



CORI CLOSE

The Michael Price Family UCLA
Women's Head Basketball Coach
13th Season

Cori Close was named The Michael Price Family UCLA Women's Head Basketball Coach on April 21, 2011, and is currently 260-133 (.662) overall. She joins Billie Moore (296-181) and Kathy Olivier (232-208) as the only coaches in program history to eclipse the 200-win milestone.

Close brought in her second top-rated recruiting class ahead of the 2022-23 season and immediately utilized the young talent alongside the veteran core. The five freshmen each played an average of 19.0 minutes per game once they arrived in Westwood, the most of any freshman class in the NCAA. The Bruins recorded 13 wins in their first 14 games to begin the season. It was the best start for the program since the 2019-20 campaign. UCLA captured the Battle 4 Atlantis championship in The Bahamas, taking down Marquette in overtime of the final game of the tournament.

The team led the Pac-12 in offensive rebounds per game (14.9 ORPG) en route to a run at the Pac-12 Tournament championship. UCLA defeated No. 1 seeded Stanford in the Pac-12 semifinals, punching a ticket to the championship game. Senior Charisma Osborne, redshirt-sophomore Emily Bessoir and freshman Kiki Rice earned Pac-12 All-Tournament team for the Conference runner-up efforts; Osborne was named All-Pac-12, and Rice was named Londynn Jones on the Pac-12 All-Freshman team. The Bruins returned to the Sweet 16 in NCAA March Madness in postseason play, ending their season against No. 1 seed South Carolina in the Greenville region of the tournament.

The 2021-22 season proved to be "one of the most challenging years of [Close's] career," as the Bruins battled injuries and faced postponements and a forfeiture due to COVID-19 protocols. UCLA finished 18-13 overall, but the team managed to catch fire late in the season. Close guided the Bruins to a postseason run in the WNIT, making a trip to the semifinals before falling to South Dakota State.

Close led the Bruins through an unpredictable 2020-21 season, a campaign that required Close to navigate COVID-19 protocols and a limited roster. The Bruins posted a 17-6 overall record, picking up wins against five ranked opponents. The Bruins were ranked inside the top 11 of the AP Poll throughout the season and notched the No. 5 spot in November, the highest ranking for the program since 2017. Close guided the Bruins to the Pac-12 Tournament championship game and an eventual three-seed in the NCAA Tournament. It was the sixth NCAA Tournament appearance under Close's tenure.

Michaela Onyenwere earned AP Third-Team All-American honors for the second-straight year and was selected by the New York Liberty with the sixth pick in the 2021 WNBA Draft. Onyenwere became the sixth Bruin under Close's tenure to be drafted into the WNBA, and the fifth in four years.

2019-20 was an historic year for Close and the Bruins. UCLA won its first 13 games of the campaign, setting a new program record for the most consecutive wins to start a season. The Bruins' win over then-No. 6 Stanford marked Close's 100th-career Pac-12 victory. A win over the Trojans in the Pac-12 Tournament quarterfinals won the Bruins the season series over their crosstown rival. UCLA would, ultimately, finish the year 26-5 and was set to host the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament. The national postseason schedule, however, was canceled due to COVID-19.

Close helped guide the Bruins to a myriad of individual honors during the 2019-20 season. Junior Michaela Onyenwere earned AP Third Team All-America acclaim and also garnered All-Pac-12 recognition. Senior Japreece Dean also earned All-Pac-12 honors while Charisma Osborne picked up Pac-12 All-Freshman accolades. Dean was drafted with the 30th overall pick by the Chicago Sky in the 2020 WNBA Draft, becoming the fifth draft pick across Close's tenure at the helm.

The 2018-19 season saw UCLA win 13 of its last 17 games and finish fourth in a highly competitive Pac-12 Conference, and Close was ultimately named the Media Pac-12 Coach of the Year. The Bruins collected nine road wins, the most since 2012-13 when the team had 13. UCLA also had seven top-25 wins, including a pair of top-10 wins over then-ranked No. 2 Oregon and No. 9 Maryland. In UCLA's historic win over the Ducks on Feb. 22, the Bruins overcame a 22-point deficit and secured their biggest win since knocking off No. 2 Stanford in 2008. The loss for Oregon marked its only setback in Eugene that season.

UCLA, which ranked second in the NCAA in offensive rebounds per game (17.3) in 2018-19, ultimately finished 22-13 on the year, reaching the semifinals of the Pac-12 Tournament and collecting NCAA Tournament wins over Tennessee and Maryland, before falling to perennial power UCONN by a final score of 69-61. It was the fourth-straight Sweet 16 appearance for UCLA, making the Bruins one of just eight NCAA Division I programs to do so. In the final ESPN/USA Today rankings, UCLA rose 10 spots to No. 14, the highest leap by any program in the polls. Close produced her fourth WNBA draft pick as a head coach, as Kennedy Burke was picked in the second round by the Dallas Wings as the 22nd overall pick.

