The OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of Ucla ATHLETICS

BRUIN blue

FALL 2018



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BEACH VOLLEYBALL TAKES HOME NCAA TITLE #116

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Several Bruin student-athletes who left school early have come back to get their degrees

SPEED KILLS

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THE INSIDER'S VIEW

WELCOME FROM ATHLETIC DIRECTOR DAN GUERRERO



DAN GUERRERO

As we turn the page to the 2018-19 academic year, we look forward to the clean slate that a new season offers. At the same time, 2017-18 was an exceptional year for UCLA Athletics, filled with accomplishments we won't soon forget. As an athletic department, it's our job to move toward the future with a mindset of continual improvement. We look forward to bringing some of the momentum of the success we saw last year — along with the lessons learned — into the year ahead, and building upon all of it. In order to do that, we need to fully understand where we've been.

We started off last year by launching an unprecedented partnership with Under Armour on July 1, 2017. As with our multi-media relationship with IMG, one of the main reasons we chose to partner with Under Armour is because we feel strongly that this partnership gives our student-athletes the tools they need to perform at the highest level, and the greatest competitive advantage, now and in the future. After year one, that reasoning still rings true, and we are looking forward to working together to make the next 14 years with Under Armour even better.

Last August, we opened the Wasserman Football Center, and in October, we celebrated the opening of the Mo Ostin Basketball Center. These two premier facilities provide much-needed resources for three of our programs and free up space in other facilities that benefits a number of other programs and student-athletes.

Over the course of the season, we celebrated three NCAA Team Championships (including by this issue's cover team — Beach Volleyball, the program's first title), three NCAA Individual Championships, four Pac-12 Conference Team Titles and 11 NCAA Top 5 finishes. We won the Crosstown Cup for the second-straight year and had 58 All-Americans and two Honda Award finalists. These accomplishments and standout performances all contributed to our second-place finish in the Learfield Directors' Cup, collegiate athletics' industry standard measure of broad-based excellence. Out of 351 NCAA Division 1 programs, UCLA Athletics finished second for the eighth time in Directors' Cup history. Our highest-ever points total of 1,326 was an incredible improvement of 319 points over last year. Perhaps what I'm most proud of, though, is that 21 of our 25 teams earned points this year. That's a tremendous accomplishment, indicative of our department-wide commitment to broad-based excellence.

In the classroom in 2017-18, we saw a school-record 351 student-athletes make the Director's Honor Roll in one quarter, and in June, we celebrated the graduation of 143 student-athletes. Some of those graduates were athletes who had left UCLA to pursue their dreams of playing professionally, and returned to campus later in life, once their playing careers were behind them. We pride ourselves on offering support and resources for those Bruins who choose to return and complete their degree. In this issue, we profile four of them, so enjoy reading their stories and learning more about the roads that led them back to Westwood.

I always say "a rising tide lifts all boats," and that narrative was never truer than this year within UCLA Athletics. Coaches, student-athletes and staff fed off each other's drive, determination and successes, and everyone did their part to help us live up to our Champions Made Here mantra.

As fun and as important as it is to recognize and celebrate the big moments, success doesn't come easily; it's not sustained easily, and it certainly doesn't mean there isn't more to do. We know the areas in which we need to get better, and we are committed to doing just that.

2018-19 marks the 100th season for a few of our sports programs. A milestone of that nature deserves a true celebration, and we will be saving that celebration for next year (2019-20), to coincide with the University's Centennial celebration. We are looking forward to sharing more details about those plans with the Bruin family in the coming months.

Like last year, we will begin this season by opening a new facility. This month, we celebrate the grand opening of Wallis Annenberg Stadium, the new home of our men's and women's soccer teams. That occasion will set the stage for a fall quarter in which Chip Kelly will take the field at the Rose Bowl for the first time as UCLA's Head Football Coach, in which several of our national champion beach volleyball players will take their experiences from the sand to our indoor women's team, in which our men's water polo team will defend its national championship, and in which our women's soccer team looks to come back even stronger after just falling short in the national championship game last year. We also look forward to steady improvement in our cross country programs and a resurgence in men's soccer. It's going to be an exciting fall, and an exciting year. We can't wait to experience, with you, all of the moments this year will bring that we will one day look back on as unforgettable.

Go Bruins!

Dan Guerrero

Dan

INSIDE *this* ISSUE

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS



Each year several former UCLA student-athletes come back to earn their degrees. Many of these Bruins left school early to turn professional, knowing that someday they would return and finish what they started. Bruin Blue's Antonio Gonzalez caught up with four former student-athletes who recently fulfilled their dreams of becoming UCLA graduates.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

UCLA wideout **THEO HOWARD** *takes questions at Pac-12 Media Day on July 25 at the Loew's Hollywood Hotel. The two-day affair was heavily attended by local and national media outlets, as players and coaches from all 12 schools were in attendance. (Photo: Juan Ocampo)*

INSET: In addition to Howard, linebacker **JOSH WOODS** *(left) and head coach* **CHIP KELLY** *(center) were also on hand at Pac-12 Media Day. (Photo: Juan Ocampo)*









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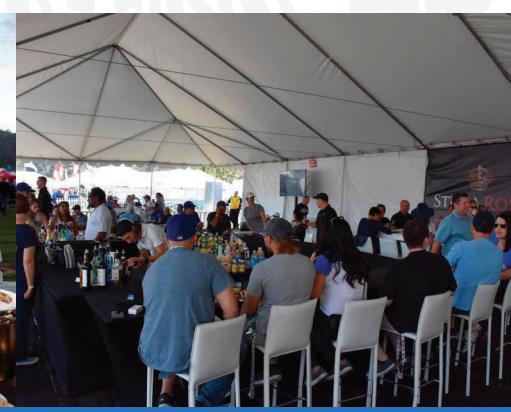
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QUEENS OF THE BEACH

The top-seeded **UCLA BEACH VOLLEYBALL TEAM** *made history on May 6, winning the first NCAA Championship in program history. UCLA defeated fourth-seeded Florida State, 3-1, avenging an earlier loss to the Seminoles that put the Bruins one loss away from elimination. They proceeded to win four matches in two days, capped by Sunday's triumph, which gave UCLA its 116th overall NCAA Championship. The Bruins won 35 of their final 36 matches to complete their historic season with a 40-4 overall record. The win marked UCLA's first over Florida State in an NCAA Championship setting, with the Bruins having been eliminated by the Seminoles in 2016 and 2017.*

Following the tournament, the UCLA pairs of Nicole McNamara-Megan McNamara (Court 1) and Izzy Carey-Megan Muret (Court 5) were selected to the All-Tournament Team.

