

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF *UCLA* ATHLETICS

BRUIN BLUE

SPRING

2016



L.A. STORY

DAVE ROBERTS RETURNS TO
THE CITY WHERE IT ALL
BEGAN...AGAIN.

TWICE *as* NICE

Adam Wright's Bruins
claim their second-
straight NCAA title in
impressive fashion.

BORN *to* PERFORM

DANUSIA FRANCIS
*takes gymnastics to
a whole new level*

GUERRERO

The Insider's View



PLUS:

Champions Made Here



CELEBRITY
SIGHTINGS

www.uclabruins.com

WITH YOUR WEALTH ON THE LINE, WOULDN'T YOU WANT A BRUIN ON YOUR TEAM?



SEIA MANAGES
\$5.1
BILLION*
IN CLIENT ASSETS

*SEIA and its affiliates as of 12/31/2015

OUR SERVICES

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
AND PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS

FINANCIAL PLANNING

ESTATE AND RETIREMENT
PLANNING TECHNIQUES

PHILANTHROPIC AND FAMILY
FOUNDATION SUPPORT



BRIAN D. HOLMES, MS, CFP®, AIF®, CMFC
President & CEO
UCLA Class of '83

SEIA was recognized as a Forbes Top 100 Wealth Manager in the U.S. 2015, Los Angeles Business Journal Largest Money Management Firms Ranked by Assets Managed 2015, and Financial Times Top 300 Registered Investment Adviser List 2014.

Brian has been ranked in **Barron's Magazine** list of the Top 100 Independent Financial Advisors for the last 9 consecutive years.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO SCHEDULE A COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION WITH ME,
PLEASE CALL (310) 712-2326 OR EMAIL BHOLMES@SEIA.COM.

SEIA

SIGNATURE ESTATE & INVESTMENT ADVISORS, LLC®

www.SEIA.com

Century City Office 2121 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1600 Los Angeles, CA 90067
LOS ANGELES | ORANGE COUNTY | REDONDO BEACH | PASADENA | VIRGINIA

\$1,000,000 minimum portfolio

*Registered Representative/Securities Offered through Signator Investors, Inc., Member FINRA, SIPC, 2121 Ave of the Stars, Suite 1600, Los Angeles, CA 90067 (310)712-2323. SEIA, LLC and its investment advisory services are offered independent of Signator Investors, Inc. and any subsidiaries or affiliates. (CA Ins. License #0657377)

THE INSIDER'S VIEW

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

This particular issue of *Bruin Blue* will be an especially memorable one for me. I think most people are well aware of my love for the Dodgers. Some close to me might even call it an obsession. I don't necessarily think I'd characterize it that way, though. I mean, doesn't everyone have a Dodgers-only baseball card collection dating back to the 1940s?



DAN GUERRERO

Either way, when Dave Roberts, the subject of this issue's cover story, came by campus to say hello in January, it was a moment I won't soon forget. Standing in the Morgan Center was a man who began his journey modestly as a walk-on member of the UCLA baseball team but later became part of baseball lore with his Game 4 steal as a member of the Red Sox against the Yankees in the 2004 ALCS. Now the first-ever minority manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers — a franchise that more than a half century earlier watched another Bruin, Jackie Robinson, break Major League Baseball's color barrier — Dave's path may have taken him from San Diego to Boston and everywhere in between, but his heart has never left Westwood.

A few days after our visit came the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, a time to celebrate the vision of the great Dr. King and redouble our efforts to help further realize his dream. That Monday provided me with a great opportunity to reflect not only upon Dave's journey, as our visit was still fresh in my mind, but also my own.

Dr. King, who gave a speech right here on Janss Steps in 1965 just a handful of years before I became a student-athlete at UCLA, had a tremendous impact on me growing up, as did my father and the great Jackie Robinson. I remember Dr. King's words of equality and opportunity. I remember my father's dogged determination in guiding me towards realizing my full potential. And as long as I can recall, because of Jackie, I wanted to attend UCLA — a place I knew embodied the values of opportunity, inclusion and equality; barrier-breaking values that, as a minority, I wanted to experience first-hand.

My time with Dave and the passing of the MLK holiday also made me think back to a piece I recently penned for the Spanish publication *La Opinion* to commemorate its 90th anniversary. Please indulge me as I share a little bit of my journey with you now. And as always, until next time, Go Bruins!

I'm a Mexican-American, a Chicano, from Wilmington, a blue-collar town south of Los Angeles near the ports of San Pedro. It's not a predominantly Latino neighborhood, it's a predominantly everything neighborhood — a true melting pot of a community.

My American Legion baseball team was the closest thing to the United Nations you'll find this side of, well, the actual United Nations.

Jimmy Legaspi (Filipino) was in the outfield, Reggie Rutherford (African-American) behind the plate, Sonny Mauricio (Portuguese) over at the hot corner, Barry Vaughn (Caucasian) at first, Robert Okura (Japanese) on the mound, and I was at second, just to name a few of us. We were a mirror reflection of the town in which we lived. Ethnic and gritty.

We had one set of uniforms that needed to be sewn up after games. One hat. One coach. We shared a handful of wooden bats. And because of all this, we also shared a bond. Other teams at least had road and home uniforms, different colored hats, coaches (plural) and enough bats to make you competitive if a fight broke out.

And it was one of those other teams that killed us in a memorable game at Blair Field in Long Beach. At the time, I wished I could forget away the score. I wished I could forget away the strikeouts. I wished I could forget away the errors.

But today, some 46 years later, I'm forever grateful that I did not forget away any of it. Walking out to the family car, I muttered another wish to my father — I wished I could one day play at the next level for a team like the one that had just humiliated us.

I'll never forget the way he slowed his stride, turned to me and, with the look of a man about to pull the curtain back on one of life's great secrets, sternly said, "You play on the team you're playing for.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE SPRING 2016

UCLA ATHLETICS IN PHOTOS	2 / 6 / 10
CHAMPIONS MADE HERE	12
L.A. STORY: DAVE ROBERTS RETURNS TO THE CITY WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...AGAIN	14
BORN TO PERFORM: DANUSIA FRANCIS TAKES GYMNASTICS TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL	20
TWICE AS NICE: ADAM WRIGHT'S BRUINS CLAIM THEIR SECOND STRAIGHT NCAA TITLE	24
MARK YOUR CALENDAR	28
SUPPORTING UCLA: JOE KAZEMI & FAMILY	32
CELEBRITY SIGHTINGS	36

COVER PHOTO BY KATIE MEYERS

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF UCLA ATHLETICS

VOL 2 • ISSUE 3 • SPRING 2016

WRITERS: CHRIS FOSTER, EMILY LERNER, MICHAEL VENTRE

MANAGING EDITOR: DANNY HARRINGTON
DHARRINGTON@ATHLETICS.UCLA.EDU

LAYOUT AND DESIGN: IMG COLLEGE

KRISTY MARQUES, SARAH JANE SNOWDEN, MATT COY, KRISTIN PRATT, MATT MONTAVON

ADVERTISING: IMG COLLEGE

DAMON DUKAKIS • (310) 825-0328

DAMON.DUKAKIS@IMG.COM



BECOME A BRUIN BLUE SUBSCRIBER BY JOINING THE WOODEN ATHLETIC FUND, CALL 310-206-3302.

That is where you make your impact."

Loyalty. Commitment. Responsibility. Pride. Work ethic. Drive. All summed up in two short sentences by a man whose wisdom far exceeded his pedigree. From that day forward, I understood what it meant to be part of a team. And I understood that if I seized the moment, opportunity would follow.

Ultimately, I earned a baseball scholarship to UCLA. But would I have been a Bruin without first making my impact on Wilmington's American Legion squad? Not a chance. As my dad used to tell me, "Big-time is where you are." I never forgot that. And wouldn't you know it? It was at one of those very American Legion games that UCLA first scouted me.

Today I have the honor of representing my alma mater as its Director of Athletics. While an undergrad, my father's words echoed in my head when I seemingly couldn't take another note in lecture hall or write another word for a term paper. Make your impact. Had I not seen to it that my education was as important as my playing career, none of this would be possible.

Human nature makes it easy to look past where we are. We get ahead of ourselves. We want what's next but forget to take care of what's now. I have been a member of many teams over the course of my life — from my heritage, alma maters, marriage and occupations, to everything else in between.

Whatever team you're a part of, always remember, 'big-time' is where you are. By embracing this one simple saying, you can't imagine the places you'll go.

Dan Guerrero

The UCLA logo, featuring the word "UCLA" in a stylized, blue, cursive font.

BRUIN BLUE SPRING 2016

A large, low-angle photograph of a basketball player, Prince Ali, in a blue UCLA jersey with the number 22, performing a slam dunk. The player is seen from the back, looking up towards the hoop. The basketball hoop and backboard are visible in the upper right, with a red Spalding basketball hanging from the net. The background is a blurred arena with spectators.

FRESHMAN GUARD **PRINCE ALI** SLAMMED HOME ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE DUNKS OF THE COLLEGE BASKETBALL SEASON ON DEC. 3, HELPING UCLA TO AN 87-77 UPSET OF NO. 1 KENTUCKY IN PAULEY PAVILION (PHOTO: SCOTT CHANDLER).



