



UCLA FOOTBALL

UCLA Athletic Communications / J.D. Morgan Center /
325 Westwood Plaza / Los Angeles, CA 90095

Football Contacts:

Andrew Sinatra / asinatra@athletics.ucla.edu / c: (310) 613-7389
Andrew Wagner / awagner@athletics.ucla.edu / c: (818) 437-3160
Vinny Lavalsiti / vlavalsiti@athletics.ucla.edu / c: (209) 781-6810

UCLA Football Postgame Notes – UCLA at UNLV

Week 2 – Sept. 6, 2025 – Allegiant Stadium – Las Vegas, Nev.

Final Score: UNLV 30, UCLA 23

Records: UCLA (0-2, 0-0 Big Ten); UNLV (3-0, 0-0 Mountain West)

Up Next for UCLA: Friday, Sept. 12 vs. New Mexico (1-1, 0-0 Mountain West) - 7 p.m. PT (Big Ten Network)

Weather at Kickoff: Indoor (outdoor temperature - 94F)

Team Notes

- UCLA's all-time record against UNLV moved to 2-1.
- It marked just the second loss for the Bruins on artificial turf since the start of the 2024 season (3-2 overall).
- The Bruins were 4-for-5 (80%) on fourth-down conversions, improving to 7-for-9 (78%) on the season.
- UCLA scored on each of its three trips to the red zone, improving to 4-for-4 in red zone conversions so far this season.
- In the third quarter, UCLA outscored UNLV by a margin of 10-0, and outgained the Rebels 144-17 in total yardage.
- In the second half, UCLA outscored UNLV by a margin of 20-7, and outgained the Rebels 318-101 in total yardage.
- UCLA had a quartet of 20+ yard run plays, by four different players (N. lamaleava, Berger, Thomas, A. Woods). It was the most 20-yard run plays in a game for UCLA under DeShaun Foster (since start of 2024 season).
- N. lamaleava completed one 20+ yard pass, connecting with Kwazi Gilmer for 21 yards during UCLA's final drive of the game.

Individual Notes

- Four players made their first starts as Bruins on Saturday: WR Mikey Matthews, LB Isaiah Chisom, DL Kechaun Bennett, and DB Scooter Jackson. It also marked career start No. 1 for Bennett (it was the 17th career start for Jackson, 12th for Chisom, and 11th for Matthews).
- Defensive lineman Ashton Sanders made his UCLA debut.
- QB Nico lamaleava accounted for 314 yards and two touchdowns on offense (255 yards passing with a touchdown, team-high 59 yards rushing with a touchdown). He led the Bruins in rushing for the second time in as many games this season.
- N. lamaleava found the end zone on a 30-yard rush in the fourth quarter. It was the longest TD rush in lamaleava's career, and was just a yard-short of his career-long rush (31 yards vs. NC State in 2024 while at Tennessee).
- N. lamaleava recorded 314 yards of total offense against UNLV (255 passing yards, 59 rushing yards), marking the third time in his career he has crossed over 300 yards.
- DE Anthony Jones had a 3-yard sack in the first quarter. It was UCLA's first QB sack of the 2025 season, and marked Jones's third-career sack.
- RB Jaivian Thomas had a 32-yard run in the first quarter. It marked the Bruins' longest rush so far this season, and was the longest by any Bruin since T.J. Harden had a 40-yard rush vs. USC on Nov. 23, 2024 in UCLA's penultimate game of that campaign.
- TE Noah Fox-Flores reeled in a 4-yard touchdown catch in the third quarter. It was the first reception, and first TD, of his career. He's the first Bruin to record a touchdown reception as a true freshman since Kwazi Gilmer at Washington on Nov. 15, 2024. He's the first UCLA true freshman TE to record a touchdown since Thomas Duarte in 2013.
- WR Kwazi Gilmer set a new career high with eight receptions. The sophomore totaled 87 yards receiving, which was one yard shy of his career high (88 yards) set at Nebraska last season.
- K Mateen Bhaghani converted on all three of his field goal attempts, from 33, 35, and 33 yards out. The performance marked the third time in his career he has recorded 3+ field goals (last 3-for-3 at Hawai'i, 2024). He improved to 32-for-37 (86%) on FG attempts in his career, including a 24-for-28 (86%) mark as a Bruin. He's gone 4-for-4 on field goals so far in 2025.