

BRUIN TRADITION



◀ 1940 UCLA Baseball

Jackie Robinson spent the 1940 season playing baseball at UCLA. Robinson (far left, top row) played his first game on March 10, 1940. He finished his career at UCLA as the school's first four-sport letterwinner (baseball, football, basketball, track and field).

▼ Gary Adams

UCLA's all-time winningest head coach (below, center), Gary Adams led the Bruins to the 1997 College World Series. That season, UCLA overcame an early loss in NCAA Regional action by winning its next five games in dominating fashion. Adams played at UCLA from 1959-62.



▲ Paul Ellis

Shown here being congratulated by his teammates, Paul Ellis (#19) served as the Bruins' starting catcher in 1989 and 1990. He was a consensus first-team All-America selection and Division I ABCA Player of the Year honoree in 1990.

▶ Bob Andrews

Playing under head coach Art Reichle, Bob Andrews pitched for UCLA from 1948-50 when the Bruins were members of the CIBA.



▲ 2010 UCLA Baseball

The Bruins posted a program-best 51-17 record in 2010, closing the season with UCLA's first-ever trip to the finals of the College World Series in Omaha, Neb. Anchored by starting pitchers Gerrit Cole, Trevor Bauer and Rob Rasmussen, the Bruins took down Cal State Fullerton in the Super Regionals to advance to the College World Series.



2012 UCLA Baseball ▲

Led by the winningest junior class in school history, the 2012 UCLA Baseball team advanced to their second College World Series in three years. The Bruins swept all three games in the Los Angeles Regional before knocking off TCU in the Los Angeles Super Regional.

▼ Chris Chambliss

Chambliss led UCLA to its first-ever College World Series in 1969, posting a team-high .340 batting average with 15 home runs.



▲ Jim Parque

Among the top pitchers in the nation in 1997, Parque posted a career 25-11 record with a 3.55 ERA in 334.2 innings (1995-97). He was an integral member of UCLA's 1997 College World Series team.



Dan Guerrero ►

An infielder on UCLA's baseball team from 1971-73, Guerrero has served as UCLA's Athletic Director since 2002.

2000 UCLA Baseball ►

UCLA's 2000 team advanced to the NCAA Super Regional in Baton Rouge with the help of (left to right) Chase Utley, Chad Cislak and Bill Scott. The Bruins won the 2000 Oklahoma City Regional that spring.



◀ Garrett Atkins

Among the best hitters to ever play at UCLA, Garrett Atkins posted a school freshman season record .383 batting average in 1998. Two years later, Atkins teamed with Chase Utley to lead UCLA to the 2000 NCAA Super Regional at LSU. The Bruins swept three games at the NCAA Oklahoma City Regional.

▼ 2007 UCLA Baseball

Backed by three standout starting pitching efforts, the 2007 UCLA team swept the NCAA Long Beach Regional, earning its first Super Regional appearance since 2000.



▲ Todd Zeile

One of the premiere major leaguers of the 1990s, Zeile batted .331 with 26 homers and 94 RBI for UCLA from 1984-86. Zeile captured All-Pac-10 team honors in 1986, as UCLA advanced to NCAA Regional action at Jackie Robinson Stadium.

1944 – CIBA CHAMPIONS

16-12 overall, 5-3 CIBA (1st Place)

Led by head coach A.J. Sturzenegger, the 1944 Bruins claimed both the Southern California Interscholastic Baseball Association and the California Interscholastic Association titles. No UCLA team had finished with a first-place league standing since 1924. In the words of Sturzenegger, his 1944 squad was "one of the best fielding and hitting teams of Bruin history."

Team captain and shortstop Bob Brown led UCLA with the bat and anchored the infield before later becoming the president of Major League Baseball's American League. Pitcher Burt Avedon and catcher Dave Fainer provided the Bruins with a veteran battery combination, while pitcher Nick Russin, outfielders Lyle Palmer and Mike Knauff, and first baseman Jack Myers added some pop to a hard-hitting lineup. Rounding out the infield were third baseman Don Reaume and second baseman Ken Proctor. Warren Hayes was the third member of the outfield.

UCLA's pitching staff revolved around starters Frank Freericks and "Doc Mason," in addition to Avedon. The bullpen included Sid Gilmore, Baker Garrison, Jack Porter and John Derdivanis. The Bruins ended the season with a four-game win streak, including two over California and two against USC.

1969 – FIRST COLLEGE WORLD SERIES TRIP

42-12-1, 17-4 Pac-8 (1st Place)

Led by future major league star Chris Chambliss, the 1969 UCLA baseball team became the first Bruin squad to reach the College World Series. UCLA finished the season with a 42-12-1 record, losing two heartbreakers at the College World Series in extra innings. Chambliss, who played first base, batted .340 and set a then-school record with 15 home runs, including 10 in conference play. Shortstop Gary Sanserino batted .302 with 10 home runs, establishing a then-school record 19 stolen bases. UCLA's pitching staff was led by sophomore right-hander Rick Pope, who compiled an 8-0 record and a 1.60 ERA in a team-leading 95.1 innings. Senior right-hander Jim York pitched in a team-high 27 games, collecting 70 strikeouts and 24 walks in 60.2 innings.

UCLA's march to Omaha, Neb., in 1969 began with consecutive shutout victories as the Bruins won 16 of their first 17 games. After opening Pac-8 play with back-to-back losses, UCLA won 17 of its final 19 conference games to secure a 17-4 Pac-8 mark. UCLA entered a best-of-three NCAA Regional having won its previous 11 contests, all in Pac-8 play. The Bruins dispatched of Santa Clara in the NCAA Regional, winning by scores of 7-5 and 2-1. In the College World Series, UCLA fell to Tulsa, 6-5, in 10 innings. The Bruins were eliminated the following day, dropping a 2-1 decision in 12 innings to Arizona State.

THE 1970s – 330-248-2 (.571)

1970 – 26-24-1, 8-7 Pac-8 (3rd Place)

Despite winning just one of their first seven games, the 1970 UCLA ballclub posted a winning record and finished second in the Pac-8. Following the opening 1-6 skid, UCLA rebounded to win seven of its next eight games. Early non-conference wins against Cal Poly, San Diego State and Long Beach State boosted the Bruins' record as UCLA hovered around the .500 plateau most of the spring. Junior shortstop Ralph Punaro led the Bruins in Pac-8 play, posting a .356 average. Sophomore Earl Altshuler registered a .390 batting average in limited action (32-for-82 at the plate).

1971 – 38-17, 11-6 Pac-8 (3rd Place)

The 1971 season marked the fourth season in UCLA's last five in which the Bruins won 35 games or more. UCLA won 10 of its first 15 games that spring, posting a 13-0 shutout victory against Cal Poly Pomona in the season opener. Two days later, UCLA routed the College of Sequoias, 30-0. The Bruins opened Pac-8 play winning three of the first four contests, including a win at home against Stanford followed by two victories against California. UCLA continued rolling through their conference late in May, posting two-game series sweeps at Washington and Washington State.

1972 – 32-33-1, 4-14 Pac-8 (4th Place)

UCLA's 1972 ballclub featured a mid-season nine-game win streak quickly followed by a nine-game losing skid. After hovering near .500 through the first 14 games, the Bruins won 14 of their next 15 to boast a 20-8-1 ledger by March 23. UCLA hit an April swoon, dropping 19 of its next 23 games and sending its record to a pedestrian 24-26-1. Senior outfielder Earl Altshuler led the Bruins at the plate with a .379 batting average along with six home runs, 33 RBI and 45 runs. UCLA's pitching staff posted a 3.79 team ERA as Steve Smith (1.69 ERA, 63.2 IP), Gary Robson (2.84 ERA, 107.2 IP) and Bruce Baranick (3.05 ERA, 62.0 IP) led the club on the bump.

1973 – 29-24, 7-11 Pac-8 (3rd Place)

The Bruins opened 1973 with wins in 11 of their first 16 games, boasting a 26-13 mark midway through conference play. UCLA took two of three games from Stanford at Sawtelle Field and picked up a series victory at California later that month. The Bruins improved their resume, notching non-conference wins over Pepperdine, Cal State L.A., UC Santa Barbara and Cal Poly Pomona. However, the Bruins good fortune ran out in May, as UCLA dropped 11 of its final 14 contests. Bill Hobbs and Tim Doerr led the Bruins offensively – Hobbs batted .356 and Doerr hit at a .348 clip. Bob Adams led the club with 13 home runs, 48 RBI and 10 stolen bases.

1974 – 26-35, 7-11 Pac-8 (4th Place)

In the final year of his 30-year tenure at UCLA, head coach Arthur Reichle led the 1974 Bruins to a fourth-place Pac-8 finish. After opening the season 0-11, the Bruins rebounded to win 11 games in a 14-game window through February and March. Midway through April, UCLA crawled to within three games of the .500 mark (21-24) with series sweeps of Gonzaga and Stanford. In Pac-8 play, the Bruins rolled to series victories against California and Stanford. Second baseman Mike Edwards led UCLA with 14 home runs, 42 RBI and 12 stolen bases. Steve Bianchi posted a 9-4 record, totaling 52 strikeouts in a team-high 96.2 innings.



Arthur Reichle
(head coach 1941, 1946-74)



1944 UCLA BRUINS – standing (left to right): Coach A.J. Sturzenegger, Jack Porter, Bobby Brown, Jack "Moose" Myers, Dave Fainer, Trainer "Ducky" Drake. Kneeling: Warren Hayes, Frank Freericks, Miller, Hal Holman, John Derdivanis, Burt Avedon, Manager Dave Tomlinson. Sitting: Wally Finch, Don Reaume, Nick Russin, Lyle Palmer, Ritzman, Mike Knauff. (not pictured: Sid Gilmore).

