hitting 12 of 14 free throws in the final 2:36. Senior forward Brandon Mayweather added 13 points and eight rebounds for UAM (5-4) while Billy McDaniel had 12 points and eight boards.

Schraeder led UCI with 19 points, hitting 6 of 13 threes, and added a career-high four steals. He has 185 three-pointers in his career to trail UCI's all-time leader Jeff Herdman by six. Darren Fells had 11 points and a team-leading six rebounds, while Sanders recorded a career-high 10 points. Nic Campbell also scored 10 points apiece for the Anteaters, who fell to 4-6 on the season. Shamar Armstrong started at point guard as senior Aaron Fitzgerald was benched in the first half for arriving late to the first post-holiday practice Monday.

UCI shot 35.7 percent from the field in the second half and 42.6 percent for the game. UAM out-rebounded the Anteaters 34-28. The Boll Weevils were 23 of 27 from the foul line for the game while UCI hit just 6 of 12.

"They were quicker to the ball as we didn't demonstrate that we could put forth the effort that they did," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "They were able to establish their inside game with the penetration by their point guard.

"We couldn't get in our rhythm, but there is no excuse for not getting after it like they did," Douglass added.

UCI faces host UW-Green Bay in a pre-set game Friday at 5:30 p.m. (PST).

December 22, 2005

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO TOPS UC IRVINE 74-72

IRVINE, Calif. --- Junior guard Blake Schilb hit a 15-foot, left-side jumper with 3.6 seconds remaining to lift Loyola University Chicago past UC Irvine, 74-72, in non-conference action at the Bren Events Center Thursday night.

Schilb scored 26 points on 10-of-16 shooting and added five rebounds and three assists as the Ramblers improved to 8-2 overall. Leon Young recorded 14 points and nine rebounds, six off the offensive glass. Majak Kou scored 12 points off the bench and Chris Logan registered 10 points for Loyola, which shot 53.7 percent from the field.

Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald led UCI (4-5) with 26 points and he added six assists. Junior forward Nic Campbell scored 12 points, senior guard Ross Schraeder had 11 and senior wing Shamar Armstrong tied his career high with 10 points.

Loyola led 44-33 at halftime and built a 59-44 lead on a layup by Brandon Woods with 12:21 remaining. UCI, trailing 66-54 with 7:56 left, went on a 16-2 run to go ahead 70-68 on a layup by Fitzgerald with 2:31 remaining. Schilb converted a dunk following a steal to draw the Ramblers even at 70-all with 1:03 left. Fitzgerald then hit a pair of free throws to put the Anteaters back up by two with 58 seconds left in regulation, but Schilb countered with a layup eight seconds later to tie the game at 72-72. Following a UCI turnover with 34.4 seconds remaining, Loyola ran the clock down until Schilb hit his game-winning jumper with 3.6 seconds left for the victory.

UCI shot just 38.2 percent for the evening in losing for the fourth time in the past five games. The Anteaters travel to Green Bay, Wis., to compete in the Oneida Classic next week.

UCI faces Arkansas-Monticello Thursday at 3:00 p.m. (PST) before meeting host UW-Green Bay Friday at 5:30 p.m. (PST).

December 17, 2005

COLORADO STOPS UC IRVINE 96-80

BOULDER, Colo. --- Sophomore guard Richard Roby scored 20 points to lead six Colorado players in double figures as the Buffaloes defeated UC Irvine, 96-80, in non-conference action at Boulder, Colo., Saturday night.

Martane Freeman scored 17 points while Marcus Hall added 14 as Colorado won its fifth straight game in improving to 6-1 on the season. The Buffaloes have won all seven meetings in the series with UCI. This was the first time the teams had met since 1991.

UCI senior guard Ross Schraeder, playing in his home state for the first time in his collegiate career, scored 26 points. The former all-state player at Denver East High School hit 11 of 12 field goals, including 3 of 3 on threes. Schraeder has 187 three-point field goals in his career, 14 behind UCI all-time leader Jeff Herdman, who hit 201 from 1987-91.

