

# 2001-02 Headlines

## ANTEATERS IN ALASKA

Irvine, CA -- UC Irvine women's basketball coaches Mark Adams and Molly Tuter conducted camps at Kenai Middle School in Kenai, Alaska. Tuter is a native of Soldotna, AK.

**August 19, 2002**

## FORMER ANTEATER MICHELLE KAHLER TO PLAY PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

Irvine, CA -- Former UC Irvine guard Michelle Kahler is a member of the Sacramento Sirens, Professional Women's Football team.

She will play halfback as the Sirens kick-off the 2002 season Sept. 7 versus the San Francisco StingRayz.

Kahler played for the Anteaters from 1991-95 and was a member of UCI's 1995 squad that won the Big West Tournament and played Stanford in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Kahler is currently fifth all-time in UCI assists (282).

Following graduation at UCI, she went on to earn her MBA at UC Davis.

**June 4, 2002**

## SELENA HO NAMED ASSISTANT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

Irvine, CA -- UC Irvine women's basketball head coach Mark Adams announced the hiring of Selena Ho as an assistant coach.

"Selena was the premiere point-guard in the Big West Conference over the last four years," Adams said. "With that experience and her outstanding communication and leadership skills, Selena will make a great contribution to the development of our guards. Our players have great respect for Selena and her accomplishments as a collegiate player and they are excited to have her join our staff."

Ho was a two-time All-Big West Conference first team selection at the University of the Pacific where she ended her career ranked first all-time in the Big West Conference and 24th among NCAA Division I players in three-pointers made (271). The point guard was named second-team All-Big West her first two seasons at UOP, including being named Big West Freshman of the Year in 1998-99. She averaged 14.6 points and 4.9 assists per game as a senior, leading the Tigers to the Big West Tournament Championship game. In 2001-02, she led the conference in free throw percentage (.792) and three-pointers made (2.61), ending her career first in the Big West from the free throw line (.823) and fifth in three-point field goal percentage (.406) all-time. The guard was named Big West Player of the Week twice in 2001-02 and holds the school record with six Big West Player of the Week honors. She finished her four-year career third on Pacific's all-time scoring list with 1,651 points, third in assists (430) and ninth in steals (135).

She was also honored as the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) Athlete of the Year as well as a NCSA All-American in 2002.

Ho graduated from Pacific in May with a degree in business administration.

**May 14, 2002**

### **WOMEN' S BASKETBALL PLAYERS HONORED AS BIG WEST SCHOLAR-ATHLETES**

**Irvine, CA --** Wendy Gabbe, Lisa Faulkner, Cindy Oparah, Katie Sturgeon and Erin Tomlinson were honored as Big West Scholar-Athletes at the annual banquet Monday night.

Requirements for this award include maintaining a 3.0 grade-point average (GPA) over three quarters or a 3.2 GPA over two quarters for freshmen. Student-athletes must also earn letters in their 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.

142 student-athletes were honored, bringing UCI's total to 2,051 conference scholar-athletes since 1984.

**May 9, 2002**

### **OPARAH HONORED AS LAUDS & LAURELS OUTSTANDING SENIOR ATHLETE**

Irvine, CA -- Senior forward Cindy Oparah was honored as the Lauds & Laurels Outstanding Senior Athlete by the UC Irvine Alumni Association. Oparah is one of 17 individuals to be honored who have made outstanding contributions to the campus and community.

**April 4, 2002**

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYERS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS ---** Wendy Gabbe, Cindy Oparah and Erin Tomlinson earned Big West Conference Winter All-Academic honors, Big West Conference Commissioner Dennis Farrell announced Thursday. Each honoree maintained a 3.2 cumulative grade point average or better and participated in over 50 percent of the team's competition. Student-athletes must also reach sophomore standing. The Anteaters were among 68 Big West Winter honorees in the sports of men' and women's basketball, men's and women's basketball, and women's gymnastics.

**March 11, 2002**

**OPARAH HONORS:** UCI senior forward Cindy Oparah was named first-team All-Big West Conference for the second consecutive year. She joins Cheri Graham, Allah-mi Basheer and Leticia Oseguera as UCI's only back-to-back first team honorees. She was also named Defensive Player of the Year as voted on by the Big West players, excluding her UCI teammates in the second annual All-Specialty Team awards.

**STREAK OF THREES:** The Anteaters have drained at least one three-pointer in 105 consecutive games. The last time UCI did not hit a three was Dec. 18, 1998. the team attempted 24 three-pointers against UC Riverside at the Big West Tournament, which ties the school record for most threes attempted in a game. The Anteaters also put-up 24 treys versus Long Beach State in 1994.

**MAKING IT EXCITING:** The Anteaters lost three overtime games plus the buzzer beater to UC Riverside. In 11 of its 20 losses, 10 points have separated UCI and its opponents with five minutes to play in regulation.

**MORE OPARAH:** Cindy Oparah was named to the Verizon Academic All-District VIII Women's Basketball first team as voted on by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). She was also named the prestigious UCI Lauds & Laurels Athlete of the Year. Oparah is a biological sciences major, currently applying to medical school.

**November 28, 2001**

**UC IRVINE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SIGNS FOUR** Irvine, CA --- UC Irvine women's basketball head coach Mark Adams announced the signing of Megan Aaker, Kristen Thawley, Joanna Usher and Lauren Yadon to national letters of intent.

**Megan Aaker 5-11, G, Laguna Hills, CA/Laguna Hills HS**

Averaged 18.1 points, 6.9 rebounds and 4.0 assists as a junior... second-team All-CIF Southern Section Division IIAA choice...2000 Division IIA CIF Player of the Year...second team All-Orange County pick...All-Sea View League honoree.

**Kristen Thawley 6-0, F, Irvine, CA/Irvine HS**

Averaged 19.0 points and 11.0 rebounds as a junior...2001 Street & Smith's Women's Basketball All-American honorable mention...first-team all-county selection...two-time All-CIF Southern Section Division I choice...two-time All-Sea View League honoree...Sea View League MVP as a sophomore...helped Irvine reach the CIF-SS Division I-AA final.

**Joanna Usher 6-5, C, Chandler, AZ/Seton Catholic HS**

Averaged 9.4 points, 7.9 rebounds and 3.8 blocks as a junior...3A West Region first-team honoree...named to the 3A all-state team...is tied for fifth in a single season and is fourth in a career (110) for blocked shots in the state of Arizona...won a 3A State title and three regional championships.

**Lauren Yadon 6-3, C, Orange, CA/Villa Park HS**

Averaged 17.6 points, 9.8 rebounds as a junior...two-time All-Century League pick...twice named to the All-Costa Mesa High School Winter Classic Tournament team.

"This is the best class of local players we have ever had," Adams said. "That is always a goal of ours and we signed three of the top Orange County players. This is a very balanced recruiting class. Megan Aaker is a great guard and Kristen Thawley is a quality small forward. The two post players bring two different types of games. Usher is more of a finesse player whereas Yadon is a power player who can score in a variety ways."