

2008 UCLA Gymnastics Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 4	at Lady Luck Invitational (Las Vegas, NV) vs. Oregon State, Arizona State	7:00 pm
Jan. 13	MEET THE BRUINS (at John Wooden Center)	2:00 pm
Jan. 20	at Cal State Fullerton	2:00 pm
Jan. 27	STANFORD	2:00 pm
Feb. 1	at Washington	7:00 pm
Feb. 8	at IGI Chicago Style Gymnastics Meet (Chicago, IL) vs. Illinois, Stanford, Washington	7:00 pm
Feb. 17	at California	2:00 pm
Feb. 22	at Arizona	7:00 pm
Feb. 24	UTAH	2:00 pm
Mar. 2	OREGON STATE	2:00 pm
Mar. 9	ALABAMA, ARKANSAS, CAL STATE FULLERTON	2:00 pm
Mar. 15	at Georgia	7:30 pm
Mar. 29	at Pac-10 Championships (Host: Washington)	6:00 pm
Apr. 12	at NCAA Regionals	TBA
Apr. 24-26	at NCAA Championships (Host: Georgia)	TBA

All times are local to site. Home meets are indicated by ALL CAPS and take place in Pauley Pavilion.



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Quick Facts

General Information

Athletics Phone	(310) 825-8699
Ticket Office	(310) UCLA-WIN
Location.....	Los Angeles, CA
Enrollment	37,500
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. Gene Block
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)	337-74-1 (17)
Career Record (Years).....	same
Assistant Head Coach.....	Chris Waller
Assistant Coach.....	Jim Foody
Volunteer Assistant Coach.....	Marshall Nelson
Athletic Trainer	Lorita Granger
2007 Record.....	15-6
2007 Post-Season.....	4th, NCAA Championships

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

On the Cover: Pictured, clockwise from top left: Anna Li, Tasha Schwikert, Kristina Comforde, Natalie Padilla, Jordan Schwikert and Ariana Berlin.

Credits: The 2008 UCLA gymnastics media guide was written and designed by Liza David, UCLA Assistant Sports Information Director with editorial assistance from Ryan Finney, UCLA Associate Sports Information Director. Front cover design by Karen Wang. Back cover design by Alex Timirao, UCLA Sports Information Assistant. Printing by Marina Graphics. Primary photography by ASUCLA Campus Studio (Don Liebig and Todd Cheney). Cover photography by James Scieszinski. Additional photography by Jeff Sipsey, Christopher Peddeco, Johnny Race, Richard Baillif, Jack Chance, Ron Kennedy, Grace Chiu and Patrick Tower. 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 2008 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.

The 2008 Season

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

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Jordan Schwikert

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Luisa Portocarrero

We Are The Bruins



Tailgating at a UCLA Football game



Getting into the holiday spirit



Halloween fun in the gym



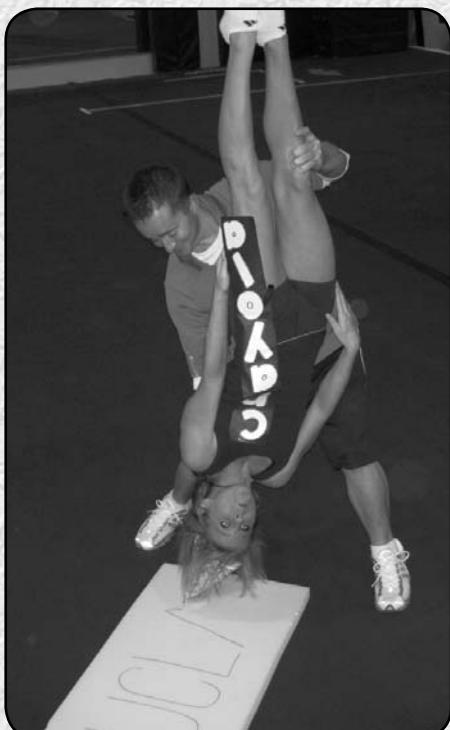
Miss Val and Bobby Field with Peyton and Eli Manning



Training days at the beach



Pre-season training at Woodward



Fun with crayons

2008 Roster



2008 UCLA Gymnastics Team: Back row (l-r): Marci Bernholtz, Allison Taylor, Talia Kushynski, Ashley Jenkins, Brittani McCullough, Shawahn Church, Mizuki Sato, NiKi Tom. Middle row (l-r): Ariana Berlin, Anna Li, Tasha Schwikert, Kristina Comforte, Melissa Chan. Front row (l-r): Natalie Padilla, Jordan Schwikert.

