

# SPORTS

"Steroids is bad." — Mark McGwire

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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# Experienced Squad Set for Season

**EXPERIENCED:** Scott Juniper's team looks sharp in preparation for the upcoming season, which kicks off Aug. 20.

By David Gao  
Staff Writer

Four years in the making, the Scott Juniper era at UC Irvine is finally ripe to bear fruit.

The Lady Anteaters return every single contributor except senior Kate Berrini, while boasting an impressive group of newcomers.

"We're excited to have two transfers, Coco Goodson from the University of Texas and Lani Amack from Washington State," Head Coach Scott Juniper said. "Before any of the freshmen had even arrived, we felt we had found a solution to fill Berrini's boots. And of course, every returner has another year of experience. So we're excited, the team's training hard and looking sharp."

Goodson, originally from Ramona, Calif., exploded on to the Big 12 scene by tying for the team lead in scoring, with six goals and four assists for the Longhorns in 2008. In 2009, Goodson started 13 more games while adding two goals and two assists. Meanwhile, Amack played in 14 matches, starting four of them as a freshman for

the Cougars before redshirting last season. Both Goodson and Amack have NCAA Tournament experience and both will be competing for starting spots for the Anteaters this season.

"I wanted to come back to California where my parents could watch me play in college," Goodson, who Juniper recruited out of high school, said. "I'm glad to be back and hope to make the 'Eater Nation proud."

*"Before any of the freshmen had even arrived, we felt we had found a solution to fill Berrini's boots. And of course, every returner has another year of experience. So we're excited, the team's training hard and looking sharp."*

Scott Juniper  
Women's Soccer Head Coach

Fellow Southern Californian native Amack was drawn to UCI not just for the soccer program, but also because of the strength of its biology program. She will split time

between defense and midfield.

"Lani recognized the academic quality here at UCI, as she's majoring in biological sciences, and wanted to come here for academic reasons as well as athletic reasons," Juniper said.

The Anteaters will be anchored by senior captains Tanya Taylor, Alyssa Humphrey, and Danielle de Seriere. Taylor tied for the team lead in scoring last season with 16 points in 2009, earning All-Big West Second Team honors for the second straight year. Humphrey started all 21 games for UCI last season, while de Seriere earned All-Big West Honorable Mention accolades for her strong play in net.

"The three captains will be our leaders throughout the year," Juniper said. "All three of them are very unique, and I think the blend of them is going to work very well. They were some of the first players I recruited as head coach here, and it's very difficult to believe they're already going into their senior year."

In addition to key defender Nikki Forrest and reserves Sarah Busby and Raylean Robles, Juniper credited the senior class with turning around the program.

"They've been incredibly important to the program," Juniper said. "They brought in a breath of fresh air, and they came at a time when

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SCOTT ROEDER | Staff Photographer

Forward Tonya Taylor scored six goals last season and is one of seven seniors to return for UC Irvine's 2010 women's soccer team.

# Voids to Fill, 'Eaters Ranked 20th



ALEX YEE | Staff Photographer

Entering his senior season, forward Spencer Thompson will be expected to step up his game as one of the team's leaders this year.

**VOIDS:** Garcia and Aguilar depart, Thompson and Walker expected to lead nationally ranked team.

By Emmanuel Martinez  
Staff Writer

The UC Irvine men's soccer team will open their 2010 regular season ranked 20th in the nation. This marks the fifth straight season that the Anteaters have been ranked in the top 25. Although they're ranked highly, the 'Eaters need to fill some giant voids if they expect to compete for a Big West title and earn a berth in the NCAA tournament for the third consecutive year.

Irvine loses two players who have been instrumental to the team's success the last two years. Carlos Aguilar was named Big West Most Valuable Player in last year's postseason tournament after scoring or assisting on four goals, two of which were scored on penalty kicks. Aguilar is now playing for the Rochester Rhinos of the United Soccer League.

