

— THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF *UCLA* ATHLETICS —

BRUIN BLUE

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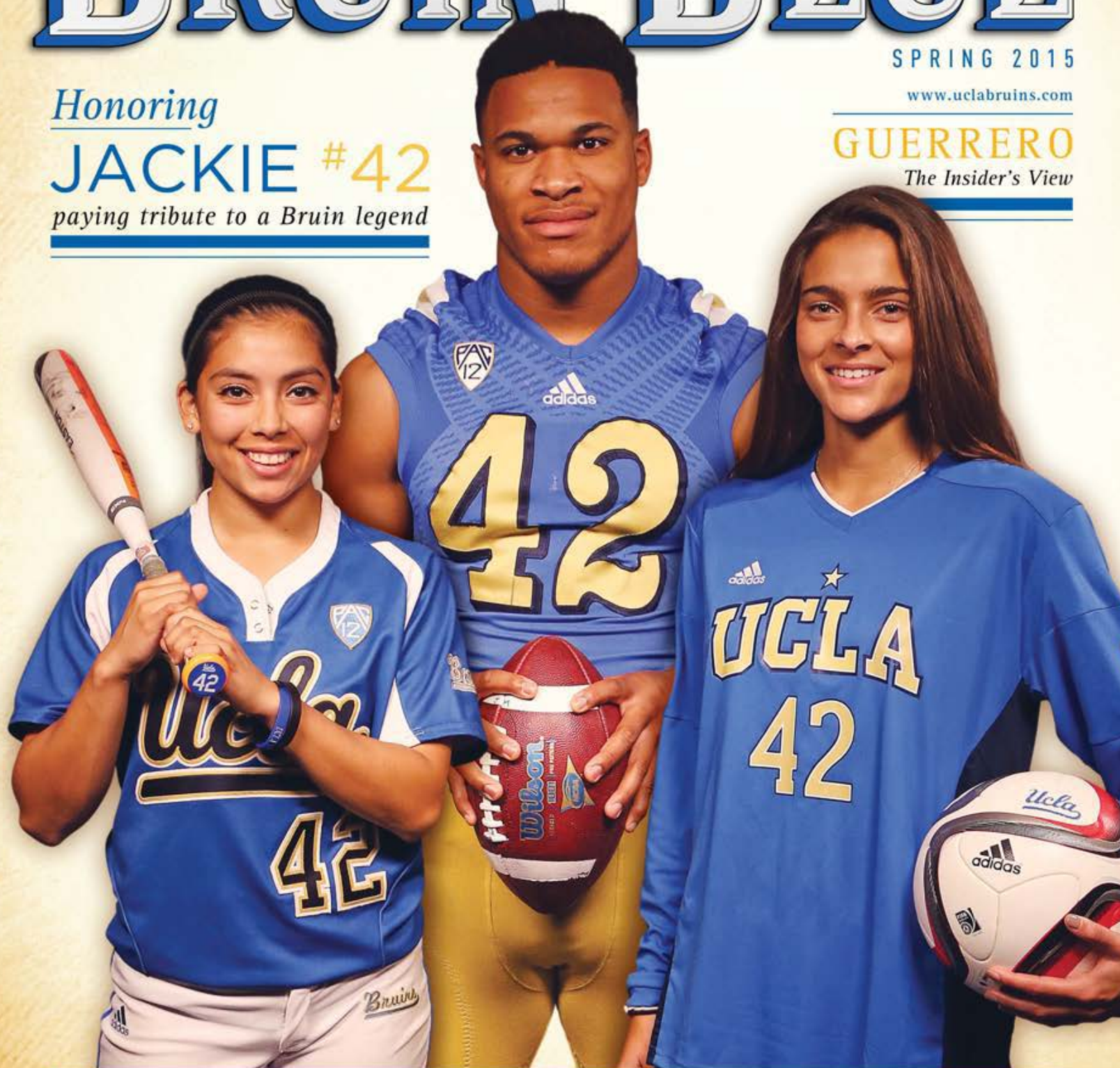
Honoring

JACKIE #42

paying tribute to a Bruin legend

GUERRERO

The Insider's View



INSIDE:

RIISING ABOVE

*Kaprielian one of UCLA's
top pitchers despite a curveball from life*



IN SHORT ORDER

*Robin Anderson racking up
wins for UCLA tennis*

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THE INSIDER'S VIEW

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Champions Made Here. It's fact as much as branding. With 112 NCAA Championships at UCLA, as this number continues to grow, inevitably so do the expectations. Call it human nature. It seems easy. After all, when the math is as simple as adding one at a time – 110+1 is 111 and 111+1 is 112 – you can see how the significance of that 'one' can be overlooked.



DAN GUERRERO

What we cannot overlook is the journey it takes to achieve that 'one.'

In 2014, UCLA claimed NCAA team championships in women's tennis and men's water polo. Undoubtedly, most everyone reading this is already well aware of these feats. I repeat them here because it is important to remember how difficult it is to finish the year as the proverbial last team standing.

For men's water polo, an NCAA postseason that includes only four teams means there is little margin for error. After compiling a 27-3 record entering the NCAA semifinals, including a 3-1 mark against defending NCAA champion and cross-town rival USC, the top-seeded Bruins dispatched UC San Diego 15-6 to create yet another showdown with the Trojans.

In the NCAA Championship match, UCLA led by as many as three goals (7-4) with less than a quarter to play before a 3-0 USC run knotted the game at seven with 3:32 remaining in the match.

Champions are forged by overcoming all obstacles and triumphing over adversity. Throughout our history, UCLA student-athletes have answered the bell. This time would be no different.

Junior Danny McClintick put the Bruins back up with 3:13 to go before USC again evened things on their next possession. With the match and UCLA's 112th NCAA title hanging in the balance, sophomore Gordon Marshall connected from two meters with 34 seconds on the clock. The ensuing Bruins' defensive stop allowed UCLA to run out the clock and enter the record books by equaling a single-season mark with 29 victories while improving to 4-1 against USC on the year.

Defeating any team four times in one season is a challenge. Defeating a team that is your rival and a defending champion is another matter. To do so takes character, dedication, determination and drive. In short, it takes a Bruin.

For our women's tennis team, the path to NCAA title #111 would prove every bit as challenging.

After finishing the regular season with a 21-2 record, UCLA hosted the NCAA regional competition. Needing two victories to advance, the #5 seeded Bruins claimed 4-0 victories over both Sacramento State and Ole Miss.

Multiple time zones and 2,000 miles later, UCLA knocked off Miami 4-0 and, in spite of having recently fallen to Duke just months earlier, defeated the #4 Blue Devils 4-2. For the fourth year in a row, UCLA had reached the NCAA semifinals where a familiar foe awaited.

The #8 Florida Gators, fresh off a victory over top-seeded Georgia, had defeated UCLA in the 2011 national semifinals and again in 2012 in the national championship. This time, however, the Bruins would not be denied, rolling to a 4-0 victory and advancing to the championship against North Carolina.

As they had done in all 28 previous matches, the Bruins won the doubles point and took a 1-0 lead. Six singles matches now commenced, with court one featuring the nation's top two players: top-ranked Jamie Loeb of UNC and #2

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COVER PHOTO BY RYAN RILEY

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF UCLA ATHLETICS

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Robin Anderson of UCLA. After Anderson dispatched Loeb in straight sets, 6-2, 6-2, the scoreboard read Bruins 2, Tar Heels 0.

Reminding everyone that championships are earned, not given, the next two matches both went to UNC. Just like that, all square at 2-2.

Following a UCLA win on court four and loss on court six, the score was now 3-3 with one match remaining. UNC junior Caroline Price and UCLA sophomore Kyle McPhillips had split the first two sets. The entire match – and the NCAA championship – came down to their third and final set.

Back to front and side to side they went. McPhillips eventually pulled ahead to take a 5-3 lead but despite serving for the match, quickly fell behind 0-40. It appeared Price would win the game and as a result, get back on serve.

