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GUERRERO ...

The Insider's View

*I*f I asked 10 people what business I'm in, I wouldn't be surprised to receive 10 divergent responses. Are we in the sports business? Yes and no. We manage, coach, and run many teams, yet only two of these teams serve as economic drivers for our entire program...a difficult business

model indeed. Are we in the academic business? Without question. We take the student in student-athlete very seriously, and spend enormous amounts of time, money and energy to ensure each Bruin receives every resource necessary to succeed academically and on the road of life.

Are we in the fund-raising business? Certainly. Without private support, we would not be #1 on the NCAA championship list, wouldn't have our outstanding coaches and facilities, and most certainly would not compete at the national level in every sport. Are we in the advertising business? Yes. The TV and radio business? Yes again. Are we medical practitioners? Without doubt. I could go on, but you get the point. Perhaps, there is one more label to be considered. We are absolutely in the collegiate athletics business. That's what we sell: student-athletes performing to the best of their abilities on behalf of their respective universities and colleges. And as we all know, in addition to the visible performers, there are dedicated employees behind the scenes who make this diverse industry and complex enterprise work.

Whether our football team is playing in the Rose Bowl or traveling to an away game, there is another team at work staging the event or organizing the trip. Under the direction of 22-year department veteran and Assistant Athletic Director Mike Dowling, our Event Management and Travel unit, consisting of eight full-time employees, takes care of every detail related to home and away events. And I mean *every* detail, from police escorts, to paying officials, striping fields, arranging rental cars, chartering aircraft, to lighting, staffing, security, PA systems, scoreboard operations, hotel reservations, meal arrangements, and coordination with TV broadcasters, paramedics, ushers, gatemen, the ticket office, the band, etc. I could fill three Bruin Blue columns describing the job responsibilities of Events and Travel, but instead will tell a true story with a happy ending.

The thankless nature of the event/travel job is such that if every detail is nailed and nothing goes wrong, the unit essentially is invisible. That rarely happens though, as so many aspects are out of the unit's direct control, and on-the-fly adjustments and decisions are commonplace. Take the simple matter of football team transportation to the airport. A few years ago, the department bought out a full commercial flight for a west coast football trip because it was less expensive than chartering a plane. As such, there was no flexibility on the departure time. No problem. Charter four buses, leave the

campus on time, and fly to Oakland. The first two buses left without incident, but just as it was pulling onto Gayley, bus #3 lost an axle. Bus #4 didn't have enough seats for the stranded passengers, and all of a sudden the travel coordinator was on the hot seat to come up with AND implement a solution within minutes.

Chartering another bus proved too time-consuming, given the departure time from LAX. Asking department employees to drive the remaining passengers to the airport proved impractical. However, thanks to a creative administrator, who had been on bus #4, a third idea saved the day. He took it upon himself to run to Westwood Blvd., board one of the Lot 32 shuttle buses, kindly persuade all of the passengers to take another shuttle, and commandeer the vehicle to the airport. And that's exactly what happened — problem solved, flight boarded, game won.

Leadership is found throughout this entire organization... at every level. As the Athletic Director, I cannot stress this point enough.

I am fortunate to have a terrific staff and an outstanding group of coaches, committed to this University and to the student-athletes who make every effort to graduate and win championships for all of us. This is truly what makes us a great athletic program.

We ARE the mighty Bruins!

Dan Guerrero

Dan Guerrero

From the Editor:

In the story of the tortoise and the hare, an ugly, plodding, hard-shelled reptile wins a foot race against a glamorous, lithe mammal built for speed.

You know the storyline: one contestant dupes an opponent out of his game plan and the underdog beats the hot dog.

By the time you read this, we'll know the results of the men's basketball team at the Final Four. No matter. The Bruins, picked to finish third in the conference race and ranked no better than 15th at the start of the season, have exceeded all of our expectations.

They're not an oil painting and they don't care. They're a bunch of grimy mechanics in a town of shiny Italian sports cars. But they win and they dazzle us with their resolve.

"There are no ugly victories," said Athletic Director Dan Guerrero.

Just ask the tortoise.

Go Bruins!

rb

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UCLA FOOTBALL: SPRING

BY STEPHANIE SAMPSON, UCLA SPORTS INFORMATION ASSISTANT

Last season, the Bruin football team had one of the best years in recent history, going 10-2 with a final win in the Vitalis Sun Bowl against Northwestern, but UCLA lost several key contributors to the 2005 team and had six coaching changes during the off-season. Undeterred by the staff changes and the loss of players, the Bruins turned their focus to Spring Practice during the month of March.

