2007 Season Results

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Record (Pac-10)
Jan. 6	**Washington**	**W**	**194.000-188.175**	**1-0**
Jan. 12	at Utah	L	195.975-196.325	1-1
Jan. 15	**Stanford**	**L**	**195.525-196.975**	**1-2 (0-1)**
Jan. 19	at Cal St. Fullerton (190.425)	1st	196.050	3-2
	San Jose St. (189.175)			
Jan. 21	**Arizona**	**W**	**196.750-193.075**	**4-2 (1-1)**
Jan. 26	at Arizona State	W	195.725-195.275	5-2 (2-1)
Feb. 10	at Denver	L	194.800-194.900	5-3
Feb. 16	at Oregon State	L	196.375-196.650	5-4 (2-2)
Feb. 25	**vs. Denver (193.700)**	**1st**	**196.250**	**8-4 (3-2)**
	California (192.450)			
	Cal St. Fullerton (191.925)			
Mar. 4	**Georgia**	**W**	**197.150-197.000**	**9-4**
Mar. 9	at Alabama	L	196.475-197.225	9-5
Mar. 25	at Stanford	L	196.250-196.825	9-6 (3-3)
Mar. 31	at Pac-10 Championships	1st	197.200	15-6
Apr. 14	at NCAA Southeast Regionals	1st	195.975	
Apr. 26	at NCAA Team Prelims	3rd	196.475	
Apr. 27	at NCAA Super Six	4th	196.925	

Boldface indicates home meets.

Michelle Selesky
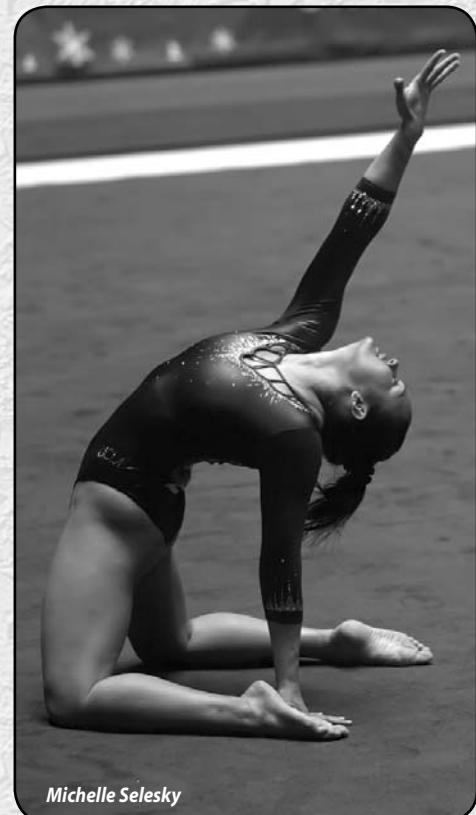
2007 Best Marks

Gymnast	VAULT	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA
Ariana Berlin	**9.900**	**9.975**	**9.875**	9.850	**39.425**
Melissa Chan	–	–	9.900	–	–
Kristina Comforte	–	–	9.825	–	–
Janelle Dantzscher	9.675	–	9.725	**9.900**	–
Ashley Jenkins	–	9.825	9.900	**9.875**	–
Anna Li	**9.900**	**9.950**	**9.950**	9.900	**39.550**
Natalie Padilla	9.800	9.750	9.725	9.625	–
Ashley Peckett	9.900	9.900	**9.850**	9.925	39.350
Jordan Schwikert	9.900	**9.975**	9.875	9.900	39.450
Tasha Schwikert	**9.975**	9.925	9.950	9.950	39.750
Michelle Selesky	**9.925**	–	7.950	**9.900**	–
UCLA Team Scores	49.425	49.700	49.425	49.350	197.200

Boldface indicates gymnast's collegiate career bests.

