

ADAM WRIGHT

Head Coach
12th Season at UCLA
267-47 (.850)
UCLA '01

Adam Wright begins his 12th season as UCLA's head men's water polo coach in 2020-21 with an overall record of 267-47 (.850) and an MPSF mark of 53-16 (.768). His teams earned perfect APR (Academic Progress Rate) scores of 1,000 in 2014, 2015 and 2016, all while winning NCAA Championships in 2014, 2015 and 2017. On July 20, 2017, then UCLA Director of Athletics, Dan Guerrero, announced that Wright would guide both the UCLA men's and women's water polo teams.

In 2019, the Bruins finished 17-5 overall but failed to secure a bid to the NCAA Championship after sweeping the Golden Coast Conference, defeating every team in the league (7-0), which included two wins over UC Santa Barbara. The Bruins also easily defeated Pacific, 14-10, but lost the at-large bid to Pacific, which like UCLA lost its final two games of the regular season. The Tigers were set to host the NCAA Championship.

In 2018, the Bruins reached the NCAA Semifinals for the fifth consecutive year, falling to eventual champion USC, 8-7. UCLA ended the year with an overall record of 23-5, posting victories over every team in the top 10 nationally.

The 2017 season was supposed to be a rebuilding year for UCLA, which lost eight seniors in 2015 and another nine in 2016 to graduation. The Bruins had six true freshmen on their roster playing major minutes and also had a redshirt sophomore goalkeeper playing for the first time as a full-time starter in NCAA competition. But despite the fact that they were picked to finish fourth by the league coaches, they matured into a strong defensive unit that held the nation's top offensive team in their home pool to just five goals, winning the programs' 11th national title and UCLA's 114th NCAA Championship with a 7-5 win at USC on Dec. 3, 2017. The Bruins finished the year at 21-4. Wright was named the ACWPC National Coach of the Year for the third time (2014, 2015 and 2017) in his career and was named the MPSF Coach of the Year for the second time (2011 and 2017).

In 2016, the Bruins completed a stellar season (25-3) that saw the squad set NCAA, UCLA and MPSF records for consecutive victories that dated back to the 2014 campaign. On Oct. 8, 2016, the Bruins set a UCLA record and tied the NCAA record with 51 consecutive wins with a 9-5 win at No. 4 Pacific. The next day (Oct. 9) the Bruins made history again, posting a 15-8 victory at No. 11 UC Davis to break the NCAA all-time record for consecutive victories in men's water polo at 51 straight wins. Before it was all said and done, the Bruins ran their record-setting winning streak to 57 games while also setting a UCLA and MPSF all-time league winning streak to 26 games.

He was named the 2015 ACWPC Division I Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season after guiding UCLA to its 10th NCAA Championship in school history (113th overall at UCLA) with a 10-7 win over USC. The Bruins ended the year with a 30-0 record and went a perfect 9-0 in the MPSF for its second-consecutive undefeated league season. UCLA also went 4-0 on the year against USC. The undefeated overall season was the first for UCLA since the 1969 team went 19-0, marking the fourth undefeated season all-time in NCAA men's water polo's modern history.

Under Wright's guidance, 66 Bruins have secured ACWPC All-America honors, including 18 first team honorees. He has also produced two Olympians for Team USA in 2016 in Josh Samuels and Alex Roelse. Under his tutelage, goalkeeper Garrett Danner was UCLA's first player to be named MPSF Newcomer of the Year in 2013 and in 2016 became just the second Bruin to win the Cutino Award and the third overall winner as UCLA's Sean Kern won the first two awards in 1998 and 1999. Wright has produced three MPSF Players of the Year, including Danner in 2015 and again in 2016 and Scott Davidson in 2009, who became the first Bruin to secure MPSF Player of the Year honors since 2000 (Sean Kern).

Wright was also named the 2014 ACWPC Division I Coach of the Year after guiding UCLA to its ninth NCAA Championship in (112th overall at UCLA) with a 9-8 win over USC. The Bruins were 29-3 overall and went 8-0 in the MPSF for the first time since 2004, the last previous national title year.



UCLA Head Coach Adam Wright reacts after a 7-5 win at USC in the 2017 NCAA Championship game.

