

# 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.





# Table Of Contents

## 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 Comfote, 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 Timiraos, 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 Peddecord, 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

2008 UCLA Gymnastics Schedule .....	IFC
We Are The Bruins .....	2
2008 Roster .....	3
Season Prospectus .....	4
TV/Radio Roster .....	5

## Bruin Biographies

Head Coach Valorie Kondos Field .....	6
Assistant Head Coach Chris Waller .....	8
Assistant Coach Jim Foody .....	9
Undergraduate Assistants/Managers .....	9
Returning Athlete Biographies .....	10
Newcomer Biographies .....	19

## The 2007 Season

2007 Season Results/Best Marks .....	22
2007 Season In Review .....	23
The Year In Pictures .....	24

## The History

UCLA's National Team Champions .....	25
UCLA's Individual National Champions .....	28
UCLA at the NCAA Championships .....	30
UCLA's Regional Champions .....	32
Decades of NCAA Excellence.....	33
Bruin Honor Roll .....	34
UCLA's All-Americans .....	35
UCLA in the Pacific-10 Conference .....	38
UCLA's Academic Excellence .....	40
Letterwinners, 1979-Present.....	41
National/International Competition .....	42
UCLA Gymnastics Hall of Famers .....	44

## The Record Books

Bruin 10.0 Scorers .....	45
Top 10 Scorers.....	48
UCLA's Gymnastics Arenas .....	49
Year-by-Year Results .....	50
All-Time Record & Series Records .....	53

## The Opponents

2008 Opponent Information .....	54
---------------------------------	----

## UCLA Traditions

Spectator Guide .....	55
Where Are They Now?.....	56
Legacy Endowment.....	58
Bruin 10.0 Club .....	58
Media Information.....	59
Administrators/Key Athletic Dept. Staff.....	60

The UCLA Experience.....	i
--------------------------	---

**uclaBruins.com**



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



Jordan Schwikert



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, Shavahn 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, Shavahn Church, Talia Kushynski, Mizuki Sato, Allison Taylor, NiKi Tom

## Roster by State:

**California (9):** Ariana Berlin, Melissa Chan, Shavahn 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, Shavahn Church, Ariana Berlin, Talia Kushynski, Mizuki Sato, Ashley Jenkins, Tasha Schwikert, Allison Taylor, Brittani McCullough, Anna Li, Natalie Padilla, Kristina Comforte, Jordan Schwikert

## Gymnast

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

## Ht.

5-2  
5-2  
5-1  
5-2  
5-4  
5-3  
5-2  
5-4  
5-4  
5-4  
5-2  
5-4  
5-3  
5-3  
5-0

## Yr.

Jr.  
Fr.  
Jr.  
Fr.  
Jr.  
So.  
Fr.  
So.  
R.Fr.  
Sr.  
Fr.  
Sr.  
Sr.  
Fr.  
Fr.

## Hometown (Club/Previous School/High School)

San Diego, CA (SCEGA/Patrick Henry HS)  
Unionville, ON (ASF Gymnastics/Thornhill Secondary)  
Los Gatos, CA (Airborne Gymnastics/Los Gatos HS)  
Tarzana, CA (Waller's GymJam Academy/Laurel Springs HS)  
Burr Ridge, IL (Illinois Gymnastics Institute/Lyons Township HS)  
Laguna Niguel, CA (SCATS/Mater Dei HS)  
Sherman Oaks, CA (Waller's GymJam Academy/Van Nuys HS)  
Aurora, IL (Aerial Gymnastics/Waubonsie Valley HS)  
Corona, CA (SCEGA/Centennial HS)  
San Diego, CA (SCEGA/Bonita Vista HS/Univ. of Iowa)  
Fair Oaks, CA (Technique Gymnastics/Bella Vista HS)  
Las Vegas, NV (Gymcats/Centennial HS)  
Las Vegas, NV (Gymcats/Centennial HS)  
Dallas, TX (WOGA/Spring Creek Academy)  
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 Kitasee

**Staff Athletic Trainer:** Lorita Granger

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

## Pronunciations:

**Ariana Berlin** ..... are-ee-ON-uh  
**Shavahn 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 Comferte 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 Comferte** 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. Comferte, 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 Comforte - 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