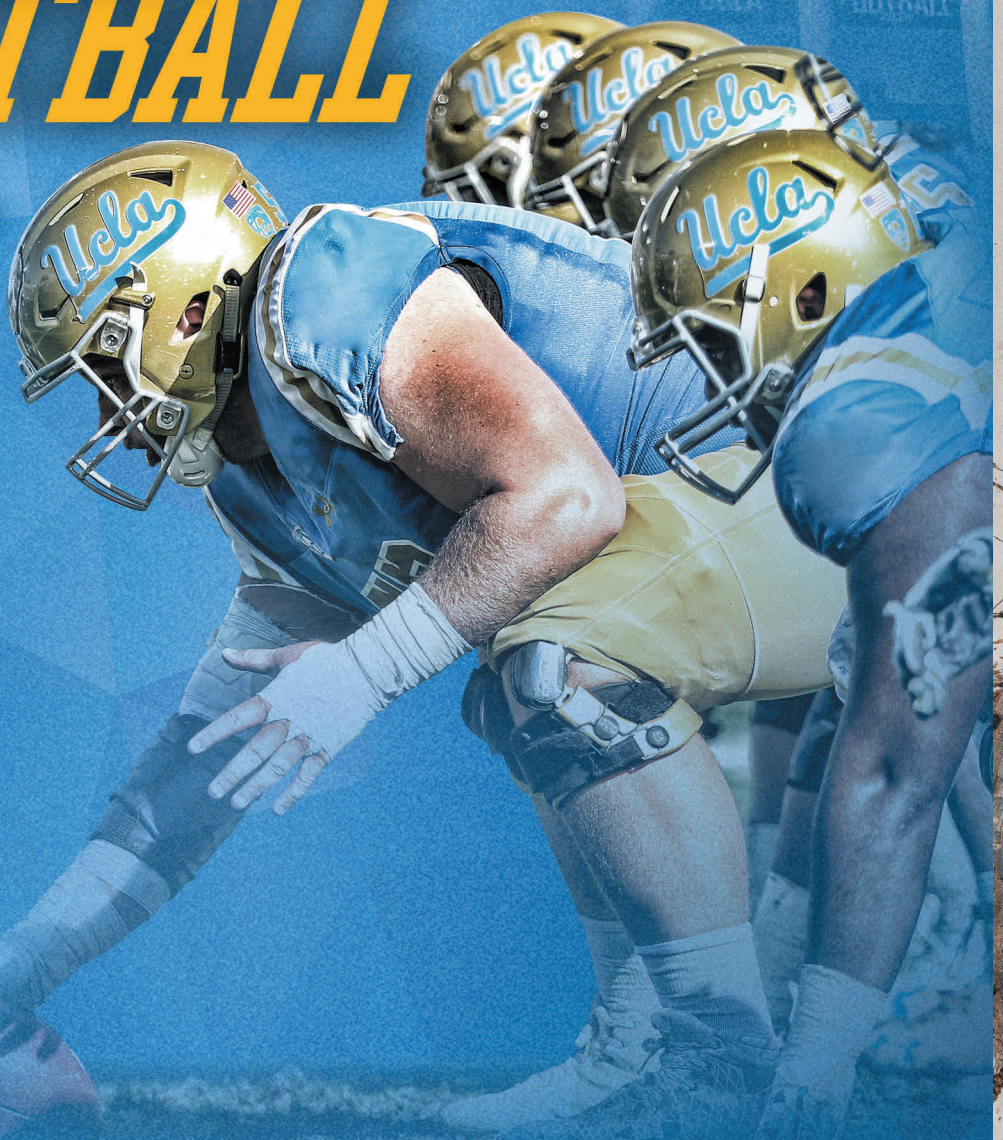






UCLA FOOTBALL

2018 HOME SCHEDULE



SEPT. 1
4 PM
POSTGAME FIREWORKS

SEPT. 15
7:30 PM
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OCT. 6
HALL OF FAME

OCT. 20
HOMECOMING

OCT. 26
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CONTINUING THE LEGACY

UCLA guard **AARON HOLIDAY** *(right) poses with NBA Commissioner* **ADAM SILVER** *after the Indiana Pacers selected him with the No. 23 pick in the first round of the 2018 NBA Draft on June 21 at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. UCLA's Thomas Welsh (not pictured) was also selected in the second round by the Denver Nuggets with the No. 58 overall pick. (Photo: Mike Stobe/ Getty Images)*

INSET: **AARON** *attended the 2018 NBA Draft with his two brothers, former UCLA standout and current member of the New Orleans Pelicans* **JRUE** *(left) and Chicago Bulls player* **JUSTIN** *(right). (Photo: Jennifer Pottheiser/NBAe)*

2018 UCLA FALL SPORT
HOME SCHEDULES



WOMEN'S SOCCER

AUG. 17 VS. LONG BEACH ST. | 7PM
SEPT. 7 VS. PEPPERDINE | 7PM
SEPT. 21 VS. WASHINGTON ST. | 8PM
OCT. 4 VS. ARIZONA ST. | 5PM
OCT. 7 VS. ARIZONA | 3PM
OCT. 18 VS. OREGON | 6PM
OCT. 21 VS. OREGON ST. | 12PM

MEN'S SOCCER

AUG. 28 VS. SAN DIEGO | 7PM
SEPT. 2 VS. SAN FRANCISCO | 7PM
SEPT. 12 VS. OMAHA | 7PM
SEPT. 16 VS. CSUN | 7PM
OCT. 4 VS. WASHINGTON | 8PM
OCT. 7 VS. OREGON ST. | 12PM
OCT. 20 VS. LMU | 7PM
NOV. 1 VS. CALIFORNIA | 7PM
NOV. 4 VS. STANFORD | 4PM
NOV. 8 VS. SAN DIEGO ST. | TBD

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

OCT. 5 VS. OREGON | 7PM
OCT. 6 VS. OREGON ST. | 7PM
OCT. 10 VS. ARIZONA ST. | 7PM
OCT. 12 VS. ARIZONA | 7PM
OCT. 26 VS. CALIFORNIA | 7PM
OCT. 28 VS. STANFORD | 4PM
NOV. 8 VS. WASHINGTON ST. | TBD
NOV. 10 VS. WASHINGTON | 7PM
NOV. 21 VS. COLORADO | 1PM
NOV. 23 VS. USC | TBD

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MACE



HAILIE MACE'S TALE ALREADY HAD AN I-MUST-BE-DREAMING THEME LONG BEFORE SHE PUT ON THE TEAM USA JERSEY.

(Photo: Don Liebig/ASUCLA)

SPEED KILLS

16

Women's Soccer Star Hailie Mace is leaving her opponents in the dust.

by **CHRIS FOSTER**

Hailie Mace wasn't nervous, nor was she scared. She certainly didn't over-think the situation.

Mace, a star for the UCLA women's soccer team, was about to take her game to a higher level. She was being inserted into the lineup at center back for Team USA during a match against Mexico in Houston this past April.

She handled her first international cap the way she always handles things on the pitch.

"I kind of blacked out and just played soccer," Mace said.

Mace immediately won a 50-50 ball with Mexico's Ariana Calderon in the box. Moments later, Calderon came in alone, only to find Mace waiting. Mace stripped her of the ball and left her on the turf. When Alex Morgan knocked in a goal off a corner kick to polish off a 6-2 victory, it was Morgan who celebrated with her.

For 32 minutes, Mace just played soccer.

Then …

"After the game, I went, 'wow, I got to live my dream,'" Mace said.

There should be more of that to come.

Mace's tale already had an I-must-be-dreaming theme long before she put on the Team USA jersey. She was unknown heading into her senior year at Ventura Buena High School. Mace had played for a local club and was a star in high school but was little known in elite soccer circles.

Wendy Mace got her daughter into tournaments as a "borrowed" player in 2014. She also e-mailed video highlights to college coaches.

The ball was rolling.

A guest shot at a tournament led to a permanent roster spot with the Eagles SC, an elite club from Camarillo. Only one coach responded to the video solicitation, but one was enough. UCLA Coach Amanda Cromwell was intrigued and put Mace on the to-do list.

The path was laid out. Mace took it from there.

She was a top defender her first two seasons at UCLA, before being moved to forward in 2017. She responded with 15 goals, ninth most in the nation.

One word kept surfacing.

"Her explosiveness was impressive," Cromwell said.

U.S. Women's National Team coach Jill Ellis reached the same conclusion.

"She has tremendous explosiveness," Ellis said.

Which has them both eagerly awaiting more of the same.

Mace finishes her college career this fall, searching for her No. 1 goal: a national title. She then will move on, with plans to play professionally and with the national team.

"She still has so much untapped skill," Cromwell said. "It's going to be exciting to watch as her career progresses."

These are more than just dreams.

"I want to play soccer for as long as my body will let me," Mace said.

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Mace comes from an athletic family. Her mother Wendy played volleyball at West Texas A&M University.