THE WRIGHT STUFF

Coaching Highlights

- Guided the men's water polo team to NCAA Championships in 2014, 2015, and 2017
- Led the Bruins to MPSF Tournament titles in 2009, 2011 and 2015
- Set UCLA, MPSF, and NCAA all-time winning streaks (57 games) in 2016
- Named ACWPC Coach of the Year in 2014, 2015, and 2017
- Named MPSF Coach of the Year in 2011 and 2017
- Helped lead the women's water polo program to its fifth straight NCAA title in 2009
- Coached the Wilson High School boy's water polo program to four CIF Championships

Team USA Highlights

- Inducted into USA Water Polo Hall of Fame on June 20, 2019
- Led Team USA to the silver medal at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing
- Scored four goals and registered a team-high nine assists at the 2008 Olympics
- Played in three Olympic Games – 2004 (Athens), 2008 (Beijing), and 2012 (London)
- Led Team USA with five goals in six games at the 2003 World Championships

Playing Highlights (at UCLA)

- Led UCLA to back-to-back NCAA titles in 1999 and 2000
- Finished four-year career having accumulated 128 goals, playing from 1997-2000
- Named a second-team All-America selection in 1998, third-team selection in 1999
- Graduated from UCLA in 2001 with degrees in history and sociology

International Competition Highlights

- 2012 Olympic Games, 8th Place (London, England)
- 2010 FINA World Championships, 4th Place (Oradea, Romania)
- 2009 FINA World Championships, 4th Place (Rome, Italy)
- 2009 FINA World League Super Final, 4th Place (Podgorica, Montenegro)
- 2008 Olympic Games, 2nd Place (Beijing, China)
- 2008 FINA World League Super Final, 2nd Place (Genoa, Italy)
- 2007 FINA World League Super Final, 5th Place (Berlin, Germany)
- 2007 Pan American Games, 1st Place (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- 2007 FINA World Championships, 9th Place (Melbourne, Australia)
- 2006 FINA World League Super Final, 5th Place (Athens, Greece)
- 2005 ASUA Cup, 1st Place (Mexico City, Mexico)
- 2004 Olympic Games, 7th Place (Athens, Greece)
- 2004 Torneo di Napoli, 3rd Place (Naples, Italy)
- 2003 FINA World League Super Final, 3rd Place (New York, N.Y.)
- 2003 U.S. Cup, 2nd Place (Stanford, Calif.)
- 2002 FINA World Cup, 7th Place (Belgrade, Yugoslavia)
- 2001 FINA World Championships, 7th Place (Fukuoka, Japan)
- 2000 UPS Cup, 6th Place (Los Alamitos, Calif. - USA "B")
- 1999 World University Games, 4th Place (Palma de Mallorca, Spain)

A former standout in the pool at UCLA, Wright competed in his third Olympics for the USA Men's Water Polo Team in July of 2012 in London.

Named UCLA's fourth head coach in program history on June 3, 2009, Wright has guided the Bruins to three MPSF Tournament titles (2009, 2011 and 2015), three NCAA titles (2014, 2015 and 2017) and three runner-up finishes at the NCAA Tournament in his previous nine seasons at the helm of the UCLA program.

UCLA won MPSF Tournament titles in 2009 and 2011 and advanced to the title match of the NCAA Tournament both seasons. In 2010, the Bruins finished in a tie for second place in the MPSF regular-season standings and posted a fourth-place finish at the MPSF Tournament. In 2012, the Bruins fell to USC in the national championship game 11-10.

Wright was named MPSF Coach of the Year in 2011 after having led UCLA to the MPSF Tournament title and a runner-up finish at the NCAA Tournament.

In 2013, Wright guided the Bruins to the nation's best record in the country at 28-4. UCLA also defeated six-time defending champion USC two out of three times that season and lost all four games during the season by a combined total of five goals. But the Bruins lost their last two games of the MPSF Tournament, an 11-10 setback to Stanford in the semifinals and a 10-9 defeat to Pacific in the third-place game, and were not selected to the NCAA Tournament.

The Bruins produced another great season under Wright in 2012, going 28-5 with a 7-1 mark in MPSF play. UCLA also had a solid season in 2011, going 24-5 with a 6-2 record in conference action. UCLA entered the MPSF Tournament with a 20-4 record, before recording three consecutive overtime wins, all by one goal, to win the tournament title. UCLA edged USC, 10-9, in sudden victory overtime in the championship match before a standing room only crowd at the Bruins' Spieker Aquatics Center.

UCLA advanced to the 2011 NCAA Tournament championship match with a 10-1 win over UC San Diego, its best defensive effort in any NCAA Tournament match since 1971. The Bruins lost a 7-4 decision to crosstown rival USC in the championship match.

In 2009, UCLA's path to the NCAA Tournament came as a result of hard work, discipline and a strong finish at the MPSF Tournament, culminating in the Bruins' first conference tournament title since 2000. After opening MPSF play with consecutive losses in October, Wright knew that the Bruins would have to win the MPSF Tournament to have any chance at playing for a national title. He adjusted the team's practice and conditioning regimen, preparing the Bruins for the three-day tournament setting.

After finishing fourth in the MPSF regular-season standings, UCLA surged in the conference tournament. The Bruins opened with an 8-5 win over No. 5-seed Pepperdine and downed No. 1-seed and tournament host USC, 10-6, the following day. UCLA claimed the tournament title with a 10-7 win over No. 3-seed California, which was fresh off an upset of No. 2-seed Stanford.