For Close's complete bio, visit uclabruins.com.

COACH CLOSE CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Led UCLA to five-straight NCAA Tournaments.
- One of three coaches in program history to achieve the 200-win milestone
- Coached in 22 NCAA Tournaments
- Advanced to at least the 2nd round in her last 17 NCAA Tournaments
- Teams have advanced to eight Sweet 16's and two Elite 8's
- Teams have won or shared a total of 11 conference titles
- Helped Florida State win a school record 29 games in 2010
- Helped coach 16 players drafted by WNBA teams
- Won UCLA's first-ever postseason WNIT Championship in 2015

CLOSE HEAD COACH RECORD YEAR-BY-YEAR

Year	Record	School	Conf.	Finish	Conf. Tourney	NCAA (NIT)
2022-23	27-10	UCLA	11-7	5th	Runner-up	Sweet 16
2021-22	18-13	UCLA	8-8	7th	Second Rd.	(Semifinals)
2020-21	17-6	UCLA	12-4	3rd	Runner-up	Second Round
2019-20	26-5	UCLA	14-4	2nd	Semifinals	Canceled --
2018-19	22-13	UCLA	12-6	4th	Semifinals	Sweet 16
2017-18	27-8	UCLA	14-4	T-3rd	Semifinals	Elite 8
2016-17	25-9	UCLA	13-5	4th	Semifinals	Sweet 16
2015-16	26-9	UCLA	14-4	T-3rd	Runner-up	Sweet 16
2014-15	19-18	UCLA	8-10	6th	Second Rd.	(Champions)
2013-14	13-18	UCLA	7-11	8th	First Rd.	---
2012-13	26-8	UCLA	14-4	3rd	Runner-up	Second Round
2011-12	14-16	UCLA	9-9	T-5th	First Rd.	---
Totals	260-133, .662			135-76, .640		

RECORD VS. ALL FOES AT UCLA

School	Record	Kansas State	1-0	Rice	1-0	USF	1-0
American	1-0	Kentucky	0-1	Sacramento State	3-0	Utah	17-2
Air Force	1-0	Kent State	0-1	Saint John's	3-0	Virginia	2-0
Arizona	17-6	Long Beach State	1-0	Saint Joseph's	1-1	Washington	14-6
Arizona State	17-3	LSU	0-1	Saint Mary's	2-0	Washington State	15-6
Auburn	0-1	Louisiana Tech	1-0	Samford	1-0	Weber State	1-0
Baylor	1-2	Loyola Marymount	3-1	San Diego	1-0	West Virginia	1-1
Boise State	1-0	Marquette	1-0	San Diego State	3-0	Wyoming	2-0
California	14-9	Maryland	1-0	San Jose State	2-0	Yale	1-0
Cal Poly	4-0	McNeese State	1-0	Seton Hall	2-0	Totals	260-133
Cal State Fullerton	1-0	Miami	0-1	South Carolina	0-4		
Cincinnati	1-0	Michigan	3-0	South Dakota State	1-2		
Colgate	1-0	Minnesota	1-0	South Florida	0-1		
Colorado	12-6	Mississippi State	0-1	Southern	1-0		
Connecticut	0-5	Nebraska	0-2	Stetson	1-0		
Creighton	2-0	North Carolina	0-3	Stanford	5-17		
CSU Bakersfield	4-0	North Carolina A&T	1-0	Temple	0-1		
CSUN	2-1	North Carolina State	0-1	Tennessee	2-1		
Fordham	1-0	Northern Colorado	2-0	Tennessee Tech	1-0		
Fresno State	2-0	Notre Dame	0-4	Texas	2-3		
Georgia	2-0	Oklahoma	3-1	Texas A&M	1-0		
Grand Canyon	1-0	Oklahoma State	1-1	Toledo	1-0		
Hawaii'i	2-0	Oregon	9-13	Troy	1-0		
Illinois-Chicago	1-0	Oregon State	9-13	UCF	1-0		
Indiana	1-1	Pacific	2-0	UC Irvine	2-0		
Iowa	1-0	Pepperdine	3-0	UC Riverside	4-0		
Jackson State	1-0	Presbyterian College	1-0	UC Santa Barbara	4-0		
James Madison	1-2	Princeton	1-0	USC	19-7		