In true Bruin fashion, McPhillips chipped away at the deficit and battled back to deuce. The two players would go agonizingly back and forth the rest of the game, McPhillips fending off two break points and Price dodging three match points. Finally, on McPhillips' fourth match point, she broke through. Game. Set. Match. National championship.

The answer to the question "Which University leads the nation in NCAA team championships?" is still UCLA. That achievement ranks at the top of our resume. But is it ever easy to earn one? No, it is not, but we wouldn't have it any other way.

Dan Guerrero



THE **UCLA MEN'S WATER POLO TEAM** CELEBRATES AFTER DEFEATING SIX-TIME DEFENDING CHAMPION USC, 9-8, TO WIN THE 2014 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE. IT'S THE NINTH NCAA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP IN PROGRAM HISTORY.

(PHOTO BY DON LIEBIG, ASUCLA)



THE Revolution Continues



2015 SCHEDULE

SEPT 5	VIRGINIA
Sept 12	@ UNLV
SEPT 19	BYU
Sept 26	@ Arizona
OCT 3	ARIZONA STATE
Oct 15	@ Stanford
OCT 22	CALIFORNIA
OCT 31	COLORADO Homecoming/Parents' Weekend
Nov 7	@ Oregon State
NOV 14	WASHINGTON STATE
Nov 21	@ Utah
Nov 28	@ USC
Dec 4	Pac-12 Championship



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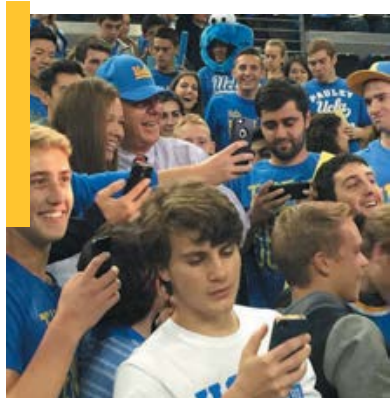


Behind the Scenes with UCLA Athletics

Follow the Bruins on Social Media. #GoBruins

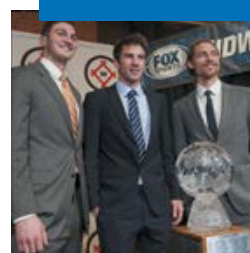


#UCLA #Olympic medalists Jordyn Wieber, Meb Keflezighi and Samantha Peszek meet in Pauley Pavilion.



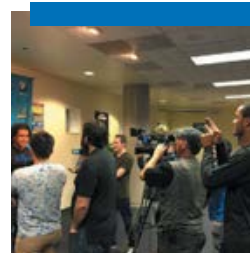
It's #selfie city, baby!
@dickiev_espn poses with
the #UCLA student section

Congrats to @uclamsoccer senior Leo Stolz, the 2014 MAC Hermann Trophy winner as the best collegiate player in the nation!



It's a winter miracle - #snow outside at #UCLA #PauleyPavilion before @uclawbb's game vs. #NotreDame.

Everyone wants to hear from #ButkusAward winner Eric Kendricks including #proudt teammate Brett Hundley.



Celebrating #GR8NESS. #TroyAikman became the ninth #UCLA football player to have his name enshrined on the facade of the Terry Donahue Pavilion



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TROY AIKMAN SPEAKS TO UCLA FANS IN AN ON-FIELD CEREMONY AT THE ROSE BOWL ON NOV. 28, 2014, AS UCLA RETIRED HIS NO. 8 JERSEY. AIKMAN WENT 20-4 IN TWO YEARS WITH UCLA AND IS THE NINTH FOOTBALL PLAYER IN SCHOOL HISTORY TO HAVE HIS NUMBER RETIRED.

(PHOTO BY DON LIEBIG, ASUCLA)



2015 UCLA Bruins



SOFTBALL HOME SCHEDULE

FRI, MAR 06	PROVIDENCE	2:30 P.M.
FRI, MAR 06	ILLINOIS	5:00 P.M.
SAT, MAR 07	ILLINOIS	2:30 P.M.
SAT, MAR 07	UC DAVIS	5:00 P.M.
SUN, MAR 08	UC DAVIS	12:30 P.M.
SUN, MAR 08	PROVIDENCE	3:00 P.M.
TUE, MAR 10	BAYLOR	5:00 P.M.
FRI, MAR 13	UTAH	7:00 P.M.
SAT, MAR 14	UTAH	4:00 P.M.
SUN, MAR 15	UTAH	3:00 P.M.
FRI, APR 03	OREGON	5:00 P.M.
SAT, APR 04	OREGON	2:00 P.M.
SUN, APR 05	OREGON	12:00 P.M.
TUE, APR 07	CAL STATE FULLERTON	2:00 P.M.
FRI, APR 17	CALIFORNIA	2:00 P.M.
SAT, APR 18	CALIFORNIA	3:30 P.M.
SUN, APR 19	CALIFORNIA	11:00 A.M.
FRI, MAY 01	ARIZONA	5:00 P.M.
SAT, MAY 02	ARIZONA	2:00 P.M.
SUN, MAY 03	ARIZONA	7:00 P.M.

All games played at Easton Stadium

TRACK & FIELD HOME SCHEDULE

TUE, MAR 24	WASHINGTON STATE, LONG BEACH STATE	1:00 P.M. (FIELD)/4:00 P.M. (TRACK)
FRI, APR 03	LEGENDS INVITATIONAL	12:00 P.M. (FIELD)/4:00 P.M. (TRACK)
SAT, APR 04	LEGENDS INVITATIONAL	9:00 A.M. (FIELD)/2:00 P.M. (TRACK)
SAT, APR 11	RAFER JOHNSON/JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE INVIT.	11:00 A.M. (FIELD)/2:00 P.M. (TRACK)
MAY 09-10	PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIPS (MULTIS)	ALL DAY
MAY 16-17	PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIPS	ALL DAY

All home meets at Drake Stadium



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#GOBRUINS

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Spring Sports



BASEBALL HOME SCHEDULE

SUN, MAR. 1	MICHIGAN STATE	1:00 P.M.	SAT, APR. 4	OREGON STATE	4:00 P.M.
TUE, MAR. 3	CSUN	6:00 P.M.	TUE, APR. 14	CAL STATE FULLERTON	6:00 P.M.
FRI, MAR. 6	VANDERBILT	6:00 P.M.	THU, APR. 16	CALIFORNIA	7:00 P.M.
SAT, MAR. 7	TCU	6:00 P.M.	FRI, APR. 17	CALIFORNIA	4:00 P.M.
SUN, MAR. 8	USC (AT DODGER STADIUM)	3:30 P.M.	SAT, APR. 18	CALIFORNIA	7:30 P.M.
FRI, MAR. 13	WASHINGTON	6:00 P.M.	TUE, APR. 21	UC IRVINE	6:00 P.M.
SAT, MAR. 14	WASHINGTON	2:00 P.M.	FRI, MAY 1	GONZAGA	6:00 P.M.
SUN, MAR. 15	WASHINGTON	1:00 P.M.	SAT, MAY 2	GONZAGA	2:00 P.M.
FRI, MAR. 20	UTAH	6:00 P.M.	SUN, MAY 3	GONZAGA	1:00 P.M.
SAT, MAR. 21	UTAH	2:00 P.M.	TUE, MAY 5	PEPPERDINE	6:00 P.M.
SUN, MAR. 22	UTAH	1:00 P.M.	FRI, MAY 15	ARIZONA	7:00 P.M.
THU, APR. 2	OREGON STATE	7:00 P.M.	SAT, MAY 16	ARIZONA	4:00 P.M.
FRI, APR. 3	OREGON STATE	7:00 P.M.	SUN, MAY 17	ARIZONA	1:00 P.M.

All games played at Jackie Robinson Stadium. Game times PT.

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1970s

1975-79

DAWN OF A DYNASTY

Early championships in women's sports created a solid foundation for UCLA's athletic program.

75

76

77

78

1 NATIONAL
1 SECOND

1980s

1980-84

DOMINATION OF EARLY NCAA PLAY

UCLA won the first four NCAA Division I softball championships.