Prior to his tenure as head coach, Wright was a four-year letterwinner at UCLA from 1997-2000, helping lead the Bruins to back-to-back NCAA titles in 1999 and 2000. Following his collegiate career, he served as a key member on the USA National Team, participating in the 2004 and 2008 Olympic Games. He helped lead Team USA to a seventh-place finish in 2004 (Athens) and to a silver medal in 2008 (Beijing).

Wright continued training with the USA National Team while serving as UCLA's head coach and retired as a player after competing at the 2012 Olympics in London.

Wright served as an assistant coach with the UCLA men's and women's water polo teams during the 2008-09 school year. He helped guide the women's program to an unprecedented fifth consecutive NCAA championship in May 2009. Following the 2008 men's water polo season, Wright played an integral role in securing the top men's recruiting class in the nation.

Wright got his coaching start as an assistant coach with the varsity boy's and girl's water polo teams at Wilson High School (Long Beach, Calif.) from 2001-04. He helped coach the boy's program to four consecutive CIF Division I championships and Moore League titles. Wright coached the girl's team to two Moore League titles.

As a senior at UCLA in 2000, Wright scored 39 goals before earning honorable mention All-America acclaim and second-team All-MPSF honors. In 1999, he secured third-team All-America and second-team All-MPSF honors. That season, Wright led UCLA in assists (27) and was second in total points (48) and steals (39).

In his first two seasons, he scored 43 goals - 26 as a freshman and 27 as a sophomore. He gained second-team All-America honors in 1998 and was an honorable mention All-America and All-MPSF selection as a freshman in 1997.

Wright graduated from UCLA in 2001 with degrees in history and sociology.

Following his collegiate career, Wright competed in the European League (Italy and Russia) for Bissolati Cremona, Civitavecchia SNC, Nuoto Catania and Dynamo Moscow from 2004-08. He has competed for the U.S. National Team in all major tournaments from 2001-11, helping lead Team USA to the gold medal at the 2003 and 2007 Pan American Games as well as the 2005 ASUA Cup (Mexico City).

Wright, 43, is married to Kerry Norris, a former UCLA women's soccer player. He and his wife reside with their daughter, Rome, and son, Zsolt, in Los Angeles.

Wright's Career Coaching Record

			Postseason History	
Year	**Overall Record**	**MPSF Record/Finish**	**MPSF**	**NCAA**
2009	23-7	5-3/4th	Champion	2nd
2010	19-6	6-2/T-2nd	4th	—
2011	24-5	6-2/3rd	Champion	2nd
2012	28-5	7-1/2nd	3rd	2nd
2013	28-4	7-1/T-1st	4th	—
2014	29-3	8-0/1st	3rd	Champion
2015	30-0	9-0/1st	Champion	Champion
2016	25-3	2-1/2nd	2nd	T-3rd
2017	21-4	1-2/T-3rd	2nd	Champion
2018	23-5	1-2/T-3rd	3rd	T-3rd
2019	17-5	1-2/3rd	4th	—
Totals (10 yrs)	**267-46 (.850)**	**53-16 (.768)**	**3 Titles**	**3 Titles**



The Bruins celebrate with a dip in the pool following a 10-7 win over USC, capping a 30-0 season in 2015 with the program's 10th NCAA Championship and UCLA's 113th.



JASON FALITZ

Associate Head Coach
Sixth Season
L.A. Valley College '06

Jason Falitz enters his sixth year with the men's water polo program at UCLA in 2020-21 and his fourth as the Associate Head Coach. He reported to the post of Assistant Coach in May of 2015, replacing Dustin Litvak, who assumed the head coaching duties for the boy's water polo program at Agoura High School and is now the men's head water polo coach at Princeton. He was promoted on August 16, 2017 after Head Coach Adam Wright was also named the Head Coach of the UCLA women's water polo program on July 20, 2017.

Falitz won an NCAA title with the Bruins in his first year as UCLA went 30-0, defeating USC, 10-7, in the national championship game. He won his second championship in 2017 as UCLA defeated the Trojans at USC, 7-5.

In addition to his duties at UCLA, Falitz is the Head Boy's Coach and the 16U Coach for the Rose Bowl Water Polo Club, positions he has held since 2012. His 16U team had a top five finish at the National Junior Olympics in 2012 and was top four in 2013. The 16U team also finished second at the 2013 Ironman League Superfinals. In 2014, he earned the Bill Barnett Distinguished Men's Coaching Award from the USA Water Polo Assembly.

He also served as the Head Boy's Water Polo Coach at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, Calif., from 2012-14. He grew the program from 20 players to 50 in his three seasons and won the program's first CIF Division I playoff victory in 2014.