Junior forward Nic Campbell added 18 points for the Anteaters, who fell to 4-4. Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald had a game-high seven assists while Campbell tied his career high with five. Junior post Mark Kelley, who started in place of sophomore Darren Fells, led UCI with six rebounds. Fells did not play in the first half due to disciplinary action by UCI head coach Pat Douglass for "an outburst in practice" earlier in the week. Fells did play 15 minutes in the second half before fouling out with seven points, three assists and two boards.

Colorado built a 47-36 lead at halftime led by 11 points each from Roby and Freeman.

UCI cut the deficit to 56-51 on a reverse layup by Campbell with 14:30 left in the second half and trailed by six on three other occasions, the last at 77-71 on a layup by Campbell with 6:27 remaining. Colorado then went on a 13-3 run over the next four minutes to seal the win.

The Anteaters shot 65.4% from the field in the second half and 56.6% for the game. The Buffaloes shot 57.1% from the field in the second half and 51.6% in the game.

"They (Colorado) have a lot of weapons and it's tough to stop them defensively," Douglass said. "They made some big plays when we were able to close the gap.

"Ross didn't try to do too much and played his normal game," Douglass added.

UCI hosts Loyola University Chicago Thursday night at the Bren Center at 7:00. The Ramblers, at 7-1, are off to their best start in 40 years. Loyola plays at San Diego Tuesday night before facing the Anteaters.

December 3, 2005

UC IRVINE HOLDS OFF SAN JOSE STATE 68-58

IRVINE, Calif. --- Sophomore post Darren Fells scored 19 points, grabbed eight rebounds and had a career-high five steals to lead UC Irvine past San Jose State, 68-58, in non-conference action at the Bren Events Center Saturday night.

Senior guards Aaron Fitzgerald and Ross Schraeder added 18 and 15 points, respectively, as the Anteaters snapped a two-game losing streak in improving to 4-3 overall. Schraeder was 5 of 6 from the field, including 4 of 5 on threes. Fitzgerald hit 7 of 13 field goals and Fells was 8 of 15. Nic Campbell, Shamar Armstrong and Fitzgerald had four assists apiece in the win.

UCI, which led 28-23 at halftime, shot 63 percent from the field in the second half and 56 percent for the game. San Jose State's Carlton Spencer, who scored all 11 of his points in the second

half, hit a three-pointer with 5:07 remaining to cut UCI's lead to 52-50. The Anteaters went on a 6-0 run to go up by eight, but the Spartans' Matt Misko scored five straight points to close the gap to 58-55 with 3:13 left. Fitzgerald and Schraeder then hit consecutive three-point baskets as UCI outscored SJSU 10-3 down the stretch.

Senior forward Alex Elam scored 19 points before fouling out for the Spartans, who lost their third straight game in falling to 3-4 overall. SJSU was playing without leading scorer Demetrius Brown, who was sidelined for the second consecutive game with a bacterial infection. The Spartans shot 37 percent from the floor in the second half and 38 percent for the game, but did outrebound UCI 31-26 as Menelik Barbary snared seven boards, including five on the offensive end.

UCI is idle from competition before traveling to Colorado for a Dec. 17 game.

November 29, 2005

CAL STATE STANISLAUS KNOCKS OFF UC IRVINE 91-90

IRVINE, Calif. --- Senior guard Calvert Wright's free throw with 4.6 seconds remaining lifted Cal State Stanislaus over UC Irvine, 91-90, in non-conference action at the Bren Events Center Tuesday night.

Wright rebounded his own miss on the second attempt and the Warriors ran out the clock in becoming the first NCAA Division II team to defeat UCI since Assumption College topped the Anteaters 67-65 Dec. 29, 1979.

Senior forward Joel Stallworth led CSUS with 21 points, 11 rebounds, six steals and five assists as the Warriors improved to 3-0 on the season. Wright added 20 for CSUS, which hit 10 of 19 threes in the first half to lead 57-46 at intermission.

Senior guard Ross Schraeder led UCI (3-3) with 21 points, hitting 8 of 11 field goals including 5 of 8 threes. Sophomore post Darren Fells recorded UCI's first double-double of the season with career highs of 20 points and 13 rebounds. Senior guard Aaron Fitzgerald scored 14 points and had seven assists while juniors Nic Campbell and Mark Kelley scored 12 points apiece.