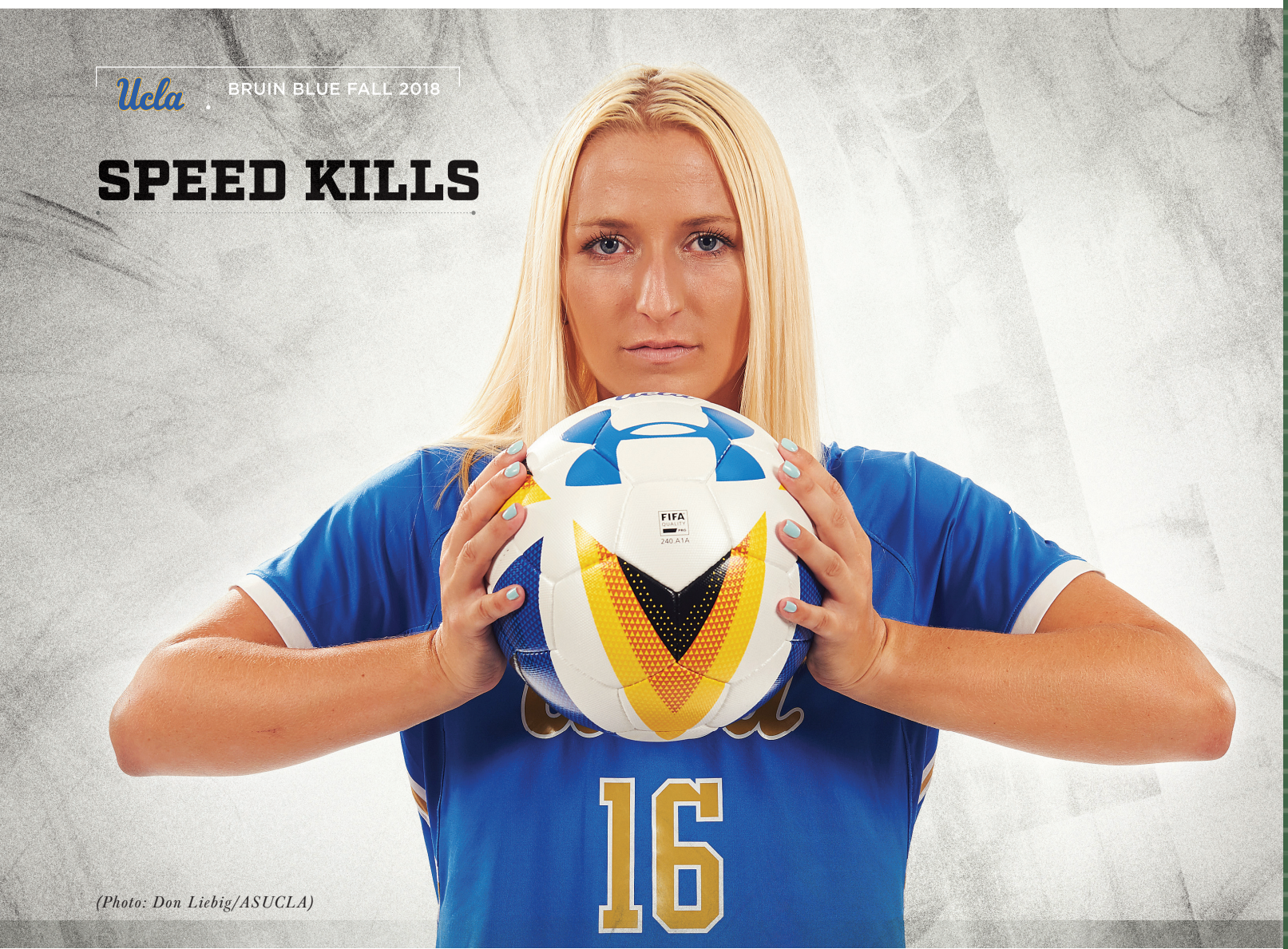
"My mom can beat me at volleyball and basketball," Mace said. "She's still got it. But anything that involves running, I win. I'm faster."

Wendy joked, "We'll let her have that one."



After playing on defense her first two years in Westwood, **HAILIE MACE** *was moved to forward in 2017, ranking ninth in the nation with 15 goals. (Photo on right: Percy Anderson)*

SPEED KILLS



(Photo: Don Liebig/ASUCLA)

Mace made the rounds in youth sports, from gymnastics to basketball to volleyball. She split time between soccer and volleyball at Buena High School.

"Anything she wanted to play, she played," Wendy said.

She learned to roller skate at the age of two — "It took her a day," her mother said. At the age of three, she was riding a bicycle — "That took her three tries," Wendy recalls.

But soccer was what her daughter played best.

That was clear at a young age. Mace ran circles around other players when she wasn't running past them. She scored 26 goals as a senior at Buena in 2014-15 and was named the Ventura County Hall of Fame Player of the Year.

"I picked up things pretty fast," Mace said. "The game came easy to me."

Mace, though, chose to play with her friends on Ventura FC. The team was solid but was far from one of the elite clubs that attracted college coaches.

As a result, Mace had zero college offers heading into her senior year.

"I definitely didn't want to leave my friends, but I had to make a choice," Mace said.

Wendy soon learned about player pools, which elite teams tapped into when shorthanded. Mace was scooped up immediately, first by Legends FC for an elite tournament, then by Eagles SC, which belonged to the Elite National Club League.

> *"I've seen a lot of fast kids, but her first couple steps, where she separates herself from others, is pretty special."*
>
> **— Head Coach Amanda Cromwell**

At the same time, Wendy was shopping around a video of her daughter to five college coaches, selected as perfect matches for her daughter. UCLA's Cromwell was the only one who responded.

"I clicked on the line and went, 'Wow, this kid is a special kind of athlete," Cromwell said. "Sometimes that's all relative because of the competition. I had to see her live."

Cromwell showed up at a satellite tournament. There were a few other coaches in attendance, most from Division II schools. That included a long-time friend, Emory Coach Sue Patberg.

"Sue asked me, 'What are you doing here?'" Cromwell said.

Then the game started and, Cromwell said, "It was like Hailie was shot out of a cannon."

Patberg turned to Cromwell and said, "Oh, that's why you're here."

Said Cromwell: "I think she was kind of bummed. She was hoping she had discovered somebody, but UCLA showed up."

Mace was already sold on the Bruins, both athletically and academically. She had visited the campus with her family. She has immersed herself in all areas of the university since arriving in Westwood.

"Every time I call her, she says she was just heading to class," said Ellis, who is no stranger to the Bruin program after serving as head coach in Westwood from 1999 to 2010. "She must be taking a lot of classes."

Said Mace: "UCLA was my No. 1 school because of academics, and it was

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SPEED KILLS

WOMEN'S SOCCER STAR HAILIE MACE IS LEAVING HER OPPONENTS IN THE DUST.

close to home. The team had also just won a national title. Cal State Fullerton offered me more scholarship money, but UCLA was where I wanted to be."

◊◊◊

Two things come up in a conversation about Mace.

The first is speed.

"I've seen a lot of fast kids, but her first couple steps, where she separates herself from others, is pretty special," Cromwell said.

The other trait involves character.

There is nothing boisterous in her nature.

"She'll never be the one to start a conversation," Wendy said. "When she was young, she didn't want to be the star of the team because then everyone would be looking at her."

Mace spent her freshman year at UCLA learning to speak up. Cromwell recalled such a moment, when Mace was a freshman. A teammate made an ill-advised pass that led to a Stanford goal.

"I told her, 'You have to get on your teammate, tell her not to give you the ball in that situation,' " Cromwell said. "We laugh about it now. Everyone makes mistakes, but she had to learn to tell teammates to step it up."

