

2005-06 Releases

July 3, 2006

ROSS LAND NAMED ASSISTANT COACH AT UC IRVINE

IRVINE, Calif. --- Ross Land has been named a men's assistant basketball coach at UC Irvine, announced by Anteaters' head coach Pat Douglass Monday.

Land joins the UCI staff after serving the past two seasons as an assistant coach at Northern Arizona University, his alma mater.

He also served as an assistant coach for his stepfather, Prescott "Puck" Smith, at Chico State for one season after playing three years of professional ball in the FIBA SuproLeague in France and Croatia.

"I am extremely excited to join Coach Douglass and the staff at UCI as they have established themselves as a premier program on the West Coast," Land said. "I look forward to joining a cohesive unit, and representing an institution that excels both academically and athletically.

"I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with a coach that has proven himself as a winner and a great teacher of the game. I look forward to continuing the successful ways at UCI," Land added.

Land was a standout player for the Lumberjacks from 1996-2000, scoring 1,525 points to rank second all-time at NAU. He became the first Big Sky Conference player to hit 275 three-pointers in his career, finishing with 308. Land is the NCAA Division I all-time leader in career three-point percentage at .464 among players who have made at least 300 threes. He started 117 straight games at NAU while playing on NCAA tournament teams in 1998 and 2000, as well as an NIT participant in 1999.

Land was inducted into the NAU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2004 as a member of the 1997-98 team and again individually in 2005. He graduated from NAU in 2001 with a degree in pre-medicine. Land and his wife, Meesha, have two daughters, Jayla (4) and Maciana (4 months).

The opening on the UCI coaching staff was created when Terry Boesel left to become associate athletic director at Chapman University.

"Ross is an upcoming star performer in the coaching ranks after being an outstanding player under Ben Howland," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said.

"He has been tutored by two outstanding coaches, Mike Adras at Northern Arizona and veteran coach Puck Smith at Chico State. I feel comfortable that Ross will contribute greatly in our guard development as well as with his ability to recruit the West Coast," Douglass said.

July 3, 2006

ADAM PARADA ON MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES' SUMMER LEAGUE TEAM

IRVINE, Calif. --- Former UC Irvine center Adam Parada (2000-04) is a member of the Minnesota Timberwolves roster for the 2006 Toshiba Vegas Summer League that runs from July 6-14 at COX Pavilion on the UNLV campus.

Minnesota opens its league schedule against Sacramento Thursday (July 6) at 5:00 p.m.

Parada is No. 1 in UCI career blocked shots with 149. He is third all-time in rebounding with 775 boards and ranks eighth in scoring with 1,320 points.

June 26, 2006

**UC IRVINE RELEASES 2006-07 MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE
Anteaters Host South Carolina; Travel to Nevada, Oregon**

IRVINE, Calif. --- One of the most daunting non-conference schedules in UC Irvine men's basketball history will test the fairly youthful Anteaters of Coach Pat Douglass in 2006-07.

The schedule is headlined by a game against South Carolina in the Bren Center Nov. 14. Coach Dave Odom's Gamecocks have won the last two NIT championships after defeating Michigan, 76-64, in last year's title game. The Gamecocks, 23-15 last season, lost to eventual NCAA champion Florida, 49-47, in the Southeastern Conference title game.

South Carolina is just the second SEC team that the UCI program will have faced and the first to play in Irvine. UCI lost at Tennessee, 89-53, Dec. 1, 1971. Tulane, which was an SEC member until 1966, defeated the Anteaters in 1991 and 1992.

The Anteaters have road games against Oregon Nov. 17 and Nevada Nov. 21. This will be UCI's first trip to McArthur Court in Eugene since Bill Mulligan's Anteaters won 90-84 Nov. 28, 1981. The Ducks, 15-18 overall last season, lost to California, 91-87 in double overtime in the Pac-10 Tournament semifinals last March.

The Nevada Wolf Pack, 27-6 overall last season, captured their third consecutive 20-win season, Western Athletic Conference championship and NCAA Tournament appearance in 2005-06. Nevada, which was ranked 20th in the final Associated Press poll, is led by two-time WAC Player of the Year Nick Fazekas. Fazekas was a third-team A.P. All-American last season. Nevada was a member of the Big West Conference from 1993-2000.

UCI opens the season in the Basketball Travelers Classic at Fresno Nov. 10-12. The field also includes host Fresno State, South Alabama and Winston-Salem State, a provisional NCAA Division I member. South Alabama, 24-7 last season, had the nation's biggest Division I turnaround in 2005-06 and had a final RPI of 65. Fresno State is coached by UCI alum Steve Cleveland, who previously was the head coach at BYU.

The Anteaters have consecutive games against West Coast Conference opponents, hosting Pepperdine Nov. 25 and on the road against Loyola Marymount Dec. 9. LMU lost to Gonzaga, 68-67, in the championship game of the WCC Tournament last March.

UCI, in a return of last year's BracketBuster game, plays at Drake University Dec. 12. The Anteaters topped Coach Tom Davis' Bulldogs, 70-67, in the first meeting between the schools last February.

The Anteaters then host Sam Houston State Dec. 16 in a first-ever match-up between the programs. The Bearkats were 22-9 last season, recording the fifth-most wins in the 87-year history of the program. Sam Houston State, which finished second in the Southland Conference, lost only one senior off that team.

UCI journeys back to the Midwest to face DePaul Dec. 20 and Loyola University Chicago Dec. 22. DePaul was 12-15 last season but defeated Syracuse by 39 points (108-69) in March. Loyola finished 19-11 last year, losing to UW-Milwaukee in the semifinals of the Horizon League Tournament.

The Anteaters face Harvard for the first time when UCI and the Crimson meet at the Bren Center Dec. 28.

UCI has a pair of non-conference games against UC Davis, which joins the Big West Conference in 2007-08. The Anteaters have a BracketBuster game, scheduled to be a road contest, Feb. 17.

UCI opens Big West play hosting Cal Poly Jan. 4 and UC Santa Barbara Jan. 6.

The Anteaters will return three of their top five scorers from last season, and the top three rebounders, in senior forward Nic Campbell (10.5 ppg, 4.2 rpg), junior post Darren Fells (9.8 ppg, 7.1 rpg) and junior forward Patrick Sanders (8.6 ppg, 4.3 rpg). Fells was an All-Big West honorable mention pick last season while sophomore forward Adam Templeton (4.5 ppg, 2.7 rpg) was a member of the Big West All-Freshman team.

UCI was 16-13 overall last season and finished second in the Big West with a 10-4 mark.

"This is a challenging schedule, but it also assists us in receiving return games such as Oregon and Nevada for future home schedules," Douglass said.

"South Carolina, with its recent post-season success, makes for the one of the premier teams on our schedule for next season. I hope Southern California hoop fans take this opportunity to watch the Anteaters play the Fighting Gamecocks.

"This schedule should condition our youthful guards as to how to perform at this level of competition," Douglass added.

2006-07 UC IRVINE SCHEDULE (Subject to Change; Pacific Times Listed)

NOV. 2	THURS.	ST. XAVIER (Exhibition)	7:35 pm (DH)
Nov. 10	Fri.	#Winston-Salem State	TBA
Nov. 11	Sat.	#South Alabama	TBA
Nov. 12	Sun.	#at Fresno State	TBA
NOV. 14	TUES.	SOUTH CAROLINA	7:05 PM
Nov. 17	Fri.	at Oregon	8:05 pm
Nov. 21	Tues.	at Nevada	7:05 pm
NOV. 25	SAT.	PEPPERDINE	7:05 PM
Dec. 9	Sat.	at Loyola Marymount	7:05 pm
Dec. 12	Tues.	at Drake	5:05 pm
DEC. 16	SAT.	SAM HOUSTON STATE	7:05 PM
Dec. 20	Wed.	at DePaul	5:35 pm
Dec. 22	Fri.	at Loyola University Chicago	5:05 pm
DEC. 28	THURS.	HARVARD	7:35 PM (DH)
Dec. 30	Sat.	at UC Davis	7:05 pm

JAN. 4	THURS.	*CAL POLY	7:05 PM
JAN. 6	SAT.	*UC SANTA BARBARA	7:05 PM
Jan. 11	Thurs.	*at Cal State Northridge	7:05 pm
Jan. 13	Sat.	*at Pacific	7:05 pm
JAN. 18	THURS.	*UC RIVERSIDE	7:05 PM
JAN. 20	SAT.	*CAL STATE FULLERTON	7:05 PM
JAN. 25	THURS.	*LONG BEACH STATE	7:05 PM
Jan. 27	Sat.	*at Cal State Fullerton	6:05 pm
FEB. 1	THURS.	*PACIFIC	7:05 PM
FEB. 3	SAT.	*CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE	7:05 PM
Feb. 8	Thurs.	*at UC Santa Barbara	7:05 pm
Feb. 10	Sat.	*at Cal Poly	4:05 pm
Feb. 14	Wed.	*at UC Riverside	7:05 pm
Feb. 17	Sat.	at Bracketbuster (TBA)	TBA
FEB. 22	THURS.	UC DAVIS	7:05 PM
Mar. 1	Thurs.	*at Long Beach State	7:35 pm
Mar. 7-10	Wed-Sat.	+Big West Conference Tournament	TBA

Basketball Travelers Classic at Fresno
 * *Big West Conference Games*
 + *Big West Tournament at Anaheim Convention Center*

June 26, 2006

SCOTT BROOKS NAMED ASSISTANT COACH AT SACRAMENTO

Former UCI standout guard Scott Brooks has been named an assistant coach for the Sacramento Kings and new head coach Eric Musselman.