TIMELINE

80

81

82

83

2 NATIONAL TITLE
1 MID-PACT PLAY

3 SECURE ADVANCEMENT
180 TOTAL WINS

1980s

1985-89

1990-94

THE **UCLA SOFTBALL PROGRAM** UNVEILED ITS WALL OF CHAMPIONS AT EASTON STADIUM ON NOV. 23, 2014, COMMEMORATING THE MOST SUCCESSFUL NCAA DIVISION I SOFTBALL PROGRAM IN THE NATION.

(PHOTO BY DON LIEBIG, ASUCLA)



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No. 42

FINAL ATHLETES TO WEAR THE NUMBER

By Mark Whicker

Three athletes wear No. 42 on their UCLA uniforms. Once they leave, no one else will.

That is the depth of the tribute that UCLA is paying to Jackie Robinson, and it doesn't really matter that Robinson, as a Bruin, never wore 42 himself.

How any number stuck to him is puzzling, considering how quickly he moved. At Pasadena Junior College he set a broad jump record and then got to the baseball field where Pasadena was winning a league championship, the next day.

Robinson also averaged more than 12 yards a carry for the Bruins football team and won the NCAA broad jump championship.

No one envisioned him in a National League ballpark, much less confronting all the ugly bigotry and quelling it with his legs, his hands and a brain too savvy to let the hate mongers douse his dream.

Robinson left UCLA before he graduated. He played semipro football until the U.S. became involved in World War II and then joined the Army.

Maybe Jackie had given up on the notion of the power of a degree, especially since he saw his brother Mack sweeping streets in Pasadena. Nobody knew that Mack had won a silver medal in the 200 meters at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The gold medalist was Jesse Owens. When Mack came back down to earth, none of that mattered.

Robinson became a lieutenant in the Army but was court-martialed in 1944 because a bus driver told him to get to the back of the bus and he protested. He continued to protest all the way through the trial and until he was acquitted.

That type of moxie helped persuade Branch Rickey, the Dodgers' general manager, to sign Robinson and make him the first African-American player in the modern major leagues.

So it doesn't really matter that Robinson wore No. 28 when he played football and No. 18 when he played basketball.

No. 42 has a nice history of its own at UCLA. Skip Hicks wore it on the football field. Walt Hazzard wore it on the basketball court, inspired by Robinson. Don MacLean, still the Pac-12's all-time men's basketball scorer, and Kevin Love followed.



Taking its cue from Major League Baseball, the UCLA athletic department announced on Nov. 22 that Robinson's major league No. 42 will be retired across all sports.

That leaves Angelica Felix, Kenny Young and Ally Courtall to wear the number until they leave.

All three, in various ways, have seen or lived through the disdain and the prejudice that Robinson conquered. All three are aware of the responsibility it brings. And all three are grounded enough to give No. 42 the gravity it deserves.

A close-up photograph of a diverse group of UCLA fans at a sporting event. In the center, a man with a beard and a blue UCLA cap is shouting with his mouth wide open. He has yellow and blue face paint on his cheeks. He is wearing a blue UCLA t-shirt and a lanyard. To his left, a woman with blonde hair and a blue cap is also cheering. In the foreground, the faces of other fans are partially visible, some also cheering. The background is filled with more fans in blue clothing.

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we, the optimists **UCLA**

No. 42

JELLY FELIX, SOFTBALL

Angelica “Jelly” Felix cried when she saw “42,” the movie of Jackie Robinson’s life.

Well, that’s not really accurate.

“I bawled my eyes out,” she said, laughing.

“I could relate to that story. He did things nobody thought he could do. I thought of growing up in East L.A., hearing all the reasons why I couldn’t make it.”

Softball players don’t usually go from Lincoln High to a prominent college program. Neither do young men or women who are 5-foot-3. Felix is a 63-inch tall utility player and walked through both those barricades. She used an unmistakable weapon to convince the skeptics: the crack of her bat.

“I was gifted,” she said. “I always had the ability to hit. People would doubt me, take one look and say, ‘Gosh, she’s small.’ Then they’d put a bat in my hands and watch me and say, ‘OK, that’s why.’ Hitting made it all right for me to do this.”

Felix hit .318 with three home runs and 10 RBI as a freshman in 2014. In her first official at-bat, after drawing a walk in her first plate appearance, she clubbed a two-run home run against Loyola-Chicago. As a senior at Lincoln she hit .694 with seven home runs and 44 RBI.

It did not come easily or instantly. Her father, Art, was waiting for her at El Sereno Park most days after school for a three-hour hitting session. Jelly would take a change of clothes to school so she could join her dad immediately.

“He saw the potential in me when I was 9 years old,” Felix said. “He thought I could play in high school and college so he pushed me from that point on. It was nonstop. Summer travel teams, different hitting coaches, running coaches, conditioning coaches, fielding coaches, everything-you-could-think-of coaches.

“When I was younger, I wondered if it was a little too much. Then I could see I was getting pretty good at this. I’d look at my dad and say, ‘You know what? You bought into this. So I’ll buy into this.’”

Jelly was No. 8 during most of that time. Art had played baseball and her mother, Frances, played softball, and that was always their number. She did wear 42 when she was a 10-year-old basketball player. She grabbed it again when 8 wasn’t available at UCLA.

Now she is savoring the fact that she will be the final softball player to wear No. 42 at UCLA.

“When I heard it, I literally stopped,” she said. “My heart just dropped.



JELLY FELIX HAS ALWAYS LOOKED TO JACKIE ROBINSON AS A ROLE MODEL.

(PHOTO BY RYAN RILEY)

Sometimes I’m out there thinking about how honored I am to be in this position. I’m thinking, no one will ever wear it again.”

It helped that she didn’t have to research Robinson’s life.

“Jackie had always been my role model,” she said. “The fact that he took chances, he just went and did it. He had no regrets, he didn’t doubt himself. All my life I heard that I couldn’t do it, that Latinos couldn’t do it, that you couldn’t do it without money. Teachers would tell me I was too short. What I’m hoping is that people see me in East L.A. and realize you can do anything.

“It isn’t about proving them wrong. It’s about proving something to myself.”

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No. 42

KENNY YOUNG, FOOTBALL

He took the River Road every time he went to see his grandmother. It went to St. John Parish, outside New Orleans, and past five plantations, still there, in the land of cotton.

It was a piece of history that Kenny Young never had to endure. But Warina Baptiste-Young made sure her grandson knew.

"She couldn't go to school with the white kids," Young said. "She couldn't drink out of the same water fountains as everybody else, and the one she had was always unclean.

"We'd go by those plantations. That was where her father and grandfather had to work. She would make sure I knew what might happen. It was powerful, man, to learn history like that."

Baptiste-Young died in 2003, long before Young became one of the nation's best high school linebackers. He wore No. 42 all along, although it wasn't connected to Robinson. When Young turned down LSU and came to UCLA, he got 42 again, and slowly he learned about the man who played four sports in Westwood and then changed the national pastime.

"I thought it was a cool thing," Young said. "Then when they said they were retiring the number, a lot of people had different opinions. Some said I should give up the number right then, others said I had a chance to represent it well. I hope that's what I keep doing."

Young was a significant contributor to UCLA's defense as a freshman in 2014. With Eric Kendricks gone to the NFL, Young is expected to inherit the middle and become UCLA's leading tackler.

And, unless he turns pro after his junior year in 2016, Young will be the final athlete at UCLA to wear Robinson's number.