Head Coach Karl Dorrell compiled an incredibly talented roster of assistant coaches and made a few changes in the off-season to the responsibilities of the three coaches he retained from the 2005 team. Returning from the 2005 team are last year's wide receivers coach Dino Babers, who will tutor the running backs and serve as UCLA's recruiting coordinator, and Jim Svoboda, last year's quarterbacks coach, was promoted to offensive coordinator and will continue to mentor the quarterbacks. Gary DeLoach, who worked with the secondary in 2005, will coach the safeties this season.

Newcomers to the staff are DeWayne Walker (defensive coordinator/secondary), Jim Colletto (assistant head coach/offensive line), Chuck Bullough (linebackers), Todd Howard (defensive line), D.J. McCarthy (receivers), and John Wristen (tight ends/special teams).

With his staff in place, Dorrell and the Bruins tackled Spring Practice—three weeks of drills and scrimmages where the new coaches and the returning players got a chance to show what they had to offer.

From the beginning the changes made on defense were apparent. There was an aggressive attitude instilled by Coach Walker that had players practicing at a spirited, up-tempo pace. Juniors Chris Horton and Christian Taylor highlighted the safeties and linebackers during camp, as both put on impressive performances in practice. Horton, who missed most of last season with a wrist injury, was hitting harder than ever, while Taylor, a former walk-on transfer from the Air Force Academy, stepped into a leadership role among the linebackers. Redshirt freshman middle linebacker Reggie Carter also made some noise in practice and could be in the starting rotation this Fall.

The defensive line, hit hard by injuries last season and this spring, will be stronger than ever in the Fall. Last season, the Bruins lost junior Kevin Brown for the season after he suffered an ankle injury in training camp. Junior Nikola Dragovic also went down with an ACL tear during the season, but both, along with junior Brigham Harwell and senior Justin Hickman, will be back to help bolster the D-line in '06. Half a dozen players were signed in February and seven others return, giving the Bruins solid depth. This group also will be experienced and tough to run against.

On the offensive side of the ball, several positions remain up for grabs. The Bruins lost three pivotal pieces to their offense—quarterback Drew Olson, running back Maurice Drew and tight end Mercedes Lewis, but UCLA has a wealth of talent ready to step up and lead this team.

The quarterback position remains up for grabs as both sophomores Ben Olson and Pat Cowan had successful camps. Although many believe Olson will become the starter in the Fall, Cowan has shown steady improvement and makes the choice of who will start behind center a tough one for Coach Dorrell.

The offensive line lost several key blockers in Ed Blanton, Bob Cleary and Mike McCloskey, but veteran guard Shannon Tevaga, a 12-game starter in 2006, returns to anchor the young line next season. No decisions have been made about who will start along with Tevaga, but Dorrell and his staff feel confident about those athletes battling for starting spots. Several experienced players return at this position, including junior Brian Abraham, senior Robert Chai and sophomore Noah Sutherland.

The running backs, receivers and tight end groups look to have the most depth on the team after a solid camp, and the Bruins will again feature another high-scoring, high-powered offense next season. Senior J.J. Hair and sophomore Ryan Moya are two of the players battling at tight end and junior Chris Markey and sophomore Kahlil Bell will compete at running back. At receiver, the familiar faces are senior Joe Cowan, junior Marcus Everett and sophomore Gavin Ketchum.

UCLA will also add an incredible amount of talent in the Fall thanks to a solid recruiting class put together by Dorrell and his staff. The new players also will be in the mix for several of the starting spots on next year's team as UCLA is in good position to duplicate last year's success.

KARL DORRELL



2006 UCLA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Site
Sat., Sept. 2	Utah	Rose Bowl
Sat., Sept. 9	Rice	Rose Bowl
Sat., Sept. 23	at Washington*	Seattle, WA
Sat., Sept. 30	Stanford*	Rose Bowl
Sat., Oct. 7	Arizona*	Rose Bowl
Sat., Oct. 14	at Oregon*	Eugene, OR
Sat., Oct. 21	at Notre Dame	South Bench, IN
Sat., Oct. 28	Washington State*	Rose Bowl
Sat., Nov. 4	at California*	Berkeley, CA
Sat., Nov. 11	Oregon State*	Rose Bowl
Sat., Nov. 18	at Arizona State*	Tempe, AZ
Sat., Dec. 2	USC*	Rose Bowl

*Pac-10 Conference game

RECAP AND 2006 PREVIEW

PATRICK COWAN



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Sep. 9 Rice
Sep. 30 Stanford
Oct. 7 Arizona
Oct. 28 Washington St.
Nov. 11 Oregon St.
Dec. 2 USC

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Bruin BACKTALK

STRAIGHT ANSWERS
FROM BRADY DOLAN

Meet Brady Dolan, a sophomore outfielder on the baseball team. If he weren't playing baseball at UCLA he'd probably be roping calves at the Rodeo or catching Blue Bellied lizards, his specialty.