Brooks was an assistant the past three years for the Denver Nuggets. He served as interim head coach for two games last season when George Karl had to serve a suspension from the league.

Brooks played 11 seasons in the NBA and was a member of the Houston Rockets' championship team in 1994. He played two seasons (1986 and 1987) at UCI after previously playing at San Joaquin Delta College and TCU.

Brooks was a first team All-Big West Conference selection for the Anteaters as a senior in 1987 when he averaged 23.8 points per game.

June 21, 2006

TERRY BOESEL RESIGNS AS ASSISTANT COACH AT UC IRVINE

IRVINE, Calif. --- Terry Boesel, a men's assistant basketball coach at UC Irvine for the past three years, has announced his resignation to become associate athletic director at Chapman University.

"Terry is a loyal, tireless worker, very professional and extremely well-organized on and off the court," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "He played a big hand in helping us land one of the best recruiting classes we've had since my time here. Terry left no stone unturned in terms of recruiting and finding the best techniques to coach our players.

"Terry's energy and positive approach have been incredible and helped promote a productive environment for our men's basketball program. He truly has been an outstanding representative of UCI. I am sorry to see him leave, but I am grateful to him for his dedicated and loyal service. We wish him nothing but the best for his continued success," Douglass added.

Boesel, who joined the UCI staff in the summer of 2003, previously served as head coach at the University of La Verne for five years and he also was an assistant coach at the University of San Diego and Chapman. He and his wife, Joan, have two daughters, Brittany and Mackenzie.

May 31, 2006

CHUMA AWAJI SIGNS WITH UC IRVINE

IRVINE, Calif. --- Chukwuma "Chuma" Awaji, a 6-3 combo guard from Lon Morris College in Jacksonville, Tex., has signed a scholarship agreement with the UC Irvine men's basketball program.

Awaji, rated No. 65 in the JucoJunction.com list of the Top 100 JC players in 2006, is returning to his home state as he played his prep ball at Dorsey High School in Los Angeles.

He has been a two-year starter at Lon Morris for coach Dale Dotson. Awaji averaged 14 points, 5 rebounds and 4 assists this past season and scored a high of 27 points versus Tyler Junior College. He was named to the All-Region 14 honorable mention team.

Awaji is the fifth player signed by UCI head coach Pat Douglass and his staff for next season.

Awaji joins forward Kevin Bland (San Joaquin Delta College), wing Chad DeCasas (Capistrano Valley HS), point guard Michael Hunter (Maine Central Institute), and combo guard Justin Johnson (El Segundo HS) as incoming players for the 2006-07 Anteater squad.

May 16, 2006

FOUR PLAYERS NAMED BIG WEST CONFERENCE SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

IRVINE, Calif. --- Four UCI men's basketball players 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 basketball honorees are Nic Campbell, Chad McDaniel, Ross Schraeder and Brandon Sievers.

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.

May 15, 2006

FORMER BASKETBALL PLAYER ARAS BASKAUSKAS WINS SURVIVOR

Irvine, Calif. -- Former UCI guard Aras Baskauskas (2002-004) outlasted his opponents and emerged as winner of the reality TV show "Survivor: Panama – Exile Island" in the season finale broadcast May 14. Baskauskas, who graduated with a BA in philosophy and an MBA from UCI, competed against 15 other players for 39 days to secure the jury vote of "Sole Survivor" and a \$1 million prize.

May 10, 2006

UC IRVINE SIGNS PAIR OF GUARDS

IRVINE, Calif. --- Combo guard Justin Johnson from El Segundo High School and point guard Michael Hunter from Smoky Hill High School in Aurora, Colo., have signed with the UC Irvine men's basketball program.

The 6-2 Johnson was a first team All-CIF selection for coach Rick Sabosky, whose squad was 19-10 overall. Johnson, who was tri-MVP of the Pioneer League, averaged 20.7 points, 6.0 rebounds and 3.7 assists for the Eagles as a senior this past season. He scored a high of 38 points, hitting 15 of 16 free throws, versus Serrano. A three-year starter for El Segundo, Johnson averaged 16 points as a junior.

"Justin is a versatile, all-around player who was an outstanding scorer in high school," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "We look for him to play the shooting-guard position for us, but he also has point-guard skills.

"Justin is a player who kind of flew under the radar as he had signed with Portland in November but was released from that commitment after a coaching change at the university. Justin will be a good combination with Michael Hunter," Douglass said.

The 5-10 Hunter attended a prep school, Maine Central Institute, this year after graduating from Smoky Hill in 2005. He was Centennial League Player of the Year as a junior and senior at Smoky Hill and was selected to the all-state second team both years. He also was MVP of the Denver Nuggets All-Star Game. Hunter averaged 21.0 points, 5.0 assists and 3.0 rebounds his senior season for coach Ken Shaw. Hunter's top-scoring game in high school was 41 points versus Boulder High.

"Michael is a quick, penetrating guard," Douglass said. "He has demonstrated an ability to shoot the long-range ball as well as drive to the basket and finish.

"He is a very savvy guard who, due to graduation in our backcourt, could be called upon to play valuable minutes as a freshman."

April 28, 2006

ROSS SCHRAEDER RECEIVES LAUDS & LAURELS AWARD

IRVINE, Calif. --- Senior Ross Schraeder was recognized as the "Outstanding Student-Athlete" by the UCI Alumni Association at the annual Lauds & Laurels Banquet Thursday night.

Schraeder led the Anteaters in scoring in 2005-06 for the second straight season at 13.1 points per game and ended his career with 1,094 points (16th at UCI). He is the program's all-time leader in three-point field goals made (233) and attempted (529). Schraeder was fourth in the nation this season in three-point field goal percentage at .474.

He is currently playing professionally in Italy.

April 14, 2006

KEVIN BLAND SIGNS WITH UC IRVINE

IRVINE, Calif. --- Kevin Bland, a 6-8 forward from San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton, has signed a national letter of intent with the UC Irvine men's basketball program.

Bland averaged 23 points and 10 rebounds per game this season for the Mustangs, who won the Big 7 Conference title and advanced to the state tournament quarterfinals where they lost to eventual state champion Fullerton College. He scored 37 points, hitting his first 11 shots, in a 91-69 victory over Shasta in the third round of the Northern California Regional playoffs. Bland had games of 38 points against Foothill, 36 versus Merced, 32 against Diablo Valley and Los Medanos, and 31 against Merced.

Bland, who has two years of eligibility remaining, was named California Community College co-Most Valuable Player this season. He also was the Big 7's MVP and was the Northern California Player of the Year. Delta ended the season 29-7 under coach Brian Katz.

"Kevin is the first state MVP we have signed in our program," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "One of the main reasons for his success was that he played on an outstanding team where he demonstrated his ability to score inside and outside. He was the most versatile big man in the state this season.

"He has shown a remarkable ability to improve each season throughout high school and junior college," Douglass added. "With his desire, Kevin could turn out to be one of the top recruits we have had in our program."

April 4, 2006

SCHRAEDER NAMED TO BIG WEST ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

IRVINE, Calif. --- Ross Schraeder was one of 13 UC Irvine student-athletes named to the Big West Academic All-Conference team for winter sports.

A total of 70 student-athletes from the eight member institutions received the honor. To be eligible, student-athletes had to maintain a minimum 3.2 grade-point average, attained a sophomore standing academically and competed in at least 50 percent of their team's contests.

This is the third straight year that Schraeder has earned the honor. He majored in sociology with a minor in education and graduated following winter quarter. Schraeder signed a contract with a team in the Italian professional league last week.

April 1, 2006

FORMER ANTEATER ROSS SCHRAEDER SIGNS MULTI-YEAR DEAL WITH BIPOP REGGIO EMILIA OF ITALIAN PRO LEAGUE

IRVINE, Calif. --- Former UC Irvine basketball guard Ross Schraeder, after just three days of a tryout, has signed a multi-year contract with Bipop Reggio Emilia of the Italian professional league. The pact reportedly runs through June 2009.

Schraeder led the Anteaters in scoring in 2005-06 for the second straight season at 13.1 points per game and ended his career with 1,094 points (16th at UCI). He is the program's all-time leader in three-point field goals made (233) and attempted (529). Schraeder was fourth in the nation this season in three-point field goal percentage at .474.

March 14, 2006

UC IRVINE FINISHES SEASON 16-13 OVERALL

ANTEATERS END SEASON 16-13 AFTER HEARTBREAKING LOSS: UC Irvine finished the 2005-06 season 16-13 overall after a 75-73 loss to Long Beach State in the semifinals of the Big West Conference Tournament last Friday night as the 49ers' Aaron Nixon hit a three-pointer as time expired.

UCI, which was picked to finish fifth and sixth in the preseason coaches and media polls, respectively, was the No. 2 seed for the tournament after going 10-4 in league play and earned an automatic berth in the semifinals.

