

2005-06 Headlines

May 24, 2006

UC IRVINE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SIGNS SIX

Irvine, Calif. – UC Irvine women's basketball head coach Molly Tuter announced the signing of Naomi Halman, Stephanie Solomon, Klinta Lisnere, Rebecca Maessen, Tracey Wittebolle and Keyonna Johnson to national letters of intent.

"I felt our weakness last year was height and athleticism," Tuter said. "With the addition of these six players we have filled that void. Naomi, Klinta, Tracy and Stephanie all bring height and athleticism for our inside game, while the addition of Rebecca and Keyonna give us a lot more quickness and speed on the perimeter. I am very excited about this incoming class and really look forward to coaching them."

Naomi Halman

6-4, F/C, Haarlem, Netherlands

Played for the Yellow Bike Dames Basketball Club...averaged 17.0 points, 7.8 rebounds and 1.6 assists per game...had career averages of 14.7 points, 7.6 rebounds and 3.4 assists in the Dutch Finals...member of the Dutch National Team since the age of 16...competed in the Federation International Basketball Association (FIBA) U-18 Championships.

Stephanie Solomon

6-2, F, Las Vegas, Nevada/Pasadena City College

Comes to UCI from Pasadena City College where she averaged 5.0 points and 11.6 rebounds during South Coast Conference play...All-South Coast Conference second team honoree...helped PCC to its third straight Final 8 playoff appearance in 2006...hails from Las Vegas High School where she was an all-conference and 2005 Sunrise Northeast Region first team selection...averaged 11.7 points and 10.3 rebounds per game as a prep.

Klinta Lisnere

6-3, C, Riga, Latvia

Averaged 15 points and 12 rebounds playing for club TTT Riga...member of the U-18 Latvia Team that competed at the FIBA Championships in 2005.

Rebecca Maessen

5-10, G, Nijmegen, Netherlands/Antelope Valley CC

Attended Antelope Valley College last year but sat out due to injury...played for the Yellow Bike Dames Basketball Club...averaged 10.3 points and 4.1 assists per game while shooting 60.5 from the field over two club seasons.

Tracey Wittebolle

6-3, F, Ieper, Belgium

Averaged 15 rebounds per game for BBC Dames Ieper...member of the Belgian Jr. National Team...also played for the Belgian U-16 and U-18 teams that competed at the FIBA European Championships.

Keyonna Johnson

5-6, G, Pomona, Calif./Diamond Ranch HS

All-Mt. Baldy League Selection from Diamond Ranch High School...led the team in steals per game (3.3) while dishing out 3.4 assists per game...scored 24 points, grabbed 10 steals and had six assists against Alta Loma...helped team to the DIV IIIA CIF-SS title and advanced to the 2006 CIF State Playoffs.

May 16, 2006

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYERS HONORED AT SCHOLAR-ATHLETE BANQUET

Irvine, Calif. -- Women's basketball players Kimberly Martin and Joanna Usher were among the 152 student-athletes honored by UC Irvine as 2005-06 Big West Conference Scholar-Athletes at the program's annual banquet at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

This year's list brings UCI's total to 2,731 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.

Martin was also honored with the Academic Achievement Award.

April 10, 2006

KELLY COCHRAN TO BE FEATURED ON FSN'S NCAA ON CAMPUS SHOW

Irvine, Calif.-- UC Irvine will be featured on NCAA On Campus, a television show to be broadcast Monday, April 10 on Fox Sports Net West at 3:00 p.m.

The show, produced by FSN, features stories on collegiate athletes and their teams. The television crew visited UCI in late March to shoot the program around the campus.

Cochran, a freshman, was featured in a 30-second rapid fire segment.

April 4, 2006

JOANNA USHER EARNS BIG WEST ACADEMIC HONOR

Irvine, Calif. – Women's basketball player Joanna Usher was one of 13 UC Irvine student-athletes honored with Academic All-Big West Conference distinction for the winter sports of men's and women's basketball, and men's and women's swimming and diving.

A total of 70 student-athletes from eight member institutions were honored. 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.

Other UCI honorees include men's basketball player Ross Schraeder, women's basketball player Joanna Usher, swimmers Megan Baker, Michelle Kumaus, Chelsea Nagata, Mike Cohee, Eddie Erazo, Saul Fields, Eric Reilly and David Wharton and divers Franny Brittle, Kelly Janicki and Jackie Jones.