1975 – 31-22, 7-11 Pac-8 (3rd Place)

A new era of UCLA baseball began as former Bruin captain Gary Adams took over the reins in 1975. Adams, who inherited a squad that finished 26-35 in 1974, guided the 1975 Bruins to a 31-22 mark. UCLA began its season with a first start, winning 11 of the first 13 games and compiling a 28-14 record before hitting a late-season slump. A trio of UCLA outfielders – senior Steve Connors and juniors Venoy Garrison and Dave Penniall – led the Bruins at the plate. Garrison posted a team-high .344 batting average, collecting seven home runs and 37 RBI in 50 games. Connors had the second-highest average (.306) among UCLA's everyday players and contributed 12 doubles and 30 RBI in 44 games. Penniall, who transferred from Glendale Junior College that season, batted .301 with nine doubles, three home runs and 35 runs. Junior right-hander Ed Cowan anchored UCLA's rotation, totaling 109 strikeouts and a 9-3 record in a team-high 121.1 innings.

1976 – 35-25, 16-8 CIBA (1st Place)

The 1976 UCLA baseball team captured the program's first conference title since 1969, defeating cross-town rival USC on the final day of the season to secure the CIBA crown. In a game dubbed "The Miracle of Sawtelle Field", UCLA defeated the Trojans by scoring three runs in the bottom of the ninth inning. Unfortunately for the 1976 Bruins, the CIBA champion did not earn an automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament, and UCLA was not invited to play in Region 8 postseason play as an at-large selection (Northern Colorado earned an at-large berth). A school-record six Bruins earned All-CIBA Team honors after the season. Junior Robbie Henderson led all Bruin regulars with a .302 average, swatted nine home runs, and finished in a three-way tie for the team lead with 37 RBI. UCLA's starting rotation featured seniors Steve Bianchi (5-3, 3.86) and Ed Cowan (10-2, 3.50) and sophomore Tim O'Neill (7-4, 3.21). Speed on the basepaths emerged as a pivotal weapon for the Bruins that spring, as UCLA swiped a then-school record 125 bases (later broken in 1992).

1977 – 31-30, 10-8 Pac-8 (2nd Place)

After losing 12 lettermen from the 1976 team, UCLA surprised many by finishing with a respectable 31-30 mark. The Bruins recorded three-game series sweeps in Pac-8 play against California and Stanford before finishing their conference slate at 10-8. Catcher Dennis Delany and outfielder Dave Baker helped provide the most power in UCLA's lineup that spring. Delany registered 11 homers and 37 RBI, while sporting a team-best .339 average, and Baker belted 10 homers and compiled a team-leading 43 RBI. UCLA's pitching staff registered a combined 4.14 ERA, as junior right-handers Tim O'Neill and Floyd Chiffer led the way. O'Neill went 6-7 with a 4.00 ERA, posting team-highs of 62 strikeouts and 117.0 innings. Chiffer compiled a 5-2 mark, totaling 61 strikeouts in 86.2 innings.

1978 – 39-20, 9-9 Pac-8 (2nd Place)

The "Baby Bruins" showed signs of maturity, as UCLA finished with 39 wins, the fifth-highest win total in school history (second-highest at the time). The Bruins returned 16 letterwinners and finished second in the conference for the second straight season. UCLA narrowly missed earning a berth in the NCAA Tournament. In a one-game Pac-8 Conference playoff game at Stanford's Sunken Diamond, Washington State clubbed a three-run walkoff homer with two outs in the bottom of the ninth to end UCLA's season. The Bruins were able to force the one-game playoff by salvaging the final game of a three-game series against USC in the final contest of the regular season. After dropping the series opener, 1-0, and losing the second game, 7-6, UCLA responded by edging the Trojans, 9-8. Individual highlights that season included right-hander Floyd Chiffer's dominant senior campaign. Chiffer, who posted the lowest ERA in Pac-8 competition (1.60), finished the year with an 11-3 record and 84 strikeouts in a team-best 120.0 innings. Sophomore right-hander Tim Leary went 5-5 in 17 games (13 starts), recording a team-best 88 strikeouts and a 3.42 ERA in 94.2 innings. Offensively, UCLA stole 101 bases, the fifth-highest total in school history. Junior outfielder Mike Carpenter catalyzed UCLA at the plate with a team-leading .343 batting average and 36 stolen bases.

1979 – 43-18, 21-9 Pac-10 (1st Place)

With the addition of Arizona and Arizona State to the conference, the Pac-10 Southern Division (6-Pac) became the toughest league in college baseball. The frustrations of 1977 and 1978 were erased, as UCLA cruised through the conference and earned the automatic playoff berth as Pac-10 Champions. UCLA recorded its best record since 1969 and competed in the West Regional at Fresno State, finishing second to eventual NCAA Champion Cal State Fullerton. The Bruins won their first three games to earn a berth in the finals before losing a doubleheader to Cal State Fullerton. Highlights of the season included UCLA's first-ever three game sweep of USC and being ranked No. 1 in the nation by *Collegiate Baseball*.

The Bruins rewrote the school record book, led by *Sporting News* All-America selections Tim Leary and Jim Auten. Leary set then-school records with 145.2 innings, 12 wins, and eight conference wins (since tied). He was the second player picked in the 1979 MLB Draft, the highest pick in school history. Auten set a then-NCAA record with 29 home runs and established a then-school record with 78 RBI. Catcher Don Slaught, who was selected an Academic All-American along with Leary, broke the UCLA batting average record and won the Pac-10 batting title with a .428 overall mark. The Bruins set a school record with a .320 overall batting average (that record was broken in 1997). UCLA had eight players taken in the MLB draft, the highest total in the nation that season. Six of those eight later saw action in the big leagues.

THE 1980s - 317-278-6 (.532)

1980 - 31-22-3, 15-15 Pac-10 (3rd Place)

Despite having to replace two All-Americans (Tim Leary, Jim Auten) from their 1979 team, the 1980 Bruins managed to compete for the Pac-10 title until the season's final weekend. Due to unfinished construction at Jackie Robinson Stadium, the Bruins practiced on the school's intramural field and played their "home" games at Pepperdine in 1980. UCLA compiled a winning record for the sixth straight season, finishing two games behind conference co-champions California and Arizona. The pitching staff posted a 3.55 ERA, as UCLA won eight of its final 10 games, including wins in the season's final three games against USC. Junior right-hander Eric Broersma hurled two complete games, going 10-2 with a team-low 2.24 ERA in 17 games (14 starts). Senior left-hander Herb Fauland tallied a team-best 10 saves, recording 40 strikeouts and a 2.91 ERA in 58.2 innings. Six Bruins were selected in the MLB Draft that year, including second-rounder Matt Young (Seattle).

1981 - 21-35, 7-23 Pac-10 (6th Place)

The good news was that UCLA opened up newly built Jackie Robinson Stadium in 1981, but the bad news was that the Bruins suffered through their first losing season since 1974. UCLA's 21-man traveling roster featured seven freshmen that season. Outfielder Vince Beringhele had a strong freshman campaign, finishing second on the team with a .337 average. He totaled three homers, 22 RBI and 39 runs and drew a team-high 45 walks. First baseman Greg Norman provided the power, registering team-highs with nine home runs, 47 RBI and 42 runs. Senior outfielder David Montanari led the Bruins with a .374 average, starting all but two contests. UCLA won 11 of its final 21 games, including a conference series victory at Stanford.

1982 - 38-27, 11-19 Pac-10 (4th Place)

In 1982, UCLA rebounded with its seventh winning season in eight years, finishing 11 games over the .500 plateau. UCLA jumped out to a 13-1 start, rising as high as No. 3 in national polls. The Bruins won 17 of their first 21 games before finishing the season with 21 wins in their final 44 contests. The team's early-season success was fueled by a 10-game win streak in February. Midway through the spring, UCLA dropped out of the polls before finishing fourth in the Pac-10. Outfielder Brian Graham earned All-Pac-10 Southern Division Team accolades, having logged team highs in batting average (.337), hits (85), stolen bases (22) and at-bats (251). Outfielder Vince Beringhele followed his successful freshman campaign with an equally strong sophomore season, batting .338 with three home runs, 13 doubles and 61 RBI. Senior left-hander Colin Ward led the starting pitchers with a 4.51 ERA in a team-high 121.2 innings.

1983 - 28-24-1, 12-18 Pac-10 (5th Place)

UCLA finished fifth in the Pac-10's Southern Division after having improved its conference win total by one game. The Bruins batted at a combined .320, tying the then-school record. Outfielder Shane Mack had a strong sophomore campaign, leading UCLA with a .419 batting average, the second highest single-season mark in program history at the time (currently, fourth). Mack, a future major league ballplayer, earned first-team All-America honors from Baseball America and the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA), after leading the Bruins in home runs (11), RBI (60), hits (88), runs (54) and total bases (138). UCLA sustained a winning record throughout the season, reaching as high as nine wins over .500 twice (17-8-1). The Bruins won two of three Pac-10 games at Arizona State in March and captured four wins in five games against California. Sophomore right-hander Jeff Pries tossed two complete game shutouts, a feat that would not be duplicated by a UCLA pitcher until 2008 (Tim Murphy). Pries finished the season with a 7-6 record and 4.46 ERA in 19 games (18 starts).

1984 - 28-32, 8-22 Pac-10 (6th Place)

For the second straight spring, junior Shane Mack's phenomenal play highlighted UCLA's season. Mack captured first-team All-America honors for the second consecutive year before leading the USA Olympic Baseball Team to a silver-medal finish at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Mack finished UCLA's 1984 campaign with a team-leading 16 home runs and 36 RBI, hitting at a .352 clip. Despite the team's vaunted "Mack Attack," UCLA finished 28-32 with a sixth-place finish in the Pac-10's Southern Division, marking just the second losing season in head coach Gary Adams' 15 years at the helm. Right-hander Jeff Pries followed his strong sophomore season with a valiant effort as a junior, hurling three complete games (including one shutout) while logging a 5-5 record and 4.01 ERA in 15 games (14 starts).

1985 - 34-30-1, 13-17 Pac-10 (5th Place)

UCLA finished the season with a winning record, as the Bruins were bolstered by the strong play of sophomore catcher Todd Zeile, junior designated hitter John Joslyn and junior first baseman Gary Berman. Zeile assumed starting catching duties and finished the season with a .333 average in 54 games, totaling a team-high 12 home runs. Joslyn led UCLA with a .370 average in 57 games, and Berman batted .301 in a team-high 232 at-bats. Season highlights included winning four of six games from College World Series participant Arizona, capturing five of six games from USC, defeating Arizona State for the first time in 15 tries (winning a three-game series in Los Angeles), and knocking then-No. 1 Stanford out of the top spot by winning one and losing two close games at Sunken Diamond in Palo Alto, Calif. UCLA concluded its regular season with seven wins in its final 10 contests.

