

2006 UCLA Gymnastics Schedule



Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 3	vs. Arkansas, Cal, Oregon St., Sac St., Washington (@Hawaii)	6:00 pm
Jan. 7	Utah	6:00 pm
Jan. 20	at Washington	7:00 pm
Jan. 22	Oregon State	2:00 pm
Feb. 3	at Cal State Fullerton	7:00 pm
Feb. 10	at California	7:30 pm
Feb. 12	Washington	2:00 pm
Feb. 17	at Georgia	7:30 pm
Feb. 19	Arizona State, Cal State Fullerton, UC Davis	2:00 pm
Feb. 24	at Arizona	7:00 pm
Mar. 5	Stanford, San Jose State	2:00 pm
Mar. 17	at LSU	7:00 pm
Mar. 25	at Pac-10 Championships (Host: Oregon St.)	6:00 pm
Apr. 8	at NCAA Regionals	TBA
Apr. 20-22	at NCAA Championships (Host: Oregon St.)	TBA

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Quick Facts

General Information

Athletics Phone	(310) 825-8699
Ticket Office	(310) UCLA-WIN
Location	Los Angeles, CA
Enrollment	36,890
Founded	1919
Colors	Blue and Gold
Nickname	Bruins
Conference	Pacific-10
Conference Phone	(925) 932-4411
National Affiliation	NCAA Division I

University Personnel

Chancellor	Dr. Albert Carnesale
Director of Athletics	Dan Guerrero
Sr. Women's Administrator	Petrina Long
Faculty Athletic Rep	Donald Morrison

UCLA Gymnastics Information

Head Coach	Valorie Kondos Field (UCLA '87)
Coach's Phone	(310) 206-6420
Record at UCLA (Years)	301-62-1 (15)
Career Record (Years)	same
Assistant Coaches	Chris Waller, Marshall Nelson
Athletic Trainer	Lorita Granger
2005 Record	20-3
2005 NCAA Finish	4th

Gymnastics Facility

Home Arena (Cap.)	Pauley Pavilion (12,819)
Training Facility	Yates Gym
Meet Director	Janet Ferrari

Sports Information

Gymnastics SID	Liza David
Sports Information Phone	(310) 206-8140
Sports Information FAX	(310) 825-8664
E-mail Address	ldavid@athletics.ucla.edu
Shipping Address	J.D. Morgan Center, 325 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90095
Athletics Hotline	(310) 825-8575
Web Site	www.uclabruins.com

About This Publication

Credits: The 2006 UCLA gymnastics media guide was written and designed by Liza David, UCLA Assistant Sports Information Director. Front cover design by Karen Wang. Back cover design by Bryan DeSena. Printing coordinated by Don Junowich, Print Management Services and Nadine Nelson, Digital Color. Primary photography by ASUCLA Campus Studio (Don Liebig, Todd Cheney and Scott Quintard). Additional photography by Jeff Sipsey, James Scieszinski, Johnny Race, Richard Baillif, Jack Chance, Ron Kennedy, Grace Chiu, Lloyd Smith, Patrick Tower and Randy Chow. Special thanks to Getty Images, ASUCLA Photography, Berliner Studios, Andrew Bernstein, Ruth Chambers, the Los Angeles Visitors and Convention Bureau and Scott Quintard for their photos in the UCLA Experience.

Purchase: Copies of the 2006 gymnastics media guide can be purchased in person at the UCLA Ticket Office for \$6.00. By mail, make checks payable for \$8.00 to UC Regents and mail to UCLA Sports Information Office, PO Box 24044, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

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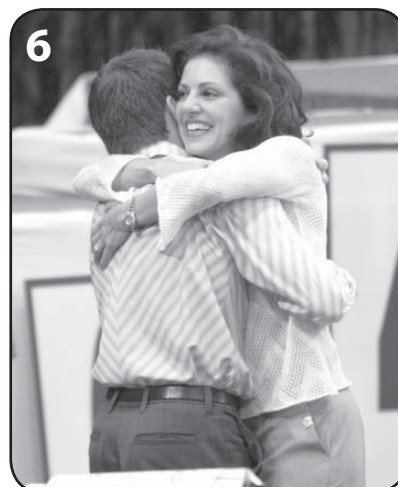
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Valorie Kondos Field and Chris Waller celebrate after winning the 2004 NCAA Championship



Ashley Peckett



Luisa Portocarrero

2006 Roster

Class Breakdown:

Seniors (1): Kate Richardson

Juniors (3): Ashley Peckett, Michelle Selesky, Courtney Walker

Sophomores (2): Jordan Schwikert, Tasha Schwikert

Freshmen (7): Ariana Berlin, Melissa Chan, Kristina Comfote, Jalyne Dantzcher, Janelle Dantzcher, Alyssa Kitaoe, Maranda Smith

Roster by State:

California (8): Ariana Berlin, Melissa Chan, Jalyne Dantzcher, Janelle Dantzcher, Alyssa Kitaoe, Michelle Selesky, Maranda Smith, Courtney Walker

Canada (2): Ashley Peckett, Kate Richardson

Illinois (1): Kristina Comfote

Nevada (2): Jordan Schwikert, Tasha Schwikert

Pronunciations:

Ariana Berlin
are-ee-ON-uh

Kristina Comfote
com-FORTY

Jalyne/Janelle Dantzcher
DAN-sheer

Alyssa Kitaoe
Alicia KIT-a-zoy

Michelle Selesky
Suh-LESS-key

Jordan/Tasha Schwikert
SHWHY-curt

Valorie Kondos Field
CON-dose

Lindsey Vanden Eykel
VAN-den EYE-cull

Gymnast	Yr.	Ht.	Hometown (Club/High School)
Ariana Berlin	5-2	Fr.	Del Cerro, CA (SCEGA/Patrick Henry HS)
Melissa Chan	5-1	Fr.	Los Gatos, CA (Airborne Gymnastics/Los Gatos HS)
Kristina Comfote	5-4	Fr.	Burr Ridge, IL (Illinois Gymnastics Institute/Lyons Township HS)
Jalyne Dantzcher	5-2	Fr.	San Dimas, CA (SCEGA/Champion Gymnastics/San Dimas HS)
Janelle Dantzcher	5-3	Fr.	San Dimas, CA (SCEGA/Champion Gymnastics/San Dimas HS)
Alyssa Kitaoe	5-1	Fr.	Menlo Park, CA (Airborne Gymnastics/Menlo-Atherton HS)
Ashley Peckett	5-1	Jr.	Mississauga, ON (Gymnastics Mississauga/Port Credit Secondary)
Kate Richardson	5-0	Sr.	Coquitlam, BC (Abbotsford Twisters/Port Moody Secondary)
Michelle Selesky	5-6	Jr.	San Juan Capistrano, CA (NGTC/Aliso Niguel HS)
Jordan Schwikert	5-4	So.	Las Vegas, NV (Gymcats/Centennial HS)
Tasha Schwikert	5-2	So.	Las Vegas, NV (Gymcats/Centennial HS)
Maranda Smith	5-2	Fr.	Placerville, CA (Byers Gymnastics/Union Mine HS)
Courtney Walker	5-2	Jr.	Santa Monica, CA (All-Olympians/Santa Monica HS)

Head Coach: Valorie Kondos Field (16th year)

Assistant Coaches: Chris Waller (4th year), Marshall Nelson (2nd year)

Undergraduate Assistant Coaches: Jennifer Sutton, Lindsey Vanden Eykel

Head Trainer: Lorita Granger

Student Trainers: Kristyn Ha, Kristine Ho



2006 UCLA Gymnastics Team: Top row, sitting (l-r): Jennifer Sutton, Kristina Comfote, Janelle Dantzcher, Ariana Berlin, Jalyne Dantzcher. Middle row (l-r): Courtney Walker, Michelle Selesky, Ashley Martin, Jordan Schwikert. Front row, sitting (l-r): Tasha Schwikert, Kate Richardson, Ashley Peckett, Alyssa Kitaoe, Melissa Chan, Lindsey Vanden Eykel. Not pictured: Maranda Smith.

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Season Prospectus

The exuberance of youth is well-apparent in the 2006 UCLA Gymnastics team. With freshmen comprising more than half of the squad, this is definitely a new-look Bruin squad, one that head coach Valorie Kondos Field is excited to lead.