After UCI's Shamar Armstrong opened the game with a layup, Marcus Martinez of Cal State Stanislaus hit a three-pointer with 18:29 left in the first half and the Warriors never trailed the rest of the half, building a 16-point lead at 50-34 with 5:24 remaining.

Two free throws by Wright gave the Warriors a 75-64 lead with 9:40 left in the game before UCI rallied to forge ahead 79-78 on a layup by Fells with 5:00 remaining. Schraeder nailed a three-pointer to give UCI an 88-85 lead with 1:42 left but Kyle Mesa answered with a trey 10 seconds later to tie the game. Stallworth scored inside to put CSUS up 90-88 with 29 seconds left but Fells countered for the Anteaters at the other end with eight seconds remaining to knot the score once again. Fells tried to draw a charge but was called for a blocking foul with 4.6 ticks left and Wright hit the first free throw for the victory.

The Anteaters shot 58.6 percent from the field, but were just 6 of 12 from the free-throw line in the second half. Cal State Stanislaus hit 13 of 33 threes in the game and was 14 of 16 from the foul line.

UCI is back in action Saturday night hosting San Jose State in the Bren Center at 7:00.

November 26, 2005

PEPPERDINE ESCAPES UC IRVINE COMEBACK

IRVINE, Calif. --- Despite a furious second-half rally, UC Irvine fell to Pepperdine 79-76 Saturday in Malibu. After shooting just 16.7 percent in the first half and staring at a 47-17 halftime deficit, the Anteaters rallied with a 26-6 run in the final period, cutting the lead to 79-76 with 16 seconds remaining.

UCI failed to convert a pair of late three-point attempts as time expired. Senior guard Ross Schraeder scored all of his career-high 29 points in the second half, including hitting all 10 of his free throw attempts in the game. Darren Fells was the only other Anteater in double-figure scoring with 10 points and he added a team-high seven rebounds. Aaron Fitzgerald had a game-high six assists.

For Pepperdine, freshman guard Michael Gerrity scored 25 points and Tashaan Forehan-Kelly added 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Waves.

Pepperdine used a 31-1 run in the first half to build its 47-17 lead, shooting 67.9 percent from the floor while UC Irvine managed just 16.7 percent, including 1 for 15 from beyond the arc.

The Waves cooled off and shot 31% in the second half while UCI shot 47% in the final 20 minutes. Pepperdine posted a 44 to 16 points-in the paint advantage over the Anteaters.

UCI drops to 3-2 on the season while Pepperdine improves to 1-2.

UC Irvine returns to action hosting CS Stanislaus Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Bren Events Center.

November 22, 2005

UC IRVINE TOPS SANTA CLARA 78-70

IRVINE, Calif. --- Senior guard Aaron Fitzgerald scored 25 points and junior forward Nic Campbell added 18 as UC Irvine defeated Santa Clara, 78-70, in non-conference action at the Bren Events Center Tuesday night.

UCI, playing its home opener, hit its first 13 shots of the game as the Anteaters built a 36-20 lead in the first 10 minutes before cooling off as the Broncos cut the margin to 41-34 at halftime.

Santa Clara senior forward Travis Niesen scored 18 of his game-high 26 points in the second half as the Broncos kept it close, pulling to within 51-49 on a pair of free throws by Niesen with 13:36 remaining. The Anteaters extended their lead to 11 points several times late in the game as Fitzgerald and senior guard Ross Schraeder combined for 10 points in the final 2:40.

Schraeder added 13 points and hit 3 of 6 three-pointers to move into a tie with Chris Brown (1993-95) for second place in career threes at UCI with 170. Fitzgerald had six rebounds, four assists and two steals while sophomore post Darren Fells tied his career high with five assists and pulled down a game-high nine rebounds with junior post Mark Kelley adding eight boards.

Campbell was 7 of 9 from the field for the game and he and Fitzgerald combined to score 28 of UCI's 41 first-half points.

Mitch Henke and Brody Angley added 12 points apiece for Santa Clara (1-1) while Niesen and Calvin Johnson led the Broncos with six rebounds each.