RECORD AS ASSISTANT OR ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH

Year	Record	School	Conf.	Finish	NCAA
2010-11	24-8	Florida State	11-3	3rd	2nd Rd.
2009-10	29-6	Florida State	12-2	T-1st	Elite 8
2008-09	26-8	Florida State	12-2	T-1st	2nd Rd.
2007-08	19-14	Florida State	7-7	5th	2nd Rd.
2006-07	24-10	Florida State	10-4	4th	Sweet 16
2005-06	20-10	Florida State	10-4	4th	2nd Rd.
2004-05	24-8	Florida State	9-5	4th	2nd Rd.
2003-04	27-7	UCSB	17-1	1st	Sweet 16
2002-03	27-5	UCSB	15-1	1st	2nd Rd.
2001-02	26-6	UCSB	16-0	1st	2nd Rd.
2000-01	22-9	UCSB	12-2	1st	1st Rd.
1999-00	30-4	UCSB	15-0	1st	1st Rd.
1998-99	26-4	UCSB	15-0	1st	1st Rd.
1997-98	27-6	UCSB	14-1	1st	2nd Rd.
1996-97	24-6	UCSB	14-1	1st	1st Rd.
1995-96	24-7	UCSB	14-2	1st	---
1994-95	10-17	UCLA	5-13	T-8th	---
1993-94	15-12	UCLA	10-8	5th	---
Totals	424-147 (.743)			218-56 (.796)	

PLAYERS COACHED BY CLOSE IN WNBA DRAFT

Year	Name	Rd	Pick	Team
2021	Michaela Onyenwere	1st	6	New York Liberty
2020	Japreece Dean	3rd	30	Chicago Sky
2019	Kennedy Burke	2nd	22	Dallas Wings
2018	Jordin Canada	1st	5	Seattle Storm
	Monique Billings	2nd	15	Atlanta Dream
2016	Nirra Fields	3rd	32	Phoenix Mercury
2010	Jacinta Monroe	1st	6	Washington Mystics
2009	Britany Miller	2nd	18	Detroit Shock
	Tanae Davis-Cain	3rd	37	Detroit Shock
	Mara Freshour	3rd	38	Seattle Storm
2005	Kristen Mann	1st	11	Minnesota Lynx
	Roneeka Hodges	2nd	15	Houston Comets
2004	Lindsay Taylor	2nd	26	Houston Comets
2002	Kayte Christensen	3rd	40	Phoenix Mercury
2001	Erin Buescher	2nd	23	Minnesota Lynx
2000	Stacy Clinesmith	2nd	30	Sacramento Monarchs



SHANNON
LeBEAUF

Associate Head Coach
13th Season

Shannon LeBeauf, who was promoted to associate coach prior to the 2019-20 campaign, joined the UCLA women's basketball coaching staff in May of 2011 and enters her 13th season with the program. She also serves as the program's recruiting coordinator.

In 12 seasons with the team, she has helped guide the Bruins to 260 wins and seven NCAA Tournament appearances, including an Elite 8 berth in 2018. Most recently, Perry-LeBeauf helped guide the Bruins to the Pac-12 Tournament championship game and an appearance in the NCAA Sweet Sixteen in 2023.

LeBeauf helped bring in UCLA's first-ever No. 1-ranked recruiting class in 2014-15. The class included Reece' Caldwell, Jordin Canada, Monique Billings, Lajahna Drummer and Kelli Hayes. In 2021-22, the Bruins' recruiting class of Kiki Rice, Gabriela Jaquez, Londynn Jones, Christeen Iwuala and Lina Sontag also ranked first nationally.

While at Duke, LeBeauf helped bring in the No. 2 recruiting class in the nation in 2005, which included National High School Player of the Year Abby Waner. She also helped recruit the No. 3 recruiting class in the nation in 2007 with WBCA All-Americans Jasmine Thomas, Krystal Thomas and Karima Christmas, as well as the No. 5 class in 2008. Her duties on the Duke coaching staff included recruiting, practice instruction, scouting and coaching guards. LeBeauf coached five All-Americans at Duke, including future WNBA players Waner, Lindsey Harding, Alison Bales, Monique Currie, and Chante Black. She coached in the NCAA Tournament all five years at Duke, with the Blue Devils advancing to the championship game in 2006. Duke captured Atlantic Coast Conference regular season championships in 2005 and 2007.

While at USC, Perry-LeBeauf's responsibilities were national recruiting, practice instruction and academic liaison. She helped USC sign a top-10 recruiting class in 2004. At Iowa, she was involved with daily practice instruction, coaching the post players, scouting, recruiting and monitoring academic progress of student-athletes.