UCI has made 24 appearances in the league tournament and has a record of 15-24 in tourney games. The Anteaters are 2-9 in semifinal games at the tournament. UCI was seeking its first tournament title, having lost to Utah State, 86-79, in the 1988 championship game at the Forum and 70-64 to New Mexico State in the 1994 title contest at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas.

AARON FITZGERALD NAMED TO ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM: Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald was named to the All-Big West Tournament team. Fitzgerald recorded game highs of 10 assists and four steals against Long Beach State, plus he had just one turnover in the 75-73 loss to the 49ers. Fitzgerald was named first team All-Big West for the season. He averaged 6.6 assists this season and is fourth in career assists at UCI with 342.

109 WINS IN LAST SIX YEARS: UCI, which recorded its fifth winning season in the last six years, has won 109 games over the past six seasons for an average of 18.2 victories.

UCI STATS LEADERS: Senior guard Ross Schraeder, who scored 1,094 career points (16th all-time at UCI), led the Anteaters in scoring at 13.1 points. He is UCI's career leader in threes with 233. Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald averaged 11.7 points and 6.6 assists per game. Junior forward Nic Campbell averaged 10.5 points while sophomore post Darren Fells averaged 9.8 points and 7.1 rebounds. Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders followed at 8.6 points and 4.3 rebounds.

ANTEATERS 2ND IN NATION IN 3-POINT PERCENTAGE: As of Monday, UCI is second in the nation in three-point field goal percentage at .420. Southern Utah is No. 1 at .429.

COACH DOUGLASS IN 500 CLUB

UC Irvine head coach Pat Douglass gained victory No. 500 in his four-year collegiate coaching career when the Anteaters stunned then-No. 13 Stanford, 79-63, at Maples Pavilion Nov. 19. He is 514-238 at the conclusion of the 2005-06 season, his ninth at UCI. Douglass, who completed his 25th season overall in the four-year ranks, is 138-119 at the helm of the Anteaters.

SCHRAEDER 1ST IN CAREER THREES

Senior guard Ross Schraeder hit 16 of 24 (.667) three-point field goals in the last five games. He is UCI's career leader in threes made with 233 and attempts (529) for a percentage of .440. Schraeder reached 1,000 career points when he hit a three-point shot with 9:09 left in the first half of the Feb. 4 win at Cal State Northridge. He has 1,094 points to rank 16th all-time at UCI. Schraeder went 28 of 43 (.651) from the field in the final five games of his career. He shot 47.4 percent from three-point range this season.

FITZGERALD 4TH IN CAREER ASSISTS

Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald had 342 career assists in 58 games to rank fourth all-time at UCI. Fitzgerald averaged 8.0 assists in the last eight games. He had 10 each in the final two games of his Anteater career.

FELLS LEADS ON ON BOARDS

Sophomore center Darren Fells averaged 8.3 boards over the last eight games and led the Anteaters in rebounding at 7.1 per game for the program's highest average in 10 seasons. He had five double-digit rebounding games this season.

CAMPBELL WITH THE TOUCH

Junior forward Nic Campbell was 19 of 33 (.578) from the field in the last four games, hitting 12 of 23 threes in that stretch.

SANDERS STEADY IN STARTS

Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders started 19 of the last 20 games of the season. He averaged 9.7 points over the last 20 games.

ARMSTRONG LIGHTS UP FROM THREE

Senior guard Shamar Armstrong hit 15 of 29 (.538) three-point shots in the last eight games, averaging 8.9 points in that span.

TEMP THE SUPER SUB

True freshman forward Adam Templeton shot 52 percent from the field and 44 percent from three-point range for the season. In the 14 conference games, he averaged 6.4 points and 4.1 rebounds, shooting 57 percent from the field including 46 percent on threes.

METELSKI IN THE MIDDLE

Senior center Adam Metelski shot 53 percent from the field and led the team in blocked shots with 18. He was 5 of 5 from the floor

KELLEY MAKES MOST OF MINUTES

Junior post Mark Kelley hit 5 of 6 field goals and scored 11 points in seven minutes of the Big West semifinal loss to Long Beach State. He and Patrick Sanders tied for second on the team with 16 blocked shots this season.

PRICE BACKS UP THE POINT

Junior walk-on point guard Dustin Price scored five points in eight minutes of the Feb. 15 win over UC Riverside. He had a career-high three assists in four games, including last Saturday's season-ending loss to Long Beach State.

GREEN WITH 5 APPEARANCES

Sophomore guard Mike Green played in his fifth game of the season against UC Riverside Feb. 15, notching one rebound and a steal.

SIX FOR BRANDON

Senior walk-on guard Brandon Sievers played in six games this season. He scored a career-high six points in eight minutes of the Nov. 11 win over Mississippi Valley State at the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic in Winston-Salem, N.C.

CHAD MAKES MOST OF HIS TIME

Freshman walk-on guard Chad McDaniel played in his first collegiate game Feb. 15 against UC Riverside and converted a layup for his initial UCI points.

March 12, 2006

AARON FITZGERALD NAMED TO ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

IRVINE, Calif. --- Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald was named to the All-Big West Conference Tournament team.

Fitzgerald recorded game highs of 10 assists and four steals in last Friday's loss to Long Beach State, plus he had just one turnover in the 75-73 loss to the 49ers.

He is fourth in career assists at UCI with 342.

March 7, 2006

SECOND-SEEDED UCI PLAYS IN BIG WEST TOURNEY SEMIFINAL FRIDAY NIGHT

GAME #29: UC Irvine (16-12) vs. Long Beach State

Friday, March 10, 2006 – 9:00 p.m. (PST)

Anaheim Convention Center (7,734) – Anaheim, Calif. Big West Tournament Semifinal

RADIO: KUCI/88.9 FM & KWRM/1370 AM (Mark Roberts & Brian Underwood)

TV: ESPNU

24TH TRIP TO THE TOURNEY: UC Irvine is making its 24th appearance in the Big West Conference Tournament. In their previous 23 tournaments, the Anteaters were 15-23. With the second seed and an automatic berth in Friday's semifinals, UCI is making its 11th trip to the semifinals and the first since 2003.

The Anteaters have reached the championship game twice (1988 & 1994). UCI is seeking its first tournament title, having lost to Utah State, 86-79, in the 1988 championship game at the Forum and 70-64 to New Mexico State in the 1994 title contest at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas.

AWAY FROM HOME: UCI was 7-6 at the Bren Center this season but the Anteaters are 9-6 away from home.

2006 BIG WEST TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE Anaheim Convention Center

Wednesday, March 8 – First Round

6:00 p.m.: #5 UC Santa Barbara vs. #8 UC Riverside

8:30 p.m.: #6 Cal St. Fullerton vs. #7 Cal St. Northridge

Thursday, March 9 – Quarterfinals (KVMD-TV)

6:00 p.m.: #3 Long Beach St. vs. Lowest Seed Remaining

8:30 p.m.: #4 Cal Poly vs. Highest Seed Remaining

Friday, March 10 – Semifinals (ESPNU)

6:00 p.m.: #1 Pacific vs. Cal Poly

9:00 p.m.: #2 UC Irvine vs. Long Beach State

Saturday, March 11 – Championship (ESPN)

9:00 p.m.: Championship Game

AARON FITZGERALD NAMED FIRST TEAM ALL-BIG WEST: UC Irvine senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald was selected to the 2006 All-Big West Conference men's basketball first team announced by the league office Monday. Fitzgerald leads the Big West in assists with a 6.4 average which currently ranks sixth in the nation. His 180 assists are the third-most in UCI single-season history in the 41 years of Anteater basketball. Fitzgerald is fourth in UCI career assists with 332. He is averaging 12.0 points on the season and is shooting 46.2 percent from the field. He leads the Anteaters with 34 steals. Fitzgerald is the 14th first-team selection in UCI history and the first since 2003 (Jordan Harris).

SCHRAEDER, FELLS NAMED TO HONORABLE MENTION TEAM: Senior guard Ross Schraeder was named to the All-Big West honorable mention team for the second straight season. He is the all-time UCI leader in three-point field goals with 230. Schraeder, who leads the Anteaters in scoring at 13.0 points per game, is shooting 47 percent (71 of 151) on threes this season.

Sophomore center Darren Fells also was selected to the All-Big West honorable mention squad. Fells, who is averaging 9.6 points, leads the Anteaters in rebounding with a 7.1 average that ranks third in the conference.

TEMPLETON ON ALL-FROSH SQUAD: Forward Adam Templeton was named to the Big West All-Freshman team. He is averaging 4.5 points and 2.7 rebounds for all games and 6.4 points and 4.1 boards in league games. Templeton is shooting 57 percent from the field in Big West play and 53 percent for all games.

UCI STATS LEADERS: Senior guard Ross Schraeder, who has 1,077 career points (16th all-time at UCI), leads the Anteaters in scoring at 13.0 points. He is UCI's career leader in threes with 230. Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald is averaging 12.0 points and 6.4 assists per game. Junior forward Nic Campbell is averaging 10.6 points while sophomore post Darren Fells is averaging 9.6 points and 7.1 rebounds. Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders follows at 8.6 points and 4.3 rebounds.