Mace admits she has always strived to "lead by example" but has worked to become more vocal.

"You always need balance," she said.

And Mace can adapt.

After two solid seasons on the UCLA defense, she was asked to play forward as a junior. She used her speed and physical ability to become an offensive force. Mace had four multi-goal games, including a hat trick in the first half against Santa Clara.

Mace had two goals against Princeton in the NCAA quarterfinals. The Bruins reached the championship game, where they lost to top-ranked Stanford, 3-2. Mace was named to the All-Tournament team.

"I definitely want to win a [national title] while I'm here," Mace said. "It's unfinished business."

Other goals have been added to the list.

Mace's play had her on the national team's radar. In June of 2017, she traveled to Sweden as part of USA's under-23 national team that played in the Nordic Cup Tournament.

The U.S. went undefeated, and Mace became integrated in the national program.

"She caught our eye early on," Ellis said. "She had this comfort level with the ball. The speed goes up in higher levels, and you need to think quickly to get out of tight situations. We saw glimpses of that in her. There is also an underlying grit about her. That's something you need in the top levels."

Mace's performance in Sweden earned her an invitation to the National Team camp.

"We want to get young players in here, meet with them, see how they react in situations," Ellis said. "We saw some good qualities while she was in this environment."

The next step was a game.

When defender Casey Short suffered an ankle injury, an opportunity arose.

"We want to get young players on the field, get the anxiety of that first cap behind them," Ellis said. "Hailie has that milestone crossed off."

Mace came away from that wanting more. She hopes to play professionally, either in the U.S., with the National Women's Soccer League, or overseas.

"She'll be the No. 1 player taken in the [NWSL] draft if she doesn't go overseas," Cromwell said.

All of which leads to more dreams.

"[UCLA teammate] Jessie Fleming plays for Canada, and we've talked about some day playing against each other and trading jerseys after the game," Mace said. "That would be so cool."

And with Mace, dreams usually become a reality.



HAILIE MACE *earned her first cap with the full U.S. women's national team on April 8, 2018, playing the final 31 minutes at center back in Team USA's 6-2 win over Mexico in Houston, Texas. (Photo: Brad Smith/ISI Photos)*

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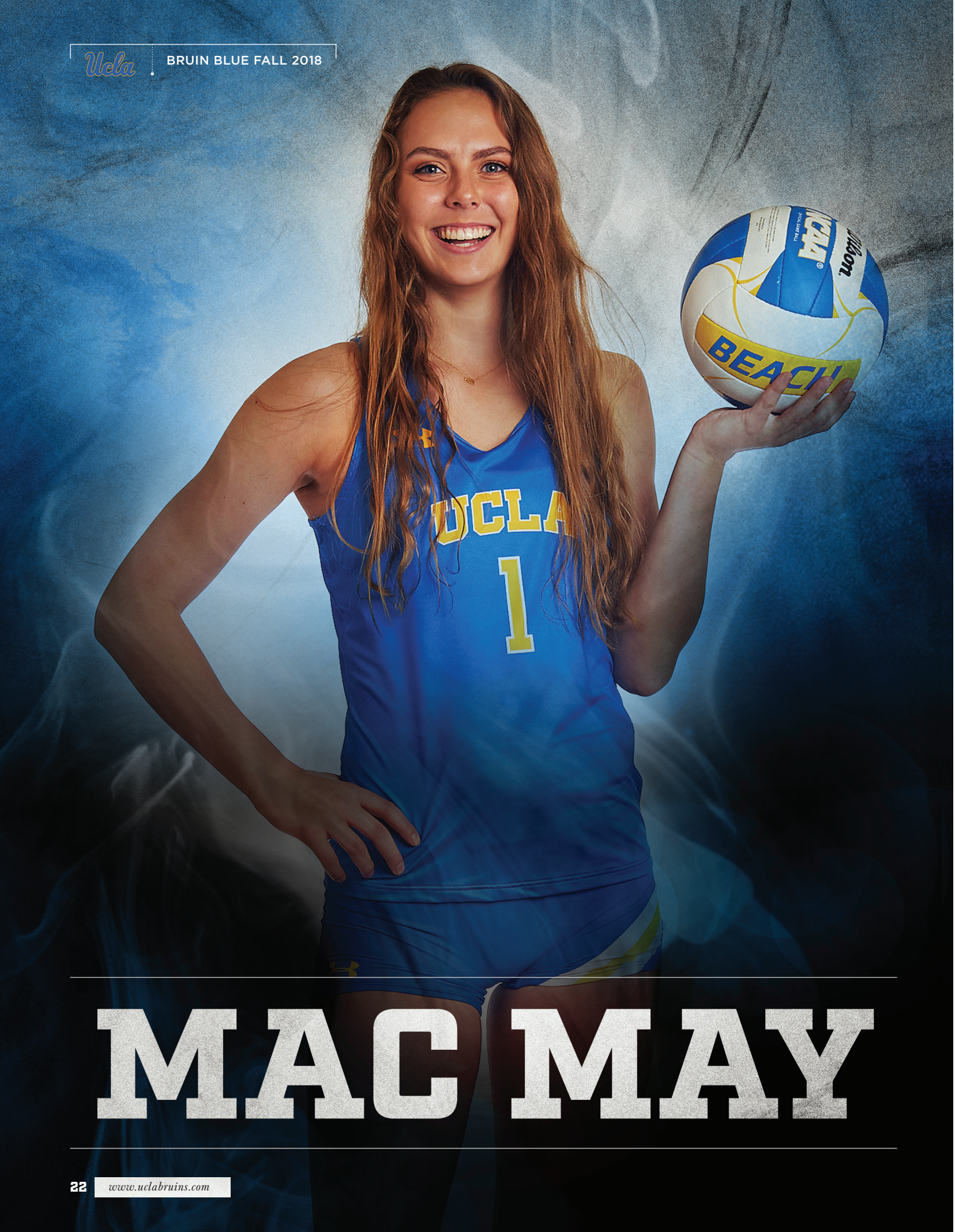
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MAC MAY

by **CHRIS FOSTER**



DOUBLE DUTY

Versatile women's volleyball player Mac May excels on the beach and indoors.

Mac May stood waist deep in the Gulf of Mexico's warm water, part of a gathering of UCLA Bruins.

The day was done. A national title trophy was the carry-on luggage for the flight home. The sound of victory filled, a rousing — and wet — eight-clap, came from the members of the Bruins' beach volleyball team.

"It was surreal, like I was having the best dream of my life," May said.

Then May came ashore. Dissatisfaction set in. May and her partner Elise Zappia were the only UCLA pair who had lost in the championship match.

"First thing she said was, 'I'm never leaving the sand without a win again," said Crystal May, Mac's mother. "She'll spend the next year proving herself."

Never mind that May, a freshman, was an integral part of the Bruins' championship run. Or the fact that, after losing to Florida State in the first round of the championship, her senior-like speech to the team at a miniature golf course helped the team refocus. Or that she had a successful year playing both indoor and beach volleyball, sports that are as different as the environments where they are played.

May felt she came up short. She wasn't going to let that happen again.

This is how May has always done business. Dreams are blueprints to be worked out.

"I remember after three days in the fall, I thought, 'wow, I can't do this,'" May said. "I wanted to quit. But I decided I had to hang in there because this is what I wanted. So if it was blocking, I was going to be the best blocker I could be. Or defense or serving or passing. I had to make sure I was tough."

This is the attitude that has carried May from Iowa to Westwood. She grew up in a volleyball family, an indoor one. She carried on that family tradition but also added beach volleyball to her clan.

May is one of three UCLA players who played both versions of the sport last year.

The 6-foot-3 May is as imposing in effort as she is in appearance.