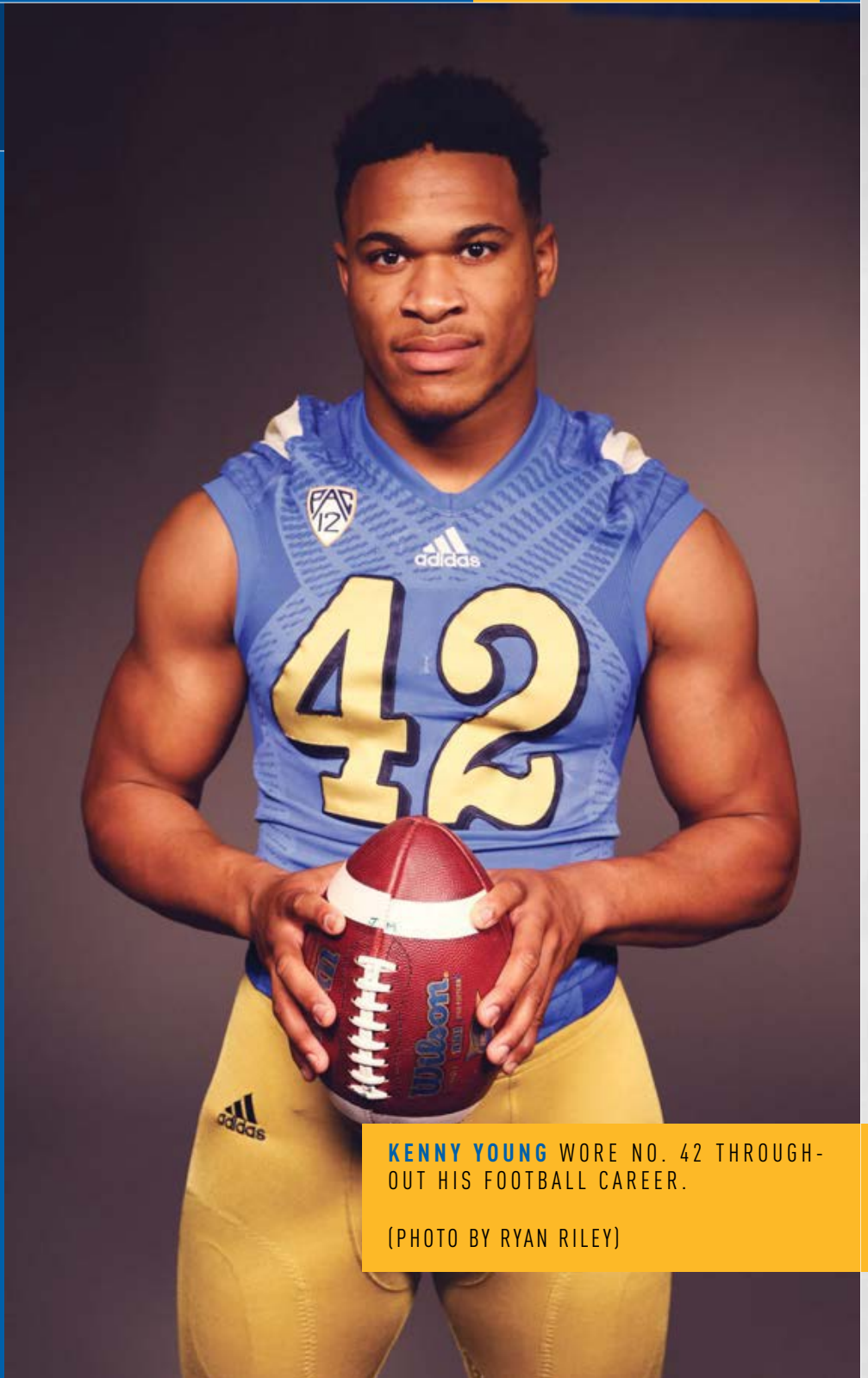
Ten years ago Young was a 10-year-old, stranded on Interstate 10 with his mother and sister. Hurricane Katrina would end some lives and reroute tens of thousands of others. Young's family couldn't go anywhere that day, so they returned to the projects in St. Charles Parish. The flooding came and the trees fell, and Young remembers seeing an alligator in their yard.

The storm passed and Young pursued football. He wore No. 42 at John Curtis High in New Orleans. He was a top defensive recruit in time. Leonard Fournette, at St. Augustine, was the No. 1 running back in America. The two met in epic fashion as seniors. St. Aug won 29-28 as

Fournette rumbled for 262 yards, but Young had 25 tackles.

Most expected the two to become LSU teammates. Fournette went to Baton Rouge but Young didn't.

"I could have gone 45 minutes down the street," he said. "Instead I came 2,000 miles. I've experienced a lot of new things here. Now, I miss the food back home. Especially now that it's crawfish season. But I'm excited about what's happening here."



KENNY YOUNG WORE NO. 42 THROUGH-OUT HIS FOOTBALL CAREER.

(PHOTO BY RYAN RILEY)



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No. 42

ALLY COURTNALL, WOMEN'S SOCCER

Courtball was so taken with the movie "42" that she wrote a paper on it. She particularly remembers the scene in which Phillies manager Ben Chapman stands in front of the dugout and viciously taunts Robinson.

"Yet he took that on and left a legacy," Courtball said, "by not fighting back physically, by keeping quiet."

Seeing a movie is a luxury for Courtball, who is an outstanding student (majoring in communications) and a year-round athlete.

In soccer, she was the Most Outstanding Defensive Player as the Bruins won the 2013 College Cup, national championship No. 110, and she was second-team All-Pac-12 in 2014. In those two years, UCLA lost only two games.

In track, she was eighth in the 400 meters at last year's Pac-12 championships. But then Courtball played in the Little League Softball World Series for Canada. Like Robinson, she doesn't believe in an off-season.

"July is the one month I have off," she said, smiling. "Soccer is very technical and demanding that way, and track ... well, running is hard. In most sports, running is what you do for punishment. And yet I do it willingly."

Courtball saw her parents endure the same prejudices Robinson did. Her dad is Russ Courtball, who scored 287 goals for seven different teams over 15 National Hockey League seasons.

"Hockey is still my favorite sport to watch," she said. "I remember sitting down there by the glass when he played. If he saw that I wasn't paying attention, he'd make sure to hit somebody right there where I was sitting, to wake me up."

Her mom is Paris Vaughan, a former actress and now an interior designer.

Russ is white, Paris is African-American. They met in Montreal, where Paris was working on a movie and Russ was on a business trip.

"Friends lined them up, back in L.A.," Ally said. "They had both been engaged before, and they just hit it off. But it was difficult because there weren't a lot of mixed families back then. Regardless of what their parents or anyone else thought of it, they pushed through and followed their hearts. It's been 22 years now."

And Paris' mother was none other than Sarah Vaughan, the renowned jazz singer known as "Divine Sarah."

"My mother got to meet presidents and popes, traveling with my



ALLY COURTNALL COMPETES IN MULTIPLE SPORTS, AS DID JACKIE ROBINSON.

(PHOTO BY RYAN RILEY)

grandmother," Courtball said. "But she can't sing at all."

Some talents skip a generation. Courtball was good enough and fearless enough to sing the Star-Spangled Banner before one of her soccer games.

"I had left soccer for about nine months," she said. "When I came back I just took 42, but I realized how much it meant to my mother. And, like Jackie, I'm in multiple sports. To me it's the ultimate number."

She smiled again, at the happy accident of being one of the last three Bruins to wear it.

Mark Whicker is currently a columnist for the Los Angeles Daily News.



PHOTO BY DON LIEBIG, ASUCLA

THROWN A CURVE

KAPRIELIAN ROLLING WITH LIFE'S CHALLENGES

By Michael Ventre

There's a certain beauty in a curveball. James Kaprielian recalled one revelatory moment in particular when that truth was impressed upon him.

"In high school," said the current No. 1 starter on the UCLA baseball team, "we were playing against Pacifica High School (of Garden Grove). I was only a sophomore, I was trying to prove I could hang on the varsity and play a role on that team. I came in to close, and my coach called for a curveball. I said, 'All right, let's go for it.'"

"I went up there, threw it with conviction and it was that moment when I struck the guy out looking," Kaprielian added. "He was surprised, everyone else was surprised. Really my coach, my catcher and me were the only ones who weren't surprised."

But from that point on, because of that curveball at that moment in time, Kaprielian was a different pitcher, he admitted, because he suddenly had the awareness that he could throw the curve for strikes in any situation. In the not too distant future, he should be dealing to batters in the majors, as he is expected to be a high first-round draft pick after this current collegiate season.