After transferring from Yavapai College, Irving Garcia made a tremendous impact on UCI's success. During his stay at UCI, Garcia collected many awards, including two First Team All-Big West honors along with Big West Offensive Player of the Year in 2009. The New

York Red Bulls selected Garcia in the fourth round of the Major League Soccer Super Draft.

Now that these two soccer stars have taken their talents to the next level, the Anteaters will look for replacements.

This will be a daunting task, considering that both Garcia and Aguilar accounted for 36 percent of UCI's goals last season. However, when looking at the UCI roster, replacements might not be far off. Expect senior forwards Spencer Thompson and Amani Walker to fill the voids vacated by Garcia and Aguilar.

Thompson has been a force to be reckoned with ever since he arrived at UC Irvine. As a freshman, he was second on the team with nine points by totaling four goals and one assist. During his second year, Thompson increased his goals to eight and his assists to six. He was also named to the All-Big West First Team.

Last year, he was named to the All-Big West Second Team by scoring seven goals and notching four assists. Expect Thompson to shoulder the majority of the load, as his success is vital to the team's overall success.

Another player to keep an eye on is Walker. Walker has progressively increased his scoring totals each year he has worn the UCI jersey. As a junior, Walker had his best year. He led the team with nine goals and

notched 21 total points. Against Cal State Fullerton, he tied a school single game record by recording seven points on three goals and an assist.

Despite leading the team in goals, Walker only started 12 games and came off the bench in ten. With the departure of Aguilar, expect Amani Walker to be thrust into the starting lineup.

The biggest shoes to be filled are those of Garcia. Look for sophomore midfielder Jonathan Prieto to make an impact on the upcoming season. Prieto had a sensational freshman campaign.

He played in all 22 games, making 17 starts. He tallied seven points off three goals and an assist and also received All-Big West Honorable Mention accolades.

Prieto should improve his total numbers from last season and his role should increase with a vacancy left by Garcia.

Whether it is Walker and Prieto or another pair of players who fill the holes left by last year's seniors, this team will need to find answers quick, as their schedule presents some tough challenges.

The 'Eaters open up their season with a tough Gonzaga team and then face a team that participated in the 2009 NCAA tournament in UNLV.

Before opening up conference

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# Expectations High: Six Starters Return



SCOTT ROEDER | Staff Photographer

Seniors Juliane Piggott and Kari Pestolesi played instrumental roles as statistical leaders on the women's volleyball team last season. This year their continued progress is crucial to the team's success.

**VOLLEYBALL: The Lady Anteaters hope to feed off of last season's 22-8 performance, the team's best record since 1978.**

By Emmanuel Martinez  
Staff Writer

Anteaters' Head Coach Paula Weishoff has raised expectations for UC Irvine Women's Volleyball team. Last year, the Lady Anteaters compiled a record of 22-8, which has been their best since 1978. More importantly, the team was on the cusp of making the playoffs for the first time in school history, but two crucial losses down the stretch diminished those hopes.

The 'Eaters have the talent and experience to contend for a Big West title, as they return six of

the seven starters from last year's team. But the player that is being replaced, Taryn Robertson, was the cornerstone of UCI volleyball for the last four years as the team's setter.

The hopes for the 2010 squad rest on the shoulders of two players, senior Ashley Bosza and sophomore Marissa Alvarez. If the Anteaters expect to repeat last year's success, one of these two players need to show that they are capable of being catalysts for the UCI offense.

Bosza is a senior who has played sparingly because she has been buried in the depth chart. But when she has played, Bosza has made an impact on the court. In 2008, she came off the bench in 18 matches, recording nine assists, five digs, a block and an ace.

As a senior in high school, Bosza notched 63 kills, 137 assists and 138 digs. She was also named the

team's Most Valuable Defensive Player.

