

2005 Season In Review

With the loss of five seniors, including the 2004 top-ranked all-around gymnast in Jeanette Antolin and NCAA individual champions Jamie Dantzcher and Yvonne Tousek, the 2005 Bruins looked to be in a rebuilding mode. After easy victories at the Pac-10 and NCAA West Regional Championships, a three-peat seemed promising, but some untimely injuries, illnesses and departures left the Bruins with not quite enough in the end to defend their NCAA title.

UCLA started out the season with a strong showing in the season opener at Utah. Although the Bruins lost the meet, they totaled a 197.3 and saw outstanding collegiate debuts from their freshmen. Tasha Schwikert scored a team-high 39.575 in the all-around and tied for first on beam with a 9.95. Jordan Schwikert scored a 39.4 in the all-around, and Lindsey Vanden Eykel tied for second on bars with a 9.925.

The three freshmen shined again in the Bruins' next meet at Oregon State, with Tasha Schwikert placing first in the all-around, just .025 ahead of sister Jordan. Vanden Eykel took first place on bars to help UCLA defeat the Beavers, 194.5-192.875.

In the Bruins' home opener against Nebraska, the Bruins dominated, easily outscoring the undermanned Huskers, 197.05-192.65. Kate Richardson led a Bruin 1-2-3 all-around sweep with a 39.525, and Tasha Schwikert provided the highlight of the day with a perfect 10 on bars. The team scored a 49.725 on bars, the third-best bars score in school history.

A rash of illnesses and injuries prior to UCLA's next meet brought cause for concern, but the Bruins stepped up nevertheless and received



Kate Richardson

key contributions from substitute Courtney Walkert to total a 197.15, outdistancing their nearest competitor by nearly six full points in a home quad meet against California, Cal State Fullerton and Sacramento State. The Bruins swept the Top 3 places in every event and the all-around, led by Kristen Maloney's all-around, vault, bars and beam victories. Only Tasha Schwikert's perfect 10 on floor prevented Maloney from a clean sweep.

Schwikert and Maloney once again led the Bruins in a 194.275-193.4 win at Arizona State. The 2000 Olympic teammates placed 1-2 in the all-around and won one event each. UCLA built up a huge lead after two rotations, which helped sustain the advantage after a less than stellar showing on floor, during which only Schwikert and Maloney scored above 9.5.

Beam proved to be the Bruins' nemesis in their next meet at Michigan. Tied going into the final rotation, UCLA had to count a fall on beam and lost by a point, 196.25-195.25.

UCLA got right back on the winning track the following week with a full team effort at Cal State Fullerton. Walker competed in the all-around for the first time in her career and won with a career-best 38.15, while Christie Tedmon finished in third. Just two days later, the Bruins rolled to another victory, scoring 196.575 to defeat Washington at home. Richardson led a UCLA 1-2-3 sweep in the all-around and won the vault and bars.

At Stanford on Feb. 18, the Bruins received a huge blow in warm-ups when Richardson suffered a functional rupture of the ulnar collateral ligament of the thumb. Despite the injury, she competed on and won all three events (vault, beam and floor) in which she competed, helping UCLA win the meet, 196.3-194.625. She would return to competition two weeks later but was kept off the uneven bars for the rest of the season.

With Richardson out, the Bruins placed second in their next meet against Georgia and Arizona, losing to the Gym Dogs by a 0.4 margin. An average beam set put UCLA behind after the third rotation, and Georgia pulled away with strong routines on vault and bars.

UCLA rebounded from the loss in a big way the next weekend, recording a national season-best team score of 197.85 to defeat Florida (196.65) in front of a season-best home crowd of 5,088. On senior day, Maloney made history by scoring a perfect 10 on bars, becoming the first UCLA gymnast ever to earn a perfect 10 on all four



2005 Pac-10 Champions

events in her career. She also tied her career-high in the all-around with a 39.825 to tie for first with Tasha Schwikert.

The Bruins closed out the regular season with a quad meet victory at Arkansas. Trailing Nebraska by .175 in the final rotation, UCLA fired off a meet-high 49.45 on vault to clinch the win. After a fall from the leadoff competitor, the pressure was on, but the Bruins responded like champions, with Ashley Peckett scoring a 9.775, Richardson a 9.85, Jordan Schwikert a 9.9, Tasha Schwikert a 9.95 and Maloney a 9.975.

UCLA headed into post-season action with confidence and dominated the Pac-10 Championship meet with a winning score of 197.1. Pac-10 Gymnast of the Year Kristen Maloney and Pac-10 Freshman of the Year Tasha Schwikert tied for the all-around title with scores of 39.7. Maloney also won vault, beam and floor, while Schwikert won bars with a perfect 10.

The NCAA Regional meet was nearly identical to the Pac-10 meet, with the Bruins winning easily with a mark of 197.025. Tasha Schwikert, Maloney and Jordan Schwikert went 1-2-3 in the all-around, and the Bruins qualified for the NCAA Championships with the second-highest regional score.

At the NCAA Championships, however, injuries played a big part in the Bruins' fortunes. Richardson's thumb injury kept her off bars, an event on which she won an NCAA Championship as a freshman. Tedmon competed on a torn meniscus that limited her to just balance beam. And Maloney sprained her ankle the weekend before the meet, although it seemingly did not affect her performance.

The Bruins placed second in the evening preliminary session, scoring 197.025 to place behind Georgia, who scored 197.35. Tasha Schwikert won the all-around with a score of 39.725, edging out Maloney by one-tenth of a point.

