

UCLA BRUINS

2009 Postseason Guide



5-TIME NCAA CHAMPIONS
14-TIME PAC-10 CHAMPIONS



UCLA Women's Gymnastics

NCAA Championships Press Release • April 8, 2009

UCLA Sports Information • PO Box 24044 • Los Angeles, CA 90024-0044
SID Contact: Liza David • Phone: 310/206-8140 • Fax: 310/825-8664 • Email: ldavid@athletics.ucla.edu
Website: www.uclabruins.com

UCLA To Compete At NCAA Championships Apr. 16-18

Bruins seeking sixth national team title.

2009 UCLA Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
1/9	at #2 Utah	L 196.075-196.175
1/18	ARIZONA	W 196.375-193.675
1/23	at Cal St. Fullerton	W 196.6-193.875
1/25	CALIFORNIA	W 197.125-190.575
1/30	at #16 Arizona St.	W 196.225-193.075
2/8	at #6 Stanford	cancelled
2/15	#21 BOISE ST.,	1st, 196.375
	WASHINGTON, CAL ST. FULLERTON	
2/22	at #12 Nebraska	2nd, 196.125
	w/ Minnesota, NC State	
2/27	at #8 Oregon St.	W 196.575-196.35
3/8	#1 GEORGIA	L 197.725-196.125
3/15	#12 NEBRASKA	W 196.625-195.85
3/21	at Pac-10 Championships	1st, 196.725
4/4	at NCAA Regionals	2nd, 196.625

NCAA Championships - Lincoln, NE

4/16	NCAA Prelims	7 pm CT
4/17	NCAA Super Six	6 pm CT
4/18	NCAA Event Finals	6 pm CT

Home meets are in **BOLD CAPS** and held in Pauley Pavilion.
All times are local to site.

UCLA Season-High Marks

Gymnast	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
Baer	9.85	-	9.775	9.85	-
Berlin	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.925	39.5
Bernholtz	-	9.75	9.85	-	-
Chan	-	-	-	-	-
Fratton	9.875	-	-	-	-
Gerber	9.9	9.925	9.925	9.925	39.55
Hopfner-Hibbs	9.95	9.875	9.925	9.95	39.525
Kushynski	-	-	-	-	-
Li	-	9.9	9.85	-	-
McCullough	9.95	9.925	-	9.875	-
Pritchett	9.8	-	-	-	-
Sato	9.9	-	9.775	9.9	-
Taylor	-	-	-	-	-
Tom	9.775	9.75	9.9	9.875	-
Zamarripa	10.0	9.95	9.9	9.925	39.5

UCLA Career-High Marks

Gymnast	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
Baer	9.85	-	9.775	9.85	-
Berlin	9.9	9.975	9.9	9.925	39.5
Bernholtz	-	9.8*	9.875	9.925	-
Chan	9.85	9.825	9.95	9.9	39.375
Fratton	9.875	9.625*	-	-	-
Gerber	9.9	9.925	9.925	9.925	39.55
Hopfner-Hibbs	9.95	9.875	9.925	9.95	39.525
Kushynski	-	-	9.5*	9.675	-
Li	9.9	9.975	9.95	9.925	39.6
McCullough	9.95	9.95	9.9	9.875	39.375
Pritchett	9.8	-	-	-	-
Sato	9.9	9.2*	9.825*	9.9	-
Taylor	-	9.8	-	9.15	-
Tom	9.825	9.75	9.9	9.875	-
Zamarripa	10.0	9.95	9.9	9.925	39.5

*Exhibition score

uclaBruins.com

UCLA At The NCAA Championships — Seventh-seeded UCLA (17-3) will compete for a sixth national title at the NCAA Women's Gymnastics Championships on Apr. 16-18 in Lincoln, NE. The Bruins begin competition on Thursday, Apr. 16 at 7:00 pm CT in the evening team preliminary session at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Battling with UCLA for three spots in the NCAA Super Six Team Finals will be Utah, Alabama, Oregon State, Arkansas and Illinois. Competing in the afternoon session (1:00 pm CT) are Georgia, LSU, Florida, Oklahoma, Stanford and Penn State.

Championship Schedule — The competition begins on Thursday with two preliminary sessions at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. The top three teams from each session will advance to the Super Six Team Finals on Friday at 6:00 pm. Individual event finals will take place on Saturday at 6:00 pm. The all-around champion and individual event finalists will be determined during Thursday's preliminaries. Individuals qualify for event finals by placing in the Top 4 (including ties) of that particular event during their own preliminary session.

Coverage — Live scoring for all sessions will be available at ncaa.com. UCLABruins.com will also provide meet updates on the Bruins throughout the competition. The meet will be televised by CBS on May 9 from 11am-1 pm PT.

Rotation Order — The Bruins will begin the preliminary meet on vault and will end on floor exercise. Utah begins on a bye before bars, Illinois starts on bars, Oregon State begins on beam, Arkansas starts on a bye before floor, and Alabama begins on floor. Rotating with UCLA will be individual all-around qualifier Veronica Porte from San Jose State.

Session I

Rot.	V	Bye	UB	BB	Bye	FX
1	Stanford	Penn St.	Oklahoma	LSU	Georgia	Florida
2	Florida	Stanford	Penn St.	Oklahoma	LSU	Georgia
3	Georgia	Florida	Stanford	Penn St.	Oklahoma	LSU
4	LSU	Georgia	Florida	Stanford	Penn St.	Oklahoma
5	Oklahoma	LSU	Georgia	Florida	Stanford	Penn St.
6	Penn St.	Oklahoma	LSU	Georgia	Florida	Stanford

Session II

Rot.	V	Bye	UB	BB	Bye	FX
1	UCLA	Utah	Illinois	Oregon St.	Arkansas	Alabama
2	Alabama	UCLA	Utah	Illinois	Oregon St.	Arkansas
3	Arkansas	Alabama	UCLA	Utah	Illinois	Oregon St.
4	Oregon St.	Arkansas	Alabama	UCLA	Utah	Illinois
5	Illinois	Oregon St.	Arkansas	Alabama	UCLA	Utah
6	Utah	Illinois	Oregon St.	Arkansas	Alabama	UCLA

UCLA's NCAA Championship History — The Bruins have won five NCAA gymnastics titles, including four this decade. UCLA's titles were won in 1997 at Florida, 2000 at Boise State, 2001 at Georgia, 2003 at Nebraska and 2004 at UCLA. This is UCLA's 25th overall appearance in the 28 NCAA Championships. UCLA and Georgia have combined to win 11 of the last 12 NCAA titles.

Individual NCAA History — A total of 13 Bruins have won 28 NCAA titles to rank second behind only Georgia (33) in individual NCAA titles. UCLA's NCAA champions are: Kim Hamilton (1987-88-89 floor, 1989 vault), Jill Andrews (1988 vault, 1989 beam), Stella Umeh (1995 and 1998 floor), Heidi Money-maker (1988 bars, 1999 vault), Kiralee Hayashi (1999 beam), Mohini Bhardwaj (2000 bars, 2001 floor), Lena Degteva (2000 beam), Onnie Willis (2001 all-around), Yvonne Tousek (2001 bars), Jamie Dantzcher (2002 all-around, vault and floor; 2003 bars), Kate Richardson (2003 bars and beam, 2006 floor), Kristen Maloney (2005 vault and beam) and Tasha Schwikert (2005 all-around, 2008 all-around and bars). Two other Bruins won AIAW national titles - Sharon Shapiro (1980 sweep of all all-around and all four events, 1981 all-around and vault) and Diane Dovas (1981 bars). Shapiro remains the only gymnast ever to sweep the all-around and all four events in one year at a national championship. Hamilton is the only woman to win three consecutive floor titles. UCLA has won at least two individual titles in eight of the last 11 years and three titles in four of the last eight years. The Bruins have won a team or individual title in 11 of the last 12 years and have won more individual titles (21) in the last 12 years than any other team.

Last Year At NAAs — Competing in a loaded preliminary session featuring four of the top six teams in the final regular season rankings, UCLA did not qualify to the Super Six, finishing fourth behind Georgia, Utah and Stanford, who also finished in that order at the Super Six. The Bruins finished just .175 out of third place, and their score of 196.725 was higher than five of the six teams in the

other preliminary session. The Bruins did well in the individual competitions, with Tasha Schwikert winning the all-around and uneven bars titles and finishing second on floor exercise. Kristina Comfote was the runner-up on uneven bars.

NCAA Championship Notes

*Only four teams have ever won the NCAA title in the 27 years of the Championships - Utah (9), Georgia (9), UCLA (5) and Alabama (4).

*Ten schools return from the 2008 NCAA Championships, including all six Super Six teams - Georgia (1st place), Utah (2nd), Stanford (3rd), Florida (4th) LSU (5th) and Alabama (6th). The other returning qualifiers are UCLA (7th), Oklahoma (T-8th), Arkansas (10th) and Oregon State (11th). Penn State returns to the Championships for the first time since 2005, and Illinois will be competing in its first-ever NCAA Championship.

*Eleven of the Top 12 ranked teams qualified for the NCAA Championships. The only Top 12 team that did not advance was No. 11 Auburn, which placed fourth at the NCAA West Regional. No. 14 Illinois took the second qualifying spot in the regional after No. 2 Utah.

*With host team Nebraska not qualifying as a team, the Championships will be held at a neutral site for only the fourth time ever. Other Championships that did not have a host team competing were in 2005 at Auburn, 2000 at Boise State and 1992 at Minnesota.

*This is the second time Nebraska has hosted the NCAA Championships. UCLA won the last time the Championships were held in Nebraska in 2003.

*UCLA ranks second amongst all schools with 26 individual titles. Georgia leads all teams with 31. Utah is third with 24.

*The Bruins have won more individual titles in the last 12 years (21) than any other team. The next closest team is Georgia with 16.

*UCLA has won either a team or an individual NCAA title in 11 of the last 12 years.

UCLA vs. 2009 Field — The Bruins have matched up against five of the 11 other teams in the NCAA field this season. UCLA has wins over Oregon State (twice) and Stanford and losses to Georgia, Utah and Florida.

Back To Lincoln - UCLA is already familiar with Lincoln, having competed in the Masters Classic at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Feb. 22. The Bruins lost the meet to Nebraska by a mere one-tenth of a point after two falls on the balance beam in the final rotation. Vault was a highlight for the Bruins, as they scored a national season-best 49.575, led by a perfect 10 from Vanessa Zamarripa and a 9.95 from Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.

Runner-Up Finish Gives UCLA 25th NCAA Championship Berth - UCLA qualified for the NCAA Championships for the 25th time after placing a close second to Florida at the NCAA North Central Regional in Iowa. The Bruins found themselves in third place behind Florida and Iowa State at the halfway point after a shaky beam rotation but revved it up on their final two events, scoring meet-highs of 49.425 on both floor exercise and vault to lock up a top two finish. The Gators needed to score 49.2 on beam in the final rotation to take over first place and recorded a 49.325 to edge out the Bruins by .150. Anna Li won the uneven bars title for the third consecutive year, scoring 9.9. Vanessa Zamarripa placed third in the all-around with a 39.4.

Bruins Capture Pac-10 Title — Needing to hit a 49.15 on beam in the final rotation to surpass Stanford, UCLA scored a season-high 49.325 to claim its 14th Pac-10 title. The Bruins recorded a team total of 196.725, outscoring second-place Oregon State (196.550) and third-place Stanford (196.525). The Bruins scored 49.0 or better on all four events and saved the best for last, conquering their beam demons in a big way with a 6-for-6 performance to take the victory. Freshman Vanessa Zamarripa was the team's top all-around finisher, placing third with a 39.4. Junior Anna Li captured a share of the uneven bars title with a season-high-tying 9.9 for her second career Pac-10 event title (she previously won the beam title in 2007).

All Eight Pac-10 Competitors Honored — Showing that UCLA's Pac-10 win was a true team effort, all eight Bruins who competed at the Pac-10 Championships were honored with all-conference acclaim. Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs and Vanessa Zamarripa received first-team honors in the all-around. On vault, Ariana Berlin earned first-team honors, while Brittani McCullough was named to the second team. Also receiving first-team honors were Pac-10 co-champion Anna Li on bars, Aisha Gerber and Niki Tom on beam and Mizuki Sato on floor.

The All-Conference first team consists of the top six all-around competitors, plus the top three competitors in each individual event who are not among the all-around honorees. Individuals may earn All-Conference honors in multiple individual events. Scores are determined by a combination of 50 percent regional qualifying score (entire regular season composite) and 50 percent Pacific-10 Conference Championships score. The All-Conference second team consists of 10 individuals who were not honored on the first team.

Hopfner-Hibbs Named Pac-10 Freshman Of The Year — Freshman Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs was selected as the Pac-10 Freshman of the Year, UCLA's sixth honoree in the 10 years the award has been given. Hopfner-Hibbs is the highest-ranked freshman all-arounder in the nation and ranks 15th overall. She is also ranked in the Top 20 on beam and floor. The three-time Pac-10 Gymnast of the Week ranks second on the team with 11 individual wins and 30 Top 3 finishes. She holds season averages of 9.868 on vault, 9.844 on floor, 9.788 on beam, 9.717 on bars and 39.263 in the all-around. Her season-highs are 39.525 in the all-around, 9.95 on vault and floor, 9.925 on beam and 9.875 on bars.

