

## **2006-07 Game Recaps**

**March 9, 2007**

### **LONG BEACH STATE ENDS UCI'S SEASON WITH 77-63 WIN AT BIG WEST TOURNAMENT**

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** --- Top-seeded Long Beach State opened the second half with a 12-2 run and went on to defeat No. 5-seed UC Irvine, 77-63, in a semifinal game of the Big West Conference Tournament at the Anaheim Convention Center Friday night.

Sterling Byrd, who had a game-high 20 points for the 49ers, and Aaron Nixon scored five points each in the run as LBSU extended its 38-35 halftime lead to 50-37 with 15:31 left in the game. Long Beach State increased the lead to 17 at 61-44 on a three-pointer by Byrd with 8:09 remaining and maintained a double-digit lead the rest of the way as the closest UCI could come was 10 points on two occasions, the last at 70-60 on an Adam Templeton three with 2:07 left.

Nixon added 16 points while Dominique Ricks and Kevin Houston scored 11 apiece for the 49ers (23-7), who advance to the tournament championship game for the second straight season.

Junior guard Chuma Awaji tied his career high with 19 points for the Anteaters, who ended the season at 15-18 overall. Junior forward Patrick Sanders added 14 points and freshman point guard Michael Hunter had a career-high three steals.

In a first half that saw 13 lead changes, LBSU shot 55.6 percent from the field and UCI 54.2 percent. The 49ers took a 38-35 lead at intermission as Artis Gant banked in a three from the top of the key with 3.7 seconds remaining.

LBSU shot 50 percent from the floor in the second half and 53.2 percent for the game. UCI shot just 30.4 percent in the final 20 minutes and 42.6 percent for the contest.

"Long Beach did a good job of taking away our post positioning," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "They have a lot of weapons so you can't key on any one player. I though our guys battled but were wearing down emotionally with the third game in three days."

**March 8, 2007**

### **UC IRVINE MOVES PAST UC SANTA BARBARA 70-52**

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** --- Freshman point guard Michael Hunter recorded 16 points, three assists and two steals to spark fifth-seeded UC Irvine past No. 4 UC Santa Barbara, 70-52, in a Big West Conference Tournament quarterfinal game Thursday night at the Anaheim Convention Center.

With the win, UCI moves into Friday night's semifinals where the Anteaters (15-17) will face top-seeded Long Beach State at 6:30 p.m. Second-seeded Cal Poly will meet No. 3 Cal State Fullerton at 9:00 p.m.

Hunter added a career-high six rebounds in Thursday's win, which was UCI's largest margin of victory in the tournament since topping UCSB 88-67 in the 1992 event. Senior post Mark Kelley scored 15 points while senior forward Nic Campbell had 12 points and six boards. UCI shot 54.5 percent from the field in the second half to break away from its 28-18 lead at the break.

Alex Harris led UCSB (18-11) with 22 points and Glenn Turner collected a game-high 10 rebounds. The Gauchos shot 31.6 percent from the floor in the game, including 29.6 percent in the first half.

The Anteaters never trailed in the game and built its largest lead to 24 points on four occasions late in the second half.

UCI and Long Beach State split the regular-season meetings this year with the Anteaters winning 88-84 at the Bren Center Jan. 25 and the 49ers claiming an 85-80 victory at the Walter Pyramid Mar. 1.

**March 7, 2007**

### **UC IRVINE EDGES UC RIVERSIDE 53-52 IN BIG WEST TOURNAMENT FIRST ROUND**

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** --- UC Irvine overcame an 18-point deficit in the first half as the Anteaters held UC Riverside to 22 points in the game's final 28 minutes to top the Highlanders, 53-52, in a first-round game at the Big West Conference Tournament at the Anaheim Convention Center Wednesday night. With the win, UCI advances to a quarterfinal game against No. 4 seed UC Santa Barbara Thursday night at approximately 8:30.

Junior forward Patrick Sanders led fifth-seeded UCI (14-17) with 15 points and nine rebounds while senior post Mark Kelley added 10 points. Kelley's tip-in of a missed layup by Michael Hunter with one minute remaining proved to be the game-winning shot as his bucket put the Anteaters up 53-51. UC Riverside's Dedrick Bates hit 1 of 2 free throws with 45 seconds remaining and the Highlanders could not convert on a pair of field-goal attempts in the final six seconds.

Larry Cunningham led the No. 8 seed Highlanders (7-24) with 19 points while Henrik Thomsen and Charles Jim-George added eight each. UC Riverside built a 30-12 lead on a three by Thomsen with 7:55 left in the first half. The Anteaters, on the strength of eight points by Darren Fells, cut the deficit to 34-26 at halftime.

The Highlanders maintained their lead until UCI's Nic Campbell hit a pair of free throws to tie the game at 45-45 with 4:32 remaining. A layup by Marcus McIntosh with 4:15 left put the Anteaters up 47-45 but four straight points by Cunningham put UC Riverside back up at 49-47 at the 2:48 mark. Sanders knotted the game at 49-all with two free throws at 2:30 and a baseline jumper by Kelley gave the Anteaters a 51-49 lead with 1:55 left. Bates hit a pair of free throws to tie the game at 51-51 with 1:33 remaining before Kelley's tip-in gave UCI the lead for good.

UCI, which out-rebounded UC Riverside 36-27, shot 39.5 percent from the field in the game. The Highlanders shot 33.3 percent, including 26.1 percent in the second half. UC Riverside had just six turnovers in the game to UCI's 16. Campbell and Fells added eight points apiece for the Anteaters while Hunter scored eight.

**March 1, 2007**

### **NIXON LIFTS LONG BEACH STATE PAST UC IRVINE 85-80**

**LONG BEACH, Calif.** --- Senior guard Aaron Nixon scored 20 of his 22 points in the final 14 ½ minutes of the game to help rally Long Beach State past UC Irvine, 85-80, in Big West Conference action at the Walter Pyramid Thursday night.

Nixon was 6 of 7 from the field, including 3 of 5 on threes, in the second half as the 49ers improved to 21-7 overall and 11-2 in the Big West. The 49ers have already clinched the league's regular-season title.

Senior post Mark Kelley led UCI (13-17, 6-8) with a career-high 24 points, hitting 9 of 10 field goals. He added nine rebounds as the Anteaters closed out their regular-season schedule. Nic Campbell scored 15 points, Michael Hunter 13 and Chuma Awaji 10 for UCI, which has clinched the No. 5 seed in the Big West Tournament that starts Wednesday at the Anaheim Convention Center.

After trailing 35-31 at halftime Thursday, UCI outscored the 49ers 29-15 in the first eight minutes of the second half to take a 60-50 lead. LBSU gradually cut into the deficit but the Anteaters still led 67-64 on a pair of free throws by Awaji with 6:32 remaining.

The 49ers' Kejuan Johnson then scored five unanswered points to put LBSU up 69-67 with 5:56 left but Kelley converted a pair of free throws to draw UCI even at 69-69 with 5:34 remaining. Kevin Houston, who scored 20 points, then hit a jumper and Nixon followed with five straight points to put the 49ers up 76-69 and LBSU maintained at least a three-point lead for the remainder of the game.

The 49ers shot 55.6 percent from the field in the second half and 53.6 percent for the game. UCI, which hit 8 of 15 three-pointers, shot 47.2 percent from the floor in the contest.

**February 22, 2007**

### **UCI TOPS UC DAVIS 73-59 AS SANDERS LEADS 3 IN DOUBLE FIGURES**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- Junior forward Patrick Sanders' 15 points led three UC Irvine players in double figures as the Anteaters defeated UC Davis, 73-59, in non-conference action at the Bren Center Thursday night in UCI's home finale for the season.

Sanders added eight rebounds, four assists and three blocked shots as the Anteaters improved to 13-16 on the season. Freshman guard Michael Hunter scored 13 points, hitting 5 of 8 field goals, while senior post Mark Kelley scored 12 points on 6-of-9 shooting. Junior post Darren Fells grabbed a game-high 12 rebounds, including eight off the offensive glass. Forward Nic Campbell, who was honored along with Kelley prior to the game as UCI's two seniors, played eight minutes before leaving with a sprained ankle.

