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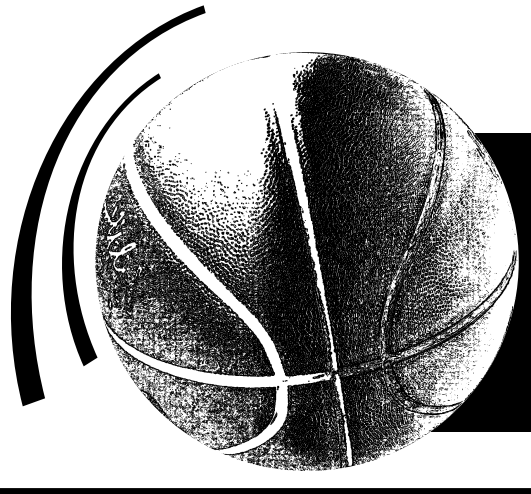

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GUERRERO ... *The Insider's View*

After a recent speaking engagement, I asked for questions from the audience. A Bruin fan who had seen our department roster in a football program asked me, "What do all your administrators do?" After my ten-minute response, I realized many people don't know just how large a campus unit we really are. With 24 sports and nearly 160 employees (not counting students) our operating budget for the current fiscal year is approximately $43 million. In the next issue, I'll talk about where that money goes. Let me first explain where it comes from.

The Athletic Department is known on campus as an "auxiliary enterprise," meaning it must generate almost all of its own revenue. It receives only a small stipend from registration fees, a holdover from the 1980s when men's and women's athletics merged and some student funding previously earmarked only for the women's programs was retained. There are several primary funding sources: ticket sales, radio and TV rights fees, donations, corporate relations (including our shoe and apparel sponsorship with adidas), and guarantees from opponents. Only football and men's basketball produce a profit—all other sports, even those that generate measurable ticket sales, such as volleyball and gymnastics, cannot cover their expenditures without budget support from elsewhere. Here's a more detailed breakdown, with revenue projections for this fiscal year:

REVENUE ($43 million)
- Football (Primarily gate receipts & guarantees): 28.4%
- Donations & Endowment Interest: 16.5%
- Men's Basketball (Primarily gate receipts and guarantees): 14.3%
- Corporate Sponsorships: 12.8%
- Television and Radio Royalties: 12.2%
- Business Enterprises (Primarily camps): 5.7%
- Student Fee Funding: 5.4%
- Other Miscellaneous (NCAA shares, Licensing): 4.1%
- Olympic Sport ticket sales: 0.7%

Of the items listed above, Donations and Endowments, has the most growth potential. The others tend to remain static or increase at a predictable, linear pace. Because football and basketball ticket sales often tend to fluctuate based on team success, it is our primary mission to restore national competitiveness to those programs. Recruiting great student-athletes and providing the necessary resources to foster an environment conducive to winning is Job 1. Such an endeavor, as you well know, carries a serious price tag. With the cost of doing business continuing to rise, supporting a broad-based program that features so many outstanding programs is our greatest challenge. To address this issue, we recently changed our administrative model and consolidated all elements considered to be "external relations" under one unit. This External Relations unit, headed by Senior Associate Athletic Director, Ross Bjork, includes all aspects of Development, Marketing and Corporate Relations. By doing so, we hope to more efficiently reach and become familiar with our constituent sports audience. We want to identify those Bruin fans who share our vision and will take the extra step to partner with us to produce and maintain the nation's most dominant athletic program. Our mission is to increase our donor support base exponentially in order to accomplish the success that we all seek to achieve for Bruin Athletics. We don't want to be #2 in anything or any sport.

Sounds audacious, yes? Well, each and every one of those very administrators whose roles I explained share that competitive intensity, along with each coach and all our support personnel. Fire up with us and contact our development office about what you can do to fuel the Bruin rocketship. If you are already on board, recruit your friends. With your continued assistance, I commit to you even greater success down the road.

Next month, a few details on where and how we spend...

Go Bruins!



Dan Guerrero

From the Editor:

The Recruiting Department performs a myriad of services—one being the compilation of accomplishments regarding UCLA's Fall signees—from identifying recruits to hosting Junior Days at the Rose Bowl on football Saturdays, to finding jobs for student-athletes past and present. Long before a student-athlete sets foot on campus, the information gathered by the recruiting office, headed by Assoc. Athletic Director Michael Sondheimer, facilitates that person's arrival and enables the various departments in athletics to enhance the student-athlete's UCLA experience.

LaRee Sugg's vertical career path continues to produce smiles. To say that it all began with a 25-foot birdie putt almost 15 years ago would be presumptuous, but it was a great start. To hear her say that she can impact the lives of more student-athletes by broadening her administrative duties makes us proud.

By the time you've read this far, golfers Parker McLachlin and John Merrick will have attained exempt status on either the PGA or Nationwide Tours. To survive the marathon of PGA Q-School is to experience the mental and physical anguish of professional sports. In this format, McLachlin and Merrick will have played 252 holes of golf in the span of eight weeks. They deserve a little luck and a lot of birdies.

Go Bruins!

rb

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Ucla's 2005 NATIONAL LETTERS OF INTENT LIST

MEN'S BASKETBALL:
JAMES KEEFE, 6-8 power forward, Santa Margarita HS … 2004-05 California State Junior of the Year … Has led prep team to two straight CIF Championships … As a junior he averaged 17.0 ppg, 12.3 rpg, and 3.7 bpg … He was the 27th ranked player in the nation by Bob Gibbons' All-Star Sports Top 100 and was a Street & Smith Magazine 2nd Team Pre-Season All-American … He is a strong candidate for the 2006 McDonald's All-Star Game.

MARKO SPICA, 6-9 center from Serbia and Montenegro … Has played well in the junior programs overseas and has the all-around game and potential to do well in the American college game.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:
MONIQUEE ALEXANDER, 6-6 center, Pendleton School at IMG Academy … Played locally at Narbonne HS before transferring to IMG Academy in Florida … 2005 Florida All-State selection … Played in 2005 USA Youth Development Festival … adidas Top 10 Camp All-Star in 2005 … Co-MVP of the 2005 adidas Tournament of Champions and MVP of the adidas Shootout in 2004.

AMY HORTON, 5-11 wing guard/small forward from Haralson County HS, Tallapoosa, GA … Outstanding long-range shooter who averaged 28 points and 10 rebounds a game, while shooting 50% from the floor … 2005 Street and Smith's Magazine Honorable Mention All-American … Two-time All-State selection … Once scored 49 points with 17 rebounds in a game … Region Player of the Year and selected among the top 20 players in the State …

ERICA LATIMER, 6-0 Forward-Guard, Windward HS and lives in Los Angeles, CA..Averaged 14 points and 8 rebounds a game as a junior and 16 points, 9 rebounds and 4 steals a game as a sophomore … Three-time All-CIF selection … Played club basketball with Cal Swish Black and is a member of the Finland National Team … She was MVP of the Finland Junior National Team … 4.0 honor student, who was on the 2005 All-Tournament Team at the End of the Oregon Trail event.

JERICA WILLIAMS, 5-10 guard from Mt. Miguel HS and lives in La Mesa, CA … Has led her prep team to three straight CIF Division II Championships and was CIF San Diego Player of the Year last year … Averaged 18.8 ppg, 6.9 rpg and 4 steals as a junior … Was second-team All- State and 2005 San Diego Union-Tribune Player of the Year.

BASEBALL:
CHARLES BREWER, 6-3, 180 RHP from Chaparral HS in Paradise Valley, AZ … Rated as one of the top 100 prospects in the nation by *Baseball America* … Helped Chaparral to 2005 Arizona State Championship with 8-0 record, 0.80 ERA, 62 strike-outs in 45 innings and three saves, including the title game … 2005 All-State selection and 2006 HS Pre-Season All-American … Rated #51 prospect in nation by teamonebaseball.com.

GAVIN BROOKS, 6-3, 200 LHP/1B, from Rancho Buena Vista HS in Vista, CA … 2005 AFLAC All-American … Batted .400 as a junior with team-best 24 RBI, while pitching a limited amount due to an early-season injury … In 2004 he was one of the top pitchers in the area with a 6-1 record and 56 strike-outs in 50 innings … Rated #33 prospect in the nation by teamonebaseball.com … Rated #3 prospect in the country among high school juniors in the 2004 Perfect Game World Wood Bat Association Fall Championship … Named *San Diego Union-Tribune* All-Academic with 4.1 GPA.

GARETT CLAYPOOL, 6-2, 175 RHP, El Camino Real HS from West Hills, CA … Became major college prospect after a great summer when he went 7-0 with 1.00 ERA in 35 innings … Last year for the L.A. City Champions he had a 0.90 ERA in 23 innings of relief work … Batted .375 as a sophomore.

