

2005-06 Releases

May 17, 2006

NINE PLAYERS NAMED BIG WEST CONFERENCE SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

IRVINE, Calif. - Nine women's soccer players were recognized as 2005-06 Big West Conference Scholar-Athletes during the department's annual banquet Monday night at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

A total of 152 UCI student-athletes earned the award this year. The soccer honorees were Rosie Aguilera, Lauren Baer, Makenzie Beahm, Kim Conlan, Alex Fries, Erin Henry, Frankee Kelly, Kathleen Lemieux and Jessica Woo.

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

The Scholar-Athlete Award was implemented by the Big West Conference to honor those student-athletes that have maintained a high level of scholastic excellence while participating in intercollegiate athletics. UCI expanded the award to include teams that do not participate in Big West-sponsored sports.

May 3, 2006

ANTEATERS CONCLUDE SPRING SEASON WITH 4-1-1 RECORD

IRVINE, Calif. - The UC Irvine women's soccer team concluded the spring schedule with a 4-1-1 record. UCI opened with a 0-0 tie against San Diego and followed with a 1-0 win over UC San Diego. The team defeated the U16 Surf 2-0 and then beat Air Force 1-0. The Anteaters beat Northern Arizona at the Toyota College Classic April 9th. The team concluded the spring season with a 3-1 loss to Ajax.

"We realized with one game left that we were undefeated," said Anteater head coach April Heinrichs. "Our spring is something to celebrate and feel good about. The players were rewarded for all the hard work they had put int."

"We approached this spring season thematically; each week we worked on a different topic," Heinrichs said. "We first started with the girls on shaping their bodys before the arrived. We then worked on total team defending and how we will defend as a team. We then did the principals of runs and movement up front and how to count on each other on the attacking end. Excitingly, attacking is the area that we had the most improvement on this spring. We then worked on our possession and advancing of the ball collectively. We worked on our flight play to recreate width and the value of the field."

"The best part is the players feel rewarded and see the changes that we've made and are inspiring themselves," said Heinrichs. "The players finished the spring excited and enthusiastic for the start of the fall season."

March 15, 2006

UC IRVINE WOMEN'S SOCCER SIGNS FIVE

IRVINE, Calif. - UC Irvine women's soccer head coach April Heinrichs has announced the signing of the following student-athletes to national letters of intent.

"I'm excited about our 2006 commitments, they'll bring depth and versatility at a myriad of positions," stated Heinrichs. "Kate, Caty, Kim, Kellie and Aoife will bring their experiences to UCI helping our 2006 team play an attractive and attack oriented style of play. In doing so, we'll be able to put opponents under more pressure while finding ways to win more consistently."

Kate Berrini
Defense, Foster City, CA, Notre Dame HS, De Anza Force Impact

Two-time All- West Catholic Athletic League – 1st team
2005-06 All-CIF
All-San Jose Mercury – 1st team

Caty Cope
Midfield, Irvine CA, Northwood HS, Slammers FC

Two-time All-Pacific Coast League
2005-06 All-CIF
CIF All-Star

Kim Horn
Forward, Mission Viejo, CA, Capistrano Valley HS, Santiago Canyon College

Two-time Orange Empire Conference MVP
NSCAA second team All-American
All-time leader in goals and assists at Santiago Canyon College

Kellie Murphy
Forward/Midfield, San Diego, CA, Torrey Pines HS, San Diego Surf

2005-06 All-North County Times – 2nd team
2005 CIF Finalist team
2003 CIF Championship team

Aoife Shalvey
Defender, Saratoga, CA, Archbishop Mitty HS, De Anza Force Impact

All-San Jose Mercury 1st team
West Coast Catholic Athletic League Junior of the Year
San Jose Mercury Junior of the Year

December 19, 2005

APRIL HEINRICHS NAMED HEAD COACH AT UC IRVINE

IRVINE, Calif. --- April Heinrichs, one of the most prominent names in United States soccer history, has been named women's head soccer coach at UC Irvine, announced by Athletic Director Bob Chichester Monday.