UCLA's Past NCAA Championship History

Year	Finish	Winner
2008	7th	Georgia
2007	4th	Georgia
2006	–	Georgia
2005	4th	Georgia
2004	1st	UCLA
2003	1st	UCLA
2002	2nd	Alabama
2001	1st	UCLA
2000	1st	UCLA
1999	5th	Georgia
1998	5th	Georgia
1997	1st	UCLA
1996	2nd	Alabama
1995	4th	Utah
1994	5th	Utah
1993	4th	Georgia
1992	9th	Utah
1991	–	Alabama
1990	4th	Utah
1989	2nd	Georgia
1988	3rd	Alabama
1987	3rd	Georgia
1986	7th	Utah
1985	–	Utah
1984	2nd	Utah
1983	6th	Utah
1982	6th	Utah

UCLA's NCAA Champions

Team Championships (5):

1997, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004

All-Around Champions (4):

Onnie Willis, 2001
Jamie Dantzscher, 2002
Tasha Schwikert, 2005 & 2008

Vault Champions (5):

Jill Andrews, 1988
Kim Hamilton, 1989
Heidi Moneyemaker, 1999
Jamie Dantzscher, 2002
Kristen Maloney, 2005

Uneven Bars Champions (5):

Heidi Moneyemaker, 1998
Mohini Bhardwaj, 2000
Yvonne Tousek, 2001
Jamie Dantzscher, 2003
Kate Richardson, 2003
Tasha Schwikert, 2008

Balance Beam Champions (5):

Jill Andrews, 1989
Kiralee Hayashi, 1999
Lena Degteva, 2000
Kate Richardson, 2003
Kristen Maloney, 2005

Floor Exercise Champions (8):

Kim Hamilton, 1987
Kim Hamilton, 1988
Kim Hamilton, 1989
Stella Umeh, 1995
Stella Umeh, 1998
Mohini Bhardwaj, 2001
Jamie Dantzscher, 2002
Kate Richardson, 2006

Berlin Honored As Pac-10 Scholar Gymnast Of The Year — Senior Ariana Berlin was honored as the 2008-09 Toyo Tires® Pac-10 Scholar-Athlete of the Year for gymnastics. She is the first Bruin gymnast and the fourth UCLA student-athlete ever to receive this award. Berlin has earned a cumulative GPA of 3.55 in World Arts & Culture (Dance concentration) and is a three-time Pac-10 All-Academic selection and two-time NACGC/W Scholastic All-American. In addition, she has earned All-Pac-10 honors three times and has hit 96% of her career routines. She has not missed a meet in her career, competing in 56 consecutive meets. This season, Berlin has recorded career-high marks of 9.9 on vault and beam, 9.925 on floor and 39.5 in the all-around and is averaging over 9.85 on vault, bars and floor.

Four Bruins Named To Pac-10 All-Academic Team — Four members of the 2009 UCLA Gymnastics squad have been honored on the Pac-10 All-Academic team. Senior Ariana Berlin earned her third academic honor, being named to the first team with a cumulative GPA of 3.55 in World Arts & Culture (dance concentration). Sophomores Marci Bernholtz, Mizuki Sato and Niki Tom received honorable mention acclaim in their first year of eligibility.

In The Rankings — The Bruins finish the regular season ranked No. 7 in the national rankings with a 196.580 RQS and fourth overall in season average (196.450). UCLA ranks No. 1 on vault (49.430), No. 7 on bars (49.220) and beam (49.150) and No. 11 on floor (49.200).

Vanessa Zamarripa ranks first on vault for the fifth consecutive week with a 9.955 RQS. Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs ranks 15th in the all-around (39.410), tied for 18th on floor (9.890) and tied for 20th on beam (9.875). Aisha Gerber is tied for 11th on beam (9.885), Ariana Berlin is tied for 21st on bars (9.870).

Youth Is Served — With seven freshmen and six sophomores on a 16-member squad, the 2009 Bruins are undoubtedly a young team, and they were put to the test immediately, with the underclassmen holding 22 of the 24 slots in the competitive lineup in the first two meets of the season.

The freshman class alone competed 16 of the 24 routines in the season opener. Two freshmen competed in the all-around at Utah - Aisha Gerber, who placed third in the all-around and won the balance beam, and Vanessa Zamarripa, who placed fourth in the all-around and third on vault. Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs competed on three events and earned a third-place finish on beam. Kaelie Baer hit 3-for-3 on her routines, scoring 9.8 on vault, 9.775 on beam and 9.75 on floor. Alyssa Pritchett had a successful showing as well, scoring 9.8 on vault as a last-minute substitute. Five freshmen saw action on vault - Gerber, Zamarripa, Baer, Tauny Frattone and Pritchett.

On the year, underclassmen have performed an astonishing 82% of the team's routines (237 of 288), with 53% of the team's routines (152) coming from the freshman class. Only Ariana Berlin and Anna Li have competed amongst the upperclassmen, and they have totaled 51 routines on the year (18%).

Vaulting To The Top — The nation's top-ranked vault team has scored 49.3+ in its last six meets, with a national-best 49.575 achieved at Nebraska on Feb. 22. The Bruins average 49.344 on vault and have scored 49.125 or higher in every meet. UCLA has totaled 21 9.9+ scores and 59 9.8+ scores in 72 vault attempts this year.

Vanessa Zamarripa has been ranked No. 1 on vault for most of the season, including the last five weeks. She has scored 9.9 or better in 10 of 12 meets with three perfect 10s and has not scored lower than 9.875.

The majority of UCLA's vaulters have scored 9.9 or better this season, with highs of 10.0 from Zamarripa, 9.95 from Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs and Brittani McCullough, 9.9 from Ariana Berlin, Mizuki Sato and Aisha Gerber and 9.85 from Kaelie Baer. Zamarripa and Hopfner-Hibbs have been particularly strong in the last six meets, averaging 9.925 and 9.9, respectively.

Setting The Bar — The Bruins have been super-consistent on uneven bars in 2009, scoring 49+ in all but one meet and in 10 consecutive meets. The team posted a season-high of 49.5 on Jan. 25 against California.

Nationally-Ranked Bruins

Gymnast	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
Berlin	-	T-21st	-	-	-
Gerber	-	-	T-11th	-	-
Hopfner-Hibbs	-	-	T-20th	T-18th	15th
Zamarripa	1st	-	-	-	-
Team	1st	7th	7th	11th	7th

UCLA In Weekly Rankings

Date	Rank	Average	RQS
Pre-season	4th	-	-
1/12	3rd	196.075	-
1/19	2nd	196.225	-
1/26	3rd	196.544	-
2/2	2nd	196.480	-
2/9	2nd	196.480	-
2/16	3rd	196.462	196.330
2/23	4th	196.414	196.340
3/2	6th	196.434	196.430
3/9	7th	196.400	196.430
3/16	7th	196.422	196.480
3/23	7th	196.450	196.580

2009 Honors

Ariana Berlin

Pac-10 Gymnastics Scholar-Athlete of the Year
All-Pac-10 1st Team - Vault
1st Team Pac-10 All-Academic

Marci Bernholtz

Honorable Mention Pac-10 All-Academic

Aisha Gerber

1st Team All-Pac-10 - Beam
Pac-10 Special Performance of the Week (1/13)

Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs

Pac-10 Freshman of the Year
1st Team All-Pac-10 - All-Around
Pac-10 Gymnast of the Week (3/17, 2/24, 1/27)

Anna Li

1st Team All-Pac-10 - Bars

Brittani McCullough

2nd Team All-Pac-10 - Vault

Mizuki Sato

1st Team All-Pac-10 - Floor
Honorable Mention Pac-10 All-Academic

Niki Tom

1st Team All-Pac-10 - Beam
Honorable Mention Pac-10 All-Academic

Vanessa Zamarripa

1st Team All-Pac-10 - All-Around
Pac-10 Gymnast of the Week (1/20)
Pac-10 Special Performance of the Week (2/24, 2/17, 1/27)
UCLA/Muscle Milk Student-Athlete of the Week (Mar. 16-22, Jan. 20-26, Jan. 12-19)

2009 UCLA Gymnastics Roster

Name	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown (High School/Club)	Notes
Kaelie Baer (KAY-lee BEAR)	5-6	Fr.	Columbus, IN (Columbus East HS/DeVeaus)	Scored career-best 9.85 on V at Regionals
Ariana Berlin (are-ee-ON-uh)	5-2	Sr.	San Diego, CA (Patrick Henry HS/SCEGA/South Coast Gymnastics)	Has competed in 56 straight meets
Marci Bernholtz	5-2	So.	Unionville, ON (Thornhill Secondary/ASF Gymnastics)	Won 1st event title on BB w/ season-best 9.85 on 2/22
Melissa Chan	5-1	Sr.	Los Gatos, CA (Los Gatos/Airborne Gymnastics)	3-time L10 National All-Around champion
Tauny Frattone (fra-TONE)	5-4	Fr.	Lake Forest, CA (El Toro HS/Olympic Gymnastics)	Averaging 9.835 on last five vaults
Aisha Gerber (AY-sha)	5-4	Fr.	Cambridge, ON (Galt Collegiate Institute/Oakville Gymnastics)	Clinched OSU win w/ 9.875 on beam
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs (HOFF-ner)	5-0	Fr.	Toronto, ON (Northview Heights Secondary/Sports Seneca)	Has hit 40 of her last 41 routines w/o a fall
Tiffany Hyland	5-8	Fr.	Dove Canyon, CA (Sage Hill HS/Diamond Elite)	3rd All-Around at 2008 South African Nat'l Championships
Talia Kushynski (TALL-ya coo-SHIN-ski)	5-2	So.	Sherman Oaks, CA (Van Nuys HS/Waller's GymJam Academy)	Scored 9.675 on first FX routine in 2008
Anna Li	5-4	Jr.	Aurora, IL (Waubonsie Valley HS/Naperville Gymnastics Club)	Pac-10 and Regional Champion on uneven bars
Brittani McCullough (muh-CULL-uh)	5-4	RSo.	Corona, CA (Centennial HS/SCEGA)	Competing in the postseason for the first time in her career
Alyssa Pritchett	5-1	Fr.	Orange, CA (Calvary Chapel HS/Wildfire Gymnastics)	Scored 9.8 on vault in 1st collegiate routine
Mizuki Sato (mi-ZOO-key SAH-toe)	5-2	So.	Fair Oaks, CA (Bella Vista HS/Technique Gymnastics)	Has a pair of 9.9s on floor and vault this year
Allison Taylor	5-3	So.	Dallas, TX (Spring Creek Academy/WOGA)	Exhibitioned on UB 4x this yr. with high of 9.75
Niki Tom	5-0	So.	Northridge, CA (Chatsworth HS/JAG)	24-for-26 in hit routines this year, including exhibitions
Vanessa Zamarripa (zam-uh-REEP-uh)	5-1	Fr.	O'Fallon, IL (O'Fallon Township HS/Midwest Twisters)	Scored 9.9+ on vault in 10 of 12 meets; season low is 9.875

Head Coach: Valorie Kondos Field, 19th year

Assistant Head Coach: Chris Waller, 7th year; **Assistant Coach:** Jim Foody, 2nd year; **Undergraduate Asst. Coach:** Kristina Comfote; **Volunteer Asst. Coach:** P.J. Irvin

Team Managers: Alyssa Kitaoe, Jordan Anderer, Brianna McCullough

Ariana Berlin holds the Bruins' highest season average at 9.854, followed closely by Vanessa Zamarripa's 9.848. Amongst those who have scored 9.9 or higher on bars this year are Zamarripa (9.95), Aisha Gerber (9.925), Brittani McCullough (9.925), Berlin (9.9) and Anna Li (9.9). The Bruins' sixth bar worker - Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs - competes world-class difficulty and has a high of 9.875.

Living And Dying By Beam — The Bruins have been living and dying by the balance beam this season. Two of the three meets they lost this year were due to balance beam issues. At the Masters Classic in February, the Bruins had a 0.75 lead heading into the final rotation but ended up losing by one-tenth of a point after suffering two falls on the beam. A week later at Oregon State, it also came down to beam, but this time UCLA got a clutch performance by Aisha Gerber in the anchor spot to clinch the win. Needing a 9.775 to guarantee victory, she earned a 9.875 to secure the win. The beam was a killer for UCLA the week after that against Georgia, with the Bruins suffering three falls to take themselves out of the running. In a rematch with Nebraska the following week, beam nearly undid the Bruins again, as they had two falls, but Nebraska did one better with three falls, allowing the Bruins to make up ground in the final event and win. So it was only appropriate that UCLA had to hit beam in the final rotation in order to win the Pac-10 Championships. Needing to score 49.15 to pass first-place Stanford, the Bruins hit all six beam sets and finished with a season-high 49.325 to take the team title.

UCLA has scored 49+ in seven meets, scoring its season high of 49.325 at Pac-10s. The Bruins' postseason lineup has consisted of three returners in the front end and three freshmen in the back end. Senior Ariana Berlin has scored 9.9 in the leadoff position this season and has hit eight of her 10 beam routines this year. Sophomore Mizuki Sato was just inserted into the beam lineup on Mar. 15 but has delivered with three hit routines, including a high of 9.775 at Pac-10s. Sophomore Niki Tom has three beam wins this season and a high of 9.9. She has scored 9.75 or better in nine of 10 meets. The freshmen closers have each posted scores of 9.9 or better this year, with Zamarripa holding a high of 9.9, and Hopfner-Hibbs and Gerber with highs of 9.925. Gerber holds the team's highest season average of 9.818, and Hopfner-Hibbs averages 9.809.

Flooring The Judges — The Bruins average 49.104 on floor exercise but have been surging as of late, averaging 49.31 in their last five meets, with a high of 49.575 set on Mar. 15 against Nebraska. UCLA used an excellent floor rotation worth 49.425 to pull out of third place at the halfway mark at the NCAA Regionals. Mizuki Sato's leadoff score of 9.85 ended up being thrown out after 9.875s from Vanessa Zamarripa, Niki Tom and Brittani McCullough and 9.9s from Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs and Ariana Berlin.

Hopfner-Hibbs has the Bruins' highest floor score this year with a 9.95. Berlin, Aisha Gerber and Zamarripa have scored 9.925, and Sato has a high of 9.9. McCullough and Tom have highs of 9.875. Berlin holds UCLA's highest season average at 9.85, followed closely by Hopfner-Hibbs' 9.844 and McCullough's 9.804.

Closing Strong — In UCLA's last four meets, its best event has been its last event. The Bruins are averaging 49.425 on their last event during the last four meets, getting a 49.425 on vault at Regionals, 49.325 on beam at Pac-10s, 49.575 on floor vs. Nebraska and 49.375 on floor vs. Georgia.

Triple Tens For Zamarripa — Freshman Vanessa Zamarripa has scored perfect 10s on vault three times this year and ranks No. 1 in the nation on the event with a RQS of 9.955. Her first 10 came on Jan. 23 at Cal State Fullerton, and it was UCLA's first perfect score since Kristina Comfote also scored a 10 on vault at Fullerton in 2006. Zamarripa earned back-to-back 10s on Feb. 15 in a home quad meet and on Feb. 22 at Nebraska to become the first UCLA gymnast to score three perfect 10s in a season since Tasha Schwickert in 2005. She is also the first Bruin to score three 10s on the same event in one season since Jeanette Antolin had eight 10s on vault in 2004. Zamarripa has earned Pac-10 Special Performance of the Week honors three times this season and Pac-10 Gymnast of the Week honors once. She holds a season average on vault of 9.927 and has scored below 9.9 just twice this year - receiving a 9.875 at Arizona and at Pac-10s.

