

## **2004-05 Headlines**

**June 7, 2005**

### **HEAD COACH MOLLY TUTER NAMES ASSISTANT COACHES**

Irvine, Calif. -- UC Irvine head women's basketball coach Molly Tuter announced the hiring of Daniel Prince, Chris Ellis and Leilani Estavan as assistant coaches.

"I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with Danny, Chris and Leilani," Tuter said. "Each of them bring something different to the table that will greatly help us achieve our goals. All of them have proven to me that this team is a priority in their life and they will do whatever is needed to get this program turned around and headed towards a Big West Championship. They have outstanding work ethics and will be excellent role models for our players."

Prince is the founder and former director of BIGGSHOT International, a sports marketing and management company. He has served as an assistant coach for the Love & Basketball exhibition team as well as volunteered at Antelope Valley High School. He graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a degree in Law and Society in 1996. Prince was a member of the Gaucho basketball team from 1994-96 and is currently eighth all-time in three-pointers made and attempted. He had 143 three-point attempts in 1996 which is eighth most in a season at UCSB. He started his career at Antelope Valley College where he led the nation in three-pointers with 186 in 1993-94. Following graduation, he played professionally in Mexico, Panama and China. Prince was the MVP of the Jiangsu Tournament in China and was the top-ranked three-point shooter during the South American Club Championships in 2000.

Ellis, a 1998 graduate of Pepperdine, has been the head coach at Immaculate Heart High School from 2003-05. He was the Loyola Marymount men's basketball graduate assistant from 2000-02 and the St. Louis University Men's basketball video coordinator from 1999-2000. He also served as the head manager for Pepperdine from 1996-99.

Estavan played point guard for Oregon State from 1999-2004, earning first team All-Pac 10 honors in 2002. She is the all-time assist leader at Oregon State and the first player to record 500 assists and 1,000 points in a career. She earned a bachelor of arts in Liberal Studies and minored in Athletic Administration. Estavan played professional in Greece following graduation.

**May 16, 2005**

### **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYERS HONORED AT SCHOLAR-ATHLETE BANQUET**

Irvine, Calif. -- Ashley Biggins and Joanna Usher were recognized as scholar-athlete at the annual Scholar-Athlete Banquet Monday night at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

A school record 182 athletes were honored, bringing UCI's total to 2,579 conference scholar-athletes since 1983.

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.

**April 25, 2005**

### **BIGGINS SELECTED AS NSCA ALL-AMERICAN**

Irvine, Calif. -- UC Irvine's Ashley Biggins was given the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) All-American Strength and Conditioning Athlete of the Year award.

"Ashley's strong work ethic in the weight room is carried into her game which has made her a great leader to her team on and off the court," UCI's head strength coach Mike Nagler said.

The award recognizes dedication to strength training and athletic conditioning. This year, the NSCA honored 251 collegiate athletes from over 100 schools with this award.

Biggins averaged 7.7 points and 8.5 rebounds per game as a senior this season compared to averaging 3.9 points and 5.6 rebounds as a junior.

**April 1, 2005**

### **USHER NAMED TO BIG WEST WINTER ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- UC Irvine's Joanna Usher has been named to the Big West Academic All-Conference team for winter sports.

To be eligible for the All-Academic team, student-athletes have to maintain a 3.2 cumulative grade-point average, have attained a sophomore standing academically, and competed in at least 50 percent of their team's contests.

Usher, a junior from Chandler, Ariz., is majoring in economics.

**March 23, 2005**

### **MOLLY TUTER NAMED HEAD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH AT UC IRVINE**

IRVINE, Calif. -- Molly Tuter has been named head women's basketball coach at UC Irvine, announced by Athletic Director Bob Chichester Wednesday.

Tuter, who becomes the sixth head coach in the program's history, received a three-year contract.

Tuter, 29, has been on the UCI staff as an assistant coach since 2000, assuming the interim head coaching duties when Mark Adams resigned Dec. 28, 2004 after an 0-7 start. Under Tuter, the Anteaters were 8-14 and advanced to the Big West Tournament quarterfinals after defeating Utah State, 75-63 in the first round.

"Receiving a job opportunity like this one has been a dream come true," Tuter said. "We have a lot of work to do here, but I have a great deal of confidence in our current players and administration, and together we can get this program consistently moving in the right direction.

"Becoming a head coach at the Division I level has always been a goal of mine. I know that this will be a great challenge, but it is one that I am looking forward to. I feel that UC Irvine deserves a women's basketball program to be proud of and I will do all that I can to ensure this happens," she added.

Tuter came to UCI after serving two years as an assistant coach at UCLA from 1998-00. The Bruins were 26-8 and reached the Elite Eight in her first season on the staff and advanced to the Midwest Regional her last year at UCLA.