Of course, being on the receiving end of a nasty curveball can be upsetting, especially the cruel kind that life sometimes throws at you. Kaprielian experienced that last June when his mom, Barbara, died at the far-too-young age of 58 after a 14-year battle with breast cancer. The cancer had been dealt

with through chemotherapy and surgery and had been gone for seven years. But it returned and spread, and then James, his older sister, Alison, and his dad, Douglas, found themselves frozen in place by a delivery that no loving family should have to face.

"When she passed, it was one of the most difficult things anybody could go through in their entire life," James said. "To do so as a 20-year-old obviously was very difficult, especially since she had always been somebody who was so supportive of me my entire life. That was a big aspect of her passing I'll never forget."

Barbara Kaprielian was a super mom, an educator, beloved in and around the family's community of Tustin, the type of generous and unselfish spirit who made an impression on everyone she touched.

"Barb was such a big part of our program," UCLA baseball coach John Savage said. "She was the ultimate mom. She was a great mother. I'm sure she was a great wife. She just loved James and put everything into helping support his college career. It's still there. You can feel it."

One of the baseball goals James set for himself was to make Team USA. Another curveball. Although he was chosen to the squad last summer, his participation coincided with a period in which his mom's condition took a downward turn.

"She always put everyone else ahead of her," Kaprielian said. "She was sick and yet she still came to all my games. Even if she didn't feel good and had to sit in the car for a couple of innings, she showed so much strength to me. I



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"SHE ALWAYS PUT EVERYONE ELSE AHEAD OF HER. SHE WAS SICK AND YET SHE STILL CAME TO ALL MY GAMES. EVEN IF SHE DIDN'T FEEL GOOD AND HAD TO SIT IN THE CAR FOR A COUPLE OF INNINGS, SHE SHOWED SO MUCH STRENGTH TO ME."

— UCLA PITCHER JAMES KAPRIELIAN

remember when we were in the hospital and I had gotten invited to Team USA and I was already selected, and I told my dad, 'I don't think I should play for Team USA; I think I should stay here with the family. I don't know what's the best thing to do right now,' and my dad said, 'OK, we can talk about this later.'

"Sure enough," he continued, "the next day my mom calls me over and says, 'I heard you. You're going to go play for Team USA. You're going to do great. Don't worry about me. This will all work out. Do your thing.' She knew that was one of my goals, to play for Team USA."

The experience of playing for Team USA proved to be difficult for him under the circumstances, but also therapeutic.

"The team was aware of what was going on," he recalled, "so it was good to be around a good group of coaches and guys who were all so supportive. I was pitching emotional a little bit. Obviously I wanted to go out and do my best. I wanted to live the way my mom lived."

His strength is evident to anyone who has watched him on the mound.

Last season, while not ideal for the entire team – injuries contributed to an overall mark of 25-30-1 and a 12-18 conference record for the Bruins – Kaprielian led the Pac-12 in strikeouts as a sophomore with 108. In 15 starts as UCLA's No. 1 starter, he posted a 7-6 record with a 2.29 ERA. In his final four starts, he was particularly efficient – 32 strikeouts and a 1.72 ERA.

He ascended to ace status after a freshman year of listening, learning and working hard under Savage and being around outstanding throwers like Adam Plutko, Nick Vander Tuig and Zach Weiss.

"As a freshman," Kaprielian said, "I was able to learn from the older guys, especially Adam. I would kind of hang around him and pick his brain, listen to things he was saying. He was that Friday night starter. That's the job I wanted to get."

After both absorbing knowledge and serving as a reliever as a freshman on a 2013 team that won UCLA's first national title in baseball – "I saw a lot of things about baseball between the lines that I hadn't realized before," Kaprielian said – he became the Bruins' ace in 2014.

But let's back up a bit, because none of his UCLA accomplishments would have occurred if he hadn't thrown his own family the most wicked of curveballs coming out of high school.

Kaprielian grew up in a USC household. A very serious USC household.

"My family has 16 total USC alumni," he explained. "My great grandfather was the first Armenian letterman at USC. There's a Kaprielian Hall at USC, right next to the baseball field. It's actually not our (direct) family, but how many Kaprielians do you know? There has to be some sort of relationship."

"My sister went there," he added. "My dad went there. A lot of family. Growing up as a kid we had season tickets – we still do – right where you want to be, on the 50-yard-line. As long as I can remember, we were going to USC football games, USC baseball games. We had the fight song playing throughout

the house. All sorts of stuff. And believe me, this still goes on. I still go to football games at USC. So the whole process of recruiting was very interesting."

He was so steeped in cardinal and gold for years that when he first received a recruiting letter from UCLA, he said he showed it to one of his buddies and laughed.

"I said, 'This is so cool. I got a letter from UCLA,'" he recalled. "But then I said, 'Am I ever going to go to UCLA? What's my family going to say?'"

After writing down the pros and cons of all his finalists, UCLA emerged as the best option, he said.

He told his mom, who quickly gave her blessing. Then he had to tell his father, who happens to be a living, breathing version of Tommy Trojan.

"I go to my dad, and this was the hardest thing," James recalled. "My dad is the die-hard Trojan in the family. I wasn't sure how he was going to react."

"When I actually told him, 'Hey, I think UCLA is the best option,' he said, 'I agree.' He said, 'If you want an education, if you want to learn from the best pitching coach in the nation (Savage) and compete for a national championship, you have to go there.' I said, 'Wow. I got the blessing.' That was a HUGE deal. I honestly didn't think it would go over that easily."

There is one more important curveball in the life of James Kaprielian that is worth mentioning. It has to do with UCLA and USC, with his sister Alison and her career, with his mom, with cancer, and with the fact that sometimes in life what looks like something you can't get around on can turn into an unexpected moment of triumph.

Alison had been working at a job she enjoyed in Dallas, but it wasn't quite what she wanted to do, James explained. She wanted to be involved in a nonprofit. Recently she took a new job in Southern California with the Cure It Foundation, an organization that fights childhood cancer.

She got the position after attending a gala sponsored by Rivals United for a Kure, a group that brings together alumni from UCLA and USC to help raise money for cancer research. At the event, which also featured many doctors and other medical professionals as well as celebrities, James' mom and family were honored, and an award called the Kaprielian Cup was created.

"It was really special to be in the room with so many people from USC and UCLA and to see how crazy it fit our family so well," James explained. "She (Alison) ended up getting hired from there. Another door got opened because of it."

That's how curveballs work. The trick is to always expect one and always be ready to deal with it. James Kaprielian, at a relatively young age, understands this better than most.

Michael Ventre is a freelance writer based in Los Angeles. A former sports columnist for the Los Angeles Daily News, he has written for MSNBC.com, Variety, Los Angeles Confidential magazine, American Way (American Airlines) magazine, Adweek and many other publications.



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GIANT STAR

LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS GROWS
LONG FOR UCLA'S ANDERSON

By Michael Ventre

PHOTO BY SCOTT CHANDLER

What you notice first about Robin Anderson is that she stands 5-foot-3. She is not the first tennis player to be so diminutive. And there is no "You must be this big" by-law to play major college tennis and to succeed at it.

But when you stack up her accomplishments, they rise high enough to make Kareem Abdul-Jabbar look up.

The native of Matawan, N.J., is in her senior season. She is UCLA's No. 1 singles player. She is a three-time All-America in both singles and doubles. She is only the third Bruin to win the Honda Award for women's tennis. She was the Pacific-12 Player of the Year last season.

And she beat Jamie Loeb, which is about as towering as it gets in current-day college tennis.

"That was huge for our team," explained UCLA women's tennis coach Stella Sampras Webster.

Some context: Top players like Anderson and Loeb tend to cross paths often in their ascents as young tennis players. They've known each other since they were playing in the 12s. Anderson is top dog in Westwood; Loeb is North Carolina's best singles player.

Last season, even though they were both No. 1s on their respective squads, Loeb had Anderson's number, at least in the first two out of three.

**"WHAT ROBIN LACKS IN SIZE SHE MAKES UP
FOR IN SPEED, ATHLETICISM AND THE WAY SHE
PLAYS DEFENSE."**

— KAITLIN RAY

"I think the first time she got killed," Sampras Webster remembered of Anderson. "The second time she won more games. But the third time she knew what she needed to do."

