

# UC-Irvine Takes Regional Consolation

## Nic Campbell scores a career high 22 points

[box score](#)

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. - California-Irvine head coach Pat Douglass looks to forward Nic Campbell to keep the Anteaters' offense on an even keel.

UC-Irvine's Nic Campbell plays defense on Mississippi Valley State's Jesse Taylor.

But Campbell did more than that Friday, scoring a career-high 22 points as California-Irvine crushed Mississippi Valley State 94-40 in the consolation game of the 2K Sports College Hoops Classic.

Campbell, a junior from Australia, hit 6-of-8 from the field, including 4-of-5 3-pointers, and 6-of-10 from the free throw line in leading the Anteaters (1-1) to their first victory of the season.

"I didn't really intend to come out like that, but the shots were there," said Campbell, whose previous career best was 11 points. "I wasn't really trying to force anything; the shots just came to me."

Campbell did not start in California-Irvine's 79-56 loss Thursday to George Mason after missing four days of practice with an infected left elbow.

The rust showed, as Campbell had just six points against the Patriots. But he eclipsed that in the first half against the Delta Devils, scoring 20 points as the Anteaters raced out to a 49-20 lead.

"He got a little winded (against George Mason) because he hadn't practiced," Douglass said. "He's a very smart player, and we missed him last night. A lot of our offense runs through him. He's been shooting the ball well, so it wasn't surprising to see him make those threes, but more important we need his savvy on the court."

California-Irvine also found its shooting touch against Mississippi Valley State after struggling against George Mason, where it shot just 32.1 percent from the field.

Against the Delta Devils, the Anteaters shot 66.7 percent from the field in the first half and 63.8 percent for the game in breaking a 25-year-old team record for margin of victory over a NCAA Division I opponent. The record was 46 points, set in a 106-62 win over San Diego on Jan. 10, 1980.

Adam Templeton came off the bench for a career-best 15 points, Darren Fells added 14 points and Ross Schraeder 10 for California-Irvine. Aaron Fitzgerald also had a career-high 14 assists.

Mississippi Valley State - which gave No. 18 Wake Forest all it could handle before falling 78-64 Thursday - battled the Anteaters early, swapping the lead five times and tying the score four times in the first seven minutes of the first half.

However, that fifth lead change was the last. Campbell and Fitzgerald drained back-to-back 3-pointers to trigger a 24-2 run that put California-Irvine up 34-13 with 7:49 left in the first half.

Stanford Speech scored 11 points and Richard Cannon 10 for Mississippi Valley State (0-2), which struggled against California-Irvine's defense. They shot 31.5 percent from the field and committed 18 turnovers.

"We were in it early for sure, then we couldn't get a basket," Delta Devils coach James Green said. "This was a big physical and emotional letdown, but I'm not surprised. We were motivated last night and played hard and well, but tonight we were not emotionally able to get back up."