Berlin Brings It — Senior Ariana Berlin remains one of the most consistent gymnasts in UCLA history, hitting 96% of her routines throughout her career. So far this season, she has hit 35 of her 37 routines, with 30 of those scores going for 9.8 or better. She averages 9.85 or higher on three events (9.858 on vault, 9.854 on bars, 9.850 on floor) and has five individual titles this season, including three on bars. Two of her titles came at Arizona State on Jan. 30, when she tied her career-high on vault with a 9.9 and won the all-around in her first all-around attempt this year, scoring 39.3. Also at that meet, Berlin accomplished a feat she has been working on for three years - competing an Arabian double front on floor exercise. She performed the E-level skill for the first time in competition and hit it, scoring 9.8 to lead all Bruins on the event. Berlin had another big meet on Mar. 8 against top-ranked Georgia. After injuring her knee just three days prior to the meet, her competitive status was in major doubt, but she not only competed on all four events but scored a career-high 39.5 to take second place. Against Nebraska a week later, on her last ever performance in Pauley Pavilion, Berlin scored a career-high 9.925 on floor exercise. She also tied her career-high on vault at the Pac-10 Championships, scoring 9.9.

Hopfner-Hibbs On A Roll — Pac-10 Freshman of the Year Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs has been the model of consistency and excellence for the Bruins, hitting 40 of her last 41 routines without a fall, with 28 of those routines going 9.85 or better. She had a streak of 24 consecutive routines without a fall end in UCLA's last rotation on beam at Oregon State but is now starting another streak that is now at 16 in a row.

McCullough A Postseason Rookie — Redshirt sophomore Brittani McCullough has been part of two previous Bruin teams at the NCAA Championships but will be competing for the first time at NAAs this season. McCullough sat out her true freshman year in 2007 after a November car accident in which she severed a tendon in her toe. She returned to competition in 2008 as a redshirt sophomore but ruptured her Achilles tendon in the Bruins' home finale in March and was unable to compete in the

2009 Individual Event Winners

Vanessa Zamarripa (12)

Vault (6)	1/18 vs. Arizona (9.9) 1/23 at CS Fullerton (10.0) 1/25 vs. California (9.9) 2/15 vs. BSU, UW, CSUF (10.0) 2/22 at Masters Classic (10.0) 3/15 vs. Nebraska (9.95)
Bars (3)	1/23 at CS Fullerton (9.85) 1/25 vs. California (9.95) 3/15 vs. Nebraska (9.9)
Beam (1)	2/27 at Oregon State (9.875)
AA (2)	1/18 vs. Arizona (39.4) 2/27 at Oregon State (39.375)

Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs (11)

Bars (2)	1/23 at CS Fullerton (9.85) 2/27 at Oregon State (9.875)
Beam (2)	1/23 at CS Fullerton (9.925) 1/25 vs. California (9.9)
Floor (3)	1/23 at CS Fullerton (9.9) 1/25 vs. California (9.9) 3/15 vs. Nebraska (9.95)
AA (4)	1/23 at CS Fullerton (39.525) 2/15 vs. BSU, UW, CSUF (39.375) 2/22 at Masters Classic (39.475) 3/15 vs. Nebraska (39.5)

Aisha Gerber (8)

Bars (2)	1/23 at CS Fullerton (9.85) 1/30 at Arizona State (9.875)
Beam (5)	1/9 at Utah (9.9) 1/18 vs. Arizona (9.925) 1/25 vs. California (9.9) 2/22 at Masters Classic (9.85) 2/27 at Oregon State (9.875)
AA (1)	1/25 vs. California (39.55)

Ariana Berlin (5)

Vault (1)	1/30 at Arizona State (9.9)
Bars (3)	1/23 at CS Fullerton (9.85) 2/22 at Masters Classic (9.9) 2/27 at Oregon State (9.875)
AA (1)	1/30 at Arizona State (39.3)

Anna Li (4)

Bars (4)	1/18 vs. Arizona (9.875) 2/15 vs. BSU, UW, CSUF (9.9) 3/21 at Pac-10s (9.9) 4/4 at NCAA Regionals (9.9)
----------	--

Mizuki Sato (3)

Vault (1)	1/18 vs. Arizona (9.9)
Floor (2)	1/18 vs. Arizona (9.9) 1/25 vs. California (9.9)

Niki Tom (3)

Beam (3)	1/30 at Arizona State (9.9) 2/15 vs. BSU, UW, CSUF (9.875) 2/27 at Oregon State (9.875)
----------	---

Marci Bernholtz (1)

Beam (1)	2/22 at Masters Classic (9.85)
----------	--------------------------------

Top 3 Placements

Vanessa Zamarripa - 31	V - 11, UB - 8, BB - 2, FX - 3, AA - 7
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs - 30	V - 5, UB - 4, BB - 8, FX - 7, AA - 6
Aisha Gerber - 22	V - 3, UB - 4, BB - 8, FX - 2, AA - 5
Ariana Berlin - 18	V - 2, UB - 5, BB - 4, FX - 4, AA - 3
Anna Li - 7	UB - 6, BB - 1
Mizuki Sato - 6	V - 2, FX - 4
Niki Tom - 6	BB - 4, FX - 2
Brittani McCullough - 5	V - 2, UB - 2, FX - 1
Kaelie Baer - 1 (FX)	
Marci Bernholtz - 1 (BB)	

postseason. Finally, in 2009, she got her first taste of postseason competition, competing on three events at the Pac-10 and Regional Championships.

McCullough has been extremely consistent this season, hitting all 26 of her routines and averaging over 9.8 on all three events in which she has competed (vault, bars and floor). She has scored career-highs on all three events, posting 9.95 on vault, 9.925 on bars and 9.875 on floor.

O Canada — UCLA has a long history of tapping into the Great White North for gymnastics talent. With three Canadians on the Bruin squad this season - sophomore Marci Bernholtz and freshmen Aisha Gerber and Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs - it has now been 16 consecutive years that UCLA has had a Canadian on the roster, with 1993 marking the last year no Canadians have graced the Bruin roster. Bernholtz has represented Canada at the 2006 and 2007 World Championships and was the alternate for the 2004 Olympic Games. Gerber competed for Canada at World Cup events, the 2006 American Cup and 2004 Pacific Alliance meet. Hopfner-Hibbs represented Canada at the 2008 Olympics, 2005-07 World Championships and 2006 Commonwealth Games, winning a bronze medal on the balance beam at the 2006 Worlds to earn Canada's first-ever World medal on the women's side.

Four of UCLA's 13 NCAA individual champions are Canadian - Stella Umeh, Lena Degteva, Yvonne Tousek and Kate Richardson.

The Streak Lives On — Senior Ariana Berlin's streak of consecutive meets has increased to 56 after competing all-around at the NCAA Regionals. Berlin's streak was nearly broken on Mar. 8 when her knee locked up three days before the Georgia meet, but she recovered in time to not only compete but complete all-around and score a career-high 39.5. Berlin, who joined the UCLA squad in 2006 as a walk-on who had not competed in five years, has competed in every meet of her collegiate career and has hit 96% of her routines over her career.

Season In Review — With a team consisting of seven freshmen and six sophomores, the 2009 Bruins, on paper, looked to be rebuilding towards the future. But the future is now for this squad, which enters the NCAA Championships as the No. 7 seed and the 2009 Pac-10 Champions.

Injuries to the Bruin upperclassmen put the freshmen in the spotlight immediately. Senior Kristina Comfote had to medically retire due to a shoulder injury just before the season got underway. Senior Melissa Chan and redshirt sophomore Brittani McCullough were held out of competition, and senior Ariana Berlin and junior Anna Li were limited to just uneven bars due to injuries in the season opener at Utah, leaving the Bruins with a lineup that had 22 of 24 routines coming from the underclassmen, including 16 from freshmen. Despite the inexperience, UCLA nearly won the meet against the second-ranked Utes but was edged out by just one-tenth of a point, 196.175-196.075. Freshman Aisha Gerber earned a first-place finish on balance beam with a 9.9 and was third in the all-around.

The Bruins picked up their first win the following week in the home opener against Arizona, scoring 196.375 to outscore the Wildcats by 2.7 points. The Bruins had career-high marks on 16 of 24 routines, including all six on floor exercise. Freshman Vanessa Zamarripa won her first all-around competition, scoring 39.4, and sophomore Mizuki Sato picked up a pair of wins on vault and floor with career-bests of 9.9 on each.

Zamarripa's all-around win was just the tip of the iceberg, however. On Jan. 23 at Cal State Fullerton, she became the first Bruin in three years to score a perfect 10, nailing a perfect Yurchenko layout full vault. Zamarripa wasn't the only freshman to shine in that meet; classmate Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs set career-highs on all four events and won the all-around with a 39.525, along with bars, beam and floor.

Just two days later, the Bruins posted their top score of the year with a 197.125 at home against California. UCLA set a season-high on uneven bars with a 49.5, led by a 9.95 from Zamarripa. Freshmen went 1-2-3 in the all-around, with Gerber scoring a team season-best 39.55, Zamarripa going 39.5 and Hopfner-Hibbs scoring 39.45.

UCLA finished the month of January with a 196.225-193.075 win at Arizona State, and things were looking good for the Bruins with the all-around return of Berlin, who won the meet with a 39.3. Berlin also tied her career-high on vault with a 9.9 and competed an Arabian double front on floor for the first time in her career. However, while in Arizona, the team got exposed to the norovirus, causing several team members to get sick and forcing the cancellation of the team's next meet at Stanford.

Still somewhat weakened by the virus, the Bruins got back into competition two weeks later on Feb. 15 with a quad meet against Boise State, Washington and Cal State Fullerton. UCLA got off to a monster start on vault, scoring

Career Individual NCAA Scores

(*note: avg. scores are for team competition only)

Ariana Berlin

Year/Session	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
07 Prelims	9.850	9.800	9.775	-	-
07 Super 6	9.900	9.825	9.800	9.750	39.275
08 Prelims	9.850	9.775	9.800	9.850	39.275
Average	9.867	9.800	9.792	9.800	39.275

Melissa Chan

Year/Session	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
07 Prelims	-	-	9.700	-	-
07 Super 6	-	-	9.900	-	-
Average	-	-	9.800	-	-

Anna Li

Year/Session	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
07 Prelims	9.900	9.900	9.875	9.825	39.500 (4)
07 Super 6	9.850	9.825	9.300	9.800	38.775
07 Event Finals	-	-	9.7875 (9)	-	-
08 Prelims	9.725	9.950	9.775	9.750	39.200
08 Event Finals	-	9.8125 (15)	-	-	-
Average	9.875	9.863	9.588	9.813	39.138

Mizuki Sato

Year/Session	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
08 Prelims	-	-	-	9.350	-
Average	-	-	-	9.350	-

Niki Tom

Year/Session	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
08 Prelims	-	-	9.550	-	-
Average	-	-	9.550	-	-

49.525, led by another perfect 10 by Zamarripa, and was strong on both bars and beam, scoring 49.2 on each of those two events. But the Bruins sputtered in the final rotation on floor, recording just two scores of 9.8 or better. UCLA still got the win, however, with a total of 196.375.

Counting a fall and still winning the meet wasn't a luxury the Bruins would have the following week at the Masters Classic in Nebraska. UCLA built up a 0.75 lead headed into the final rotation, due in large part to a season-high 49.575 on vault and Zamarripa's third 10.0. But two falls on the beam led to a one-tenth of a point loss to the host Huskers.

The Bruins had a chance for retribution a week later at Oregon State. With less than a four-tenths lead going into the last rotation, the Bruins once again found themselves needing to hit beam to win. With a fall already in the books, Gerber closed out the set needing to score 9.775 to guarantee a win. She scored 9.875, rendering the Beavers' final floor score moot and securing a 196.575-196.350 win for UCLA.

The Bruins could not sustain that momentum the next week, however. Hosting top-ranked Georgia in a meet that was nationally televised live, UCLA faltered on beam, counting two falls and losing by 1.6 points. What happened after beam, though, would set the tone for the Bruins for the remainder of the season, and they finished up strong with an impressive 49.375 on floor exercise.

Closing strong would prove to be huge for UCLA in the next three meets. In the regular season finale against Nebraska, the Bruins once again had to count a fall on beam and fell behind by .65 going into the last rotation. Needing some help to win the meet, the Bruins got it in the fourth rotation when Nebraska's first two gymnasts also fell victim to the balance beam. With the door open, UCLA pounced, unleashing a season-high 49.575 on floor exercise, its highest floor score in four years and the ninth-highest in school history.

At the Pac-10 Championships, UCLA again saved the best for last, coming from behind with a season-best 49.325 on beam in the last rotation to claim its 14th conference title. The Bruins needed to score 49.15 on the event to overtake Stanford, which ended on a bye, and got six hit routines, including career-highs of 9.9 from Zamarripa and 9.775 from Sato.

The NCAA Regionals also saw the Bruins surge in the last two events. After a few struggles with beam, UCLA found itself in third place at the halfway point. But in true Bruin fashion, they rebounded with big marks on floor and vault (49.425 on each) to secure at least a Top 2 spot and a berth in the NCAA Championships.

Bio Updates

Kaelie Baer — Scored a career-best 9.85 on vault at the NCAA Regionals ... Tied her then-career-high on vault with a 9.8 vs. Nebraska ... Has scored 9.775 or better on vault in five of six meets ... Stepped in as a late sub to compete on floor vs. Georgia and scored 9.825 ... Competed on beam at Oregon State and scored 9.675 ... Scored a team-best and career-high 9.85 on floor and recorded a personal-best 9.8 in exhibition on beam on Feb. 15 ... Tied her then-career-best on floor against Cal with a 9.8 ... Tied her career-best with a 9.8 on vault at Fullerton ... Scored 9.8 on floor against Arizona and also competed on vault and beam ... Competed on three events at Utah and hit all three, scoring 9.8 on vault, 9.775 on beam and 9.75 on floor.