ANTEATERS 2ND IN NATION IN 3-POINT PERCENTAGE: As of Tuesday, the UC Irvine men's basketball team is second in the nation in three-point field goal percentage at .423. Southern Utah is No. 1 at .429.

SCHRAEDER 4TH IN 3-POINT SHOOTING, FITZGERALD 7TH IN ASSISTS: Ross Schraeder is fourth in the nation in three-point field goal percentage (.470) as Northern Arizona's Stephen Sir leads at .497. Aaron Fitzgerald is seventh nationally in assists with a 6.4 average as Jared Jordan of Marist leads at 8.5.

IN THE BIG WEST: UCI leads the Big West Conference in free-throw percentage (.746), three-point field goal percentage (.423), three-point field goals made per game (8.64) and rebounding defense (31.6) for all games. Individually, Aaron Fitzgerald leads the Big West in assists at 6.4 per game, Ross Schraeder is first in three-point field goal percentage (.470) and Darren Fells is first in offensive rebounds at 2.46 per game. Schraeder is second in the conference in three-point field goals made per game (2.54) and third in free-throw percentage (.864). Fells is third in rebounding with his 7.1 average.

March 6, 2006

**FITZGERALD NAMED FIRST TEAM ALL-BIG WEST;
Four UCI Players Receive Conference Recognition**

IRVINE, Calif. --- UC Irvine senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald was selected to the 2006 All-Big West Conference men's basketball first team announced by the league office Monday.

Fitzgerald leads the Big West in assists with a 6.4 average which currently ranks sixth in the nation. His 180 assists are the third-most in UCI single-season history in the 41 years of Anteater basketball. Fitzgerald is fourth in UCI career assists with 332. He is averaging 12.0 points on the season and is shooting 46.2 percent from the field. He leads the Anteaters with 34 steals. Fitzgerald is the 14th first-team selection in UCI history and the first since 2003 (Jordan Harris).

Senior guard Ross Schraeder was named to the All-Big West honorable mention team for the second straight season. He is the all-time UCI leader in three-point field goals with 230. Schraeder, who leads the Anteaters in scoring at 13.0 points per game, is shooting 47 percent (71 of 151) on threes this season.

Sophomore center Darren Fells also was selected to the All-Big West honorable mention squad. Fells, who is averaging 9.6 points, leads the Anteaters in rebounding with a 7.1 average that ranks third in the conference.

Forward Adam Templeton was named to the Big West All-Freshman team. He is averaging 4.5 points and 2.7 rebounds for all games and 6.4 points and 4.1 boards in league games. Templeton is shooting 57 percent from the field in Big West play and 53 percent for all games.

UCI, 16-12 overall, is the second seed for the Big West Tournament at the Anaheim Convention Center this week. The Anteaters have an automatic berth in the semifinals and will play at 9:00 Friday (March 10) night.

March 3, 2006

UCI WILL PLAY IN BIG WEST TOURNAMENT SEMIFINAL AT 9:00 P.M. MARCH 10

IRVINE, Calif. --- The UC Irvine men's basketball team is the No. 2 seed for the Big West Conference Tournament and will play a semifinal game at 9:00 p.m. next Friday (March 10). The game is being televised by ESPNU. Pacific clinched the top seed with a win over UCSB last night.

March 1, 2006

COLLEGEINSIDER.COM NAMES UCI'S AARON FITZGERALD BIG WEST MVP

IRVINE, Calif. --- Collegeinsider.com has named UC Irvine senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald the Most Valuable Player in the Big West Conference as the website released its various conference awards Wednesday.

Fitzgerald leads the Big West in assists at 6.3 per game, which ranks seventh nationally. He leads the Anteaters in steals with 33 and is averaging 12.1 points per game. Fitzgerald is UCI's leading scorer in league games with a 12.7 average and he is shooting 51 percent from the field in Big West contests. He has connected on 48 percent of his three-point shots in conference play.

Collegeinsider.com named Pacific's Christian Maraker as the Big West Player of the Year and the Tigers' Bob Thomason as Coach of the Year.

UCI, 16-11 overall and 10-3 in the Big West, ends the regular season hosting Long Beach State Saturday at 5:00 p.m. (Fox Sports Net West 2). The Anteaters are guaranteed of a top-two seed for next week's Big West Tournament and an automatic berth in the semifinals March 10 at the Anaheim Convention Center.

February 28, 2006

**UC IRVINE HOSTS LONG BEACH STATE SATURDAY;
Final Home Appearance for 5 Anteater Seniors**

GAME #28: UC Irvine (16-11, 10-3) vs. Long Beach State
Saturday, Mar. 4, 2006 – 5:00 p.m. (PST)
Bren Events Center (5,000) – Irvine, Calif.

RADIO: KUCI/88.9 FM & KWRM/1370 AM (Mark Roberts & Brian Underwood)

TV: FSNW2 (Brian Webber & Sean Farnham)

ON DECK: UC Irvine vs. TBA

Friday, March 10, 2006 – 6:00 or 8:30 p.m. (PST)

Anaheim Convention Center (7,734) – Anaheim, Calif.

Big West Tournament Semifinal

ANTEATERS END REGULAR SEASON AGAINST 49ERS: Coach Pat Douglass' UC Irvine men's basketball team (16-11, 10-3), ends the regular season hosting Long Beach State in a "Black & Blue Rivalry Series" game Saturday at 5:00 p.m. at the Bren Events Center. The Anteaters carry a three-game winning streak into the game. With 16 wins, UCI is guaranteed of its fifth winning season in the past six years.

UCI, with its 10-3 league mark, is already guaranteed of a top-two seed and an automatic berth in the semifinals of the Big West Conference Tournament at the Anaheim Convention Center March 10. Pacific leads the conference with a 10-2 mark entering home games this week versus UC Santa Barbara and Cal Poly.

The 49ers enter the week 14-11 overall and 7-5 in the Big West. Long Beach State, which is tied with Cal Poly for third place, hosts UC Riverside Thursday night.

72ND MEETING IN SERIES: Long Beach State leads the series with UCI 44-27, but the Anteaters have won six of the last eight meetings between the schools. UCI defeated the 49ers, 73-67, at the Walter Pyramid Jan. 28 as Darren Fells led the way with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Ross Schraeder scored 16 points, Aaron Fitzgerald 13 and Adam Templeton contributed 10 points and six boards off the bench. Jibril Hodges led Long Beach State with a game-high 24 points and Shawn Hawkins had 11 points and 10 rebounds. The 49ers had 14 steals in the game and forced UCI to commit 20 turnovers as LBSU cut a 19-point deficit to three late in the game.

'BLACK & BLUE RIVALRY SERIES': The first annual "Black & Blue Rivalry Series," presented by Duke's, has UC Irvine leading Long Beach State 14-11 entering the week. In the first basketball doubleheader between LBSU and UCI on Jan. 28, the 49ers earned two points as the women defeated UCI, but the Anteaters got three points as the men won their game in Long Beach. The most recent result was UCI's four-game road win in men's volleyball last Friday. This Thursday afternoon the women's tennis teams meet in Long Beach. Two points are awarded for a home win, and three for a road victory.

SALUTE TO SENIORS: Saturday's game is the final Bren Center appearance for UCI seniors Shamar Armstrong, Aaron Fitzgerald, Adam Metelski, Ross Schraeder and Jeff Gloger, who has missed the season due to a torn ACL. The quintet will be recognized during a ceremony immediately following the game.

IN THE BREN CENTER: UCI is 7-5 at home this season and 141-115 all-time in the Bren Center. The Anteaters have won 59 of their last 77 games (.766) in the Bren. The Anteaters are 8-4 in road games this season.

UCI STATS LEADERS: Senior guard Ross Schraeder, who has 1,052 career points (16th all-time at UCI), leads the Anteaters in scoring at 12.6 points. He is UCI's career leader in threes with 225. Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald is averaging 12.1 points and 6.3 assists per game. Junior forward Nic Campbell is averaging 10.7 points while sophomore post Darren Fells is averaging 9.7 points and 7.3 rebounds. Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders follows at 8.5 points and 4.4 rebounds.

In the last six games, UCI has held the opposition to an average of 58.3 points per game and a shooting percentage of .385 from the field. UCI is 8-0 when the opponents shoot 40 percent or less from the field and 16-4 when holding the opposition to 70 points or less. The Anteaters are 9-2 when shooting at least 50 percent from the field, 10-3 when out-rebounding their opponent and 13-2 when leading at halftime this season.

ANTEATERS 3RD IN NATION IN 3-POINT PERCENTAGE: UCI enters the week third in the nation in three-point field goal percentage at .420. Southern Utah is No. 1 at .429 and Utah State is second at .424.

Aaron Fitzgerald is seventh nationally in assists with a 6.3 average as Jared Jordan of Marist leads at 8.7.

IN THE BIG WEST: In Big West games only, UCI ranks first in scoring defense (60.8), field-goal percentage defense (.404), three-point field goal percentage (.400), three-point field goals made per game (8.31) and defensive rebounds average (24.69).

Individually in league games, Aaron Fitzgerald leads the Big West in assists (6.54) and three-point field goal percentage (.478).