GABE COHEN, 6-1, 200 OF from El Camino Real HS in Woodland Hills, CA … Power hitter who batted .456 with six home runs and 30 RBI as a junior at Harvard-Westlake … Transferred and will play his senior year at ECR … This summer in the Connie Mack League, he hit .582 with seven home runs and 36 RBIs … Was selected to play in the Cape Cod HS All-Star Game; the Joplin USA Tournament of Stars; the Area Code Games and the Perfect Game National Showcase … Was the Goodwill Series MVP … Rated #76 prospect among the top-100 seniors by teamonebaseball.com

CASEY HAERTHER, 6-3, 208 1B from Chaminade HS and lives in Chatsworth, CA … Hit .485 with nine home runs and 38 RBI last year … Two-time All-CIF selection (2004, 2005) … Played for L.A. Dodgers Elite Team the past two years … Was California State Freshman of the Year in 2003 … Played in 2005 Perfect Game National Showcase … His brother Cody plays in the St. Louis Cardinals' minor league organization.

JEFF RAPOPORT, 6-0, 175 OF, Westlake HS in Westlake Village, CA … Tremendous prospect, who will give up being a football tailback to concentrate on baseball in college … 2005 AFLAC All-American and three-time member of L.A. Dodgers Elite Team (2003-2005) … Batted .404 last year with seven home runs and 23 RBI and 12 stolen bases … Rated #34 player in the nation by *Baseball America* … Rated #25 nationally by teamonebaseball.com … His brother Jim is starting center fielder for Stanford and his mother Lisa was a former standout player and assistant volleyball coach for UCLA.

JUSTIN URIBE, 5-11, 175, LHP/OF, Foothill HS in Santa Ana, CA … Hit .397 last year with 10 doubles and 17 RBI … He posted a 6-2 record on the mound with 2.25 ERA with 56 strikeouts in 65 innings … Three-year varsity starter who was the league MVP last year … Played for L.A. Angels Elite Scout Team in 2005.

MICKEY WEISSER, 5-11, 195 1B, Case Robles HS/Sierra College, Citrus Heights, CA … Outstanding left-handed hitter who had a great fall after missing his last season at Citrus due to injury … Was All-City and All-State his junior and senior years … Hit .431 with 22 RBI as a senior, including a game where he hit three home runs and drove in eight runs.

MEN'S GOLF:
CHARLES HARRIS, Sunnyside HS in Fresno, CA … Finished 15th at the 2005 U.S. Junior Amateur qualifying and lost in the first round of match play … In 2004 he finished 6th in qualifying and advanced to the second round … His older brother attends UCLA.

JASON KANG, Hart HS and lives in Valencia, CA … The ninth-ranked senior in the nation by the AJGA and the No.10 recruit by *GolfWeek* … He had four AJGA top 10 finishes last summer in becoming one of the top national recruits in the senior class … He had five top 20 finishes in AJGA summer events during 2004 … Moved from Torrance to Valencia this Fall.

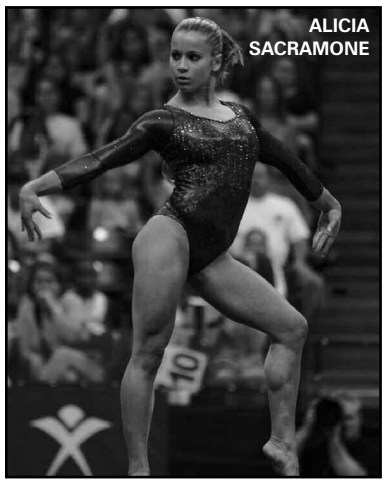
WOMEN'S GOLF:
LALITA BOONNOPPORNKUL, North Hollywood HS, North Hollywood, CA … Finished 5th in 2005 L.A. City Finals and qualified for the State Regionals … Emerging player with a lot of talent.


SYDNEE MICHAELS

SYDNEE MICHAELS, seventh-ranked senior in the nation by AJGA and No. 8 by *GolfWeek* … She won two major summer events in taking the Pacific Northwest International (including a round of 67) and the prestigious Mission Hills Desert Junior ... She placed third at the Heather Farr event … At the 2005 U.S. Girls Junior Amateur, she finished 6th overall in qualifying and advanced to the quarterfinals of match play … In 2004 she had three AJGA Top 10 finishes in five events … Considered the top recruit in the class of 2006 that will attend college.

GYMNASTICS
ASHLEY JENKINS, Senior International Elite, Mater Dei HS and lives in Laguna Niguel, CA … Placed 10th in the all-around and fourth on floor at the 2003 USA Championships to make the USA Junior National Team … Had a seventh place all-around finish at the 2003 U.S. Classic … Competed internationally with the USA team in France for the Massilia Gym Cup … Competed in the 2005 U.S. Nationals.

ANNA LI, Senior International Elite, Waubonsie HS in Aurora, Illinois … Parents were both 1984 Chinese Olympic gymnastics medalists in Los Angeles … She was 16th in the All-Around at the USA Championships after finishing 23rd in 2004 … At the 2004 Level 10 Championships, she finished second in the All-Around and bars and first on beam … In 2003 she won the all-around, uneven bars and balance beam titles at the U.S. Challenge … Her father Yuejiu Li won a team silver at Pauley Pavilion in '84 and was China's first world champion for Floor in 1981 … Her mother, Jiani Wu, won an Olympic bronze in 1984 and was the 1981 World beam bronze medalist.


ALICIA SACRAMONE

BRITTANI MCCULLOUGH, Senior International Elite, Centennial HS in Corona, CA … One of the most improved gymnasts in the nation, rising from Level 10 to Elite over the past year … Last May she won the Level 10 vault, uneven bars and floor exercise titles and later qualified for the USA Championships, where she placed 11th in the all-around to qualify for the USA National Team … In 2003 she was the Level 10 bars champion.

ALICIA SACRAMONE, Senior International Elite, Winchester HS in Winchester, Mass … Considered one of the top two recruits in the nation … Regarded as one of the top vault and floor performers in the world … She won the vault and floor events at the World Cup meet in Belgium, beating the Olympic champ on floor in the process … She won gold medals at the recent Pan-American Gymnastics Championships in Brazil in both vault and floor … At the 2005 USA Championships she was 4th in the all-around, while winning vault and floor and placed third on beam … When she scored 9.9 on floor it was the highest USA gymnastics mark since 1996 when the new scoring system went into effect … She is a three-year member of the USA National Team and was selected to compete at the 2005 World Championships.

ROWING:
CHARLOTTE BURKE, Redwood HS, Belvedere, CA … Four-year member of the Marin Rowing Association … Rowed in top boat last year that won silver medal in the women's eight at the U.S. Rowing Southwest Region Junior Championships … Played volleyball as a freshman before turning to rowing … Has a brother who is a freshman at UCLA … Has three teammates already on the UCLA team.

RENEE CORNWELL, El Toro HS, Lake Forest, CA … Four-year member of the water polo team and also was on the swim team for three years … League champ in 500 free for two years … Has been rowing since 2003 at the Newport Aquatic Center … Stroked the Novice Crew to victory at the Newport Autumn Rowing Festival.

KAITLIN DOERING, Alameda HS in Alameda, CA … Competitive swimmer before she started rowing and also competed in a performance troupe for six years … Competes for Oakland Strokes and is in the second varsity eight and second varsity four.

LYNN HANCOCK, Crofton House School, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada … Top recruit for UCLA … Has competed last four years for Burnaby Lake Rowing Club … Made the Canadian U-18 development squad in summer of 2005 and competed in CanAmMex Regatta in pair, quad and eight … At the 2005 Canadian Henley Regatta, Hancock won a gold medal in the junior women's quad and placed fourth in the junior women's singles … She was an outstanding field hockey player, who twice played on the BC provincial team … Honor student.

ALEXANDRA LAUREN, The Taft School, Watertown, Conn. and lives in Sarasota, Florida … Has played volleyball throughout her high school career and her team placed second in New England last year … Member of Taft rowing team all four years … Has rowed in first four for the school her last three years … Fourth member of family to play Division I sports … Sister won NCAA title in soccer at North Carolina; another sister played lacrosse at Vermont and her brother played hockey at Vermont.

BRITTANY LILJEQVIST, Wilton HS in Wilton, Conn. … Coxswain for her Norwalk River Rowing Association team first two years of HS and now Cox at Maritime Rowing Club … She is a two-year team captain … Invited to attend U.S. Rowing Junior Women's National Team Development Camp in 2003 and 2004 … Past two years she has steered her junior eight and junior four to victories in the Newport Autumn Rowing Festival … She won a national championship in the 2003 U.S. National Championships in the Junior B (16 and under) eight and a bronze medal in the Junior B four event … Her club team finished seventh overall in the 2005 U.S. Rowing Youth Invitational.