Season/Career High: V - 9.85, BB - 9.775/9.8 (ex.), FX - 9.85

Ariana Berlin — Pac-10 Scholar Gymnast of the Year and first-team Pac-10 All-Academic ... First-team All-Pac-10 on vault ... Has hit of 170 of 177 career routines without a fall for a hit percentage of 96% ... Has competed in 56 consecutive meets ... Tied for third on floor with a 9.9 at Regionals, competing in the anchor spot for the first time in her career ... Placed fourth in the all-around at the Pac-10 Championships with a 39.35 and tied for fourth on vault with a career-high tying 9.9 ... Scored a career-high 9.925 on floor in her final performance at home on Mar. 15 and also earned third-place marks on vault and bars (9.875s) ... Shook off a knee injury suffered three days prior to score a career-high 39.5 in the all-around against Georgia ... Earned a career-best 9.9 on beam as the leadoff performer against the Gym Dogs and also had scores of 9.875 on vault and bars and 9.85 on floor ... Tied for first on uneven bars with a 9.875, scored a season-high on floor with a 9.85, and placed third in the all-around with a season-high 39.3 at Oregon State ... Won the uneven bars with a season-high 9.9 at the Masters Classic and added a 9.85 on vault to help the Bruins achieve a national-best 49.575 team score ... Leadoff mark of 9.875 on vault helped the Bruins score 49.525 on Feb. 15 ... Competed in the all-around for the first time at ASU on Jan. 30 and placed first with a 39.3 ... Also at ASU, she tied her career-high on vault with a 9.9 and performed an E-level skill on floor (Arabian double front) for the first time in her career, scoring 9.8 to tie for second ... Leadoff mark of 9.875 on bars led UCLA to a season-high 49.5 team score against Cal ... Also added scores of 9.8 on beam (tied for third place) and 9.775 on vault against the Golden Bears ... Tied for first on bars with a 9.85 and tied for third on beam with a 9.85 at Fullerton ... Scored a 9.85 on bars against Arizona to tie for second ... Bone bruise in her knee limited her to just uneven bars in the first two meets ... Career averages are 9.798 on vault, 9.788 on bars, 9.680 on beam, 9.787 on floor and 39.088 in the all-around ... Tied for 21st in the nation on uneven bars.

Season High: V - 9.9, UB - 9.9, BB - 9.9, FX - 9.925, AA - 39.5

Career High: V - 9.9, UB - 9.975, BB - 9.9, FX - 9.925, AA - 39.5

Marci Bernholtz — Honorable mention Pac-10 All-Academic selection ... Recorded her career-best mark on uneven bars with a 9.8 exhibition performance against Nebraska ... Scored a season-high 9.85 on beam to capture her first event win of the season at the Masters Classic ... Scored 9.8 on beam at the Bruins' quad meet Feb. 15 ... Leadoff performer on beam against Cal and scored 9.725 ... Led off bars against Arizona with a then-career-high 9.75 and also scored a 9.8 on beam ... Leadoff on bars and beam at Utah, where she scored 9.725 on bars and 9.8 on beam.

Season High: UB - 9.75, BB - 9.85

Career High: UB - 9.75/9.8 (ex.), BB - 9.875, FX - 8.925

Melissa Chan — Had bone spurs removed from her ankle in December and has yet to compete this season.

Career High: V - 9.850, UB - 9.825, BB - 9.950, FX - 9.900, AA - 39.375

Taunty Frattone — Has not competed in UCLA's last six meets due to an elbow injury ... Scored 9.8 or better on her last five vaults (three in exhibition) ... Scored a career-high 9.875 to tie for fifth at the UCLA quad meet on Feb. 15 ... Earned a 9.825 at ASU, and exhibition scores of 9.8 against Cal, 9.85 at Fullerton and 9.825 against Arizona ... Performed an exhibition on bars at Fullerton and scored 9.625 ... Performs a Yurchenko half-on piked front off vault.

Season/Career High: V - 9.875, UB - 9.625 (ex.)

Aisha Gerber — First-team All-Pac-10 on beam ... Third on the team with eight individual victories and 22 Top 3 finishes ... Placed in the Top 3 on beam in all but three meets she has competed, with a team-best five victories ... Competed on bars and beam at Regionals and had the team's best beam score with a 9.825 ... Recovered from a rough meet at Pac-10s to finish with a 9.825 on beam that helped the Bruins achieve a season-high total

of 49.325 ... Competed all-around on Mar. 15 for the first time in nearly two months and placed second with a 39.475 ... Also scored a career-high 9.925 on floor in that meet to tie for second and had a second-place finish on beam with a 9.875 ... Tied for fifth on vault vs. Georgia with a 9.875 and competed on bars for the first time in three weeks, scoring 9.8 ... Clinched the team victory at Oregon State on Feb. 27 with a first-place mark of 9.875 on beam in the final rotation ... Matched her career-best at the Masters Classic Feb. 22 with a 9.9 on vault, tied for first on beam with a 9.85 and debuted a full-in on floor to score 9.825 ... Scored a career-high 9.9 on vault on Feb. 15 ... Tied for first on bars (9.875) and tied for third on beam (9.85) at ASU ... Scored a team season-high 39.55 in the all-around to place first against Cal on Jan. 25 and also captured a victory on beam with a 9.9 and set new career-highs on bars (9.925, 2nd place) and floor (9.875, 3rd place) ... Bested her career-high in the all-around with a 39.325 to place second at Fullerton and nabbed her first bars title with a career-high tying 9.85 to tie for first place ... Also tied her career-high on vault at Fullerton with a 9.875 ... Won the beam with a career-high 9.925 and placed second in the all-around against Arizona ... Earned Pac-10 Special Performance of the Week honors for her meet-winning 9.9 beam performance at Utah Jan. 9 ... Ranks 11th nationally on beam.

Season/Career High: V - 9.9, UB - 9.925, BB - 9.925, FX - 9.925, AA - 39.55

Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs — Pac-10 Freshman of the Year and first-team All-Pac-10 in the all-around ... Second on the team with 11 individual victories and 30 Top 3 finishes ... Won the all-around in three of the last seven meets and in four meets overall ... Named the Pac-10 Gymnast of the Week three times (Jan. 27, Feb. 24, Mar. 17) ... Averaging 9.9 on vault in her last six meets ... Second on vault with a 9.925 and third on floor with a 9.9 at NCAA Regionals ... Placed fifth in the all-around at Pac-10s with a 39.175 and tied for second on beam with a 9.9 ... Her beam score clinched the Pac-10 title for the Bruins ... Won the all-around against Nebraska with a 39.5 and scored a career-high 9.95 to win floor ... Scored a then-career-high 9.925 on floor to tie for second and earned an all-around total of 39.45 to place third against Georgia ... Tied her career-high with a 9.875 on bars to tie for first and also tied for second on vault with a 9.9 at Oregon State ... Had a streak of 24 consecutive hit routines snapped with a fall on beam in the final rotation at Oregon State but has hit 40 of her last 41 routines ... Tied for first at the Masters Classic with a 39.475 and earned a career-high 9.95 on vault to tie for second ... Won the all-around at the UCLA quad meet on Feb. 15 with a 39.375 and scored a career-best 9.875 on bars ... Scored 39.45 in the all-around and captured first-place honors on beam (9.9) and floor (9.9) to help the Bruins win big over Cal on Jan. 25 ... Won the all-around (39.525), bars (9.85), beam (9.925) and floor (9.9) and set career-highs on all four events and the all-around at Fullerton on Jan. 23 ... Placed in the Top 3 on beam in all but two meets, with two victories ... Ranks 15th in the all-around, 18th on floor and 20th on beam.

Season/Career High: V - 9.95, UB - 9.875, BB - 9.925, FX - 9.95, AA - 39.525

Tiffany Hyland — Has yet to compete in 2009.

Talia Kushynski — Performed an exhibition floor routine at Fullerton and scored 9.45.

Season High: FX - 9.45 (ex.)

Career High: BB - 9.5 (ex.), FX - 9.675

Anna Li — Won the NCAA Regional title on uneven bars for the third consecutive year, scoring 9.9 at the North Central Regionals ... Pac-10 Uneven Bars co-champion and first-team All-Pac-10 on the event ... Tied her season-high with a 9.9 at the Pac-10 meet to win her second career Pac-10 event title ... Has completed 112 of 120 career routines (93%) in team competition without a fall ... Underwent surgery in November to remove bone spurs from her ankle and was limited to uneven bars only in the first two meets but returned on beam at Fullerton Jan. 23 ... Won bars on Feb. 15 with a season-high 9.9 ... Placed third on bars at ASU with a 9.85 ... Suffered her first ever fall on uneven bars against Cal but came back to finish the routine with a stuck double layout full-out dismount on her first attempt at that skill in competition ... Tied for third on her first beam routine of the season with a 9.85 at Fullerton ... Placed first on bars with a 9.875 against Arizona ... Performed on Jan. 25 what is arguably the most difficult uneven bars routine in the nation, with a routine that included a Gienger, Pak salto, Tkatchev and double layout full-out dismount.

Season High: UB - 9.9, BB - 9.85

Career High: V - 9.9, UB - 9.975, BB - 9.95, FX - 9.925, AA - 39.6

Brittani McCullough — Second-team All-Pac-10 on vault ... Tied her career-high with a 9.875 on floor at Regionals and also scored 9.85 on vault and 9.775 on bars ... In her first-ever postseason meet, she scored 9.825 or better on the three events in which she competed at Pac-10s, with 9.85s on vault and floor and a 9.825 on bars ... Scored 9.85 on floor and 9.775 on bars against Nebraska ... Contributed a 9.775 on vault, 9.85 on bars and 9.825 on floor against Georgia ... Tied her career-high on floor with a 9.875 at Oregon State to tie for second ... Competed on floor Feb. 15 for the first time since rupturing her Achilles on the event last season and scored 9.675, a score she matched a week later at Nebraska ... Made her season debut in competition at Fullerton and scored a career-high 9.95 on vault and a 9.8 on bars ... Came back two days later against Cal to score a career-high 9.925 on bars and 9.825 on vault ... Had bone spurs removed from her ankle in November and did not compete at Utah ... Has hit 56 of 59 career routines, including all 26 this season.

Season High: V - 9.95, UB - 9.925, FX - 9.875

Career High: V - 9.95, UB - 9.925, BB - 9.9, FX - 9.875, AA - 39.375

Alyssa Pritchett — Performed an exhibition on floor on Mar. 15 ... Exhibited on vault at Nebraska on Feb. 22 and scored 9.65 ... Scored 9.775 on an exhibition vault at Fullerton ... Late substitute for Ariana Berlin on vault and scored a 9.8 on a Tsukahara layout full.

Season/Career High: V - 9.8

Mizuki Sato — First-team All-Pac-10 on floor ... Honorable mention Pac-10 All-Academic selection ... Posted Top 3 finishes on floor in UCLA's first four meets, with wins in two ... Has hit 23 of 26 routines this year for 9.75 or better ... Tied for third on vault with a career-high tying 9.9 at NCAA Regionals and also scored 9.85 on floor and 9.75 on beam ... Competed on three events at Pac-10s, recording a career-high on beam with a 9.775 and adding leadoff marks of 9.85 on floor and 9.825 on vault ... Contributed a pair of 9.85s on vault and floor against Nebraska and competed on beam for the first time in her career, scoring 9.575 ... Led UCLA off on vault and floor against Georgia with a 9.8 and 9.85, respectively ... Leadoff performer on vault and floor at Oregon State and scored 9.775 and 9.8, respectively ... Scored 9.85 to tie for fourth on floor and also scored 9.775 on vault at the Masters Classic ... Tied for first on floor with a 9.9 against Cal ... Placed second on floor at Fullerton with a 9.85 and also scored 9.85 on vault ... Placed first on both vault and floor against Arizona with career-highs of 9.9 on each event ... Tied for third on floor at the Utah meet with a 9.85 ... Vaulted for the first time in competition at Utah and earned a 9.825 ... Exhibition beam performance at Utah earned a 9.8, which would have tied her for sixth place ... Has competed on floor in 21 straight meets dating back to last year.

Season High: V - 9.9, BB - 9.775, FX - 9.9

Career High: V - 9.9, UB - 9.2 (ex.), BB - 9.775/9.825 (ex.), FX - 9.9

Allison Taylor — Received a season-best 9.75 on bars in an exhibition against Cal on Jan. 25 ... Scored 9.725 on an exhibition floor routine at Utah.

Season High: UB - 9.75 (ex.), FX - 9.725 (ex.)

Career High: UB - 9.8, FX - 9.725 (ex.)/9.15

Niki Tom — First-team All-Pac-10 on beam ... Honorable mention Pac-10 All-Academic selection ... Has hit 24 of 26 routines she has performed this season (including five in exhibition) ... Had 13 straight hits in competition before suffering her first fall of the year on beam at Nebraska ... Ranks second on the team with three beam wins ... Contributed a 9.75 on beam at NCAA Regionals and also competed on floor for the first time in over a month, tying her career-high with a 9.875 ... Scored 9.875 on beam at Pac-10s to help the Bruins achieve a season-high total of 49.325 ... Captured her third beam win at Oregon State, tying for first with a 9.875 ... Also at Oregon State, she scored 9.8 in exhibition on floor ... Competed on bars for the first time at Nebraska and scored 9.75 ... Placed first on beam for the second straight meet at the UCLA quad meet on Feb. 15, scoring 9.875 ... Scored a career-high 9.9 on beam at ASU to capture the first individual event win of her career ... Did the equivalent of a 38.925 in the all-around against Cal after competing on floor and doing exhibitions on vault, bars and beam ... Earned her second-consecutive Top 3 finish on floor with a 9.825 in the leadoff spot at Fullerton ... Leadoff performer on three events at Arizona and scored career-highs on beam (9.85) and floor (9.875) to set her teammates up for season-high team totals on those events ... Also scored a 9.775 on her first vault attempt of the year ... Leadoff performer on floor at Utah and scored 9.75 to tie for fifth place ... Has competed on beam in 14 of UCLA's last 16 meets.