My first MLB baseball game was ... 1989 L.A. Dodgers vs. SF Giants at Dodger Stadium.

My last big baseball-related purchase was ... an iPod for the long bus rides.



Who has the worst haircut in MLB ... Branson Arryo (Red Sox). Bad corn rows.

Hidden baseball talents ... I can balance a baseball bat on my chin.

First brush with baseball fame ... I played in the Western Regional All-Star (tournament) and the team came within one game of the Little League World Series.

My secret shame is ... I belt out love songs at the top of my lungs while driving.

I'm not embarrassed to ... dance at any time.

If you couldn't play your sport at UCLA, what would you play? ... I would be a team roper. There's nothing like wearing wranglers, cowboy boots and a cowboy hat. Plus, cowgirls are hot!



Phobias ... Clowns, especially small ones.



What do you love about college baseball ... My teammates.

One thing few people know about me ... I was the 1990 Blue Belly Lizard catching tournament champion.



Favorite baseball movie/Why? ... Bad News Bears. Tanner is my hero.

Favorite MLB player?/Why? ... Pete Rose. He was a gamer and always played hard and tough.

2006 HOME SCHEDULE

04/04	UC Irvine, 1:00 PM
04/07	*Washington State, 6:00 PM
04/08	*Washington State, 2:00 PM
04/09	*Washington State, 1:00 PM
04/18	Long Beach State, 6:00 PM
04/21	*Arizona State, 2:00 PM
04/22	*Arizona State, 1:00 PM
04/23	*Arizona State, 6:00 PM
04/25	UC Santa Barbara, 6:00 PM
05/12	*USC, 6:00 PM
05/13	*USC, 4:30 PM
05/14	*USC, 4:30 PM
05/19	*Stanford, 6:00 PM
05/20	*Stanford, 2:00 PM
05/21	*Stanford, 1:00 PM

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* denotes conference opponent
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2006 HOME SCHEDULE

4/1	California, 2:00 PM
4/2	California, 1:00 PM
4/21	Oregon State, 1:00 PM
4/22	Oregon, 2:00 PM
4/23	Oregon, 1:00 PM
4/26	Washington, 2:00 PM
4/28	Arizona, 1:00 PM
4/29	Arizona State, 2:00 PM
4/30	Arizona State, 1:00 PM

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Bruin Blue PHILIPP GRUENDLER • JUNIOR • MEN'S TENNIS

BY DANNY HARRINGTON, ASSISTANT SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR

In just two years at UCLA, men's tennis player Philipp Gruendler has been instrumental in the Bruins' recent success in the NCAA Tournament. The junior from Weil Am Rhein, Germany helped UCLA to the NCAA Finals in

2004 and to the school's first NCAA Championship in more than 20 years in 2005. This season, Gruendler and teammate Benjamin Kohlloeffel are currently ranked No. 4 in the country in doubles, boasting an 18-2 overall record. Gruendler is 13-8 in singles play, seeing most of his time at the No. 4 position.

BB: How did you end up at UCLA? Did you know much about college tennis before you arrived on campus? And, in terms of transition, did it help having other German/European players on the team?

Gruendler: I knew a little about college tennis before I arrived in the U.S — just a few things I heard from other people about tennis and school. But looking back, I've learned that people can tell you a lot, but you still need to experience it on your own. I knew Luben (Pampoulov) and Ben (Kohlloeffel) from home and talked to both before I came. Luben had told me that coach Martin needed a player and at that time, I had just graduated from school in Germany and was thinking about what to do next. The timing was perfect, actually. I only had a little time to do all the requirements like take the SAT, become NCAA certified, and get my visa. Fortunately, it all worked out and I joined the team in January of 2004. To have people around whom I knew before and who spoke my native language, I'd say that was very helpful in the beginning. That was one of the main reasons I decided so quickly to come to UCLA.

BB: What do you miss about home when you're in Los Angeles? Conversely, what do you miss about LA when you're back in Germany?

Gruendler: Definitely family and friends are what I miss most when I'm here. I mean, it has never been a problem for me to travel and leave home, but when I first came here it was different because I knew I was going to be gone for a long time. When I'm here, that means studying and playing tennis. Our schedules are so packed with school and events, sometimes that makes it hard to relax. When I'm back home in Germany, before I know it, I miss my friends here. And believe it or not, I also miss the tight schedule. When I'm at home on summer break, basically there is not much to do. That can be relaxing in the beginning, but it can get boring after a while. Then I can't wait to be back at school and have my regular schedule.