For all games, UCI leads the conference in three-point field goal percentage (.420) and three-point field goals made per game (8.48).

Individually for all games, Aaron Fitzgerald leads the league in assists per game (6.30). Darren Fells is first in offensive rebounds with a 2.56 average and he is third in rebounding at 7.3. Ross Schraeder (.455) and Nic Campbell (.452) rank 2-3 in three-point field goal percentage.

ABOUT LONG BEACH STATE: Coach Larry Reynolds' 49ers are 14-11 overall and 7-5 in the Big West entering a Thursday night home game against UC Riverside. Senior guard Jibril Hodges leads the 49ers in scoring at 15.0 points per game, junior forward Aaron Nixon is averaging 13.0 points, senior forward Shawn Hawkins 12.0 and junior guard Kejuan Johnson 11.8. Nixon scored a career-high 33 points in LBSU's 96-92, overtime win at UC Davis last Saturday.

February 20, 2006

ANTEATERS TRAVEL TO UC DAVIS THURSDAY NIGHT

GAME #27: UC Irvine (15-11) vs. UC Davis (8-16)
Thursday, Feb. 23, 2006 – 7:00 p.m. (PST)
The Pavilion (7,600) – Davis, Calif.

RADIO: KUCI/88.9 FM & KWRM/1370 AM (Mark Roberts)

ON DECK: UC Irvine vs. Long Beach State
Saturday, Mar. 4, 2006 – 5:00 p.m. (PST)
Bren Events Center (5,000) – Irvine, Calif.
Fox Sports Net West 2

ANTEATERS FACE AGGIES IN NON-CONFERENCE CONTEST: Coach Pat Douglass' UC Irvine men's basketball team, 15-11 overall, plays its second straight non-conference game as the Anteaters face future Big West member UC Davis Thursday night in Davis.

The Aggies, 8-16 this season, are in their provisional third year of NCAA Division I competition. Games against UC Davis will become official Big West contests beginning with the 2007-08 season.

With 15 wins, UCI is guaranteed of its fifth winning season in the past six years.

SERIES RECORD: UCI leads the series with UC Davis, 8-6, but the Aggies won the first meeting this season, 66-63, at the Bren Center Jan. 4. Phil Rasmussen and Vince Oliver led Davis with 15 points each and Rommel Marentez added 14 as the Aggies outscored the Anteaters 12-4 in the final five minutes of the game. Senior center Adam Metelski led UCI with a career-high 17 points and nine rebounds in 21 minutes off the bench. Nic Campbell and Patrick Sanders scored 12 points apiece and Darren Fells tied his career high with 13 rebounds.

ABOUT UC DAVIS: UC Davis, which has not played since a Feb. 14 loss to Cal State Northridge, is 8-16 overall, including wins over UCI, Stanford and Cal Poly (twice). Junior guard Rommel Marentez leads Gary Stewart's club in scoring at 12.3 points per game, followed by senior forward Phil Rasmussen at 12.0 points and a team-leading 5.9 rebounds. Freshman guard Vince Oliver is averaging 11.0 points, junior forward Thomas Juillerat 10.6 points and freshman forward Kyle Brucculeri has a 10.0 scoring average.

MARCH 4TH START TIME MOVED: UCI's home Big West game versus Long Beach State Mar. 4 has been moved to 5:00 p.m. to accommodate the Fox Sports Net West 2 telecast.

ANTEATERS 4TH IN NATION IN 3-POINT PERCENTAGE: UCI is fourth in the nation this week in three-point field goal percentage at .416, one spot ahead of Duke (.414). Utah State ranks first at .431.

Aaron Fitzgerald ranks ninth nationally in assists with an average of 6.3 per game. Jared Jordan of Marist is first with an 8.7 average.

UCI STATS LEADERS: Senior guard Ross Schraeder, who has 1,044 career points (16th all-time at UCI), leads the Anteaters in scoring at 12.7 points. He is UCI's career leader in threes with 223. Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald is averaging 12.2 points and 6.3 assists per game. Junior forward Nic Campbell is averaging 10.5 points while sophomore post Darren Fells is averaging 9.4 points and 7.1 rebounds. Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders follows at 8.2 points and 4.3 rebounds.

In the last five games, UCI has held the opposition to an average of 56.4 points per game and a shooting percentage of .381 from the field.

IN THE BIG WEST: In Big West games only, UCI ranks first in scoring defense (60.8), scoring margin (+7.3), field-goal percentage defense (.404), three-point field goal percentage (.400), three-point field goals made per game (8.31) and defensive rebounds average (24.69).

Individually in league games, Aaron Fitzgerald leads the Big West in assists (6.54) and three-point field goal percentage (.478).

For all games, UCI leads the conference in three-point field goal percentage (.416), three-point field goals made per game (8.46), and rebounding defense (31.8).

Individually for all games, Aaron Fitzgerald leads the league in assists per game (6.27), Ross Schraeder (.454) and Nic Campbell (.442) rank 1-2 in three-point field goal percentage and Darren Fells ranks No. 1 in offensive rebounds at 2.54 per game. Fells is third in rebounding (7.1)

for all games while Schraeder is third in free-throw percentage (.859) and three-point field goals made per game (2.46).

UCI EARNS TRIP TO BIG WEST TOURNEY SEMIS: UCI, with its 63-37 win over UC Riverside last Wednesday, locked up a top-two seed for the Big West Conference Tournament at the Anaheim Convention Center. The Anteaters are guaranteed of a trip to the semifinals March 10. This will be UCI's first appearance in the tournament semifinals since 2003. The Anteaters played in the semis three consecutive years (2001-03), coming up short on all three occasions.

February 17, 2006

ANTEATERS HOST DRAKE SATURDAY NIGHT

ANTEATERS FACE BULLDOGS FOR FIRST TIME: Coach Pat Douglass' UC Irvine men's basketball team, 14-11 overall, hosts Drake University (12-15) Saturday night at 7:00 in a non-conference game as part of the 2006 BracketBusters presented by eBay. This will be the first meeting between the schools.

As part of the BracketBuster agreement, UCI will face the Bulldogs in Des Moines, Iowa, tentatively on Dec. 12 next season.

ABOUT DRAKE: Drake, located in Des Moines, Iowa, is a member of the Missouri Valley Conference. The Bulldogs are coached by former Stanford and Iowa head man Tom Davis. The Bulldogs are 12-15 overall and 5-11 in the MVC following a 58-56 overtime loss at Illinois State Tuesday. Senior guard Chaun Brooks leads Drake in scoring at 10.7 points per game, followed by junior guard Al Stewart (10.5) and junior forward Ajay Calvin, who is averaging 10.0 points and 5.4 boards. UCI and Drake have had one common opponent this season in San Jose State. The Anteaters defeated the Spartans, 68-58, at the Bren Center Dec. 3 and the Bulldogs won 82-64 at San Jose Dec. 17.

TOM HAS BEEN HERE BEFORE: Drake coach Tom Davis brought his Iowa Hawkeyes to the Bren Center Dec. 29, 1993, in a game won by the Anteaters, 86-78. UCI junior guard Chris Brown, in just his third game in uniform and making his first start, scored 29 points, hitting 7 three-pointers. Brown went on to lead the nation that season with an average of 4.7 threes made per game.

SPEAKING OF ANOTHER DAVIS: UCI travels to future Big West member UC Davis for a non-conference game Thursday night. The Aggies topped the Anteaters, 66-63, in the Jan. 4 matinee game at the Bren Center.

UCI STATS LEADERS: Senior guard Ross Schraeder, who has 1,026 career points (16th all-time at UCI), leads the Anteaters in scoring at 12.5 points. He is UCI's career leader in threes with 219. Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald is averaging 12.2 points and his 6.2 assists average ranked 11th nationally entering the week. Junior forward Nic Campbell is averaging 10.1 points while sophomore post Darren Fells is averaging 9.7 points and 7.0 rebounds. Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders follows at 8.4 points and 4.1 rebounds.

February 14, 2006

ANTEATERS HOST UC RIVERSIDE WEDNESDAY, DRAKE SATURDAY

GAME #25: UC Irvine (13-11, 9-3) vs. UC Riverside (3-18, 3-7)
Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2006 – 7:00 p.m. (PST)
Bren Events Center (5,000) – Irvine, Calif.

GAME #26: UC Irvine vs. Drake University
2006 BracketBusters presented by eBay
Saturday, Feb. 18, 2006 – 7:00 p.m. (PST)
Bren Events Center (5,000) – Irvine, Calif.

RADIO: KUCI/88.9 FM & KWRM/1370 AM (Mark Roberts & Brian Underwood)

ANTEATERS STILL TRYING TO SECURE TOP-2 SEED: Coach Pat Douglass' UC Irvine men's basketball team (13-11, 9-3) hosts UC Riverside in a Big West Conference game Wednesday night as the Anteaters are still attempting to secure a top-two seed for the Big West Tournament. The top two teams following the regular season will have byes into the conference tournament semifinals.