"We are very excited about the opportunity to name Molly as UCI's head women's basketball coach and to work with her to enhance our women's basketball program," Chichester said. "Molly's experience, character, and values demonstrate past successes which indicate that she has the potential to become an outstanding head coach.

"As anticipated, the women on the team and Molly have reacted well to each other over the past several months. In our discussions with Molly, as the season concluded, she was impressive in expressing her passion, vision, and plans for assuming the leadership responsibilities of the program. Molly is thought quite highly of by those who know her.

"Molly has an understanding of the challenges, as well as the potential opportunities associated with the program here at UCI. We believe that she is the type of person and coach that ambitious and competitive young women should find very rewarding to have as their college basketball coach and role model. Her desire for success is infectious," Chichester added.

Tuter is a 1998 graduate of Arizona State where she earned her degree in sociology. As a four-year letterwinner for the Sun Devils, Tuter scored 1,374 points, which ranks third on the school's career list. She is also currently ranked among the school's top three in career steals (221) and three-point field goals (116 made). Tuter was a two-time honorable mention All-Pac- 10 honoree.

Tuter spent the 1997-98 season as a member of the Phoenix Mercury of the WNBA and has also played professionally for the Club Amicale Steinsel in Luxembourg.

A native of Soldotna, Alaska, Tuter was twice named Gatorade State High School Basketball Player of the Year while attending Soldotna High School.

### **March 14, 2005**

**UCI ENDS SEASON IN QUARTERFINALS OF THE BIG WEST TOURNAMENT:** UC Irvine (8-21, 6-12) lost to Idaho 63-50 in the quarterfinals of the Big West Tournament. The Anteaters defeated Utah State 75-63 in the first round. UCI is 11-16 in 17 Big West Tournament appearances.

**NED EARNS ALL-BIG WEST HONOR:** Sophomore Angie Ned was named to the All-Big West second team, her first Big West recognition. Ned led the team and was sixth in the league in

scoring, averaging 16.1 points per game. She also ranked fifth in free throw percentage (.800), fourth in steals (1.9) and 10th in three-pointers made (1.22). She led the team in scoring 12 times this year and scored 20 or more eight times.

**BREAKING RECORDS AT THE LINE:** UCI was 32-37 at the free throw line against Utah State in the first round of the Big West Tournament. The 32 free throws set a Big West Tournament mark for most free throws made in a game, breaking the 19-year old record of 31 set by UNLV in 1986. It is also a new UCI game record, surpassing the old mark of 30 set in 1993 and 1996. The 37 free throws attempted was tied for seventh and the .865 percentage ranked fourth in the Big West Tournament record books.

The Anteaters were 100.0, hitting 18-18 from the free throw line against UC Davis which is tied for the nation's best this year. The Anteaters share the top spot with Gonzaga who knocked down 24-24 versus St. Mary's, Notre Dame who went 18-18 against Valparaiso, Maine who was 19-19 versus Indiana, Tennessee Tech who was 19-19 versus Eastern Illinois and Western Michigan who drained 15-15 against Buffalo. The NCAA minimum of 15 made is needed to be ranked. It also ties the UCI record for best free throw percentage in a game.

As a team UCI shot .719 from the line this year, which is the single best mark in the UCI season record books. It better the old record of .710 set in 1984-85.

**IN THE SEASON RECORD BOOKS:** Senior Ashley Biggins was .571 from the field which is the third best field goal percentage in a season. Sophomore Angie Ned attempted 394 field goals which is the second most in a season by a UCI women's player. She averaged 16.1 points per game which ranks eighth and can also be found ranked sixth in free throw percentage, shooting .800 for the year. Melissa Jacob ranks tied for seventh in three-pointers made (43) and ninth in three-pointers attempted (122).

**FROM DOWNTOWN:** UCI was second in the Big West in three-pointers made at 5.3 per game. The Anteaters knocked down a season-high 10 treys versus Utah State in Logan. UCI hit nine three pointers against Idaho in the quarterfinals which is tied for sixth most in a Big West Tournament game.

**SWAT TEAM:** The Anteaters averaged 4.14 blocks per game, which is second in the Big West. The team had 112 blocks this season after averaging just 44 per season over the last five years. The team is ranked 53rd nationally in blocks. Forward Lauren Yadon led the team with 34 rejections.

**February 28, 2005**

#### **ASHLEY BIGGINS NAMED BIG WEST PLAYER OF THE WEEK**

**Irvine, Calif.** -- Senior center Ashley Biggins was named Big West Player of the Week, leading UCI to wins over Idaho and Utah State.

For the week, Biggins averaged 19.0 points and 7.5 rebounds per game, while shooting .875 (14-16) from the floor. She poured in a career-high 20 points in the upset of Idaho then had 18 points versus Utah State with 14 scored in the second half. She had seven rebounds against the Aggies, all coming after the intermission.