"We taught her jump serves near the end of the season, because you can only teach so much at a time," said Stein Metzger, UCLA's beach volleyball coach.

"She gave it a shot," Metzger said. "We had a water break, and she stayed out there, working on that serve. After practice, she stayed and worked some more. A week later, at the Pac-12 Championships, she rattled off eight straight service aces in an important match. Mac does the work."

Work, especially on the volleyball court, is in the May family's DNA. Crystal May played. Morgan May, her older sister, played at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa. Their cousins also played.

"As a little kid, she was always a gym rat tagging along," Crystal said. "She was constantly wanting to practice on empty courts. Her sister would play with her, but only if she didn't cry if she got hit with the ball. There was no crying in volleyball. Mac learned that early on."

There were sports and activities that May occupied herself with as a kid — soccer, track, classical ballet. Volleyball, though, was always the top priority.

Her skill required a better club program as an eighth-grader. The best was in Iowa City, an hour-and-a-half from her home in Dubuque.

"We rotated driving her there," Crystal recalls.

The family was invested.

"My mom was always finding camps for me," May said. "I was a bad setter, so she put me in camp for it. There were all these amazing setters and there was me, struggling to push the ball over my head. But I was going to do the extra thing to get better. I wanted to make my family proud."

May was named the Iowa Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year at Dubuque Wahlert Catholic High School. By then, her volleyball education had expanded.

Before her junior year, May's mother found a beach volleyball tryout in Des Moines.

"I had played before and coaxed her into trying it," Crystal said.

It was hardly a day at the beach. The temperature didn't top 50 degrees on a sleety day, where the sheets of frozen water sometimes came down sideways.



MAC MAY *(left) and partner* **ELISE ZAPPIA** *held down the No. 4 court during UCLA's run to its first NCAA title in beach volleyball in 2018. (Photo: Justin Tafoya)*

DOUBLE DUTY

EXCELLING ON THE BEACH AND INDOORS

"She was freezing to death," Crystal said. "I'm sure she was the last girl. She didn't even have the right attire. She couldn't believe people were wearing bikini bottoms."

Others had a better opinion of her performance. May was invited to the A1 National Team training camp in Hermosa Beach. She lived in Southern California for nearly two months, riding a bike to the beach to train.

It was eye-opening at first.

"I was going against people who had played this their whole lives," May said. "I didn't even know how to run in the sand. We'd warm up and then I would just stand there looking out at the ocean. I had never seen anything so huge and so beautiful."

The going was tough. In her first match, May said, "I was trying my best just to not pass out from exhaustion." She applied her ample work ethic, adjusted and improved.

May returned to Iowa but was soon traveling to Florida to play in beach tournaments. She befriended Kiersten Varga, a Florida native who was also in the Team USA program, and the two became partners.

"We'd get a cheap flight and leave on Friday," Crystal said. "She would get her sand legs and then play. We'd fly home on Mondays."

Being from Iowa, there were many "you're from where?" questions.

"Everyone assumed I was from California," May said. "They'd ask, 'Where are you from?' and were expecting me to say, 'Manhattan Beach.' When I said, 'Iowa,' I'd get a weird look."

After a match or two, May said, "I would get a different look."

Beach volleyball whittled down May's recruiting list to California schools. UCLA was where she felt the most comfortable.

Said May: "It was John Wooden's philosophy — the Pyramid of Success, how to act within yourself, create success but be humble — that made me feel like I could represent something."

Recruiting May was a little different than other athletes. Michael Sealy, UCLA's indoor volleyball coach, found that out immediately.

There was May's question about hot dogs.

"That almost killed the whole recruiting process," Sealy joked. "She wanted to know whether a hot dog was a sandwich. We had assistant coaches researching it and a flow chart on our white board. There were long discussions, and we still couldn't come up with an answer."

Fortunately for the Bruins, the meat of the matter was volleyball, not lunch.

Among the selling points was the promise she could play both indoor volleyball and beach volleyball.

"UCLA is one of the few schools trying to win national championships in both," Sealy said. "A lot of kids use beach as extra training. We push the beach program."

First, though, was indoor volleyball.

Graduation left holes in the UCLA lineup. May overcame her initial apprehension and filled an outside hitter spot. She was named Pac-12 Freshman of the Week twice during the first five weeks of the season.

The Bruins reached the semifinals of the Florida Regional in the NCAA tournament.

But May's skills went beyond her work above the net.

"Indoor volleyball has become specialized," Sealy said. "Mac hits with a ton of velocity and she can score points. She is also well-rounded. She can pass and set, and her serve is very strong."



MAC MAY *(far left) and her teammates cut down the nets after downing Florida State in the 2018 NCAA Beach Volleyball Final in Gulf Shores, Alabama last May. (Photo: Jamie Schwaberow)*

That versatility, along with her height, made her a formidable beach player. Still, like in the fall, she had to get past inner doubts.

"First, she was sure she was going to be kicked off the team," Crystal said. "Then she just hoped she would get a jersey. She found out everyone got a jersey. Then she just hoped to make the travel squad. Then she just wanted to get some playing time. Every day, she was fighting and clawing. Most would just go through the motions. She felt she had to work hard to be on the sand."

There was little reason to worry.

May became a fixture in the lineup when Madi Yeomans suffered a back injury. May and Zappia were paired together the remainder of the season.

"She wasn't there at the beginning of the season, but she kept improving as the year went along," Metzger said. "That was understandable. She had the least experience of anyone on the team. But you could see she had huge potential. That kind of size and mobility is rare in beach volleyball."

Metzger saw more than just skill.

"When things aren't going well, some athletes will go into a shell and it's hard to talk them out of the trouble," Metzger said. "Mac stays present and works with her coach and her partner to fix what's wrong."

That was never more evident than after UCLA lost to Florida State on the first day of the NCAA championships. The team went to play miniature golf to forget about things. After a couple rounds, May spoke up.

"Here was a freshman telling her teammates that winning a championship wasn't going to be easy, but why would they want it to be easy?" Metzger said. "That's a special kid."

The Bruins captured the title two days later, then went for a swim.

Said May: "You go through this entire season of uncertainty, not sure what is going to come from it, and now you're standing together in a circle hugging each other. It was pure joy."

Which only leads to more dreams.

At home, on the ceiling of her room, May has an Olympic flag over the bed,

"It's her visual reminder of what she has in her sites," Crystal said. "As a parent, you want your child to dream big."

2018
Athletics

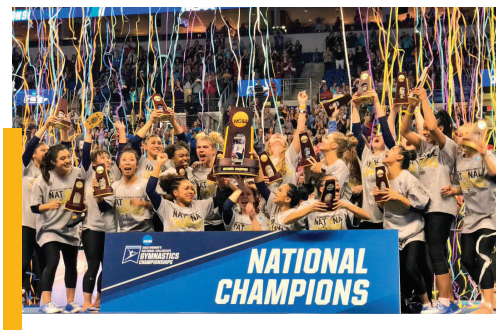
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@UCLASoftball is #OKC bound after sweeping Arizona in the NCAA Super Regional! #WCWS #GoBruins



Three Bruins were named to the @MLB @AllStarGame in Washington D.C., the most of any program in the country! #GoBruins - @UCLABaseball

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

KEVIN HARTMAN

by **ANTONIO GONZALEZ**

Whether it's a promise made to a family member, the desire to attend grad school, or simply the feeling of "unfinished business," each year several former UCLA student-athletes come back to earn their degrees. Many of these Bruins left school early to turn professional, knowing that someday they would return and finish what they started. Bruin Blue's Antonio Gonzalez caught up with four former student-athletes who recently fulfilled their dreams of becoming UCLA graduates.



KEVIN HARTMAN

Men's Soccer | 1995-96

Kevin Hartman ranks second among Major League Soccer goalkeepers in wins, saves and shots faced. He earned 1999 MLS Goalkeeper of the Year honors, won two MLS Cups and made five caps with the U.S. men's national team.