BB: What is your best memory on the tennis court?

Gruendler: Wow, that's a tough question. I guess winning the NCAA Championships last year was a definite highlight. I have also had lots of success at the junior level, twice finishing third at the German Championships (Under-18) and, at that time, that was probably my biggest success. But what makes our NCAA title last year so special is how much work everyone put in and dedicated to the team. Not just the players, but also coaches, supporters, school personnel, etc. When I won my match to tie the score in the final against Baylor, I didn't think about me for one second. I won this for all the people I just mentioned. I won it for the people who became my family here in the U.S. In my opinion, being successful alone is an enjoyable achievement, but being successful as a team and being able to share this special moment with all the people around me has been the best memory I've ever had on a tennis court.

BB: What was the best thing you got to do after winning the national championship?

Gruendler: Visiting the White House last summer and seeing the President was pretty impressive. I know that memory will last forever. Also, when we received our championship rings during the UCLA-ASU football game. WOW! It was an unbelievable experience to see 85,000 people watching and maybe some of them clapping for me. It's just something no one can ever take away from us!

BB: What's the best part about playing tennis at UCLA?

Gruendler: Well, tennis is what got me here and I am very thankful for that. Without tennis, I would not have had the opportunity to study at one of the best schools in the country. And being part of a successful athletic program like this, it is already more than I could have asked for. Meeting all the people related to the tennis team and going out as a group every day is something I enjoy. Being part of a team makes things a lot easier, especially if you don't feel motivated on certain days.

BB: Are you going to give the pro tour a shot after college? If not, what do you hope to be doing when you graduate? Still living in the U.S. or heading back home?

Gruendler: Right now, I don't think that I will be on the pro tour when I graduate, although I haven't totally ruled it out. I don't really have any plans quite yet. I might try to study a bit more and get a master's degree. If I do that, it will likely be in Europe rather than in the U.S.

Bruin Blue: You've won several big matches in your first two years at UCLA. The clinching point against Illinois in the 2004 NCAA Semifinals and a win against Baylor in the NCAA Finals a year ago are two that come to mind. Are these pressure situations for you or do you just go out and play?

Gruendler: Most of the time, I am a little nervous in the beginning of these matches. You know the match-up. You know it is a big occasion and you know that your point is an important one and coach wants it.

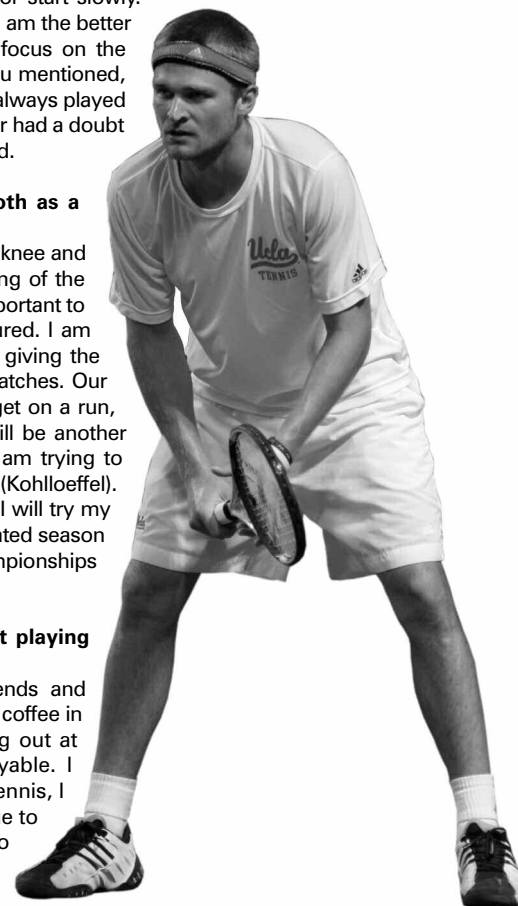
That can sometimes make me a little nervous or start slowly. However, once I get into the match and see that I am the better player, I kind of relax more and I am able to focus on the important points. Especially the two matches you mentioned, it was tough for me throughout the match, but I always played the big points at the end when it mattered. I never had a doubt that I was going to be the one winning in the end.

BB: What are your goals for this season, both as a team and individually?

Gruendler: After having problems with both my knee and back for the entire fall and most of the beginning of the spring season, my individual goals are not as important to me as they may have been had I not been injured. I am doing better and really trying hard to focus on giving the team the best chance to win by winning my matches. Our team is young but has a lot of potential. If we get on a run, and I can't guarantee anything, maybe there will be another championship in our future. One other thing I am trying to focus on right now is playing doubles with Ben (Kohlloeffel). We are undefeated (in dual matches) so far and I will try my best to keep the streak going. Maybe an undefeated season and a good finish in the NCAA Doubles Championships would be a nice addition to the team's success.

