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BU Stymies Big West favorite UC Irvine, 74-68

Seniors D.J. Irving and Dom Morris combine for 35 points and 14 rebounds

[box score](#)

IRVINE, Calif. - Trailing 42-40 with 13:06 left in regulation, the Boston University men's basketball team went on a 17-2 run over the next five minutes and finished with a 74-68 victory at Big West preseason favorite UC Irvine on Saturday evening.

Snapping a two-game losing streak in the 2K Sports Classic benefiting Wounded Warrior Project, the Terriers improve to 3-2, while the Anteaters drop to 3-3.

BU shot 12-of-24 in both halves for a 50 percent performance from the field and featured three men in double figures. Senior D.J. Irving had a game-high 18 points with six rebounds and three assists, while classmate Dom Morris tallied 17 points and a game-high eight boards. Junior Malik Thomas tied a personal best with four assists and contributed 12 points off the bench.

UC Irvine entered the game averaging 91.2 ppg while shooting 54.9 percent from the field. BU's defense frustrated the Anteaters into a season-low 68 points and a 27-of-63 (.429) performance. Standing 7-foot-6, Mamadou Ndiaye had 11 points and seven rebounds but was forced into three turnovers. Will Davis posted 12 points and eight boards, while Chris McNealy had 10 points and eight rebounds.

The Terriers jumped out of the gate recording 15 straight points with five men contributing in the run. Morris hit a game-opening jumper, and after treys by sophomore Nathan Dieudonne and senior Travis Robinson, freshman Dylan Haines drained one from the corner in his first career appearance at 12:24.

UC Irvine pulled within five (17-12) three minutes later on a short jumper by Davis, but Irving hit two 3-pointers during an 8-0 BU spurt to push the lead back to 13 (25-12) with 5:55 remaining in the half.

In BU's final possession, Thomas hit a trey to give the Terriers the 33-25 advantage entering the locker room. Morris hit one of his own at 15:39 in the second to put BU ahead 40-33, but the Anteaters scored nine straight points with Luke Nelson nailing a 3-pointer and jumper at 13:06 for UC Irvine's first lead of the game.

Haines quickly tied the game though with a long jumper just inside the 3-point line and after a defensive rebound by Irving, Robinson hit a trey. The Terriers' backcourt kept the pressure on Irvine's defense, as Irving drew a foul and hit all three free throws. Robinson followed with a steal and 3-pointer to put the Terriers ahead 51-42 at 11:18.

Finishing with a 12-1 record at the Bren Events Center last season, UC Irvine tried to mount a rally and trailed 67-59 at 2:15 after being down as many as 13 late in the second half. However, Thomas fed Morris for the easy layup to seal the win.

A participant in the second round of the 2013 CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament last March, the Anteaters scored the game's final five points in the last 20 seconds to push the losing deficit to single digits, as BU improved to 2-1 all-time in the series.

The Terriers went 10-of-18 (.556) from beyond the arc and were an impressive 16-of-19 (.842) at the charity stripe. They scored 22 points off 11 UC Irvine turnovers. The Anteaters won the battle at the boards, 36-29, and recorded 17 second-chance points but could never get into a groove offensively against BU's swarming defense.