Now, more than 20 years after his professional career began, Hartman has a title he has long wanted on his resume: UCLA graduate.

"There was always this sense of regret that I hadn't finished," he said. "I come from a family full of educators, and with two young daughters, I wanted to set a precedent for them."

Hartman played for the Bruins in 1995 and 1996 after spending his first two years at Cal State Dominguez Hills. He was selected 29th overall in the 1997 MLS College Draft by the Los Angeles Galaxy.

Although the budding league wasn't what it is today, momentum for soccer had been building after the U.S. hosted the 1994 World Cup, and Hartman couldn't resist the chance to play professionally in Southern California.

"My thought process until that point was going overseas or somewhere south after college," he said. "I never imagined I could play here."

Subsequent MLS stops in Kansas City, Dallas and New York followed by a gig as the technical director and director of goalkeeping at the IMG Academy in Florida made it difficult to get back to UCLA and complete the final two courses for his history degree. After becoming the Director of the LA Galaxy Girls' Academy last year, he quickly contacted UCLA and registered for classes.

Hartman finished last winter quarter and, with his family in attendance, participated in June's student-athlete commencement ceremony at Pauley Pavilion.

"It was obviously a long time coming but extremely satisfying," he said. "Now having a degree not only fills a gap on my resume, it allows me opportunities to look at graduate programs to learn skills that could help me in my current career."



(Above): **KEVIN HARTMAN** *played for the Bruins in 1995 and 1996 and earned 1999 MLS Goalkeeper of the Year honors. (Below): Hartman finished his history degree last winter quarter. (Photo below: Don Liebig/ASUCLA)*



UNFINISHED BUSINESS

JUSTIN HICKMAN



JUSTIN HICKMAN

Football | 2004-06

Justin Hickman heard the phrase his whole life: finish what you started.

After leaving UCLA as a consensus All-American defensive lineman, Hickman always knew he would return to Westwood one day to earn his degree. It was a promise he made to his mother, and a promise he intended to keep.

"It felt like unfinished business," he said.

Hickman admits as a youngster out of high school that he viewed college primarily as a stopping point to the NFL. He credits UCLA academic counselors Mike Casillas and Sabrina Youmans as well as coaches Ed Kezirian and Karl Dorrell for keeping him on track.

"Without their help and efforts trying to wrangle me in, I would not have made it," he said.

Hickman, now a scout for the Canadian Football League's Toronto Argonauts, left UCLA on a high note in 2006 when the Bruins knocked off second-ranked USC in the regular-season finale at the Rose Bowl.

Hickman played in the Arena Football League in 2008 before signing with the CFL's Hamilton Tiger-Cats, where in 2011 he tied for the league lead with 13 sacks. His performance drew the attention of NFL scouts, and he landed with the Indianapolis Colts as an outside linebacker in 2012 before finishing his career in Canada.

With his playing days over, the time was right to finish his history degree. Hickman drove to UCLA from his Phoenix home every week last winter quarter to complete his final class, "The Memory of the Civil War in American Culture." He participated in commencement ceremonies in front of his family in June before Toronto's season opener.

"UCLA is an internationally recognized institution, and I can take that degree wherever I go," said Hickman, who hopes to become a general manager or player personnel director for a professional team or university. "Those four letters have some weight behind them."



(Above): **JUSTIN HICKMAN** *with Mike Casillas of UCLA's Academic & Student Services Department. (Below): Hickman was an All-American defensive lineman for UCLA.*



UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ALISON LEE



ALISON LEE
Women's Golf | 2014-15

Alison Lee remembers other players on the LPGA Tour jokingly teasing her whenever she had to stay in and work on a class paper or study for an exam instead of going out.

"Now that I have a degree," she said, playfully, "I can be the one to have some fun with them."

Committed to graduating on time with her class, Lee never lost sight of her studies after turning pro.

She worked around her hectic tournament schedule to cram in coursework, coming back to UCLA during off weeks so she could attend classes and enjoy the college experience. She joined the Delta Gamma sorority — never mentioning her superb golf game during Rush Week — and even continued living in her dormitory at the end of her sophomore year after she started earning money on tour.

"I just wanted to live that college life and be treated like a normal student," she said.

Lee earned her LPGA Tour card by sharing co-medalist honors in her first qualifying attempt in 2014. In less than four years, she has already played in a Solheim Cup, contested every other year between players from the U.S. and Europe, and racked up more than $1.2 million between the ropes.

Lee earned her communications degree and walked at graduation ceremonies last year. Although she has more time to read, workout and enjoy life on tour, Lee loved school so much that finishing left her with mixed emotions.

"Golf is an individual sport, but anytime I've been at UCLA, I've felt like part of a team," she said. "Before I came to UCLA, I didn't know as much about life outside of golf. UCLA opened my eyes to other sports, other people and things in life. It was definitely an experience I wouldn't trade for anything."



(Above): **ALISON LEE** *worked towards her degree even after turning pro. (Below): L-R Hadas Libman, Bronte Law and Alison Lee at UCLA's student-athlete graduation celebration in 2017.*



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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

JEFF GELALICH



JEFF GELALICH
Baseball | 2010-12

Long rides between games, low-budget accommodations and an uncertain future often had Jeff Gelalich dreaming of his days at UCLA during his minor-league career.

"We had it really good in Westwood, that's for sure," Gelalich said. "In the minors, we took a bus everywhere. At UCLA, we'd fly to Stanford or Cal."

So once he hung up his bat and gloves for the final time, Gelalich was giddy to return to school and finish his studies.

"I didn't want to waste three years of work," he said. "I had worked too hard to not complete my degree."

The outfielder turned pro following his junior season when the Cincinnati Reds selected him in the supplemental first round of the 2012 Major League Baseball draft. Leaving UCLA to pursue his baseball dream was bittersweet for Gelalich, who helped the Bruins reach the College World Series twice, including the championship series in 2010.

Gelalich fondly remembers weeknight dinners with teammates and the joyous times during those postseason runs. He played six years in the minors, spending part of the 2017 season with the Charlotte Knights, the Triple-A affiliate of the Chicago White Sox, before resuming his studies full-time.

Gelalich could never let UCLA drift too far from his memories. He was always reminded by his grandmother, a UCLA alumna, about the importance of going back to earn his degree. Anytime he suggested not returning to UCLA, she was quick to needle him.

"She'd respond, 'Ah, that's stupid,'" he said, chuckling.

Gelalich walked with fellow graduates in June and was taking his final class over the summer to earn his history degree. He was studying for the Law School Admission Test, or LSAT, with hopes of starting law school in the fall of 2019.

"Walking across the stage, I definitely reflected on the entire journey," he said. "It's been quite a ride."



(Above): **JEFF GELALICH** *helped the Bruins reach the College World Series twice. (Below): Jeff Gelalich with his family at UCLA's student-athlete graduation celebration.*





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A Q&A WITH DR. MICHAEL TEITELL

UCLA FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. Michael Teitell, who serves as director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, is entering his fifth year as the school's Faculty Athletics Representative. Bruin Blue sat down with him to discuss his role with UCLA Athletics, his passion for Bruin sports, and his job as the head of one of the leading cancer centers in the world.

FOR THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW, WHAT EXACTLY DOES A FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE (FAR) DO?

The Faculty Athletics Representative is an NCAA-mandated position. Every school in Division I, II or III that has an intercollegiate athletics program has someone in this position. One role, and it varies depending on the institution, is to align Athletics with the mission of the school. Another role, which is a pretty big aspect, is to try and make sure things are done in the right way. So this job has a compliance component to it. Another significant role is to be an advocate for student-athletes and to try and help them with all things outside of their sport. Writing letters of recommendation for awards or helping a student-athlete who is looking at graduate school with mentoring and guidance would be two good examples of that type of assistance. In the four years that I've been in this role, I've actually mentored about four or five UCLA student-athletes who earned their way into medical school, three at UCLA, which is a really competitive place to land a position. I play a very small part in these students' success and it's probably the best part of my role as FAR.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A REWARDING PART OF THE JOB.