Class Breakdown:

Seniors (3): Natalie Padilla, Jordan Schwikert, Tasha Schwikert

Juniors (3): Ariana Berlin, Melissa Chan, Kristina Comforte

Sophomores (2): Ashley Jenkins, Anna Li

Redshirt Freshmen (1): Brittani McCullough

Freshmen (6): Marci Bernholtz, Shawahn Church, Talia Kushynski, Mizuki Sato, Allison Taylor, NiKi Tom

Roster by State:

California (9): Ariana Berlin, Melissa Chan, Shawahn Church, Ashley Jenkins, Talia Kushynski, Brittani McCullough, Natalie Padilla, Mizuki Sato, NiKi Tom

Canada (1): Marci Bernholtz

Illinois (2): Kristina Comforte, Anna Li

Nevada (2): Jordan Schwikert, Tasha Schwikert

Texas (1): Allison Taylor

Roster by Height:

NiKi Tom, Melissa Chan, Marci Bernholtz, Shawahn Church, Ariana Berlin, Talia Kushynski, Mizuki Sato, Ashley Jenkins, Tasha Schwikert, Allison Taylor, Brittani McCullough, Anna Li, Natalie Padilla, Kristina Comforte, Jordan Schwikert

Gymnast	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown (Club/Previous School/High School)
Ariana Berlin	5-2	Jr.	San Diego, CA (SCEGA/Patrick Henry HS)
Marci Bernholtz	5-2	Fr.	Unionville, ON (ASF Gymnastics/Thornhill Secondary)
Melissa Chan	5-1	Jr.	Los Gatos, CA (Airborne Gymnastics/Los Gatos HS)
Shawahn Church	5-2	Fr.	Tarzana, CA (Waller's GymJam Academy/Laurel Springs HS)
Kristina Comforte	5-4	Jr.	Burr Ridge, IL (Illinois Gymnastics Institute/Lyons Township HS)
Ashley Jenkins	5-3	So.	Laguna Niguel, CA (SCATS/Mater Dei HS)
Talia Kushynski	5-2	Fr.	Sherman Oaks, CA (Waller's GymJam Academy/Van Nuys HS)
Anna Li	5-4	So.	Aurora, IL (Aerial Gymnastics/Waubonsie Valley HS)
Brittani McCullough	5-4	R.Fr.	Corona, CA (SCEGA/Centennial HS)
Natalie Padilla	5-4	Sr.	San Diego, CA (SCEGA/Bonita Vista HS/Univ. of Iowa)
Mizuki Sato	5-2	Fr.	Fair Oaks, CA (Technique Gymnastics/Bella Vista HS)
Jordan Schwikert	5-4	Sr.	Las Vegas, NV (Gymcats/Centennial HS)
Tasha Schwikert	5-3	Sr.	Las Vegas, NV (Gymcats/Centennial HS)
Allison Taylor	5-3	Fr.	Dallas, TX (WOGA/Spring Creek Academy)
NiKi Tom	5-0	Fr.	Northridge, CA (JAG/Chatsworth HS)

Head Coach: Valorie Kondos Field (18th year)

Assistant Head Coach: Chris Waller (6th year)

Assistant Coach: Jim Foody (1st year)

Volunteer Assistant Coach: Marshall Nelson

Undergraduate Assistant Coaches: Ashley Peckett, Lindsey Vanden Eykel

Team Managers: Ashley Martin, Alyssa Kitasoe

Staff Athletic Trainer: Lorita Granger

Student Trainers: Jessica Hooper, Henry Huynh, Darren O'Hara

Pronunciations:

Ariana Berlin are-ee-ON-uh

Shawahn Church sha-VON

Kristina Comforte com-FORTY

Talia Kushynski TALL-ya coo-SHIN-ski

Brittani McCullough Muh-CULL-uh

Mizuki Sato mi-ZOO-key SAH-toe

Jordan/Tasha Schwikert SHWHY-curt

Valorie Kondos Field CON-dose

Lindsey Vanden Eykel VAN-den EYE-cull

Season Prospectus



Tasha Schwikert

The excitement is infectious around the UCLA Gymnastics program, as the Bruins bring to the floor their deepest team in years for the 2008 season. After a strong finish to last season, UCLA is looking to build on that success and contend once again for the NCAA Championship.