**February 1, 2005**

## **FORMER WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYER LETICIA OSEGUERA TO ENTER UCI HALL OF FAME**

IRVINE, Calif. --- Former women's basketball player Leticia Oseguera is one of four new embers that will be inducted into UC Irvine's Athletic Hall of Fame Feb. 12 during the Homecoming Alumni brunch at the Hyatt Regency Irvine beginning at 10:45 a.m. The new inductees also will be introduced during the UCI-UC Riverside men's basketball game that night at the Bren Events Center.

Oseguera becomes the third women's basketball player inducted into UCI's Hall of Fame, following Katherine Hamilton in 1989 and Allah-mi Basheer in 2003.

Leticia Oseguera ranks No. 1 at UCI in career rebounds with 969 and is third in points with 1,415. She earned All-Big West Conference first team honors in 1997 and 1998, and she ranked fifth nationally in 1998 with an 11.9 rebounding average. Oseguera, a second team all-conference choice as a sophomore in 1996, was a freshman on the 1995 team that became the only Anteater squad to advance to the NCAA Tournament. She holds the UCI record for single-season rebounds (289 in 1996) and is second in single-season scoring (505 points in 1997). Oseguera was UCI's female Big West Scholar-Athlete of the Year in 1997 and 1998. She was voted a GTE Academic All-American by the College Sports Information Directors of America in 1998.

**December 28, 2004**

## **UC IRVINE HEAD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH MARK ADAMS RESIGNS; MOLLY TUTER NAMED INTERIM HEAD COACH**

Irvine, Calif. – UC Irvine head women's basketball coach Mark Adams has announced his resignation, Athletic Director Bob Chichester said Tuesday.

"My inability to create a winning tradition for UCI women's basketball has brought me to this decision," Adams said. "I am thankful for the opportunity to coach at one of the leading universities in the United States and I wish the good people of UCI Athletics a very successful future."

Adams was in his eighth season at UCI with an 86-115 record. He is 132-147 in 10-plus years of coaching overall. The Anteaters are currently 0-7 on the year and open Big West Conference play today hosting Cal Poly at 7:00 p.m. in the Bren Events Center.

"Mark's efforts and contributions in the Department over the past seven years are appreciated," Chichester said. "On behalf of the Department's staff, we wish Mark much success in all of his future endeavors."

Assistant coach Molly Tuter has been named interim coach for the remainder of the season. Tuter, who is in her fifth season on the Anteater staff, is a 1998 graduate of Arizona State. She served two years as an assistant coach at UCLA (1998-00) before coming to UCI.

**November 26, 2004**

## UC IRVINE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SIGNS THREE

Irvine, Calif. – The UC Irvine women's basketball program announced the signing of Kirian Ishizaki, Kelly Cochran and Lindsay Allen to national letters of intent.

### **Kirian Ishizaki (5-7 - Guard - San Jose, Calif./Presenation HS)**

Three-time All-West Catholic Athletic League honoree, including a first-team selection as a junior...named Freshman of the Year in 2002...averaged 12.0 points and 5.5 assists per game as a junior...named an All-Star as a member of the San Jose Ninjas.

### **Kelly Cochran (5-11 - Forward - West Hills, Calif./Chaminade HS)**

Two-team All-CIF in 2003...averaged 18.6 points and 10.1 rebounds as a junior....member of the California SWISH Basketball Club.

### **Lindsay Allen (6-1 - Forward - Placentia, Calif./Orange Lutheran HS)**

Named first-team All CIF as a junior after averaging 16.0 points and 12 rebounds per game...member of the California SWISH Basketball Club.

**November 3, 2004**

## UCI PICKED TO FINISH EIGHTH BY COACHES; NINTH BY MEDIA IN PRE-SEASON POLLS

Irvine, Calif. -- The UC Irvine women's basketball team was picked to finish eighth by the coaches and ninth by the media at the annual Big West Media Day held at the Irvine Marriott Wednesday.

<b>Coaches Poll (1st Place Votes)</b>		<b>Media Poll (1st Place Votes)</b>	
1. UC Santa Barbara (8)	80	1. UC Santa Barbara (14)	149
2. Idaho (2)	74	2. Idaho (1)	132
3. Long Beach State	60	3. Long Beach State	109
4. Pacific	48	4. Pacific	105
5T. Cal Poly	46	5. Cal Poly	96
5T. Cal State Fullerton	46	6. Cal State Fullerton	64
7. Utah State	27	7. UC Riverside	45
8. UC Irvine	25	8. Cal State Northridge	44
9. UC Riverside	24	9. UC Irvine	41
10. Cal State Northridge		10. Utah State	39