BRUIN BLUE SPRING 2016





I'M A BRUIN



2016 SCHEDULE

SEPT 3	@ TEXAS A&M
SEPT 10	UNLV
SEPT 17	@ BYU
SEPT 24	STANFORD
OCT 1	ARIZONA
OCT 8	@ ARIZONA STATE
OCT 15	@ WASHINGTON STATE
OCT 22	UTAH (HOMECOMING)
NOV 3	@ COLORADO
NOV 12	OREGON STATE
NOV 19	USC
NOV 26	@ CALIFORNIA
DEC 2	PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIP

SEASON TICKETS START AT \$249
uclabruins.com/tickets
310-UCLA-WIN (825-2946)



/uclafootball



@uclafootball



@uclafootball



Behind the Scenes with UCLA Athletics

Follow the Bruins on Social Media. #GoBruins



⬆ That "We Beat Kentucky" feeling. @uclambb takes down No. 1 Wildcats 87-77 tonight in Pauley. #GoBruins #BruinProud #UKvsUCLA

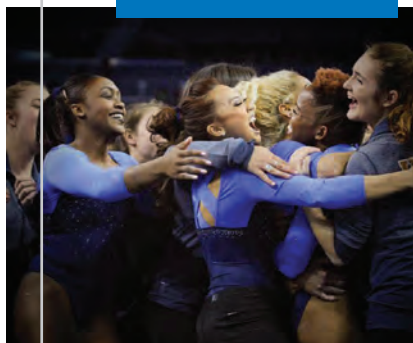


⬆ #WestbrookNight was all that and more! Thank you @russwest44! #GoBruins #WhyNot



⬆ Welcome to the 500 Club! Today's @uclamtennis win over USF earned Head Coach Billy Martin his 500th career victory. #GoBruins

⬆ When you open the season by defeating the No. 3 team in the country! #GoBruins #BruinStrong



@uclamwp are your 2015 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS! Congrats to the Bruins for capturing #UCLA Natty No. 113! #GoBruins



⬆ Monique Billings was flying HIGH tonight! Led No. 21 @uclawbb over the previously undefeated USC Trojans (78-73) with a double-double (23 points, 12 rebounds). #GoBruins #BeatSC



/uclaathletics



@uclaathletics



@uclaathletics

UCLA... CHAMPIONS MADE HERE
uclaBruins.com

Ucla

BRUIN BLUE SPRING 2016



YEAR	
2014	
2014	
2013	
2014	
2014	
2013	
2014	
2014	
2009/1998	
2010	
2014	
2014	
2011	
2011	
2014	
2014	
2013	
2014	
2011	
2007	
2014	
2010	

SPEIKER POOL RECORDS		
EVENT	NAME	TIME
50 Freestyle	Kasia Wilk	22.84
100 Freestyle	Kasey Carlson	47.78
200 Freestyle	Ting Wen Quah	1:46.11
500 Freestyle	Chelsea Chenault	4:42.80
1000 Freestyle	Lauren Baker	9:42.87
1650 Freestyle	Lauren Baker	16:16.00
100 Backstroke	Halcy Anderson	53.35
200 Backstroke	Felicia Lee	1:22.54
100 Breaststroke	Kendyl Stewart	58.28
200 Breaststroke	Kasey Carlson	2:08.88
100 Butterfly	Andrea Kropp	51.43
200 Butterfly	Kendyl Stewart	1:55.79
200 Individual Medley	Katinka Hosszu	1:55.79
400 Individual Medley	Stina Gardell	1:55.79
200 Freestyle Relay	USC (Carlson, Wilk, Swenson, Tuckey)	
400 Freestyle Relay	Stanford (Neal, Schaefer, Ana, ...)	
200 Medley Relay	USC (Stankovic, Carlson, St...	
400 Medley Relay	California (Tran, Leverenz, ...)	
One-Meter Diving	Tori Ishimatsu	
Three-Meter Diving	Ariel Rittenhouse	
Platform Diving	Brittany Viola	

Lane 7
UCLA Bruins Water Polo
Scott Leonard

THE TOP-RANKED **UCLA MEN'S WATER POLO** TEAM COMPLETED A PERFECT 30-0 SEASON WHEN IT DOWNED USC, 10-7 IN THE NCAA FINAL AT THE SPIEKER AQUATICS CENTER ON DEC. 6, GIVING THE BRUINS THEIR SECOND STRAIGHT NATIONAL TITLE. IT MARKED THE TEAM'S FIRST UNDEFEATED SEASON SINCE THE 1969 TEAM WENT 19-0. IT WAS ALSO THE PROGRAM'S 10TH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AND THE SCHOOL'S 113TH NCAA TITLE, WHICH LEADS THE NATION. (PHOTO: DON LIEBIG/ASUCLA)





SPRING



SOFTBALL HOME SCHEDULE

Wed, Mar. 2	Michigan	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar. 4	UC Santa Barbara	6:00 PM
Sat, Mar. 5	Charleston Southern	1:00 PM
Sat, Mar. 5	Syracuse	3:30 PM
Sun, Mar. 6	Florida State	1:00 PM
Sun, Mar. 6	UC Davis	3:30 PM
Thurs, Mar. 24	Washington	5:00 PM
Fri, Mar. 25	Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar. 26	Washington	12:30 PM
Sat, Apr. 9	Stanford	7:30 PM
Sun, Apr. 10	Stanford	6:00 PM
Mon, Apr. 11	Stanford	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr. 13	CSUN	2:00 PM
Fri, Apr. 15	Oregon State	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr. 16	Oregon State	6:00 PM
Sun, Apr. 17	Oregon State	12:00 PM
Fri, Apr. 29	Arizona State	5:00 PM
Sat, Apr. 30	Arizona State	7:00 PM
Sun, May 1	Arizona State	12:00 PM

ALL HOME GAMES PLAYED AT EASTON STADIUM

uclaBruins.com

UCLA... CHAMPIONS MADE HERE



TRACK & FIELD HOME SCHEDULE

Tue, Mar. 22	Jim Bush Collegiate Invitational 2:00 PM (Field) / 4:00 PM (Track)
Fri, Apr. 1	Bruin Legends of Track & Field Invitational 12:00 PM (Field) / 3:00 PM (Track)
Sat, Apr. 2	Bruin Legends of Track & Field Invitational 10:00 AM (Field) / 12:00 PM (Track)
Sat, Apr. 9	Rafer Johnson / Jackie Joyner-Kersey Invitational 10:00 AM (Field) / 12:00 PM (Track)
Sat, Apr. 16	Texas A&M 12:00 PM (Field) / 2:00 PM (Track)
Sun, May 1	USC 2:00 PM (Field) / 4:00 PM (Track)

ALL HOME MEETS AT DRAKE STADIUM

FOR TICKETS

uclabruins.com/tickets
310-UCLA-WIN (825-2946)



IS

HERE

BASEBALL HOME SCHEDULE

Fri, Mar. 4	Mississippi State	6:00 PM	Tue, Apr. 12	LMU	6:00 PM
Sat, Mar. 5	Oklahoma	6:00 PM	Thurs, Apr. 21	Oregon	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar. 6	@ USC (Dodger Stadium)	3:00 PM	Fri, Apr. 22	Oregon	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar. 11	Texas	6:00 PM	Sat, Apr. 23	Oregon	1:00 PM
Sat, Mar. 12	Texas	2:00 PM	Fri, May 6	UC Irvine	6:00 PM
Sun, Mar. 13	Texas	12:00 PM	Sun, May 8	UC Irvine	1:00 PM
Fri, Mar. 18	Washington State	4:00 PM	Tue, May 10	Pepperdine	6:00 PM
Sat, Mar. 19	Washington State	2:00 PM	Fri, May 13	USC	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar. 20	Washington State	12:00 PM	Sat, May 14	USC	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar. 29	Cal State Fullerton	6:00 PM	Sun, May 15	USC	6:00 PM
Tue, Apr. 5	CSUN	6:00 PM	Tue, May 17	UC Santa Barbara	6:00 PM
Thurs, Apr. 7	Stanford	7:00 PM	Fri, May 20	Arizona State	6:00 PM
Fri, Apr. 8	Stanford	7:00 PM	Sat, May 21	Arizona State	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr. 9	Stanford	4:30 PM	Sun, May 22	Arizona State	3:00 PM

ALL HOME GAMES PLAYED AT JACKIE ROBINSON STADIUM

Ucla

BRUIN BLUE SPRING 2016



BRUIN GUARD **NIRRA FIELDS** GOES UP FOR A SHOT IN NO. 20 UCLA'S 56-36 VICTORY OVER NO. 12 STANFORD ON JAN. 24 AT PAULEY PAVILION. THE WIN SNAPPED A 21-GAME LOSING STREAK TO THE CARDINAL DATING BACK TO JAN. 4, 2008. THE BRUINS ALSO BEAT CAL DURING THE WEEKEND, MARKING UCLA'S FIRST SWEEP OF THE BAY AREA SCHOOLS SINCE 2006. (PHOTO: DON LIEBIG/ASUCLA)



UCLA Athletics' Annual Bruins at the Beach

The Strand, Dana Point · June 18, 2016

UCLA Athletics will be back in Orange County to host our annual Bruins at the Beach event to be held Saturday, June 18, 2016. This exclusive event is an opportunity for passionate UCLA alumni, friends and fans to spend an elegant evening in Orange County with UCLA head coaches and distinguished UCLA Legends.

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.



*We look forward
to toasting
YOU*

JUNE 18th FOR OUR 2016 BRUINS AT THE BEACH.

For more information about Bruins at the Beach or to learn more about 2016 sponsorship opportunities and benefits, please call (310) 206-3302, or email development@athletics.ucla.edu.

www.woodenathleticfund.com/bruinsatthebeach



THANK YOU!

The Wooden Athletic Fund is proud to honor the 6,097 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.



Ucla

310-206-3302
WoodenAthleticFund.com
@WoodenFund

NOT A WOODEN FUND MEMBER YET?

8CLAP8K.com

The Wooden Athletic Fund is striving to reach eight thousand members in support of UCLA student-athletes and membership begins at just \$100.

**2016-17 MEMBERSHIPS
AVAILABLE NOW**





PROUD SPONSOR
OF USC & UCLA ATHLETICS



BRUIN PRIDE: STANDARD.

THE SoCal BMW CROSSTOWN CUP.

Eyes widen. Pulses race. Senses heighten. They're familiar feelings for any UCLA fan. They're also the same feelings you get when driving a BMW. Hurry into your Southern California BMW Centers for limited-time offers and see why we're the Ultimate Driving Machine® for the ultimate college rivalry.
SoCalBMW.com

FIND A BMW CENTER NEAR YOU AT **SoCalBMW.com**.