Marissa Alvarez will enter her second season as an Anteater. She saw some action in her freshman season, playing in seven matches totaling seven kills, 82 assists, three service aces, and 14 digs. In 2008, as a high school student, Alvarez was named West Bay Athletic League's Most Valuable Player.

The transition for Bosza or Alvarez into the starting setter position should come with some ease, as the Anteaters have two potential All-Big West First Team players in Kari Pestolesi and Juliane Piggott.

Piggott, the senior transfer from UCLA, enters her second full season wearing the Anteater Blue and Gold. If last year was any indication of Piggott's talents, this year could be an even bigger season for the outside hitter. In 2009, Piggott recorded 353 kills, second on the

team to Pestolesi.

On the opposite side of Piggott, Pestolesi will be making her presence felt. Pestolesi enters her fourth and final season in an Anteater uniform. In the previous three years, she has done nothing but exceed expectations and this season should be no different. Last year, Pestolesi led the team with 437 kills and 41 service aces. She was also second in sets played with 113. Once again, Pestolesi should be the dominant force in the 2010 season.

Along with Alvarez, Kristin Winkler was part of Coach Weishoff's first recruiting class. Winkler had a sensational freshman season. She started 30 matches at libero, led the team with 479 digs and finished second with 30 aces. She was also named to the All-Big West Freshman Team. Look for Winkler to continue to improve and provide solid play at the libero position this upcoming season.

Alexandra Hauser and Riley Cropper should provide consistent play at middle blocker and be a defensive force in the middle of the court. Last season, Hauser ranked 55th in the nation and second in the Big West with a hitting percentage of .344. The red shirt junior led the team with 106 blocks and finished third with 168 kills.

Cropper is another force in the middle that opposing teams will have to contend with. Last year, Cropper's .309 hitting percentage was good for eighth in the Big West. She tallied 159 kills, which was good for fourth on the team and blocked 68 balls.

In addition, Weishoff added two players this offseason to bolster her roster. At opposite, she added Aly Squires and Mary Carls at setter. Squires was a three-time Most Valuable Player at Santa Ynez High School. As a junior, she led her team to the CIF quarterfinals and as a senior, she reached the CIF

semifinals.

In high school, Carls was part of two undefeated teams one in 2006 and 2007. In 2008, she ranked fifth in the SCVA 18-And-Under Top 20 Setters.

Last year, UCI lost two heart-breaking five-set matches against UC Santa Barbara, one on the road and the other at home. The Anteaters get their shot at redemption on Sept. 25, when the Gauchos travel to Irvine and on Oct. 22, when the Anteaters take their game to Santa Barbara.

But before the Anteaters can seek revenge, they must first set their sights on a very tough non-conference schedule. The 'Eaters open up their season by participating in the Washington State Tournament to face Washington State, Idaho and Weber State. UCI then travels to Stanford to take on the Cardinal and Marquette.

After wrapping things up in the Hawaii Tournament, UCI will host two very tough Pac-10 opponents. The Anteaters host UCLA on Sept. 18 and USC comes to town on Sept. 21.

Last year, the women's volleyball team played one game at the Bren Events Center. This year, the team plays seven times under the bright lights of the Bren. The Anteaters close out their 2010 regular season with four straight home games, the first three against Big West rivals.

Your first chance to catch the Lady Anteaters in action is on Sept. 14, as they take on the University of San Diego at Crawford Court.

The Anteaters come back home on Sept. 29 to open up conference play, hosting UC Riverside. After losing to UC Santa Barbara twice last year during the regular season, the Anteaters will seek revenge as they host the Gauchos on Oct. 30. The 'Eaters wrap up their regular season against cross country rival, Cal State Fullerton on Nov. 3.

# Predictable's Never Been So Promising

**NBA: A look at how the pieces have fallen into place in the NBA after an offseason of wheeling and dealing.**

By Ian Massey  
Staff Writer

In the National Basketball Association, the rich just keep getting richer. A flurry of transactions rapidly swept across the league, making fans do double takes each time they viewed some of the league's elite rosters. Is that the Miami Heat or my fantasy basketball team? The 2010-2011 NBA season is bound to be absolutely predictable, yet for some reason I think people are going to watch.