Usher is an economics major who will be graduating with honors in June.

March 17, 2006

UC IRVINE'S MOLLY TUTER TO BE INDUCTED INTO ALASKA HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

Irvine, Calif. -- UC Irvine women's basketball coach Molly Tuter will be inducted into the inaugural Alaska High School Hall of Fame on Sunday (Mar. 19) in Anchorage, Alaska.

Tuter was named Gatorade State High School Basketball Player of the Year twice and led Soldotna High School to the 1993 state 4A championship. Tuter was named All-Region III in volleyball and qualified to compete at the 1993 state track meet in the 400 meters and 4x200 relay.

In 1999, Tuter was ranked 16th on Sports Illustrated's 50 Greatest 20th Century Alaskan Sports Figures.

Tuter went onto play at Arizona State where she 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.

She played for the Phoenix Mercury in 1997 before becoming an assistant coach at UCLA.

Tuter just finished her first full season as the head women's basketball coach at UC Irvine.

March 13, 2006

UCI ENDS SEASON 9-19: UC Irvine finished the year 9-19 overall after a 66-64 loss to Cal State Northridge at the Big West Tournament. The nine wins is a one game improvement over the 2004-05 (8-21) mark. UCI started the season 0-7, but ended the year winning five of the last eight games. The three losses to end the year (UC Davis, Long Beach State and Cal State Northridge) were by a total of seven points.

The Anteaters finished in a four-way tie for third with a 7-7 league record.

NED LEADS UCI AGAIN: Junior Angie Ned led the Anteaters with a 13.0 scoring average. She was named first team All-Big West Conference by the coaches as well as Big West Best Defensive Player by her peers. Ned shot .771 from the free throw line which is the eighth best total in a season at UCI. She had 369 field goal attempts which is tied of fifth most in a season. Ned can also be found in the career record books at seventh in three-pointers attempted (242) and ninth in three-pointers made (74).

COCHRAN MAKES A NAME FOR HERSELF: Freshman Kelly Cochran was named to the All-Big West second team as well as to the All-Freshman team. She was second on the team in scoring with a 10.8 average and led the team with 6.6 rebounding average. Cochran scored double-figure points in the last 11 games, including recording double-doubles in the final three outings.

FINISHING STRONG: UCI started the season 0-7, but have ended the season winning five of the last eight games. The three losses to end the year (UC Davis, Long Beach State and Cal State Northridge) were by a total of seven points.

March 7, 2006

ANGIE NED NAMED BEST DEFENSIVE PLAYER IN BIG WEST

Irvine, Calif. -- Junior guard Angie Ned was named Big West Defensive Player of the Year by her peers.

Voting was done by the members of the other seven conference teams as UCI players could not vote for their teammates.

Ned becomes the second UCI player to earn the distinction with Cindy Oparah taking the honor in 2002.

The junior leads UCI with 39 steals overall and has averaged 5.6 rebounds and 1.6 steals in Big West games.

Other specialty awards were given to Cal State Northridge's Katie Holloway for Best Sixth Woman and UC Riverside's Kemie Nkele named Best Hustle Player.

March 6, 2006

NED, COCHRAN EARN ALL-BIG WEST HONORS

IRVINE, Calif. -- Junior Angie Ned was named first team All-Big West conference, while Kelly Cochran was named to the second team as well as to the All-Freshman team.

Ned, a second team honoree last season, becomes only the sixth UCI women's player to earn first team accolades and is the first since Cindy Oparah in 2002. She leads the team with a 13.1 average which was fourth among Big West players. Ned led all players from the free throw line in Big West games with a .870 mark.

Cochran becomes the first UCI freshman to earn second team honors and is the seventh all-freshman choice in program history. The forward was sixth in scoring (13.8), third in rebounding (8.1), second in field goal percentage (.528) and third in blocks (1.43) in conference games.

March 5, 2006

UC IRVINE BATTLES CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE IN FIRST ROUND OF BIG WEST TOURNAMENT WEDNESDAY

IRVINE, Calif. --- Sixth-seed UC Irvine will take on seventh-seed Cal State Northridge in the first round of the Big West Tournament Wednesday at approximately 2:30 p.m.

February 27, 2006

UCI ENTERTAINS LONG BEACH STATE IN REGULAR SEASON FINALE: UC Irvine (9-17, 7-6) will entertain Long Beach State (17-9, 9-4) in the final regular season game Saturday (Mar. 4) at 2:00 p.m. in the Bren Center.