Heinrichs served as head coach of the U.S. Women's National Team for five years, stepping down in February to serve as a consultant for U.S. Soccer. She led the Americans to the gold medal in the 2004 Olympic Games at Athens, Greece, and compiled an 87-17-20 record as head coach of the national team from 2000-05.

Heinrichs is returning to the college coaching ranks for the first time since the 1999 season when she led Virginia to a 13-10 record, including a trip to the round of 16 in the NCAA Tournament.

She was head coach from 1996-99 at Virginia, where she recorded a 52-27-7 mark in leading the Cavaliers to four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances.

Heinrichs guided Maryland to a 56-40-7 record from 1991-95, earning Atlantic Coast Conference Coach of the Year honors in 1995 after leading the Terps to their first NCAA Tournament berth. She had an 8-6-1 record as head coach at Princeton in 1990.

A 1986 graduate of the University of North Carolina, Heinrichs was twice named National Player of the Year and earned All-America first team honors three times.

Soccer America's Player of the Decade for the 1980's, she played for the U.S. Women's National team from 1986-91, earning 47 caps (national team matches). She was the first woman ever to be inducted into the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame when she was honored in 1998.

"I knew I would very likely go back to the college game in the right situation and I think we have an opportunity to do special things at UC Irvine, Heinrichs said."

"One of my passions is teaching young players and working with young people in the four-year window that you have with the student-athletes.

"UCI is one of the top-50 institutions, public or private, in the country. It's located in the hotbed of women's soccer in Southern California," she added. "There's proximity to the Home Depot Center where the U.S. National Teams train, so we will be able to get a look at out-of-state players as well.

"I look forward to meeting the team. I know how important it is to have a good relationship with the players and I am sure many of them have been anxious to see who their new coach would be. I will provide them with the plan for what we hope to do at UCI and work with them individually," Heinrichs said.

Chichester is excited about the arrival of Heinrichs to his UCI coaching staff.

"We are extremely fortunate for the opportunity to have someone with April Heinrichs' character, values, and experience join our staff here at UCI," he said. "We believe that April will not only benefit our women's soccer program, but will also contribute in a number of ways to our department and campus community. As the campus continues to grow, strive for excellence, and develop its national reputation, we hope that our athletic programs can be a significant part of those efforts and contribute to the excellence of the college experience here.

"April has been a part of the national success of women's soccer. She has a passion for soccer and for working with and developing young women as students and athletes," Chichester said. "With the huge interest in girls' and women's soccer here in Southern California, we hope that successful young women will share our enthusiasm and consider their opportunities to attend an outstanding academic institution and to enjoy participating in a soccer program under the leadership of April Heinrichs.

"I would like to thank all of the people on campus that assisted us with this national search. Their support is very much appreciated and we look forward to all of the opportunities for success associated with UCI's soccer and our other athletic programs. We all look forward to welcoming April to the Anteater family and to working with her," Chichester said.

October 31, 2005

SEASON ENDS FOR ANTEATERS: The UC Irvine women's soccer team (5-12-1, 1-5-1) concluded the 2005 season Friday with a 2-0 loss at Cal State Fullerton. The team finishes the year 5-12-1 overall and 1-5-1 in Big West play and finished eighth in the Big West Conference.

WEEK IN REVIEW: The Anteaters lost 2-0 to No. 18 Cal State Fullerton in the season finale for the team last week. Freshman keepers Erin Henry (Mater Dei HS) and Rosie Aguilera (Piedmont HS) each played a half in the match with Henry earning one save and Aguilera picking up two saves. Senior Joy Grey (Diamond Bar/Long Beach CC) had both of UCI's shots in the match.

HONORS FOR KELLY LITTLE: Sophomore Kelly Little (Long Beach/Wilson HS) was named to the Soccer Buzz National Elite Team of the Week for her play against UC Riverside and Long Beach State. Little was also named Big West Player of the Week for her play against UCR and LBSU. This is the first National Elite Team of the Week honor and first Big West Player of the Week honor for Little. This is the first time in UCI history that an Anteater has been honored as National Elite Team of the Week by Soccer Buzz.