LILLIAN SAKKIS, Campolindo HS in Moraga, CA … Competed in both volleyball and water polo in high school … Began rowing for the Oakland Strokes in 2004 and immediately made the Oakland's top novice crew … Her sister Julia is a UCLA senior and both of her grandparents taught classes at UCLA.

ANNE SCHIER, Miramonte HS in Orinda, CA … Also a member of the Oakland Strokes club rowing program … Has concentrated on rowing while in high school … She is now in the bow seat for the varsity eight … Her team won gold medals in 2005 at the U.S. Rowing SW Regional Junior Rowing Championships, the U.S. Rowing Youth Invitational and the Women's Henley Regatta in England … This fall she has the #7 seat and Oakland Strokes won the Head of the American and placed second at the Head of the Lake … Her grandfather rowed at Cal and her aunt rowed for UC Davis.

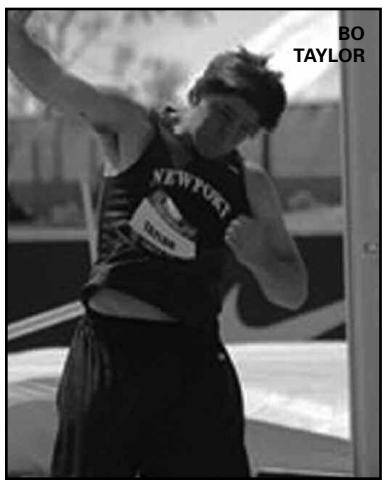
DESTINIE SLAVICH, Lowell HS in San Francisco, CA … Has rowed last two years for the Pacific Rowing Club and has moved from the novice 8 to the first boat this year … She was a sprint freestyler in swimming her first two years of high school.

SOFTBALL:
WHITNEY BAKER, P, Skyview HS in Battleground, WA … Rated as one of the top three pitchers in the nation … Considered perhaps best pitching prospect to ever come out of the Northwest … Last year, in winning the West-Central regional title, Baker won all four games, including striking out 17 in one game and pitching a one-hitter in the title game … She pitched Skyview to the State semifinals as a freshman and to the Regional title as a sophomore.

JULIE BURNEY, 3B, El Dorado HS in Placentia, CA … Rated as top fielding third baseman in the nation and should have an immediate impact … Helped El Dorado team to CIF finals last year.

MEGAN LANGENFELD, P/1B, Centennial HS in Bakersfield, CA … Outstanding hitter and pitcher, who has dominated the area the past three years … Has hit over .500 with ERA under .30 per game in both her sophomore and junior years … Among the area leaders in power hitting … She had 327 strikeouts in 206 innings as a sophomore with a 0.20 ERA.

KAILA SHULL, C/1B, Jim Elliott Christian School in Stockton, CA … Left-handed hitter, who has dominated the pitchers in the area … Hit .620 last year with 59 RBI in 26 games, plus seven stolen bases.

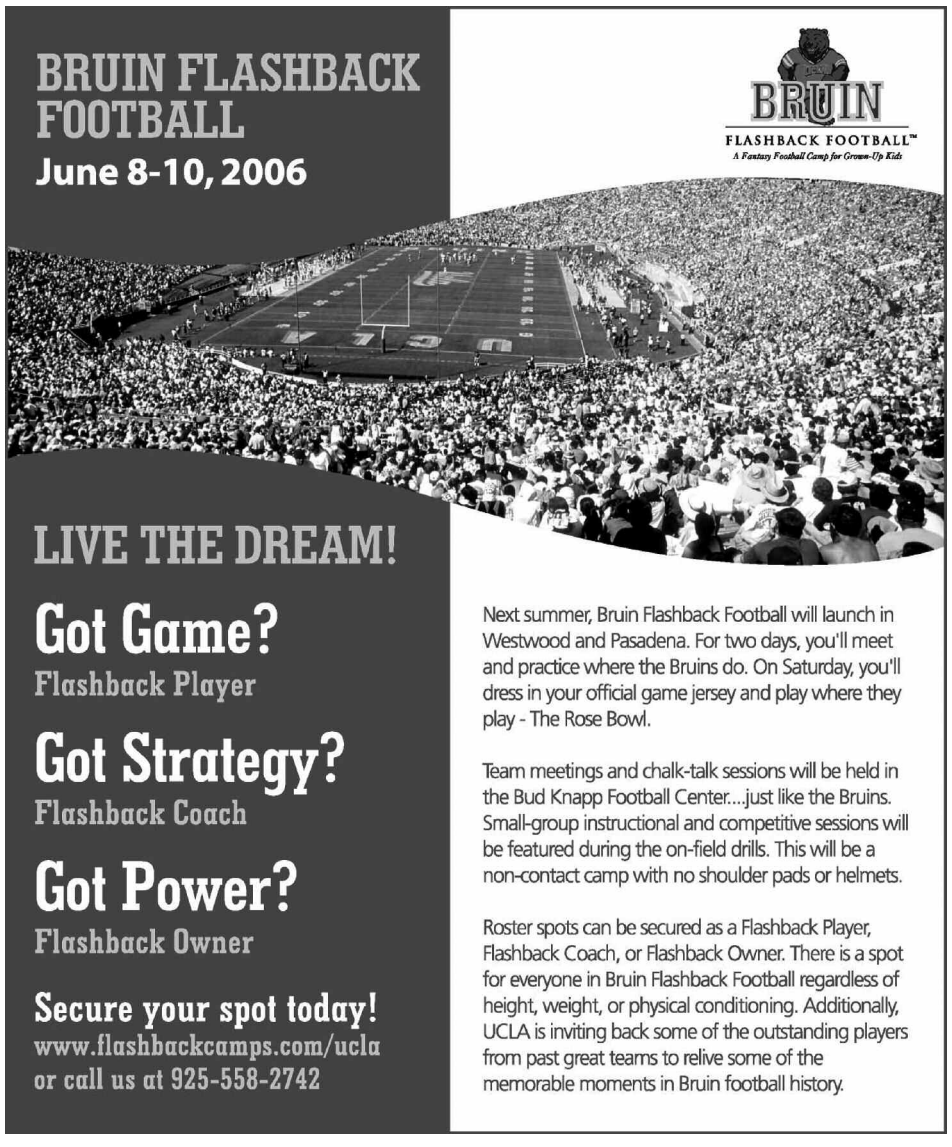

BO TAYLOR

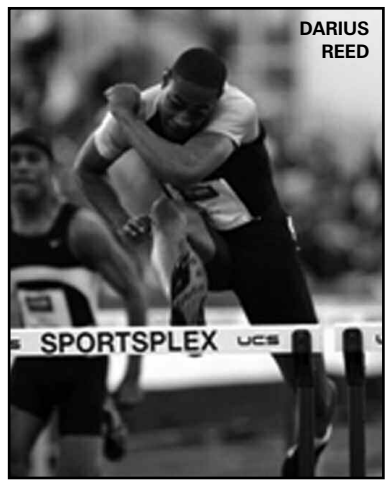
SWIMMING & DIVING:
HOPE THURMAN, Freestyle/Butterfly, Miramonte HS in Orinda, CA … Hope joins her sister Amy in the UCLA program and has been a solid swimmer in the sprint freestyle and short butterfly events.

HEATHER WHITE, IM/Backstroke, Miramonte HS in Orinda, CA … Very talented swimmer, who will provide scoring in both the 200 and 400 IM and 200 backstroke.

WOMEN'S TENNIS:
YASMIN SCHNACK, Elk Grove HS in Sacramento, CA … Ranked fourth in latest USTA Girls' 18 Singles Rankings and may be the top American that is planning to attend college for Fall 2006 … Reached the semifinals in singles and quarterfinals in doubles at the Easter Bowl event last Spring … She played at both the U.S. and French Junior Opens in 2005 and the Australian Junior Open in 2004.

STEPHANIE WETMORE, Appleby College Prep, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada … She has been ranked as high as #2 in Canada (16s) and No. 128 in the ITF (18s) … She was a quarterfinalist in doubles at this year's Canadian Open … She has played in major junior events such as the U.S. Open, Orange Bowl and Eddie Herr Championships.





DARIUS REED

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD:
CASEY & SCOTT DICESARE, Decathlon, Irvington HS in Irvington, NY … Both are excellent all-around athletes who have vaulted over 15 feet and have good jumping marks.

DAVID KLECH, Hurdler-Jumper, California HS in San Ramon, CA … Rated as top prospect in the nation for his versatility … Set California State record in 2005 scoring 24 points in State Meet … Was State Champ in 300 intermediate hurdles (36.06), took second in 110 high hurdles (13.97) and was third in the long jump … Had season bests last year of 7-0 in high jump; 24-7 in the long jump and 46-10 in the triple jump … His specialty will be the 400 hurdles at UCLA … 4.0 honor student.