Saturday's game is the last home game for seniors Melissa Jacob, Kimberly Martin, Joanna Usher and Lauren Yadon.

The game is also part of the Black & Blue Rivalry Series, which UCI leads, 14-11.

VERSUS THE OPPONENT: The Forty-Niners are on a three-game winning streak versus the Anteaters, taking the first meeting of the year 79-50 at the Pyramid.

Crystal McCutcheon led the 49ers with 18 points, while Jayme Connors added 12 points and a game-high nine rebounds. Freshman Kelly Cochran paced UC Irvine with 14 points and seven rebounds, Junior Angie Ned added 11 points.

JOCKEYING FOR TOURNAMENT SEEDING: UCI enters the week in a tie for third place with Cal State Fullerton and UC Riverside and could end the week anywhere from the third to fifth seed at the Big West Tournament. Both the Titans and Highlanders have completed their conference schedules. If UCI defeats Long Beach State they will secure the third seed. If UCI were to lose, then they would be thrown into a tie with a minimum of two other schools, but could be in a four-way tiebreaker if either Cal Poly or Cal State Northridge win two games this week. The Mustangs and Matadors play each other on Thursday. The Big West Tournament will be contested March 8-11 at the Anaheim Convention Center. Check out the [Big West website](#) for up-to-date standings and tournament information.

WINNING STREAK SNAPPED WITH LOSS TO DAVIS: The Anteaters snapped a five-game winning streak with a 56-53 loss to UC Davis last week.

UCI's Kelly Cochran hit a jumper in the paint with 1:22 remaining in the game to narrow UC Davis' lead to 51-50 before Jackie Turpin scored a layup with 52 seconds to give the Aggies a 53-50 cushion. On the next possession, Turpin was fouled and hit two free throw to give Davis a five point lead (55-50) with 26 seconds left. UCI's Miranda Forry drained a three-pointer with 19 seconds left and the Anteaters quickly fouled Turpin as she went on to hit the second of two from the line (56-53). Angie Ned missed a three from the leftside with 10 seconds to go and two UCI shots underneath the basket were no good as time expired.

Cochran recorded her fourth double-double with 14 points and a career-high 17 rebounds. She was 7-13 from the floor and grabbed 13 of her rebounds in the second half. Junior Angie Ned totaled 12 points and three steals in 38 minutes of action. Reigning Big West Player of the Week Stephanie Duda added six points and 11 rebounds. Senior guard Melissa Jacob fired eight assists and senior forward Kimberly Martin had eight points off the bench in 10 minutes of play.

COCHRAN TAKING BIG WEST BY STORM: Kelly Cochran's 17 rebounds against UC Davis last week is the third best in the conference this year. Against Big West teams, the Freshman of the Year candidate is averaging 13.7 points (6th), 7.8 rebounds (4th) and is shooting .526 from the floor which is second among league players. Cochran is also third in blocks per game, averaging 1.46 per outing. Over the last three games, Cochran has averaged 15.0 points, 10.3 rebounds and 1.7 blocks per game, while shooting 64.5 from the field.

February 20, 2006

STEPHANIE DUDA NAMED BIG WEST PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Irvine, Calif. -- Sophomore forward Stephanie Duda has been named Big West Player of the Week after averaging 14.0 points and 11.0 rebounds over road wins against UC Santa Barbara and Cal Poly.

Duda led UCI with a career-high 19 points and 15 rebounds against UC Santa Barbara. It was her first career double-double. She collected nine points, a team-high seven rebounds and four steals versus Cal Poly.

It is her first Big West Player of the Week recognition as she follows teammate Angie Ned's selection last week. It is the second time in program history that UCI has won back-to-back awards with Christina Callaway (Dec. 2) and Lisa Faulkner (Dec.9) earning the honor consecutively in 2003.

February 20, 2006

UCI ENTERTAINS UC DAVIS: UC Irvine (9-16, 7-6) will entertain UC Davis Thursday (Feb. 23) in a non-conference game at 7:00 p.m. in the Bren Center.

VERSUS UC DAVIS: The Aggies are riding an eight game winning streak and are 15-9 overall. They are 10-2 against Big West members losing only to UCI and UCSB. UC Davis will officially join the Big West beginning in 2007-08.