Falitz has also coached in the collegiate world, serving as an assistant coach at Los Angeles Valley College from 2007-14, helping guide the Monarchs to the Western State Conference Championship in 2014.

He served one season (2012) as a volunteer assistant for UCLA Head Coach Adam Wright, coaching the Bruins' Water Polo Club at the 2012 Fisher Cup. Most recently, he served in the same capacity for UC Davis Head Coach and former Bruin assistant, Daniel Leyson, during the 2014 campaign.

He spent five years (2007-11) as the Boy's 18U Head Coach at the Rose Bowl Water Polo Club. He guided the team to back-to-back-to-back gold medals at the South Florida International Tournament (2009-11) and also guided them to a first place finish at the United State Club Championships in 2010.

Falitz had an extensive playing career, which began at John Burroughs High School. A four-year varsity starter, he was Burroughs' single season record holder for goals (202) and was the school's all-time career scoring leader with 455 goals. A two-time All-American and three-time All-CIF selection, he was named the Almont League MVP in 1999 and that same year was the Los Angeles Times and Daily News All-Area Player of the Year. He played club ball at Harvard Water Polo Foundation from 1997-2000 under former Olympic Coach Rich Corso.

He then went on to play at Long Beach State from 2000-02, redshirting the 2000 season. He would later play at Los Angeles Valley College in 2006 where he was named a two-time First Team All-American and the 2006 Western State Conference Player of the Year and the 2006 Los Angeles Valley College Male Athlete of the Year.



Then UCLA Assistant Coach Jason Falitz celebrates after the 2015 NCAA Championship.



Jason Falitz was promoted to Associate Head Coach on Aug. 16, 2017.



Jason Falitz won an NCAA title with UCLA in his first year as the Bruins went 30-0.



JACK GROVER

Assistant Coach
Second Season
UCLA '18

The UCLA men's water polo team has hired Bruin standout Jack Grover to the post of assistant coach, head coach Adam Wright announced on Sept. 15, 2020. Grover, who replaces Bret Lathrope, returns to Westwood for his second stint and second season as the Bruins' assistant for the 2020-21 season. Grover recently served in this role during the 2018 campaign.

Prior to his first stint with the Bruins, he served as a coach with the Bruin Stars and Stripes Water Polo Club in 2018 and also served as an instructor at UCLA Sports Camps in 2017, teaching fundamentals of water polo to youth from 7-17 years of age.

Grover, an attacker (Pasadena, Calif./Loyola HS) for the Bruins from 2013-17, won three NCAA titles (2014, 2015 and 2017) and received honorable mention All-America recognition in 2017. He also was named second team All-MPSF and earned MPSF All-Academic accolades for the second time in his career in 2017.

During his four years as a Bruin, he helped lead his teams to arguably the best and most dominant seasons in UCLA men's water polo history. His senior class left UCLA with the second-best record by percentage at 91.3% with an overall record of 105-10. The 105 career wins are the third-most in UCLA history -- nine behind the 2015 class (114 career wins) and seven behind the 2016 class (112 career victories). He ended his career with 51 goals in 107 games while making 38 starts.

"I have known Jack (Grover) for over 12 years, as I had the chance to coach him originally in age group water polo then later during his career at UCLA," coach Wright said. "His development over those years has been an honor to watch, not only as an athlete but more importantly as a person. Jack's investment in UCLA Men's Water Polo was a critical component for our program's development and success, first as a student-athlete and later as a coach."

From a young age, it was apparent that Grover was a student of the game, and that in turn put the UCLA program in a position to be successful. According to Wright, Grover not only set the standard within the program of being a student of the game but he also set the standard of how the Bruins approached everyday training.

"While he had incredible success in the pool, it was his commitment to moving our culture forward no matter what role he played that stands out the most," Wright added. "Jack returns to our staff after spending a year playing professionally in Spain. His experiences last year no doubt will serve our program better. What excites myself and Jason (Falitz) the most with Jack coming back is his ability to connect with our student-athletes, as he fully understands the life of a Bruin student-athlete. He understands the expectations, what it takes to succeed, and will serve as an excellent mentor to today's players."

JACK GROVER'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	GP/GS	G	ATT	PCT	AST	STL	BLK	EE
2014	27/4	11	45	.244	17	10	2	3
2015	30/3	11	30	.367	18	6	3	7
2016	25/13	16	51	.314	22	12	9	9
2017	25/18	13	52	.250	15	12	4	6
Totals	**107/38**	**51**	**178**	**.287**	**72**	**40**	**18**	**25**



UCLA's Jack Grover was named an Honorable Mention All-American in 2017.



Jack Grover graduated with three NCAA titles and an overall record of 105-10 at UCLA.



Jack Grover (front row fourth from left), was also the Bruins' assistant coach in 2018.