Alhambra
New Century BMW
newcenturybmw.com

Camarillo
Steve Thomas BMW
stevethomasbmw.com

Los Angeles
Nick Alexander Imports
alexanderbmw.com

North Hollywood
Century West BMW
centurywestbmw.com

Santa Ana
Crevier BMW
crevierbmw.com

Thousand Oaks
Rusnak BMW
rusnakbmw.com

Beverly Hills
Beverly Hills BMW
bmwofbeverlyhills.com

Glendale
Pacific BMW
pacificbmw.com

Monrovia
BMW of Monrovia
bmwofmonrovia.net

Norwalk
McKenna BMW
mckennabmw.com

Santa Barbara
BMW Santa Barbara
bmwsantabarbara.com

Torrance
South Bay BMW
southbaybmw.com

Buena Park
Shelly BMW
shellybmw.com

Irvine
Irvine BMW
irvinebmw.com

Murrieta
BMW of Murrieta
bmwofmurrieta.com

Ontario
BMW of Ontario
bmwofontario.com

Santa Monica
Santa Monica BMW
smbmw.com

Valencia
Valencia BMW
valenciabmw.com

Calabasas
Bob Smith BMW
bobsmithbmw.com

Long Beach
Long Beach BMW
longbeachbmw.com

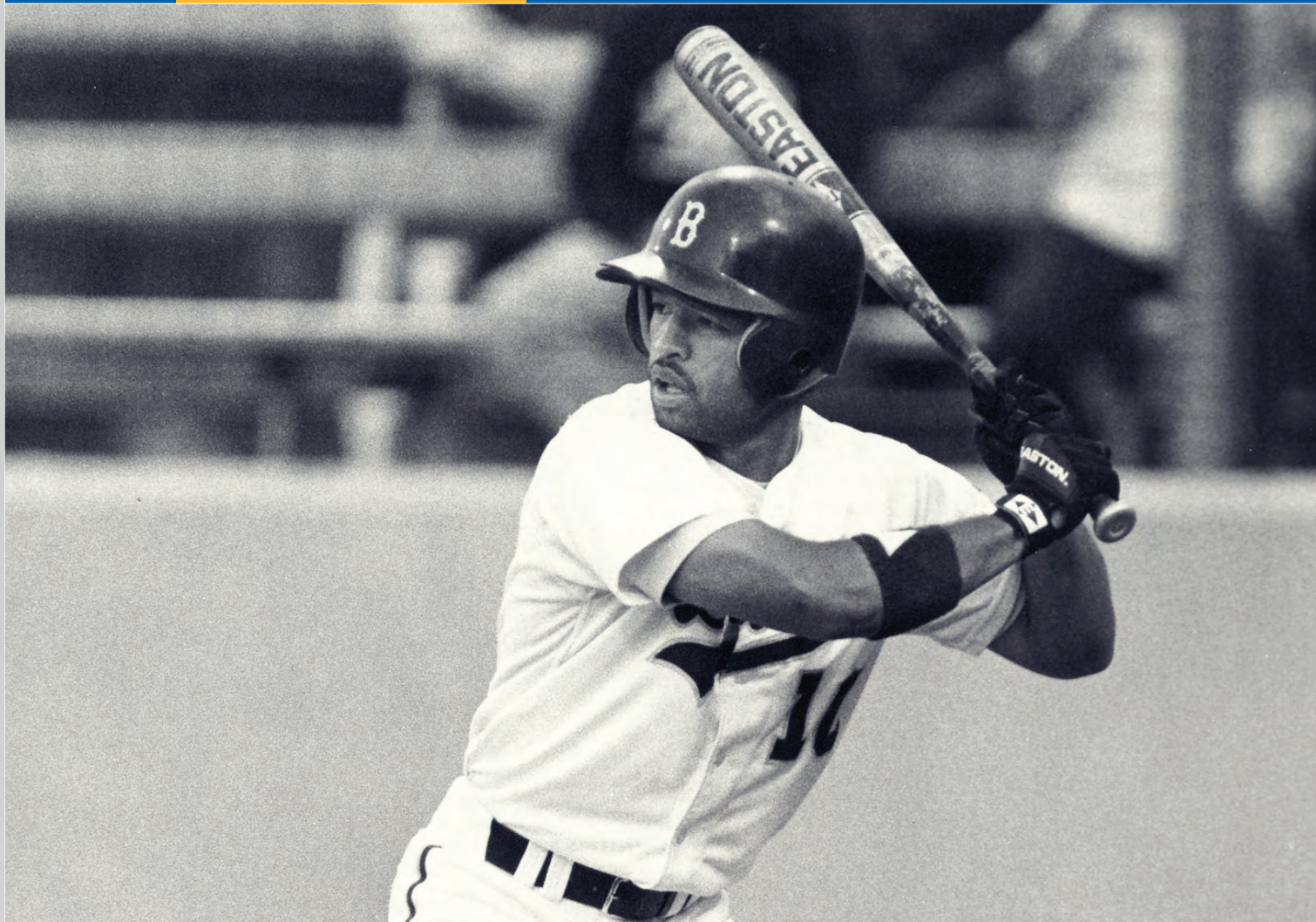
Newport Beach
Sterling BMW
sterlingbmw.com

Riverside
BMW of Riverside
bmwofriverside.com

Sherman Oaks
Center BMW
centerbmw.com

Ucla

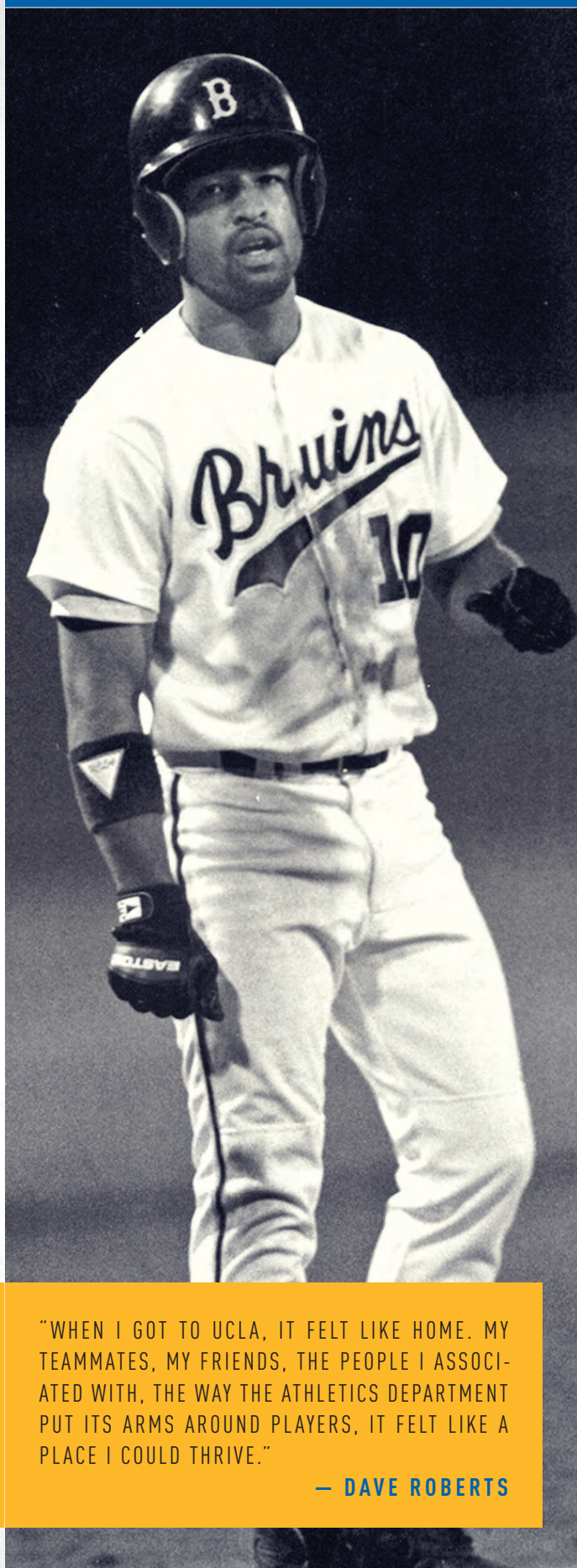
BRUIN BLUE SPRING 2016



L.A. STORY

DAVE ROBERTS RETURNS TO THE CITY
WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...AGAIN.





"WHEN I GOT TO UCLA, IT FELT LIKE HOME. MY TEAMMATES, MY FRIENDS, THE PEOPLE I ASSOCIATED WITH, THE WAY THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT PUT ITS ARMS AROUND PLAYERS, IT FELT LIKE A PLACE I COULD THRIVE."

— DAVE ROBERTS

By Chris Foster

Dave Roberts stepped off first base. Boston Red Sox fans all over the world held their breath. The New York Yankees held a one-run ninth inning lead in Game Four of the 2004 American League Championship Series and were three outs away from winning the pennant.

Roberts, sent in as a pinch runner, crouched in a lead. Voices whispered to him.

"I had that good angel and bad angel on my shoulders," Roberts said.

One was former Dodger Maury Wills, a legendary base stealer. "He was telling me, 'Don't be afraid to take this chance,'" Roberts said.

The other was faceless. "I was hearing all the bad things and why I shouldn't go," Roberts said.

He listened to Wills.

The rest is history. Roberts stole second and later scored on a single by Bill Mueller. What followed was Red Sox folklore, culminating with their first World Series title since 1918.

"There was a lot of anxiety," Roberts said. But, he added with a laser-locked gaze, "I knew I was prepared for that moment."

Another defining moment has arrived and, once again, Roberts feels prepared. He was hired as the Dodgers manager in October, becoming the franchise's first minority to hold that position. This time, the only voices the 43-year-old Roberts hears are singular — his own.

"I do understand that this is a storied franchise that hasn't won the World Series in many years," Roberts said. "For me being a part of a new beginning, a new era, with me being the [Dodgers'] first minority manager, is exciting."

This is the third L.A. Story for Roberts.

Roberts arrived as a walk-on at UCLA in 1990. He left after the 1994 season, having demonstrated his worth. His major league career was in neutral by the time he came to the Dodgers in 2002. In one season, Roberts showed he was an every-day player.

He returns to the Southland on yet another quest. The Dodgers have not won a World Series, or even played in one, since 1988. They had the largest payroll in baseball last season and were eliminated in the divisional round.

Roberts has stepped off first base again.

"I think people tighten up when they come to Los Angeles," Roberts said. "I exhale a little bit because I embrace this city and its diversity."

When former UCLA coach Gary Adams first met Roberts in 1990, what he noticed immediately was his size.

"He looked 5-feet-8," said Adams, the Bruins' coach from 1975-2004. "I thought it would be good to have a guy on the team I could look eyeball-to-eyeball with."

