

**NO. 5 UC IRVINE DEFEATS NO. 12 ST. FRANCIS, 12-7**

The Anteaters rallied in the second half with nine unanswered goals to cruise to victory

LOS ANGELES – The No. 5 UC Irvine men's water polo team opened the SoCal Tournament with a 12-7 non-conference win over No. 12 St. Francis at Spieker Aquatics Center on Saturday afternoon. UC Irvine trailed 6-3 in the second period and 6-5 at halftime but scored nine straight goals to rally for the victory. Senior Griffin Lerman scored a match-high five goals to lead UC Irvine (8-2). Senior goalkeeper Matt Johnson recorded 11 stops in the cage (nine in the second half) for the Anteaters. St. Francis (12-2) was led by junior Filip Sasic who scored three goals for the Terriers. Senior goalie Nikola Djuric had five saves for St. Francis in the first three periods. Freshman goalkeeper Igor Mladenovic played the fourth period and recorded three stops in goal.

UC Irvine 12, St. Francis 7

Team	1	2	3	4	F
No. 12 St. Francis	4	2	0	1	7
No. 5 UC Irvine	3	2	5	2	12

St. Francis Goals: Filip Sasic 3, Marko Gencic 2, Alexandar Pantic, Bosko Stankovic

St. Francis Saves: Nikola Djuric 5, Igor Mladenovic 3

UC Irvine Goals: Griffin Lerman 5, Douglas Lindsey 3, Brandon Johnson 2, Mitch Wise, Kyle Kruip

UC Irvine Saves: Matt Johnson 11