MARLON PATTERSON, Distance/Cross Country, Franklin HS in Elk Grove, CA … Has run 4:17.82 and 9:15.82 during track season … Also can run the 800 meters and competes in cross country …

DARIUS REED, Hurdles, George Washington HS in Denver, CO … Top returning hurdler in the nation … Ran 13.70 last year and was also top HS performer at the USATF Junior Nationals last summer winning in 14.30 over college hurdles … He will also run intermediate hurdles this year in high school … Has size and speed at 6-4, 165.

NICK ROBINSON, Shot, Discus, Hammer; El Toro HS in Lake Forest, CA … had the #10 high school discus mark in the nation last year (178) and has thrown 195 in practice this year … Has tremendous size at 6-4, 260.

ROBERT 'BO' TAYLOR, Shot, Discus, Hammer; Newport Harbor HS in Newport Beach, CA … Regarded as one of the top field events athletes in the nation … Already has national marks of 59-6 in the shot and 186-9 in the discus … Has great size and power at 6-3, 250 and will compete in all three events for UCLA.

STEVEN TAYLOR, Long-Triple Jump, Hueneme HS in Pt. Hueneme, CA …Has jumped 47-10 in the triple jump … Finished second in CIF Division II TJ championships last year … At 6-2, 170 has speed and potential to excel in the jumps in college.

GREG WOEPSE, Pole Vault, Mater Dei HS in Santa Ana, CA … Won the CIF Masters Meet at 16-0 last year and CIF Division II Championships … Finished season as #7 high school pole vaulter in the nation … His sister Elizabeth is a pole vaulter for the UCLA women's team.

WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD:
KRISHNA CURRY, Middle Distances/Cross Country, University HS in Nashville, Tennessee … Honor student, who is one of the returning leaders at 800 meters and also runs cross country … She has run in the 2:08's for 800 meters.

CHRISTINE 'COBBIE' JONES, Middle Distances/Cross Country, Live Oak HS and lives in San Martin, CA … Finished sixth in 2005 California State Meet at 800 meters in 2:09:84 and also in the Top 20 at the Division I State Cross Country Championships … Has run 5:08:08 for 1600 meters.

VICTORIA PENA, Pole Vault, Edison HS in Huntington Beach, CA … CIF Division II champion last year, who had one of nation's best marks at 13-2 ... Regarded as #1 recruit in the West in this event.

LINDSAY REGAN, Pole Vault, Easton Area HS in Easton, PA … #1 ranked returning pole vaulter in the nation … Holds Pennsylvania outdoor record at 13-6 and also holds the indoor record … From pole vaulting family … Her sister Courtney competes for Princeton and another sister competed in track and pole vault.

HANNAH ROEDER, Middle Distances/Cross Country, Roosevelt HS in Des Moines, IA … Iowa All-State selection at 1500 meters … Owns the #1 time of 4:38.9 and has run 10:38 for 3000 meters … She took second last year in the high school 3000 meters at the Drake Relays … 2004 State Cross Country Champion … Honor student.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL:
EMILY CLEMENTS, 6-0 Outside Hitter, Isidore Newman HS in Metairie, LA … Victim of Hurricane Katrina and is spending her senior year in Houston at Episcopal HS before hopefully moving back home in January to her area just outside of New Orleans … Rated among Top 50 senior prospects by PrepVolleyball.Com … Lefty hitter that can play both the outside hitter and opposite positions … Her club team Cajunland finished fifth over the summer at the 2005 AAU Nationals in Orlando.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL:
DYLAN BOWERMASTER, 6-6 Outside Hitter, Mater Dei HS and lives in Huntington Beach, CA.

BRETT COSSAIRT, 6-7 Middle Blocker, Tesoro HS in Rancho Santa Margarita … All-CIF, all-league selection … Silver medalist for Balboa Bay Club at 2005 Junior Olympics.

THEODORE "TEDDY' GOETZ, 6-4 Outside Hitter, Valencia HS in Valencia, CA … All-CIF selection … Played on championship team two years ago and on the runner-up team last year with Kevin Ker … Plays for former UCLA assistant coach Mark Knudsen.

KEVIN KER, 6-0 Setter, Valencia HS in Valencia, CA … Helped set team to CIF title two years ago and runner-up last year … Brother of current UCLA starting Libero Tony Ker … Father Walt was former CSUN coach … All-CIF selection … Plays for former UCLA assistant coach Mark Knudsen.

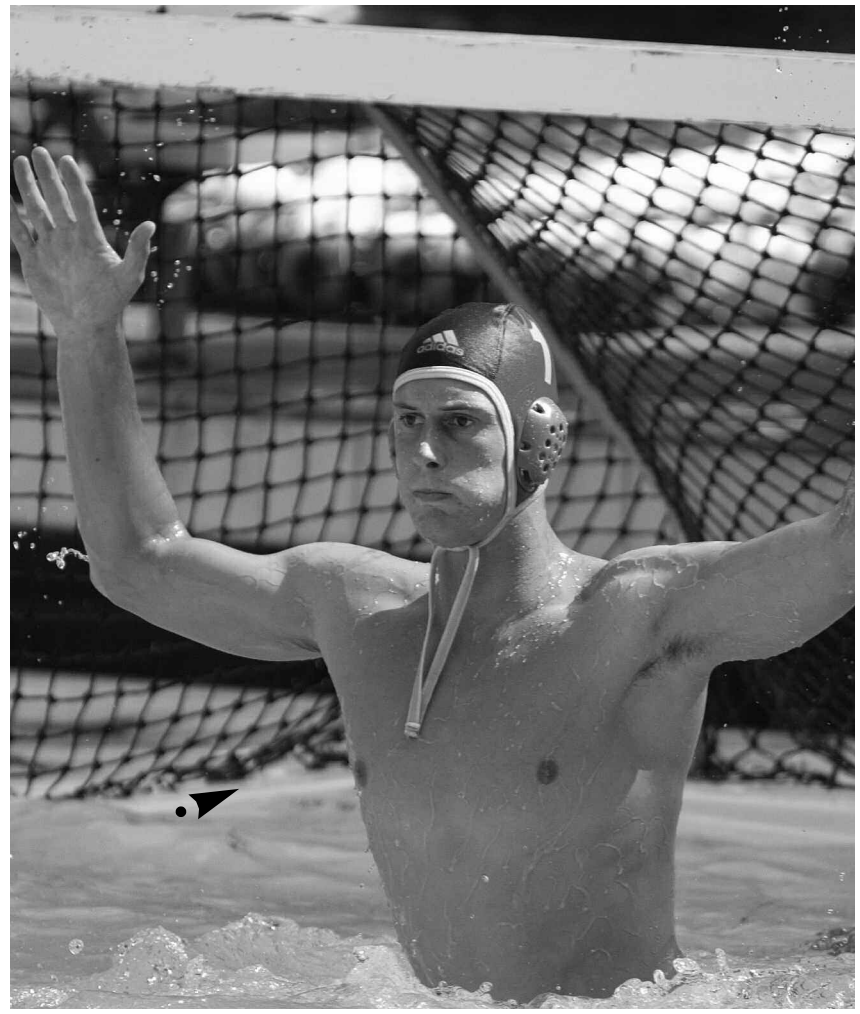
KENT KRAUSHAAR, 6-6 Outside Hitter, Woodbridge HS in Irvine, CA … Consensus #1 recruit in the nation … Starter for USA Jr. Team last summer … His brother Kris just completed four years on the UCLA volleyball team, starting in the NCAA finals last year … All-CIF selection.

SAM KRIDL, 6-8 Middle Blocker, Homestead HS and lives in Los Altos, CA … 2005 CIF/CCS 2nd Team selection … 2005 SCVAL 1st Team selection … 2004 JO All-American.

GARRETT MUAGUTUTIA, 6-5 Outside Hitter, Francis Parker HS, lives in Oceanside, CA … Outstanding basketball and volleyball player, who will concentrate on volleyball at UCLA … All-CIF selection … He made the *San Diego Union-Tribune* All-Area Team.

Bruin BACKTALK

STRAIGHT ANSWERS FROM WILL DIDINGER



Junior goalkeeper Will Didinger is quite concerned about making his bed, dating celebrities and his snoring. We just wish he'd switch barbers.



You'll never catch me … streaking a powderpuff football team and getting suspended for it.

I'm a snob about … sleepovers and people not making the bed the next day.

Definitely overrated … USC football's winning streak and national championship. They weren't in the championship game in 2003 — overrated for sure!

My first concert was … Pennywise with the Vandals and 98/Mute.