Absolutely. And I must say, I don't have the ability to pull any strings or work any side deals of any sort. Student-athletes sometimes don't realize that the skillsets they acquire can be deployed in very specific ways for professional schools, graduate schools, medical schools, on so on. Where I'm able to help is getting them to realize this. Let's say you're an Olympic caliber swimmer, these graduate schools aren't necessarily interested in how well you swim. They might find it intriguing, but they are more interested in how well you fit and whether you have the skillset that they need to work with you. Our student-athletes, who compete in a team environment at the highest levels in the country, have the necessary tools to be successful in whatever they choose. Sometimes I just have to remind them of this.

WHO EXACTLY DO YOU REPORT TO?

First off, I am not an Athletics department employee. It has to be that way mainly due to the fact that the job entails a compliance and oversight component. As a result, I report directly to Chancellor Block, who I meet with once a quarter or more to keep him abreast of all things related to UCLA Athletics. But even though I'm not an employee of Athletics, I do work closely with the Athletics department senior staff including Dan Guerrero, Matt Elliott, Christina Rivera, Josh Rebholz and many other amazing individuals who mainly lead and work in academic support, compliance, recruiting and development department activities. And hopefully all the coaches and student-athletes want to know about what I do as FAR and how I'm here to help in any way that I can outside of sports.



Photo courtesy of UCLA Athletics.

DO YOU EVER GO ON ROAD TRIPS WITH THE TEAMS?

Absolutely. One of the great things for me has been the opportunity to travel with the teams on occasion and get to really know the student-athletes and coaches. Every team has its own culture and way they go about their business so I've found it helpful to be on these trips just to get a feel for each program a little better. I try to be as visible as I can. One example that I like to point to is my relationship with Danny McClintick,


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who is in medical school at UCLA right now. He reached out on his own and just told me that he was thinking about medical school and wanted to know if I could give him some guidance since I'm a doctor. If I'm not around Adam Wright and his team a bit, those guys don't know who I am and what type of resource I can be for them. So I think it's important to be around both at home and on the road when I can.

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF THE TYPE OF WORK A FAR DOES ON A DAILY BASIS?

I participate on the Student-Athlete Admissions Committee. Student-athletes all get vetted before coming to UCLA and character is a big issue. They can be a savant in their sport and may or may not have the same stellar GPA or academic track record that a non-athlete has. Sometimes it comes down to character and our committee discusses that at some length. I also work with Athletics to do all of the voting for UCLA, typically in consensus and alignment with leaders in campus administration and with the Athletics department — I am not a rogue voter. So when things come through the legislative pipeline at Pac-12 or NCAA meetings, the person who raises the paddle for UCLA is typically me. Another thing I do is work with the Pac-12 and all my fellow FARs at the 11 other conference schools to look at hardship waivers that are related to when players get injured and are seeking another year of eligibility.

I WOULD THINK THAT DEPENDING ON THE INSTITUTION, IT CAN VARY WIDELY ON HOW THE SCHOOL VIEWS AND TREATS ITS ATHLETICS PROGRAM.

It does. I'll say that UCLA is pretty supportive of Athletics. The faculty on the whole, and definitely the student body, is quite supportive. And there are reasons for that. No. 1, UCLA Athletics is exceptional by any measure. No. 2, Athletics stays out of trouble for the most part. If you look at some other peer schools, I'd say we have far less issues as a whole because of the remarkable culture created by everyone in Athletics. No. 3, and I think this is a big one that people may underestimate, is that our superstars transcend sports into culture. You have someone like Jackie Robinson, who did more for equal rights than he did for baseball. Other names that come to mind are Kareem, Jackie Joyner-Kersee, Bill Walton, Jordyn Wieber, Arthur Ashe, and a ton of other amazing folks I'm sure I am missing. We have had so many legends come through here. And even now, you have someone like a Josh Rosen, whose comments on academics and athletics generated a social media storm and a healthy debate. And let's not forget Coach Wooden and his world-renowned Pyramid of Success, which transcends basketball into how we live our lives with purpose and integrity. Not many schools have these types of people who have made such an impact on our culture. So I think it's hard to be kind of against that, or even neutral, in this type of environment. Lastly, and I say this to the great credit of UCLA and the Athletics Department, is that there is a lot of stability and fiscal responsibility.

TALK ABOUT YOUR DAY JOB. ABOUT A YEAR AGO YOU WERE APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF THE UCLA JONSSON COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER.

So our cancer center is nationally ranked, typically in the top 10. We are really well known for the research that we do and the drugs that we develop, which are used in life-saving clinical trials at UCLA and are practice changing for treating cancer around the globe. It's one of the powerhouse cancer centers in the world honestly. It's unique in the sense that we have some very creative individuals who think years ahead of the curve. We are known for many things, including bringing discoveries from the research laboratory into patient care, which is a hard transition to make, almost like a drug company. My role on a day-to-day basis is to try and make sure our center operates well. So I don't participate directly in patient care anymore, but our cancer center has about 500 members, many of whom have both research and patient care activities. We also try to help facilitate those who are seeking research grants to perform their work through fundraising we do for the Cancer Center. We help facilitate doctors who are starting and running clinical trials. One of the great aspects about research at UCLA is that colleagues from various departments — biology, chemistry, pathology, engineering, computer science, to name just a few — are on one campus and develop amazing collaborations around understanding and treating cancer, as part of the Cancer Center's work. We are the face of cancer at UCLA so we try to let people on campus and in our communities know who we are and what we do. Cancer is the real foe, it's not the other cancer centers across town, many of whom we partner with to make advances against cancer. We work with USC, City of Hope, and Cedars-Sinai on cancer research. All of us, we serve our patient populations for the most part separately. They do what they do and we do what we do but with a common purpose. For me, it's a lot of administration, similar to what Dan does in Athletics. I serve as a public face for the center so I'm involved in many speaking opportunities and fundraising efforts to help generate revenue for research.

GIVEN YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE, ARE YOU ABLE TO ATTEND MANY UCLA SPORTING EVENTS?

If time permits, I love attending sporting events. We had an amazing home schedule for gymnastics this year and I think I was able to make it to three or four meets, including Oklahoma which was an outstanding and socially important event. I go to as many men's and women's basketball games as I can. Soccer, volleyball, football, baseball — you name it and I try to be there. My daughter is 12 and actually plays baseball. She's been able to be a bat girl for the softball team on occasion and Kelly (Inouye-Perez) knows her pretty well.

DO YOU HAVE ANY VIVID MEMORIES FROM ATTENDING UCLA SPORTING EVENTS EITHER AS A STUDENT OR IN YOUR CURRENT POSITION?

I've been closely following the men's water polo team the last four years because they have been so dominant. And I remember really enjoying some of the Rose Bowl games when Terry Donahue was the coach and I was a student at UCLA years ago. And then, as a Dad, I remember taking my son's and my daughter's Little League teams to Jackie Robinson Stadium to see the Bruins play baseball. I just have some really great, fond memories of experiences as a fan of UCLA Athletics. Now in my current role, I just want to see UCLA Athletics and our amazing student-athletes continue to thrive and have success both on and off the playing fields and arenas they compete in.