1986 - 39-23, 21-9 Pac-10 (1st Place)

The Pac-10 title returned to UCLA for the first time since 1979, as the Bruins captured the 1986 conference crown with a 21-9 Pac-10 mark. UCLA's 1984 freshman class that had been rated as the nation's No. 2 recruiting class by *Collegiate Baseball* (Torey Lovullo, Todd Zeile, Steve Hisey, Bill Wenrick, and Dana Hidenour) matured to help produce a conference champion. Jackie Robinson Stadium served as host for the NCAA West Regional, where the Bruins dropped their first two postseason games. Loyola Marymount emerged as the Regional Champion, defeating Hawaii to secure a berth in the College World Series.

After 35 games, UCLA owned a 7-4 Pac-10 record and a 22-13 overall mark. The Bruins won 11 of their final 13 regular-season games, including their last seven. Lovullo captured Pac-10 Co-Player of the Year honors with Sanchez after totaling 16 home runs and 65 RBI while posting a .317 batting average. Sanchez led all Pac-10 pitchers with a 16-3 overall record, including an 8-1 mark against Pac-10 foes. He struck out 142 batters in 139.1 innings, the top mark in the conference that spring. In Pac-10 play, Sanchez won his last seven decisions, throwing a complete game victory against each conference team. For the first time in seven seasons, UCLA led the Pac-10 in home runs (103). The Bruins' "Bomb Squad" (pictured below) featured five players who belted 10 or more home runs - Nos. 2 through 6 in the lineup consisted of Torey Lovullo (16), Billy Haselman (11), John Joslyn (18), Steve Hisey (14) and catcher Todd Zeile (13).

1987 - 40-25-1, 16-14 Pac-10 (2nd Place)

UCLA finished second in the Pac-10's Southern Division, going 40-25-1 with an appearance in the the NCAA West II Regional Final at Arizona State. The Bruins soared as high as 19 games over .500 at several points in the spring before playing five games in NCAA Regional play. UCLA advanced to the Regional Final against host Arizona State with a series-opening victory against Hawaii, 12-11. Following a 9-3 loss to the Sun Devils one day later, UCLA registered two wins in one day - versus Hawaii (16-7) and Pepperdine (21-5) - to force a winner-take-all contest against Arizona State. The Sun Devils ended the Bruins' season before over 8,000 fans with a 14-4 win on May 25.

Senior Torey Lovullo became the first player in conference history to repeat as Pac-10 Player of the Year. The Bruins' veteran second baseman also became the program's first-ever consensus All-America selection (ABCA, Baseball America, Sporting News). Lovullo broke the then-school career records in at-bats (856), hits (266), home runs (51), RBI (188) and walks (180, still stands as UCLA record). That spring, UCLA led the Pac-10 in home runs, breaking the previous league record with 116 round-trippers. The Bruins also tied a then-NCAA record with 10 grand slams. By season's end, Billy Haselman (Texas) and Alex Sanchez (Toronto) were both selected in the first round of the MLB Draft.

1988 - 31-28, 12-18 Pac-10 (5th Place)

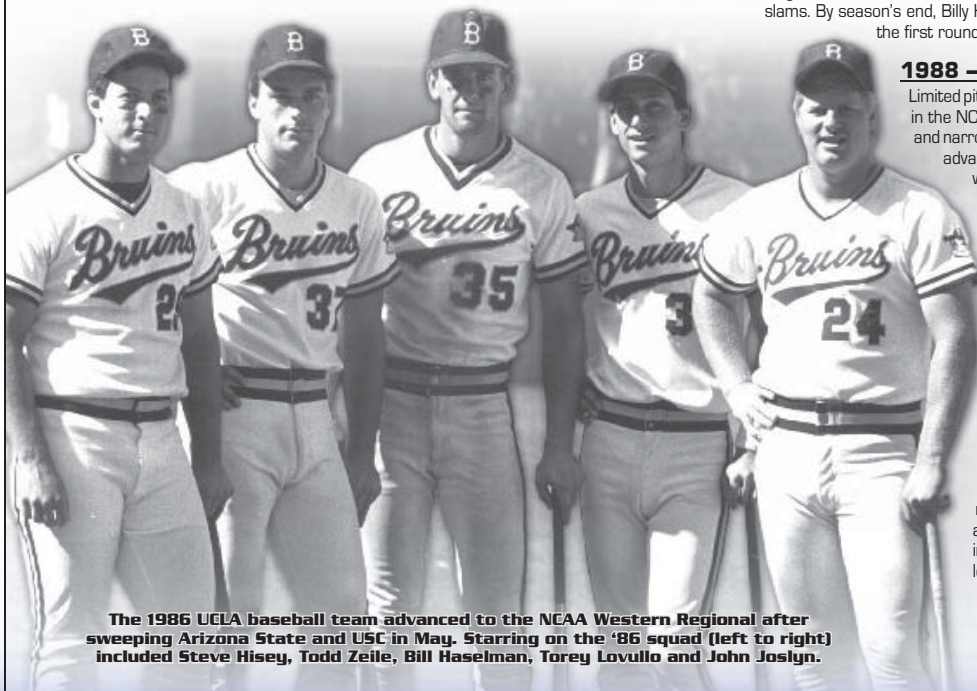
Limited pitching depth hindered UCLA from making its third straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament in 1988. The Bruins finished with a 5-30 team ERA and narrowly missed a third-consecutive postseason berth, as fourth-place USC advanced to NCAA Regional play with a 13-17 conference mark. UCLA won eight of its first 10 games, pushing its ledger to 28-20 late in the season. Senior left-hander Mike Magnante compiled a 14-4 overall record and 3.93 ERA in a team-high 137.1 innings, earning All-Pac-10 team honors and Academic All-America accolades. Junior first baseman Eric Karros used a terrific second half to establish a then-single-season record of 100 hits. The future major leaguer posted team-highs with a .415 average, 17 home runs and 54 RBI. Karros won the Pac-10 batting crown and earned All-Pac-10 honors before being selected in the sixth round of the 1988 MLB Draft by the Los Angeles Dodgers.

1989 - 27-32, 10-20 Pac-10 (5th Place)

UCLA dropped its first eight Pac-10 games and never recovered in the spring of 1989. In just the third losing season in the Adams' era, injuries and illnesses took a toll on the Bruins, as 14 of 27 players missed at least one week of action due to illness or injury. One of the most devastating losses was Charlie Fiacco, the team's home run and RBI leader. Fiacco missed the final 18 games with torn ligaments in his right knee. The pitching staff's 4.54 ERA marked the ballclub's lowest since 1980, when the Bruins compiled a 3.55 mark. UCLA's 113 steals were the most by a Bruin ballclub since 1976, when UCLA recorded 120 steals. Six Bruins finished the season with at least 10 stolen bases, as Robbie Katzaroff led the way on the basepaths for UCLA, swiping 33 bases.



Eric Karros, a three-year Bruin letterwinner (1986-88), set the Los Angeles Dodgers' career home run record with 270 round-trippers.



The 1986 UCLA baseball team advanced to the NCAA Western Regional after sweeping Arizona State and USC in May. Starring on the '86 squad (left to right) included Steve Hisey, Todd Zeile, Bill Haselman, Torey Lovullo and John Joslyn.

THE 1990s - 331-282-1 (.540)

1990 - 41-26, 14-16 Pac-10 (4th Place)

A season full of surprises, UCLA's 1990 campaign marked just the fourth 40-win season in program history at the time (two since). Ranked in just one preseason poll (No. 20 by *The Sporting News*), UCLA compiled 41 wins, its most in one season since 1979. The Bruins finished third in the six-team Midwest Regional at Wichita State, losing to eventual regional champion Georgia Southern, 5-4, on the final day of the tournament. A starting rotation that featured Dave Zancanaro, Tim Lindsay and Pete Janicki developed into one of the top Pac-10 staffs. Zancanaro led the club with 11 wins and eliminated defending NCAA Champion Wichita State on its home field in the Midwest Regional. Lindsay led the club in starts (20), complete games (7) and innings pitched (149.0). His innings total led the Pac-10 and set a new UCLA record that would be eclipsed two years later by Janicki. One of the team's hottest pitchers down the stretch, Janicki won his final eight decisions and earned Freshman All-America honors from *Baseball America*.

Paul Ellis, Chris Pritchett, and Joel Wolfe formed the "Awesome Threesomes." Ellis, the 1990 Pac-10 Co-Player of the Year, enjoyed a dream season by leading the nation with 29 home runs and tying the school record set by Jim Auten in 1979. He set a school record with 83 RBI, only to have that record broken one year later by Ryan McGuire. Ellis became only the second player in league history to hit at least one home run in every Pac-10 ballpark (Mike Soddors of Arizona State had done so in 1981). After the season, Ellis became the second player in school history to earn consensus All-America honors (first-team All-America from *Baseball America*, *The Sporting News* and the American Baseball Coaches Association). The ABCA named Ellis the Division I College Baseball Player of the Year.

1991 - 29-30, 13-17 Pac-10 (4th Place)

The 1991 Bruins had terrific performances at the Olive Garden Classic (Kissimmee, Fla.) and at the Oscar Mayer Classic (Minneapolis, Minn.). UCLA won the tournament in Florida the second week of February and finished in a three-way tie at the Oscar Mayer Classic during the final weekend in March. For the first time in program history, the Bruins swept Stanford at Sunken Diamond. The Bruins did not accomplish the feat again until the Pac-10 series opener in 2007. Joel Wolfe helped key UCLA's offense, leading the team with a .345 batting average and 35 stolen bases, a single-season total that ranked second at the time. Chris Pritchett led UCLA with 18 home runs and 57 RBI before earning first-team All-Pac-10 accolades at the end of the season.