Freshman forward Dominic Calegari led the Aggies (4-21) with 21 points and seven rebounds. Thomas Juillerat added 11 points and C.J. Portz 10.

UCI, behind 10 points apiece from Sanders and Kelley, built a 41-24 halftime lead. The Anteaters enjoyed their largest lead of the night at 46-24 on a trey by Hunter with 19:10 left in the game but UC Davis battled back to cut the deficit to nine at 55-46 on a free throw by David Carter with 11:06 remaining. UCI then went on an 8-2 run to increase its lead to 15 at 63-48 on a three by Sanders at the 7:52 mark and the Anteaters maintained a double-digit lead for the remainder of the game.

UCI out-rebounded the Aggies 40-31. The Anteaters shot 45.3 percent from the field, hitting 11 of 22 three-pointers. UC Davis shot 44.2 percent for the contest.

UCI returns to Big West Conference play for its regular-season finale next Thursday facing Long Beach State at 7:00 p.m. at the Walter Pyramid.

**February 17, 2007**

**UC IRVINE FALLS TO SAN FRANCISCO, 76-62 IN BRACKET BUSTER; NIC CAMPBELL POURS IN A CAREER-HIGH 24 POINTS**

San Francisco, Calif. -- Senior forward Nic Campbell scored a career-high 24 points, but UC Irvine fell to the University of San Francisco, 76-62, in a BracketBuster game Saturday at War Memorial Gymnasium.

Campbell hit 9-18 from the floor, including a career-high six three-pointers. Senior post Mark Kelley had 10 points and a career-high 14 rebounds off the bench. Junior forward Patrick Sanders also scored 10 points for the Anteaters who fell to 12-16 on the season.

USF was led by senior forward Alan Wiggins with 19 points. Sophomore guard Manny Quezada had 17 points and Antonio Kellogg added 14 points off the bench for the Dons who improve to 12-15 overall.

USF led 43-24 at the half after shooting 63.0 (17-27) from the field in the first half to UCI's 32.1 (9-28) percent. USF maintained a double-digit lead for the entire second half as the Anteaters could only get as close as 11 (58-47) on a lay up by Mark Kelley with 11:12 remaining. Then the Dons scored the next five points to regain the momentum.

"We got off to a slow start and we were running an uphill battle the rest of the game," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "USF came out and hit some shots early and got into a rhythm and had an effective inside-outside game."

USF shot 52.7 percent (29-55) from the floor for the game, while UCI shot 35.4 percent (23-65). UCI was 9-31 from three-point range on the afternoon, while USF was 8-17.

UCI returns to action next Thursday hosting UC Davis in a non-conference game at 7:00 p.m. in the Bren Center.

**February 14, 2007**

**CAMPBELL, SANDERS LEAD UC IRVINE PAST UC RIVERSIDE**

**RIVERSIDE, Calif.** --- Senior forward Nic Campbell hit a tie-breaking three-pointer with 33.4 seconds remaining and freshman guard Michael Hunter hit four free throws in the final 25 seconds to lead UC Irvine past UC Riverside, 66-61, in Big West Conference action at the Student Rec Center Wednesday night.

Campbell's three broke a 59-59 tie as the Anteaters had battled back from a 55-50 deficit with 5 ½ minutes remaining. Campbell and junior forward Patrick Sanders scored 19 points each for UCI (12-15, 6-7 Big West). Sanders had 10 rebounds for his first double-double of the season and the second of his career. Junior post Darren Fells scored 14 points, hitting 5 of 7 from the field.

Sophomore forward Adam Templeton pulled down eight rebounds while Campbell and senior post Mark Kelley had six boards apiece. UCI outrebounded UCR 49-28.

Larry Cunningham led the Highlanders (5-20, 1-10) with 21 points and Justin Bell added 19. Campbell scored nine points in the first half as the Anteaters led 33-27 at the break.

A layup by Campbell 15 seconds into the second half put UCI up 35-27, equaling the Anteaters' largest lead of the night. A three-point play by Cunningham gave UCR a 44-39 lead with 13:41 remaining and the Highlanders maintained the lead until a Campbell trey drew the Anteaters even at 55-all with 4:42 left. UCI took a 59-57 lead on a jumper by Sanders with 2:31 remaining but Justin Bell countered for UCR with 1:04 left for a 59-59 tie, setting up Campbell's three-ball that gave the Anteaters the lead for good.

"Nic hit the big shot that we needed and Michael (Hunter) converted four big free throws down the stretch," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "Darren Fells played well despite being sick earlier in the week. I was proud of how the guys battled and gutted out the win."

The win over UCR was the 150th at UCI for Douglass, who is in his 10th season at the helm of the Anteater program.

The Anteaters travel to San Francisco Saturday to face USF at 1:00 p.m. in an ESPNU BracketBuster game.

## **February 10, 2007**

### **CAL POLY KNOCKS DOWN 16 THREE-POINTERS TO BEAT UC IRVINE, 89-80**

San Luis Obispo, Calif. -- Junior guard Dawin Whiten scored a career-high 31 points and tied a school record with eight three-pointers as Cal Poly defeated UC Irvine 89-80 in a Big West Conference game Saturday afternoon at Mott Gym.

Cal Poly improved to 12-10 for the season and 4-5 in Big West games. UC Irvine fell to 11-15 overall and 5-7 in league play.

Whiten scored 22 of his 31 points in the first half going 8-13 from the floor and 8-11 from three-point range. Senior forward Derek Stockalper added 15 points and 11 rebounds, hitting 6-9 from the field. Tyler McGinn had 11 points in the win.

The Anteaters were led by senior forward Mark Kelley with a career-high 18 points, making 9-12 from the floor off the bench. Junior forward Patrick Sanders added 16 points and six rebounds, while sophomore forward Adam Templeton had 12 points, making 4-9 three-pointers.

Cal Poly, who lead 50-42 at the half, went ahead 63-50 on a Chaz Thomas three-pointer with 13:22 remaining. The Anteaters closed within 69-65 on a Templeton three-pointer at 9:59, but Cal Poly's Thomas and Stockalper hit back-to-back three-pointers and Stockalper also hit a short jumper to cap an 8-0 Mustang run, resulting in a 77-65 cushion with 6:22 to go. Cal Poly controlled the game from there as UCI got as close as nine on three occasions.

Cal Poly shot 51.7 percent (30-58) from the floor, hitting 10-16 three-pointers in the first half. UC Irvine shot 50.8 percent (30-59) for the game, going 8-11 from long distance in the first half. For the game, the Mustangs connected on 16 of 32 three-pointers while UC Irvine was 12-for-25.

UC Irvine will travel to UC Riverside Wednesday (Feb. 14) for a 7:00 p.m. game at the Student Recreation Center.

**February 8, 2007**

### **BROWN SPARKS UC SANTA BARBARA PAST UC IRVINE, 71-62**

Santa Barbara, Calif. -- Cecil Brown scored 21 of his game-high 23 points in the second half to spark UC Santa Barbara to a 71-62 victory over UC Irvine Thursday night in Santa Barbara.

Brown was 8-12 from the field including 5-5 from the free throw line for the game. He was 7-9 from the floor and was 5-5 from the line for his 21 points in the second half. Alex Harris added 14 points as UC Santa Barbara improved to 15-6 overall and 6-2 in the Big West.

Patrick Sanders led UC Irvine with 19 points and added eight rebounds. Chuma Awaji scored 18 points as the Anteaters fell to 11-14 on the year and 5-6 in the Big West.

The Anteaters shot 39.6 percent (21-53) for the game, but did out-rebound the Gauchos 39-26 as Darren Fells pulled down a game-high 10 rebounds.