Season High: V - 9.775, UB - 9.75 (ex.), BB - 9.9, FX - 9.875

Career High: V - 9.825, UB - 9.075 (ex.), BB - 9.9, FX - 9.875

Vanessa Zamarripa — First-team All-Pac-10 in the all-around ... Has scored a perfect 10 on vault three times ... Scored her first 10 on Jan. 23 at Cal State Fullerton and scored back-to-back 10s on Feb. 15 at the UCLA quad meet and on Feb. 22 at the Masters Classic ... Earned Pac-10 Special Performance of the Week honors each week she has scored a perfect 10 ... Leads UCLA with 12 event wins, including six on vault, and 31 Top 3 finishes ... At the NCAA Regionals, she placed third in the all-around (39.4), tied for second on bars (9.85) and tied for third on vault (9.9) ... Scored a career-high 9.9 on beam to tie for second place en route to a third-place all-around finish (39.4) at the Pac-10 Championships ... Captured first place on vault (9.95) and bars (9.9) and second on floor (career-high 9.925) against Nebraska and scored the equivalent of a 39.625 in the all-around when taking her 9.85 exhibition beam into account ... Scored a career-high 9.925 on floor to tie for second and posted 9.925 on vault and 9.9 on bars against Georgia ... Won the all-around at Oregon State with a 39.375 and scored a career-high 9.875 on beam to tie for first on that event ... Won the vault with a perfect 10 and tied for first on bars at Cal State Fullerton with a 9.85 ... Came back two days later to score career-highs in the all-around (39.5), bars (9.95) and floor (9.875) against Cal ... Won the all-around with a career-high 39.4 and tied for first on vault with a 9.9 against Arizona and was named the Pac-10 Gymnast of the Week, as well as the UCLA/Muscle Milk Student-Athlete of the Week ... Also set then-career-highs on bars (9.85), beam (9.825) and floor (9.825) in the meet ... Hit three of her four events at Utah, scoring a team-high 9.9 on vault (third-place), 9.8 on bars and 9.75 on floor ... Ranks first nationally on vault with a 9.955 RQS.

Season/Career High: V - 10.0, UB - 9.95, BB - 9.9, FX - 9.925, AA - 39.5

Head Coach Valorie Kondos Field — In her 19th season as head coach of the Bruins, Valorie Kondos Field has positioned her team as one of the premier programs in collegiate gymnastics. Since 1997, Kondos Field has led UCLA to five NCAA titles, nine Regional titles and eight Pac-10 Championships and has been voted the national coach of the year by her peers four times. Kondos Field has not only recruited some of the nation's brightest talent to Westwood, but, perhaps more impressively, she has nurtured several of these recruits into successful post-collegiate elite careers. Kate Richardson became just the second female gymnast to compete at the Olympics as a collegiate athlete in 2004, and Bruin alumna Mohini Bhardwaj was captain of the U.S. silver medal-winning team at the 2004 Olympics.

Meet 1 - at #2 Utah (Jan. 9)

In the season opener at Utah, a youthful Bruin squad was just edged out against the second-ranked Utes, 196.175-196.075. UCLA had just two routines from upperclassmen, and the youngsters came through in a big way, leading the team to its highest season-opening score since 2005. Aisha Gerber led the Bruins with a third-place all-around finish (38.625). Gerber took home first place honors on beam with a 9.9, joining classmate Vanessa Zamarripa (vault) as one of two Bruins to score 9.9 in the meet.

Vault - 49.175

Mizuki Sato.....	9.825 (7)
Kaelie Baer.....	9.800 (8t)
Tauny Frattone.....	9.150 (12)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.850 (6)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.900 (3)
Alyssa Pritchett.....	9.800 (8t)

Bars - 49.050

Marci Bernholtz.....	9.725 (9)
Ariana Berlin.....	9.825 (6t)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.850 (3t)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.800 (8)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.250 (11)
Anna Li.....	9.850 (3t)

Beam - 49.100

Marci Bernholtz.....	9.800 (6t)
Niki Tom.....	9.775 (8t)
Kaelie Baer.....	9.775 (8t)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.900 (1)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	8.800 (12)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.850 (3)

Floor - 49.750

Niki Tom.....	9.750 (5t)
Kaelie Baer.....	9.750 (5t)
Mizuki Sato.....	9.825 (3t)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.750 (5t)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.025 (11)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.675 (9)

Meet 2 - vs. Arizona (Jan. 18)

With career-high marks on 16 of 24 routines, UCLA defeated Arizona in the Bruins' home opener, 196.375-193.675. All six Bruin competitors scored career-best marks on floor exercise. Freshman Vanessa Zamarripa led all competitors with a career-high 39.4 in the all-around, and sophomore Mizuki Sato posted wins on vault and floor with career-best marks of 9.9 on each event. Anna Li won the uneven bars with a season-best 9.875, and Aisha Gerber won beam for the second-straight meet, scoring a career-high 9.925.

Vault - 49.200

Niki Tom	9.775 (6)
Kaelie Baer	9.700 (8)
Mizuki Sato	9.900 (1t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.750 (7)
Aisha Gerber	9.875 (4)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.900 (1t)

Bars - 48.625

Marci Bernholtz	9.750 (4)
Ariana Berlin	9.850 (2t)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.850 (2t)
Aisha Gerber	9.300 (11)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.175 (12)
Anna Li	9.875 (1)

Beam - 49.275

Niki Tom	9.850 (3)
Marci Bernholtz	9.800 (5)
Kaelie Baer	9.225 (11)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.825 (4)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.875 (2)
Aisha Gerber	9.925 (1)

Floor - 49.275

Niki Tom	9.875 (2t)
Kaelie Baer	9.800 (7)
Mizuki Sato	9.900 (1)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.825 (4t)
Aisha Gerber	9.750 (9t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.875 (2t)

Meet 3 - at Cal State Fullerton (Jan. 23)

Behind a perfect 10 on vault by Vanessa Zamarripa and career-best performances on all four events from Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs, UCLA improved upon its season-best team score with a 196.6-193.875 victory at Cal State Fullerton. The Bruins were spectacular in the first two rotations, scoring 49.225 on bars and 49.525 on vault. With a career-high 9.95 on her first vault of the season, Brittani McCullough set her teammates up for huge marks, and Zamarripa delivered with a perfect 10. Hopfner-Hibbs won the all-around with a UCLA season-best 39.525 and captured first-place honors on bars, beam and floor.

Vault - 49.525

Kaelie Baer	9.800 (8t)
Mizuki Sato	9.850 (5t)
Brittani McCullough	9.950 (2)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.850 (5t)
Aisha Gerber	9.875 (4)
Vanessa Zamarripa	10.00 (1)

Bars - 49.225

Ariana Berlin	9.850 (1t)
Brittani McCullough	9.800 (6t)
Aisha Gerber	9.850 (1t)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.850 (1t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.850 (1t)
Anna Li	9.825 (5)

Beam - 48.750

Marci Bernholtz	9.250 (10)
Ariana Berlin	9.850 (3t)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.025 (11)
Anna Li	9.850 (3t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.925 (1)
Aisha Gerber	9.875 (2)

Floor - 49.100

Niki Tom	9.825 (3)
Kaelie Baer	9.150 (12)
Mizuki Sato	9.850 (2)
Aisha Gerber	9.725 (7)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.800 (4)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.900 (1)

Meet 4 - vs. California (Jan. 25)

UCLA scored its first 197 team mark in two years, posting a 197.125-190.575 victory over California. The Bruins used a season-best 49.5 on uneven bars to build momentum and closed the meet with another season-best, scoring 49.35 on floor to attain the 197 mark. A trio of Bruin freshmen swept the all-around standings, with Aisha Gerber winning the meet with a career-high 39.55, UCLA's highest all-around mark this year. Vanessa Zamarripa set a new career-best to place second with a 39.5, and Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs was third with her second 39.4+ score in three days (39.45).

Vault - 49.175

Ariana Berlin	9.775 (5t)
Mizuki Sato	9.775 (5t)
Brittani McCullough	9.825 (3t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.825 (3t)
Aisha Gerber	9.850 (2)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.900 (1)

Bars - 49.500

Ariana Berlin	9.875 (4)
Brittani McCullough	9.925 (2t)
Aisha Gerber	9.925 (2t)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.950 (1)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.825 (5)
Anna Li	9.450 (10)

Beam - 49.100

Marci Bernholtz	9.725 (8t)
Ariana Berlin	9.800 (3t)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.775 (7)
Anna Li	9.425 (10)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.900 (1t)
Aisha Gerber	9.900 (1t)

Floor - 49.350

Niki Tom	9.700 (8)
Kaelie Baer	9.800 (5)
Mizuki Sato	9.900 (1t)
Aisha Gerber	9.875 (3t)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.875 (3t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.900 (1t)

Meet 5 - at #16 Arizona State (Jan. 30)

Behind a winning all-around performance by senior Ariana Berlin, UCLA posted 196.225-193.075 victory over 16th-ranked Arizona State. Berlin, who was competing in the all-around for the first time this season, won the all-around with a 39.3 and tied her career-high on vault with a 9.9 to tie for first on that event. Sophomore Niki Tom also posted a career-high 9.9 to tie for first on balance beam. UCLA's other event winner was freshman Aisha Gerber, who tied for first on uneven bars with a 9.875.

Vault - 49.125

Kaelie Baer	9.775 (6)
Ariana Berlin	9.900 (1t)
Mizuki Sato	9.750 (7t)
Brittani McCullough	9.650 (10)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.875 (3)
Tauny Frattone	9.825 (5)

Bars - 49.175

Ariana Berlin	9.825 (4t)
Brittani McCullough	9.800 (6)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.775 (7)
Aisha Gerber	9.875 (1t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.825 (4t)
Anna Li	9.850 (3)

Beam - 49.075

Ariana Berlin	9.775 (6t)
Marci Bernholtz	9.325 (10)
Niki Tom	9.900 (1t)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.700 (9)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.850 (3t)
Aisha Gerber	9.850 (3t)

Floor - 48.850

Kaelie Baer	9.750 (6t)
Niki Tom	9.775 (4t)
Ariana Berlin	9.800 (2t)
Mizuki Sato	9.300 (11)
Aisha Gerber	9.750 (6t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.775 (4t)

Meet 6 - vs. Boise St., Washington, CSUF (Feb. 15)

UCLA cruised through its first three events in a home quad meet against Boise State, Washington and Cal State Fullerton, posting big scores on vault (49.525), bars (49.25) and beam (49.2) but could not maintain the momentum on the final event, floor exercise, counting a fall and an out-of-bounds deduction. The Bruins, however, still came away with the win with a score of 196.375. Boise State placed second with a 195.7. Washington (194.4) was third, and Cal State Fullerton (193.15) placed fourth. Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs won the all-around with a 39.375, and Vanessa Zamarripa earned her second perfect 10 of the year on vault.

Vault - 49.525

Ariana Berlin	9.875 (5t)
Brittani McCullough	9.875 (5t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.850 (9t)
Tauny Frattone	9.875 (5t)
Aisha Gerber	9.900 (3t)
Vanessa Zamarripa	10.00 (1)

Bars - 49.250

Ariana Berlin	9.825 (5t)
Brittani McCullough	9.800 (8t)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.850 (3t)
Aisha Gerber	9.150 (21)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.875 (2)
Anna Li	9.900 (1)

Beam - 49.200

Ariana Berlin	9.850 (3t)
Marci Bernholtz	9.800 (8)
Niki Tom	9.875 (1t)
Anna Li	9.100 (21)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.825 (5t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.850 (3t)

Floor - 48.400

Niki Tom	9.650 (16t)
Mizuki Sato	9.425 (22)
Kaelie Baer	9.850 (2t)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.325 (23)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.800 (5t)
Brittani McCullough	9.675 (15)

Meet 7 - at Masters Classic (Feb. 22)

UCLA suffered its first loss since the season opener, finishing second to host Nebraska by just one-tenth of a point at the Masters Classic. The Bruins had to count a fall on beam in the final rotation and scored 196.125, just behind Nebraska's 196.225. UCLA went up by .75 after three rotations thanks to a 49.575 on vault in rotation two and a 49.2 on bars in rotation three, but the Bruins could only muster 48.375 on beam in the final rotation. Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs tied for first in the all-around with a 39.475 for her second consecutive all-around title. Vanessa Zamarripa scored her second-straight perfect 10 on vault.

Vault - 49.575

Ariana Berlin	9.850 (10t)
Mizuki Sato	9.775 (17t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.950 (2t)
Brittani McCullough	9.875 (7t)
Aisha Gerber	9.900 (5t)
Vanessa Zamarripa	10.00 (1)

Bars - 49.200

Niki Tom	9.750 (11)
Marci Bernholtz	9.125 (22)
Ariana Berlin	9.900 (1t)
Brittani McCullough	9.850 (3t)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.850 (3t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.850 (3t)

Beam - 48.375

Ariana Berlin	9.600 (18)
Marci Bernholtz	9.850 (1t)
Niki Tom	9.000 (24)
Vanessa Zamarripa	9.275 (22)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.800 (5t)
Aisha Gerber	9.850 (1t)

Floor - 48.975

Kaelie Baer	9.750 (17t)
Mizuki Sato	9.850 (4t)
Niki Tom	9.625 (21)
Aisha Gerber	9.825 (7t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs	9.875 (2t)
Brittani McCullough	9.675 (20)

Meet 8 - at #8 Oregon State (Feb. 27)

Needing to score at least a 9.775 on balance beam in the final rotation for UCLA to clinch the victory, freshman Aisha Gerber came through with a 9.875 to lead the fourth-ranked Bruins to a 196.575-196.350 win over eighth-ranked Oregon State in Corvallis. With the Bruins suffering a fall just one routine prior to Gerber's, there was little room for error, and Gerber had little error in her routine. Her 9.875 gave UCLA enough of a cushion to hold off the Beavers, whose 9.95 on floor from Mandi Rodriguez that was not enough. Vanessa Zamarripa won the all-around with a 39.375.

