

## **2002 Releases**

**May 30, 2002**

### **FOUR ANTEATERS EARN MPSF ALL-ACADEMIC HONORS**

**Irvine, CA**---UC Irvine sophomores Melissa Fernandez (Redlands HS), Rebecca Wedemeyer (Palos Verdes/Peninsula HS), and Michelle Carey (Chino HS), and senior Meghan O' Donnell (Laguna Hills HS) have been named to the 2002 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation All-Academic women's water polo team.

To qualify for this honor, a student-athlete must be at least a sophomore academically and carry a 3.0 or better cumulative grade point average. Additionally, the student-athlete must have completed one full academic year at the member institution prior to the season for which the award is received as well as participated in at least fifty percent of the games in his or her respective sport.

A total of 44 MPSF women's water polo players from 12 institutions were named to this year's All-Academic team.

**May 20, 2002**

### **FERNANDEZ EARNS ALL-AMERICAN HONORS**

**Irvine, CA**---UC Irvine women's water polo sophomore Melissa Fernandez (Redlands HS) has earned the program's first-ever All-American honor, as she was named to the 2002 honorable mention team by the American Water Polo Coaches Association.

Fernandez, the team captain, ranked second on UCI in scoring with 47 goals on the year. She also led the team in scoring in eight games this year and put together a team-best nine-game scoring streak. She was the only Anteater to be named Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Player of the Week by scoring three goals at fourth-ranked California and four goals at 15th-ranked Pacific during the week of March 4. Fernandez was a Big West Scholar-Athlete for the second consecutive year.

The Anteaters finished the season 16-22 overall and tied for 14th nationally in the final rankings.

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

**Irvine, CA** -- Meghan O'Donnell, Michelle Carey, Deni Basom, Lauren Volcan, Melissa Fernandez, and Rebecca Wedemeyer were honored as Big West Scholar-Athletes at the annual banquet Monday night (May 13).

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 15, 2002**

**'EATERS FINISH SEASON TIED FOR 14TH NATIONALLY**

**Irvine, CA---**UC Irvine tied for 14th in the nation with Indiana University in the final collegiate water polo poll. This is the second highest ranking in the two-year history of the program. The Anteaters, 16-22 overall, won 13 more games this year than in the inaugural season and capped off 2002 with a stunning 9-7 upset over then 12th-ranked UC Santa Barbara in the MPSF Tournament.

**April 29, 2002**

**STRONG FINISH TO 2002 SEASON:** 18th-ranked UC Irvine (16-22 overall/2-9 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation) picked up its first-ever post-season victories this weekend at the MPSF Tournament in Los Angeles to finish ninth of 12 teams. Following a 14-8 setback to fifth-ranked San Diego State, the Anteaters defeated 19th-ranked Pacific, 13-11, Saturday and 12th-ranked UC Santa Barbara, 9-7, Sunday. Sophomore Erica Horman (Carlsbad HS) recorded a school record seven goals against the Tigers while the win over the Gauchos marked the highest-ranked opponent UCI has defeated in the brief two-year history of the program.

**TURNING THE CORNER:** In only its second-year of existence, UC Irvine recorded a 16-22 record in 2002, picking up 13 more wins than in the inaugural season. Eight of the 16 victories came against higher-ranked opponents as of game time, while six losses to Top 10 programs were decided by a combined 10 goals. Sophomore Melissa Fernandez (Redlands HS) earned her second-ever MPSF Player of the Week March 12 following a four-goal outing at Pacific. Only four other MPSF players have earned this honor each of the past two seasons.

**'EATER LEADERS:** Horman led UCI in scoring with 57 goals on the year, while Fernandez owned 47. Sophomore Lauren Volcan (Anaheim Hills/Canyon HS) tallied 32 times, while sophomore Michelle Carey (Chino HS) ranked fourth with 26. Nerissa Reidenbaugh (Dana Point/Orange Coast College) rounded out her senior year with 25 goals, thus knocking in 54 in two years as an Anteater. Freshman Chelsea Culton (Hemet HS) was the top newcomer scoring 22 times including three at the MPSF Tournament.

**SUN AND MOON REPORT:** Sophomore goalkeeper Sun Chamblee (Carlsbad HS) averaged 4.57 saves per contest. She registered a season-high 10 saves against Pacific in the MPSF Tournament. Junior Jennifer Moon (Riverside CC) averaged 4.08 saves per game, with her best UCI outing coming in an 11-save effort against then 10th-ranked UC Davis March 29.

**April 28, 2002**

**UC IRVINE DEFEATS UCSB FOR 9TH PLACE AT MPSF TOURNEY**

**LOS ANGELES ---** Four UC Irvine players scored two goals each to lead the Anteater women's water polo team over UC Santa Barbara, 9-7, in the ninth-place game of the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Championship tournament at USC's McDonald's Swim Stadium Sunday.

Melissa Fernandez, Erica Horman, Lauren Volcan and Rebecca Wedemeyer each scored two goals for the Anteaters, who improved to 16-22 overall. Nerissa Reidenbaugh scored the other goal and Sunceray Chamblee recorded seven saves in goal for UCI, which led 6-4 at halftime.

Mary Blumberg led UCSB (17-17) with four goals and Gaucho goalkeeper Yvonne Conrad had one save.

**April 27, 2002**

**ANTEATERS DEFEAT PACIFIC AT MPSF TOURNAMENT**

**LOS ANGELES** --- Sophomore Erica Horman scored seven goals and senior Nerissa Reidenbaugh added three to lead the UC Irvine women's water polo team over Pacific, 13-11, in a consolation semifinal game of the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Championship tournament at USC's McDonald's Swim Stadium Saturday. UCI (15-22) will face UC Santa Barbara in the ninth-place game Sunday at 11:15 a.m.

Michelle Carey, Meghan O'Donnell and Lauren Volcan scored one goal each for the Anteaters, who led 8-3 at halftime. Sophomore goalkeeper Sunceray Chamblee recorded 10 saves. Pacific was led by Jessica Schroeder with five goals and Stacy Christy with three.

**March 12, 2002**

**FERNANDEZ AWARDED MPSF PLAYER OF THE WEEK**

**Irvine, CA**---UC Irvine sophomore utility player Melissa Fernandez (Redlands HS) was named Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Player of the Week in women's water polo for the week of March 4. Fernandez combined for seven goals in a pair of league road games March 8-9, including three at fourth-ranked California and four at No. 16 Pacific. The Anteaters upset the Tigers, 8-7, for their first MPSF win of the year. Fernandez leads UCI in scoring with 31 goals in 17 games, and has led the team in scoring in five contests. Ironically, Fernandez also received this award following the same four-goal effort and 8-7 outcome at Pacific in the program's first-ever win last year.