UC Santa Barbara led 53-42 with 12:50 remaining in the game then UCI rallied to pull within 55-54 on a pair of Sanders free throws with 4:49 to go. Brown would then score UCSB's next 10 points to put the Gauchos up 65-56 with 1:50 remaining.

"Santa Barbara did a good job of taking away our inside game and Cecil Brown's second half was the difference, but I'm proud of how our team battled back," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "We did a good job on Alex Harris and Patrick Sanders had an excellent for us tonight."

**February 3, 2007**

### **SANDERS, AWAJI LEAD UC IRVINE PAST CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE 75-66**

**IRVINE, Calif.**--- Junior forward Patrick Sanders scored a career-high 23 points, including 16 in the second half, to lead UC Irvine past Cal State Northridge, 75-66, before a Homecoming crowd of 4,374 at the Bren Events Center Saturday night.

Sanders hit 14 of 16 free throws and added four rebounds and three blocked shots for the Anteaters, who improved to 11-13 overall and 5-5 in the Big West. Junior guard Chuma Awaji tied his career high with 19 points, hitting 12 of 12 foul shots. UCI hit 32 of 45 free throws, just four shy of the school record for single-game attempts.

Junior post Darren Fells had 14 points and a game-high seven boards while senior Nic Campbell scored 11 points off the bench, hitting 5 of 8 from the field. UCI shot 70.6 percent from the field in the second half and 55.6 percent for the game which featured 54 total fouls and 73 free throws.

Tre Peters and Jonathan Heard scored 13 points apiece for Northridge (10-12, 3-6), which lost its fourth straight game. Calvin Chitwood had 12 points and Thomas Shewmake scored 10.

A pair of free throws by Peters with 11 seconds left in the first half gave Northridge a 29-27 at the break. A three-point play by Heard gave Northridge a 53-52 lead with 7:44 remaining in the game and Campbell then hit back-to-back baskets to give UCI a 56-53 lead with 5:41 left and the Anteaters never trailed again. A three-point play by Fells and a three-point field goal by Michael

Hunter put the Anteaters up 62-55 with 4:12 remaining and UCI hit 13 of 16 free throws in the final two minutes to close out the victory in the team's final conference home game of the season.

The Anteaters have four Big West road games remaining and two non-conference contests -- at San Francisco and UC Davis --- to end the regular season.

UCI travels to UC Santa Barbara for a 7:00 p.m. game Thursday night and plays at Cal Poly next Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

## **February 1, 2007**

### **PACIFIC TOPS UC IRVINE 89-82**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- Senior forward Anthony Esparza led a balanced Pacific scoring attack with 23 points as the Tigers defeated UC Irvine, 89-82, in Big West Conference action at the Bren Events Center Thursday night.

Michael White and Reggie Vezia added 15 points each as the Tigers improved to 8-12 overall and 4-3 in the Big West in avenging a 67-42 loss to the Anteaters in Stockton Jan. 13. Pacific hit 25 of 31 free throws in the second half Thursday. The Tigers shot 60 percent (15 of 25) from the field in the final 20 minutes and 55.8 percent for the game.

Junior guard Chuma Awaji led UCI (10-13, 4-5) with a career-high 19 points and junior forward Patrick Sanders added 16 points. The Anteaters shot 67.9 percent (19 of 28) in the second half and 56.6 percent for the contest.

Pacific built a 14-point lead at 30-16 on a jumper by Solomon HorseChief with 3:37 left in the first half. The Anteaters then went on a 10-2 run to close out the half pulling to within 32-26 at the break.

UCI took its first lead of the game at 44-43 on a jumper by Awaji with 14:05 remaining in the game as the second half featured eight lead changes. A layup by Awaji with 6:12 left gave the Anteaters a 64-61 lead but the Tigers went on an 11-0 run to take a 72-64 lead on a layup by Steffan Johnson with 3:44 remaining. Pacific hit 15 of 18 free throws in the final 3:10 to secure the win.

The Tigers out-rebounded UCI 35-21 and pulled down 12 offensive boards. The Anteaters committed 12 turnovers, their lowest total in the past 10 games.

UCI plays its final Big West home game of the season Saturday night when the Anteaters host Cal State Northridge at 7:00 in the Homecoming contest.

## **January 27, 2007**

### **CAL STATE FULLERTON TOPS UC IRVINE 75-60**

**FULLERTON, Calif.** --- Cal State Fullerton capitalized on five three-point field goals in a three-minute span of the second half and went on to defeat UC Irvine, 75-60, in Big West Conference action at Titan Gym Saturday night.

Scott Cutley and Frank Robinson scored 18 points each and Marcus Crenshaw supplied a spark off the bench with 11 points as the Titans improved their overall record to 16-4 and kept them in first place in the Big West at 6-2. It was Fullerton's second win over UCI in the last eight days as the Titans won 71-68 at the Bren Center last Saturday.

UCI (10-12, 4-4) received 10 points apiece from Darren Fells, Chuma Awaji and Nic Campbell and a career-high 12 rebounds from Patrick Sanders. Fells had a career-high seven assists.

Consecutive treys by Robinson, Cutley twice and Crenshaw fueled a 12-4 run that gave Fullerton a 57-46 lead with 14:15 to play. A pair of free throws by Awaji drew UCI within 62-53 with 10:13 remaining before the Titans went on a 9-1 run to pull away.

The Anteaters dominated the opening minutes of the game and jumped out to a 9-4 lead for their biggest advantage of the night. Fullerton used seven consecutive points by Cutley over 3:20 midway through the first half to go ahead 25-20 and it never trailed again. UCI caught up at 31-all but the Titans outscored UCI 8-4 to take a 39-35 halftime lead.

The Titans made 10 of 26 treys while UCI made only 4 of 12 from three-point range. UCI shot only 35.8 percent from the floor but did hold a 38-35 edge in rebounding. UCI committed 17 turnovers while Fullerton made only seven, a season low.

The Anteaters host Pacific Thursday and Cal State Northridge Saturday in 7:00 p.m. Big West games at the Bren Center. Saturday's game is Homecoming at UCI.

**January 25, 2007**

### **UC IRVINE HOLDS OFF LONG BEACH STATE 88-84**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- Senior center Mark Kelley posted career highs of 15 points, nine rebounds and five blocked shots as UC Irvine held off Long Beach State, 88-84, in a Big West Conference game before 3,182 at the Bren Events Center Thursday night. Junior guard Chuma Awaji hit six free throws in the final 14 seconds to seal the victory for UCI (10-11, 4-3 Big West) as Long Beach lost for just the second time in its last 13 games.

The Anteaters hit their first eight shots and built a 25-point lead at 41-16 in the opening 13 minutes of the game but Long Beach closed to within 49-33 at halftime and cut the margin to one point several times in the second half.

A three-point shot by the 49ers' Kejuan Johnson closed UCI's lead to 82-81 with 32 seconds left in the game before the Awaji hit a pair of free throws with 14 seconds remaining to put UCI up 84-81. During a scramble for a loose ball at the 49ers' end, Johnson had control of the ball on the floor and called a timeout with seven seconds left but Long Beach had none left and the 49ers were assessed a technical foul. Awaji hit both free throws for a 86-81 lead and after Louis Darby hit a three-point shot with four seconds remaining to draw Long Beach State within 86-84, Awaji was fouled and hit two more free throws for the final margin.

Junior forward Patrick Sanders added 14 points for UCI while senior forward Nic Campbell recorded 13 points and five rebounds off the bench. Junior post Darren Fells had 12 points and eight rebounds while freshman guard Michael Hunter also scored 12 points and sophomore forward Adam Templeton 10.

Johnson led Long Beach State (13-6, 4-2) with 23 points, including 14 in the second half when he was 5 of 7 from the field. Aaron Nixon added 19 points, hitting five threes, while Sterling Byrd had 12 points, Louis Darby 11 and Mark Dawson 10.

UCI shot 62.1 percent from the field in the first half and 51.7 percent for the game. The 49ers shot 60 percent in the second half and 46.2 percent for the contest. Long Beach hit 13 of 31 threes in the game while the Anteaters converted 9 of 21. UCI won the battle of the boards 37-29.