First brush with fame … when I went out with Mischa Barton. We tried to keep it hush-hush, so I wouldn't become more famous than her.

Worst haircut … Every time I go to Campus Cuts I get the worst haircut of my life. I don't understand how they can screw up buzz cuts so bad.

People make fun of me because … my buddies used to call me "Stumpy" because my legs are short compared to my torso.

If I couldn't play water polo at UCLA I would … play volleyball. No summer practice, girls dig it, and I have hops!

My secret shame is … I snore really loud. I wish I didn't.



My last big purchase was … my new whip, Rolls Royce Phantom—paid with straight cash.

Phobias … questionnaires.

What I love about college … high-level academics.



The one movie I have to have in my collection … "The Big Lebowski." It's not just a movie, it's a lifestyle!

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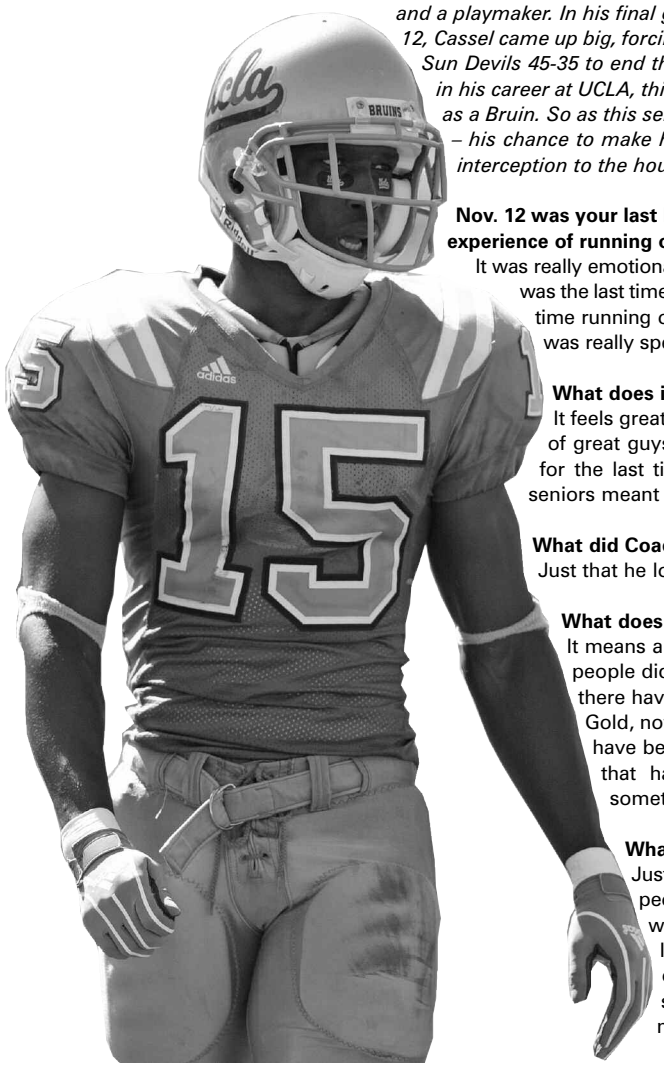
BRUIN FOOTBALL Q&A

GET TO KNOW MARCUS CASSEL

BY STEPHANIE SAMPSON, UCLA SPORTS INFORMATION ASSISTANT



Senior cornerback Marcus Cassel has emerged this season on the defense as a leader and a playmaker. In his final game at the Rose Bowl against Arizona St. on November 12, Cassel came up big, forcing two turnovers, as the Bruins would go on to defeat the Sun Devils 45-35 to end the season undefeated at home. With just two games left in his career at UCLA, this defensive back wouldn't change a thing during his time as a Bruin. So as this senior ends his career, one more individual goal stands out – his chance to make his own Lambeau leap into the crowd after returning an interception to the house.

Nov. 12 was your last home game in the Rose Bowl as a Bruin. Talk about that experience of running out of the tunnel for the last time.

It was really emotional, and I think the biggest thing I felt in my mind was that it was the last time running out of this tunnel and onto the field. It was my last time running out with these guys on this team and these seniors, and it was really special.

What does it feel like running out into a crowd like that?

It feels great. I have been fortunate to play on a lot of teams with a lot of great guys and it was finally my time to run out there on the field for the last time. Having the fans all cheering for me and the other seniors meant a lot.

What did Coach Dorrell say to you before you ran out?

Just that he loved me, was proud of me and to play hard and enjoy it.

What does wearing the Blue and Gold of UCLA mean to you?

It means a lot because it's hard being a Bruin. It's not easy. A lot of people didn't pick us high in the Pac-10. But it means a lot because there have been a lot of great players that have worn the Blue and Gold, not only football, but basketball, soccer, and baseball. There have been a lot of people, not only athletically, but academically, that have come through here, and being one of them is something great.

What will you miss most about college football?

Just messing around with the guys—there are so many people who I consider to be my friends and I can call on when I need something. I think that will be the biggest thing I will miss. You don't get to meet that many people too often who share the same goals as you and put in the same work every day. My teammates are truly there for me when I need them.

How do you feel about your overall experience at UCLA?

It's been great and a lot of fun. There have been a lot of good times. I've matured a lot since I came in here. I was 18 and now I'm 22. I wouldn't change it for the world. I wouldn't take anything back and I will really miss it.

Against ASU, your man caught a long pass for what appeared to be a game-breaking play. Then you knocked the ball out and caused a turnover. Describe your emotions on that play.

I'm not one to ever get too up or down on myself, so when things like that happen I just take it in stride and get ready for the next play. Being a corner, you have to have a short memory. A lot of things should have happened during my career at UCLA, good and bad, and I have learned to take the bad things with a grain of salt. If you do something bad on one play, the next play something good can happen. So it felt great to cause a fumble and help my team win. I think the biggest thing is when you have a goal at the beginning of the season and you achieve it.

What runs through your mind before the ball is snapped?

Before it's snapped, I turn around and look at the offensive formation and look at the guy standing in front of me. But the biggest thing is that I know 10 other guys have my back. If I mess up and miss a tackle or the quarterback throws a pass over me, I know the first person coming to help me is Spencer (Havner). I know if I fall and miss a tackle the first person to come back me up is Jarrad (Page). I'm not out there alone because these guys have my back and I have theirs.

Has this year's team exceeded your expectations?

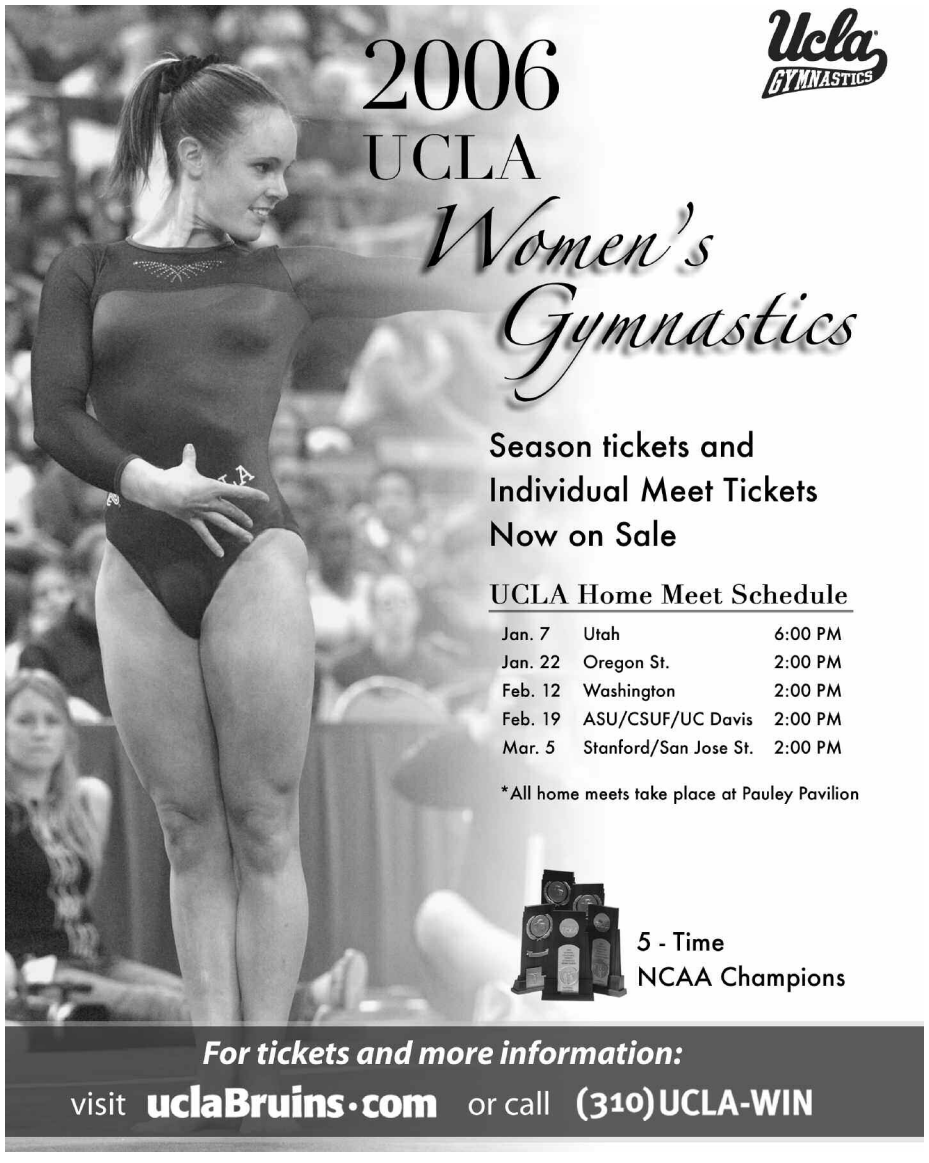
No, because I definitely knew that we had it in us this year. I saw something special in this team I haven't seen on any other team that I've been on. It's just the will, the desire and the selflessness. Attitudes had been about certain players in the past, but now it's about the team. This team is more selfless and focused and I knew that if we all stayed together and kept that same focus we would have a great year.