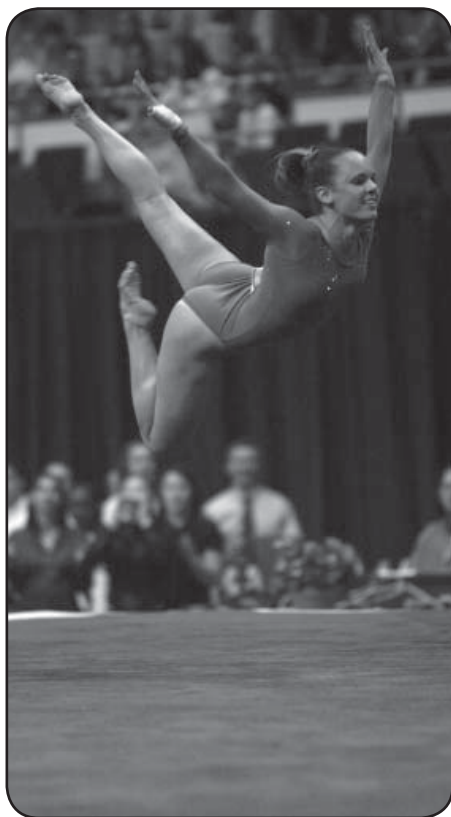
While having a freshman-dominated team could be a concern, this Bruin crew will be seasoned veterans by the time post-season hits. A rash of minor injuries to the Bruin veterans will enable the freshmen to get valued competition time right away. Kondos Field has already seen that her youngsters are competitors.

"The youth of this team is very refreshing," Kondos Field said. "They are excited about competing. Every time we have an intrasquad or some kind of team challenge in workouts, every single one of them jumps in with both feet to help their team win."

"They are an exciting group of competitors to be around daily," she continued. "I can only imagine how competitive they will be when the season starts. There is a healthy competitive atmosphere within our own team. They not only want to make the lineup, but they want to be last up in the lineup, and they want to prove that they earned that spot."

The Bruin team's diversity is something else that stands out to Kondos Field. "I love that our team is diverse," she said. "While all come from different social and gymnastics backgrounds with extremely different styles of gymnastics and personalities, they have all embraced the philosophy we have here in that we expect them to excel in all areas of their lives, academically, athletically and socially, and they are as excited about being the best they can be as they are about the pursuit of a national championship."

Each Bruin brings something different to the table. Senior co-captain **Kate Richardson** brings poise and an elite level of gymnastics. In 2004, she did what only one other female gymnast has ever done - compete in the Olympics as a collegiate athlete. Richardson not only competed in her second Olympic Games, but she also became the first Canadian woman ever to qualify for the floor exercise finals, where she placed seventh. She returned to Westwood and earned first-team All-America honors on beam and floor at the NCAA Championships, bringing her career total to 10, third-most in school history. Richardson also brings a steely determination, as evidenced by her quick recovery from a broken tibia suffered in September. She has also fully recovered from a thumb injury suffered in mid-season last year.



Kate Richardson

Sophomore **Tasha Schwikert** brings competitive greatness and big gymnastics. The 2000 U.S. Olympian and six-time U.S. national champion had a terrific rookie

campaign in 2005, winning all three post-season all-around titles, including the NCAA all-around championship. Schwikert, the Pac-10 Freshman of the Year and the only gymnast to earn the maximum five first-team All-America honors last year, racked up big numbers, scoring a pair of perfect 10s on both bars and floor and recording season-best numbers of 9.975 on vault and beam. She competed in the all-around in 15 meets and averaged 39.522 with a high of 39.825. Unfortunately, she will miss a substantial amount, if not all, of the 2006 season due to shoulder surgery.

Sophomore **Jordan Schwikert** gives UCLA consistency and hard work

in the gym every day and in competition. She is UCLA's third returning All-American, having earned second-team honors on the balance beam last year. She also earned All-Pac-10 honors in the all-around and scored a career-high 39.5 in two meets in March. Jordan has career-highs of 9.925 on vault, bars and beam and averaged 9.835 on floor.

Junior **Ashley Peckett** has what Kondos Field calls an "effervescent vitality that is extremely infectious". The former Canadian national beam champion has played a major role on the Bruins' NCAA championship squads in her two years, setting her teammates up with solid 9.8+ leadoff scores every time up. Peckett is a very consistent competitor and enters the season having hit 33 consecutive routines without a fall.