The win was worth two points for UCI in the annual "Black & Blue" rivalry series between the two schools. Long Beach's lead is cut to 14-6 this year after the Anteaters' win Thursday.

The Anteaters face Cal State Fullerton Saturday night at 6:00 at Titan Gym.

**January 20, 2007**

### **ROBINSON'S THREE SINKS ANTEATERS 71-68**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- Frank Robinson hit a three-point shot from the left side with one second left to lift Cal State Fullerton past UC Irvine, 71-68, in Big West Conference action at the Bren Events Center Saturday night.

Robinson hit the three after UCI had overcome an 11-point deficit with under three minutes left to tie the game at 68-68 on a layup by Chuma Awaji with 14.5 seconds remaining.

Bobby Brown led the Titans (14-4, 5-2 Big West) with 17 points, hitting 3 of 4 three-pointers. Scott Cutley added 14 points and 12 rebounds, Robinson scored 11 points and Marcus Crenshaw added 10, all in the second half.

Junior center Darren Fells recorded his fourth double-double of the season and ninth of his career with 18 points and 10 rebounds for UCI (9-11, 3-3). Awaji added 15 points, including 12 in the second half, and Nic Campbell scored 10.

The Anteaters shot 47.2 percent from the field and Fullerton 41.5 percent, but the Titans hit 6 of 15 threes to just 2 of 12 for UCI.

UCI built a 23-12 lead with 8:05 left in the first half before the Titans went on an 18-4 run to take a 30-27 lead at halftime. Fullerton led by as many as 11 points three times in the second half, the last at 66-55 on a Robinson layup with 3:45 remaining. Four points by Fells sandwiched around two Campbell free throws drew UCI within 66-61 with 1:29 left.

Cutley hit a pair of foul shots to give Fullerton a 67-61 margin with 1:05 remaining before Awaji scored five consecutive points to cut the Titan lead to 67-66 with 31 seconds left. Brown hit one of two free throws to give Fullerton a 68-66 lead before Awaji's layup tied the game, setting up Robinson's game-winning trey.

UCI closes out its three-game homestand against Long Beach State Thursday night at 7:00 in the Bren Center. The Anteaters meet Fullerton again next Saturday in a 6:00 p.m. game at Titan Gym.

**January 18, 2007**

### **UC IRVINE DEFEATS UC RIVERSIDE 64-48**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- Adam Templeton and Michael Hunter scored 11 points apiece to lead UC Irvine over UC Riverside, 64-48, in a Big West Conference game at the Bren Events Center Thursday night.

Templeton, who hit 3 of 9 threes, tied his career high with four assists. Darren Fells added nine points and 10 rebounds while Chuma Awaji also scored nine points as the Anteaters improved to 9-10 overall and 3-2 in the Big West in winning for the fifth time in the past seven games.

The Anteaters, who led 32-18 at halftime, shot 54.2 percent from the field in the second half and 50 percent for the game. UCI scored the game's first 10 points before the Highlanders' Charles Jim-George hit a bucket with 14:54 left in the first half.

Henrik Thomsen led UC Riverside (3-16, 0-6) with 10 points as the Highlanders lost their 14th consecutive game. Riverside shot 31.6 percent from the field in the game as UCI is now 9-0 this season when the opposition shoots under 40 percent.

The Anteaters led by as many as 29 points twice in the second half, the last coming at 60-31 on a jumper by Marcus McIntosh with 5:33 remaining.

UCI, which is 6-1 at home this season, hosts Cal State Fullerton (13-4, 4-2) Saturday night at 7:00 in the Bren Center.

**January 13, 2007**

### **UC IRVINE HANDS PACIFIC 67-42 LOSS**

**STOCKTON, Calif.** --- Patrick Sanders and Mark Kelley scored 12 points each as UC Irvine handed Pacific its worst conference loss in 17 years with a 67-42 win at the Spanos Center Saturday night.

The Anteaters (8-10, 2-2 Big West) shot 65 percent (13/20) from the field in the second half and 54.3 percent for the game. Darren Fells and Nic Campbell added 10 points apiece for UCI, which led 34-26 at halftime and built a double-digit lead for good at 44-32 on a three-point shot by Michael Hunter with 14:56 left in the game.

The defeat was Pacific's worst conference loss since a 116-76 setback at UNLV Feb. 8, 1990, and the Tigers' worst loss at home since Utah claimed a 95-65 win in the Spanos Center Dec. 20, 1988.

Sanders had a career-high five assists in UCI's victory while Fells recorded four steals, all in the second half. The Anteaters tied their season high with 10 steals in the win. Adam Templeton added nine points, hitting 3 of 5 threes, while Hunter scored six points as nine different Anteater players scored in the game. Templeton and Hunter tied their career highs with two steals apiece.

Pacific, which shot 25 percent from the field in the game, was led by Anthony Brown with 14 points and eight rebounds. The Tigers fell to 5-11 overall and 2-2 in the conference with the loss.

"This was our best overall game, offensively and defensively, of the season," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "We were able to cause some turnovers which created offense opportunities for us. "It was a great team effort."

UCI, which has played 12 of its first 18 games away from the Bren Center this season, hosts UC Riverside Thursday and Cal State Fullerton Saturday in 7:00 p.m. games.

**January 11, 2007**

### **CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE HOLDS OFF UC IRVINE 67-61**

**NORTHRIDGE, Calif.** --- Cal State Northridge withstood a furious second-half rally by UC Irvine to defeat the Anteaters, 67-61, in Big West Conference action at the Matadome Thursday night.

The Matadors, who led 29-27 at halftime, opened the second half with an 18-2 run in the first 5 1/2 minutes to take a 47-29 lead, then saw UCI storm back.

The Anteaters went on a 22-3 spree over the next 8 1/2 minutes to grab a 51-50 lead when Patrick Sanders hit an inside jumper with 5:56 remaining in the game.

After Northridge's Jayme Miller hit one free throw to tie the game 51-all, UCI's Michael Hunter hit a pair of foul shots with 5:33 left for a 53-51 Anteater lead.

The Matadors' Rob Haynes converted a layup to knot the game at 53-53 with 5:21 remaining and then Northridge's Jonathan Heard scored the next six points and Haynes hit a three-pointer for a 62-53 Matador lead with 2:39 left.

The Anteaters then scored the next seven points to pull within 62-60 when Adam Templeton hit a three-pointer with 52 seconds remaining. UCI had a chance to tie the game but Hunter's driving layup was blocked by Jason Hill with 29 seconds left and the Matadors hit 5 of 6 free throws to record the victory.

Haynes led Northridge (8-7, 2-2 Big West) with 16 points, Heard added 14 and Rai Colston scored 11 off the bench.

Junior center Darren Fells was the lone Anteater in double figures with 11 points. Sanders, Templeton and Chuma Awaji added eight points apiece for UCI, which fell to 7-10 and 1-2 in the league.

UCI shot 50 percent in the second half and 45.3 percent for the game, but hit only 3 of 16 threes. The Anteaters committed 19 turnovers for their highest total in the last eight games. Northridge, which hit 5 of 9 three-pointers, shot 40 percent from the floor in the contest and committed 17 turnovers. The Matadors outrebounded the Anteaters 37-32.

The Anteaters face Pacific (5-10, 2-1) in Stockton Saturday night at 7:30.

**January 6, 2007**

### **UC SANTA BARBARA TOPS UC IRVINE 64-59**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- Junior guard Alex Harris scored 25 points while junior forward Chris Devine added 15 points and 11 rebounds to lead UC Santa Barbara over UC Irvine, 64-59, in a Big West Conference game at the Bren Events Center Saturday night.

Harris scored 16 of his points in the first half to pace the Gauchos to a 32-30 lead at intermission. UCSB, 11-4 overall and 3-1 in the Big West, handed UCI its first home loss of the season in six games. The Anteaters, who had a three-game winning streak snapped, fell to 7-9 overall and 1-1 in the conference.