The third time happened to be last May, in Athens, Ga., in a match between UCLA and North Carolina, with the national championship on the line. Since Loeb was the nation's No. 1-ranked player and Anderson was No. 2, and because Loeb had vanquished Anderson the previous two times in straight sets, the Bruins couldn't predict with comfort that Anderson would prevail in that one.

But she did. In straight sets.

"Going into that match, we knew it was going to be tough," Sampras Webster said. "Whoever was playing the best tennis would win that match. Robin really played pretty flawlessly. And Jamie, it was not her best day. For that moment, in that match, Robin came with her 'A' game and was able to perform at a high level. She really beat her very decisively.

"It was definitely a match we weren't really counting on," Sampras Webster added, "because of how great Jamie is and what a great year she had. But there was no reason Robin couldn't beat her if she played well."

It should be noted that Anderson's victory was one of the early singles victories in that match, and that the national championship was clinched later, with the match tied 3-3, when UCLA's Kyle McPhillips defeated UNC's Caroline Price after a thrilling third set.

But it was Anderson's gigantic upset that energized the Bruins early.

"It was a big confidence boost," noted Kaitlin Ray, who plays No. 6 singles for the Bruins and is one of Anderson's closest friends. "I was just so happy for her, to see her hard work pay off. There was a lot of hype going into that match, with Jamie being ranked No. 1."

Yet Anderson and Loeb aren't sticking pins in each other's voodoo dolls from a continent away. "We played in a tournament a couple weeks ago and ended up rooming together," Anderson explained. "We warmed up together. We're fine. We're friends. I like Jamie. She's really nice."

That's just so Robin Anderson. On the court, she is a classy cutthroat. Off the court, as Sampras Webster put it, "She's somebody you'd want your daughter to be."

Anderson started playing tennis when she was five, because her dad loved to play, and, "He figured he would teach me so he would have someone to hit with," she said.

Around the age of 11, she said, she started to realize she might be something. She began participating in USTA camps, training both there and at an indoor racquet club about 30 minutes from her New Jersey home.

She worked her way up through juniors and in high school until colleges beckoned. When it came time to choose, she narrowed it down to Stanford, Duke and UCLA.

"Stanford was very, very big," she explained, "and you had to bike everywhere. I liked the smaller, intimate environment here at UCLA. Plus it's Southern California; the weather is amazing all year round.



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PHOTO BY SCOTT CHANDLER

"UCLA has a really good balance between academics and athletics," she added about Westwood. "UCLA has a rich history, with all those national champions. I wanted to be part of that. I wanted to try and get one of those for our school, and we ended up doing that last year."

She also said she felt a stronger personal connection to those in and around the UCLA program. "I feel I would have had a better relationship with my coaches that I have now at UCLA than probably the coaches at Stanford," she said. "One of the biggest things for me was the fact that I knew I wanted to develop and by the end (of my college career) transition into pro tennis. The coaches here were very willing to work with me and were excited about that."

"Plus the other girls on the team, when I visited, I really liked," she added. "That kind of persuaded me. I thought the team environment was better here than at Stanford. There was more of a family feeling here."

It's difficult to believe after watching her play and witnessing the energy she puts into each point, but Anderson applies as much determination and will to her studies as she does tennis.

"I'm studying anthropology," she said. "Academics are hard at UCLA regardless of what major you take. But I originally came in and wanted to do biology. I love science. But it was really, really hard for me to make time to study as much as I needed to in order to keep up with the people I needed to in those classes."

"UCLA is super competitive," she continued. "There are so many smart people here. It would have taken me a long time to graduate. I tried (economics) for a year; I probably could have stuck with it, but it wasn't really an interest for me. I had taken some anthro classes during my sophomore and junior years. Anthro, depending on what classes you take, can be very, very science-y, and I love science. I decided to push toward that. I love it. I don't know what I'm going to do with it after school, though."

While unsure about continuing her studies after obtaining her undergraduate degree, she is not unsure about tennis. She expects to take a shot at the professional ranks, having already had some experience in pro circuit tournaments.

One person who gives her hope and inspiration is former professional Justine Henin of Belgium, who is only 5-foot-5 but had been ranked the No. 1 player in the world in three of the 11 years she played on the tour.

"She is by far my favorite tennis player ever," Anderson said. "She is kind of the one that gives me hope. She's like 5-5, she has such a big game and she's such a small person. For her to be able to compete at that level – and she had a one-handed backhand. She was just so graceful on the court."

"You'll notice a lot of the girls on tour are tall," she added. "They're the big hitters. Serena (Williams) and (Maria) Sharapova and all these tall people. For her to be able to compete with those bigger girls is inspiring for me."

Sampras Webster believes Anderson has assets in her game that will enable her to find success at the next level.

"She's very quick," the coach said. "You see a lot of players even on tour now, they're not all 5-8, 5-10. There are some who are 5-4 doing extremely well. They're able to use what they have. With Robin it's her quickness. She's one of the quickest players on the court. For how small she is, how short she is, she has great power. Just a live arm. I don't think a lot of players try to hit high balls to her. She can handle high balls."

"I don't think (her height) hurts her," she added. "For her, she uses her wheels, her movement, to have an advantage. There is no perfect tennis height, because you see all types of players of different sizes."

Teammate Ray believes Anderson's years at UCLA have laid an excellent foundation for a pro career. "Tennis-wise she came in and was just incredibly talented," she said. "Anybody who watches her play sees that. Over four years she has gotten more professional, which comes with playing 30 dual matches a year. You're put in pressure situations. She's the winningest player in UCLA history. She's a rock for us."

"She's more mature and more professional on the court. Physically she was talented from day one. It's just the mental part has gotten better. What Robin lacks in size she makes up for in speed, athleticism and the way she plays defense. Her ability to turn defense into offense is what makes her special. At the first chance for her to take the offensive she'll do it."

In tennis and in academics, it's obvious there's no such thing as a tall order for Robin Anderson.

Michael Ventre is a freelance writer based in Los Angeles. A former sports columnist for the Los Angeles Daily News, he has written for MSNBC.com, Variety, Los Angeles Confidential magazine, American Way (American Airlines) magazine, Adweek and many other publications.



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WHAT'S GOING ON IN WESTWOOD

1. **TUESDAY, MARCH 24**
TRACK & FIELD

VS.

Drake Stadium, 1 p.m. Field Events/4 p.m. Track Events (TV: Pac-12 Networks)
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN
The latest Drake Stadium enhancements, including a new video board, will be on full display as Track and Field makes its home debut with a tri-meet against Washington State and Long Beach State.

2. **SATURDAY, MARCH 28**
SAND VOLLEYBALL

VS.

Sunset Canyon Sand Volleyball Courts, 11 a.m.
Tickets: Free admission
Sand volleyball makes its on-campus debut at the new Sunset Canyon Sand Volleyball Courts.

3. **FRIDAY, APRIL 3**
SOFTBALL

VS.

Easton Stadium, 5 p.m. (TV: Pac-12 Networks)
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN
The Bruins play the first of a three-game home series against the reigning Pac-12 champion Oregon Ducks.

4. **FRIDAY, APRIL 10**
MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

VS.

Pauley Pavilion, 8 p.m. (TV: Pac-12 Networks)
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN
UCLA head coach John Speraw faces his former team UC Irvine in a key MPSF matchup.

5. **SATURDAY, APRIL 11**
ROWING

VS.

UCLA Marina del Rey Aquatic Center, 8 a.m.
Tickets: Free admission
Don't miss the boat as UCLA takes on USC in a Crosstown Cup showdown on the waters of Ballona Creek.

6. **TUESDAY, APRIL 14**
BASEBALL

VS.

Jackie Robinson Stadium, 6 p.m. (TV: Pac-12 Networks)
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN
Two of the Southland's top baseball teams face off in a mid-week matchup at Jackie Robinson Stadium.

7. **THURSDAY, APRIL 16**
MEN'S TENNIS

VS.