1992 - 37-26, 14-16 Pac-10 (3rd Place)

In a season filled with surprises, UCLA finished in a tie for third place in the Pac-10's Southern Division after having been selected to finish last (sixth) in the conference's preseason poll. Ranked in the top 25 through much of the season, UCLA closed the year with an NCAA Midwest Regional berth at Mississippi State. In Starkville, Miss., the Bruins came within one game of reaching the College World Series. After a dropping their first game to Oklahoma, the Bruins rebounded with wins over Clemson (6-5) and Yale (8-0). The Bruins defeated host Mississippi State, 3-2, to advance to the championship game, where they were shut down by Oklahoma, 10-0. UCLA's regular-season schedule featured 34 games came against teams which advanced to the postseason. Five of six Pac-10 Southern Division teams advanced to NCAA Regionals. UCLA's offense was led by freshman All-American Mike Mitchell (.351, 12 HR, 36 RBI) and All Pac-10 selection David Roberts (.331, 85 hits, 36 SB). Veterans Ryan McGuire (.316, 14 HR, 61 RBI) and Michael Moore (.338, 8 HR, 14 SB) impressed throughout the 1992 campaign. Pete Janicki led UCLA on the mound, earning Pac-10 Pitcher of the Year accolades with a 9-4 record, 3.53 ERA and 150 strikeouts. Gabe Sollecito made an impact as a sophomore (transfer), setting a school single-season record with 12 saves.

1993 - 37-23, 17-13 Pac-10 (2nd Place)

UCLA made its third postseason trip in four years, advancing to the NCAA Central I Regional at Texas A&M. After victories over Lamar and North Carolina, the Bruins were eliminated with losses to Texas A&M and North Carolina. Consensus All-America selection and Pac-10 Player of the Year Ryan McGuire recorded a .376 batting average, totaling 26 home runs, 91 RBI, 71 runs and 14 stolen bases. On the mound, McGuire posted a 3-0 record, two saves, 29 strikeouts and a team-best 1.73 ERA in 26.0 innings. Third baseman Adam Melhuse and second baseman David Ravitz both gained All-Pac-10 honors after having banner seasons. Melhuse batted .344 with 10 home runs and 50 RBI. Ravitz hit .324 with six home runs and a team-leading 19 doubles, establishing a school single-season record with 15 doubles in Pac-10 play. Outfielder David Roberts was one of four position players to play in all 60 games, batting .296 with 28 stolen bases in 36 attempts. Staff ace Tim Kubinski led UCLA with an 11-3 record, posting a 4.03 ERA and totaling 86 strikeouts and four complete games. Jon Van Zandt served as UCLA's second starter on the weekend, leading the Bruins with five complete games, going 7-7 with a 5.70 ERA in 17 games. Gabe Sollecito split time between the bullpen and the starting rotation, finishing the season with a 4-3 record, nine saves and a 3.94 ERA.

1994 - 22-36, 11-19 Pac-10 (5th Place)

The Bruins opened the 1994 season by losing seven of their first 11 games. UCLA inched closer to respectability, going 15-14 down the stretch, including six wins in their final eight games. Senior David Roberts became UCLA's career stolen bases leader (109), collecting a school single-season record with 45. Roberts led all Bruins that spring with a .353 batting average and secured All-Pac-10 Team honors for the third consecutive season. The future major league outfielder led the conference in stolen bases for a third straight year. Catcher Tim DeCinces earned Freshman All-America honors, batting .305 with six home runs, a team-best 48 RBI and 15 doubles. Junior first baseman Mike Mitchell hit at a .339 clip with a team-leading 12 home runs, 19 doubles and 46 RBI. Brian Stephenson headed the weekend rotation, going 5-5 with a 4.97 ERA in 105.0 innings.

1995 - 29-28, 12-18 Pac-10 (5th Place)

UCLA's 1995 ballclub managed just six wins in its final 17 games, eliminating the team from postseason contention. A sweep over UNLV in the season's final weekend helped push UCLA's mark above .500. Sophomore catcher Tim DeCinces led UCLA with a .315 average, 13 home runs and 51 RBI. He secured All-Pac-10 Team honors and earned second-team Smith Super Team accolades. Freshman right fielder Eric Byrnes, an All-Pac-10 Team selection and freshman All-America honoree (*Baseball*

America, Collegiate Baseball) batted .324 with nine home runs and 18 stolen bases. Freshman first baseman and pitcher Peter Zamora was named an All-Pac-10 Team selection, hitting .295 with six home runs and 48 RBI. The top freshman two-way player belted game-winning home runs on consecutive days against Arizona (April 14, 15). Additionally, he logged a 2.76 ERA on the mound, going 3-3 with five saves. Junior third baseman Zak Ammirato finished the season riding a 19-game hitting streak. The pitching staff was led by freshman left-hander Jim Parque, who struck out 84 batters in 90 innings, placing him second in the Pac-10 in strikeouts per nine innings.

1996 - 36-28, 16-14 Pac-10 (3rd Place)

UCLA advanced farther than any West Coast ballclub in 1996, falling one game short of a trip to the College World Series. The Bruins opened the year with a preseason No. 10 ranking before rising to as high as No. 4 after a 14-6 start. UCLA opened Pac-10 play with consecutive home series wins over Stanford and California and had won four of five conference series by the end March. The Bruins opened their April slate with a sweep at California, dropped two of three games at home to Arizona and salvaged two games in a three-game set against Arizona State. A win at Nevada on the final day of the regular season snapped a five-game losing streak, and the Bruins opened the NCAA Central I Regional at the University of Texas as a No. 4 seed.

At Texas, UCLA upset the host Longhorns in both teams' regional opener with southpaw Jim Parque on the hill. The Bruins received key at-bats from third baseman Zak Ammirato and junior catcher Tim DeCinces. After dropping game two to Southwest Missouri State, UCLA rallied twice the next day with wins over Sam Houston State (10-8) and Southwest Missouri State (9-4, 10 inn.). In the latter contest, the Bruins rallied with two runs in the eighth inning on an Ammirato homer, handing UCLA a 4-3 advantage, before Southwest Missouri State tied the contest in the ninth and loaded the bases with two outs. Junior Kevin Sheredy escaped the ninth-inning jam, and in extra innings junior outfielder Jon Heinrichs tripled home one run before DeCinces belted a grand slam. Miami upended the Bruins the following night in the Regional Final, 8-4. DeCinces caught fire in his final month as a Bruin, batting .500 (30-for-60) with nine home runs. Infielder Troy Glaus capped a memorable sophomore season with a .352 average, 16 home runs and 50 RBI before heading to the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. Parque finished the season 9-3 with a 3.72 ERA and 116 strikeouts.

1997 - 45-21-1, 19-11 Pac-10 (2nd Place) - CWS APPEARANCE

The players from UCLA's highly-regarded 1995 recruiting class all had experience under their belts, as the Bruins opened their 1997 campaign ranked No. 2 in *Collegiate Baseball's* preseason poll. By season's end, UCLA had advanced to the College World Series for the second time in school history (first time since 1969) and set single-season program records with 45 wins (since broken), 142 home runs and 631 runs. The Bruins overcame an early upset to Harvard in the Midwest Regional by sweeping their final five games to advance to Omaha, Neb.

UCLA's march to Omaha began with a bang - the Bruins won 20 of their first 23 games, amassing a 20-2-1 record entering the month of March. With a powerful batting lineup bolstered by juniors Troy Glaus, Eric Byrnes, Peter Zamora and Nick Theodorou and sophomore Eric Valent, UCLA slugged its way to a 19-11 Pac-10 mark, good enough for a second-place finish. After opening conference play by winning two of three games against Arizona State, UCLA swept the Hormel Foods Classic at the Metrodome (Minneapolis, Minn.), posting double-digit run total in each of three games.

UCLA entered as the top-seeded team in the NCAA Midwest Regional, boasting a 40-18-1 regular-season record. After dropping their first game to Harvard, 7-2, the Bruins responded in grand fashion. UCLA won five "must-win" games with several lopsided final scores. After crushing Ohio, 15-1, the Bruins edged Tennessee, 5-3. In a rematch against Harvard, UCLA won 14-9 before making a statement against host Oklahoma State on May 25. Playing at OSU's Reynolds Stadium the Bruins punched their ticket to Omaha with a 14-2 victory in the afternoon before winning, 22-2, that evening. Valent earned NCAA Regional MVP honors after having blasted six home runs in six games. Theodorou compiled one of the most electric performances in NCAA Tournament history, going 16-for-24 with eight runs, five RBI and five walks in six games (.714 on-base percentage).

UCLA came up short in Omaha, dropping its two contests in the College World Series. In the team's opener, the Bruins overcame a late 3-1 deficit, tying the contest with two runs in the bottom of the ninth to force extra innings. Playing as the visiting team, Miami broke the tie with a four-run 12th inning to advance in the winner's bracket. Two days later, UCLA lost an elimination game to Mississippi State, 7-5. Byrnes and Theodorou each had two hits in both College World Series games.

Five Bruins earned All-America honors and seven players captured All-Pac-10 Team accolades. Glaus was named Pac-10 Player of the Year, compiling a team-best .409 average with a conference-leading 34 home runs. Glaus also established the Pac-10 single-season total bases record (227). Senior Jon Heinrichs was the top leadoff hitter in the nation, totaling 28 homers and 79 RBI. On the mound, Parque (13-2, 3.08 ERA) and sophomore Tom Jacquez (10-4, 3.06 ERA) provided one of the nation's most powerful 1-2 punches. The left-handed Zamora performed best down the stretch, finishing with a 6-2 overall mark. Junior Jake Meyer tallied eight saves, and freshman Rob Henkel recorded 49 strikeouts in 41.2 innings as UCLA's primary setup reliever. UCLA earned its first No. 1 ranking by *Collegiate Baseball* since 1979 and captured its first-ever No. 1 ranking by *Baseball America* after winning all three contests at the Hormel Foods Classic on March 2.

Troy Glaus, a three-year Bruin letterwinner (1995-97), belted a single-season school record 34 home runs as a junior in 1997, leading UCLA to the College World Series.