UCI junior center Darren Fells tied his career high with 20 points and he also pulled down a team-high seven rebounds.

UCSB capitalized on cold UCI shooting as the Anteaters hit just 29 percent (9 of 31) from the field in the second half. UCI made only one field goal in the final six minutes of the game on an Adam Templeton three-pointer with 11 seconds remaining to pull the Anteaters within 62-59 but the Gauchos' James Powell hit a pair of free throws with 10 seconds left to seal the victory.

A three-point field goal by freshman guard Michael Hunter gave UCI a 46-42 lead with 12:17 left in the game but UCSB pulled ahead for good on a layup by Cecil Brown for a 49-48 lead with 8:17 remaining. The Gauchos built a seven-point lead at 59-52 on a three-pointer by Powell with 1:50 left.

Powell and Brown added 10 points apiece for UCSB, which shot 51.9 percent from the field in the first half and 47.2 percent for the game.

Templeton and Hunter added nine points each for UCI, which shot a season-low 34.5 percent for the game. Templeton had six rebounds while senior forward Nic Campbell tied his career high with five assists.

UCI travels to Cal State Northridge Thursday for a 7:00 p.m. game and plays at Pacific next Saturday in a 7:30 pm. contest.

**January 4, 2007**

### **UC IRVINE DEFEATS CAL POLY 66-62 IN BIG WEST ACTION**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- UC Irvine junior guard Chuma Awaji scored four straight points to overcome a late one-point deficit as the Anteaters defeated Cal Poly, 66-62, in UCI's Big West Conference opener at the Bren Events Center Thursday night.

After the Anteaters' Nic Campbell had hit a three-point shot to give UCI a 59-54 lead with 2:58 remaining, Cal Poly's Trae Clark scored six unanswered points on a three-point field goal and a three-point play to give the Mustangs a 60-59 lead with 2:24 left. Awaji then converted a layup off a steal with 1:54 remaining and added a pair of free throws with 31 ticks left for a 63-60 UCI lead.

UCI's Chad DeCasas hit one of two foul shots for a 64-60 margin with 15 seconds left before Cal Poly's Derek Stockalper was fouled on the rebound off DeCasas' miss and hit a pair of free throws at the other end to draw the Mustangs within 64-62. The Anteaters' Patrick Sanders hit two free throws with 10.6 seconds left for the final scoring of the game.

The second half featured 10 ties and UCI's bench outscored Cal Poly's 16-7 in the final 20 minutes.

UCI senior center Mark Kelley tied his career with 13 points and he added six rebounds as the Anteaters won their third straight game in improving to 7-8 overall and 1-0 in the Big West. Junior center Darren Fells came off the bench to post 12 points and 12 rebounds for his third double-double of the season and the eighth of his career. Campbell added nine points off the bench hitting 3 of 6 treys.

Cal Poly (6-7, 1-2) was led by Stockalper with 15 points and nine rebounds. Tyler McGinn added 12 points while Clark scored 11.

UCI, which led 26-24 at halftime, shot 55.6 percent from the field in the second half and 44.9 percent for the game. Cal Poly shot 34.9 percent in the contest as UCI is now 7-0 this season when the opposition shoots under 40 percent.

The victory improved the Anteaters' home record to 5-0 this season. It was UCI's seventh consecutive win in Big West openers.

The Anteaters host UC Santa Barbara Saturday night at 7:00 in the Bren Center.

## **December 30, 2006**

### **UC IRVINE TURNS BACK UC DAVIS 68-48**

DAVIS, Calif. --- UC Irvine guards Michael Hunter and Chuma Awaji each recorded career highs in combining for 34 points as the Anteaters won their first road game of the season with a 68-48 victory over UC Davis Saturday night.

Hunter, a 5-10 freshman, scored a game-high 18 points with 16 coming in the second half. He was 6 of 7 from the field and added three assists, one steal and no turnovers in 29 minutes. In the last three games, Hunter has recorded 30 points, 19 assists and just one turnover in 73 minutes.

Awaji, a 6-3 junior, scored 16 points, hitting 5 of 6 field goals, and added seven rebounds, three assists and two steals.

Mark Kelley and Darren Fells scored nine points apiece. Kelly added six rebounds and Fells four. Sophomore forward Adam Templeton pulled down seven boards.

UCI, 6-8 overall, won back-to-back games for the first time this season as the Anteaters had defeated Harvard, 81-48, Thursday. UCI was 0-7 in true road games this season before winning against UC Davis. In fact, the Anteaters' last road win was against the Aggies, 82-68, in Davis last Feb. 23.

The Anteaters, who led 25-22 at the half, shot 65 percent (13/20) from the floor in the second half. UCI shot 50 percent for the game for the third straight contest. The Anteaters were down 18-

10 with five minutes remaining in the first half before outscoring the Aggies 15-4 to claim the lead at intermission.

Thomas Juillerat led UC Davis (1-10) with 14 points, hitting 8 of 13 free throws. The Aggies shot 26.9 percent from the field for the contest.

The teams were whistled for a combined 54 fouls and shot a total of 61 free throws in the game. UCI hit 24 of 34 foul shots, including 13 of 19 in the second half.

"UC Davis scratched and clawed the first 12-14 minutes of the game and we did not take very good care of the ball," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "We handled the pressure much better after that.

"Michael Hunter certainly added some quickness and it was nice to see him and Chuma (Awaji) have good games offensively. This game was important as we got a road win heading into conference play," Douglass added.

UCI opens Big West Conference action hosting Cal Poly Thursday and UC Santa Barbara Saturday in 7:00 p.m. games at the Bren Events Center.

**December 28, 2006**

### **UC IRVINE RUNS PAST HARVARD 81-48**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- Sophomore forward Adam Templeton's 18 points led four UC Irvine players in double figures as the Anteaters defeated Harvard, 81-48, in non-conference action at the Bren Events Center Thursday night.

Templeton hit a career-high six three-pointers in nine attempts and added seven rebounds as UCI improved to 5-8 on the season and 4-0 at home.

Senior forward Nic Campbell scored 15 points, hitting 5 of 9 from the field, and also had seven boards. Senior center Mark Kelley added 11 points and seven rebounds while junior forward Patrick Sanders scored 10 points and recorded three steals. Freshman point guard Michael Hunter had seven assists and just one turnover in 18 minutes. In the last two games, Hunter has recorded 16 assists and one turnover in 44 minutes.

Senior center Brian Cusworth led Harvard (7-7) with 11 points and eight rebounds. Sophomore guard Andrew Pugar added 10 points. The Crimson shot 30.3 percent from the field for the game while UCI shot a season-high 52.5 percent.

The 81 points were a season high for the Anteaters, who led 43-20 at halftime. UCI built a 27-point lead in the first half at 41-14 on a Templeton three with 2:14 remaining. The closest Harvard came in the second half was 21 points on several occasions, the last at 61-40 on a layup by Jeremy Lin with 10:07 left.

UCI travels to UC Davis for a non-conference game Saturday night at 7:00. The Anteaters open Big West play next week hosting Cal Poly Thursday (Jan. 4) and UC Santa Barbara Jan. 6 in 7:00 p.m. games.

**December 22, 2006**

## **LOYOLA (CHICAGO) HOLDS OFF UC IRVINE 72-69**

**CHICAGO, Ill.** --- Three free throws by Loyola University Chicago in the final 19 seconds lifted the Ramblers over UC Irvine, 72-69, in on-conference action at the Gentile Center in Chicago Friday night.

Majak Kou hit 1 of 2 free throws with 18.5 seconds left to give Loyola a 70-67 lead before UCI junior forward Patrick Sanders hit a jumper with 8.4 seconds remaining to pull the Anteaters within 70-69. Loyola's Blake Schilb then hit 2 of 2 foul shots with 6.5 ticks left to put the Ramblers up 72-69 and Anteaater senior forward Nic Campbell's three-point attempt from the left corner hit off the rim as time expired.