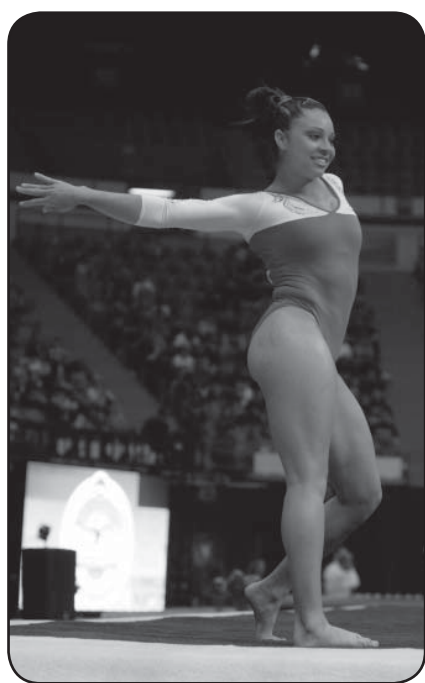
Junior co-captain **Michelle Selesky** is a shining example of all things being possible through hard work and determination. Selesky walked on to the team as a freshman, learned new skills and saw some competition time as a sophomore and has now earned a spot as team co-captain and earned a scholarship as well. "She has exceeded all of our expectations," said Kondos Field.

Another athlete who blossomed last season was junior **Courtney Walker**, who continues to be a strong, powerful athlete with beautiful lines. Last year, she earned a spot in the post-season lineup on bars and floor and set a career-best on bars at the NCAA Super Six. In her first all-around appearance, she placed first in a dual meet at Cal State Fullerton.

Leading the seven-member freshman class is U.S. National Team member **Kristina Comferte**, who brings a perfect combination of power and grace. Comferte has impressive results on vault, where she was the national runner-up in 2003 and the U.S. junior champion in 2002, but she is a strong competitor in all four events, as evidenced by her sixth-place all-around finish at the 2005 U.S. Championships.

Kondos Field lauds **Melissa Chan's** power and uncanny ability of finding her landings. Chan is a three-time Level 10 national all-around and vault champion and former U.S. Junior National Team member. She also won the 2004 Level 10 beam title and was second on vault and bars in 2003.

Jalynne Dantzcher "lives to compete", according to Kondos Field. Her competitive desire saw her win the 2004 Level 10 national all-around and floor exercise titles in the Senior A division. The former



Jordan Schwikert

Season Prospectus

senior international elite earned a Top 20 finish at the 2002 U.S. Junior Championships and placed fourth on floor.

Jalynne's twin sister **Janelle Dantzcher** is all about beautiful lines, power and good technique, possessing perhaps as good of a combo as any Kondos Field has seen at UCLA. Janelle was the Level 10 state vault champion in 2004 and the state and regional all-around champion in 2003.

Ariana Berlin brings to the Bruin squad a tremendous work ethic and competitive drive. She is returning to gymnastics after a serious car accident forced her retirement at age 14. Prior to her accident, she had been a budding international elite, and she returns to the sport after spending the last few years as a professional dancer. "The possibilities are endless for Ariana," said Kondos Field. "She is all about honesty in everything she does and unwavering determination."

Walk-on **Alyssa Kitasoe** brings beauty and grace, as well as a strong conviction. Kondos Field expects her to fill in with strong and beautiful

gymnastics. Kitasoe was a 2005 Level 10 Regional and State qualifier and a two-time national qualifier. She won the Region 1 titles on beam in 2002 and bars in 2001 and won bars and beam at the 2003 State Championships.

UCLA's newest addition is **Maranda Smith**, who is expected to bring power and confidence to all of her events. Smith, who graduated from high school early to join the Bruins in late December for the start of the season, is the 2005 Level 10 national champion on floor and the 2004 Level 10 national vault champion. She was second in the all-around, vault and bars and first on floor at the 2005 Region 1 Championships.

"We have a great blend of freshmen and upperclassmen," notes Kondos Field. "I think this is the most cohesive team we've had in many, many years. They have all responded positively to all of the challenges we put before them and are willing to do whatever it takes for the good of the team."

TV/Radio Roster



Ariana Berlin - Freshman



Melissa Chan - Freshman



Kristina Comforte - Freshman



Jalynne Dantzcher - Freshman



Janelle Dantzcher - Freshman



Alyssa Kitasoe - Freshman



Ashley Peckett - Junior



Kate Richardson - Senior



Jordan Schwikert - Sophomore



Tasha Schwikert - Sophomore



Michelle Selesky - Junior



Maranda Smith - Freshman



Courtney Walker - Junior



Head Coach
Valorie Kondos Field



Assistant Coach
Chris Waller



Assistant Coach
Marshall Nelson