The Anteaters, who played seven Big West games in 17 days to open the league schedule, have just two conference contests in 18 days beginning with UCR Wednesday. Following that game, UCI plays two straight non-conference games, hosting Drake University in a BracketBuster game Saturday night before traveling to future Big West member UC Davis Feb. 23. The Anteaters end the regular season hosting Long Beach State in a Big West game March 4. UCI, which was 6-1 on the road in Big West play, has lost its last two home conference games and three of the past four contests after opening league play with eight consecutive victories. UC Santa Barbara defeated the Anteaters, 60-59, last Thursday and Cal Poly claimed a 61-58 win Saturday night.

SERIES RECORDS: UCI leads the UC Riverside series 21-16, including a 71-61 road win Jan. 19 as freshman forward Adam Templeton scored a career-high 18 points off the bench. Steve Williams led the Highlanders with 23 points in that game.

Saturday night will mark the first meeting between UCI and Drake.

UCI STATS LEADERS: Senior guard Ross Schraeder, who has 1,016 career points, leads UCI in scoring at 12.6 points. Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald is averaging 12.5 points and 6.2 assists. Junior forward Nic Campbell is averaging 10.7 points while sophomore post Darren Fells is averaging 9.6 points and 7.0 rebounds. Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders follows at 8.3 points and 3.8 rebounds.

IN THE BIG WEST: In Big West games only, UCI ranks first in scoring defense (62.8), free-throw percentage (.762), field-goal percentage defense (.416), three-point field goal percentage (.408) and defensive rebounds average (24.08). Individually in league games, Aaron Fitzgerald leads the Big West in assists (6.42) and Adam Templeton is first in three-point field goal percentage (.484). For all games, UCI leads the conference in three-point field goal percentage (.418), three-point field goals made per game (8.54), and rebounding defense (31.5). Individually for all games, Aaron Fitzgerald leads the league in assists per game (6.17), Nic Campbell is first in three-point field goal percentage (.445) and Darren Fells ranks No. 1 in offensive rebounds at 2.50 per game.

IN THE NCAA: UCI is fifth in the nation this week in three-point field goal percentage at .418. Utah State is No. 1 at .432. The Anteaters are 21st in three-point field goals made per game at 8.5. Aaron Fitzgerald is 11th in assists per game with his 6.2 average.

IN THE BREN CENTER: UCI is 5-5 at home this season and 139-115 all-time in the Bren Center. The Anteaters have won 57 of their last 75 games (.760) in the Bren.

MARCH 4TH START TIME MOVED: UCI's home game versus Long Beach State Mar. 4 has been moved to 5:00 p.m. to accommodate the Fox Sports Net West 2 telecast.

ABOUT UC RIVERSIDE: Coach David Spencer's Highlanders are 3-18 overall and 3-7 in the Big West. Rickey Porter leads UCR in scoring at 14.4 points per game, followed by Larry Cunningham at 10.6. Dedrick Bates, who was the team's third-leading scorer with a 9.9 average, is lost for the rest of the season due to a knee injury sustained against Cal State Northridge last Thursday.

ABOUT DRAKE: UC Irvine will host Drake University Saturday (Feb. 18) at 7:00 p.m. as part of the 2006 BracketBusters presented by eBay. This will be the first meeting between the schools.

Drake, located in Des Moines, Iowa, is a member of the Missouri Valley Conference. The Bulldogs are coached by former Stanford and Iowa head man Tom Davis. The Bulldogs are 12-14 overall and 5-10 in the MVC entering a Tuesday (Feb. 14) road game against Illinois State. Senior guard Chaun Brooks leads Drake in scoring at 10.8 points per game, followed by junior guard Al Stewart (10.7) and junior forward Ajay Calvin, who is averaging 10.4 points and 5.6 boards. UCI and Drake have had one common opponent this season in San Jose State.

The Anteaters defeated the Spartans, 68-58, at the Bren Center Dec. 3 and the Bulldogs won 82-64 at San Jose Dec. 17.

February 9, 2006

ROSS SCHRAEDER EARNS ACADEMIC HONOR

IRVINE, Calif. --- UC Irvine senior guard Ross Schraeder (Denver, Colo. / Denver East HS) has been named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District 8 second team.

To be considered for the award, the honoree must be a starter or important reserve, have at least a 3.20 cumulative grade point average and must have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at their respective institution.

Schraeder is majoring in sociology with a minor in education. He is UCI's career leader in three-point field goals with 216 and leads the Anteaters in scoring this season at 13.4 points per game.

February 7, 2006

ANTEATERS HOST UC SANTA BARBARA, CAL POLY; UCI Plays Final 4 Big West Games at Home

GAME #23: UC Irvine (13-9, 9-1) vs. UC Santa Barbara (8-11, 1-6)
Thursday, Feb. 9, 2006 – 7:00 p.m. (PST)
Bren Events Center (5,000) – Irvine, Calif.

RADIO: KUCI/88.9 FM & KWRM/1370 AM (Mark Roberts & Brian Underwood)

TV: KVMD (Geoff Witcher & Don Ford)

GAME #24: UC Irvine vs. Cal Poly (Homecoming Game)

Saturday, Feb. 11, 2006 – 7:00 p.m. (PST)

Bren Events Center (5,000) – Irvine, Calif.

RADIO: KUCI/88.9 FM & KWRM/1370 AM (Mark Roberts & Brian Underwood)

TV: Fox Sports Net West 2 (Brian Webber & Sean Farnham)

ANTEATERS FACE STRETCH DRIVE AT HOME: Coach Pat Douglass' UC Irvine men's basketball team (13-9, 9-1) plays five of its last six regular-season games, including the final four Big West Conference contests, in the Bren Center.

The Anteaters host UC Santa Barbara Thursday and Cal Poly Saturday in 7:00 p.m. league games. UC Riverside travels to the Bren Center next Wednesday (Feb. 15) night before UCI steps out of Big West play to host Drake in the BracketBuster game Feb. 18. The Anteaters travel to future Big West member UC Davis for a non-conference game Feb. 23 before closing the regular season hosting Long Beach State in the conference finale March 4.

STREAK STOPPED IN STOCKTON: UCI's eight-game winning streak to start Big West play (the program's best in five years) came to a halt in Stockton last Thursday as Pacific topped the Anteaters 64-52. UCI committed a season-high 21 turnovers and shot just 40 percent from the field.

The Anteaters bounced back with a 74-57 win at Cal State Northridge Saturday, hitting 11 of 23 three-pointers and out-rebounding the Matadors 42-26. UCI, at 9-1 for first place in the Big West, has played more league games than any other team in the conference. Pacific follows at 6-2 and Cal Poly is third with a 4-3 mark.

LATEST MID-MAJOR POLL: In this week's CollegelInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25 poll, UCI is ranked 23rd and Pacific is No. 20.

HOMECOMING SATURDAY: Saturday is Homecoming at UCI with five new additions to the Hall of Fame: Mauricio Bardales from track and field, women's soccer player Nicole Bucciarelli, Wayne Engelstad from men's basketball, John Vargas from men's water polo and former track and cross country coach Len Miller. They will be inducted at a brunch ceremony that day and introduced during the UCI-Cal Poly game that night. David Ritchie, a former water polo player, will receive the Varsity Club's Alumnus of Merit Award.

COACHES VS. CANCER AWARENESS DAY: UCI's coaches and support staff will be wearing basketball shoes during Saturday night's game in recognition of Coaches vs. Cancer Awareness Day. All coaches in the nation are encouraged to wear their basketball shoes on that day.

MARCH 4TH START TIME MOVED: UCI's home game versus Long Beach State has been moved to 5:00 p.m. to accommodate the Fox Sports Net West 2 telecast.

SERIES RECORDS: UCSB leads the UCI series 38-24 but the Anteaters have won two of the past three meetings. Aaron Fitzgerald scored 15 points, Ross Schraeder 14 and Nic Campbell 13 in UCI's 70-66 win at Santa Barbara Jan. 9.

UCI leads the Cal Poly series 15-11 as the Anteaters have won the last three meetings including 69-67 at San Luis Obispo Jan. 7. Aaron Fitzgerald hit the game-winning three-pointer with 7.6 seconds left and Darren Fells had 14 points and six rebounds.

UCI STATS LEADERS: Senior guard Ross Schraeder, who has 1,007 career points, leads UCI in scoring at 13.4 points per game and has hit 57 of 126 threes on the season. Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald is averaging 12.3 points and 6.1 assists. Junior forward Nic Campbell is averaging 10.7 points while sophomore post Darren Fells is averaging 9.8 points and 6.9 rebounds. Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders follows at 8.8 points and 3.9 rebounds.

IN THE NCAA STATS: UCI is third in the nation this week in three-point field goal percentage at .424. Indiana remained No. 1 at .431 and Utah State is second at .429. The Anteaters are 19th in three-point field goals made per game (8.6), 29th in free-throw percentage (.741) and 33rd in field-goal percentage (.477).

Individually, Aaron Fitzgerald is ranked 12th in assists per game (6.1) and Ross Schraeder is 18th in three-point field goal percentage (.452).

IN THE BIG WEST: In Big West games only, UCI ranks first in scoring defense (63.2), scoring margin (+7.3), free-throw percentage (.761), field-goal percentage (.473), field-goal percentage defense (.410), three-point field goal percentage (.418) and blocked shots per game (2.80).

Individually in league games, Aaron Fitzgerald leads the Big West in assists (6.40) and is joined by Adam Templeton to rank first in three-point field goal percentage (.500).