Schilb led all scorers with 17 points, J.R. Blount added 15 and Kou 11 as Loyola improved to 9-4 on the season. The Ramblers have defeated UCI in all five series meetings.

Senior center Mark Kelley led the Anteaters (4-8) with 13 points while Campbell and freshman point guard Michael Hunter added 12 each. Hunter also had a career-high nine assists and two steals, in addition to no turnovers, in 26 minutes off the bench. Junior center Darren Fells had 11 points, hitting 5 of 7 field goals, while Sanders added 10 points and a game-high seven rebounds.

Loyola, which led 38-31 at halftime, took a 51-37 lead on a three-pointer by Blount with 15:46 remaining before UCI went on a 20-5 run, culminated by a Hunter layup to take a 57-56 lead with 10:08 left.

The Anteaters had a 65-63 lead with 3:44 remaining on a jumper by Kelley, but a free throw by Kou and two from Schilb put the Ramblers up 66-65 with 2:52 left and Blount converted a layup with 1:45 remaining to increase the margin to 68-65. Fells hit a jumper with 1:21 left to pull UCI within one but Blount hit one free throw with 58.6 seconds remaining for a 69-67 Ramblers' lead.

"It was a good ballgame and we had chances to win, but (Blake) Schilb stepped up and made some big plays down the stretch for Loyola," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said.

"After Loyola got the 14-point lead in the second half, we went big with Darren Fells and Mark Kelley and made a nice run. I told Michael (Hunter) to play quick and he did, which enabled him to make some baskets. It was nice to see him have a good game as we are young at the guard position."

The Anteaters host Harvard Thursday night at 7:30 at the Bren Events Center in the second game of a doubleheader as the UCI women's team faces Fairfield at 5:00 p.m.

**December 20, 2006**

## **DePAUL DEFEATS UC IRVINE 65-53**

**ROSEMONT, Ill.** --- Senior guard Sammy Mejia scored 12 of his game-high 15 points in the second half in leading DePaul past UC Irvine, 65-53, in non-conference action before 7,752 at Allstate Arena in Rosemont, Ill., Wednesday night.

Mejia, who had 14 rebounds for the game, hit 4 of 5 field goals and added 4 of 4 free throws in the last 20 minutes as the Blue Demons improved to 7-5 overall. Sophomore forward Wilson Chandler scored 14 points while junior guard Draelon Burns added 10.

Senior front-line players Nic Campbell and Mark Kelley led UCI (4-7) with 10 points apiece. Kelley tied his career high with eight rebounds. Junior forward Patrick Sanders added nine points and five boards while junior Darren Fells tied his career high with five assists. Junior guard Chuma Awaji also recorded five assists.

The Anteaters, down 17-8 midway through the first half, went on a 12-0 run culminated by a Kelley three-pointer to take a 20-17 lead with 5:57 left in the opening half. DePaul then scored 15 unanswered points and went on to take a 34-22 lead at intermission.

The Blue Demons built a 20-point lead three times in the second half, the last coming at 64-44 on a layup by Karron Clarke with 2:40 left.

UCI shot 39 percent from the field for the game while DePaul hit 41percent. The Blue Demons outrebounded the Anteaters 37-30 in the contest.

"The last four minutes of the first half got away from us," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "Playing an athletic team like that on the road, we knew it would be difficult but I thought we would give them a better game.

"I was very disappointed with our effort. We didn't get to our spots offensively and even though at times it looked like we could give them a game, we did not respond to DePaul's intensity," Douglass added.

UCI remains in Chicago to face Loyola University (8-4) Friday night at 5:00 (PST).

**December 16, 2006**

### **ANTEATERS TOP SAM HOUSTON STATE IN OVERTIME**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- UC Irvine outscored Sam Houston State 14-6 in overtime as the Anteaters defeated the Bearkats, 70-62, in non-conference action at the Bren Events Center Saturday night.

Junior guard Chuma Awaji, who scored five points in the extra session, finished with career highs of 15 points and 14 rebounds, plus he added three assists. Awaji was 5 of 9 from the floor and hit 4 of 5 free throws. He hit a three-point shot with 2:28 left in regulation to give UCI a 54-53 lead and junior forward Patrick Sanders hit two free throws with 1:04 remaining to put the Anteaters up 56-53.

Sam Houston State's Aaron Wade tied the game at 56-56 on a three-pointer with 45 seconds left. After a missed shot by UCI, the Bearkats had the last possession and called timeout with 3.7 seconds remaining and the ball in the frontcourt. Jejuan Plair, who led SHSU with 16 points, could not convert a driving layup and two subsequent put-backs missed the mark.

Awaji recorded a three-point play to open overtime and the Anteaters went up 64-56 on a free throw by junior center Darren Fells with 1:21 left. Plair hit a three-point shot with 32 seconds remaining to pull the Bearkats within 68-62, but free throws by UCI's Chad DeCasas and Nic Campbell sealed the win.

Fells added 14 points for UCI (4-6) while Campbell scored 10 as he played his first game of the season after missing the first nine with a back injury. Senior center Mark Kelley had five points, seven rebounds and four blocked shots as he was playing in just his third game of the season after missing seven with a hip flexor. DeCasas pulled down a career-high seven boards for the Anteaters.

Jeremy Thomas added 10 points off the bench for SHSU (6-4).

UCI outrebounded the Bearkats 53-39. The Anteaters shot 44.6 percent from the field for the game and hit 3 of 5 shots in overtime. SHSU, which shot 27.8 percent for the game, converted just 2 of 11 field goals in the extra session.

UCI is back on the road next week, facing DePaul Wednesday night at 5:30 (PST) and Loyola University Chicago Friday at 5:00 p.m. (PST).

**December 12, 2006**

### **UC IRVINE UNABLE TO HOLD OFF DRAKE**

**DES MOINES, Iowa** --- Drake overcame an 18-point deficit in the second half to win its fifth straight game with a 76-73 victory over UC Irvine Tuesday night.

The Bulldogs held the Anteaters scoreless for nearly seven minutes late in the game and capitalized on 15 second-half turnovers by UCI. Drake's defense also yielded 18 steals, 13 of which came after the break.

A three-point shot by freshman point guard Michael Hunter gave UCI a 61-43 lead with 15:01 remaining in the game. The Anteaters held a nine-point lead at 67-58 on a layup by Darren Fells with eight minutes left before the Bulldogs outscored the Anteaters, 18-6, from that point on. A layup by Drake's Nick Grant with 1:43 remaining culminated a 15-0 run by the Bulldogs, who took a 73-67 lead.

The Bulldogs led 76-70 on a pair of free throws by Adam Emmenecker with 21 seconds left and UCI's Chuma Awaji pulled the team to within three at 76-73 with a three-pointer with 13 seconds remaining.

Drake's Al Stewart missed two free throws with 12 seconds left but Antearer Adam Templeton's ensuing three-point attempt fell short at the buzzer. Templeton led UCI with a career-high 19 points, which he recorded all in the first half, while Hunter and Awaji each added a career-high 13 points. Hunter also had career-highs of five rebounds and four assists.

Klayton Korver led Drake (6-2) with 20 points, Ajay Calvin scored 16 and Grant added 14 in the win.

UCI built a 47-35 half-time lead on the strength of Templeton's 19 points as UCI went 9 of 14 from beyond the arc in the opening 20 minutes. Templeton hit a career-high five three-pointers in six attempts.

UCI (3-6) hosts Sam Houston State Saturday at 7:00 p.m. at the Bren Events Center.

**December 9, 2006**

## **LOYOLA MARYMOUNT DEFEATS UC IRVINE 73-65**

**LOS ANGELES** --- Loyola Marymount outscored UC Irvine 13-3 in the final 4:35 as the Lions topped the Anteaters, 73-65, in non-conference action at Gersten Pavilion Saturday night.

Senior guard Brandon Worthy led the Lions (7-4) with 16 points, six assists and three steals while senior forward Matthew Knight added 15 points and 10 rebounds. Adoyah Miller scored 14 points.