Los Angeles Tennis Center, 1:30 p.m. (TV: Pac-12 Networks)
Tickets: Free admission
The rivalry continues in the regular season finale for both teams, a match that could decide the Pac-12 Conference title.

8. **SATURDAY, APRIL 18**
WOMEN'S WATER POLO

VS.

Spieker Aquatics Center, 1 p.m.
Tickets: Free Admission
Women's water polo ends the regular season against USC with MPSF Tournament seeding and Crosstown Cup points on the line.

9. **SATURDAY, APRIL 25**
FOOTBALL SPRING SHOWCASE

Rose Bowl, 10am (TV: Pac-12 Networks)
The culmination of the spring season takes place on Apr. 25 at the Rose Bowl in the annual Spring Showcase.

10. **SUNDAY, MAY 3**
SOFTBALL

VS.

Easton Stadium, 7 p.m. (TV: Pac-12 Networks)
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN
The UCLA Softball seniors, led by Player of the Year candidate Ally Carda, play their last regular season home game at Easton Stadium.

11. **FRIDAY, MAY 15**
BASEBALL

VS.

Jackie Robinson Stadium, 7 p.m. (TV: Pac-12 Networks)
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN
UCLA ace James Kaprielian and the 2013 College World Series Champions take on 2012 College World Series champs Arizona in the final home series of the regular season.

12. **SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 16-17**
TRACK & FIELD - PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIPS



Drake Stadium, 10 a.m. Field Events/2 p.m. Track Events
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN
The Conference of Champions will crown its track & field winner at Drake Stadium in 2015. The Pac-12 Championships get started with multi-events on May 9-10 before the main event on May 16-17.

All dates and times subject to change due to television.

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SHELLY CARLIN

SUSTAINING EXCELLENCE

By Emily Lerner

UCLA Athletics Development Communications Director

On Nov. 23, 2014, the new UCLA Softball Wall of Champions was unveiled before a crowd of UCLA Softball legends, alumni, staff, and fans. Situated adjacent to Easton Stadium, where UCLA Softball plays its home games, the Wall of Champions visually honors the history of UCLA Softball. There hang six retired jerseys of standout, national title and Olympic medal-winning Bruin softball alumnae, banners and photos of the 11 NCAA championship teams and coaches, and individual accomplishments too numerous to mention.

The vast number of All-American, All-Academic, national title-winning coaches and student-athletes, Olympic medal-winners, interactive displays, and larger-than-life murals and photos are all there to be perused. If you didn't know anything about UCLA Softball before seeing this testament to its history, you will leave there an expert on all things Bruin softball.

One of the names that graces this Wall of Champions is that of a member of the 1982 NCAA championship team — UCLA Softball's historic first championship — and its starting catcher, Michele Aguilar Carlin. Michele, or Shelly, is not only a member of this championship team, she is the reason that the Wall of Champions exists, thanks to her experiences, an idea, and a magnificent gift she made to UCLA Softball in 2012.

Backtracking a bit, Shelly grew up in Bakersfield in a neighborhood where there were only boys — her brother included — and grew up playing baseball, basketball, and football. As there were no formal girls' sports or teams, Shelly tried out for the boys' baseball team in junior high school and made it. But then the inevitable happened: she was told by the school that she couldn't play on the baseball team with the boys.

Fortunately, Shelly was not deterred. At 12, she joined the Bobby Sox softball league and by the time she was a freshman in high school, her school was finally starting a girls softball team. In a way, these experiences in Shelly's formative years lent themselves to ideas she would formulate and hold onto well into her adult years.

"Part of my motivation, and the pleasure I have being involved with softball, is because I remember the days when [playing sports] was not only not encouraged, but highly discouraged, and sometimes not allowed," Shelly said. "So just to see the sport and the attitudes towards girls and women in sports change so much has been incredibly rewarding and was really a big motivation of mine to be involved."

Fast-forward to Shelly's last year of high school. Since her uncle was a football student-athlete at UCLA in the 1940s, Shelly grew up always wanting to be a Bruin. In fact, she applied only to UCLA and was accepted on her academic merits. Upon her acceptance, she wrote a letter to head softball coach Sharron Backus to be considered for the team, and after Backus saw her play, Carlin was offered a spot on the team. But back in 1979, UCLA didn't exactly have a stadium for the softball team.

"There was a backstop, a couple of aluminum benches and a small set of bleachers," said Shelly. "The parents would bring lawn chairs and blankets to sit on to watch our games. There were these little patches of field, no lights, no scoreboard — nothing even resembling Easton — or any other stadium

— that we have now."

The 1982 team, coached by Backus and assistant coach and future UCLA Softball head coach Sue Enquist, boasted players like Dot Richardson, Gina Vecchione and Debbie Doom, all of whose jerseys were retired by UCLA. Shelly was voted an Academic All-American and graduated from UCLA summa cum laude, majoring in political science. Shelly took a different route than expected after graduation.

"I was a political science major and thought about going to law school," she said. "But I really decided that I was more interested in how things get done, how businesses make money and how the economy works. So I decided to go to [UCLA's Anderson] school to get my MBA instead."

With her business acumen and inquisitive perseverance, Shelly entered the corporate world following her graduation from the Anderson School. Some years later, while working as a Vice President for Global Compensation and Benefits at Campbell Soup Company, she realized three things that the company valued — confidence, character and teamwork — resembled the values she learned at UCLA. She thought about what she learned as the Bruins' catcher and how it correlated to the business world.

"I think there is huge applicability between the success of a student-athlete and the success of those in business," reiterated Shelly. "Being on a team encompasses many of the same traits and characteristics and behaviors that are the building blocks of business leadership."



A MEMBER OF UCLA'S 1982 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM, **SHELLY CARLIN** ESTABLISHED THE FIRST EN-DOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR UCLA SOFTBALL AND FUNDED THE UCLA SOFTBALL WALL OF CHAMPIONS AT EASTON STADIUM.

Always the active Bruin, Shelly was in town attending the UCLA-Oklahoma football game at the Rose Bowl in 2005 and picked up one of the programs to read. She got to the page where the endowments were listed.

"I skimmed right to where the softball endowments should have been and there were none! That's when it first hit me that we have to fix this. I realized that this was something I had to do — it was a no-brainer — because my work success was a direct result of my education and my athletic experience at UCLA."



SHELLY CARLIN (LEFT) POSES WITH A PIECE OF THE UCLA SOFTBALL WALL OF CHAMPIONS AT EASTON STADIUM ALONGSIDE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS **DAN GUERRERO** AND HEAD SOFTBALL COACH **KELLY INOUE-PEREZ**.

Shelly fixed the problem by establishing "The Michele Aguilar Carlin Endowed Women's Softball Grant-in-Aid" in 2006 — the first endowed scholarship for UCLA Softball. But not seeing it as enough, Shelly continued to have conversations with Enquist and current head coach Kelly Inouye-Perez. She wanted to document UCLA Softball's legacy, but she also wanted to do something about the future of the program and provide for the softball student-athletes.

Fast-forward to Oct. 31, 2012, when Shelly, for a second time, made history by committing to the single-largest gift ever by a UCLA female alumna student-athlete. This gift of \$400,000 to UCLA Softball was two-fold in nature. The larger part of the gift would go towards designing and building the UCLA Softball Wall of Champions at Easton Stadium, while the other part would go towards conceptualizing and funding a leadership program developed for current softball student-athletes.

After much planning and construction, the Wall of Champions was unveiled in 2014. It is a physical representation of UCLA Softball's legacy and its past. The leadership program provided for the future of the softball program and the success of current and future UCLA softball student-athletes.

"The wall itself documents our legacy and memorializes our past at UCLA. But when I made the gift I also wanted it to be about what we're going to be in our future," explained Shelly. "To me, UCLA Softball has always been about not only winning championships, although we've done that quite well; not about Olympians; but about creating leaders and about creating strong, positive, confident women who will go out and contribute to society in multiple fields."