For all games, UCI leads the conference in three-point field goal percentage (.424), three-point field goals made per game (8.64), and rebounding defense (31.5).

Individually for all games, Aaron Fitzgerald leads the league in assists per game (6.14), Ross Schraeder is first in three-point field goal percentage (.452).

ANTEATER QUICK SHOTS:

Senior guard Ross Schraeder reached 1,000 career points when he hit a three-point shot with 9:09 left in the first half of Saturday's win at Cal State Northridge. He has 1,007 points entering the UCSB game to rank 16th all-time at UCI. Schraeder became UCI's career leader in three-point field goals in the UCSB game Jan. 9 and enters the week with 216. He hit 5 of 10 treys in last week's split.

Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald ranks eighth in career assists at UCI with 287, three behind No. 7 Mike Barnes. Fitzgerald scored 22 of his game and season-high 28 points in the second half of the Jan. 21 win at Fullerton. He is UCI's leading scorer in conference games with a 13.0 average, shooting 52 percent from the field. In Big West play, he is averaging 6.4 assists against 3.7 turnovers per game.

Senior guard Shamar Armstrong scored a career-high 13 points on 5-of-8 shooting in 23 reserve minutes of Saturday's win at Cal State Northridge. In the last five games, Armstrong has averaged 7.2 points, hitting 13 of 26 field goals.

True freshman forward Adam Templeton is shooting 60 percent from the field and 51 percent from three-point range for the season. In the past six games, he has averaged 10.2 points and 5.5 rebounds while connecting on 24 of 38 (.632) field goals. Templeton recorded his first

collegiate double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds in 30 reserve minutes against Fullerton Jan. 25. He recorded a career-high 18 points off the bench against UC Riverside Jan. 19.

Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders has snared 31 rebounds in the last four games while averaging 12 points in that span. He has started the last 13 games (the first of his UCI career), averaging 10.5 points. He had a career-high four blocked shots in the loss at Pacific. Sanders, who scored 15 points in the loss at Pacific, notched his first collegiate double-double with a career-high 18 points and tied his career high with 10 rebounds in the Jan. 25 win over Fullerton. He scored a then-career high 15 points in the Jan. 15 win over Pacific.

Sophomore center Darren Fells is 17 of 27 (.630) from the field in the past four games. He ranks fourth in rebounding (6.9) in the Big West for all games. He is third in offensive rebounds at 2.50 per game and fourth in defensive rebounds with a 4.41 average. Fells posted his second double-double of the season with 19 points and 10 rebounds in the 73-67 win at Long Beach State Jan. 28.

Junior forward Nic Campbell has not scored in double figures the last three games after 12 consecutive contests of twin-digit scoring. He did break out of a 1-for-14 slump from three-point range by hitting 2 of 3 treys at Northridge Saturday.

UC Irvine is 13-2 when holding the opposition to 70 points or less. The Anteaters are 8-2 when shooting at least 50 percent from the field and 7-0 when the opponents shoot 40 percent or less. UCI is 10-2 when leading at halftime this season.

ABOUT UCSB: Coach Bob Williams' Gauchos are 8-11 overall and 1-6 in the Big West but coming off a 73-54 non-conference win over UC Davis last Thursday. Senior guard Cecil Brown leads UCSB in scoring at 13.2 points per game, followed by sophomore forward Chris Devine at 12.4 and a team-leading 5.2 rebounds. Devine is shooting 60 percent from the field to lead the Big West.

ABOUT CAL POLY: Coach Kevin Bromley's Mustangs are 6-13 overall and 4-3 in the Big West (third place) entering a Thursday night game at Long Beach State. Sophomore guard Dawin Whiten leads Cal Poly in scoring at 13.3 points per game followed by junior forward Derek Stockalper, who is averaging 12.8 points and a team-leading 6.4 boards. Senior forward Gabe Stephenson is averaging 10.4 points.

January 31, 2006

UC IRVINE TO HOST DRAKE ON BRACKETBUSTER SATURDAY

IRVINE, Calif. --- UC Irvine will host Drake University Feb. 18 at 7:00 p.m. as part of the 2006 BracketBusters presented by eBay. This will be the first meeting between the schools.

Drake, located in Des Moines, Iowa, is a member of the Missouri Valley Conference. The Bulldogs, who are coached by former Stanford and Iowa head man Tom Davis, are currently 11-11 overall and 4-7 in the Missouri Valley. Junior guard Al Stewart leads Drake in scoring at 11.4 points per game while senior guard Chaun Brooks has an 11.0 average and junior forward Ajay Calvin 10.7. Calvin and freshman forward Jonathan Cox top the Bulldogs in rebounding at 5.4 per game.

Drake has five games prior to its meeting with UCI beginning with a Wednesday night game at Missouri State. The Bulldogs lost 51-49 to 25th-ranked Northern Iowa this past Saturday and were defeated by Iowa, 65-60, in Iowa City Dec. 20. UCI and Drake have had one common opponent this season in San Jose State. The Anteaters defeated the Spartans, 68-58, at the Bren Center Dec. 3 and the Bulldogs won 82-64 at San Jose Dec. 17.

As part of the BracketBuster contract, UCI must return the game at Drake next November or December.

All eight Big West schools are competing in the BracketBusters field, with four each designated as home and away teams. The Feb. 18 games involving the conference schools, in addition to the UCI-Drake contest, are Eastern Washington at Cal State Fullerton, New Mexico State at Pacific, Southeast Missouri State at UC Riverside, Cal Poly at Saint Mary's, Long Beach State at Manhattan, Cal State Northridge at Boise State, and UC Santa Barbara at San Jose State. A pool of 100 teams comprise the 2006 Bracket Busters presented by eBay field. None of the Big West teams were included in the 13-game ESPN television package for the event.

UCI, 12-8 overall and 8-0 in the Big West Conference, is ranked 20th in this week's CollegelInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25 poll. Coach Pat Douglass' Anteaters face Pacific, which is 21st in that poll, Thursday night at 7:30 in Stockton. UCI plays at Cal State Northridge Saturday at 4:00 p.m. January 24, 2006

Anteaters Travel to Pacific, Cal State Northridge; UCI Puts 8-0 Big West Record on Line in Stockton Thursday

GAME #21:

UC Irvine (12-8, 8-0) vs. Pacific (14-6, 4-2)
Thursday, Feb. 2, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. (PST)
A.G. Spanos Center (6,150) – Stockton, Calif.

GAME #22:

UC Irvine vs. Cal State Northridge
Saturday, Feb. 4, 2006 – 4:00 p.m. (PST)
The Matadome (1,600) – Northridge, Calif.

RADIO: KUCI/88.9 FM & KWRM/1370 AM (Mark Roberts)

ANTEATERS WITH FINAL BIG WEST ROAD GAMES OF SEASON: Coach Pat Douglass' UC Irvine men's basketball team (12-8, 8-0) travels to Pacific Thursday and Cal State Northridge Saturday in the Anteaters' final Big West road games of the season. UCI, which has won five league games away from home, will play its final four conference games at the Bren Center.

The Anteaters are coming off wins of 83-68 against Cal State Fullerton last Wednesday and 73-67 at Long Beach State Saturday.

BEST LEAGUE START IN 5 YEARS: UCI's 8-0 start in league play, which began after a five-game losing streak, is the program's best since UCI opened 9-0 in the Big West in 2000-01. That was the best conference start in school history as the Anteaters eventually won the program's first Big West title with a 15-1 mark.

LATEST MID-MAJOR POLL: In this week's CollegelInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25 poll, UCI is ranked 20th and Pacific is No. 21.

SERIES RECORDS: Pacific leads the UCI series 32-30 after the Anteaters snapped a four-game losing streak to the Tigers with a 70-61 win behind 16 points from Aaron Fitzgerald in Irvine Jan. 15. UCI's last win in Stockton was 66-62 Jan. 23, 2003.

UCI leads the series with Cal State Northridge, 18-17, after the Anteaters topped the Matadors, 76-62, at the Bren Center Jan. 13 as Ross Schraeder scored 17 points. That broke a four-game, UCI losing skid to Northridge. UCI's last win at the Matadome was 72-56 Jan. 8, 2004.

UCI STATS LEADERS: Senior guard Ross Schraeder leads UCI in scoring at 13.5 points per game and has hit 48 of 106 threes on the season. Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald is averaging 12.5 points and 6.2 assists. Junior forward Nic Campbell is averaging 11.9 points and is shooting 49 percent (45/92) from three-point range. Sophomore post Darren Fells is averaging 9.6 points and 6.6 rebounds. Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders follows at 8.5 points and 3.2 rebounds.

IN THE BIG WEST: In Big West games only, UCI ranks first in scoring defense (63.9), scoring margin (+8.5), free-throw percentage (.771), field-goal percentage (.480), field-goal percentage defense (.422), and three-point field goal percentage (.424).

Individually in league games, Aaron Fitzgerald leads the Big West in assists (6.50) and Adam Templeton is first in three-point field goal percentage (.556).

For all games, UCI leads the conference in three-point field goal percentage (.427), three-point field goals made per game (8.65), rebounding defense (31.5) and assist/turnover ratio (1.13).