In just one month, the NBA received a facelift. So, let's get this straight: LeBron James and Dwayne Wade are now on the same team. The two guys who took the most shots in the NBA last year and who are arguably two of the top five perennial players in the league are wearing the same uniform.

Oh yeah, Chris Bosh, one of the best big men in the game will be gathering their rebounds ... if they ever miss. Mike Miller, one of the league's most decorated perimeter shooters, will be wide open when his three dominant teammates somehow struggle to find an open shot. And with virtually no cap space avail-

able, the Miami Heat still found a way to lock up role players Zydrunas Ilgauskas, Eddie House, Carlos Arroyo, Juwan Howard and Udonis Haslem to join them on their magic carpet ride to the Eastern Conference Finals.

After losing in a seven-game thriller to the Lakers in the NBA Finals, the Boston Celtics fell five points shy of being crowned champions once again. With the acquisitions of Jermaine O'Neal and Shaquille O'Neal down low, the Celtics are unlikely to kneel to any opponent. With Rajon Rondo, Ray Allen, Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett still going strong, expect them to stand in the way of Miami's dreams in the Eastern Conference.

The Los Angeles Lakers have upgraded their backup point guard position from Jordan Farmar to Steve Blake. They also ushered in a player, with Matt Barnes, who could even give Ron Artest a run for his money in a swagger competition. Hoping to channel Barnes' bad attitude, the Lakers will look to use his lockdown defense in order to mitigate the league's elite offensive threats. Along with Barnes and Blake, the Lakers have retained promising athlete Shannon Brown and have brought in aging veteran Theo Ratliff

to come off the bench for Andrew Bynum and Pau Gasol.

They also have Kobe Bryant. If you haven't noticed, he's pretty good. In an offseason in which the Heat has shined, it's still not out of the question for the Lakers to three-peat.

With the way things progressed over the past month, it appears for the other 27 teams in the league that there is no stopping the Heat, Celtics and defending champion Lakers. May God have mercy on the

to trounce opponents on a nightly basis. However, the monotonous, lack of competition will all be worth it next June when it comes down to the Eastern and Western Conference Finals.

Although the Chicago Bulls made considerable improvements with the additions of Kyle Korver and Carlos Boozer, and Dwight Howard's Orlando Magic are always formidable opponents, the East will be run by Miami and Boston who look seemingly unstoppable to any team east of the Mississippi.

The Dallas Mavericks and Oklahoma City Thunder look sharp in the West, but there's no stopping Kobe's crew which made considerable upgrades. As long as the world doesn't end by next June, expect the Lakers to square off against either the Celtics or the Heat in the finals.

Ultimately, it appears that American sports fans prefer domination to Cinderella stories. We love rivalries. Whether it's the Lakers versus the Celtics, Kobe versus Shaq, Kobe versus LeBron, Eli Manning versus older brother Peyton Manning, the Patriots versus the Colts or the impending rivalry of Lakers versus Heat, it appears that Americans have more of an affinity for Goliath versus Goliath rather

than David versus Goliath.

The impending dominance which is bound to take place in the NBA will create an extraordinarily bi-polar concoction of boredom and excitement. Psychiatric wards throughout the country should be on call in the event that a fan actually sits through a Sacramento Kings versus Cleveland Cavaliers game. With a vacancy created in their starting lineup from LeBron James' departure, the Cavaliers look just as pathetic as Charles Barkley would look if he attempted to beat Usain Bolt in a footrace. The extreme amount of free agent signings led to a complete upheaval of the balance of the NBA. It does not take a genius to realize that there is no chance for the rest of the mediocre teams to catch up to the league's top tier franchises next season.