UCI (3-1) shot 52.9 percent from the field for the game to Santa Clara's 40.3 percent and the Anteaters held a 36-29 advantage on the boards. UCI hit 11 three-pointers in 17 attempts in the first half and ended the game 14 of 23 (.609).

The Anteaters return to action Saturday night against Pepperdine in Malibu at 7:30 p.m.

November 19, 2005

UC IRVINE STUNS NO. 13 STANFORD

STANFORD, Calif. --- Senior guard Ross Schraeder scored 19 points and sophomore post Darren Fells added a career-high 18 points as UC Irvine topped 13th-ranked Stanford, 79-63, at Maples Pavilion Saturday afternoon.

The win was No. 500 for UCI head coach Pat Douglass in his coaching career on the four-year collegiate level. Douglass, in his 25th season as a four-year head coach, is 500-226. He is in his ninth year at UCI.

Stanford was the highest-ranked opponent UCI has defeated since a 74-70 win over No. 7 UNLV March 11, 1988, in the PCAA (now Big West) Tournament semifinals at the Forum.

UCI trailed only after the opening basket of the game Saturday and led 43-35 at halftime as Schraeder scored 15 of his points in the opening 20 minutes. The Anteaters shot 69.2 percent from the floor in the first half, including 75 percent (6 of 8) on threes.

Stanford's Dan Grunfeld, who tied his career high with 29 points, hit a layup with 3:54 remaining to cut UCI's lead to 61-56, but Anteater senior guard Shamar Armstrong hit a three-pointer as the shot clock was winding down with 3:18 left and Armstrong then converted a three-point play with 2:57 remaining to put UCI back up by 11 at 67-56. UCI's largest lead of the game was 17 on two occasions late in the game.

Junior post Mark Kelley added 10 points off the bench for UCI, which shot 58.8 percent for the game, including 53.3 percent from three-point range.

Fells added nine rebounds, five assists and two blocked shots. Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald had a game-high seven assists.

Chris Hernandez added 13 points for Stanford in its season opener.

"To come up here and beat a fine ballclub will give us great confidence," Douglass said. "I am very pleased with the effort we gave and obviously we shot the ball well. Shamar's three-pointer late in the game was big for us.

"As far as the 500th victory, I am sure I will be able to look back someday and realize how special this was. I am just happy we were able to put forth a fine effort and come away with the win."

UCI, 2-1, hosts Santa Clara Tuesday night at 7:00 at the Bren Events Center.

November 11, 2005

UC IRVINE OVERWHELMS MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE 94-40

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. --- UC Irvine established a school record for margin of victory against a Division I opponent with a 94-40 win over Mississippi Valley State in the consolation game of the 2K Sports College Hoops Classic benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer at Winston-Salem, N.C., Friday.

The previous school record versus a D-I opponent was 46 points in a 108-62 win over San Diego Jan. 10, 1981. The all-time UCI record for margin of victory is 68 points in a 91-23 romp over D-III Pomona-Pitzer Dec. 7, 2002.

UCI junior forward Nic Campbell scored a career-high 22 points Friday, hitting 6 of 8 field goals, including 4 of 5 threes. Campbell scored 20 of his points in the first half as the Anteaters led 49-20 at the break.

Freshman forward Adam Templeton scored 15 points in 18 reserve minutes, sophomore post Darren Fells had 14 points (7 of 11 FGs) and senior guard Ross Schraeder added 10 points. Campbell and Fells pulled down a game-high seven rebounds each as UCI had a 40-24 advantage on the boards.

Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald had a career-high 14 assists to set a new Joel Coliseum record previously held by former Wake Forest All-American Chris Paul with 12 against Texas Dec. 18, 2004. UCI's 29 assists Friday tied the Coliseum record first set by Wake Forest against Mount St. Mary's Nov. 16, 2000.

Stanford Speech led Mississippi Valley State with 11 points and Richard Cannon added 10. The Delta Devils (0-2) trailed No. 18 Wake Forest by just seven points with 4:52 remaining Thursday in a 78-64 loss to the Demon Deacons.