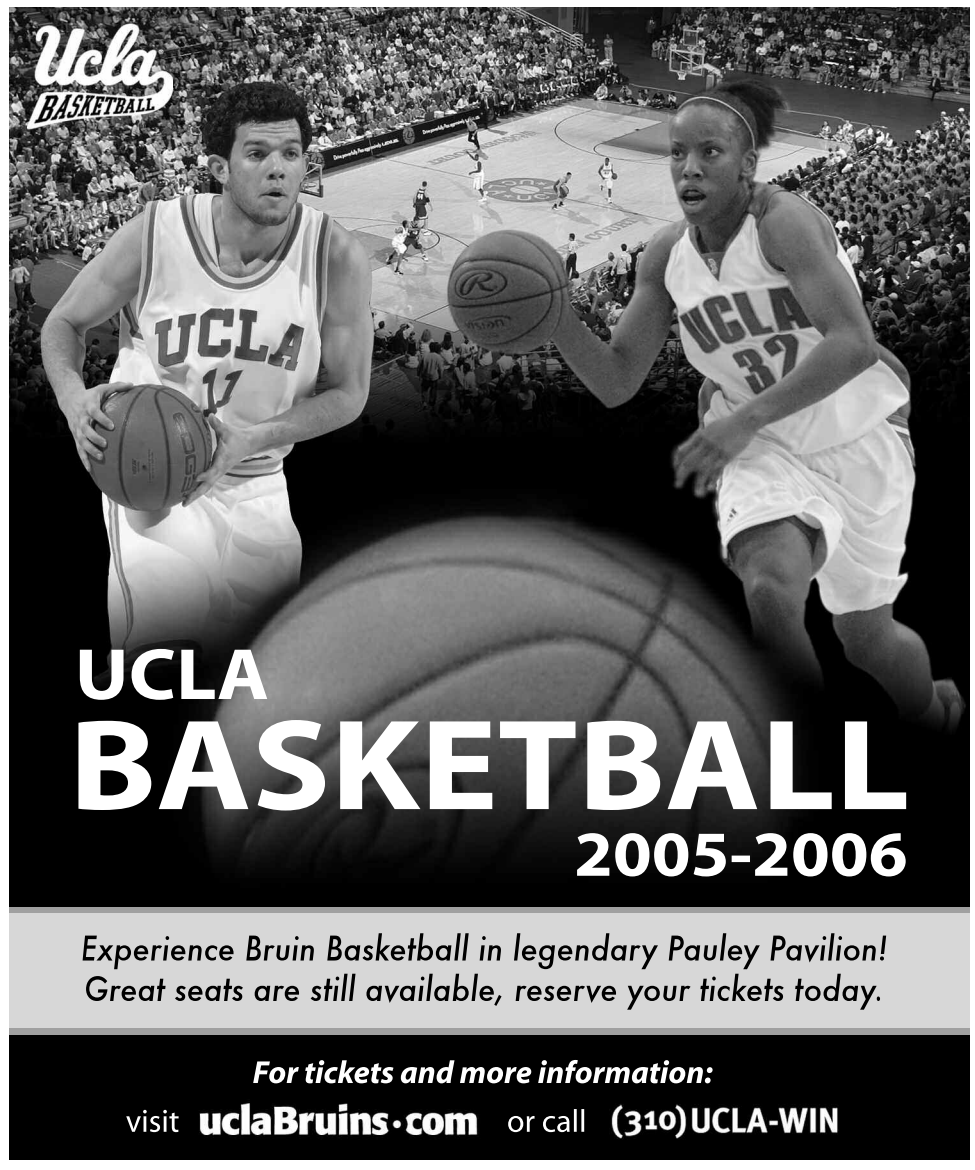
Is there anything you wish you could have done during your career at UCLA that hasn't happened?

Get an interception and take it back to the end zone and jump into the stands. That's one thing I wanted to do before I left. But there are still two more games, so we'll see if we can make it happen.

What are your future plans?

I'll be done with my degree in Psychology in December and I have been thinking about going to grad school to get my Masters to become a psychologist. My dad's a pharmacist, and I was also thinking about going to pharmacy school and eventually taking over the family business. I've also thought about continuing on with football to see how far I can go with it.







BRW

BRUINS IN THE REAL WORLD: LaRee Sugg

Nearly 15 years ago golfer LaRee Sugg sank a 25-foot putt on the first extra playoff hole at the Ohio State Scarlet Course to give the Bruins their first NCAA championship in women's golf. Since graduating from UCLA she has played on the LPGA Tour and coached college golf at the University of Richmond. She now serves as the Assistant Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator at Richmond.

Bruin Blue: Give us a brief timeline of your career since leaving UCLA.
LaRee Sugg: In 1991, I embarked on a career as a touring golf professional, which included stints on the LPGA tour, the Ladies' European Professional Tour, the Asian Golf Tour, and the Future's Golf Tour. Professional golf afforded me the opportunity to fulfill one of my childhood dreams and travel around the world. In 1993, I finished third in the Singapore Ladies Open, breaking the course record in the final round of competition. I won the 1998 Aurora Health Futures Classic and had my best finish on the LPGA Tour, placing eighth at the 2000 Wegman's Rochester International Classic. Moreover, I played in five U.S. Women's Opens and four British Women's Opens. During my 12 years as a golf touring professional, I enjoyed giving back to the world of golf by volunteering my time with many organizations that targeted minorities and kids who traditionally did not have opportunities to participate in golf. These organizations included the LPGA Girls' Club, Champions for Kids, INC., and the First Tee Program. In fact, I once was paired in a junior tournament with current Bruin standout Amie Cochran when she was 10 years old. Crucial to my success as a professional golfer was my ability to set high goals, breakdown my route to accomplishing these goals and an unwavering work ethic to get the job done. These were all skills ingrained in me by my family and natured through my relationships with my coaches, professors, staff members and peers at UCLA. Being a Bruin is all about "doing" and not just "trying," a concept my coach, Jackie Steinman, tirelessly instilled in me.

BB: Following your professional career, you got into coaching.
Sugg: In 2001, I was named as the first coach for the University of Richmond Women's Golf team. In their first season of competition the Spiders finished third in the Colonial Athletic Conference Women's Championship, where I was fortunate to be named coach of the year. Over the next two seasons, our program continued to develop and recruit players from all over the U.S. and the world. While coaching, I was able to incorporate everything I had learned as a player to help collegiate players achieve their goals. Central to my coaching philosophy is teaching my students to "always keep their minds open to the possibility of something positive happening" or OPP's. This applies not only to golf, but to life as well. This phase of my life was extremely fulfilling.