Individually for all games, Aaron Fitzgerald leads the league in assists per game (6.15) and Darren Fells tops the conference in offensive rebounds at 2.55 per game.

IN THE NCAA: UCI is ranked third in the nation this week in three-point field goal percentage at .427. Indiana remained No. 1 at .442 and San Diego is second at .428.

The Anteaters are 19th in three-point field goals made per game (8.7) and 29th in free-throw percentage (.743).

Individually, Aaron Fitzgerald is ranked 14th in assists per game (6.2) and Ross Schraeder is 21st in three-point field goal percentage (.448).

UCI TO HOST DRAKE ON BRACKETBUSTER SATURDAY: UC Irvine will host Drake University Feb. 18 at 7:00 p.m. as part of BracketBusters presented by eBay. This will be the first meeting between the schools.

ANTEATER QUICK SHOTS: Sophomore center Darren Fells averaged 15.5 points and 7.5 rebounds in UCI's wins over Cal State Fullerton and Long Beach State last week. He connected on 11 of 16 (.688) field goals and 9 of 11 free throws in the two victories. Fells posted his second double-double of the season with 19 points and 10 rebounds in the 73-67 win at Long Beach State Saturday. He leads UCI in rebounding at 6.8 boards per game.

Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders pulled down 19 rebounds in the two wins last week. He has started the last 11 games (the first of his UCI career), averaging 10.3 points in that span. Sanders notched his first collegiate double-double with a career-high 18 points and tied his career high with 10 rebounds in last Wednesday's win over Fullerton. He scored a then-career high 15 points in the Jan. 15 win over Pacific after notching 14 points in the Jan. 13 victory over CSUN.

Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald has three of UCI's top four-scoring games this season. He scored 22 of his game and season-high 28 points in the second half of the Jan. 21 win at Fullerton. He is UCI's leading scorer in conference games with a 13.6 average, shooting 51 percent from the field. In Big West play, he is averaging 6.5 assists against 3.5 turnovers per game.

Fitzgerald leads UCI at 6.2 assists per game and he has 275 in 48 career games to rank 9th at UCI. Fitzgerald trails No. 8 Mike Hess (1985-88) by 10 assists.

Senior guard Ross Schraeder became UCI's career leader in three-point field goals in the UCSB game Jan. 9 and enters the Pacific game with 211. He passed former leader Jeff Herdman, who made 201 treys from 1987-91.

After three straight games out of double-digit scoring, Schraeder scored 10 against Fullerton last Wednesday and 16 at Long Beach State Saturday. His four treys versus the 49ers were his most in six games.

Schraeder has scored 986 career points in 105 games at UCI. He is the only UCI player to start all 20 games this season.

Junior forward Nic Campbell had his streak of 12 straight double-digit scoring games snapped when he scored a season-low two points at Long Beach State last Saturday. Campbell is UCI's second-leading scorer in league games with a 10.8 average. He is shooting 50 percent from the field and 46 percent on threes this season.

True freshman forward Adam Templeton recorded his first collegiate double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds in 30 reserve minutes against Fullerton last Wednesday. Templeton, who is 20 of 29 (.689) from the field in the last six games, recorded a career-high 18 points off the bench against UC Riverside Jan. 19.

Senior guard Shamar Armstrong has averaged 7.0 points over the last three games and has four assists, three steals and only one assist in that span. He notched eight points, two assists and a career-high three steals in the Jan. 21 win at Fullerton. He scored a career-high 12 points, hitting 4 of 6 field goals, in the Jan. 7 win at Cal Poly.

Junior post Mark Kelley scored eight points in 10 minutes off the bench in last Wednesday's win over Fullerton.

Junior point guard Dustin Price scored five points in 11 minutes against Fullerton Jan. 21.

Senior center Adam Metelski had a career-high two assists at Fullerton Jan. 21. Metelski, who is shooting 56 percent on the season, was 5 of 5 en route to 10 points in the Jan. 15 win over Pacific.

UCI, in its eight Big West Conference victories, has shot 48 percent from the field, including 42 percent from three-point range while the opposition has shot 42 percent from the floor, including 33 percent on threes. The Anteaters have hit 77 percent of their free throws in league play compared to the opposition's 66 percent.

In their 12 overall wins, the Anteaters are shooting 51 percent from the field (47 percent on threes) compared to 43 percent from the floor (37 percent on threes) in the eight losses. The opposition is shooting 40 percent from the field (33 percent on threes) in those 11 victories. UCI is

outscored the opposition 74.8 to 61.8 in the wins and is being outscored 80.4 to 70.8 in the losses.

UC Irvine is 12-1 when holding the opposition to 70 points or less. The Anteaters are 8-2 when shooting at least 50 percent from the field and 6-0 when the opponents shoot 40 percent or less. UCI is 9-2 when leading at halftime this season.

ABOUT PACIFIC: Coach Bob Thomason's Tigers are 14-6 overall and 4-2 in the Big West for second place, three games behind UCI. Christian Maraker leads the two-time defending Big West regular-season champions in scoring and rebounding at 17.3 points and 8.7 boards per game. Johnny Gray is averaging 14.7 points. Pacific defeated UC Santa Barbara, 65-53, and Cal Poly, 64-62, on the road this past weekend.

ABOUT CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE: Coach Bobby Braswell's Matadors are 8-9 overall and 2-4 in the Big West entering a Thursday night home game against Long Beach State. Former UCI player Mike Efevberha leads CSUN and the Big West in scoring at 19.2 points per game. Calvin Chitwood is averaging 11.6 points while Jonathan Heard has an 11.1 average.

**Anteaters, Cal State Fullerton Meet Again Wednesday;
UCI Travels to Long Beach State Saturday**

ANTEATERS, TITANS MEET AGAIN AS 49ERS WAIT: Coach Pat Douglass' UC Irvine men's basketball team (10-8, 6-0) faces Cal State Fullerton for the second time in five days as the teams meet Wednesday night at the Bren Events Center. UCI won the season's first meeting, 67-59, at Titan Gym Saturday as senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald scored 22 of his game-high 28 points in the second half.

Following Wednesday's game, UCI has three straight Big West road games beginning Saturday at Long Beach State at 5:00 p.m. The 49ers, who have won three in a row, are second in the Big West at 9-8 overall and 4-2 in league play. Long Beach State does not play until Saturday. After Saturday's game, UCI travels to Pacific Feb. 2 and Cal State Northridge Feb. 4. The Anteaters will then play their final four conference games at home.

UCI's 6-0 start in league play, which began after a five-game losing streak, is the program's best since UCI also opened 6-0 in the Big West in 2001-02. The best conference start in school history was 9-0 in 2000-01 when the Anteaters eventually won the program's first Big West title with a 15-1 mark.

SERIES RECORDS: Cal State Fullerton and UCI meet for the 81st time Wednesday with the Titans holding a 42-38 lead in the series. Before last Saturday's UCI win, the teams split each of the last three seasons.

Long Beach State leads the series with UCI, 44-26. The teams split last season with UCI winning at the Bren Center, 78-58 (1/20/05), and the 49ers claiming a 55-50 victory at the Walter Pyramid (2/17/05). The Anteaters have won five of the last seven meetings in the series.

'BLACK & BLUE' SATURDAY: Saturday's game marks the first men's basketball meeting in the "Black & Blue Rivalry Series" between UCI and Long Beach State. The 49ers lead 9-8 in points of the series, which awards the winner two points during head-to-head meetings during Big West or Mountain Pacific Sports Federation play. An extra point is awarded for a road win. The UCI women's team faces Long Beach State Saturday at 2:00 p.m. at the Walter Pyramid in the first game of the doubleheader.

UCI STATS LEADERS: Senior guard Ross Schraeder leads UCI in scoring at 13.7 points per game and has hit 47 of 104 threes on the season. Senior point guard Aaron Fitzgerald is averaging 12.8 points and 6.1 assists. Junior forward Nic Campbell is averaging 12.1 points and is shooting 50 percent (44/88) from three-point range. Sophomore post Darren Fells is averaging 9.5 points and 6.7 rebounds. Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders follows at 7.7 points and 2.6 rebounds.

IN THE NCAA: UCI remains second in the nation this week in three-point field goal percentage at .433, with Indiana still sitting at No. 1 (.462). The Anteaters are 13th in three-point field goals made per game (8.8) and 26th in field-goal percentage (.483). Individually in the NCAA statistics, Aaron Fitzgerald is 16th in assists per game (6.1) and Ross Schraeder is 17th in three-point field goal percentage (.452).

IN THE BIG WEST: In Big West games only, UCI ranks first in the conference in scoring defense (62.7), scoring margin (+7.8), free-throw percentage (.769), three-point field goal percentage (.440), and three-point field goals made per game (9.17). The Anteaters are second in three other categories. Individually in league play, Aaron Fitzgerald is first in assists per game (6.33) and Adam Templeton is first in three-point field goal percentage (.545). For all games, UCI leads the conference in three-point field goal percentage (.433) and three-point field goals made per game (8.78). Individually for all games, Aaron Fitzgerald leads the league in assists per game (6.06) and Nic Campbell is first in three-point field goal percentage (.500).

***Note....the Big West uses different minimum criteria than the NCAA for some categories.