Junior forward Patrick Sanders led UCI (3-5) with 18 points and he added six boards and four blocked shots. Junior center Darren Fells recorded the seventh double-double of his career with 16 points and 12 rebounds while sophomore forward Adam Templeton added 11 points. Junior guard Marcus McIntosh scored eight points and junior guard Chuma Awaji added five assists. Senior center Mark Kelley, who missed the first seven games of the season with a hip flexor, played nine minutes off the bench, scoring four points.

LMU led 30-28 at halftime on the strength of nine points by Knight and eight from Miller. UCI took a 44-38 lead on a jumper by Sanders with 13:43 left in the second half and he gave the Anteaters a 62-60 lead on a layup with 4:45 remaining. The Lions then scored the next eight points to go up 68-62 on a pair of free throws from John Montgomery with 1:58 left. A free throw by Fells cut LMU's lead to 69-65 with 57 seconds remaining but Miller hit four straight free throws in the final 45 seconds for the final margin.

LMU hit 19 of 24 free throws for the game, including 14 of 18 in the second half. UCI, which was 8 of 13 from the foul line for the game, out-rebounded the Lions 36-30. The Anteaters shot 50 percent from the field for the game but committed 17 turnovers to the Lions' six. UCI outscored LMU 42-16 in the paint but the Lions scored 23 points to UCI's six off turnovers.

The Anteaters, who played their first game in two weeks Saturday, face Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, Tuesday night at 5:00 (PST).

**November 25, 2006**

## **UC IRVINE EDGES PEPPERDINE 68-66**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- Sophomore forward Adam Templeton hit two free throws with 21.3 seconds left and UC Irvine hung on to defeat Pepperdine, 68-66, in non-conference action at the Bren Events Center Saturday night.

Templeton's foul shots put the Anteaters ahead 67-66 and junior guard Marcus McIntosh hit one of two free throws with 2.3 seconds remaining as UCI improved to 3-4 on the season.

Pepperdine's Chase Griffin hit a jumper with 3:05 left to put the Waves up 66-65 and neither team scored until Templeton's free throws.

UCI junior center Darren Fells posted his sixth career double-double with 15 points and a career-high 15 rebounds. Sophomore forward Patrick Sanders scored 14 points, Templeton had 12 points and seven boards, and McIntosh added 10 points. Sanders tied his career high with four blocked shots.

Senior guard Marvin Lea led Pepperdine (1-5) with 18 points, Griffin scored 16, and Tomas Pranciliauskas and Kingsley Costain added 10 each. UCI outrebounded the Waves 45-29 but the Anteaters committed a season-high 29 turnovers to Pepperdine's 16.

UCI, which led 34-29 at halftime, went ahead 36-29 on a Sanders' dunk to open the second half before the Waves tied the game at 41-41 on a jumper by Blake Wallace with 14:06 left and then took a 43-41 lead after a layup by Chris Oakes with 13:19 remaining. The game see-sawed after that before the Anteaters built a seemingly comfortable cushion of six points at 60-54 on a layup from Chad DeCasas with 7:09 left but the Waves battled back as the second half featured 12 lead changes.

UCI, which played seven games in 16 days to open the season, has a two-week break from competition before traveling to Loyola Marymount Dec. 9 for a 7:00 p.m. game.

**November 21, 2006**

### **UC IRVINE LOSES TO NEVADA**

**RENO, NV ---** Senior forward Nick Fazekas, a preseason All-American, scored 29 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to lead the Wolf Pack past UCI, 83-64, in non-conference action Tuesday night at the Lawlor Event Center. Junior guard Marcelus Kemp added 23 points as Nevada improved to 4-0 on the season.

UC Irvine (2-4) was led by junior forward Patrick Sanders with 15 points and seven rebounds. Sanders also added three blocked shots in the effort. Sophomore Adam Templeton added 13 points, five rebounds and a career-high four assists and junior Marcus McIntosh tied his career-high with 10 points off the bench. Freshman guard Chad DeCasas had seven points and six boards. UCI was 6 of 10 from the three-point line and went 20 for 23 from the charity stripe.

Nevada took a 42-34 lead into the half and continued its momentum with a 24-11 second-half run that gave the Wolf Pack a 66-45 advantage, capped by a three-point play by Fazekas for its largest margin of the game. Nevada was 11 of 19 from beyond the arc for the game. Nevada scored 22 points off UCI Irvine's 17 turnovers and had 17 fast-break points to zero for the Anteaters.

UC Irvine was hindered when starting center Darren Fells picked up his third foul with 10:52 to go in the first half. However, the Anteaters received solid contributions from redshirt center Wolfgang Gieler, who had six points, four rebounds, three assists and a pair of steals in 25 reserve minutes. Guard Chuma Awaji added nine points and three assists for UCI. Fells and Templeton both fouled out in the second half. Fells left the game with four points and three boards in 15 minutes.

"I was proud of my kids. They battled tonight," said head coach Pat Douglass. "Nevada is a sound team. We'll learn from this type of game on what skills we have to work on.

UC Irvine returns home to host Pepperdine Saturday (Nov. 25) at the Bren Events Center. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:05 p.m.

**November 17, 2006**

### **OREGON RUNS PAST UC IRVINE 85-42**

**EUGENE, Ore.** --- Junior forward Chamberlain Oguchi scored 20 of his game-high 25 points in the second half and Oregon went on a 20-0 run over an eight-minute span as the Ducks ran past UC Irvine, 85-42, in non-conference action at McArthur Court Friday night.

Oguchi hit 6 of 10 threes in the second half as Oregon improved to 4-0. Junior forward Bryce Taylor added 18 points, senior guard Aaron Brooks scored 14 and freshman guard Tajuan Porter 12. Junior center Maarty Leunen pulled down a game-high 10 rebounds for the Ducks.

Junior forward Patrick Sanders and junior center Darren Fells led UCI (2-3) with 10 points apiece while junior guard Chuma Awaji recorded eight assists and seven rebounds.

A layup by freshman guard Chad DeCasas with 4:58 left in the first half gave the Anteaters a 27-26 lead before the Ducks went on a 15-2 run to close out the half with a 41-29 lead. Porter scored seven points in that stretch.

Fells converted a layup with 15:44 remaining in the second half to pull UCI within 46-35, then Oregon went on its 20-0 spurt with 11 of those points by Oguchi to lead 66-35 with 7:57 left.

The Anteaters shot 52 percent from the field in the first half but only 24 percent (6/25) in the final 20 minutes to shoot 38 percent for the game. UCI committed a season-high 26 turnovers, 13 in each half.

Oregon shot 54 percent from the floor in the first half and 49 percent for the game. The Ducks recorded 14 steals and outrebounded UCI 35-31.

The Anteaters and Ducks met for the first time in 24 years with the series now tied at 2-2.

UCI, which was playing its fifth game in eight days, travels to Nevada Tuesday night for a 7:00 game.

## **November 14, 2006**

### **UC IRVINE KNOCKS OFF SOUTH CAROLINA 67-52**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- Sophomore forward Adam Templeton scored 16 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for his second career double-double to lead UC Irvine past South Carolina, 67-52, in non-conference action at the Bren Events Center Tuesday night.

Junior forward Patrick Sanders added 15 points and seven rebounds while junior center Darren Fells and junior guard Chuma Awaji chipped in with 11 points apiece for the Anteaters (2-2), who were playing their fourth game in five days to open the season. Sanders added four assists, two blocked shots and two steals while junior point guard Marcus McIntosh scored nine points and added five rebounds and three assists in 17 reserve minutes.

Freshman guard Brandis Raley-Ross led the Gamecocks (1-1) with 14 points off the bench. Senior guard Bryce Sheldon scored 12 points and senior guard Tre' Kelley added 10 points.

South Carolina, the NIT champion the past two seasons, was the first Southeastern Conference school to ever play in Irvine and UCI made the most of the opportunity. After Raley-Ross converted a layup to give the Gamecocks a 16-15 lead with 7:02 left in the first half, UCI went on a 15-3 run to lead 30-19 at halftime.