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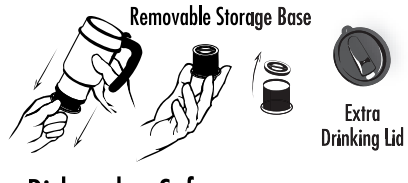

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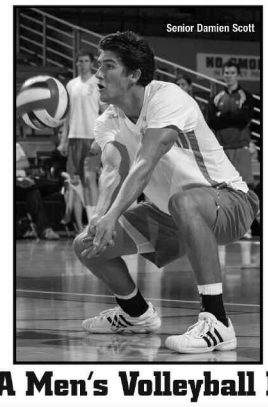

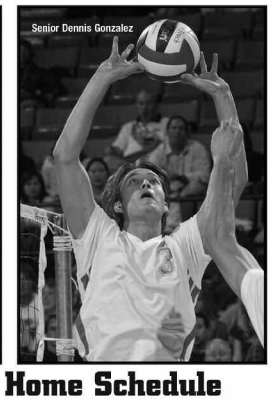

2005-06 UCLA Men's Volleyball Home Schedule

Day, Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Fri., December 30	†Winnipeg	Pauley Pavilion	7:00 PM
Thurs., January 26	*BYU	Pauley Pavilion	7:00 PM
Sat., January 28	*BYU	Pauley Pavilion	7:00 PM
Fri., February 3	UC Santa Cruz	Pauley Pavilion	7:00 PM
Wed., February 8	*UC Santa Barbara	Pauley Pavilion	7:00 PM
Fri., February 10	*CS Northridge	Pauley Pavilion	7:00 PM
Thurs., February 16	*Stanford	Pauley Pavilion	7:00 PM
Fri., February 17	*Pacific	Pauley Pavilion	7:00 PM
Wed., March 1	*Pepperdine	Pauley Pavilion	7:00 PM
Fri., March 3	*UC Irvine	Pauley Pavilion	7:00 PM
Tues., March 7	Loyola Chicago	Pauley Pavilion	7:00 PM
Wed., March 8	Lewis	Pauley Pavilion	7:00 PM
Fri., March 17	*USC (Kilgour Cup)	Pauley Pavilion	7:00 PM
Sat., March 18	George Mason	Pauley Pavilion	7:00 PM
Fri., March 31	*Long Beach State	Wooden Center	7:00 PM
Sat., April 1	*UC San Diego	Wooden Center	7:00 PM

All times Pacific
† - Preseason matches. Admission is free.
* - Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Matches

For ticket info call 310-UCLA-WIN or visit uclaBruins.com

BB: What was most rewarding about coaching?
Sugg: The most rewarding part of coaching was seeing my students achieve the goals they set for themselves. One these moments occurred at the 2002 CAA Conference Championships. During the second round of play, I watched my players break their one-day scoring goal of 330. Although, to most in the collegiate golf world, this may not seem like much of an accomplishment, but for my team this was a huge obstacle to overcome. This was a goal they set for themselves, a goal they thought they could not achieve. But in the end, they did. They were not satisfied with just trying. Seeing the faces of my players when they realized what they had done was a memory I will always cherish and a rush comparable to anything I have ever felt in achieving any of my individual goals.

BB: How did you get into administration?
Sugg: In 2005, I was promoted to Assistant Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator. Although I saw myself eventually moving to administration, I was blessed for this opportunity to come so soon in my post-professional golf career. It was a difficult decision to leave coaching, but I felt that there was a strong need for women who have participated in sports at a high collegiate and professional level to have a voice in the world of athletics. Who better to understand and be a voice of female student-athletes than someone who has walked in their shoes? The chance to impact so many lives of student-athletes is rewarding. In many ways, I feel that this job is just another way of giving back to sports just a small part of what the opportunity to play golf has given me.

BB: Describe a typical day in your office.
Sugg: My primary responsibility is to oversee the day-to-day operation of all non-revenue sports. They sports include men's and women's golf, men's and women's soccer, women's swimming, field hockey, baseball, men's and women's cross country / track and field, and men's and women's tennis. My job is to support the coaching staffs assuring them that they have all the tools necessary to be successful. I assist with scheduling, budgeting, and generally look out to make sure all our student-athletes have an environment where they can be successful both on and off their respective fields of play. Also, I am overseeing the development of a new golf practice facility for our golf programs. Although I have many days where I work during regular business hours, I also take time to travel with many of the teams to regular and post-season games.

BB: What's the best part of working in administration?
Sugg: One of my primary concerns in moving to administration was losing my connection with student-athletes. However, by maintaining an open door policy with our athletes and being visible at home games, study hall, and at athletic department sponsored leadership events, I have been able to touch the lives of many more athletes than I did with just one team. In many ways, this job is much more influential and rewarding.

BB: How do you enjoy your spare time?
Sugg: I still play in professional events occasionally. Also, I am active in the First Tee Program. I still have a passion for learning and read voraciously all kinds of books from History to Harry Potter. I still enjoy working out and spending the rest of my free time cuddling with my Dalmatian, PK.



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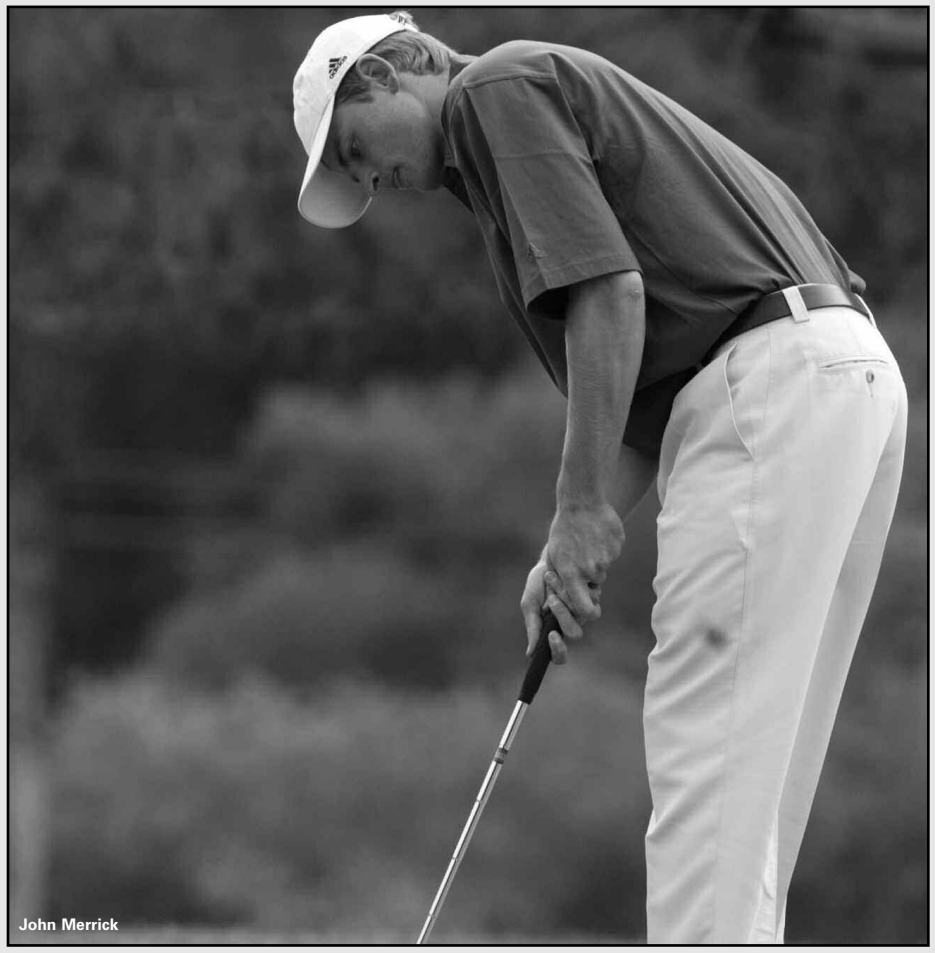
8-CLAP: *Who's Who in Ucla Athletics*


John Merrick

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to former All-American and 2003 Pac-10 individual champion John Merrick (UCLA '04), who advanced to the third stage of PGA TOUR Qualifying by recording a 72-hole score of 288 (E), Nov. 14-19 at the Bayonet Golf Course in Seaside, CA. After playing the first 36 holes in five-over par (74-75), Merrick, 23, played the final 36 in five-under par (69-70) to join former teammate Parker McLachlin (see story on page 9) at the final stage of TOUR qualifying, Nov. 30-Dec. 5 at Orange County National in Winter Garden, FL. All 170 players in stage three will receive either Nationwide or PGA Tour status (exempt or conditional) based on their finish.

Beginning on the same date, former three-time UCLA All-American Charlotte Mayorkas will attempt to earn her tour card with the LPGA at Daytona Beach, FL. Mayorkas played in 10 Futures Tour events over the summer and earned more than $15,000, including a pair of Top 10 finishes. She was 16th on the Futures Tour money list, a high enough finish that she earned an exemption into the final stage of LPGA Tour Qualifying.

"It's five rounds," Mayorkas, 22, said regarding the LPGA Q-School event. "I'm practicing. I have a couple of tournaments I'm going to play in (until qualifying). I've been getting lessons pretty much every week. I've been playing on the courses that the team plays, training, and hitting balls at night. I'm looking forward to this."