Ashley Peckett
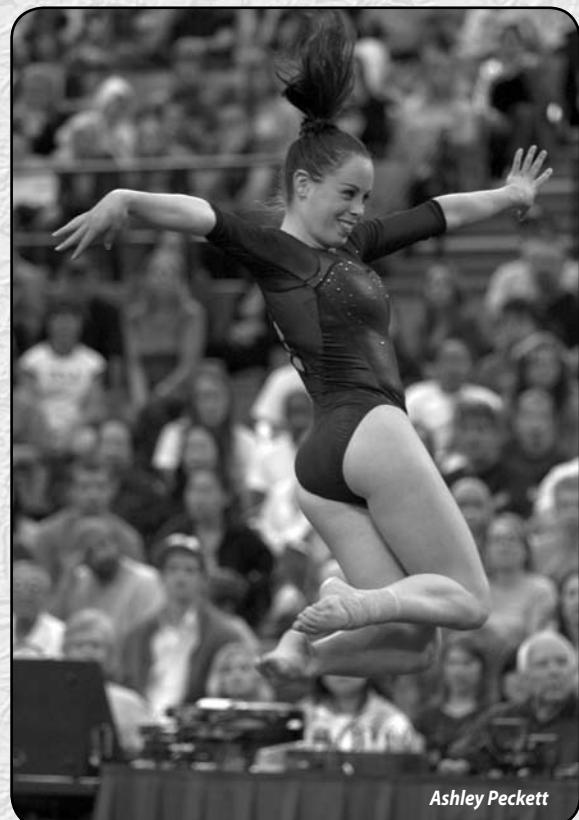
The Bruins had an up-and-down, injury-riddled 2007 regular season but rebounded with outstanding gritty efforts in the post-season to claim the Pac-10 and Regional titles as well as a Top 4 finish at the NCAA Championships.

The injuries hit the Bruins hard early. Freshman Brittani McCullough was lost for the season after severing a tendon in her toe in a car accident in November. All-American sophomore Kristina Comforte was limited to just balance beam after off-season surgery and competed just one month before being sidelined for the rest of the year after the discovery of an old stress fracture in her ankle. Jordan Schwikert was limited to just the uneven bars for the first five meets due to a hamstring injury, and Ariana Berlin was kept off the floor exercise the first month of the season due to leg pain. Just as Schwikert and Berlin came back into the lineup, others followed them out, with Tasha Schwikert sitting out on floor exercise for five meets to rest a strained Achilles and Ashley Jenkins being limited to just balance beam after hyper-extending an elbow. The injury situation became so tenuous in February that UCLA was forced to field just five athletes on floor exercise for two straight weeks, and the lack of bodies helped contribute to losses in those meets to Denver and Oregon State.

Alongside those injuries, however, were instances of others stepping up above and beyond, such as senior Michelle Selesky, a former Level 9 walk-on who had competed sparingly throughout her career. Selesky became a consistent competitor for the Bruins, winning the floor exercise with a 9.9 and placing third on vault with a 9.825 in the season opener to earn a spot on the medals stand for the first time in her career. Selesky maintained her spot in the vault and floor lineups week after week and was rewarded with All-Pac-10 honors on vault. Senior Ashley Peckett stepped into a new all-around role, working her way into the lineup on beam, where she had competed only nine times in her first three years, as the Bruins became short-handed. In her first meet competing as an all-arounder, she scored 39.25 to tie for second, tied for second on vault with a 9.9 and scored a 9.775 on beam to aid the Bruins' cause. Peckett continued to compete in the all-around for most of the season and broke 39 points in six of eight competitions. Junior transfer Natalie Padilla was also a valuable fill-in, providing clutch routines when the Bruins were competing just five-deep.

As UCLA started to get healthier, the Bruins also got more consistent. UCLA avenged the earlier loss at Denver with a 2.5 point victory at home two weeks later. The week after that, the Bruins upset second-ranked Georgia, 197.150-197.000 to snap the Gym Dogs' 27-meet unbeaten streak.