Injuries played such a huge role in 2006 and 2007, and the Bruins barely had the depth to work through and did so mainly with sheer guts and a "Refuse to Lose" mentality. This season, the Bruins bring that same mentality but are 15 strong and relatively healthy entering the season. Strength in numbers will certainly factor in as UCLA goes through the regular season in preparation for the post-season, with line-ups being shuffled continually in order to rest key athletes and give the freshmen more experience.

"Having some key athletes such as Kristina Comforde and Brittani McCullough back training has electrified our pre-season," said UCLA head coach Valorie Kondos Field. "We're planning on using our depth to keep us healthy and be able to compete at full strength come championship season."

Leading the way for UCLA in 2008 will be senior **Tasha Schwikert**, who looks to end her illustrious career with a bang. Schwikert, a 2000 U.S. Olympian, 2003 World Championship gold medalist and 2005 NCAA all-around champion, is coming off another outstanding season during which she was named the Pac-10 and West Region Gymnast of the Year, was selected as a finalist for the Honda Award and won multiple Pac-10 and Regional titles. One of Schwikert's strongest attributes as a competitor is her ability to perform in the clutch. With meets on the line, she came through time and again, clinching the Pac-10 title with a 9.95 on beam and clinching the NCAA Regional title with a 9.9 on floor. Schwikert finished the year hitting 55 straight routines without a fall, with a total of 38 scores of 9.9 or higher.

Joining Schwikert as one of UCLA's top all-around threats is her sister **Jordan Schwikert**, also in her last season of competition. Jordan holds a career-high all-around score of 39.5 and recorded a 2007 season-high of 39.45 in the dual meet win over Georgia. She ranked second on the Bruin squad with a 9.859 vault average and earned All-Pac-10 honors on the uneven bars and scored a near-perfect 9.975 at the Wooden Challenge. She was a second-team All-American on beam and an All-Pac-10 performer in the all-around as a freshman.

The Bruins' third senior is **Natalie Padilla**, who, in her first season at UCLA last year, provided much-needed depth to an injury-depleted squad. Padilla often entered the lineup as a last-minute replacement and came through with some clutch performances. She competed on uneven bars in nine of the last 10 meets of the season and saw action on each of the four events in at least two meets. She has shown big improvements and will again provide good depth for UCLA.

All three members of UCLA's junior class are coming back from off-season surgeries but are expected to again be major players for the Bruins this year. **Ariana Berlin**, who had been competing with a titanium rod in her leg and seeing limited training time for the past two seasons, finally had the rod removed in May and has been training well in pre-season. Berlin, the former walk-on turned 2006 Pac-10 Freshman of the Year and scholarship athlete, has been a constant inspiration with her deter-

mination, work ethic and spirit, traits that serve her well on the competition floor, where she has become a top-notch all-arounder with a career-high mark of 39.425 and a 2007 season average of 39.275. Berlin is the rare gymnast who relishes the leadoff role and has even thrived, recording 9.85+ marks on every event, including a 9.9 on vault in the leadoff position and a 9.975 on uneven bars.

After sitting out most of last season with shoulder and ankle injuries, 2006 two-time All-American **Kristina Comforde** returns much healthier and with hopes of repeating some of the success she saw in her freshman campaign, when she placed sixth in the all-around and second on vault at the NCAA Championships and became the first gymnast to score a perfect 10 on vault that season. Comforde, who competed on balance beam in the first month of 2007, is expected to be back in all-around action this year.

Melissa Chan also had off-season ankle surgery and returns for her first full season since 2006 in the best shape of her career. Chan is a dynamo on the balance beam, where she has hit all 11 of her career routines with a high of 9.95 and seven scores of 9.85 or better. She competed on beam only last season in three post-season meets, with a high of 9.9 set at the NCAA Super Six. As a freshman, she posted an all-around high of 39.375.