Hence, the Sustaining Excellence program was born. The fundamental premise of the Sustaining Excellence leadership program uses the same characteristics of successful student-athletes translating into life after college. So in 2012 Shelly got to work creating this program by putting together a team of four professionals she knew from her life in corporate America and creating a program that consists of four training sessions — some virtual, some in-person — during one academic year. The focus was on helping the student-athletes understand what leadership is, by helping them understand

their own leadership style and by using concepts about personal presence to display their confidence.

"What was part of our thought behind this program was that we felt that softball players needed a way to recognize and bridge the things they do every day and experience on the field of play as a student-athlete — the discipline, the focus, the perseverance, the confidence — and translate those skills into success in the real world," said Shelly. "It is designed to give them the kind of leadership development experience that people don't typically get in corporations until well into their careers, if ever. This would give them a jump start into what it's like to be in the working world. The true, true legacy that I want to leave is for them to use this leadership program and show what they can become as they go forward."

The Wall of Champions was unveiled and is now open to the public. Sustaining Excellence, still in its inaugural year, is only open — for now — to the UCLA Softball student-athletes. Part of the message that Shelly wants to impart to current and former student-athletes is simple.

"Once you've played for UCLA, you're a Bruin for life. You always have opportunities to give back even if it's not in monetary terms," said Shelly. "It can be by participating in a workshop like Sustaining Excellence or as an alumni interviewer or panelist, or mentoring softball players as they think about careers. I think there is a huge applicability beyond softball and in other sports since an athlete has the characteristics and traits and behaviors that are the building blocks of future leadership."

Shelly felt the opportunity was there to prepare UCLA student-athletes and leverage the leadership experiences they were exhibiting at UCLA to be even more competitive and successful when they graduate from UCLA. With this in mind, and to get Sustaining Excellence to where it would have optimum value, Shelly had to do a few years of research. She started taking trips to Los Angeles to spend time talking one-on-one with the players and then as a team. In speaking with them, Shelly was awed by their eagerness and openness to learning and absorbing everything they could.

"I used what they told me as input to design and flesh out this program because I got a first-hand experience as to what these kids were going through, what their concerns were, and I realized that they had no idea how much talent they had from a leadership perspective," said Shelly. "They didn't know how to translate what they were doing every day on the field to leadership; they didn't know how to put that into a language of business."

Shelly's gift, coupled with her enthusiasm and willingness to give freely of her time, is an example of what one Bruin has done to help enhance the lives of current and future generations of Bruins. Last August, Shelly retired from her position as Senior Vice President of Human Resources at the Motorola Company, and went into the world of lobbying in Washington, D.C.

"I've been able to combine my interest in politics with my business experience to go into the world of being a lobbyist. But none of this would've been possible without my UCLA experience," Shelly noted. "UCLA — my education as well as the chance to be a part of a national championship team — is the single biggest factor in my success."

"It has been fun to engage former softball players to be part of the Sustaining Excellence program and have them talk about their own journeys and why and how they did what they did; how they went from being a student-athlete to being successful in the real world," said Shelly. "So many of them have said to me, 'I wish we'd had something like this when we were still students,' and I have to agree."

Thanks to Shelly Carlin and her forward-thinking generosity, student-athletes may never have to say anything like that again.

The Wooden Athletic Fund

The Johnson Family Invests in Tomorrow's Champions Today.

Eric, Nicole, Luke, Chase and Nash Johnson are passionately committed to UCLA and supporting Bruin student-athletes through the Wooden Athletic Fund. A Founding Partner of Asylum Entertainment, Eric served as C.F.O. and Executive Vice-President from 2001 until April of 2014. A 1995 UCLA graduate, Eric remembers his time there fondly with memories of great professors, and great moments, one of which was hearing Jerry Brown, who was running for President at the time, speak to his Poli Sci class. But some of his most enduring memories are sports-related. During his time as a student at UCLA, the UCLA Football team never lost to USC, and the UCLA Men's Basketball team won the National Championship. Eric has been married to his wife Nicole since 2007 and they have three boys, Luke, Chase and Nash. The Johnsons began donating to the Wooden Athletic Fund, and steadily increased their giving four membership levels within their ten years of being contributors to UCLA Athletics.



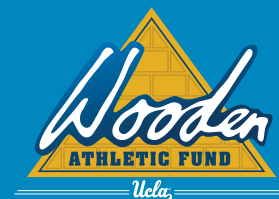
UCLA and the UCLA Athletic Department thank the 5,603 Wooden Athletic Fund members, including Eric, Nicole, Luke, Chase and Nash Johnson.

The Wooden Athletic Fund is committed to honoring the educational and athletic legacy of Nell and John Wooden.

Together, members of the Wooden Athletic Fund team provide invaluable support for all UCLA student-athletes and every gift has a positive impact on their ability to succeed in the classroom, in competition and in the community.

This funding is directed to the people, places and programs that need it most, allowing UCLA Athletics to act quickly to enhance the student-athlete experience, retain coaches, and seize opportunities.

"My UCLA experience has provided me with a great education, great friends, and great opportunities. I give to the Wooden Athletic Fund because UCLA is one of the greatest all-around universities in the country, and because we believe in the importance of a great athletics program for the pride it can instill in the students and the memories it can help them create. The UCLA Athletics program has provided my family and me with an outlet for family get-togethers and fun. With a program that looks to the principles identified by Coach John Wooden, how can you go wrong?"



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On behalf of UCLA Football and the entire UCLA Athletic Department, we would like to thank the Los Angeles community and its surrounding areas for the incredible support of our program this past season.

With the 2014 college football season now officially in the books and the Bruins finishing in the top 10, it's important to note that without you, our success would not be possible.

Thanks to you, we led the Pac-12 Conference in home attendance this past year and set a new single-season record for attendance of UCLA Football games at the Rose Bowl.

We will continue our tireless dedication to building the kind of program that our community can be proud of and are already hard at work preparing for the 2015 season. Thank you for embracing UCLA Football, and we look forward to seeing you again come September.

Go Bruins!

A white, cursive signature of Dan Guerrero.

Dan Guerrero
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

A white, cursive signature of Jim Mora.

Jim Mora
HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

#BruinRevolution

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UCLA Athletics' Annual

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The Strand, Dana Point • June 27, 2015

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We look forward to hosting you on June 27th

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- Exclusive 2015 "Bruins at the Beach" Giveaway

All proceeds from the evening will benefit UCLA Athletics through the Wooden Athletic Fund and its efforts to raise much-needed support for UCLA's nearly 700 student-athletes.

For more information about Bruins at the Beach or to learn more about 2015 sponsorship opportunities and benefits, please call (310) 206-3302, or email development@athletics.ucla.edu.

www.woodenathleticfund.com/bruinsatthebeach



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THANK YOU!

The Wooden Athletic Fund is proud to honor the 5,603 donors who generously provide invaluable support for all UCLA student-athletes and honor the lasting educational and athletic legacy of Nell and John Wooden. Every gift has a positive impact on UCLA student-athletes' ability to succeed in the classroom, in competition and in the community.

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CELEBRITY SIGHTINGS

WHERE THE STARS COME OUT



TOP ROW (L-R): Actor Taylor Lautner at a UCLA men's basketball game; UCLA Baseball alumnus and former Dodgers first baseman Eric Karros and Bruins Baseball Coach John Savage; UCLA alumnus and NFL Hall of Famer Troy Aikman poses with the UCLA cheerleaders.

SECOND ROW (L-R): LMEAO's Redfoo and UCLA softball's Alexis Bennett; UCLA and NFL alumnus Brendan Ayanbadejo; NFL players and UCLA alumni Cassius Marsh (l) and Jordan Zumwalt (r) flanking actor Peter Dante.

THIRD ROW (L-R): UCLA baseball alumni Gerritt Cole (l), who pitches for the Pittsburgh Pirates, and Chase Brewer; At a UCLA basketball game, MLB Hall of Famer Dave Winfield and UCLA alumnus and pro tennis legend Jimmy Connors in the middle row; Olympic medalist Allyson Felix with UCLA cross country runners.

BOTTOM ROW: UCLA Olympic medalists Jordyn Wieber, Meb Keflezighi and Sam Peszek.



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