The meeting was an effort to create interest in Roberts and was arranged by Butch Smith, his Rancho Buena Vista High School coach. Adams had done this type of meet-and-greet a number of times. But there was something different about Roberts.

"He had this big, bright smile," Adams said. "I was talking to him about how he was not going to play the first year. He was going to have to be patient. He was going to sit on the bench and pull for the team. The whole time he was going, 'Yes Coach Adams, I'll do that.'"

All Roberts wanted was a chance. He had been a three-sport star in high school. He was an elusive option quarterback, gaining 723 yards rushing and scoring nine touchdowns while leading Rancho Buena Vista to San Diego Section 3-A championship. Those football skills caught the eye of coaches at the Air Force Academy.

Roberts received an appointment but was unsure if that was the right path.

"My father was in the Marine Corps for 30 years," Roberts said. "I didn't feel like I wanted to go to the Academy to spend my college years, let alone play football."

UCLA, on the other hand, was appealing.

"When I got to UCLA, it felt like home," Roberts said. "My teammates, my friends, the people I associated with, the way the athletics department put its arms

UCLA

BRUIN BLUE SPRING 2016

L.A. STORY

DAVE ROBERTS RETURNS TO THE CITY WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...AGAIN.

around players, it felt like a place I could thrive.”

He did.

Roberts won a starting outfield job as a sophomore and hit .326 during a three-year career. He finished with 109 stolen bases, a UCLA career record.

Every day, he was learning.

“I was an athlete playing baseball in high school,” Roberts said. “UCLA was where I defined myself as a baseball player.”

It was a process.

Roberts was a clean-up hitter in high school and slowly made the adjustment to batting in the lead-off spot. Adams kept after him to hit the ball on the ground and get on base by any means so that he could use his speed.

“His goal was to see five or six pitches every at bat,” Adams said. “That meant he had to pass on some fat pitches, but it allowed the guys on the bench to see the pitcher.”

And Roberts took that job seriously.

“One time, I counted seven pitches before he made an out,” Adams said. “He came back to the bench and I said, ‘Way to go D.R., you got seven pitches.’ He stopped in his tracks, looked at me and said, ‘Coach, I got eight.’ And he was right.”

Roberts graduated with a degree in history, but baseball was his career choice. He hit .353 as a senior and was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in the 28th round. A little annoyed that he went so late, it took UCLA teammate Ryan McGuire to straighten him out.

“I was upset at being offered \$1,000 to sign,” Roberts said. “Ryan told me the game would move on without me. He said I should use it as fuel. If I chose not to play baseball, I would lose out.”

Roberts returned to Los Angeles again in 2002, acquired by the Dodgers in a low-level trade.

“There was something exciting about coming back to the West Coast,” Roberts said. “This is where I kind of cemented myself as a major league player.”

Roberts had bounced from the Tigers to the Cleveland Indians, who saw promise in his speed and work ethic. For three seasons, Roberts had shuttled between the Indians and the minor leagues. When he arrived in Los Angeles, he had only 165 total major league at bats.

Roberts hit .277 in 127 games for the Dodgers during the 2002 season and finished third in the National League with 45 stolen bases. He wasn’t satisfied. During the off-season, he would drive from San Diego to Los Angeles three days per week to work with Wills.

All the while, the lessons honed at UCLA never left him.

“I’m from a mixed racial background,” said Roberts, whose father is African American and mother is Japanese. “Going to UCLA for four years, you really see the diversity of the area. People come from all backgrounds and walks of life. That really prepared me for professional baseball, going into those small cities in the minor leagues.”



DAVE ROBERTS HOISTS THE 2004 WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY DURING A CELEBRATION AT FENWAY PARK. (PHOTO: JED JACOBSON/GETTY IMAGES)



RALPH BUNCHE

Class of '27
First African-American
Nobel Prize Winner,
Celebrated Diplomat

SUSAN WOJCICKI

MBA '98
CEO of YouTube,
Top 100 Most
Powerful Women

JOHN WOODEN

Basketball Luminary,
Life Teacher,
Legendary Coach

LEADERSHIP THAT INSPIRES LEADERS.

At UCLA, Optimists lead the way every day, in every way.
Catalyzing peace in local communities and around the globe.
Empowering tomorrow with technological innovations today.
And teaching the world how to rise above with grace and wisdom.
Wherever they go, whatever they do, Optimists lift each other up,
blaze new paths, and motivate others to push humanity forward.

How will you lead the way?

UCLA

ucla.edu/optimists

UCLA

BRUIN BLUE SPRING 2016

L.A. STORY

DAVE ROBERTS RETURNS TO THE CITY WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...AGAIN.

The journey took him to one of the iconic moments in Major League history. The Dodgers traded Roberts to the Red Sox in July 2004. He was the right man in the right place at the right time.

Roberts had not played in eight days when he was sent out as a pinch runner in Game Four of the American League Championships Series. The Yankees' Mariano Rivera, considered baseball's top closer, was on the mound to finish off the Red Sox. Sharp objects were being hidden in homes throughout New England.

Rivera threw over to first base three times, and nearly picked off Roberts with the third try.

"That kind of got me in to the flow of the game," Roberts said. "He threw over the third time and I was certain that when he delivered to the plate, I was going to get a great jump."

He did, slipping his hand under the tag of shortstop Derek Jeter. Moments later, he was sprinting home with the tying run. The Red Sox won in extra innings and won the next three games.

They swept the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series. Roberts didn't get off the bench against the Cardinals, but had done enough to achieve folk hero status in Boston.

Coming to Los Angeles for a third time may be Roberts' greatest challenge.

The Dodgers have won the West Division three consecutive seasons but have stumbled in the playoffs. The combination of high expectations and a high payroll resulted in a change.

The team's future was handed to Roberts, whose only managerial experience was one game as interim manager with the San Diego Padres last season.

"There is definitely more responsibility," Roberts said. "But this is something I feel I am prepared for and excited about."

Roberts' prep work was delayed after his career ended in 2008. He spent a year as a broadcaster in Boston and another as special assistant in the Padres' front office; all the while though, he was itching to get back on the field.

He joined the Padres as a coach in 2011.

"The first week I was out there, I knew I was going to be in this game a long time, if this game would have me," Roberts said. "I loved being a player, but the teaching aspect was something that really got me motivated."

That was clear to then-Padres' Manager Bud Black.

"In this day and age, the players were more in tune with so many things," said Black, who is now a special assistant in the Angels' front office. "The game hasn't changed, the personalities and curiosity of players has grown over the last generation."

Which makes Roberts a good fit, according to Black.

"Dave has the ability to communicate and form a relationship with all types of players and all types of personalities from all kinds of different lands," Black said. "His ability to relate will make him a good manager. If you're honest and genuine, you're way ahead of the game."

Roberts has been framed as a "players' manager." It is a persona he has developed as the game changed.

"Players all want to know where they stand, and they want to know why," Roberts said. "When I came up, I was kind of, 'You do this and you don't need to ask why.' I'm not a guy who has a bunch of team meetings. I tend to do things individually."

But, he said, "I make sure to get my point across."

That was clear to Black, who remembers a game when the Padres' Everth Cabrera unnecessarily stole third base.

"I was angry, but when I looked over at Dave, I saw he was angrier," Black said. "He looked at me like, 'I got this.' He got after Cabrera a little bit. There is a time you need to confront a player. I always remember that look in Dave's eyes."

Now Roberts has brought that look to Los Angeles for a third time.

"UCLA was definitely a big part of me understanding this city," Roberts said. "I lived here for four years and then I played for the Dodgers for three years. I believe in the people here, and I have history here. To have all that, and be named the Dodgers' manager, kind of made sense to me."



WESCOM



CHAMPIONS BANK HERE



#BetterBanking4Bruins



facebook.com/wescomcreditunion



@Liz_Wescom



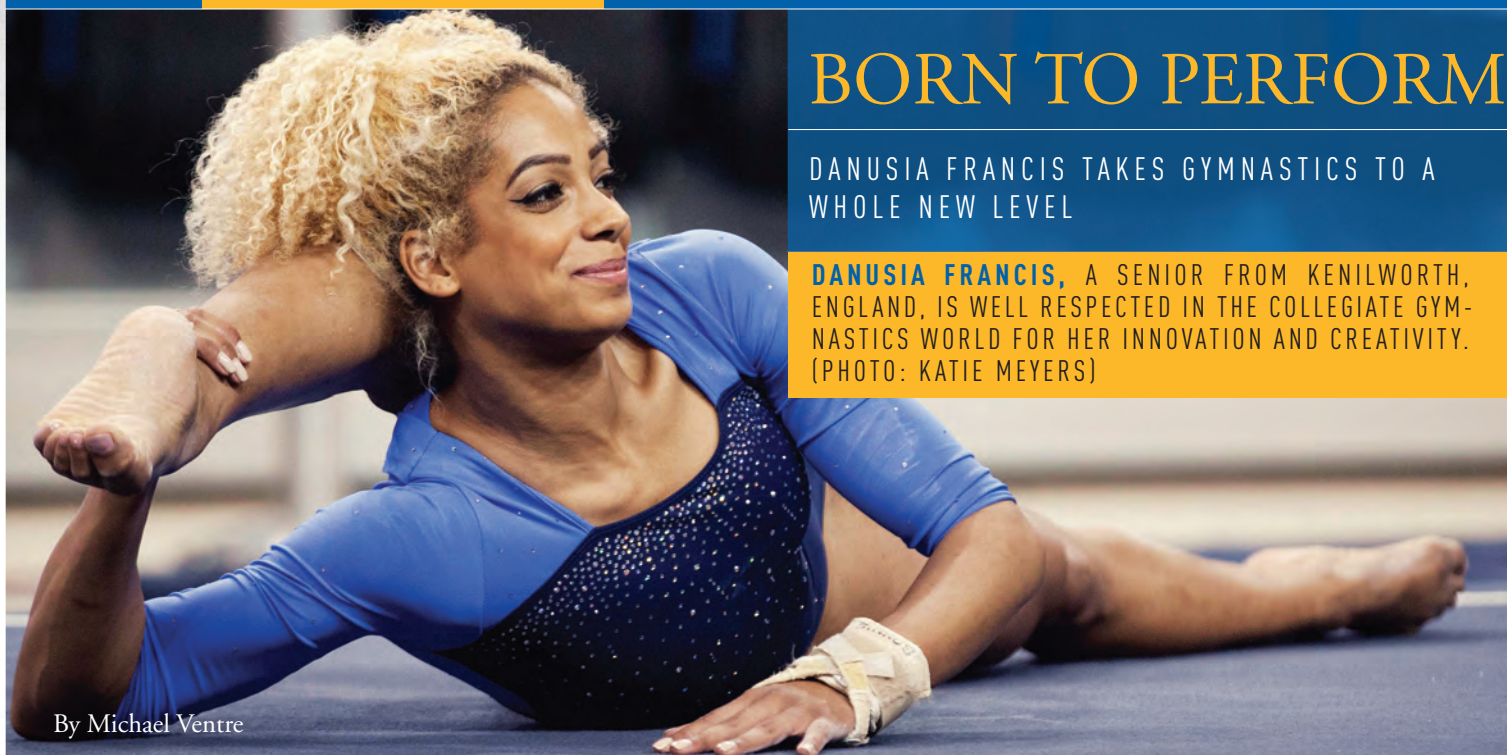
@Liz_Wescom

1-888-8WESCOM (1-888-893-7266)
wescom.org



UCLA

BRUIN BLUE SPRING 2016



By Michael Ventre

BORN TO PERFORM

DANUSIA FRANCIS TAKES GYMNASTICS TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL

DANUSIA FRANCIS, A SENIOR FROM KENILWORTH, ENGLAND, IS WELL RESPECTED IN THE COLLEGIATE GYMNASTICS WORLD FOR HER INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY. (PHOTO: KATIE MEYERS)

"A SIDEWAYS SIDE AERIAL CONNECTED TO A FULL-TWISTING LAYOUT DISMOUNT" SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING SO INCREDIBLY COMPLEX AND CHALLENGING IN THE REALM OF HUMAN ENDEAVOR THAT IT PROBABLY CAUSES SOME TO SUFFER CRAMPS OR MUSCLE PULLS SIMPLY BY SAYING IT.

That's why when Danusia Francis performs it on the balance beam, gasps are audible from crowds and from scads of admirers across the internet ether. A clip of the daring and innovative move has surpassed four million views on Facebook. While the UCLA women's gymnastics team is talented and accomplished enough to hold a No. 4 national ranking after its first three meets, the dazzling Francis has become the front-woman for this rollicking band of apparatus-bound acrobats.

"I truly believe," said Bruins head coach Valorie Kondos Field, "that Danusia brings a thousand more people to our home meets. Everywhere I go they say, 'Is that girl going to be there?' Then they come and fall in love with the team."

As a performer, Francis is a natural. Start with the look: With long, curly blond locks, she has the exotic appearance of a Bond girl, if Bond were to tip a martini with someone that tiny and petite. But her personality is anything but inscrutable and mysterious; with a perky smile and an effervescence that is contagious, she can just stand in place and promise gymnastics fans a rousing bit of entertainment.

She's also British, hailing from Kenilworth, a town of 22,000 in Warwickshire County, which is Shakespeare's old stomping grounds. Actually, she's also Jamaican, holding dual citizenship because her dad is from Jamaica.

When you mix in the look, the accent, her straightforward, no-fear, upbeat attitude, and her extraordinary athletic ability, you get a unique world-class act who is as sensational an entertainer as she is an athlete.

"First of all, she's blessed with this amazing body," Kondos Field explained when asked what makes Danusia special. "She's strong and flexible. She's got these long limbs. Her body lines are so gorgeous. Then you have the exotic look — half Jamaican and half white with blond hair. She walks in a room,

and you can't stop looking at her because she's so strikingly beautiful. She's got the whole package.

"And she loves to compete," Kondos Field added. "She has an innate awareness to connect with the crowd, which most gymnasts don't because most are not taught to project to the audience. Danusia just does that naturally. She's a performer. She's a competitor, but also a performer."

The coach believes because she exudes such verve and panache that it translates not only into smiles on faces in the stands, but also numbers on the judges' scorecards.

"It's a subjective sport," Kondos Field explained, "so I believe the judges get caught up in a performance if it's good. Whether they give you the benefit of the doubt, I definitely feel it plays a part. She's developed a name for herself in the NCAA. It's hard to deduct with an athlete like this. Judges typically don't want to deduct. They want to reward for innovative, artistically well-done gymnastics."

The judges did just that on March 16, 2014, during a tri-meet at Pauley Pavilion that also included Utah State and Bowling Green, when Francis achieved a perfect 10 on the balance beam, her signature event. It marked only the eighth perfect 10 on beam in UCLA history.

"It was really, really cool," Francis said with a huge smile. "When you finish your routine and see your teammates run toward you, it's such a good feeling. I remember that really clearly."

For Francis, the road to a perfect 10 began around five. That was the age when she was first introduced to gymnastics.

"I was really close in age to two of my siblings," she explained. "That was quite overwhelming to my mom when we were little. So we tried a lot of different activities. When I was 5 we tried gymnastics. The minute I walked into a gym and saw the girls doing flips, I knew that I wanted to do it."

It should be noted here that Francis has had some bad luck with buildings.

When she was 9, she was comfortably ensconced at a gymnasium that was an hour or two drive each way for her mom, depending on traffic and time of day. But word came down that the building was being demolished to put up a parking structure.



Inspired by **U**

Kid Captain Luc Bodden (left) and his brother Shane
UCLA v. Virginia

Making a big difference in young lives

The UCLA Kid Captain program recognizes pediatric patients who are facing serious illnesses with exceptional courage, strength and determination. UCLA Athletics and Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA are proud to join together with Bruins everywhere to create special memories for these amazing kids.

For information about how you can become involved, visit: uclahealth.org/KidCaptain



Abby Bender
UCLA v. Arizona St



Tyler Johnson
UCLA v. Oregon



Blayke Rosenthal
UCLA v. Monmouth



Kenny Thomas
UCLA v. Kentucky



Logan Nobriga
UCLA v. UC Riverside



Leonard Evans
UCLA v. U of Colorado

Mattel Children's Hospital **UCLA**

uclahealth.org/mattel



uclahealth.org/getsocial

UCLA

BRUIN BLUE SPRING 2016

BORN TO PERFORM

Then she went to train at Heathrow Gymnastics Club and continued her education at a boarding school. She called it “the best decision I ever made.” Of course, later the boarding school would be shut down because of financial troubles.

While she was driving to workouts and competitions and going to school, she gradually became one terrific, well-rounded gymnast.

“I knew (gymnastics) came quite naturally to me,” she recalled. “I was training with older girls, so I never thought, ‘I’m the best,’ because they were better than me. They literally were like eight years older than me. But when I did my first national competition and won, I was like, ‘Wow, I’m one of the best in the country in my age group.’ That was the moment.”

Jennifer Pinches, who is now medically retired from gymnastics but still is involved as an undergraduate assistant coach for the Bruins, grew up in England and has been friends with Francis since they traveled with the national team to Romania when they were nine.

“Danusia has always been very outgoing and confident,” Pinches remembered. “She’s always fun to be around, so it was easy to be friends.”

Pinches recalled that even then Francis just had something special about her, a spark of flamboyance that set her apart.

“She’s always been a performer, and she enjoys making her gymnastics unique and creative, which makes her stand out,” Pinches said. “She’s very interested in making it her own style. She’s very bold, and she’s always been kind of a rebel. Where other people won’t go, she’ll go there.”

Francis has not competed as an Olympian. Because of her dual citizenship, she could have competed for either country. But competing for England would have required her to begin her quest through that nation’s Olympic program, and she felt with her college work she just didn’t have time to make that commitment.

She did compete for Jamaica at an Olympic qualifying event, the World Championships, in October, but there was another gymnast there who received Jamaica’s one available spot at the subsequent qualifying event, apparently because she already had been more entrenched in that nation’s program.

“Maybe I just wasn’t meant to do the Olympics,” Francis said with a sigh.

She did get close to the Olympic experience, however, performing with Cirque du Soleil during the 2012 Games in London. “That was kind of a dream come true,” she said.

But perhaps no single item on her credentials will sparkle more brightly than the aforementioned “sideways side aerial connected to a full-twisting layout dismount.” The perfect 10 is tough to beat. Others have achieved that number. Yet Francis made that move her trademark.

“All gymnasts are flexible,” she said in explaining how she came to try it. “But I’m more flexible than average. Like mostly my legs; they split a lot. So I can do different skills because of that. In elite, you can’t switch things up too much because the risk of falling is so big. Especially when you’re fighting with others to make the team.

“When I did have a broken wrist I would try it a lot, that one skill,” she added, referring to just the sideways side aerial. “Then when I came here, I don’t know why, I think because Coach Val’s friends mentioned it, I did it.”

From there, it evolved. “During one preseason I practiced it a bit,” she said. “I could do it, but we decided not to do it in my routine because it’s quite a risky skill. Then at the end of my freshman year I made the beam finals. They (coaches) said, ‘Oh just put the skill in because it’s an individual competition and it doesn’t matter if you make a mistake.’ Then I nailed it. Then in preseason again our (assistant) coach Randy (Lane) suggested to do it into a dismount.



FRANCIS WRAPS UP HER LAST MEET AT UCLA WHEN THE BRUINS TAKE ON 2014 NCAA CO-CHAMPION OKLAHOMA ON MARCH 13 AT PAULEY PAVILION. (PHOTO: DON LIEBIG/ASUCLA)

“That was unheard of, but I thought I’d humor him and try,” Francis added. “I said to myself, ‘Oh, I can actually do this.’ It was so scary to do the first time in competition. And it’s still scary every time because the margin of error is so tiny. Going this way you can fall sideways, and going this way is like this—much space. It’s definitely a nerve-wracking skill that’s cool to pull off each time. I’m really proud.”

One interesting side note is that the move requires a moment of hesitation/preparation right before being attempted. And sometimes, to the chagrin of Coach Kondos Field, judges frown upon that pause.