1998 – 24-33, 11-19 Pac-10 (5th Place)

The 1998 Bruins welcomed the top-ranked incoming class, as rated by *Collegiate Baseball*. Freshman pitchers accounted for 67 percent (328.2 IP) of the team's total innings, as the Bruins' weekend rotation (Ryan Carter, Chad Cislak and Paul Diaz) and the team's closer (Bobby Roe) consisted exclusively of freshmen. While the Bruins welcomed back seniors Eric Byrnes and Nick Theodorou, both key contributors to UCLA's run to the 1997 College World Series, the team managed to win just 11 of its first 33 games. Among the season's highlights included junior Eric Valent capturing Pac-10 Player of the Year honors. Valent also secured first-team All-America acclaim from four publications, totaling a team-leading 30 home runs and batting .336. Freshmen Garrett Atkins and Chase Utley each had sensation rookie campaigns in Westwood. Atkins set a school record with a 33-game hitting streak, and his .383 batting average was the highest-ever by a freshman at UCLA. Utley set the school's freshman season record with 15 home runs, and left-hander Bobby Roe set a UCLA freshman season record with seven saves.

1999 – 31-31, 13-11 Pac-10 (Tie – 3rd Place)

The Bruins' 1999 campaign began with several milestones, as head coach Gary Adams recorded his 800th career victory on Feb. 6 and his 1,000th career win on March 13. Other highlights included sophomore right-hander Jon Brandt striking out 17 batters in a loss to McNeese State (Feb. 12) and sophomore left fielder Bill Scott setting school records with four homers, 11 RBI and 17 total bases at Washington (March 30). UCLA's tide turned after the team suffered its eighth straight loss at California (April 2). The next day, the Bruins won 13-10, scoring nine runs in the top of the ninth. Consecutive wins at No. 10 Arkansas (April 6, 7) and sweeps of Arizona State (April 16-18), for the first time since 1986, and Washington State (April 23-25), helped propel UCLA within striking distance of an NCAA Tournament berth.

UCLA finished the regular season tied for third place in the Pac-10, earning a berth in the NCAA Wichita Regional (first year of Super Regional format). Freshman right-hander Josh Karp pitched brilliantly in his playoff debut, and Scott homered for the seventh consecutive game (school record and tie for Pac-10 record) as UCLA beat Oklahoma State, 12-6. The next day, injured ace Jon Brandt went the distance in a 4-2 loss to host Wichita State. Forced to rematch Oklahoma State later that day, the Bruins fell to the eventual regional champs, 17-10, despite Scott's two home runs. Scott finished the season leading UCLA with a .380 batting average, 28 home runs, 86 RBI and a staggering .806 slugging percentage. Karp went 8-3 on the season with a 4.26 ERA, collecting 109 strikeouts in 107.1 innings.

THE 2000s – 298-298 (.500)

2000 – 38-26, 17-7 Pac-10 (Three-way tie – 1st Place)

In the spring of 2000, UCLA captured its first Pac-10 title since 1986 and advanced to the NCAA Super Regionals in the second year of college baseball's new postseason format. Led by All-America selections Garrett Atkins, Bill Scott, Chase Utley and Forrest Johnson, the Bruins began their 2000 campaign in grand style, as first baseman Eric Reece became the first UCLA ballplayer to hit for the cycle on Opening Day. UCLA won six of its first seven games and was ranked as high as No. 2 in the national polls.

After a slump that saw UCLA lose nine of 10 contests, the Bruins fought back to win 20 of their next 25 games. In that 25-game span, left-hander Rob Henkel set a UCLA record by striking out 16 batters in consecutive appearances (against Bradley and Harvard) to earn National Player of the Week honors. Henkel fanned a school-record 18 batters in the team's Pac-10 opener against Washington, capturing National Player of the Week honors again. The Huskies snapped UCLA's eight-game win streak, but the Bruins continued to cruise with wins in nine of their next 11 games.

UCLA continued its Pac-10 slate with a three-game series victory against USC, salvaging the second and third contests at home. In game two, UCLA routed the Trojans, 15-5, on national television (April 8). Karp pitched a three-hitter, notching a career-high 12 strikeouts. Against Arizona State (April 22), he limited the heavy-hitting Sun Devils to two hits through 7.1 innings. Utley hit two home runs to lead the Bruins, 13-3, in their only win over Arizona State. Scott drove in a team-high eight RBI against Washington State (April 30), going 4-for-6 with two homers and one triple in a 14-1 rout. UCLA belted six round-trippers against California (May 6).

After sweeping Arizona (May 13-15), UCLA secured a share of the Pac-10 title on May 19, defeating Stanford, 10-9 before a record crowd at Sunken Diamond. The Bruins scored four runs in the bottom of the seventh, tying the game (9-9) on home runs by Utley and Jim Hemming. Scott scored the game-winning run on a bases loaded wild pitch in the ninth. UCLA registered a 17-7 Pac-10 record and a share of the conference title with Stanford and Arizona State.

In postseason play, UCLA swept the Oklahoma City Regional, defeating Delaware, 13-12, in the opening game, before routing Oklahoma on back-to-back days. LSU awaited the Bruins at the NCAA Super Regionals in Baton Rouge, La., and the Tigers silenced UCLA's offense. In game one, LSU blanked the Bruins, 10-0. In the elimination game, the Bruins rallied from a 10-0 deficit, clawing to within four runs (12-8). LSU advanced to Omaha with an eventual 14-8 victory. Scott and Utley both secured first-team All-America honors, and five Bruins were named to the All-Pac-10 Team.

Chase Utley, a three-year Bruin letterwinner (1998-2000), totaled 53 home runs and 174 RBI at UCLA.

2001 – 30-27, 9-15 Pac-10 (7th Place)

UCLA shook off an 0-2 start in 2001 to reel off eight consecutive wins, highlighted by a 4-3 victory over No. 1 USC (Feb. 16). Before a regional television audience, junior Adam Berry smashed a game-winning, three-run home run to left with UCLA down to its final strike. The Bruins rolled through their non-conference schedule, then knocked off top-ranked Stanford at Sunken Diamond in the first game of a Pac-10 series to improve to 21-9 overall. A series win at home against Washington (April 12-14) brought UCLA back to .500 in Pac-10 play and pushed the team's overall record to 25-12. The season's turning point came in the opening game of a road trip at No. 1 Cal State Fullerton (April 18). UCLA let an eight-run lead slip away, before Cal State Fullerton claimed an 11-10 win in 14 innings. The Bruins went 0-8 on the road trip, having been swept by Kansas State and USC. UCLA broke its mid-season skid by winning the rematch with Cal State Fullerton (May 9), by a 9-3 margin for the team's third victory over a No. 1-ranked team that year. Senior Brian Baron registered a school-record .443 batting average and collected 105 hits, earning first-team All-America honors from *Baseball Weekly*, *Collegiate Baseball* and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers' Association. Junior Josh Karp led the pitching staff in victories (5), innings (80.0) and strikeouts (92), before being selected sixth overall in the first round of the 2001 MLB Draft. Sophomore Kevin Jerkens topped the Pac-10 with 31 relief appearances.

Gary Adams served as UCLA's head coach from 1975-2004, totaling 984 victories and 169 MLB draft selections in his 30 years.

2002 – 26-35, 9-15 Pac-10 (Tie – 5th Place)

UCLA opened its 2002 season with a loss to UC Irvine's reinstated baseball program before winning two of three contests each against Gonzaga and Florida Atlantic. The series with Florida Atlantic began a five-game winning streak, including a three-game sweep at Hawaii-Hilo. UCLA won six of nine games through the first two weeks of March, including two wins at 2001 College World Series participant Tulane. Having hovered near the .500 plateau through the first 25 games, the Bruins entered a six-game skid, from which they never recovered. UCLA pulled its record to 25-29 with two weeks to go in the season before closing the year 26-35. Outfielder Adam Berry and first baseman Wes Whisler led the Pac-10 with 18 home runs. In fact, Whisler set the school record for home runs in a season by a freshman. Berry was named a semifinalist for the Dick Howser Award, an honor awarded to the nation's top collegiate baseball player. A standout at the plate and on the mound in 2002, Whisler earned Pac-10 Freshman of the Year accolades and was named to *Baseball America* and *Collegiate Baseball's* All-Freshman teams. Ben Francisco (.368, 6 HR, 37 RBI) and Rashad Parker (.286, 4 HR, 14 RBI) were both selected in the 2002 MLB Draft.

2003 – 28-31, 11-13 Pac-10 (Tie – 5th Place)

Similar to 2002, the Bruins had trouble putting together wins on a consistent basis, reaching a three-game win streak just once during the year. After opening the year with a 17-16 mark through its first 34 games, UCLA never again kept its record over the .500 plateau. At the Dominos Pizza Aggie Baseball Classic, UCLA posted a 3-3 record, finishing second to host Texas A&M. Playing at the Kia Baseball Bash at Cal State Fullerton one week later, UCLA defeated defending national champion Texas, 13-2, before routing Tulane, 12-2, the following day. A seven-game losing streak dropped UCLA out of reach of the Pac-10 title during the first two weeks in April. The Bruins ended their skid at No. 4 Arizona State, rattling off consecutive extra-inning wins in Tempe, Ariz., to hand the Sun Devils a Pac-10 series loss on their turf. UCLA concluded the season on a high note, as Brandon Averill hit for the cycle in the final game of the season at Washington State (May 25). Sophomore two-way player Wes Whisler earned first-team All-Pac-10 honors for the second consecutive season and was named a third-team CollegeBaseballinsider.com All-America selection. Brett McMillan was honored as a Freshman All-American by Collegiate Baseball.

2004 – 35-29, 14-10 Pac-10 (Tied – 3rd Place)

UCLA earned a trip to the NCAA Tournament in 2004, the final year of head coach Gary Adams' 30-year tenure as the Bruins' skipper. The road to the postseason began with a 4-1 season-opening victory against UC Riverside, before the Bruins took the first two of three games against Fresno State. Senior Brandon Averill collected Pac-10 Player of the Week honors after the Fresno State series, as he totaled six RBI in the second game. The Bruins motored to an 11-3 record before opening a stretch of six straight games against ranked opponents on March 5. A series-opening win against No. 14 Texas A&M handed UCLA its seventh consecutive win before the Bruins dropped two games to the Aggies and one game each to UC Irvine and Long Beach State.