The high did not last long, however, as UCLA suffered back-to-back dual meet losses at Alabama and Stanford, but the Bruins picked it right back up by reclaiming the Pac-10 title with a season-high score of 197.200.

It did not come easy for the Bruins at the Pac-10s. They had to hold off fifth-ranked Stanford in the final rotation while competing on the balance beam. And when the Bruins' third competitor fell off the apparatus, the pressure was on. UCLA's final three came through in the clutch, however, with Jordan Schwikert scoring 9.85 and Anna Li and Tasha Schwikert closing it out with a pair of 9.95s to clinch the win. Tasha Schwikert won the all-around, vault and floor and tied for first with Li on beam.

Armed with the confidence built from winning the Pac-10 Championships, the Bruins entered the regional meet on a mission to qualify for the NCAA Championships after falling short the year prior. UCLA took the lead in the first rotation and never relinquished it, even with two last-minute subs in the final rotation. The Bruin subs, Janelle Dantzscher and Jenkins, both hit strong routines to help UCLA hold off second-place LSU, 195.975-195.950.

Back at the NCAA Championships, UCLA used a strong final two rotations in the team prelims to move ahead of LSU into third place for the final spot in the Super Six Team Finals. With UCLA clinging to a .275 lead over the Tigers, LSU put some pressure on the Bruins with a vault score of 49.3 and a final total of 196.275, which meant UCLA needed a 49.05 on bars (9.805 average) in the final rotation to claim third place. Berlin hit a solid leadoff routine, scoring 9.8. Padilla stepped in for an injured Jenkins and hit her routine for a 9.625. Peckett and Jordan Schwikert came through with 9.8s, and Tasha Schwikert nailed a 9.925. Li needed a 9.725 for the Bruins to advance, and she scored a 9.9 to clinch the team finals berth.

UCLA's ever-present injury issues reared its ugly head the night of team finals, but this time, the Bruins were able to overcome it with grit, heart and character, earning a satisfying fourth-place finish, just .35 out of second place. On each of the first three events, the Bruins had to put in an injured athlete at the end of the rotation for strategical purposes. Yet each time, that athlete came through with scores that counted. First, Jenkins shook off an injured ankle to compete on uneven bars and scored a 9.8 that allowed the Bruins to drop a 9.7 earlier in the rotation. On balance beam, Peckett stepped in to record a 9.825 in the anchor slot to negate a previous fall. After taking hits on floor exercise the night before, the Bruins rebounded with strong routines. Berlin returned to the floor lineup despite leg soreness and scored 9.75. Dantzscher restructured her floor routine after being dinged in prelims and recorded a 9.875. Peckett and Li earned 9.85 and 9.8, respectively, and Tasha Schwikert erased her earlier prelims mistake on floor and nailed her set for a 9.9. Jordan Schwikert shook off her hamstring injury and hit for a 9.85 to put UCLA just .05 behind second-place Stanford. The Bruins finished strong on vault to pull ahead of the Cardinal, scoring 49.4 for a final mark of 196.925.

"This has been one of the most satisfying seasons and National Championships I've ever experienced as a coach," said UCLA head coach Valorie Kondos Field. "One thing that made it so phenomenal this year is that everyone competed, not just a select few. Another thing was that everyone on this team trusted the coaching staff and each other and allowed themselves to be led."


Anna Li

Giving new meaning to the UCLA spell-out

The team gives Ashley Peckett a special senior send-off

Michelle Selesky's fist-pumping celebration with assistant coach Marshall Nelson after scoring a 9.925 on vault

The Bruins celebrating their last home meet victory against Georgia

UCLA's 1997 team was honored on the 10-year anniversary of the Bruins' first NCAA championship squad

Outside the Olympic stadium in Utah after the NCAA Championships banquet

Big support from the sidelines helped the Bruins put together a strong beam rotation to clinch the Pac-10 title

The Bruins after a well-fought fourth place finish at the NCAA Championships