Vault - 49.300

Mizuki Sato.....	9.775 (9t)
Ariana Berlin.....	9.825 (5t)
Brittani McCullough.....	9.800 (7t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.900 (2t)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.875 (4)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.900 (2t)

Bars - 49.050

Niki Tom.....	9.375 (11)
Ariana Berlin.....	9.875 (1t)
Brittani McCullough.....	9.675 (10)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.800 (6t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.875 (1t)
Anna Li.....	9.825 (4t)

Beam - 49.050

Ariana Berlin.....	9.750 (9)
Kaelie Baer.....	9.675 (11)
Niki Tom.....	9.875 (1t)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.875 (1t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.275 (12)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.875 (1t)

Floor - 49.175

Mizuki Sato.....	9.800 (7t)
Ariana Berlin.....	9.850 (4t)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.800 (7t)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.600 (12)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.850 (4t)
Brittani McCullough.....	9.875 (2t)

Meet 9 - vs. #1 Georgia (Mar. 8)

UCLA lost to top-ranked Georgia, 197.725-196.125. Three falls on the balance beam took the Bruins out of contention, but the team rebounded with a season-high score on floor exercise in the final rotation (49.375) to end the meet on a positive note. Ariana Berlin, who was questionable leading into the meet after tweaking her knee three days earlier, not only competed all-around but scored a career-high with a 39.5. She also earned a career-high on beam, scoring a 9.9 in the leadoff slot. Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs also performed well with a 39.45 in the all-around and a career-high 9.925 on floor. Vanessa Zamarripa contributed three 9.9+ scores on vault, bars and floor.

Vault - 49.375

Mizuki Sato.....	9.800 (11)
Ariana Berlin.....	9.875 (5t)
Brittani McCullough.....	9.775 (12)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.900 (4)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.875 (5t)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.925 (2t)

Bars - 49.200

Ariana Berlin.....	9.875 (5)
Brittani McCullough.....	9.850 (6t)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.800 (8t)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.900 (3t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.775 (10t)
Anna Li.....	8.550 (12)

Beam - 48.175

Ariana Berlin.....	9.900 (3)
Marci Bernholtz.....	9.325 (10)
Niki Tom.....	9.800 (7t)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.250 (12)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.850 (4t)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.300 (11)

Floor - 49.375

Mizuki Sato.....	9.850 (7t)
Ariana Berlin.....	9.850 (7t)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.925 (2t)
Kaelie Baer.....	9.825 (9t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.925 (2t)
Brittani McCullough.....	9.825 (9t)

Meet 10 - vs. #12 Nebraska (Mar. 15)

The Bruins suffered two falls on the balance beam to fall behind by 0.65 going into the final rotation, but when Nebraska fell off the beam on three routines, UCLA took advantage and scored a season-high 49.575 on floor to win the meet, 196.625-195.850. The Bruins had four score of 9.925 or better on floor, led by Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs' career-high 9.95 and career-high marks of 9.925 from Vanessa Zamarripa, Ariana Berlin and Aisha Gerber. Hopfner-Hibbs won the all-around with a 39.5, followed closely by a 39.475 from Gerber. Zamarripa totaled three 9.9+ scores, including a 9.95 to win vault.

Vault - 49.425

Mizuki Sato.....	9.850 (6t)
Kaelie Baer.....	9.800 (10)
Ariana Berlin.....	9.875 (3t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.875 (3t)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.875 (3t)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.950 (1)

Bars - 49.250

Brittani McCullough.....	9.775 (11t)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.800 (10)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.900 (1t)
Ariana Berlin.....	9.875 (3t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.850 (5t)
Anna Li.....	9.825 (8t)

Beam - 48.375

Ariana Berlin.....	9.200 (11)
Mizuki Sato.....	9.575 (7)
Niki Tom.....	9.750 (5t)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.875 (2t)
Marci Bernholtz.....	9.350 (8t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.825 (3)

Floor - 49.575

Mizuki Sato.....	9.850 (8t)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.925 (2t)
Ariana Berlin.....	9.925 (2t)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.925 (2t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.950 (1)
Brittani McCullough.....	9.850 (8t)

Meet 11 - at Pac-10 Championships (Mar. 21)

Needing to hit a 49.15 on beam in the final rotation to surpass Stanford, UCLA scored a season-high 49.325 to claim its 14th Pac-10 title. The Bruins recorded a team total of 196.725, outscoring second-place Oregon State (196.550) and third-place Stanford (196.525). The Bruins scored 49.0 or better on all four events and saved the best for last, conquering their beam demons in a big way with a 6-for-6 performance to take the victory. Freshman Vanessa Zamarripa was the team's top all-around finisher, placing third with a 39.4. Junior Anna Li captured a share of the uneven bars title with a season-high-tying 9.9.

Vault - 49.300

Mizuki Sato.....	9.825 (17t)
Brittani McCullough.....	9.850 (10t)
Ariana Berlin.....	9.900 (4t)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.775 (27t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.850 (10t)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.875 (7t)

Bars - 49.100

Brittani McCullough.....	9.825 (9t)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.375 (36t)
Ariana Berlin.....	9.850 (6t)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.800 (12t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.725 (23)
Anna Li.....	9.900 (1t)

Beam - 49.325

Ariana Berlin.....	9.825 (10t)
Mizuki Sato.....	9.775 (18t)
Niki Tom.....	9.875 (6)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.900 (2t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.900 (2t)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.825 (10t)

Floor - 49.000

Mizuki Sato.....	9.850 (6t)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.825 (14t)
Ariana Berlin.....	9.775 (20t)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.300 (37t)
Brittani McCullough.....	9.850 (6t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.700 (27)

Meet 12 - at NCAA North Central Regional (Apr. 4)

UCLA qualified to the NCAA Championships for the 25th time in school history after a second-place finish at the NCAA North Central Regional. The Bruins rebounded from a slow start, scoring 49.425s on their last two events, floor and vault. The Bruins stood in third place at the halfway point after a shaky beam rotation but rallied with huge scores on their best two events to claim second place, just .15 out of first. Vanessa Zamarripa posted UCLA's best all-around total, placing third with a 39.4. Anna Li won the uneven bars title for the third-straight year, scoring 9.9.

Vault - 49.425

Mizuki Sato.....	9.900 (3t)
Kaelie Baer.....	9.850 (8t)
Brittani McCullough.....	9.850 (8t)
Ariana Berlin.....	9.850 (8t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.925 (2)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.900 (3t)

Bars - 49.125

Brittani McCullough.....	9.775 (13t)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.775 (13t)
Ariana Berlin.....	9.825 (7t)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.850 (2t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.725 (24t)
Anna Li.....	9.900 (1)

Beam - 48.650

Ariana Berlin.....	9.100 (41)
Mizuki Sato.....	9.750 (12t)
Niki Tom.....	9.750 (12t)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.775 (11)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.550 (31)
Aisha Gerber.....	9.825 (6t)

Floor - 49.425

Mizuki Sato.....	9.850 (11t)
Niki Tom.....	9.875 (7t)
Vanessa Zamarripa.....	9.875 (7t)
Brittani McCullough.....	9.875 (7t)
Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs.....	9.900 (3t)
Ariana Berlin.....	9.900 (3t)

Meet-by-Meet Team Scores/Placements

Date	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
1/09	49.175 (2)	49.050 (2)	49.100 (1)	48.750 (1)	196.075 (2)
1/18	49.200 (1)	48.625 (1)	49.275 (1)	49.275 (1)	196.375 (1)
1/23	49.525 (1)	49.225 (1)	48.750 (1)	49.100 (1)	196.600 (1)
1/25	49.175 (1)	49.500 (1)	49.100 (1)	49.350 (1)	197.125 (1)
1/30	49.125 (1)	49.175 (1)	49.075 (1)	48.850 (1)	196.225 (1)
2/15	49.525 (1)	49.250 (1)	49.200 (1)	48.400 (4)	196.375 (1)
2/22	49.575 (1)	49.200 (1)	48.375 (4)	48.975 (2)	196.125 (2)
2/27	49.300 (1)	49.050 (1)	49.050 (2)	49.175 (2)	196.575 (1)
3/8	49.375 (2)	49.200 (2)	48.175 (2)	49.375 (2)	196.125 (2)
3/15	49.425 (1)	49.250 (2)	48.375 (1)	49.575 (1)	196.625 (1)
3/21	49.300 (3)	49.100 (3)	49.325 (1)	49.000 (3)	196.725 (1)
4/4	49.425 (1)	49.125 (2)	48.650 (4)	49.425 (1)	196.625 (2)
Average	49.344	49.146	48.871	49.104	196.465
09 High	49.575	49.500	49.325	49.575	197.125
Record	49.725	49.825	49.725	49.875	198.875

Kaelie Baer - Meet-by-Meet Scores/Placements

Date	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
1/09	9.800 (8t)	—	9.775 (8t)	9.750 (5t)	—
1/18	9.700 (8)	—	9.225 (11)	9.800 (7)	—
1/23	9.800 (8t)	—	<u>9.775</u>	9.150 (12)	—
1/25	—	—	<u>9.750</u>	9.800 (5)	—
1/30	9.775 (6)	—	9.225	9.750 (6t)	—
2/15	<u>9.775</u>	—	<u>9.800</u>	9.850 (2t)	—
2/22	—	—	<u>9.750</u>	9.750 (17t)	—
2/27	<u>9.750</u>	—	9.675 (11)	—	—
3/8	—	—	—	9.825 (9t)	—
3/15	9.800 (10)	—	—	—	—
3/21	—	—	—	—	—
4/4	9.850 (8t)	—	—	—	—
4/16					
4/17					
Average	9.788	—	9.558	9.709	—
09 High	9.850	—	9.775	9.850	—
Career-Hi	9.850	—	9.775	9.850	—

Ariana Berlin - Meet-by-Meet Scores/Placements

Date	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
1/09	—	9.825 (6t)	—	—	—
1/18	—	9.850 (2t)	—	—	—
1/23	—	9.850 (1t)	9.850 (3t)	—	—
1/25	9.775 (5t)	9.875 (4)	9.800 (3t)	<u>9.075</u>	—
1/30	9.900 (1t)	9.825 (4t)	9.775 (6t)	9.800 (2t)	39.300 (1)
2/15	9.875 (5t)	9.825 (5t)	9.850 (3t)	—	—
2/22	9.850 (10t)	9.900 (1t)	9.600 (18)	—	—
2/27	9.825 (5t)	9.875 (1t)	9.750 (9)	9.850 (4t)	39.300 (3)
3/8	9.875 (5t)	9.875 (5)	9.900 (3)	9.850 (7t)	39.500 (2)
3/15	9.875 (3t)	9.875 (3t)	9.200 (11)	9.925 (2t)	38.875 (4t)
3/21	9.900 (4t)	9.850 (6t)	9.825 (10t)	9.775 (20t)	39.350 (4)
4/4	9.850 (8t)	9.825 (7t)	9.100 (41)	9.900 (3t)	38.675 (14)
4/16					
4/17					
Average	9.858	9.854	9.665	9.850	39.167
09 High	9.900	9.900	9.900	9.925	39.500
Career-Hi	9.900	9.975	9.900	9.925	39.500

Marci Bernholtz - Meet-by-Meet Scores/Placements

Date	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
1/09	—	9.725 (9)	9.800 (6t)	—	—
1/18	—	9.750 (4)	9.800 (5)	—	—
1/23	—	—	9.250 (10)	—	—
1/25	—	—	9.725 (8t)	—	—
1/30	—	<u>9.725</u>	9.325 (10)	—	—
2/15	—	<u>9.575</u>	9.800 (8)	—	—
2/22	—	9.125 (22)	9.850 (1t)	—	—
2/27	—	—	—	—	—
3/8	—	—	9.325 (10)	—	—
3/15	—	<u>9.800</u>	9.350 (8t)	—	—
3/21	—	—	—	—	—
4/4	—	—	—	—	—
4/16					
4/17					
Average	—	9.533	9.581	—	—
09 High	—	9.750	9.850	—	—
Career-Hi	—	9.750	9.875	8.925	—

Melissa Chan - Meet-by-Meet Scores/Placements

Date	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
1/09	—	—	—	—	—
1/18	—	—	—	—	—
1/23	—	—	—	—	—
1/25	—	—	—	—	—
1/30	—	—	—	—	—
2/15	—	—	—	—	—
2/22	—	—	—	—	—
2/27	—	—	—	—	—
3/8	—	—	—	—	—
3/15	—	—	—	—	—
3/21	—	—	—	—	—
4/4	—	—	—	—	—
4/16					
4/17					
Average	—	—	—	—	—
09 High	—	—	—	—	—
Career-Hi	9.850	9.825	9.950	9.900	39.375

Tauny Frattone - Meet-by-Meet Scores/Placements

Date	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
1/09	9.150 (12)	—	—	—	—
1/18	<u>9.825</u>	—	—	—	—
1/23	<u>9.850</u>	<u>9.625</u>	—	—	—
1/25	<u>9.800</u>	—	—	—	—
1/30	9.825 (5)	—	—	—	—
2/15	9.875 (5t)	—	—	—	—
2/22	—	—	—	—	—
2/27	—	—	—	—	—
3/8	—	—	—	—	—
3/15	—	—	—	—	—
3/21	—	—	—	—	—
4/4	—	—	—	—	—
4/16					
4/17					
Average	9.617	—	—	—	—
09 High	9.875	—	—	—	—
Career-Hi	9.875	—	—	—	—

Aisha Gerber - Meet-by-Meet Scores/Placements

Date	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
1/09	9.850 (6)	9.850 (3t)	9.900 (1)	9.025 (11)	38.625 (3)
1/18	9.875 (4)	9.300 (11)	9.925 (1)	9.750 (9t)	38.850 (2)
1/23	9.875 (4)	9.850 (1t)	9.875 (2)	9.725 (7)	39.325 (2)
1/25	9.850 (2)	9.925 (2t)	9.900 (1t)	9.875 (3t)	39.550 (1)
1/30	—	9.875 (1t)	9.850 (3t)	9.750 (6t)	—
2/15	9.900 (3t)	9.150 (21)	—	—	—
2/22	9.900 (5t)	—	9.850 (1t)	9.825 (7t)	—
2/27	9.875 (4)	—	9.875 (1t)	9.600 (12)	—
3/8	9.875 (5t)	9.800 (8t)	9.300 (11)	—	—
3/15	9.875 (3t)	9.800 (10)	9.875 (2)	9.925 (2t)	39.475 (2)
3/21	9.775 (27t)	9.375 (36t)	9.825 (10t)	9.300 (37t)	38.275 (15)
4/4	—	9.775 (13t)	9.825 (6t)	—	—
4/16					
4/17					
Average	9.865	9.670	9.818	9.642	39.017
09 High	9.900	9.925	9.925	9.925	39.550
Career-Hi	9.900	9.925	9.925	9.925	39.550

Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs - Meet-by-Meet Scores/Placements

Date	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
1/09	—	9.250 (11)	9.850 (3)	9.675 (9)	—
1/18	9.750 (7)	9.175 (12)	9.875 (2)	9.875 (2t)	38.675 (4)
1/23	9.850 (5t)	9.850 (1t)	9.925 (1)	9.900 (1)	39.525 (1)
1/25	9.825 (3t)	9.825 (4)	9.900 (1t)	9.900 (1t)	39.450 (3)
1/30	—	9.825 (4t)	9.850 (3t)	9.775 (4t)	—
2/15	9.850 (9t)	9.875 (2)	9.850 (3t)	9.800 (5t)	39.375 (1)
2/22	9.950 (2t)	9.850 (3t)	9.800 (5t)	9.875 (2t)	39.475 (1t)
2/27	9.900 (2t)	9.875 (1t)	9.275 (12)	9.850 (4t)	38.900 (4)
3/8	9.900 (4)	9.775 (10t)	9.850 (4t)	9.925 (2t)	39.450 (3)
3/15	9.875 (3t)	9.850 (5t)	9.825 (3)	9.950 (1)	39.500 (1)
3/21	9.850 (10t)	9.725 (23)	9.900 (2t)	9.700 (27)	39.175 (5)
4/4	9.925 (2)	9.725 (24t)	9.550 (31)	9.900 (3t)	39.100 (9t)
4/16					
4/17					
Average	9.868	9.717	9.788	9.844	39.263
09 High	9.950	9.875	9.925	9.950	39.525
Career-Hi	9.950	9.875	9.925	9.950	39.525

Tiffany Hyland - Meet-by-Meet Scores/Placements

Date	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
1/09	—	—	—	—	—
1/18	—	—	—	—	—
1/23	—	—	—	—	—
1/25	—	—	—	—	—
1/30	—	—	—	—	—
2/15	—	—	—	—	—
2/22	—	—	—	—	—
2/27	—	—	—	—	—
3/8	—	—	—	—	—
3/15	—	—	—	—	—
3/21	—	—	—	—	—
4/4	—	—	—	—	—
4/16					
4/17					
Average	—	—	—	—	—
09 High	—	—	—	—	—
Career-Hi	—	—	—	—	—

Talia Kushynski - Meet-by-Meet Scores/Placements

Date	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
1/09	—	—	—	—	—
1/18	—	—	—	—	—
1/23	—	—	—	<u>9.450</u>	—
1/25	—	—	—	—	—
1/30	—	—	—	—	—
2/15	—	—	—	—	—
2/22	—	—	—	—	—
2/27	—	—	—	—	—
3/8	—	—	—	—	—
3/15	—	—	—	—	—
3/21	—	—	—	—	—
4/4	—	—	—	—	—
4/16					
4/17					
Average	—	—	—	—	—
09 High	—	—	—	—	—
Career-Hi	—	—	—	9.675	—

Anna Li - Meet-by-Meet Scores/Placements

Date	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
1/09	—	9.850 (3t)	—	—	—
1/18	—	9.875 (1)	—	—	—
1/23	—	9.825 (5)	9.850 (3t)	—	—
1/25	—	9.450 (10)	9.425 (10)	—	—
1/30	—	9.850 (3)	—	—	—
2/15	—	9.900 (1)	9.100 (21)	—	—
2/22	—	—	—	—	—
2/27	—	9.825 (4t)	<u>9.425</u>	—	—
3/8	—	8.550 (12)	—	—	—
3/15	—	9.825 (8t)	—	—	—
3/21	—	9.900 (1t)	—	—	—
4/4	—	9.900 (1)	—	—	—
4/16					
4/17					
Average	—	9.705	9.458	—	—
09 High	—	9.900	9.850	—	—
Career-Hi	9.900	9.975	9.950	9.925	39.600

Brittani McCullough - Meet-by-Meet Scores/Placements

Date	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
1/09	—	—	—	—	—
1/18	<u>9.650</u>	<u>9.800</u>	—	—	—
1/23	9.950 (2)	9.800 (6t)	—	—	—
1/25	9.825 (3t)	9.925 (2t)	—	—	—
1/30	9.650 (10)	9.800 (6)	—	9.225	—
2/15	9.875 (5t)	9.800 (8t)	—	9.675 (15)	—
2/22	9.875 (7t)	9.850 (3t)	—	9.675 (20)	—
2/27	9.800 (7t)	9.675 (10)	—	9.875 (2t)	—
3/8	9.775 (12)	9.850 (6t)	—	9.825 (9t)	—
3/15	—	9.775 (11t)	—	9.850 (8t)	—
3/21	9.850 (10t)	9.825 (9t)	—	9.850 (6t)	—
4/4	9.850 (8t)	9.775 (13t)	—	9.875 (7t)	—
4/16					
4/17					
Average	9.828	9.808	—	9.804	—
09 High	9.950	9.925	—	9.875	—
Career-Hi	9.950	9.925	9.900	9.875	39.375

Alyssa Pritchett - Meet-by-Meet Scores/Placements

Date	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
1/09	9.800 (8t)	—	—	—	—
1/18	—	—	—	—	—
1/23	<u>9.775</u>	—	—	—	—
1/25	—	—	—	—	—
1/30	—	—	—	—	—
2/15	—	—	—	—	—
2/22	<u>9.650</u>	—	—	—	—
2/27	—	—	—	—	—
3/8	—	—	—	—	—
3/15	—	—	—	<u>8.975</u>	—
3/21	—	—	—	—	—
4/4	—	—	—	—	—
4/16					
4/17					
Average	9.800	—	—	—	—
09 High	9.800	—	—	—	—
Career-Hi	9.800	—	—	—	—

Mizuki Sato - Meet-by-Meet Scores/Placements

Date	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
1/09	9.825 (7)	<u>8.450</u>	<u>9.800</u>	9.825 (3t)	—
1/18	9.900 (1t)	—	9.250	9.900 (1)	—
1/23	9.850 (5t)	<u>9.200</u>	<u>9.775</u>	9.850 (2)	—
1/25	9.775 (5t)	—	—	9.900 (1t)	—
1/30	9.750 (7t)	—	—	9.300 (11)	—
2/15	—	—	—	9.425 (22)	—
2/22	9.775 (17t)	—	—	9.850 (4t)	—
2/27	9.775 (9t)	—	<u>9.750</u>	9.800 (7t)	—
3/8	9.800 (11)	—	—	9.850 (7t)	—
3/15	9.850 (6t)	—	9.575 (7)	9.850 (8t)	—
3/21	9.825 (17t)	—	9.775 (18t)	9.850 (6t)	—
4/4	9.900 (3t)	—	9.750 (12t)	9.850 (11t)	—
4/16					
4/17					
Average	9.820	—	9.700	9.771	—
09 High	9.900	—	9.775	9.900	—
Career-Hi	9.900	—	9.775	9.900	—

Allison Taylor - Meet-by-Meet Scores/Placements

Date	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
1/09	—	—	—	<u>9.725</u>	—
1/18	—	<u>9.725</u>	—	—	—
1/23	—	—	—	<u>9.700</u>	—
1/25	—	<u>9.750</u>	—	—	—
1/30	—	—	—	—	—
2/15	—	—	—	—	—
2/22	—	n/a	—	—	—
2/27	—	<u>9.100</u>	—	—	—
3/8	—	—	—	—	—
3/15	—	—	—	—	—
3/21	—	—	—	—	—
4/4	—	—	—	—	—
4/16					
4/17					
Average	—	—	—	—	—
09 High	—	—	—	—	—
Career-Hi	—	9.800	—	9.150	—

Niki Tom - Meet-by-Meet Scores/Placements

Date	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
1/09	—	—	9.775 (8t)	9.750 (5t)	—
1/18	9.775 (6)	—	9.850 (3)	9.875 (2t)	—
1/23	—	—	—	9.825 (3)	—
1/25	<u>9.750</u>	<u>9.750</u>	<u>9.725</u>	9.700 (8)	—
1/30	<u>9.700</u>	—	9.900 (1t)	9.775 (4t)	—
2/15	—	—	9.875 (1t)	9.650 (16t)	—
2/22	—	9.750 (11)	9.000 (24)	9.625 (21)	—
2/27	—	9.375 (11)	9.875 (1t)	<u>9.800</u>	—
3/8	—	—	9.800 (7t)	—	—
3/15	—	—	9.750 (5t)	—	—
3/21	—	—	9.875 (6t)	—	—
4/4	—	—	9.750 (12t)	9.875 (7t)	—
4/16					
4/17					
Average	9.775	9.563	9.745	9.759	—
09 High	9.775	9.750	9.900	9.875	—
Career-Hi	9.825	9.750	9.900	9.875	—

Vanessa Zamarripa - Meet-by-Meet Scores/Placements

Date	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
1/09	9.900 (3)	9.800 (8)	8.800 (12)	9.750 (5t)	38.250 (4)
1/18	9.900 (1t)	9.850 (2t)	9.825 (4)	9.825 (4t)	39.400 (1)
1/23	10.00 (1)	9.850 (1t)	9.025 (11)	9.800 (4)	38.675 (3)
1/25	9.900 (1)	9.950 (1)	9.775 (7)	9.875 (3t)	39.500 (2)
1/30	9.875 (3)	9.775 (7)	9.700 (9)	—	—
2/15	10.00 (1)	9.850 (3t)	9.825 (5t)	9.325 (23)	39.000 (2t)
2/22	10.00 (1)	9.850 (3t)	9.275 (22)	—	—
2/27	9.900 (2t)	9.800 (6t)	9.875 (1t)	9.800 (7t)	39.375 (1)
3/8	9.925 (2t)	9.900 (3t)	9.250 (12)	9.925 (2t)	39.000 (4)
3/15	9.950 (1)	9.900 (1t)	<u>9.850</u>	9.925 (2t)	—
3/21	9.875 (7t)	9.800 (12t)	9.900 (2t)	9.825 (14t)	39.400 (3)
4/4	9.900 (3t)	9.850 (2t)	9.775 (11)	9.875 (7t)	39.400 (3)
4/16					
4/17					
Average	9.927	9.848	9.548	9.793	39.111
09 High	10.00	9.950	9.900	9.925	39.500
Career-Hi	10.00	9.950	9.900	9.925	39.500

10.0 Spotlight - Niki Tom

Meet the sophomore from Northridge, CA in the latest 10.0 Spotlight.

Mar. 26, 2009

Sophomore Niki Tom is the featured gymnast in 10.0 Spotlight, which profiles a member of the UCLA gymnastics squad throughout the season. Tom is a first-team All-Pac-10 performer on the balance beam, where she has captured three individual victories this season. She has posted a career-best of 9.9 on the event and also recorded a career-high 9.875 on floor this season. In 2007, she qualified for Level 10 Nationals for the first time in her career and placed fifth in the all-around.



Previous Entries

Talk about your experience at Level 10 Nationals in 2007.

2007 was my senior year in high school and my final year competing in J.O., and I was determined to qualify for Level 10 Nationals in Ohio. Nationals was the first meet I competed in where the main focus was on the team. And I loved it! I have always been a huge fan of competition, but competing for/with five other girls is so much more rewarding than competing for yourself. There is no doubt that I was extremely excited and shocked to place fifth individually in the all-around at my first nationals and to have the best meet of my club career on that given day, but what was even more amazing was winning the team title. Our team consisted of three or four first-time qualifiers and only two veterans and came out with a win for Region 1!

You came to UCLA as a walk-on. Did you consider going to other schools on scholarship?

Ever since I was a little girl, I have always wanted to attend UCLA for both academic and athletic reasons. When I was younger, I told myself that even if I could not get a scholarship for gymnastics at UCLA, I would get accepted into the school academically and then somehow earn a position on the team. Not doing collegiate gymnastics was NOT an option. As college approached and before I met Miss Val, I knew I had to keep my options open and definitely considered looking at other schools where I could earn a scholarship. But after I met with Miss Val and she offered me a walk-on position, I could not pass up the opportunity to go to the most successful academic and athletic university in the world. I also knew I could earn a scholarship in the future, which has only driven me to prove myself. I had accomplished my dream of going to UCLA and being on the gymnastics team, now the new goal became to earn a scholarship. (I am now ready for goal # 3 - win a National Championship)

You've learned a lot of new skills since coming to UCLA. What skill are you most proud of learning? And how did you overcome your dislike of back tumbling on beam?

There are a few new skills that I have learned since being at UCLA that I am proud of. The first is my double pike on floor - I have always twisted, and this season is the first time I have competed it. The second skill is my back handspring, back-tuck kick open on beam (Chen). The third, and definitely the most fun, was learning how to do a double-twisting double layout dismount off bars over the summer! (Thanks to the coaching of Marci, Al, and Zuk!)

Even though beam is one of my favorite events, back tumbling is not one of my first choices when it comes to skills. The one main reason I overcame this dislike was Miss Val telling me, "You have to put the tuck-open series in if you want to make the line-up." And just like that it was officially in my routine. Don't get me wrong; I have definitely had my fair share of drills and bruises (just ask the girls), but what gymnast doesn't like battle wounds?! Shockingly, the Chen has become one of my new favorite skills to compete.

What would you say is your biggest attribute as a member of this team?

My dedication in and out of the gym. I try my hardest to lead by example.

What was your most memorable gymnastics moment?

My most memorable gymnastics moment actually just happened this past weekend at the Pac-10 Championships. The meet was extremely close throughout the entire competition, and we had not reached our potential on the first three events. Beam was our last rotation, and we knew we had to hit 6-for-6 routines to win. The pressure was on, and we were ready to win a Pac-10 Championship. One after another, each and every one of us hit clean routines. I have never felt so confident during a beam rotation in my life. The energy was out of this world, and there was a sense of reassurance and poise that let everyone watching know we were going to stick. Committing as a team to "go big with no regrets" and watching everyone put their commitments into action was surreal. These are the moments the team lives for!

What was your best blooper moment in the gym or in competition?

