Send Highlander hoopsters to finals!

Dear Friends,

Go Highlanders!

That’s a shout that will be heard loudly and often this afternoon as the #3 seeded UCR Women’s Basketball team goes up against UC Davis in the Big West semi-finals. The game will be held at 2:30 p.m. at the Honda Center in Anaheim.

If you can’t attend the game, you can catch the action at http://www.gohighlanders.com/sports/2011/3/10/WBB_0310114708.aspx?id=1257. If you can’t do either, then think positive thoughts for our women’s team during game time!

The game – a rematch of last season’s tournament championship tourney – promises to be a great one.

Of course, we are all hoping for a favorable outcome, which means planning to be back at the Honda Center at 1 p.m., Saturday, for the championship, which is televised on Prime Ticket. http://www.bigwest.org/assets/sports/wbball/WBB%20BWT%20Bracket%202010-11.pdf

The team has lots to be proud of. On Monday, four of its members received honors when the Big West Conference released its 2010-11 Women’s Basketball All-Conference awards. Senior guard Alyssa Morris and sophomore guard Tre’Shonti Nottingham were named to the First Team, and senior forward Rhaya Neabors and senior forward guard Brittany Waddell were named to the Honorable Mention Team.

The UCR Men’s Basketball Team’s senior guard Javon Borum also was named to the Second Team All-Big West for the 2010-11 season. The men took on the #2 seeded Cal Poly last night, but results were not in at press time…. The ampmp Big West Tournament, in which they are contenders, continues semifinal action at 6:30 p.m., today. Both semifinals will be aired live on ESPNU. The championship game at 5 p.m., Saturday, airs on ESPN2. http://www.bigwest.org/assets/sports/mbball/11_MBB_Bracket.pdf.

Go Highlanders!

My wife and I have spent many an evening cheering on the Highlanders since we arrived at UC Riverside, and many of you have joined us, most recently at our Homecoming game and Military Appreciation Night festivities.

Athletics provides our university and community with a wonderful bonding experience as the blue and gold unite us all.
For student-athletes, intercollegiate athletics provide the opportunity for growth outside the classroom. Skills related to teamwork and the focus, dedication, and drive necessary to succeed are attributes that will serve these young men and women well as they move on to careers, families, and community service.

For the institution, intercollegiate athletics provide an important means of enhancing its reputation by striving for and achieving both athletic and academic excellence. Look at Gonzaga University, which has gained national attention for its outstanding basketball program.

For the rest of us, intercollegiate athletics provide a rallying point – a source of pride, inspiration, and camaraderie. Attending a game or cheering on a team is a way of supporting not only the players, but the institution as a whole.

So join me again in saying, “Go Highlanders!”

Best,

Tim

Tim White, Chancellor

Share your thoughts: http://fridayletters.ucr.edu/leavefeedback

UCR featured in budget analysis
Bloomberg TV has put together an analysis of the California budget crisis and how it affects the state’s premiere university system, in which they feature UCR and our students. I am committed to working through the issues that must be embraced if we are going to come out of this slimmer but stronger.
http://bit.ly/e0FAuC

Spider silk: a new material
Whether it is glue, steel or cables, nothing does it better than spiders. This New York Times analysis of the importance of researching the genetics of spider silk features UCR’s own Professor Cheryl Hayashi.
http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/08/science/08silk.html?_r=1&hp

Energy, excitement, Highlander spirit
Homecoming was a great success with a basketball victory, tours, reunions, a tailgate party and a concert. Here is a slide show that captures some of the energy and excitement of the homecoming bonfire.
http://www.flickr.com/photos/14239511@N04/sets/72157626066054885/show/
Find out what else is going on at UC Riverside: http://www.ucr.edu/happenings/