



**UC Irvine (9-4) vs. Norfolk State (5-7)
Championship Game – 54th Annual WestStar Bank Don Haskins Sun Bowl Invitational
Tuesday, December 22, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.
Don Haskins Center (12,000) – El Paso, Texas**

**Series Record: UCI leads 1-0
Last Meeting: UCI won 64-51 (12/22/08 in Springfield, Mo.)**

Radio: KUCI/88.9 FM (Michael O’Sullivan)

- UC Irvine and Norfolk State meet Tuesday night in the championship game of the 54th annual WestStar Bank Don Haskins Sun Bowl Invitational. This is just the second meeting in the series, as the Anteaters defeated the Spartans, 64-51, seven years ago to the day, Dec. 22, 2008, in the Basketball Travelers Tip-Off Tournament in Springfield, Mo.
- The Anteaters defeated Sam Houston State, 63-53, Monday night as UCI went on a 28-13 run to open the second half. Junior guard Luke Nelson scored 16 points and senior forward Mike Best 14. Norfolk State knocked off host UTEP, 85-76, as Charles Oliver led the way with 22 points and Jeff Short added 18.
- Russell Turner, in his sixth season as UCI’s head coach, needs one win (99-84) to reach 100 in his tenure with the Anteaters.
- UCI has won 52 of its last 54 games when holding the opposition to 60 points or less. The Anteaters are 4-0 in those games this season.
- UC Irvine is 7-0 this season when the opposition shoots under 40 percent from the field.
- UCI senior guard Alex Young ranks second all-time at UCI with 468 assists, just seven behind Raimonds Miglinieks, who registered 475 in his Anteater career.
- Young is the 25th player in Anteater history to reach 1,000 career points as he currently has 1,047, including a season-high 20 at Utah State Dec. 12.
- Young, in his third year as a team captain, is seventh in UCI history with 118 steals.
- Junior guard Luke Nelson is eighth in Anteater history with 145 threes and he is 15th with 269 assists. Nelson has scored 859 career points.
- Junior center Mamadou Ndiaye has 166 blocked shots and is shooting 68 percent from the field in his UCI career. His 166 rejections are tied for fifth in Big West Conference history.
- Nelson and Ndiaye are tied for the team lead in scoring at 11.8 points per game. Ndiaye leads UCI in rebounding at 7.2 boards per game, while Nelson has 57 assists and Young 54. Nelson tops the team with 15 steals.
- The Anteaters are No. 19 in the latest CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25 poll. Gonzaga is first and UALR second.
- Last Friday night’s 65-51 win over Chapman was UCI’s only home game this month. The Anteaters travel to No. 2 Kansas next Tuesday night, capping seven of eight games on the road in December. UCI plays five of eight games at home in January.
- UC Irvine started what is believed to be the tallest lineup in college basketball history and the Anteaters held off Chapman, 65-51, in non-conference action at the Bren Events Center Friday night. Coach Russell Turner sent out 7-6 Mamadou Ndiaye, 7-2 Ioannis Dimakopoulos, 6-10 Mike Best, 6-10 Jonathan Galloway and 6-8 Shawn Ray to start the game. That group totaled 420 inches (35 feet or the equivalent of five 7-footers), 14 inches taller than any other college basketball starting five, according to STATS LLC in records kept since 1996-97.
- The Anteaters advanced to the NCAA Division I Tournament for the first time in school history last March, narrowly losing to three-time national champion Louisville, 57-55, in the NCAA Second Round at Seattle. The appearance ended a 38-year drought for UCI, which moved to NCAA Division I July 1, 1977.