BB: What do you like to do when you're not playing tennis or studying?

Gruendler: I just enjoy hanging out with friends and having a great time. At home, I like to go out for coffee in the afternoon and just have a good time. Going out at night or just watching a movie is also enjoyable. I guess (I like) just being with friends. Besides tennis, I really like to play soccer and basketball. But due to my tennis obligations, I don't have time to do much of that while I am at UCLA.



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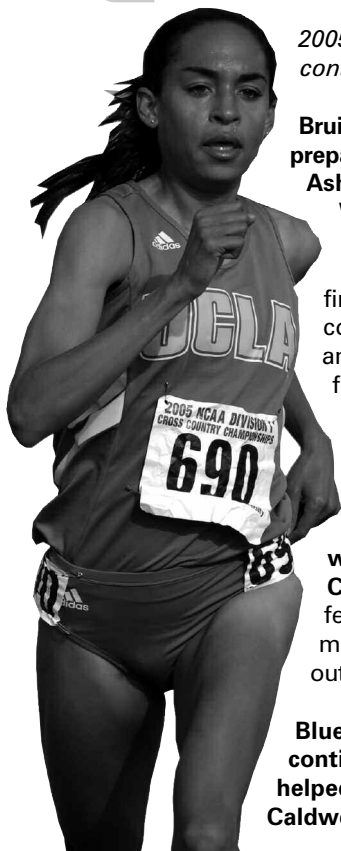
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REMAINING 2006 UCLA MEN'S TENNIS SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent/Tournament	Site	Time
Fri., Apr. 7	*Stanford	LATC	1:30 PM
Sat., Apr. 8	*California	LATC	1:00 PM
Fri., Apr. 14	*@ Oregon	Eugene, OR	1:30 PM
Sat., Apr. 15	*@ Washington	Seattle, WA	2:30 PM
Fri., Apr. 21	*@ USC	Los Angeles, CA	3:00 PM
Thurs.-Sun., Apr. 27-30	Pac-10 Championships	Ojai, California	All Day
Sat.-Sun., May 13 - 14	NCAA Regionals	TBD	TBD
Sat.-Mon., May 20 - 29	NCAA Championships	Stanford, CA	All Day
Sun., June 4	Joel Hein Day Event	LATC	9:00 AM

*Pac-10 Conference match

BY STEPHANIE SAMPSON, UCLA SPORTS INFORMATION ASSISTANT



Junior Ashley Caldwell is coming off of one of the most successful cross country seasons in recent years, earning All-America, All-Region and all-conference honors. After sitting out the 2005 track season with an injury, Caldwell is back and ready to contribute to a national championship in June.

Bruin Blue: After spending most of last season hurt, how did you prepare for the cross country season physically and mentally?

Ashley Caldwell: Physically, I did a lot of core strengthening. When you can't run, you have to strengthen the things you can and I was in the weight room a lot, as well as the training room doing rehab. Mentally, I was just kind of finding out why I want to run so much, and why I love competing. During that time, just watching my teammates and wanting to be out there with them kept me driven and focused towards returning to the team. The support I received from everyone—my family, teammates and coaches—was also very encouraging and helped me stay focused towards coming back.

Blue: Did you feel like you could have helped the women win the NCAA title last spring if you hadn't been hurt?

Caldwell: In a way, but you never know what can happen. I felt that I could have contributed but I didn't think I was the missing piece to a second consecutive title. I just wanted to be out there to help my team.

Blue: As the 2005 cross country season went on, you continued to improve and post sensational finishes. What helped contribute to that improvement?

Caldwell: The main source of improvement was simply that I

wasn't injured. Last year I had (tendinitis) that plagued me the entire season and impacted my training prior to the season. Just being healthy and coming off of a redshirt track season, really helped motivate me to get back out there.

Blue: After such a strong performance at the NCAA Cross Country Championships in 2005, how do you feel the outdoor track season will go?

Caldwell: I'm really excited and confident about the outdoor track season. I feel that right now I am aerobically stronger than ever. I've been working on regaining my speed and putting elements of my race together, and I have a very positive outlook on how the season will go.

Blue: There is a lot of young talent on this year's team. How do you think the younger athletes will fare in their first or second season?

Caldwell: I really think we have a very strong freshman/sophomore class. The girls are very driven and focused and seem to have a real passion for running. When you are a long distance runner, passion gets you a lot farther than people realize. I'm very optimistic for the program in general because of the talent we have.

Blue: The core group of the distance squad—you, Jenna Timinsky and Allison Hall redshirted last season. Does the group feel any pressure to perform and help lead this team?