Lisa Schreiber

Congratulations to former UCLA great **Mebrahtom Keflezighi**, the 2004 Olympic silver medalist in the marathon. He married Yordanos Asgedom in Tampa, FL on Nov. 19. … Basketball operations director **Chris Carlson** and his wife **Karen** celebrated the birth of their second son on Oct. 1, **Charlie Glenn Carlson**. The five-pound, 18-inch Charlie joined his three-year old brother **Nicklas**. … UCLA video assistant **Eric Kowal** and his wife **Leilani** welcomed son **Thor Michael** into their family on Oct. 11. Thor joins his sister **Malia** in the Kowal household. … After nine years in the athletic department's business and finance office, **Phil Wang** left in October to become the Associate Athletic Director, Business & Finance at UC Irvine … **Rebecca Yee**, the Financial Manager of the Central Ticket Office, replaced Wang on Nov. 1. Yee began working at the CTO as a student (she was hired by Wang) and graduated from UCLA in 1997 with a double-major in Biology and Anthropology … **Laura Stephey** began working in October as the Accounting Assistant replacing **Diana Alderette**. Laura came from Nevada Las Vegas where she most recently worked in the Athletic Business Operations office. Prior to working at UNLV she worked at UCLA for Center X and ASUCLA. She graduated from UCLA with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and with a specialization in Business and Administration … **Lisa Schreiber** began working as the Athletic Department's Assistant Marketing Director on Oct. 3. Lisa graduated from UCLA in 2001 before moving to New York City to work with Saatchi & Saatchi worldwide advertising for one year. She then moved to Tempe, AZ in 2002 and served a graduate assistantship in the Arizona State Athletic Marketing Department while obtaining her Masters in Higher Education Policy. She was hired full-time by ASU and worked there in 2004 before returning to UCLA.



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(Athletic Department employees, their relatives, student-athletes and prospective student-athletes are not eligible.)

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Last month's winner was Mitch Dimkich of San Marino, who correctly guessed the identity of Ezell "The Eel" Singleton.

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A Postcard from the Pros



Former Bruin Parker McLachlin (UCLA'02) advanced to the third stage of PGA TOUR Qualifying by recording a 72-hole score of 288 (E), Nov. 11-14 at the Deerwood GC in Kingwood, TX. McLachlin posted rounds of 75-71-69-73 and tied for 19th place—right "on the number." McLachlin's final round was a stressful one. He overcame four consecutive bogeys mid-round and was forced to birdie the final hole — a 459-yard par 4. The Honolulu, HI native who played at UCLA from 1999-2002 will play in the 90-hole final stage (along with former UCLA teammate John Merrick) at Orange County National in Winter Garden, FL on Nov. 30-Dec.5.

Bruin Blue caught up with McLachlin a few weeks ago as he was playing in the Callaway Invitational at Pebble Beach. McLachlin finished fourth in the Callaway Invitational with scores of 69-66-69-69-273 (-15).

Bruin Blue: Tell us what you have been doing since graduating from UCLA.
Parker McLachlin: The last two years I've been playing on the Hooters Tour, the Gateway Tour, the Spanos Tour—a variety of mini tours.

BB: Talk about Stage Two of Tour Qualifying.
McLachlin: This is my third year in a row (trying to qualify). This is the one. I've got to get through to get a steady place to play for the following year. (First round 75) I felt uncomfortable, being in that situation. I felt a little out of my game. I got back to my game in the last three rounds. I played a little more free-flowing round, rather than trying so hard. (Second round): I was three-under with five holes to go and made a couple of bogeys coming in. I was a little disappointed with that. In the third round I did the same thing. I was five under after eight holes and then made two bogeys in the last four holes to shoot three-under (69). (Final round): Looking back on it, I felt like I kind of blanked out in the middle of the round — seven, eight, nine and 10 — four (bogeys) in a row. It wasn't like I was playing bad; I missed a four-footer on one hole, then hit it in the water on another hole, made a great-up-and-down to save bogey on another hole. I told myself on the back nine that it was the nine I was playing well on and if I could make a few birdies and get it going in the right direction, I'd have a chance. I birdied 12, bogeyed 13, birdied 14, then I made a few pars. On the last hole I didn't think I had a chance, but I was still trying as hard as I could. I hit a 4-iron to one foot on the last hole. I looked at my caddie — it was just a tap-in — and I said, 'Boy wouldn't this be nice if this is the shot that got me into the final stage.' It worked out that it was the shot that got me into the final stage.

I had no idea what the number was. After I signed my scorecard, the number was three-under so I was three shots out. The number kept coming back. It was two-under, then one-under. Two guys in the second to last group came in; one guy shot 77 and the other shot 78 to finish at even par with me and let everybody else at even par back in.

BB: Tell us about stage three.
McLachlin: Basically final stage is 170 guys. The Top 30 at the end of six rounds get their PGA Tour card for one (calendar) year. The next 50 get their Nationwide Tour card, fully exempt. After those 50, everyone else is conditionally exempt onto the Nationwide Tour. Everybody at the final stage will have some kind of status on the Nationwide or the PGA Tour next year.

BB: How do you prepare for six rounds of stressful golf in stage three?
McLachlin: It's basically like running a marathon. It's about mental and physical discipline and conserving your energy. It will probably come down to who has the most energy, physically and mentally.

BB: Any advice for younger players?
McLachlin: It comes down to how much desire they've got—having the work ethic and a good frame of mind. I would continue to preach to them to practice and stay in school. Most golfers don't peak until their early thirties, some in their late thirties or early forties. There's no real reason to leave school early. It's an invaluable experience to stay in school, especially a school like UCLA.

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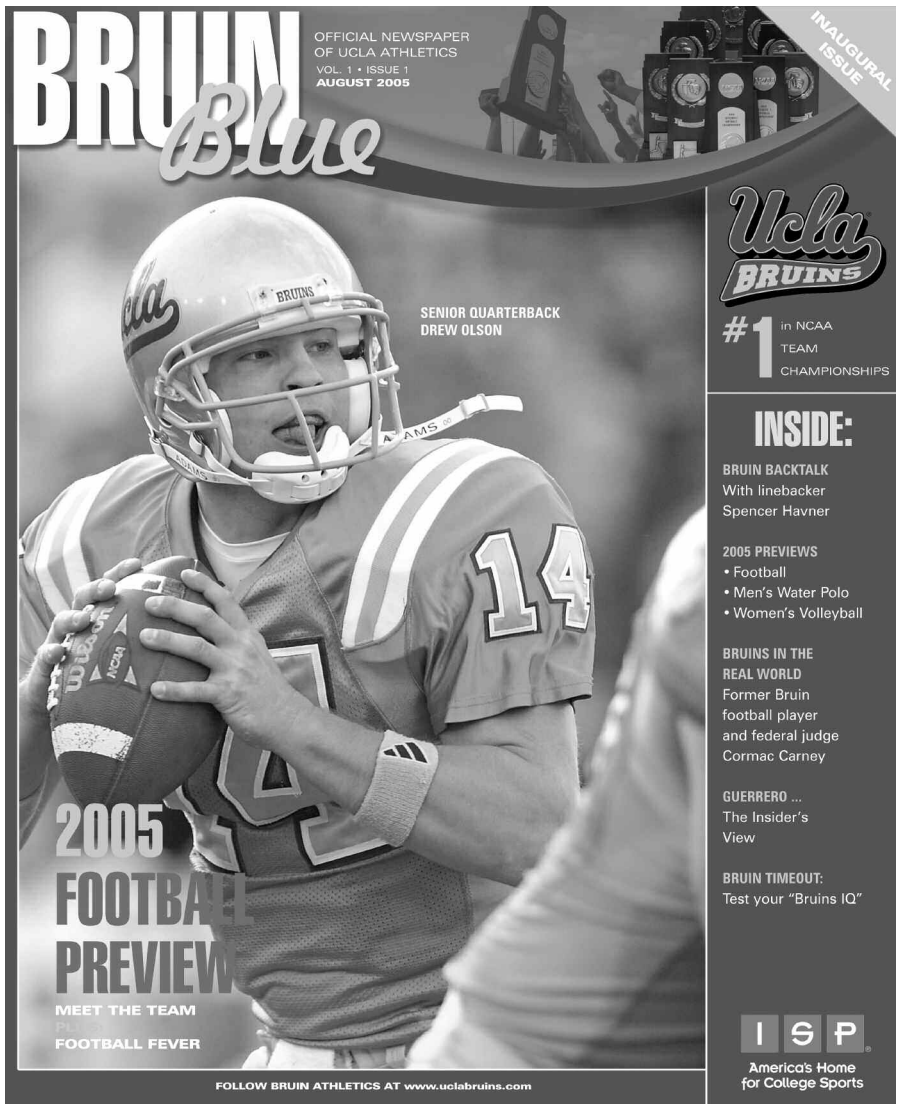

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