The Anteaters built their largest lead of the night when McIntosh hit a three-pointer to put UCI up 41-21 with 15:16 remaining in the second half. South Carolina closed to within 10 points several times late in the game, the last coming at 62-52 with 59 seconds left, but the Anteaters were 9 of 11 on free throws in the final 1:43 to maintain their double-digit lead.

UCI, which outrebounded the Gamecocks 39-34, shot 46.7 percent from the field to South Carolina's 35.6 percent. The Anteaters hit 21 of 29 free throws (.724), including 12 of 16 in the second half.

UCI returns to action at Oregon Friday night at 8:00.

**November 12, 2006**

### **FRESNO STATE CRUISES PAST UC IRVINE 82-51**

**FRESNO, Calif.** --- Fresno State drained 13 three-point shots, including seven by Eddie Miller off the bench, in defeating UC Irvine, 82-51, in the Basketball Travelers Classic at the Save Mart Center in Fresno Sunday night.

The Bulldogs (3-0) built a 38-27 halftime lead on the strength of 11 points each by Miller and tournament MVP Dominic McGuire, then opened the second half with a 23-7 run to take a 61-34 lead with 13:31 remaining on back-to-back threes by Miller.

Miller led all scorers with 23 points (in 23 minutes), while McGuire added 13 points, six rebounds, five assists, four blocked shots and two steals in 25 minutes. Quinton Hosley added a game-high 10 rebounds along with eight points. Fresno State shot 59 percent from the field in the second half and hit 7 of 12 threes (58 percent) from three-point range.

UCI junior forward Patrick Sanders, who was named to the all-tournament team, led the Anteaters (1-2) with 16 points and added six boards. Junior center Darren Fells scored 13 points and pulled down a team-high seven rebounds.

UCI shot 35 percent from the field in the game but committed only 12 turnovers, well below its average off 23.0 over the tournament's first two games.

"We had hoped to give Fresno State a ballgame, but only did for about 12-15 minutes," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "They are very athletic and an exciting team to watch when they gear it up.

"We expect Sanders and Fells to carry us on the front line as veterans, but without Nic Campbell and Mark Kelley (both out with injuries), our bench is young. It is tough to go against a quality club without much depth.

"You learn a lot playing three games in three days, but there is not much time to regroup with South Carolina coming in to the Bren Center Tuesday night," Douglass added.

The Anteaters host the Gamecocks, two-time defending NIT champions, Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Bren Events Center.

**November 11, 2006**

## **UC IRVINE TOPS WINSTON-SALEM STATE 53-41**

**FRESNO, Calif.** --- Junior forward Patrick Sanders scored 13 points to lead UC Irvine over Winston-Salem State, 53-41, on the second day of the Basketball Travelers Classic at the Save Mart Center in Fresno.

Sanders was the only Anteater player to score in double figures. Junior center Darren Fells added eight points and eight rebounds, while freshman point guard Michael Hunter came off the bench to score eight points with two assists and two steals. Freshman guard Chris Osborn added seven points in 11 reserve minutes for UCI (1-1).

UCI, which led 28-23 at halftime, hit 9 of 12 free throws in the final 3:07 to hold off the Rams, who are in the second year of a five-year transition to the NCAA Division I level.

A layup by Fells gave the Anteaters a 32-25 lead with 18:20 remaining in the second half and neither team scored until Osborn hit a jumper from the key with 11:58 left.

Winston-Salem closed to 46-39 with 2:06 left on a three-pointer by Darrell Wonge, but UCI sophomore Adam Templeton hit 1 of 2 free throws and junior guard Chuma Awaji converted a layup off a Hunter feed with 1:33 remaining to put the Anteaters back up by 10 at 49-39.

Wonge led the Rams (0-2) with 17 points and eight rebounds.

UCI, which outrebounded Winston-Salem, 33-30, shot 42 percent from the field for the game and hit just 2 of 11 three-point shots.

The Rams shot 28 percent from the field, including 21 percent (5 of 24) in the second half.

The Anteaters played their second straight game without their leading returning scorer, Nic Campell, who is out indefinitely with a lower back injury. Campell averaged 10.5 points last season. Another frontcourt regular, Mark Kelley, also remains out with a hip flexor.

UCI faces Fresno State Sunday at 5:00 p.m. to conclude the tournament.

**November, 10, 2006**

## **SOUTH ALABAMA HOLDS OFF UC IRVINE 67-63**

**FRESNO, Calif.** --- Junior guard Demetric Bennett scored 22 of his game-high 27 points in the second half and South Alabama held off a late rally by UC Irvine to defeat the Anteaters, 67-63, in the season opener for both teams at the Basketball Travelers Classic in Fresno Friday night.

Junior guard Daon Merritt added 18 points for the Jaguars, who went on a 15-0 run after trailing 34-29 with 16:39 left to take a 44-34 lead with 11:19 remaining.

South Alabama took a 57-46 lead on a free throw by Bennett with 6:03 left, but sophomore forward Adam Templeton and junior forward Patrick Sanders led the UCI comeback that nearly pulled out the win for the Anteaters.

Sanders, who had 11 points in the game, hit a jumper with 35 seconds remaining to pull the Anteaters within 62-60. A pair of free throws by Carlos Smith with 23 seconds left gave South

Alabama a 64-60 lead, but Templeton, who led UCI with 17 points, hit a deep three with 17 seconds remaining to cut the margin to 64-63.

Bennett made 1 of 2 free throws with 15 seconds left to give the Jaguars a two-point lead and UCI turned the ball over with four seconds left and Templeton committed his fifth foul as Merritt hit two foul shots with 2.2 seconds remaining for the 67-63 win.

Junior center Darren Fells and junior point guard Marcus McIntosh added 10 points for UCI.

The Anteaters, who hit 9 of 14 threes in the game for 64.3 percent, committed 25 turnovers, including 16 in the first half that ended in a 23-23 tie. UCI outrebounded the Jaguars, 25-21, in the game.

South Alabama, an NCAA tournament team last season, recorded 17 steals for the game, but did commit 18 turnovers. The Jaguars shot 56 percent from the field in the second half.

"We had some first-game jitters but when we were able to settle down and take care of the ball, we were effective at times," UCI head coach Pat Douglass said. "I was pleased with how we hung in there and came back with a chance to win or tie the game at the end. I thought Chad DeCasas (18 minutes) was able to come in and settle us down a bit as a freshman.

"We were rushing things early, but once we slowed down, we were able to take care of the ball and do some things offensively," Templeton said.

UCI faces Winston-Salem State at 6:00 Saturday night and host Fresno State Sunday at 5:00 p.m. to conclude the tournament. The Anteaters host South Carolina in the Bren Center Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

**November 2, 2006**

### **FELLS LEADS UC IRVINE PAST SAINT XAVIER**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- Junior center Darren Fells (Fullerton HS) scored 17 points and added six steals and five rebounds to propel UC Irvine past Saint Xavier (Ill.), 82-65, in exhibition men's basketball at the Bren Events Center Thursday night. Fells hit 7 of 8 field goals in the win.

The balanced Anteater scoring attack featured three other players in double figures as junior guard Chuma Awaji scored 15 points, sophomore forward Adam Templeton 13 and junior forward Patrick Sanders 10. Junior point guard Marcus McIntosh added nine points and four assists.

UCI shot 67.7 percent (21 of 31) from the field in the second half to break away from its 32-31 halftime lead. The Anteaters shot 60 percent for the game and had 16 steals.

Saint Xavier, an NAIA Division I school from Chicago, was led by freshman guard Julian Scott with 11 points. The Cougars also enjoyed a decent shooting night, hitting 52 percent from the field, but committed 21 turnovers to UCI's nine.

UCI, leading 68-60 with 3:58 remaining, outscored the Cougars 14-5 down the stretch to seal the victory.

The Anteaters open the regular season facing South Alabama Nov. 10 in the Basketball Traveler's Classic at Fresno.