The NBA has three teams in major markets: Miami, Boston and Los Angeles. These three teams possess some of the finest players in the league. Kobe, Gasol, Shaq, Rondo, Garnett, Pierce, Allen, LeBron, Wade, Bosh ... all populating just three teams. Ratings will be through the roof next June. In nine months, the mother of all NBA matchups is expected to give birth to one heck-of-an NBA Finals.

The season tips off in October, but it will get real in June. The lack of parity in the NBA will make for one of the most predictable, yet overwhelmingly compelling seasons in sports history.

*"Psychiatric wards throughout the country should be on call in the event that a fan actually sits through a Sacramento Kings versus Cleveland Cavaliers game. With a vacancy created in their starting lineup from LeBron James' departure, the Cavaliers look just as pathetic as Charles Barkley would look if he attempted to beat Usain Bolt in a footrace."*

New Jersey Nets' souls when they are forced to face the Heat. That is like throwing Lindsay Lohan into a hot dog eating competition with Joey Chestnut; it is simply unfair. Fans will sit through blowout after blowout to see if LeBron, Wade and Bosh can each eclipse the 30 point mark while defeating their helpless opponents by double digits. The Heat, Celtics and Lakers are bound

# The Perks of Being an Anteater

**MLB: The associate sports editor tells about his fulfilled dream: attending the All-Star Game.**

By Ian Massey  
Staff Writer

On July 13, Anaheim hosted the 2010 Major League Baseball All-Star game. Home to the Angels of Anaheim, Angel Stadium was the site for the exhibition game which annually pits the American League against the National League. The sport's premier athletes who were voted in by fans, peers and coaches displayed their abilities out on the field in the game's biggest talent show. They awed fans who came from all over the country and paid hundreds of dollars to see the spectacle. As a face in the crowd, I was one of the lucky people to witness Southern California's installation of the Midsummer Classic.

As a baseball fan who grew up just minutes from Angel Stadium in a town called Cypress, I've been an Angels fan since I could remember. I'd always imitate my favorite Angel, Garret Anderson, when stepping into the batter's box as a left-handed hitter in Little League.

To put my diehard Angel fanhood to the test, just know that growing up with a competitive drive, there was only one baseball game in which I intentionally cost my team the game. That game occurred on

October 27, 2002, the night of Game 7 of the World Series between the Angels and the San Francisco Giants. Around 5 p.m. I was playing in the semi-finals of a travel-ball tournament. My team was one run away from advancing to the finals to take on a team that demolished us earlier in the day. To make matters worse, if we somehow pulled off that comeback, the final game of the tournament would be held at 7 PM ... which would ruin any chance of watching Game 7.

I stood in the on-deck circle as the batter in front of me drew a walk. I strutted to the plate considering my options as I noticed that the bases were loaded.

"You've never thrown a game before!" the devil's advocate told me. "Then again, this tournament isn't that big of a deal and most of your teammates want to go home to watch Game 7 anyways. Just get out and let's go home and watch the Angel game," my conscience told me.

With two outs, I hit a lackadaisical ground ball up the middle, jogged down the baseline and was thrown out at first. I slammed down my helmet in pretend disgust in a dramatic attempt to prove that losing the game actually meant something to me. In reality, it didn't. I knew there were several games ahead of me and I've never regretted my decision. That night I watched the Angels celebrate their first and only World Series Championship in the comforts of my own home. It may now become apparent just how special the game of baseball has been to

me throughout the years.

As I arrived at Angel Stadium at 11 a.m. on July 13 for a game that was expected to start at 5 p.m., I noticed an immediate buzz in the air. But the main difference between the thousands of fans who showed up early for their special day and me was that I did not have a ticket to the game.

Instead, I wore a green wristband, signifying my volunteer status for the special event. Just days prior to the game, I managed to find a one-day job at the all-star game through

*"To be honest, I hadn't a care in the world if I didn't manage to sell a single program, because I was in the building. I was there."*

a fundraiser put on by UCI's Sports Business Association. Through SBA, I was able to circulate the stadium while selling programs and ticket holders with an All-Star game staff shirt.