In the Pac-10 season-opening series against Stanford (April 2-4), the Cardinal overpowered UCLA in the first two games, before the Bruins answered with a walk-off home run from Preston Griffin in the series finale to win, 6-5. UCLA continued rolling, notching non-conference victories against Pepperdine and Long Beach State and a series win at Arizona. After outscoring Washington State, 26-11, in a three-game home series and winning two of three on the road at Washington, UCLA concluded its conference slate with two road wins at Oregon State. Junior Wes Whisler earned Pac-10 Pitcher of the Week accolades after his complete game shutout against Washington State (May 16). UCLA won its final two of three games against Oregon State to close the regular season. The team's late-season surge pushed UCLA into the NCAA Regionals at Oklahoma City as the No. 3 seed. The Bruins won their first game of the NCAA Regional, 9-1, backed by Casey Janssen's eight shutout innings (two hits, seven strikeouts) against Oklahoma on June 4. After a heartbreaking 4-3 loss to Florida, the Bruins pounded Oklahoma, 17-7, in a critical rematch on June 5. The following day, Florida routed UCLA, 11-0, to advance to the NCAA Super Regionals.

2005 – 15-41, 4-20 Pac-10 (8th Place)

The 2005 season marked the start of a new era for UCLA baseball, as John Savage took over as the Bruins' head coach after spending the previous three seasons as head coach at UC Irvine. Savage took over for 30-year head coach Gary Adams in July 2004 and helped put the wheels in motion for the future of UCLA baseball, inking the nation's fifth-best recruiting class (Nov. 2004), as ranked by *Baseball America*. The Bruins struggled in 2005, opening the season with a 7-4 record before losing 19 consecutive games. UCLA managed just eight wins the rest of the way. Junior Brett McMillan earned team MVP honors, batting .257 with seven home runs and 33 RBI in all 56 games. Sophomore Hector Ambriz had a strong season, returning from an injury that had severely limited his opportunities in 2004. At the plate, Ambriz batted .338 with 14 doubles, 19 runs and 18 RBI in 51 games. On the hill, the right-hander led UCLA with a 3.94 ERA in 18 games (team-high 16 starts), striking out 84 batters in 105.0 innings. Sophomore Brian Schroeder led the Bruins' pitching staff with 31 appearances, totaling 48 strikeouts in 71.2 innings.

2006 – 33-25, 13-10 Pac-10 (3rd Place)

Led by juniors David Huff and Hector Ambriz on the mound and aided by an influx of standout freshmen, UCLA made its second NCAA Regional appearance in three seasons. In his second year as the Bruins' head coach, John Savage engineered a strong turnaround as UCLA posted a 27-12 record in their final 39 regular-season contests. For the first time since 1987, UCLA won each of its home series against Pac-10 opponents (Washington State, Arizona State, USC and Stanford). In addition, the Bruins tied a program record as 12 players were selected in the MLB Draft.

After opening the year 6-9, UCLA sparked its season with a road sweep at N.C. State (March 3-5), outscoring the Wolfpack by a 22-6 margin in three games. UCLA posted one of its most dramatic victories of the season with an 11-10, extra-inning home victory against Arizona State (April 23). Trailing 8-7 in the bottom of the ninth, the Bruins tied the contest, 8-8, to force extra innings. Facing

a two-run deficit in the bottom of the 10th, freshman Cody Decker slugged a two-run double and freshman Ryan Babineau clubbed the game-winning single. After dropping the series opener to USC, 8-3, at Jackie Robinson Stadium (May 12), UCLA rebounded to win the next two games and capture the season series. The following weekend, UCLA won the rubber game of a three-game home set against Stanford in exhilarating fashion. Having won Friday and lost Saturday, UCLA secured a series victory Sunday in the team's final home game when junior Tim Stewart belted a ninth-inning, two-out walk-off solo home run to snap a 7-7 tie. Stewart's blast helped improve UCLA's conference record to 12-9.

On the final weekend of the season, UCLA split two games at eventual national champion Oregon State (one game was canceled due to rain). The Bruins entered the NCAA Midweek Regional as the No. 2 seed, marking a strong transformation after having been picked to finish eighth in the Pac-10 in the preseason coaches' poll. Playing at Pepperdine in the NCAA Regional, UCLA edged UC Irvine, 3-2, in both team's regional-opening contest. UCLA lost to No. 1-seed Pepperdine, 6-0, and No. 4-seed Missouri, 2-1, on back-to-back afternoons. In the elimination loss to Missouri on June 4, Brummett struck out six batters in 6.2 innings, surrendering just two runs and five hits.

Selected 39th overall (supplemental first round) by the Cleveland Indians in the 2006 MLB Draft, Huff finished the season with a 7-4 record and 2.98 ERA, totaling 100 strikeouts in 129.2 innings (16 starts). Ambriz, a fifth-round draft pick by the Arizona Diamondbacks, registered a 3.65 ERA and an 8-7 record in 113.1 innings (20 appearances, 16 starts). Two-way player Josh Roenicke, who emerged as the team's closer midway through the spring, was drafted in the 10th round by the Cincinnati Reds. UCLA's freshman nucleus of Ryan Babineau, Jermaine Curtis, Brandon Crawford, Cody Decker, Blair Dunlap, Tim Murphy and Jason Novak proved to be major assets to the program not only in their first year, but throughout their respective Bruin careers.

2007 – 33-28, 14-10 Pac-10 (3rd Place)

UCLA's 2007 ballclub reached the NCAA Super Regionals for the first time since 2000 after having opened Pac-10 play with its best conference start since 1924. Playing against the nation's third-most challenging schedule, as rated by Boyd's World, the Bruins won just eight of their first 22 games. However, a school record-setting 14-run eighth inning against Pacific (March 25) not only helped the Bruins overcome an 8-0 deficit, but also helped UCLA jump-start its season. The Bruins trailed 8-0 and cut the Tigers' lead to 8-1 in the seventh inning before sophomore Cody Decker belted a grand slam with nobody out in the bottom of the eighth, trimming the deficit to 8-5. UCLA scored 10 more runs in the frame to secure a 15-8 win, initiating one of the most successful stretches in program history.

Jermaine Curtis returned to the Bruins' lineup at third base the following weekend at Stanford, helping spark UCLA to an 8-1 victory in both teams' first Pac-10 game of the spring. Including that win, UCLA won 17 of its first 21 games with Curtis patrolling the hot corner. The Bruins opened Pac-10 play with their first series sweep of Stanford at Sunken Diamond since 1991 – snapping a streak of 71 consecutive three-game series in which Stanford had not been swept at home (since 1997, versus Arizona State). After a home series win against Washington, UCLA recorded its first-ever three-game series sweep at USC (April 13-15). The Bruins rolled to an 8-1 Pac-10 mark by mid-April, the program's best conference start since finishing the 1924 season with a 10-0 Pacific Coast Conference record.

With a pitching rotation featuring senior Tyson Brummett (10-6, 4.04), sophomore Tim Murphy (5-4, 5.68) and freshman Gavin Brooks (6-7, 4.47), the Bruins continued picking up Pac-10 series victories, capturing two of three against No. 14 Arizona and California. UCLA headed to No. 10 Arizona State (May 11-13) with a one-game conference lead. The Bruins were swept in the desert, losing three closely-contested games to fall into second place – the Sun Devils outscored UCLA by two runs on Friday and one on Saturday and Sunday.

The Bruins salvaged their series at Washington State and their home set against eventual back-to-back national champion Oregon State by winning each of the series finales. UCLA entered the Long Beach Regional as the No. 2 seed, riding its starting pitchers to an NCAA Regional sweep. Brummett limited Pepperdine to three runs in 8.2 innings in the regional opener, before Murphy and Brooks each tossed complete game victories against Illinois-Chicago and Long Beach State, respectively.

Playing in the NCAA Super Regionals for the first time since 2000, UCLA dropped both games at Cal State Fullerton. The Bruins lost the first game, 12-2, but stepped up behind a herculean performance from Brooks in the elimination game the next night. The left-handed freshman totaled a career-high 12 strikeouts against the Titans, surrendering two runs and seven hits in eight innings. Brooks ended the year having thrown three consecutive complete games (vs. Oregon State, vs. Illinois-Chicago and at Cal State Fullerton). UCLA was led at the plate in 2007 by junior Alden Carrithers (.352, .455 OBP), freshman Gabe Cohen (.345, 10 HR, 36), junior Brandon Crawford (.335, 7 HR, 55 RBI), Curtis (.329, 4 HR, 33 RBI) and sophomore Cody Decker (.307, 14 HR, 57 RBI).

2008 – 33-27 Overall, 13-11 Pac-10 (3rd Place)

UCLA earned its third consecutive postseason berth in 2008, becoming the first baseball team in school history to advance to three straight postseasons. The Bruins overcame a slow Pac-10 start to secure the No. 2 seed at the NCAA Fullerton Regional. Senior Alden Carrithers emerged as one of the Pac-10's best hitters, leading the Bruins with a .377 batting average and .484 on-base percentage.

Junior Tim Murphy capped a strong three-year career as a left-handed pitcher and outfielder, leading UCLA's pitching staff with a 3.34 ERA and 111 strikeouts in 102.1 innings.

The Bruins began the season ranked No. 1 and No. 3 in preseason polls by *Baseball America* and *Rivals.com*, respectively. Among the season's most exciting weekends came during the first series of Pac-10 play, a three-game set at Arizona (March 27-29). The Bruins snapped a four-game skid with a 4-3 win in 10 innings in the series opener. The following night, sophomore Casey Haerther ignited his season and helped UCLA rout Arizona, 20-8, with a 7-for-7 effort. Haerther's seven hits established new Pac-10 and UCLA single-game records, as he finished the game with four doubles, three singles, four RBI and four runs. After consecutive series losses to USC and Stanford, the Bruins won the final two of three games at Washington (April 25-27) to even its Pac-10 mark at 6-6. UCLA's conference record slipped to 8-10, its overall record to 25-23, after winning one game against Arizona State at home and one at Oregon State (May 9-11), leaving many pundits to question whether the Bruins' postseason chances had all but evaporated.

But UCLA responded by winning a non-conference game at UC Irvine before sweeping Washington State (May 16-18) in three games at Jackie Robinson Stadium, putting the Bruins at 29-23 with four games to play. After dropping a midweek contest at Cal State Fullerton, UCLA entered the season's final weekend at California needing to win at least two games to secure a postseason berth. Murphy hurled a complete game on Friday afternoon, striking out 10 batters in an 8-0 victory. The following day, sophomore Charles Brewer and freshman Rob Rasmussen combined to shut out California, 7-0. UCLA lost the series opener, 7-6, in heartbreaking fashion in 10 innings.