LeBeauf graduated in 1998 from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts in journalism and communication studies, where she graduated with honors. She was a four-year letterwinner at Iowa from 1995-98 and was regarded as the team's leading defensive player throughout that time. She led the Hawkeyes to the 1997 Big Ten Tournament title, as well as regular season titles in 1996 and 1998. Her teams advanced to the NCAA Tournament her final three seasons and made a trip to the Sweet 16 in 1996. Additionally, she was a three-time All-Big Ten Academic selection and received the 1998 Robin Roberts/WBCA Sports Communication Scholarship award and the 1998 NCAA Women's Enhancement Post-Graduate Scholarship award.



TASHA
BROWN

Assistant Coach
Sixth Season

Tasha Brown is in her sixth season in 2022-23 as an assistant coach for the UCLA women's basketball team. Brown's presence on the staff has helped the Bruins compile 110 wins over the last four seasons, including a trio of NCAA Tournament appearances.

Brown spent the 2017-18 season as an assistant coach at Rice University after spending the previous five seasons in the same capacity at the University of Cincinnati.

With more than two decades of coaching experience, Brown has made nine postseason appearances and helped develop 16 all-conference award winners and 12 professional players. Prior to Cincinnati, Brown spent four seasons as the head coach at Western Michigan University, where she produced an All-Mid-American Conference selection and a MAC All-Academic honoree each year.

"Tasha is an elite coach," said Close. "She is a superb teacher who knows how to genuinely invest in our players as people and is an excellent recruiter. She will help us in our continual quest to be an uncommon transformational staff."

Brown also served as an assistant coach at Wisconsin (2005-08), where she helped develop perimeter players and assisted with recruiting. During the 2006-07 season, Brown and the Badgers set a program record with 23 wins and Wisconsin made its first postseason appearance since 2002.

Prior to her appointment at Wisconsin, Brown was an assistant coach at UC-Santa Barbara (who advanced to the Sweet 16) from 2001-05, where she served as the recruiting coordinator, defensive coach, and helped coordinate the offense in her final campaign. She also was the team's community outreach coordinator and was in charge of guard development.

Brown also had coaching stints at Bradley University, the University of Dayton and she began her coaching career at St. Ambrose in 1997.

A native of Rock Island, Ill., Brown is a graduate of St. Ambrose (1997) in Davenport, Iowa, with a degree in mathematics. She played four years of collegiate basketball, the first two of which were spent at Illinois Central College. After graduating from ICC, Brown attended Southwest Missouri State before transferring to St. Ambrose. In her lone season with the Queen Bees, the team went 27-7 and advanced to the NAIA National Tournament.

Brown is married to Darryl Brown, who in June of 2019 was hired as an assistant coach for the CSU-Northridge women's basketball team.





TONY NEWMAN

Assistant Coach
13th Season

Tony Newnan joined the UCLA women's basketball staff in May of 2011 and enters his 13th season as assistant coach at UCLA in 2022-23. He also serves as the program's international recruiting coordinator.

Newnan and Associate Head Coach Shannon Perry-LeBeauf have served on Head Coach Cori Close's staff for the duration of her tenure. Newnan's 12 seasons on the staff have seen the Bruins compile an impressive 260 wins. Newnan has also helped guide the squad to seven NCAA Tournament appearances, including the team's most recent appearance in 2023. The team advanced to the Sweet 16 in four-straight seasons from 2016-19 and secured an Elite 8 berth in 2018.

The architect behind UCLA's renovated offensive scheme, Newnan helped the Bruins produce the No. 2 scoring offense in the Pac-12 in 2020-21, as the team averaged 71.4 points per game and established a +13.1 scoring margin. Michaela Onyenwere (19.1 ppg) and Charisma Osborne (17.0 ppg) each averaged career-highs in scoring and earned All-Pac-12 accolades. Natalie Chou put up a career-high 9.9 points per game and secured All-Pac-12 Honorable Mention acclaim.

Newnan's international recruiting expertise was pivotal in the development of the 2020 freshman class, as UCLA brought in Izzy Anstey from Australia and Emily Bessoir from Germany.

Newnan helped bring in UCLA's first-ever No. 1-ranked recruiting class in 2014-15. The class included Reece Caldwell, Jordin Canada, Monique Billings, Lajahna Drummer and Kelli Hayes. In 2015-16, the Bruins' recruiting class of Ashley Hearn and Kennedy Burke ranked ninth nationally.