With no intent to sell merchandise, I showed up just to take it all in. I sat in a seat hours before the crowds would storm the stadium. I snapped photographs of Colbie Caillat doing her pregame rendition of "God Bless America," listened in as ESPN analysts Karl Ravech, John Kruk, Dave Winfield and

Bobby Valentine chatted away and observed the grounds crew design stars in the infield, which represented the talented athletes who in a few short hours would be honored on that diamond. I strolled around the stadium the whole day. Encouraged to be vocal, I bellowed, "Programs! Ticket holders!" Despite showing up to watch some baseball, I still had some fun with the job at hand. I sold a good amount of merchandise and enjoyed chatting with fans as I did.

To be honest, I hadn't a care in the world if I didn't manage to sell a single program, because I was in the building. I was there. I witnessed an All-Star game at my favorite baseball team's stadium. As the game started, I found a spot in the right field pavilion where a friendly usher allowed me to stand and watch the game without snitching to my supervisor.

In the first inning, Derek Jeter confidently walked up to the plate, tapped his toes in the box and ritualistically held up his hand in preparation for his at-bat. The voice of longtime Yankees announcer, the late Bob Sheppard (who passed away just days before the game) came over the public address system. Dead at the age of 99, Sheppard's legendary, raspy voice resonated throughout Angels Stadium in honor of his 56-year career as the Yankees' announcer. "Now batting. The Shortstop. Number 2. Derek Jeter. Number 2." It was a spine-tingling moment, for me of all people, because of the decades of service he

had given to the game of baseball. The same kid who grew up detesting the Yankees and rejoicing every Angels' victory over the Bronx Bombers got chills, because a Yankee was announced. To me it was a reminder of why, despite hanging up my cleats, I still love the game so much.

Throughout the day I talked to an Angels fan from New Jersey, a Cardinals fan from Chicago and a Padres fan from San Diego, just to name a few. People came from all over to see this event. Some paid over \$150 to sit in the worst seats in the ballpark. And I had witnessed the same moments for free.

As a student at UC Irvine, I've noticed in my short tenure on this campus that there are vast opportunities throughout the sporting programs. In my first year as an Anteater, I sat down with Hall of Fame Baseball Coach Mike Gillespie for an interview. I've interviewed several humble athletes who now stop to say hello because I'm a familiar face to them. I've sat in the front row as some of the best collegiate volleyball players in this country compete just a few paces away from my seat. And above all, I had the opportunity to cross "See a Major League Baseball All-Star game" off of my imaginary bucket list.

There are several opportunities on campus to get involved with athletics. If you're enamored by professional and collegiate sports as much as I am, take advantage of this prime location. Seek out opportunities. Get involved. You won't regret it.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Women's Basketball Brings In Four Veteran Transfers

After losing four seniors to graduation in the spring, Anteaters' head coach Molly Goodenbour has been busy over the offseason, adding four transfers to the team's roster. Last season, the team's midseason addition of transfer Mikah Maly-Karros paid off in a huge way when she became the team's leading scorer and fueled the team.

This season, Goodenbour hopes that four new acquisitions will have lasting impacts. Joining the squad will be sophomores Taylor Champion and Joanna Miller, as well as juniors Kassandra McAlister and Pernilla Hanson.

As former Oregon State Beavers, Champion and McAlister will stick together as Anteaters. Playing 10 games apiece for the Beavers last season, Champion averaged 2.1 points and 1.9 rebounds, while McAlister scored 1.4 points per

game. Miller comes from North Carolina Central, where she was named the 2009-2010 NCAA Division I All-Independent Women's Basketball Newcomer of the Year. She scored 19.1 points per game, leading her team in scoring, steals, minutes played and free throw percentage. Hanson played in all 31 games for Point Loma University last season. She scored 5.7 points and 4.9 boards per game, while establishing herself as a threat from beyond the arc.