Yet the series victory at California helped seal UCLA's postseason berth, as the Bruins earned a No. 2 seed at the NCAA Fullerton Regional. Murphy pitched well in the Bruins' opening regional contest, allowing two runs in 7.2 innings, as the Bruins earned a 3-2 victory in walk-off fashion in the bottom of the ninth inning over No. 3-seed Virginia. Brewer stepped up the next night, earning his team-leading ninth win as UCLA downed No. 1-seed Cal State Fullerton, 11-4. The host Titans responded with an 11-8 victory Sunday, forcing a winner-take-all contest Monday evening. In a closely-contested game, Cal State Fullerton edged the Bruins, 5-4, as UCLA stranded Murphy aboard third base in the ninth inning. Five players were selected in June's Major League Draft, highlighted by three draft selections in the first five rounds – Murphy (third round, Texas), junior Brandon Crawford (fourth round, San Francisco) and junior Jermaine Curtis (fifth round, St. Louis).

2009 – 27-29, 15-12 Pac-10 (Tie – 3rd Place)

UCLA finished third in the Pac-10 for the fourth straight year, but could not win enough games late in the spring to overcome a 10-game losing streak in early March. The 2009 team featured the emergence of freshman right-handers Trevor Bauer and Gerrit Cole and the resurgence of power-hitting first baseman Cody Decker. Bauer went 9-3 with a 2.99 ERA before earning National Freshman Pitcher of the Year honors from *Collegiate Baseball*. On a team fueled largely by its pitching, Decker provided a major spark in UCLA's lineup. He led the Pac-10 with 21 home runs, finishing his senior season as UCLA's leader in RBI (53), runs (55), slugging percentage (.683), walks (36) and total bases (136). By season's end, Decker pushed himself into a tie for seventh place on UCLA's career home runs list with 47 round-trippers.

After winning the first two games of the season, the Bruins fell into a 10-game losing streak that spanned two weeks. UCLA spent three consecutive weekends playing away from the West Coast – at the Houston College Classic, at Oklahoma and at East Carolina – before opening Pac-10 play with three games at USC. UCLA snapped its losing streak with a midweek victory against UC Santa Barbara (March 10) before earning a series victory the following weekend at East Carolina. The Bruins opened Pac-10 play at USC the following weekend, securing a series victory with wins on Saturday (14-4) and Monday (17-2). UCLA's 17-2 victory in the series' rubber game marked the Bruins' largest margin of victory in series history against the Trojans.

The Bruins continued to try and climb back to the .500 mark throughout March and April, doing so against the nation's No. 1-ranked schedule, as rated by Boyd's World. Not until the series finale at Oregon did UCLA reach that goal. An 8-1 win against the Ducks on May 3 evened UCLA's record to 22-22. With 12 games remaining on their schedule, including seven against top-5 competition, the stakes were high and the margin for error was slim. Consecutive series losses to California and Cal State Fullerton damaged the Bruins' postseason chances before UCLA's final week of the season. Bauer, Cole and Decker each earned All-Pac-10 team honors in 2009. Decker became UCLA's first two-time All-Pac-10 selection since Wes Whisler (2002, 2003). Bauer and Cole were just two of three freshmen to be named All-Pac-10 selections.

Cole finished his freshman campaign 4-8 with a 3.49 ERA, pitching in the Bruins' starting rotation since the season's opening weekend. Midway through the season, he emerged as UCLA's Friday night pitcher, suffering a string of hard-luck losses due to a lack of run support. Junior Charles Brewer served as the Bruins' third weekend starter, going 3-5 with a 4.52 ERA. Junior Gavin Brooks moved to the bullpen in his third season after having pitched in the rotation his first two years, going 0-4 with eight saves in a team-high 27 appearances.

Two weeks after the regular season, eight Bruins were selected in the MLB Draft. Junior infielder Casey Haerther led the crop as a fifth-round selection by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. Brooks went in the ninth round to the New York Yankees and Brewer was selected in the 12th round by the Arizona Diamondbacks. Rounding out the list included pitchers Brendan Lafferty, Garrett Claypool and Jason Novak, Decker and junior outfielder Gabe Cohen.

THE 2010s – 134-57 (.702)

2010 – 51-17, 18-9 Pac-10 (2nd Place)

UCLA had its most successful baseball season in school history in 2010, advancing to the finals of the College World Series for the first time ever. The Bruins totaled a school record 51 wins, established a program record with 43 regular-season wins and secured their third-ever trip to the College World Series (first trip since 1997). UCLA hosted postseason play for the first time since 1986 and an NCAA Super Regional for the first time since the NCAA adopted the current postseason format in 1999.

The Bruins opened the season in sizzling fashion, winning their first 22 games. In that span, UCLA helped open the inaugural Dodgertown Classic, defeating USC at Dodger Stadium by a 6-1 margin on Feb. 28. UCLA entered its first weekend of Pac-10 play, hosting Stanford, riding a 21-game win streak. The Bruins won their 22nd consecutive game in extra innings, breaking a 5-5 tie with a walk-off blop single in the bottom of the 10th. Stanford earned an 8-4 win the next day (April 2), ending UCLA's historic streak at 22 games.

UCLA lost its first series of the season to Oregon (April 16-18), dropping the first two games at Jackie Robinson Stadium. Two weeks later, the Bruins hosted a critical three-game series against defending conference champion Arizona State. Hailed as one of the season's best matchups by numerous national college baseball outlets, the weekend series between UCLA and Arizona State failed to live up to its billing. The Bruins responded over the next three weeks by sweeping each of their next three Pac-10 series and winning 13 of their final 16 regular-season games.

Among the Bruins' most memorable highlights came in the series finale against USC. With two outs in the ninth inning, Brett Knill drew a two-out walk before Cody Keefer belted a walk-off home run to right field, sending the Bruins into a frenzy as they had earned their second sweep over USC since 2007.

The Bruins entered the final weekend of the regular season knowing they had clinched a playoff berth – the question remained whether or not UCLA had earned one of college baseball's coveted top-eight national seeds. The complete postseason field was revealed June 1, and the Bruins began preparations to face No. 4-seed Kent State that Friday. In addition, defending national champion LSU was designated as the Regional's No. 2 seed, and UC Irvine as the No. 3 seed.

UCLA swept through the Regional, defeating Kent State (15-1), LSU (6-3) and UC Irvine (6-2) to advance to the NCAA Super Regionals for the first time since 2007. The following weekend, the Bruins hosted Super Regional play at Jackie Robinson Stadium against Cal State Fullerton. After dropping the opening game to the Titans, 4-3, the Bruins had one of the most memorable games in program history. In Game 2, Tyler Rahmatulla hit one of the most clutch home runs in UCLA history. Trailing 6-5 with two outs and nobody on base in the top of the ninth inning, Blair Dunlap drew a walk. Rahmatulla followed, blasting a two-run homer to put UCLA ahead as the designated visiting team, 7-6. Cal State Fullerton tied the contest, 7-7, in the bottom of the inning, before UCLA added four runs in the 10th inning and held on for the win.

The next night, Rob Rasmussen became the hero for UCLA in the decisive third game. The southpaw struck out nine batters and walked one in a complete game, allowing one run and two hits in an 8-1 UCLA victory. The Bruins earned their first College World Series berth since 1997.

UCLA entered the College World Series as one of just three remaining national seeds to qualify for the final eight-team field. Bauer helped the No. 6-national seed Bruins defeated No. 4-national seed Florida, 11-3, in UCLA's opening CWS game. The sophomore right-hander surrendered three runs and six hits in seven innings, totaling 11 strikeouts and two walks, to help UCLA record its first-ever win at the College World Series. The Bruins scored in each inning except for the second in the win over Florida. Two nights later, Cole registered 13 strikeouts in a 6-3 win over TCU. In that victory, UCLA received home runs from Regis and fellow freshman Jeff Gallich in the third inning to open a 5-0 cushion. TCU inched closer with a two-out, bases-clearing triple by Taylor Featherston, but Cole kept the Horned Frogs at bay, striking out Aaron Schultz to end the seventh inning and adding two more strikeouts in the eighth.

With a 2-0 start in the College World Series meant the Bruins got to wait three days before their



Third baseman Jermaine Curtis (2006-08) helped lead UCLA to three straight postseasons for the first time in school history.

next game. UCLA faced TCU on June 25, after the Horned Frogs knocked off Florida State, 11-7, two days earlier in an elimination game. TCU freshman left-hander Matt Purke limited the Bruins to two runs and three hits in 6.1 innings earning the victory, as the Horned Frogs won a 6-2 decision. Playing in 110-degree heat in an elimination contest the next afternoon, UCLA outlasted TCU, 10-3, to earn a spot in the finals of the College World Series. Bauer had another sensational performance for the Bruins, recording 13 strikeouts and two walks in eight innings, to earn his third victory of the postseason, his second in the College World Series.

The Bruins fell short in the best-of-three championship series against South Carolina. UCLA's offense mustered just one run and three hits in a 7-1 loss in Game 1 on June 28. Cole allowed six runs (four earned) and 11 hits in seven innings and was tagged with his second loss of the postseason. The next night, UCLA lost to South Carolina, 2-1, in 11 innings. The Bruins led 1-0 through seven, before the Gamecocks tied the ballgame, 1-1, in the bottom of the eighth. UCLA manufactured baserunners in the ninth and 10th innings, but could not cross the plate. South Carolina's Whit Merrifield lined a game-winning, walk-off single to right field in the bottom of the 11th, as the Gamecocks captured their first-ever baseball national championship.

At the College World Series, Bauer, Regis and Beau Amaral were named to the All-Tournament Team. Bauer went 2-0 with a 3.00 ERA in Omaha, collecting 24 strikeouts and four walks in 15.1 innings. Amaral led the Bruins' offense at the College World Series, posting a .375 batting average (9-for-24). Sporting a 5-1-7 final record, UCLA had finished its season 34 games over .500, the highest total over the .500 plateau in school history. The Bruins had established school and Pac-10 records for single-season strikeouts with 700 in 618.1 innings. UCLA's pitching staff led the nation in strikeouts per nine innings (10.2), as three pitchers ranked in the top 30 in that category. Additionally, UCLA finished the year ranked No. 2 in all major polls, marking the highest top-25 finish in school history.