Sophomore **Anna Li** is coming off an outstanding freshman campaign during which she competed in the all-around in every single meet, earned a fourth-place all-around finish at the NCAA Championships and received four All-America honors. Li earned marks of 9.9 or better on all four events and recorded an all-around high of 39.55. She anchored the team on uneven bars, where she averaged a team-best 9.878 and won the NCAA Southeast Regional title with a career-high tying 9.95. Li had some big clutch performances for the Bruins, clinching the dual meet win over Georgia with a career-high 9.9 on floor and scoring a 9.95 on beam in the final rotation to help UCLA claim the Pac-10 title. Li is not resting on her laurels, however, planning upgrades to her routines for the 2008 season.

Former U.S. National Team member **Ashley Jenkins** worked through an injury that caused her to change her routines mid-season in order to take pressure off a hyper-extended elbow. Jenkins upped her performance-level during the time she was injured and recorded five marks of 9.8 or higher on beam, with a career-best of 9.9. An injured ankle nearly kept her out of competition at the NCAA Super Six, but she battled through the pain to hit a 9.8 on her first uneven bars routine in months. With the experience gained from last year plus an upgraded vault, look for Jenkins to be a valuable all-arounder in 2008.

Brittani McCullough entered the pre-season in 2007 as one to watch but instead had to do the watching from the sidelines after severing a tendon in her toe in a car accident in November. This season, the dynamic and powerful former U.S. National Team member is ready to get her collegiate career started and is expected to be one of the Bruins' top all-arounders as a redshirt freshman.



Ariana Berlin

Season Prospectus

On top of their quality gymnastics, UCLA's six-member freshman class brings a fresh enthusiasm, spirit and character to the gym. A strong mix of Elite and Level 10 gymnasts, the freshmen are already valuable members of the squad and are expected to see regular action during the year.

The Bruins bring in two international competitors in Canadian National Team member **Marci Bernholtz** and British National Team member **Shavahn Church**, both of whom have competed at the World Championships. Bernholtz is a two-time Worlds competitor, a 2004 Olympic alternate and the reigning Canadian uneven bars champion. Church, who will have to redshirt the season with a knee injury, was a silver medalist on uneven bars at the 2006 Commonwealth Games and Top 20 all-around finisher at the 2005 World Championships.

Allison Taylor is a former Elite from famed gymnastics club WOGA. She competed at the 2003 U.S. Championships and earned a 16th-place all-around finish. She also recorded a Top 10 finish on uneven bars at the 2004 Voronin Cup in Moscow. Injuries have kept her out of competition and slowed her training, but when she is healthy, she will bring beautiful gymnastics to the team and make an impact on uneven bars and floor exercise.

Level 10 standouts **Mizuki Sato** and **NiKi Tom** made waves at the 2007 Level 10 National Championships. Sato placed third in the all-around in the Senior D division, and Tom placed fifth in the Senior C division in her first-ever National Championships. Sato is a three-time Level 10 National qualifier and won the NorCal State uneven bars and floor exercise titles in 2007. Tom won the 2007 Region 1 beam title and the vault and floor crowns at the State Championships. Both are strong all-around competitors and should see significant action in the 2008 season.

Walk-on **Talia Kushynski** is a Level 10 Regional qualifier and multiple bronze medalist at the 2006 State Championships. She has been improving immensely during the pre-season and, as one of the Bruins' best dancers, has a floor routine that is sure to be a crowd favorite.

With so much all-around depth on the squad, Kondos Field is excited about the prospects for a strong post-season run.

"If our pre-season is an indication of our 2008 year to come, it's going to be a fun and exciting season for UCLA Gymnastics," she said.

TV/Radio Roster



Ariana Berlin - Junior



Marci Bernholtz - Freshman



Melissa Chan - Junior



Shavahn Church - Freshman



Kristina Comforde - Junior



Ashley Jenkins - Sophomore



Talia Kushynski - Freshman



Anna Li - Sophomore



Brittani McCullough - Redshirt Freshman



Natalie Padilla - Senior



Mizuki Sato - Freshman



Jordan Schwikert - Senior



Tasha Schwikert - Senior



Allison Taylor - Freshman



NiKi Tom - Freshman