“With the beam dismount,” Kondos Field said, “when she first started two years ago, it’s really scary and really hard. She’s missed a couple of times in the gym, and when she misses it’s a bad fall. She waits in preparation to do the dismount. Judges have taken a half-tenth to a tenth of a deduction for a rhythm break. I argue with judges, ‘She’s doing the hardest dismount in the country and you’re not rewarding that?! You’re telling a kid they’re not making the beam finals because they waited two seconds to do the hardest dismount? What you’re telling me is it’s better not to be creative, not to be innovative.’ They’re not incentivizing creativity in sport.”

Yet sometimes it works out. Kondos Field mentioned that Francis was given two 9.95s so far this season.

As a person, Kondos Field easily gives Francis a 10, including style points.

“She’s lovely. Absolutely lovely,” the coach gushed. “You can tell she grew up with boarding school manners, which are impeccable. As far as character and personality she’s a really nice combination of brutally honest, but in a very lovely way. And when you add the British accent, she can get away with saying things girls her age can’t get away with.

“She’s genuinely appreciative and lovely,” Kondos Field added. “She’ll stay six hours after a meet to sign every autograph and take pictures with every little girl. She looks at it as a compliment and a privilege. She’s very, very confident in every situation she’s ever in. She also has a really big heart, and of everybody on the team, she’s the one who bursts into tears first. Not just for her. If someone does well on the floor I look over at Danusia, and she has tears coming down her face.”

Francis is an English major and has some interest in broadcasting. But she isn’t exactly sure what she’ll do after her UCLA days are over. “I think I’ll travel for a bit,” she said.

Whatever Danusia Francis decides to do, given her penchant for showmanship, you can be sure it won’t be boring.



**SHERWIN
WILLIAMS®**

Hail the blue & gold

Sherwin-Williams proudly
supports the UCLA Bruins

Ucla

BRUIN BLUE SPRING 2016

TWICE AS NICE

ADAM WRIGHT'S BRUINS CLAIM
THEIR SECOND STRAIGHT NCAA
TITLE IN IMPRESSIVE FASHION

By Michael Ventre



Adam Wright embraces a philosophy of coaching that could probably be distilled down to this one utterance: “The repetition of actions creates habits. If you make good habits, you’ll put yourself in a good position to be successful.”

That approach is not so radically different from legions of successful coaches throughout history, including the late John Wooden, one of the greatest preparers of them all. But for UCLA’s head men’s water polo coach, it is his. He developed that outlook over many years as a player and a coach. And judging by the fact that the Bruins have won the last two NCAA titles in the sport, it obviously works.

But pinning down his feelings over success is a more difficult task. As a player, he helped the Bruins win back-to-back NCAA titles in 1999 and 2000. It was a very different experience, he said, being a participant than it is being an overseer.

“Winning is great. But it was different. It was very, very different,” he explained. “I can tell you that there’s some relief to it, especially when you go through our situation where we had been in three NCAA tournament finals and lost. You question a lot of things. You question, ‘Should I be changing?’

“For me to see the joy on my kids’ faces after a long haul, some of these guys losing twice in the NCAA finals, that was better than anything,” he added. “It was better than getting a medal around my neck at the Olympic Games, better than anything. That’s what it’s all about. It’s a long haul as an athlete from Day 1, swimming all those laps. But it’s well worth it.”

And that just represents a hazy recollection of events, because shortly after a head coach reaches the peak, it’s a relative blip in time before he has to begin the climb all over again.

“The crazy thing is, as I told my wife, that it’s such a snapshot,” he said. “You win something and then you can’t really put your finger on how you feel. It’s something magical, but then it’s gone. And you almost just forget about it. But then this should be what motivates you, to get this feeling again.

“This year we won (the 2015 season, the second consecutive NCAA title),

I don’t remember. But the feeling is so incredible, seeing all these kids work so hard and feel so good about the work they put in to arrive at their goal, that’s what the driver is. As a coach, it’s completely different.”

Players get to go home at a decent hour. Wright often works until 1 a.m. and then rises again at 6 in the morning. “Being a player is easy,” Wright said. “I’m saying the real players who commit to the team and commit to the training and commit to knowing the details, that’s easy compared to the coach who really cares. The coach who’s not going to leave any rocks unturned. It’s so much harder.”

Wright began the journey to this point in Seal Beach, where he grew up and where he first took to the water and later became a lifeguard. Eventually the swim training he received took him into competition, and he discovered water polo.

“A lot of my water polo career took place in Long Beach,” he said. “Around Long Beach they call themselves the Aquatic Capital of America, even some say the world. A lot of it was being in the right place at the right time. You just get lucky who influences you. My coaches that I went through from 12 and under all the way up through college, through my pro career in Europe, I hit the jackpot.

“I had a really influential coach on my 10-and-under team (Klaus Barth, who passed away in 2006 at the age of 57). I enjoyed it. My friends were doing it. I was still playing other sports — baseball, basketball. But when I got to high school I had to make a choice, so I chose water polo.”

Wright starred at Long Beach Wilson and later at UCLA, where he graduated in 2001 with degrees in history and sociology. Shortly after he began serving as an assistant coach at Wilson for both the boys and girls water polo squads. That’s where he acquired the coaching bug.

Wright played on the USA national teams and competed in the Summer Olympics in 2004, 2008 and 2012, winning a silver medal in Beijing in ’08. He also carved out an enjoyable and rewarding career as a player in Europe.

When the highly successful Adam Krikorian left the UCLA men’s job to

**First Street
means new
uniforms**



**First Street
means more
playgrounds**



**First Street
keeps the
music playing**



First 1% of profits
are given back to the
communities we serve.

First Street products
available exclusively at

Smart & Final.

Warehouse & Market. Friend & Neighbor.

Call 1-866-411-SMART or visit smartandfinal.com for the location nearest you.



Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Pinterest

1% of the total net profits will be contributed to the Smart & Final Charitable Foundation, 600 Citadel Drive, Commerce CA 90040, which donates to local charities and non-profits. No part of the purchase price may be deducted as a charitable contribution

©Copyright 2016 Smart & Final Stores Inc.

Ucla

BRUIN BLUE SPRING 2016

TWICE AS NICE

take over the U.S. women's national team, Wright stepped in. Slowly, he began to put his imprint upon the program.

"The men's side had gotten into a little bit of a rut," he explained. "We had been in a tough place. We won in '04, and then it had been a long time since they'd been back. When I came in, I had been away from here and didn't know what was going on. I didn't even know the landscape of college water polo. I didn't know players. I didn't know anyone.

"I remember Adam taking me on home visits as one of his assistants because we needed to start getting the right players in place," Wright continued. "We had great kids here in '08, but you need to have the right pieces to construct something incredible."

One of the most important building blocks for Wright was to convince his players they could win any game. That took some time and some doing.

"We changed the approach to the training," he said. "And the training was extremely hard, but for a reason. You need to build the confidence of the mind. If you don't have the confidence in your mind, you can never really arrive at a result."

Arguably the watershed moment for the program occurred in 2012. UCLA played USC in the NCAA final and lost, 11-10. "I think they had won five in row at that point," Wright pointed out. "But I said, 'We're going to get it done.'"

"Roster for roster, they were much deeper. But we were getting into the right place mentally. That game slipped away from us in the last 30 seconds. That's one that hurts. For sure."

Yet through heartbreak eventually came triumph. The experience in 2012 — which also involved Wright voicing his opinion afterward about the officiating — succeeded for the UCLA men's water polo program in the old "that which does not kill me makes me stronger" way.

"What a lesson it was," he said. "I can harp on the same message to the guys and have it go in one ear and out the other. But do you want to see the video? One second can make the difference of your season. From that point forward the training became easier on me because guys really understood the underlying message of, 'One second can be the difference. One kick. If I ask you to do three breast kicks but you're only doing two, this can be the difference.'

"They began to train the right way," he added. "When you begin to train the right away you begin to build confidence. With confidence you believe you can win. It was this evolution that was the single greatest thing for us to arrive at where we are now."

In 2013, despite having the nation's best record at 28-4, the Bruins did not earn a berth in the NCAA tournament. But they followed that up with national titles in 2014 and 2015.

"What I can tell you is that champions are made here," he said. "We have a university committed to winning. We had a group in place — players who had their hearts ripped out — who are committed to winning. That really made the training ground just continue to grow and grow. At this point I believe there are a lot of days where our UCLA pool is the hardest game we have all year, because of the way the guys are going at it."

Senior Daniel McClintick has been one of those guys. "When I first met him and began playing for him," McClintick said of Wright, "he was someone who wanted to be the best, always the best in everything he does. He wanted to quote-unquote put UCLA back on top of everybody's water polo map. He was someone very motivated, really very optimistic, and very competitive.



ADAM WRIGHT HAS PLAYED A PART IN FOUR OF UCLA'S 10 NCAA TITLES IN MEN'S WATER POLO, WINNING TWO AS A PLAYER (1999 & 2000) AND NOW TWO AS HEAD COACH (2014 & 2015). HIS 2015 SQUAD FINISHED WITH A PERFECT 30-0 RECORD, MARKING THE SCHOOL'S FIRST UNDEFEATED SEASON SINCE 1969. (PHOTO: KATIE MEYERS).

"Now my impressions of him are that none of that has changed, but above all that he is the most selfless person I've ever known. Nobody works harder than him. He's so special to be around and to get the opportunity to play under."

McClintick describes Wright's style as relatively old-school and no-frills, and one that is based on work ethic and a solid foundation.

"His style of coaching is the same that he played under, which is very fundamental," he said. "It's not super scripted, but there are rules. It's a methodical game. It allows our players to expose and take advantage of traits and strengths. I think it's a very fundamental style of play. Personally I think it's the best style of play in the world. We've competed with kids better than us in the World University Games and we were able to hang with those teams."

But McClintick said the belief factor is the most important aspect of Wright's tutelage. "He always believes in us, even when we didn't believe in ourselves," he said.

Wright is married to Kerry Norris, a former UCLA soccer player. They have two small children. That's the good news. The bad news is that Wright's schedule doesn't allow him much family time. When asked if daughter Rome and son Zsolt are swimming regularly, Wright replied: "They should be swimming better, I can tell you that much."

Wright is proof that when a guy puts on a coach's hat, he never takes it off.