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In the Super Six Team Finals, UCLA came out guns blazing, scoring a 49.5 on floor in the first rotation to take the lead, .15 over second-place Georgia, which nailed its routines on balance beam for a 49.35. The Bruins were led by Maloney's perfect 10 and also received season-highs from Peckett, Walker and Jordan Schwikert.

The Bruins continued their hot streak on vault in the next rotation with three stuck vaults in a row from Peckett (season-high 9.9), Kisha Auld (9.75) and Jordan Schwikert (career-high 9.925). UCLA totaled a 49.45 on vault and finished with a two-event score of 98.95, just 0.15 off its record-setting pace from 2004.

Georgia made up ground in the third rotation, pulling to within .075 and then surged ahead in the fourth rotation after a vault set worth 49.575. The Bruins lost the lead on the uneven bars, scoring 49.275, and did not have enough to overtake Georgia in their final rotation on beam, scoring just 48.925 after some technical errors. The Bruins finished the meet in fourth place after Georgia, Alabama and Utah all hit 24-for-24.

The Bruins did not come away empty-handed at the Championships, however. Along with Tasha Schwikert's all-around title, Maloney won the vault and balance beam titles to cap off her amazing career. Maloney went out at the top of her game, becoming only the second collegiate gymnast



Tasha Schwikert

to compete a double-twisting Yurchenko vault and becoming the first collegiate gymnast ever to compete a double layout full-out on floor, which she did at the event finals.

Kristen Maloney At The ESPYs



Kristen Maloney with NFL star Peyton Manning



Maloney was nominated for Best College Female Athlete along with Harvard hockey player Nicole Corriero



Maloney with X-Games star Dave Mirra



Maloney with ESPY Award host and actor Matthew Perry

2005 Season Results

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Record (Pac-10)
Jan. 7	at Utah	L	197.3-197.675	0-1
Jan. 14	at Oregon State	W	194.5-192.875	1-1 (1-0)
Jan. 17	Nebraska	W	197.05-192.65	2-1
Jan. 23	California (191.175) Sacramento State (190.375) Cal State Fullerton (190.325)	1st	197.15	5-1 (2-0)
Jan. 28	at Arizona State	W	194.275-193.4	6-1 (3-0)
Feb. 4	at Michigan	L	195.25-196.25	6-2
Feb. 11	at CS Fullerton	W	191.4-189.825	7-2
Feb. 13	Washington	W	196.575-192.6	8-2 (4-0)
Feb. 18	at Stanford	W	196.3-194.625	9-2 (5-0)
Feb. 27	Georgia (196.5) Arizona (193.625)	2nd	196.1	10-3 (6-0)
Mar. 6	Florida	W	197.85-196.65	11-3
Mar. 19	at Arkansas (195.625) Nebraska (196.625) Oregon State (195.55)	1st	196.85	14-3 (7-0)
Mar. 26	at Pac-10 Championships	1st	197.1	20-3
Apr. 9	at NCAA Regionals	1st	197.025	
Apr. 21	NCAA Preliminaries	2nd		
Apr. 22	NCAA Super Six	4th		

Boldface indicates home meets.

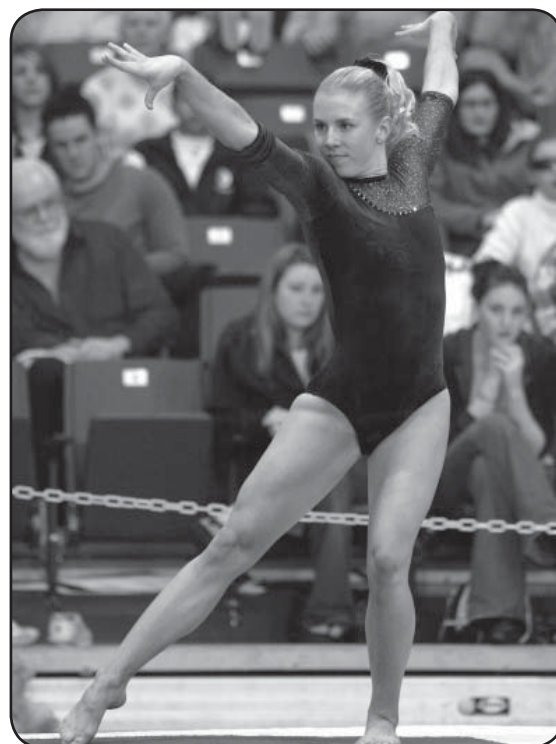


Lindsey Vanden Eykel

2005 Best Marks

Gymnast	VAULT	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA
Kisha Auld	9.75	—	—	—	—
Kristen Maloney	9.975	10.0	9.975	9.975	39.825
Ashley Peckett	9.9	9.8	9.75	9.8	38.575
Kate Richardson	9.95	9.975	9.975	9.925	39.625
Jordan Schwikert	9.925	9.925	9.925	9.875	39.5
Tasha Schwikert	9.975	10.0	9.975	10.0	39.825
Michelle Selesky	8.9	—	—	9.525	—
Christie Tedmon	9.85	8.7	9.85	9.85	37.3
Lindsey Vanden Eykel	—	9.925	9.85	9.675	—
Courtney Walker	9.85	9.8	9.3	9.875	38.15
Lori Winn	9.75	9.825	9.675	9.1	36.5
UCLA Team Scores	49.5	49.725	49.575	49.6	197.85

Bold face indicates gymnast's collegiate career bests.



Courtney Walker