A layup by Cannon with 13:27 left in the first half against UCI gave Mississippi Valley its last lead at 11-10 before the Anteaters went on a 39-9 run to end the half.

UCI shot 63.8 percent from the field for the game after hitting just 32.1 percent in Thursday's 79-56 loss to George Mason University. The Anteaters knocked down 12 of 19 threes (.632) Friday after converting only 2 of 18 versus GMU.

"Our guards are offensive-oriented and we indicated to them after the George Mason game that the direction they needed to start with was on the defensive end," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "Our perimeter play was much better tonight and we demonstrated that we are a good shooting team."

"Nic had a remarkable first half and Adam Templeton is a talented freshman whose play tonight will give him confidence for the remainder of the season."

UCI (1-1) returns to action at Stanford Nov. 19 at noon.

November 10, 2005

GEORGE MASON TOPS UC IRVINE 79-56 AT COACHES VS. CANCER CLASSIC

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.--- George Mason University capitalized on poor shooting by UC Irvine and swept past the Anteaters, 79-56, in the season opener for both teams at the 2K Sports College Hoops Classic benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer in Winston-Salem, N.C., Thursday.

The Patriots broke open a close game midway through the first half as UCI managed just two baskets in the final 13 1/2 minutes of the first half and four buckets in the first 9 1/2 minutes of the second half.

George Mason took a 35-23 lead at halftime as the Anteaters hit only 1 of 11 three-point attempts in the opening 20 minutes while the Patriots converted 7 of 14.

GMU pulled away in the second half and enjoyed its largest lead a 64-38 with 8:49 left in the game.

Senior guards Aaron Fitzgerald and Ross Schraeder led UCI with 11 and 10 points, respectively. Fitzgerald added three steals while junior forward led UCI with six rebounds and three assists.

Senior center Jai Lewis led the Patriots with 18 points and added 11 rebounds, sophomore forward Folarin Campbell scored 17 points and senior guard Tony Skinn added 15 points. Sophomore forward Will Thomas pulled down a game-high 12 rebounds as GMU had a 42-31 advantage on the boards.

George Mason shot 54.4 percent from the field for the game, including 50 percent (10 of 20) from three-point range. UCI hit 32.1 percent (18 of 56) from the floor and was 2 of 18 (.111) on threes.

"We didn't shoot the ball well inside or outside," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "They (GMU) shot the three-pointer effectively, especially in the first half, and that opened up their penetration.

"We did not handle their pressure well and they were in control of the game the entire way," he added. "Every time we needed to get going or get over the hump, we couldn't convert a shot.

"Our team didn't meet the goals and objectives we had set for this game and hopefully we can learn from our mistakes."

UCI faces the loser of Mississippi Valley State-Wake Forest in the consolation game at 2:00 p.m. (PST) Friday.

November 1, 2005

UC IRVINE DEFEATS CAL POLY POMONA 94-56

IRVINE, Calif. --- Senior guard Ross Schraeder's 19 points led five UC Irvine players in double figures as the Anteaters topped Cal Poly Pomona, 94-56, in an exhibition game at the Bren Events Center Tuesday night.

Schraeder was 8 of 12 from the field, hitting 3 of 7 three-pointers. Senior guard Aaron Fitzgerald and sophomore center Darren Fells added 15 points each while junior post player Mark Kelley scored 13 and senior guard Shamar Armstrong 10. Fitzgerald recorded a game-high nine assists while Fells had four steals.

Junior guard Billy Hofman led the Broncos with 14 points, hitting 5 of 9 from the field. Senior guard Hervey Malone II added 12 points, four rebounds and four steals.

UCI shot 70.8 percent in the first half and led 46-26 after the opening 20 minutes. The Anteaters shot 65.5 percent for the game and limited Cal Poly Pomona to 34.5 percent shooting. UCI outrebounded the Broncos 40-24 as Kelley and junior forward Nic Campbell pulled down a game-high seven rebounds each. Both teams committed 20 turnovers in the game.

The Anteaters open the regular season facing George Mason University in the 2K Sports College Classic benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer at Winston-Salem, N.C., Nov. 10.