2011 – 35-24, 18-9 Pac-10 (1st Place)

UCLA secured its first outright conference title in 2011 for the first time since 2010 and witnessed the continued rise of two of its top pitchers in program history. Trevor Bauer became the first UCLA ballplayer to earn the Golden Spikes Award, and Gerrit Cole was the school's first-ever No. 1 selection in the MLB First-Year Player Draft (June draft). Bauer followed Cole's selection as the No. 3 pick.

Much of the spotlight was directed at both Cole and Bauer during UCLA's 2011 campaign. Bauer was named the National Player of the Year by both Baseball America and Louisville Slugger/Collegiate Baseball. In addition to winning the Golden Spikes Award, he was named a first-team All-America selection by every publication and captured Pac-10 Pitcher of the Year acclaim. He went 13-2 with a 1.25 ERA, totaling a conference record 203 strikeouts in 136.2 innings.

The Bruins opened the 2011 season ranked in the top five in virtually every major preseason ranking. After winning its first four games, UCLA struggled to maintain consistency through its non-conference schedule. The Bruins opened their Pac-10 slate at USC the final weekend of March and won their first four conference series (USC, Washington, Washington State and Arizona). After dropping consecutive weekend series against Stanford and Oregon State, UCLA got on a roll and worked toward winning the Pac-10 Championship despite having to gain ground in the standings.

During the first weekend of May, the Bruins swept a three-game series at Oregon. The following weekend, UCLA rebounded from a Friday night loss against Cal State Bakersfield and won the series with victories on Saturday and Sunday. The Bruins won two of three games each of the next two weekends against California and Arizona State, respectively. In fact, UCLA traveled to Arizona State on the final weekend of the regular season trailing Oregon State by one game in the standings. The Bruins won the first two games of the series, losing on Sunday, and Oregon State was swept on the road at Oregon. UCLA had captured a one-game lead in the conference standings, won the Pac-10 title in outright fashion and was awarded a Regional host the same day.

UCLA hosted the NCAA Los Angeles Regional for the second straight season. The Bruins were upset by San Francisco, 3-0, in their Regional opener on June 3, putting the team in less than familiar territory. UCLA had not fallen into the loser's bracket at an NCAA Regional since 2006. The following day, Bauer struck out 14 batters in his ninth consecutive complete game of the season, helping UCLA defeat No. 2-seed Fresno State, 3-1. Adam Plutko led the charge the next afternoon, scattering one hit in 7.2 scoreless innings to pick up the win as UCLA knocked off San Francisco, 4-1. That same evening, the Bruins took a 3-0 lead against UC Irvine in the fifth inning before the Anteaters rallied back with two runs in the fifth and two more in the ninth. UC Irvine won the NCAA Los Angeles Regional, ending the Bruins' season at Jackie Robinson Stadium.

Feeling mixed emotions, the following day (June 6) continued to produce positive headlines for the UCLA baseball program, as Cole and Bauer were selected No. 1 and No. 3, respectively, in the first round of the 2011 MLB First-Year Player Draft. Cole was chosen by the Pittsburgh Pirates and Bauer was taken by the Arizona Diamondbacks. In all, UCLA had 11 players drafted in 2011, and all 11 Bruins signed with their respective pro organizations.

UCLA's pitching staff had once again topped the charts, totaling 572 strikeouts and a 2.44 ERA, the lowest mark in program history since 1969 (2.40). The Bruins ranked second in strikeouts per nine innings (9.8) and hits allowed per nine innings (6.61).

2012 – 48-16, 20-10 Pac-12 (t-1st Place)

For the second time in three seasons, the UCLA baseball team reached the College World Series after securing its second consecutive Pac-12 championship in 2012. UCLA tied with Arizona at 20-10 in conference games and earned back-to-back conference titles for the first time in school history after winning the Pac-12 championship outright in 2011. The Bruins also posted a 48-16 overall record, logging their second-highest single-season win total in program history.

The Bruins came into the season ranked in the top 20 in every major preseason ranking and boasted a plethora of experience, returning all three starting outfielders and three starting infielders. Despite the preseason hype, UCLA started slow out of the gate, dropping three of its first five games. The Bruins won their next seven games though as they headed east to Athens, Ga. to take on the ninth-ranked Georgia Bulldogs. In the first matchup on March 9, sophomore right-hander Adam Plutko threw the second complete game of his career, leading UCLA to a 2-0 shutout win over the Bulldogs. Plutko struck out 11 batters with no walks in a dominating performance. The Bruins took the next two contests and left Georgia riding a wave of momentum.

After defeating crosstown rivals USC, 7-2, in the 2012 Dodgertown Classic, the Bruins entered conference play riding an 11-game winning streak. The Pac-12 opener would prove to be a tough one for the Bruins as 11th-ranked Arizona State came to Jackie Robinson Stadium for a three-game series. In the series opener on March 16, UCLA overcame a five-run deficit to the Sun Devils and in the bottom of the ninth, got a two-out walk-off home run from Kevin Williams to defeat the Sun Devils, 6-5. Despite dropping the next game, UCLA bounced back and took home a crucial series victory over Arizona State with a 4-2 win in the second game of a doubleheader on March 18. Freshman Grant Watson limited the Sun Devils to two runs and four hits in six-plus innings of work to earn the win.

As April turned to May, UCLA continued its stellar play, taking series victories over No. 13 Purdue, Washington and California. Heading into the final series of the regular season against USC on May 25, the Bruins found themselves trailing Oregon by two games for the Pac-12 lead and Arizona by one game for second place. After defeating the Trojans 3-1 in the opener, the Bruins came back on Saturday and won again by a score of 6-5 after junior Cody Regis drew a walk-off walk in the ninth inning. Entering the final day of the season, UCLA, Oregon and Arizona all found themselves tied atop the Pac-12 standings. With Oregon losing to Oregon State and Arizona defeating Arizona State in the regular season finales, the Bruins needed a win to clinch a share of the Pac-12 Championship. UCLA would indeed find that win, defeating the Trojans, 7-6, to earn their second consecutive conference championship. Junior closer Scott Griggs picked up the victory after throwing 1.1 innings in relief.

Following the three-game sweep of USC to close the regular season, UCLA earned the No. 2 national seed in the NCAA Tournament, the highest seed the program has ever received in its history. The Bruins hosted the NCAA Los Angeles Regional for the third consecutive season, which was also a first in school history. The Bruins went on to sweep all three games in the regional to advance to their third NCAA Super Regional in school history. UCLA blanked Creighton, 3-0, in the opener behind another outstanding pitching performance from Plutko, who threw a complete game two-hit shutout while striking out seven in a gem of a performance. Junior Beau Amaral led the Bruins at the plate, going 3-4 with one RBI in the win. The next day against New Mexico, UCLA's great pitching continued as sophomore Nick Vander Tuig propelled the Bruins to a 7-1 victory over the Lobos. Vander Tuig was simply dominant, striking out a career-high 11 batters in eight innings while allowing just one hit all night. He also carried a no-hitter into the eighth inning before finally relinquishing that lone hit. In the finale, a rematch against Creighton, the Blue Jays proved to be no match for UCLA, going quietly in a 13-5 loss to the Bruins. Junior outfielder Jeff Gelalich led the way, going 3-4 with four RBI and two home runs in the victory. Gelalich went on to be named the Most Outstanding Player of the Regional while Amaral, outfielder Cody Keefer, Plutko, Vander Tuig, second baseman Trevor Brown and shortstop Pat Valaika all joined him on the All-Regional Team.

The next day continued to generate more buzz for the program, as Gelalich was selected in the supplemental first round (No. 57 overall) of the 2012 MLB Draft by the Cincinnati Reds, making him the 18th UCLA ballplayer to be drafted in the first round. Overall, seven UCLA players were drafted in 2012.

In the Super Regionals at Jackie Robinson Stadium, the Bruins drew a familiar foe in TCU, whom they had faced three times in the College World Series two seasons ago. The Bruins swept both games against the Horned Frogs, winning by scores of 6-2 and 4-1 to advance to their second College World Series in three seasons. The pitching again was superb, with Plutko and Vander Tuig shutting down the TCU offense and freshman David Berg coming out of the bullpen to finish both games.

In the first game of the College World Series the Bruins drew Stony Brook, a Cinderella team that had upset LSU in the Super Regionals. There would be no upset this time as the Bruins defeated the Seawolves by a score of 9-1. Plutko again was fantastic, pitching seven strong innings to lead the way. Valaika, Williams and Gelalich spurred the offense, knocking in two RBI apiece in the victory. UCLA returned to the field two days later where they faced conference foes Arizona. But this time the Wildcats would get the better of the Bruins, defeating UCLA, 4-0, behind a complete game shutout from Konner Wade. In an elimination game two days later, the Bruins saw their outstanding season come to an end as Florida State defeated UCLA by a score of 4-1. In three College World Series contests, UCLA's pitching staff posted a 3.24 ERA while holding the opposition to a .230 batting average.

After the season, Gelalich, Griggs and Plutko all earned All-America honors while Berg and Watson earned Freshman All-America honors. Berg finished the season in second place on the all-time NCAA Division I single-season appearances list, making 50 appearances in 2012 and leading the Pac-12 with a 1.46 ERA. Berg also led the nation with a 0.80 WHIP.

Plutko went 7-0 in his final seven starts, posting a 0.89 ERA with a .180 batting average in that span. Griggs set the school record for saves in a single-season with 15, which also was the second-highest total in the Pac-12.

UCLA as a team finished the year having played the No. 1 ranked strength of schedule according to Boyd's World. The team also reached the 40-win plateau for just the eighth time in program history and owned the nation's top record in road/neutral site games, going 21-6. At the plate the Bruins had 341 strikeouts, which is the fewest total since 1986 and batted .304 as a team, marking a 41-point increase from 2011. Finally, led by its junior class, UCLA achieved its highest three-year win total, winning 134 games between 2010 and 2012.



UCLA celebrated its 8-1 victory over Cal State Fullerton on June 13, 2010, sending the Bruins to the College World Series for the third time in school history.