Caldwell: There are always expectations on you the older you get. We have the responsibility of scoring in nationals and that's why we're on scholarship. It's part of the reason why we are on the track team. We definitely feel responsibility to do our part for the distance team. In the past, the distance team hasn't contributed as much. It's not necessarily pressure we feel, but we understand that we have to do as much as we can for the program.

Blue: During the indoor season, UCLA had a strong first showing in the distance medley relay, but never was able to improve on its time or make the NCAA Indoor meet. Do you think that hindered the team as it prepares for outdoor track?

Caldwell: I definitely wouldn't say that it set us back, but it was a big transitional stage for us. Coming off the cross country season and going right into indoor track for a distance runner is different. You go from running longer distances to having to do speed work. We never put too much emphasis on indoors as a team. It's more about having a strong cross country season and then carrying that over into outdoor track.

Blue: How do you feel this team compares to last year's team?

Caldwell: It's early in the season, but so far people seem to be doing great. The majority of people are healthy, and Dawn Harper, Chelsea Johnson and Kamaiya Warren had a great indoor season. So far, we're definitely going in a positive direction.

Blue: What are your goals this season?

Caldwell: Definitely to score at nationals. In terms of what place, the higher the better. I don't have too many specific expectations other than the overall goal. I just want to have a strong impact on the team and do my part as a captain.

Blue: What's your favorite event to run?

Caldwell: My favorite is kind of hard to say because I love both. The 1500m is still new for me, so in terms of confidence I'm more confident in the 800m. But aerobically, the 1500m will probably be a stronger event. It's just a matter of becoming more at ease with it.

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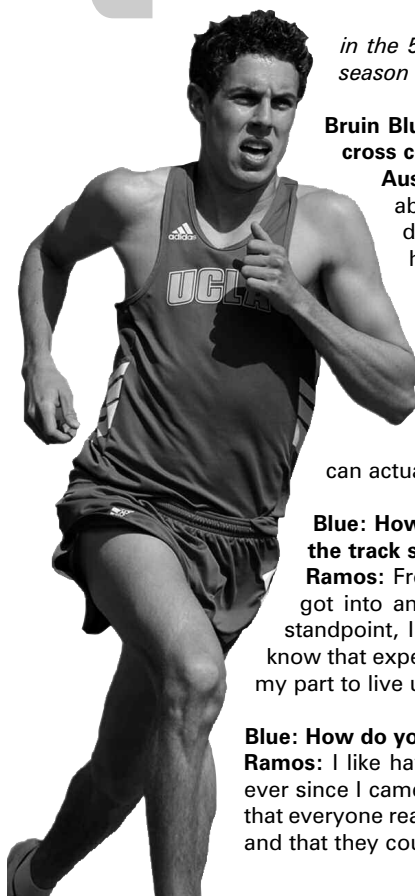
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REMAINING 2006 UCLA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD SCHEDULE

Date	Meet	Site	Time
Thurs.-Sat., Apr. 6-8	RaferJohnson/Jackie Joyner Kersee Invitational	Drake Stadium	9:00 AM
Thurs.-Sun., Apr. 13-16	@ Mt. SAC Invitational	Walnut, CA	10:00 AM
Fri. -Sat., Apr. 14-15	@ Sun Angel Invitational	Tempe, AZ	10:00 AM
Fri. - Sat., Apr. 21-22	@ UCSD Invitational	San Diego, CA	10:00 AM
Thurs.-Sat., Apr. 27-29	@ Penn Relays	Philadelphia, PA	10:00 AM
Sat., Apr. 29	USC	Drake Stadium	10:00 AM
Fri.-Sat., May 5-6	@ Pac-10 Multi Events	Eugene, OR	10:00 AM
Sat., May 6	@ Modesto Relays	Modesto, CA	10:00 AM
Sat., May 6	@ OXY Invitational	Eagle Rock, CA	10:00 AM
Sat.-Sun., May 13-14	@ Pac-10 Championships	Eugene, OR	10:00 AM
Wed., May 17	@ Salinas Throwers Meet	Salinas, CA	1:00 PM
Fri.-Sat., May 26-27	@ West Regional Championships	Provo, UT	10:00 AM
Sun., May 28	@ Home Depot Invitational	Carson, CA	10:00 AM
Weds.-Sat., June 7-10	@ NCAA Championships	Sacramento, CA	10:00 AM
Weds.-Sun., June 21-25	@ USATF Junior Championships	Indianapolis, IN	10:00 AM
Weds.-Sun., June 21-25	@ USATF Senior Championships	Indianapolis, IN	10:00 AM

BY STEPHANIE SAMPSON, UCLA SPORTS INFORMATION ASSISTANT



Junior Austin Ramos earned the first All-America honor of his career in 2005 at the NCAA Cross Country Championships and continues to build on that success in the 2006 track season. An NCAA provisional qualifier in the 5000m, Ramos is poised and ready for a strong outdoor season with his eyes set on the NCAA Championships.