UCI picked up their first victory against UC Davis (1-5) with a 79-72 win in Davis earlier this year. Angie Ned scored 16 points and Miranda Forry added 13. Trailing 57-56 with 7:00 left, UC Irvine scored 13 of the game's next 15 points to take a 69-59 lead with 2:52 to play. Five different players scored for the Anteaters during the run, including Forry who capped the run with a three-pointer. UC Davis got to within five points twice the remainder of the game but could not get closer. Ellen Porshneva finished with 20 points for UC Davis while guard Jackie Turpin recorded a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds.

ON A ROLL: The Anteaters are on a five game winning streak. The last time UCI strung five games together was Feb. 14, 2001-Mar. 3, 2001. The last time UCI had six consecutive wins was during the 1983-84 season. The Anteaters had eight straight wins from Dec. 30, 1983 to Jan. 28, 1984. The school record is nine set in 1975-76.

BOMBS AWAY: After making only 15 threes over the previous six games, UCI exploded for a season-high 11 threes in the victory over UCSB. The 11 threes is one shy of the school record and the best in the Big West this season. The Anteaters shot .733 (11-15) from long distance Thursday which is tied for best in the nation with Tennessee and Loyola Marymount who were also 11-15. Six different Anteaters hit a three on Thursday night. Overall, UCI is fourth in the Big West in three-pointers, averaging 4.68 per game.

SCORING MACHINE: The Anteaters averaged 82.5 points last week. On the year, UCI is averaging 66.2 points per game, which is fourth best in the Big West.

ANTEATERS SWEEP CENTRAL COAST: For the first time since the 2001 season, UC Irvine defeated UC Santa Barbara (82-69) and Cal Poly (83-69) on the road. The win over UCSB snapped a 10-game losing streak against the Gauchos.

Sophomore forward Stephanie Duda scored a career-high 19 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Anteaters past UC Santa Barbara. Duda was 6-9 from the floor and 7-8 from the free throw line for her first career double-double. Freshman Kelly Cochran had her third career double-double with 16 points and 10 rebounds. Cochran scored 12 of her points and had eight of her rebounds in the second half. She also recorded four blocked shots. Senior guard Melissa Jacob added 13 points and seven assists, while freshman guard Kirian Ishizaki totaled 11 points going 3-4 from three-point range.

After trailing 37-35 at the half, UCI came out of the lockerroom on a 20-9 run to open a nine point lead (55-46) on a Duda rebound put-back with 13: 37 remaining. The Gauchos would rally to get within six (65-59) with 6:45 remaining, but UCI answered with three consecutive three-pointers, including two by Jacob to extend the advantage back to 74-59. at 4:42. The gauchos would get no closer than nine the rest of the way.

Against Cal Poly, four Anteaters scored in double digits, led by last week's Big West Player of the Week Angie Ned with 19 points.

Ned was 9-12 from the floor and added a team high seven rebounds in 32 minutes of action. Freshman Kelly Cochran had 15 points with 13 in the second half where she shot 6-7 from the floor and went 3-3 from the line. Lauren Yadon came off the bench to record 12 points for the 'Eaters. Senior Melissa Jacob had 10 points in the game, all of which came in the first half. Jacob also added five assists in the win. Stephanie Duda also had seven rebounds for the Anteaters.

The Anteaters led the entire second half after leading at halftime. Cal Poly closed within two (53-51) at the 15:58 mark before UCI went on a 10-2 run capped by an Angie Ned jumper at 13:30 to give UCI a 63-53 cushion. Cal Poly never got closer than within eight points the rest of the way.

February 13, 2006

ANGIE NED NAMED BIG WEST WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Irvine, Calif. -- Junior forward Angie Ned was named Big West Women's Basketball Player of the Week after leading UC Irvine to wins over Pacific (79-58) and Cal State Northridge (59-55) last week.

For the week, Ned averaged 15.5 points and 8.5 rebounds per game. She collected a career-high nine rebounds against the Tigers and a personal best six steal versus the Matadors. Against Cal State Northridge, Ned scored all 13 of her points in the second half, including a free throw, her 800th career point, with 1:40 remaining to keep UCI up by three.

On the year, Ned leads UCI and is third in the Big West, averaging 13.1 points per game. She has led the team in scoring 13 times this season and has recorded points in double figures on 16 occasions.

It is Ned's first career Player of the Week recognition.