LUXE
SUNSET BOULEVARD
HOTEL

*Casual luxury and genuine hospitality
in an urban oasis located in the heart of Los Angeles.*



LUXESUNSET.COM

310 476 6571



BRUIN BLUE SPRING 2016

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FIVE UPCOMING EVENTS TO ATTEND



3/2

SOFTBALL VS. MICHIGAN

In one of the biggest early-season matchups of the 2016 season, the 2015 NCAA Runner-Up Michigan Wolverines visit Easton Stadium for a non-conference showdown on Wednesday, March 2. The Wolverines and Bruins last squared off at the NCAA College World Series in Oklahoma City a year ago, with Michigan coming away with a 10-4 victory en route to reaching the final series against Florida. Both teams will be highly ranked once again heading into what will be UCLA's 2016 home opener.

Game Time: 7 p.m. / Tickets: \$8 general admission (\$5 youth)

DODGER STADIUM COLLEGE BASEBALL CLASSIC

Big time college baseball returns to Dodger Stadium again this year, as the UCLA Bruins will headline the Dodger Stadium College Baseball Classic on March 6 at Chavez Ravine. The Bruins will take on cross-town rival USC in the second half of a doubleheader at 3 p.m. The first game that day features Oklahoma and Mississippi State at 11 a.m. The Dodger Stadium College Baseball Classic dates back to 2010 when Vanderbilt, Oklahoma State, UCLA and USC kicked off the event.

Ticket information can be found online at www.dodgers.com/classic.



3/6



4/9

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL VS. PEPPERDINE

The Bruins host rival Pepperdine in their final regular season match of the 2016 season at Pauley Pavilion on April 9. UCLA, which has ascended to as high as No. 1 in the national rankings in 2016, is led by junior Mitch Stahl and sophomore Jake Arnitz. Fans in attendance on April 9 will also be treated to a special ceremony, as UCLA will honor its 1996 and 2006 NCAA Championship teams during the Pepperdine encounter.

Match Time: 7 p.m. / Tickets: \$8 general admission (\$5 youth)

TRACK & FIELD VS. USC

Featuring the likes of such greats as Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Amy Acuff, Quincy Watts, Felix Sanchez, Ato Boldon and John Brenner to name a few, the UCLA-USC dual meet has historically been a who's-who in the sport of track & field. In the recent meetings, Julian Wruck, Andre DeGrasse and Mike Woepse have broken meet records in a dual that started on the men's side in 1934. This season at Drake Stadium will be the 83rd time the two cross-town rivals will toe the line against each other.

Meet time: 2 p.m. / Tickets: \$8 general admission (\$5 youth)



5/1



5/13

WOMEN'S WATER POLO NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

UCLA's Spieker Aquatics Center will serve as host for this year's NCAA Women's Water Polo Championships beginning on Friday, May 13 and concluding on Sunday, May 15. The UCLA women are hoping to duplicate the feat of the Bruin men's team, which went on to capture the national championship in December as host of the NCAA Championships. The Bruins have an excellent shot of making the eight-team field, however the draw will not be determined until after the MPSF Championships on May 1.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the UCLA Central Ticket Office at 310-UCLA-WIN



Stay Golden, California.

Did you know that running your faucet for 5 minutes uses as much electricity as leaving a 60-watt light bulb on for 14 hours?

Do your part to help California Stay Golden by not only managing your electricity use, but your water use, too.

Get educated on water management and learn about rebates to upgrade appliances at EnergyUpgradeCA.org.

Energy Upgrade California® is a state initiative to educate residents and small business consumers about energy management. The initiative helps Californians take action to save energy and conserve natural resources, reduce demand on the electricity grid, and make informed energy management choices at home and at work. It is supported by an alliance of the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Energy Commission, utilities, regional energy networks, local governments, businesses, and nonprofits to help communities meet state and local energy and climate action goals. Funding comes from investor-owned utility customers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. ©2015 California Public Utilities Commission and California Energy Commission. Trademarks are property of their respective owners. All rights reserved.

Burbank Bob Hope Airport

Closest. Convenient.

Your gateway to the Rose Bowl Stadium.

Alaska Airlines

**15 miles from Bob Hope
Burbank Airport**

 **DELTA**

**19 minute drive time from
Burbank Bob Hope Airport to
the Rose Bowl Stadium**

jetBlue

(Average drive time and distance courtesy of Google Maps)

SEA*PORT
AIRLINES

www.bobhopeairport.com


SOUTHWEST.COM



Rose Bowl
AMERICA'S STADIUM®

UNITED 

 **U.S. AIRWAYS**

Photo by Jim Moomaw



JOIN US AT THE TENTH ANNUAL
JIM MORA CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC
MONDAY, MAY 16TH, 2016 | THE RIVIERA COUNTRY CLUB



VIP PARTY
PRESENTED BY
TVG Executive Search

W Los Angeles – West Beverly Hills
Sunday, May 15, 2016

GOLF CLASSIC

Monday, May 16, 2016
The Riviera Country Club
Pacific Palisades, California

Backswing Bash & Auction
Following the Tournament



You're invited to be a part of the Tenth Annual Jim Mora Celebrity Golf Classic at the renowned Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, California.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet celebrities from the sports and entertainment industries, play golf at one of the most exclusive clubs in the United States, and raise money to support local children's charities and Count On Me community programs.

Since 2005, Count On Me has made an impact on thousands of children in need through its own programs and community outreach events, and through grants to more than 75 different children's charities.

Sponsorship and Donor opportunities are now available for this event. Don't miss this chance to make a positive difference in the life of a child.

Jim and Shannon Mora

Contact: Shannon Mora

Shannon.m@comff.org | 425-765-3572

VISIT COUNTONMEFOUNDATION.ORG FOR SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION



#JMCGC



BRUIN BLUE SPRING 2016

KAZEMI FAMILY SUPPORTS UCLA

JOE KAZEMI ACTIVE IN BRUINS' COURTESY VEHICLE PROGRAM



(L-R): JOE KAZEMI, JULIE KAZEMI, NICK KAZEMI, AND NATALIE KAZEMI (PHOTO: DON LIEBIG/ASUCLA)

By Emily Lerner
Director of Communications, UCLA Athletics Development

Being a devoted Bruin may be something innate, or something learned. Being a devoted Bruin carries with it a certain pride in that we excel in the worlds of academia, medicine, engineering, education, and of course, athletics. Being a Bruin devotee by definition means: “a person who is very interested in and enthusiastic about the Bruins.” This has never been more evident than in the case of Joe Kazemi.

As a boy growing up in Iran in the 1960's, Joe already knew of UCLA.

“UCLA was an internationally recognized school,” said Joe. “The school I went to in Iran was an American-Persian school built in the 1920's right after World War I by an American missionary. The architecture was very similar to the structures at UCLA; they used that same red brick and architectural design. All kids knew of and would've given anything to go to a school like UCLA.”

Joe admits that UCLA had the recognizable name, as did Stanford, MIT, Berkeley, Texas, and, as much as he doesn't want to admit it, USC. But to Joe, UCLA towered above the rest for a simple reason.

“It was an underdog school,” said Joe. “It was rich kids at private schools versus the underdog, and I've always loved the underdog. That's how UCLA was presented to us at that time; as a public school that supports all children versus a private school.”

After attending a French boarding school for three years, Joe, at 15 years old, came to the United States — by himself — on a one-way airplane ticket. His parents sent him to live in a small town in Utah.

“Unfortunately I never had the chance to go to UCLA so I went to high

school and to college in Logan, Utah, then moved to California in 1981,” said Joe. “And when I came to California for the first time, the first thing I did was go to Westwood. I'm not kidding — that's where it started!”

Admittedly, that is when he and UCLA started, and Joe's enthusiasm and love of the university began to spread. In fact, Joe's courtship with his future wife, Julie, had its roots in UCLA. Since their first few meetings were double dates, on the first date that Joe invited Julie to himself, he did what any UCLA-loving person would do.

“I took her to Westwood and bought her a UCLA T-shirt.”

Apparently the T-shirt worked, as Joe and Julie have now been married for 31 years. They have two children, Nick, 24, and Natalie, 19, who were raised enveloped in the UCLA culture. Nick, who graduated from UCLA in 2015, was a walk-on for the UCLA men's basketball team. But as Joe describes it, it was very nearly preordained.

“We loved UCLA so much that Nick was practically brainwashed as a child,” Joe explains. “When he was in fifth grade, he already dreamed of going to UCLA. He wrote in his grade school yearbook: ‘10 years from now when I'm 18, I'll be at UCLA playing basketball.’”

The Kazemis were supporting UCLA on many levels long before Nick walked on to the basketball team. Longtime residents of Orange County, Joe and Julie were already involved in the Orange County Celebration Dinner, an annual UCLA Athletics fundraiser, which has evolved into what is now called Bruins at the Beach. Still heavily involved in this event, Joe supports UCLA by not only attending the event every year, but by helping to obtain auction prizes that are sold to benefit the Wooden Athletic Fund and UCLA's student-athletes.

At the 2012 Bruins at the Beach event, Joe bid on a live auction item and won two chairs that were taken out of “old” Pauley. He keeps them in his

office, which boasts an “all things UCLA” section which includes a rather large John Wooden Pyramid of Success. The Kazemi household also has an area full of UCLA memorabilia.

“I have the two Pauley [Pavilion] seats in my office that are literally autographed by many of the big names of people who played in Pauley; from Kareem [Abdul-Jabbar] to Coach Howland to Russell Westbrook to Kiki Vandeweghe to Gail Goodrich — I know I’m forgetting some but a lot of those guys signed the seats.”

Supporting UCLA’s teams and athletics programs is one way that Joe shows his Bruin spirit, but his involvement encompasses much more. In 2012, Joe joined UCLA Athletics’ Courtesy Vehicle Program, a program that is a necessity for every NCAA Division I athletic program in this competitive age of college athletics. The Courtesy Vehicle Program is comprised of car dealers who generously provide courtesy cars to coaches and top administrators of the athletics department. The program is an important part in attracting and retaining quality coaches and athletics personnel by providing a personal benefit for them. In order to attract the very best coaches and administrators, it is important to be able to offer them the use of a courtesy vehicle. In this respect, because he loves UCLA, when Joe was asked to be part of this program, he answered without hesitation.

“I own several auto repair franchises. The school needed cars so when they asked me about it, I said, ‘Of course.’ That’s how I started in the [Courtesy Vehicle] Program.”