Bruin Blue: To what do you attribute your success in the 2005 cross country season?

Austin Ramos: A huge part of it was staying healthy. I was able to work on getting a good base in the summer and did some great training with the team. Since I was healthy, I was able to put it all together in my races and race smart and effectively.

Blue: What did it mean to earn your first All-America honor in the cross country season?

Ramos: It allowed me to be in a class with other athletes with whom I hadn't been prior to that. From that confidence I now know who I can run with, what I can actually do, and it prepares me for races in the future.

Blue: How did your performance in cross country set you up for the track season?

Ramos: From a physical standpoint, the (physical) condition that I got into and the base that I built will carry over. From a mental standpoint, I know I can run with the top runners in the country. I know that expectations have been placed on me, and now I have to do my part to live up to them.

Blue: How do you feel about having those expectations placed on you?

Ramos: I like having the expectations. I've had expectations for myself ever since I came to UCLA. It wasn't until this past cross country season that everyone realized that the goals I had (set) for myself were legitimate, and that they could place expectations on me.

Blue: You have already qualified for the Regionals in the 1500m, which is not your marquee event. What does that say about your training at this point?

Ramos: I don't even know. I didn't expect to run that fast because I haven't run the 1500m since my senior year in high school. I just went out and ran, and the time was really good. It surprised me because of the time and because I felt so good when I was running it. Now (I have) even more confidence because not too many long distance runners can run four minutes in the mile. It also helped me realize if someone makes a move in a race, I know I can go with them because of my speed.

Blue: Will you run the 1500m again this season?

Ramos: I'll probably run it at the USC meet and focus on the 5,000 most of the season.

Blue: How did your indoor performance in the 5000m set you up for outdoors?

Ramos: I (ran personal bests) twice indoors in the two races and that gave me a general sense of what I can do, as well as the status of my conditioning. I think I could have run faster. In my last race I (ran a personal record), but I didn't make a key move. If I'd made that move, I probably would have gone to (indoor) nationals. I'm a little bit disappointed about not going to the NCAA's because I couldn't help the team, but knowing I can run those times and knowing that I can run faster than that does give me confidence in the outdoor season.

Blue: What can we expect from the distance group as a whole?

Ramos: I think the leaders on our team have really set a standard for everyone this year. Martell Munguia and Erik Emilsson are both All-Americans, and combined with my recent success, we should have quite a year. We've come together as a team and it's helped in our training. Mike Haddan had a great cross country season and showed he is capable of running at an elite level. Our steeplechasers are young, but (they) already (ran personal bests) in their first meet. Micky Cobrin is back after battling injuries and should be a real boost to the team. With Martell and Erik leading the way and me close behind, I think we will have a good shot at scoring a lot of points for the team, not just at the Pac-10 or Regional level, but at a national level. That is something we haven't been able to do in the past.

Blue: What are your goals this season?

Ramos: I'm hoping to duplicate another All-America performance. If I can do that, I should be able to help the team out. At Pac-10s and Regionals, I want to score as many points as I can for the team in 5k, 10k, and maybe even the 1500m.



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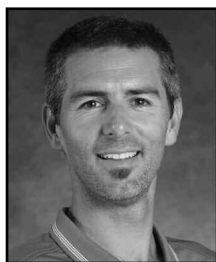
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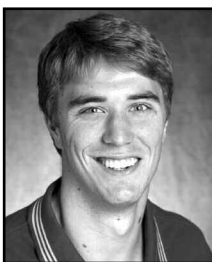
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8-CLAP: *Who's Who in Ucla Athletics*

Groundhog Day 2006 proved to be a special one for two UCLA head coaches. Men's golf coach O.D. Vincent and his wife Janna welcomed their second child, Phar Ellis Vincent, into the world at 5:30 p.m. Phar, who joins his sister Prada in the Vincent household, weighed in at nine pounds, two