FILL *in the* BLANK

with

ERIK HOLT



MY FAVORITE PART OF BEING A UCLA STUDENT-ATHLETE IS the incredible meals, BUT IF I COULD SWITCH LIVES WITH ANYONE FOR 24 HOURS IT WOULD BE Navy Seal Jocko Willink BECAUSE of his unbelievable drive and work ethic. I NEVER GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT MY headphones AND WHEN I'M NOT PLAYING SOCCER I CAN OFTEN BE FOUND AT THE Acosta Weight Room. I LOVE BEING IN WESTWOOD AND MY FAVORITE SPOT ON CAMPUS IS Janss Steps. IN 10 YEARS I HOPE TO BE a professional soccer player, a motivational speaker, a strength and conditioning coach or an enlisted Marine or Navy Seal. SOMETIMES AFTER A DIFFICULT PRACTICE OR WORKOUT I LIKE TO WIND DOWN BY going back to Drake Stadium and running stairs. THE BEST ADVICE THAT ANYONE HAS EVER GIVEN ME WAS discipline equals freedom. IF I WON THE LOTTERY I WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE TO VISIT space AND THEN TAKE SOME MONEY AND build a company dedicated to health and fitness. SOMETHING THAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME IS THAT I'M PRETTY GOOD AT American sign language and Romanian. THE UCLA STUDENT-ATHLETE THAT YOU ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO WATCH PLAY IN PERSON IS Alex Knox. THE ONE THING I WISH I HAD KNOWN BEFORE MY FRESHMAN YEAR IS to not take Political Science 30. I CHOSE MY UNIFORM NUMBER 4 BECAUSE my brother used to wear it as an athlete.





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WOMEN'S SOCCER VS. PEPPERDINE

SEPT. 7



Two of the region's top teams will clash when UCLA hosts Pepperdine in the Bruins' home non-conference finale. The Waves are the two-time defending West Coast Conference champions and have advanced to the NCAA Tournament in five of the past seven years, including a Sweet 16 appearance in 2014. UCLA returns nine starters and 87.5 percent of its goal-scoring from last year's NCAA runner-up squad, including first-team All-Americans and full national team players Jessie Fleming and Hailie Mace. The Bruins begin their first season in a new home on campus, Wallis Annenberg Stadium (formerly North Athletic Field).

TIME: 7 P.M.

TICKET INFO: $10 GENERAL ADMISSION ($5 MILITARY/YOUTH)

FOOTBALL VS. WASHINGTON

OCT. 6

The Huskies, picked to win the conference in 2018, head to the Rose Bowl on the heels of back-to-back 10-win seasons under head coach Chris Petersen. A Bruin defensive backs unit highlighted by returners Darnay Holmes (Hornung Award Watch List), Nate Meadors and Adarius Pickett will look to slow down a high-powered Husky attack led by signal caller Jake Browning, while the Husky defense will get its first look at Mackey Award Watch List tight end Caleb Wilson. An injury cut Wilson's redshirt sophomore campaign short, but not before the Dallas, Texas native established himself as a premier pass catcher with 38 grabs in just five games for the Bruins. UCLA's 2018 Hall of Fame Class will also be recognized on the field in a halftime ceremony.

TIME: TBA

TICKET INFO: 310-UCLA-WIN OR UCLABRUINS.COM/TICKETS



WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL VS. STANFORD

OCT. 28

The UCLA women's volleyball team takes on its rival from Northern California to round out its October schedule, as the Bruins host Stanford at 4 p.m. at Pauley Pavilion. Three of the past five matches between the two teams have gone all five sets, with the other two going four. UCLA returns five of its seven starters from a year ago, including a pair of All-Americans, senior libero Zana Muno and junior middle blocker Madeleine Gates. The Bruins, who have advanced to four straight Regional Semifinals, bring in a solid recruiting class and also return a couple of rising sophomore outside hitters, Mac May and Jenny Mosser.

TIME: 4 P.M.

TICKET INFO: $10 GENERAL ADMISSION ($5 YOUTH/MILITARY)



MEN'S SOCCER VS. STANFORD

Four-time national champion UCLA welcomes in three-time defending national champion Stanford to the brand-new Wallis Annenberg Stadium for a late-season Pac-12 clash on Nov. 4. A reloaded Bruin squad — headlined by All-Pac-12 talent such as defender Erik Holt and midfielder Eric Iloski as well as exciting newcomers like reigning NJCAA National Player of the Year Mohammed Kamara — will look to knock off the Cardinal at home for the first time since 2013. This Pac-12 showdown is sure to have big ramifications in the conference standings and for NCAA Tournament qualification.

TIME: 4 P.M.

TICKET INFO: $10 GENERAL ADMISSION ($5 MILITARY/YOUTH)

NOV. 4



MEN'S WATER POLO VS. STANFORD

NOV. 3



The defending NCAA Champion UCLA men's water polo team hosts the only team it didn't beat in 2017 on Nov. 3 at the Spieker Aquatics Center, as the Stanford Cardinal head to town for a Saturday showdown. The only way to see the game is in person, as the Pac-12 Networks will not be televising the matchup for the first time since 2012. The Bruins are on the road at both Cal and USC during MPSF play this year, making the Stanford game the biggest contest on the Bruins' home slate in 2018.

TIME: NOON

TICKET INFO: FREE ADMISSION

THE WOODEN ATHLETIC FUND

Richard and Arline Agay Invest in Tomorrow's Champions Today

Richard and Arline Agay are passionately committed to supporting UCLA and Bruin student-athletes through the Wooden Athletic Fund. The Agay family has a long history with UCLA and UCLA Athletics. Richard earned his BS in Business Management in 1954 and continued his studies, obtaining his LLB degree from UCLA in 1957. Arline received her BA in Painting & Sculpting in 1979, and their daughters continued the Bruin family tradition: Lisa Agay Getz earned her BA in 1980 in Theater, and Linda Calhoun earned her BS in 1982 in Math-Computer Science.

Richard was a UCLA Men's Golf student-athlete for three years. He has been a season ticket holder for UCLA football since he enrolled in 1951, and has seen every USC football game - rain or shine - and at least one USC basketball game every year since. Arline and he have been season ticket holders for UCLA Basketball since Pauley Pavillion opened in 1965, and have attended the three southern California NCAA Final Fours in which UCLA participated. Their most memorable games are the come-from-behind 1975 men's basketball semifinal win over Louisville, and the 72-0 rout of Stanford by the UCLA Football team in 1954—the year UCLA won the championship.

The Agays give back to UCLA to continue the Bruin success they have witnessed over the years. They made their first gift to UCLA's Men's Basketball's Hoopsters Fund in 1985, and have been members of the Wooden Athletic Fund for over 30 years.

"UCLA has been a part of our lives. We met at UCLA and many of our UCLA friends have become life-long friends. Our ties to UCLA became even stronger when our daughters became UCLA grads. Our connection to UCLA sports began long ago and continues to this day. We know that the success of UCLA's sports program is important to the University, and that the success of the Wooden Athletic Fund enhances UCLA sports. We are grateful that we are able to contribute to the continued success of our alma mater."



UCLA and the UCLA Athletic Department thank the 8,513 Wooden Athletic Fund members, including the Agay Family.

Wooden ATHLETIC FUND UCLA

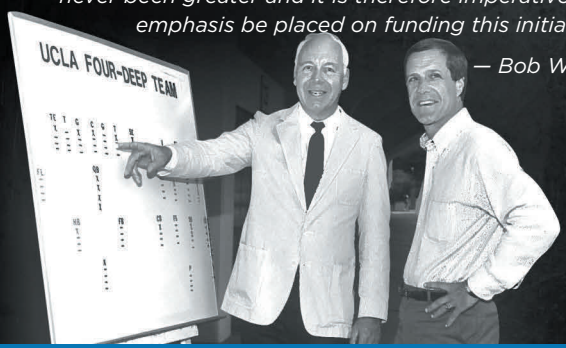
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— Bob Wilson



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