From 2000-01, Newnan worked as an assistant women's basketball coach at Oregon State University. The Beavers entered post-season play (National Women's Invitation Tournament) for the first time in six seasons during that year and were led by the play of guard Felicia Ragland who was named the Pac-10 Conference Player of the Year in 2001. Ragland, who went on to be selected by the Seattle Storm in the 2002 WNBA draft, also earned District VIII Kodak All-America honors in both 2001 and 2002.



SOH MATSUURA

Assistant Coach
First Season

UCLA Women's Basketball announced it promoted its former video coordinator, Soh Matsuura, to Assistant Coach on Oct. 4, 2023. Matsuura has been with the Bruins since the 2018-19 season.

"Soh is such a bright mind, he has a great attention to detail, he's very thorough, and he's an elite scout," said the Michael Price Family UCLA Women's Head Basketball Coach Cori Close. "I think our program is lucky that we're going to be able to expand his role."

Matsuura came on as UCLA women's basketball's video coordinator in August 2021 and served in that role over the last two seasons. Outside of his scouting duties, he was helping with on-court instruction and off-court recruiting. As an undergraduate student, he was the head manager of the UCLA women's basketball team from August 2018 until June 2020. Matsuura also acted as the head coach of UCLA women's club basketball team during the 2019-2020 school year.

"I would like to thank Coach Cori Close, Pam Walker, and the rest of the staff for this amazing opportunity, and thank my family for their continued support of me," said Matsuura. "I am extremely blessed, grateful and excited to take on a new role at this phenomenal program and institution. I am looking forward to give it my all to push forward the mission of this program and reach new heights with this team."

In addition to his work with UCLA women's hoops, Matsuura has also served as the video coordinator for USA Basketball. He earned gold medals with Team USA at the 2021 FIBA U19 Women's World Cup, the 2022 FIBA U18 Women's Americas Championship and the 2023 FIBA U19 Women's Basketball World Cup. He was responsible for all video and film needs for coaches, players, and selection committee requests; Matsuura assisted and provided scouting film prior to games, and he cut up game film after each matchup concluded.

"He has been so diligent to elevate every year and use what he's done to contribute at higher levels," said Close. "It made it a no-brainer that he had earned the opportunity to become an assistant coach in our program."

A graduate of UCLA in the class of 2020, Matsuura finished his studies at the number one public university with a bachelor's of science in physiological science. While at UCLA, Matsuura also worked for UCLA Recreation inside Pauley Pavilion presented by Wescom as an operations and special event supervisor.

Prior to his arrival in Westwood, Matsuura spent his senior year of high school interning with the New York Giants in the equipment room. He graduated from Bergen Tech High School in New Jersey.





PAM WALKER

Director of Operations
35th Season

Pam Walker, a UCLA graduate, is in her 35th season as a member of the Bruin women's basketball staff. This is her 14th season working as the Director of Basketball Operations. Prior to her current stint, she spent the previous 21 seasons at UCLA serving as an assistant coach.

Walker is responsible for scheduling, equipment, team travel, facilities, community service projects, monitoring of the players' academic progress, assisting with budgeting, camps and on-campus recruiting. She also oversees the managers and video intern and liaisons with marketing, development and sports information.

During the 2018-19 season, UCLA women's basketball celebrated Walker in a surprise ceremony during the Bruins' Dec. 28 game vs. Cal Poly. Multiple alumni made the trip to Westwood to join the celebration of Walker's 30th season with the program.

During her coaching tenure at UCLA, the Bruins competed in the NCAA Tournament seven times, including an Elite Eight appearance in 1999. UCLA also won a Pac-10 regular season title in 1999 and a Pac-10 Tournament title in 2006. Walker coached two Pac-10 Players of the Year, four Pac-10 Freshmen of the Year and seven All-Americans.

Walker joined the Bruin staff prior to the 1989-90 season after four years as head girls' basketball coach at Hart High School (1986-89) in Newhall, Calif. In her final season at Hart, she guided the school to the quarterfinals of the state championship tournament, the CIF 5-A Southern Section championship and the Foothill League title. She was also named CIF Coach of the Year that season. Several of her high school standouts continued their playing careers at the college level.

Prior to coaching at Hart, Walker served as head girls' basketball coach at St. Bernard's High School in Playa del Rey, Calif. (1984-85), and at Van Nuys High School (1982), where she directed the Wolves into the Los Angeles City championship game.

Walker, who graduated from UCLA in 1985 with a Bachelor of Arts in political science, international relations, earned her master's degree in education at UCLA in 1990. She has been married since 2004 to Larry Muir, who teaches history and is the head football coach at Valencia High School. Muir was a member of the UCLA football team from 1989-90. The couple lives in Valencia with their beagle, Dee.