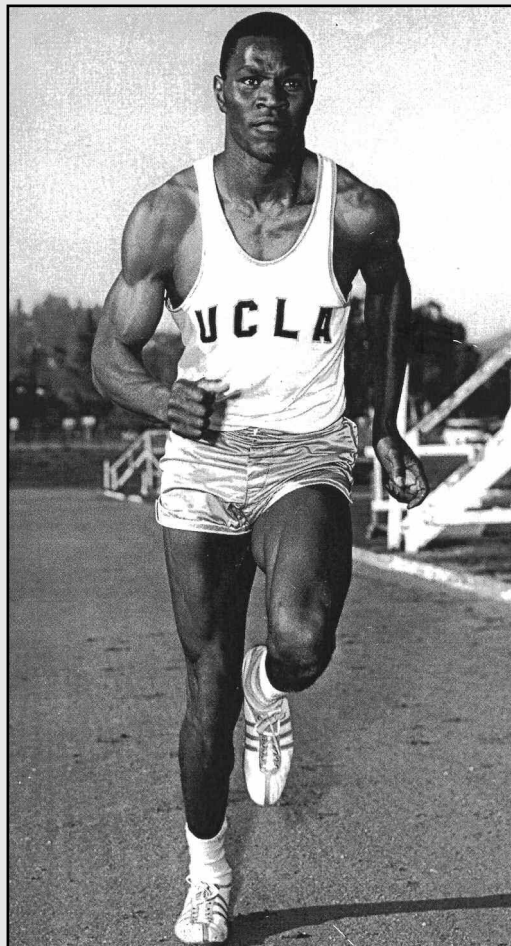


SEALY



KRAUSHAAR

ounces. Two hours later, men's soccer coach Jorge Salcedo and his wife Rebecca welcomed their first child, seven-pound Matteo Johann Salcedo. Finally, on Valentine's Day, former UCLA volleyball standout Cameron Mount and his wife Britney celebrated the birth of their first child, Dylan James Mount, who was born in Orem, Utah. Dylan weighed in at eight pounds, seven ounces and was 21.5 inches long. ... On March 4, it was announced that volleyball assistant coach Mike Sealy had been hired as associate coach for the University of Hawaii women's program. Sealy leaves after four seasons at UCLA, serving in 2005-06 as an assistant coach for both the men's and women's programs. To fill Sealy's spot, Head Coach Al Scates promoted undergraduate assistant coach Kris Kraushaar. Kraushaar, a four-year letterman for the Bruins (2002-05), completed his degree in March. In addition, Scates also announced that Walt Ker, a former veteran head coach at Cal State Northridge and father of UCLA sophomore libero Tony, would serve as a volunteer assistant coach. ... Bruin Blue would also like to extend its best wishes for speedy recoveries to former UCLA Basketball standouts Greg Lee and John Vallely, who are both battling health issues.



I am one of four former UCLA football players who have been inducted to into the NFL Hall of Fame. I played 16 seasons for the San Francisco 49ers and made 47 career interceptions. At UCLA I was a three-year letterman at wingback and cornerback who never earned All-America honors or had my jersey retired. In track and field I won the 1960 NCAA high hurdles title with a time of 14.0 seconds. In addition, my best long jump was better than 25 feet.

Who Am I?

Hint: My brother, also a UCLA alumnus, won an Olympic gold medal in 1960.

Tie-breaker: Who is my brother?

Identify me and win two tickets to the UCLA-USC track meet on April 29 at Drake Stadium.

One winner will be chosen by blind draw.

E-mail your answer to bruinblue@ispsports.com. Deadline for submissions is April 21, 2006.

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

WHO AM I?

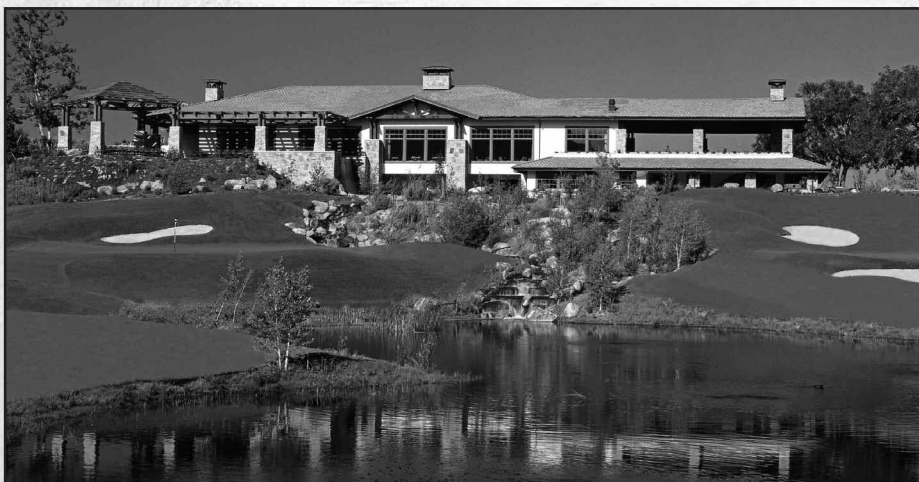
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