The auto repair franchises of which Joe speaks are Sterling Collision Centers. With locations in Tustin and Newport Beach, these centers specialize in repairing and restoring the highest end luxury cars like Lamborghinis, Porsches and Bentleys.

Being in the Courtesy Vehicle Program is also beneficial to its participants. Because of his generous involvement as a car dealer in the program, Joe has traveled on several away football games, flying with the UCLA football team and coaches. But besides going on away football trips, car dealers in the program receive credit towards their Wooden Athletic Fund membership. This affords them benefits such as priority for football and men’s basketball season tickets, invitations to



JOE KAZEMI (RIGHT) POSES WITH UCLA ALL-TIME GREAT DECATHLETE RAFER JOHNSON AT THE BRUINS AT THE BEACH EVENT. (PHOTO: RON YEE)

sit in the athletic department’s suite in Donahue Pavilion for home games at the Rose Bowl, and to events throughout the year — including the exclusive Director’s Dinner — as well as complimentary admission to all UCLA Olympic sport home games. They also get premium benefits such as a personalized parking space at the Rose Bowl and valet parking in Pauley Pavilion for home men’s basketball games.

Joe and his family always attended football and men’s basketball games, but during the four years that their son, Nick, was on the UCLA basketball team, Joe, Julie, and Natalie went to every single home game and just about every road game. He supports the team no matter the outcome.

“I was in Chicago when we were losing badly to Kentucky,” Joe said. “But you have to support the team. I looked at [the team’s] faces, and as a parent and a fan, it hurts when you know you can’t do anything. But having those experiences just makes me stronger as ever as a Bruin.”

So win or lose, Joe will always cheer for UCLA. In fact, one of his pride and joys comes from “his banner.”

“Yes, I’m the guy with the banner,” Joe confesses. “I bought one of those felt [UCLA]

banners at the UCLA Store and I would take it on road games and sit behind the benches with it. Knowing that I was Nick’s dad, everyone on the team autographed it, so the banner became symbolic. So when we were on football or basketball road games and we would score I would hold it up so the TV would show it. I have many pictures of former [student-athletes] with that banner.”

But there’s a photo of Joe’s banner that was taken in a place where it’s pretty certain no one has ever photographed a UCLA banner before.

“After a UCLA men’s basketball game where we beat USC at the Galen Center, a few of us went into the USC Bookstore where we stood among all these mannequins in ‘SC uniforms and gear,” Joe explains. “One of my buddies wrapped the UCLA banner around the head of one of the USC mannequins. So there’s one piece of blue — the UCLA banner — in the middle of all the red and gold USC gear in that store, and there’s a picture of me in the middle of that.”

It is obvious that Joe has fun being a Bruin. It is also obvious how much he loves UCLA.

“I don’t do this for the recognition. I do it because I love UCLA.”

UCLA... Champions Made HERE!



Check out these excellent accomplishments by Bruin athletes/coaches past and present.



Ka'imi Fairbairn - *football*

Senior placekicker Ka'imi Fairbairn was recently named the winner of the Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award and to the Walter Camp All-America First Team. Both honors were announced on the evening of Dec. 10 at the The Home Depot College Football Awards Show at the College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta, Ga. Fairbairn is the second Bruin to earn the award, joining 2009 winner Kai Forbath.



Billy Martin - *men's tennis*

UCLA men's tennis coach Billy Martin picked up the 500th victory of his coaching career on Jan. 20 when the Bruins downed San Francisco, 7-0 in the team's season opener at the Los Angeles Tennis Center. Martin, who is in his 23rd season as head coach, becomes one of just four active major-conference coaches to reach the 500-win mark. His finest victory came in the 2005 NCAA Final when the Bruins defeated Baylor, 4-3 to earn the program's 16th NCAA title.



Javan Torre - *men's soccer*

Senior men's soccer player Javan Torre was selected by the Colorado Rapids in the third round (56th overall pick) of the MLS SuperDraft on Jan. 19. Torre, a defender, is the 68th player from UCLA to be drafted into the MLS, more than any other college. The Santa Monica, Calif. native appeared in 56 games during his UCLA career and becomes the 34th player to be selected since Coach Jorge Salcedo took over the program in 2004.



Josh Rosen - *football*

Quarterback Josh Rosen is adding to the many honors he received during his stellar freshman campaign in 2015, as he was named the *CBS Sports* National Freshman of the Year on Jan. 14. Rosen, who was also named to freshman All-America teams by the *Associated Press* and *Sporting News*, finished the year throwing for 3,669 yards and 23 touchdowns. He also he averaged 282.2 passing yards per game.



Jill Ellis - *women's soccer*

U.S. Women's National Team head coach Jill Ellis was awarded the Women's FIFA World Coach of the Year award in Zurich, Switzerland on Jan. 11. Ellis, who recently led the U.S. to its first World Cup title since 1999, is one of just two U.S. coaches to take home the honor, joining Pia Sundhage in 2012. Ellis was head coach at UCLA from 1999-2010, leading the team to seven-straight appearances in the NCAA College Cup (Final Four).



Karch Kiraly - *women's volleyball*

The top-ranked U.S. Women's National Volleyball team, headed by Bruin legend Karch Kiraly, defeated the Dominican Republic 25-19, 25-19, 25-18 in Lincoln, Neb. on Jan. 9 to wrap up a berth in the 12-team field at this summer's Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Kiraly also got another bit of good news recently when the Pac-12 Conference named him its 'Player of the Century' on Jan. 26.

The Wooden Athletic Fund

Karen McClain Invests in Tomorrow's Champions Today.

Karen McClain is passionately committed to UCLA and supporting Bruin student-athletes through the Wooden Athletic Fund. A 1985 UCLA graduate with a BA in Economics, Karen found her way back to UCLA in 2012 and now serves as Senior Director for Athletics Partnership & Strategic Initiatives for the UCLA Alumni Association. As a student, Karen was an assistant manager for the UCLA Men's Basketball team under Coach Larry Farmer, which made her college experience, admittedly, that much more memorable. Some years back, she had the opportunity to visit Coach Wooden at his home, where she felt his humble and caring spirit. Knowing how much he achieved and how much others achieved due to his leadership made her awed by his humility. As a result, Karen, a Wooden Athletic Fund donor since 2001, has upgraded her membership two levels to where she is now a member of the Bruin Legends support group. Still the dedicated Bruin fan, Karen has also made significant gifts to the Hoopsters Men's Basketball Fund, the Women's Basketball Bruin Elite Fund, the Pauley Pavilion Renovation Project, and the Wasserman Football Center.



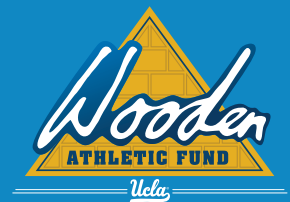
UCLA and the UCLA Athletic Department thank the 6,097 Wooden Athletic Fund members, including Karen McClain.

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.

"Being in college is one of the best experiences in life and, for student-athletes, it is even more rewarding. Student-athletes have trained and competed in most cases since they were young children. Competing on the collegiate level is a reward for hard work on the court, field, track, pool, and in the classroom. Giving to the Wooden Athletic Fund allows me to financially support and hopefully enhance the student-athlete's college experience."



Wooden Athletic Fund
Invest in Tomorrow's
Champions Today

310.206.3302

WoodenAthleticFund.com



BRUIN BLUE SPRING 2016

CELEBRITY SIGHTINGS

UCLA MEN'S BASKETBALL ... WHERE THE STARS COME OUT



TOP ROW (L-R): LAKERS GUARD JORDAN CLARKSON SITS COURTSIDE DURING THE BRUINS' 81-74 VICTORY OVER ASU ON JAN. 9; ITALIAN SOCCER ICON ALESSANDRO DEL PIERO ATTENDED THE KENTUCKY GAME; BEN HIGGINS FROM ABC'S "THE BACHELOR" TOOK IN THE UCLA-WASHINGTON GAME ON JAN. 28.

SECOND ROW (L-R): OKLAHOMA CITY FORWARD KEVIN DURANT SHOWED SUPPORT FOR HIS THUNDER TEAMMATE DURING RUSSELL WESTBROOK NIGHT AT PAULEY PAVILION ON JAN. 7; FORMER NFL STANDOUT AND UCLA STAR MAURICE JONES-DREW ATTENDED THE KENTUCKY GAME; NBA LEGEND SHAQUILLE O'NEAL WAS ONE OF MANY STARS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE KENTUCKY GAME.

THIRD ROW (L-R): JERRY WEST (LEFT) AND OSCAR ROBERTSON WERE ON HAND FOR UCLA'S UPSET OVER NO. 1 KENTUCKY; RUSSELL WESTBROOK SPOKE TO THE FANS DURING HALFTIME OF THE UCLA-ARIZONA GAME ON JAN. 7. WESTBROOK WAS BEING HONORED FOR HIS GENEROUS DONATION TO UCLA'S NEW BASKETBALL PRACTICE FACILITY; ACTRESS JESSICA ALBA, THE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW OF FORMER UCLA STANDOUT MIKE WARREN, WAS ON HAND FOR THE KENTUCKY GAME.

BOTTOM ROW (L-R): FORMER UCLA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STAR AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE WNBA'S PHOENIX MERCURY ANN MEYERS DRYSDALE WAS ON HAND FOR THE KENTUCKY GAME.



**WHEN SPICING THINGS UP,
BE SURE TO START IN THE KITCHEN.**



WWW.DELREALFOODS.COM



UCLA Intercollegiate Athletics
The Wooden Athletic Fund
405 Hilgard Ave.
Box 951639, 175 Morgan Center
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1639

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage
Paid
UCLA

EIGHT CLAPS FOR THE BRUINS THE BEST TEAM IN THE WEST

- After the game, turn to Fontis to boost your game with tightly
- coordinated **teamwork solutions** to all of your business
- communications. We help you manage your branded materials, pulling **diverse media and resources** together to create unified, effective marketing and promotional programs. Our bottom line – **boosting your bottom line**. Fontis – Latin for “the source” – a proud sponsor of UCLA Bruins athletics.

[BUSINESS CHALLENGES. FONTIS ANSWERS.]

CONTACT US TODAY.

The consult is free. The solutions are priceless.

949.754.9000

FontisSolutions.com