ANTEATER LEADERS: Freshman Megan Ortiz had six goals and three assists to lead the team with 15 points. Britney Webster (Capistrano Valley HS) was second on the team with four goals and three assists for 11 points. Senior Lauren Baer (Thousand Oaks/Westlake HS) was third with five points. Freshman Alex Fries (Los Angeles/Chaminade Prep) was fourth on the team with two goals for four points on the year. Freshman Lauren Curtis (Santa Cruz/Archbishop Mitty HS) and senior Joy Grey each had one goal and one assist for three points. Sophomore Brittany Del Soldato (La Crescenta/Crescenta Valley HS), sophomore Makenzie Beahm (San Clemente HS) and sophomore Kim Conlan (Atascadero HS) each had one goal on the year. Keeper Rosie Aguilera had a pair of shutouts on the year and had 44 saves and a 1.37 goals-against average. Keeper Erin Henry has 46 saves on the season with a 2.22 goals-against average.

UCI RECORD BOOK: Junior Britney Webster is sixth all-time with 14 career assists. She is currently 11th all-time with 34 points. Junior Lauryn Birkinshaw (Aliso Niguel HS) is tied for 14th in career game-winning goals with three in her career.

October 26, 2005

KELLY LITTLE NAMED TO SOCCER BUZZ NATIONAL ELITE TEAM OF THE WEEK

IRVINE, Calif. - Sophomore Kelly Little (Long Beach/Wilson HS) was named to the Soccer Buzz National Elite Team of the Week for her play against UC Riverside and Long Beach State. This is the first National Elite Team of the Week honor for Little and also the first time in UCI history that an Anteater has been honored with the award.

The Anteaters conclude the 2005 season Friday night as they travel to Fullerton to face cross-county rival Cal State Fullerton at 7:00 p.m. at Titan Stadium.

October 24, 2005

KELLY LITTLE NAMED BIG WEST PLAYER OF THE WEEK

IRVINE, Calif. - Sophomore Kelly Little (Long Beach/Wilson HS) was named Big West Player of the Week for her performance in UCI's 2-0 win against No. 25 Long Beach State and 1-1 tie with UC Riverside. Little had the game-winning assist against Long Beach State as she sent the ball up the field to Britney Webster for the winning goal. Little anchored the UCI defense in shutting

down the UCR and LBSU offenses. Little cleared numerous balls out of the box eliminating scoring opportunities.

This is Little's first Big West Player of the Week honor.

October 11, 2005

HEAD COACH MARINE CANO ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION AT UC IRVINE

IRVINE, Calif. --- UC Irvine women's head soccer coach Marine Cano has announced his resignation, effective Dec. 31 at the end of his contract.

Cano is in his 12th season as head coach at UCI and 22nd overall as a head coach, including 10 years as head coach of Cal State Dominguez Hills.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to be the director of soccer and head women's coach for the past 12 seasons," Cano said. "UC Irvine has been a great experience because of all the great kids I have been able to coach and see develop into fine young ladies who have earned their degrees and gone on to be successful in life.

"The people here that I have worked with are the best. The support they have given me has been much appreciated, but it is time for a change. I believe the program can be one of the best on the West Coast and I feel that can happen in the near future."

"I look forward to a brand new challenge beginning in the new year," Cano added.

Cano is currently tied for the 14th-winningest coach all-time in Division I women's soccer by victories with 234 for coaches who have coached a minimum 10 years on the Division I level and includes victories at all four-year institutions. His UCI record currently stands at 111-94-27. Forty-one of his UCI players have earned All-Big West Conference honors, including 12 on the All-Big West first team. He has had 75 players named Big West Scholar-Athletes, including a Big West Scholar-Athlete of the Year and a Lauds & Laurels Outstanding Senior Athlete. Nineteen of his players have earned Big West All-Academic Team honors.

His UCI team won the Big West Conference tournament title in 1997 and the 1998 squad had the program's best record of 14-3-3.

The Anteaters, 3-10-1 overall and 0-3 in the Big West, travel to UC Davis for a non-conference match Friday (4:00 p.m.) and return to conference action against Pacific in Stockton Sunday at noon