### Baseball's Dietrich Named Assistant Pitching Coach

The UC Irvine baseball team has named last season's Director of Baseball Operations, Jason Dietrich, an assistant coach for the 2011 season. He will assume the role of pitching coach which was vacated when Ted Silva left the school to

become Loyola Marymount's pitching coach. With a young pitching staff that lost Kyle Necke, Danny Bibona, Christian Bergman and Eric Pettis to graduation this offseason, Dietrich will have his work cut out for him in resurrecting UCI's pitching staff.

### Men's Basketball to Host 2K Sports Classic at the Bren

From Nov. 19-21, the UCI Men's Basketball team will host the 2K Sports Classic, a sub-regional that benefits Coaches vs. Cancer. Navy, Seattle University and Louisiana Tech will take part in the event at the Bren Events Center.

COMPILED BY IAN MASSEY  
STAFF WRITER

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## EXPERIENCED | from page 12

the program needed a lot of talent at different positions. They all played a lot of games as freshmen, and so picked up a lot of experience in that first year. They've become the backbone of the team."

The future only looks brighter for UC Irvine after this season however. The sophomore and junior classes are laden with big-time talent. Junior defender Judy Christopher was named All-Big West First Team for her part in leading the stellar UCI defense to nine shutouts in 2009. A pair of outside midfielder sophomores, Dana Sanderlin and Devon Delarosa, established themselves as prolific scorers as freshmen in 2009, scoring 16 and 13 points,

respectively.

"They started a lot of games as freshmen, and the maturity and experience of playing for a year puts them in a good position going into this year," Juniper said. "Devon is likely to see some time in the center of the field, as she's got great play-making ability as well. They've just got to make sure they remember what made them successful as freshmen, the excitement and freedom."

They are joined by Mar Rodriguez, who is just returning from playing for Team Mexico's under-20 women's national team. Rodriguez was part of a team that won their group and got to the quarterfinals of the World Cup.

"She's going to be a real big part of this team," Juniper said. "She scored four game-winning goals

for us last year. For her size, she's incredibly strong on the tackle, and she can win balls in the air and on the ground. That kind of spirit is infectious and the rest of the team really feeds off of that."

The new freshmen class will be no slouch either, as men's soccer star Amani Walker's sister Zuri Walker headlines the group.

"[Zuri] played for the under-15 women's national team," Juniper said. "She's a very strong player, physically dominant anywhere up the middle."

Other freshmen to watch out for are Walker's teammate Jordan Bruce and Irvine local Zoya Farzaneh, who went to Irvine High and played for the Irvine Strikers.

UCI opens up the season against the University of Idaho at Anteater Stadium on Aug 20. The schedule

also features big match-ups against Cal, Oregon State, Gonzaga, and the University of San Diego.

"We compete with [Cal] for recruits on a regular basis, and having a chance to go up there in the heart of Northern California and prove we're ready to take on teams like that is exciting," Juniper said.

After sneaking into the Big West conference tournament last year, and exiting in the semi-finals twice in the last three years, the Lady Anteaters seem posed to finally break out.

"Really, every single conference game is very, very important," Juniper said. "It's a very deep conference, but it's time to go one step further. Building off last year, we have every chance to do that."

## VOIDS | from page 14

play, the Anteaters will participate in three tournaments, hosting one of them. UCI will hold the UC Irvine College Classic, which will feature Santa Clara, Wisconsin and Loyola University Chicago.

The Anteaters will then compete in the San Diego State tournament and the UNLV tournament.

The Anteaters come back home on Sept. 29 to open up conference play, hosting UC Riverside. After losing to UC Santa Barbara twice last year during the regular season, the Anteaters will seek revenge as they host the Gauchos on Oct. 30.

The 'Eaters are expected to wrap up their regular season in a rivalry matchup against Cal State Fullerton on Nov. 3.