Obviously every gymnast has numerous wedgie stories, but I think my best blooper moment would have to be in Level 8 while training on bars. I was doing a straddle back, and my coach had left a spotting block in-between the bars. He said I would be fine and would not kick it, so I went, and what do you know? I kicked it and ended up peeling off the high bar to completely

miss both hands and catch the low bar with my neck, leaving me to do a baby giant around the bar with my neck and no hands. How I managed to catch the bar with my neck I do not know, but it was hilarious and probably my coaches' nightmare. The best part was that I went to school the next day, and people asked me, "Is that a hickey?!" haha

What are your interests outside of gymnastics?

With the lack of spare time, I have not been able to really find any major interests outside of gym besides liking anything sports related. But I do know that after I am finished with gymnastics, I am really interested in traveling and going skydiving and bungee jumping.

What are you studying in school and what are your career aspirations?

I am currently a Physiological Sciences major. I am not quite sure what I'd like to do specifically, but I have always wanted to be involved in the medical/health field. I would love to do something related to nutrition or possibly radiology. I am hoping to do internships during my remaining summers so I can get a feel for what I'd like to focus on.

What has been your favorite class at UCLA so far and why?

My favorite class since I have been at UCLA is Social Welfare. The professor was amazingly entertaining and made a three-hour lecture seem like 30 minutes. Most of all, it was a nice break from my math and science courses. Every topic was extremely eye-opening and made you think about all of the things we take for granted. I have actually, just recently, been thinking of possibly looking into a Social Welfare minor.

What is your earliest memory of UCLA Gymnastics?

My earliest memory of UCLA Gymnastics is coming to all of the home meets with my mom, dad and sister, starting when I was about 10 years old (I just realized that for the past nine years I have had at least one type of UCLA Gymnastics poster hanging on my wall!). My family and I would go every Sunday, and every time I would sit and watch the girls in amazement. I probably could have sat there all day if my parents had not forced me to go home. I remember when my dad would stand in line with me at the end of the meets to get autographs and would tell me that I could compete on that same exact floor in Pauley some day. It is insane for me to think that my ultimate goal as a little girl has become a reality and that our team has that very same impact on so many young kids. Nothing is impossible, and I am truly living my dream.

Lightning Round

What is your guilty pleasure?

Twist/Yogurtland

Which movie can you watch over and over again without getting sick of it?

Wedding Crashers and *SuperBad* - "BOOP!" (that one is for you Forte!)

All-time favorite gymnast?

Leah Homma

Favorite event to compete on?

Beam and floor

Something you can't live without

My Bunny from the Northridge earthquake, my sophomore class, and Chinese Chicken Salad

Describe yourself in one word.

Accountable

Describe your team in one word.

Tenacious

What quote or saying do you live by?

"The harder you work, the harder it is to surrender." - Vince Lombardi

What is your internet home page?

UCLABruins.com

If you could trade places with any member of your team, who would it be and why?

Chris Manfred Waller. I would pay to be Chris for one day for multiple reasons: 1. His insane amount of energy/craziness, 2. His amazing dance skills that we're all jealous of, 3. He is the busiest man on Earth, and I have no idea how he does it all with so much enthusiasm 24/7.



Ariana Berlin

10.0 Spotlight - Ariana Berlin

Meet the senior from San Diego in the latest 10.0 Spotlight.

March 12, 2009

Senior Ariana Berlin is the featured gymnast in 10.0 Spotlight, which profiles a member of the UCLA gymnastics squad throughout the season. Berlin has been one of the most consistent gymnasts in UCLA history, hitting over 96% of her career routines. She has also never missed a meet in her career, competing in 53 straight meets. Berlin, who is a two-time All-Pac-10 honoree in the all-around, has recorded career-highs of 9.975 on bars and 9.9 on vault, beam and floor. As an accomplished b-girl, Berlin has infused her unique dance style into her gymnastics. Last weekend against Georgia, just minutes after recording a career-high 39.5 in the all-around, she performed with her dance crew World Famous. Berlin will be competing for the final time in Pauley Pavilion this Sunday against Nebraska.

How has it been trying to balance your gymnastics and dance? Has it been difficult to juggle your gymnastics practices and competitions with responsibilities within your major (World Arts & Culture, with dance emphasis), on top of being in your own crew? Is it hard on your body to do all of that, and how do you handle any time conflicts with the three?

While dance is a big part of my life and another passion, I do have priorities right now. Don't get me wrong, I will dance and perform any time I have a chance. I have really been privileged to have a coach like Miss Val who really understands the passion of a dancer. Because of this, she is so supportive of my dance career and tries to help me fit it in where ever I can. Dancing is definitely hard on my body, especially breaking. I have not been doing as much breaking because it affects my knee, which needs to be feeling 100% for training and competition.

How does your dance background help your gymnastics, and how does your gymnastics background help your dancing?

My dance background allows me to view each competition as a performance where I am putting a show on for the audience, rather than a stressful competition between teams. Gymnastics has helped me be confident when entering a breaking battle. Gymnastics has also given me such upper body strength that allows me to break a lot easier, learn difficult skills, and be in total control of my body.

Have you found it to be difficult to sell your style of gymnastics to judges and/or fans?

I definitely think the judges and crowd have warmed up to my style of dance. I always felt that the crowd enjoyed my routines but the judges were not as pleased. I remember hearing some negative feedback about my routine my freshman year, but as the years have gone by, the judges seem to have warmed up to my style of dance. Once in a while I'll catch a judge smiling and nodding her head to my music while I'm competing floor.

What was it like last weekend doing all-around at the gymnastics meet and then immediately changing into your dance gear to perform at the end of the meet with your crew?

I felt like I competed two different meets! I was super focused on the gymnastics competition, and the second that ended, I had to change my focus to the performance. Double the nerves, double the excitement. It felt so great to be able to show the gymnastics world another huge aspect of my life.

What are your immediate dance career plans after gymnastics season is over, and what are your post-dance career plans? Will we be seeing you audition for any TV dance competitions anytime soon?

My immediate dance career plans would consist of dancing with my crew "World Famous" and getting back with my dance agency, where I will start going on auditions again. Post-dance career, I would really love to get into the film industry. I am a film minor, and I have found this to be yet another passion of mine. I would really love to be a film/sound editor or director. Auditioning for any TV dance competitions? I guess you will all have to wait and see!

For someone who had such a big layoff from gymnastics (about five years) and who couldn't train full-time for about two years, you've been able to do what few people have done in the sport - compete in every single meet of your career. To what do you attribute your ability to compete week in and week out? Mental fortitude? Physical strength? Or just a strong-willed desire to

compete?

I think it is a combination of all those things. Mental game is definitely one of the most important. I try to be positive in everything I do, even if that means saying to myself "you can do it, you can do it," over and over again so that negative thoughts don't come to thought. Regarding physical strength, I don't think I have EVER done as much rehab as I do at UCLA in my life! Although I am not a huge fan of it, I have definitely felt the effects. My leg is so much stronger, which allows me to make my skills bigger and better. And the last thing, strong-willed desire to compete. I LOVE competing, and if it is within my power to be out on the competition floor performing, I will be there!

What was it like to do gymnastics with the rod in your leg, and what is it like now to do gymnastics without it?

When the rod was in my femur, I was in constant pain. Although some days were better than others, I could always feel pain in my right thigh. Training was very limited. I was able to train on my leg MAYBE once a week. Although I was able to compete, I was never able to train the more difficult skills that I would have wanted to train. Now that the rod is out, I can almost train as much as my teammates. The trainers and coaches are still very cautious about how much pounding I can do, but the amount of training I can do now is a significant improvement. I am now able to train a double arabian, which I have been hoping to compete for the past 3 1/2 years and competed for the first time this year.

You've been the leadoff on pretty much every event during your career. It's not the most glamorous job in the world, and you rarely get rewarded with big scores going early in the rotation. Do you enjoy the leadoff role or would you rather compete later in the lineup?

I absolutely loved the leadoff role. It felt great being able to set the tone for the rest of the team on each event. Although I didn't get the highest scores, I wouldn't have switched my role with anyone!

What would you say has been your most memorable moment as a Bruin gymnast?

It is impossible to pinpoint one moment because there have been infinite! Every day going into the gym, being surround by the best coaching staff in the world, laughing, crying and working my butt off with my amazing teammates are all my most memorable moments in which I experience every day!

You've got senior day coming up on Sunday. Is there anything you'd like to say to the Bruin faithful who have supported you and your team throughout your four years?

I can't even explain how thankful I am for everyone who has supported me throughout my career. It was such a blessing to be a part of UCLA gymnastics and to be surrounded by such incredible fans, staff, coaches, and teammates. My four years as a Bruin could not have been any better!

Lightning Round

Favorite dance movie?

Dirty Dancing

Favorite dancer and/or dance crew?

Jabbawockeez

Does Beat Freaks' second-place finish on America's Best Dance Crew help or hurt your crew World Famous?

I LOVE the Beat Freaks! I'm not sure if their second-place finish will help or hurt our crew. I guess World Famous will just have to wait and see.

What's the one thing you would change about college gymnastics if you could?

Subjective scoring! (I don't know how, but if someone figures it out please let me know!)

If you could wear anything for gymnastics, what would you wear?

A slightly baggy t-shirt, spandex shorts, and socks

Favorite UCLA leo?

The periwinkle leo with the white sleeves

All-time favorite gymnast?

Jeanette Antolin

Favorite song?

Busta Rhymes - "Don't Touch Me"

Describe yourself in one word.

DORK

Describe your team in one word

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

PAINTER: Berlin goes from UCLA gymnast to 'B girl'

[By Jill Painter, columnist](#)

Posted: 03/09/2009 12:00:00 AM PDT

UCLA gymnast Ariana Berlin had just finished her floor routine, which was flawless except for a misstep on the landing of a 2 -twist.

Even though the dual meet against top-ranked Georgia wasn't finished, Berlin ran to the locker room and covered her sequined, navy blue leotard with black jeans, a black jacket, black T-shirt with gold lettering that read: "World Famous" and red Converse shoes.

She hurriedly slipped into her shoes without socks because she wanted to cheer on the rest of her teammates Sunday.

She kept her hair in the traditional ponytail worn by girls who hurl themselves in the air off vaults, fling their bodies around uneven bars and do flips and splits and jumps on a four-inch wide beam.

And thus, Berlin made the transformation from gymnast to "B girl."

If you're not fly or hip or young, you probably have no idea what a "B girl" does. The "B" is short for break dancer, although if you ask Berlin that term is so old school.

She and her "B girls" have tried out for television's reality series "America's Best Dance Crew" twice, but didn't make the show.

Somersaults and back handsprings give way to hand hops and top rocking and six-steps and freezes (posing in a dance move) and other such fundamental break dancing moves. The gymnastics meet was over, but few people were filing out of Pauley Pavilion.

UCLA gymnastics coach Valorie Kondos Field was jamming her high-heeled shoes on the floor to the beat and clapping and smiling.

Georgia gymnasts watched, too, then some of them tried some of the moves as they were leaving the gym.

For the first time in her career, Berlin - a senior at UCLA - was in her element. Break dancing is her passion.

"A lot of fans really like my floor routine," the 21-year-old Berlin said. "For them to see me out here in my world of dance was great. This is where I'm from. These are my 'B girls.' My girls are my family."

Berlin's parents watched, too, as she did her trademark hand hops.

She moved around the floor on her hands while her legs made a walking motion in the air. She used her hands to "walk" or hop up and down.

The skill requires crazy upper body strength.

"Hand hops are a piece of cake for her," said Susan Berlin, Ariana's mother.

Ariana Berlin, who stands at 5 feet 2, was a natural at it. Kondos Field met Berlin when she was dancing in shows at Sea World. Kondos Field choreographed the shows.

"She was doing that when she was 13 and a little peanut of a thing," Kondos Field said. "That's not the stuff that impresses me."

"What impresses me most is the intricacy of the choreography. I try to pick up the steps, and I look like a total fool. I can't do it."

Berlin started hip-hop dancing when she was 4. At 13, she made the world-renowned dance troupe Culture Shock. After a couple years of training, she helped form the break-dance group World Famous Crew. At Berlin's request, Kondos Field helped orchestrate the gig after UCLA's meet.

Berlin hopes to parlay her how-does-she-do-those-moves into a career one day, but she cannot get paid for performances as mandated by NCAA rules.

Berlin had a whirlwind few days. On Thursday, she injured her knee after she stood up following a team meeting. She was in tears and wasn't sure if she could compete or even dance.

Berlin was cleared by doctors to compete in just two of four events, but she felt fine and competed on all four and had a career-best day.

She and her crew members planned for a post-meet show with her and without her in case she couldn't dance.

Berlin scored an all-time best 9.9 on the balance beam. She also had a career-best 39.5 in the all-around competition and finished second to Georgia's Courtney Kupets, a silver and bronze medalist in the 2004 Athens Olympics for the United States.

Berlin is no stranger to dealing with injuries.

She's had three knee surgeries and was involved in a horrific car accident when she was 15 that left her with two broken legs and a laundry list of other injuries.

"She'd lost her spirit," Susan said.

Through dance, Berlin found it again. She walked on to UCLA in 2006 and figured she'd showcase her dance moves in creative floor exercises.

Berlin was so good she was named the Pac-10 co-Freshman of the Year and earned a scholarship.

Jazmyne Jenkins and Julie Dismuskes, two members of "World Famous Crew," cried as they watched Berlin perform gymnastics routines live for the first time.

Berlin traded her sweet-as-pie demeanor for sometimes stern faces while dancing for Bruins fans. When in a battle with other dance crews, there's fun and smiles for some poses but it's serious, too.

They gave the crowd the feel of a break-dancing battle.

"I hope we showed people that (break dancing) is still going on and women are doing this and doing it well," Berlin said. "It would be nice if people walked away and followed our crew."

Just don't try walking away on your hands. Leave that to the "Bgirls."

The Fabulous Forum

The who, what, where, when, why — and why not — of L.A. sports

The best deal in Los Angeles sports?

1:11 PM, March 9, 2009



The two teams that met in Pauley Pavilion this weekend owned 11 of the last 12 national championships.

It sounded like something out of the **John Wooden** era, but it didn't look like it. He probably wouldn't have approved of all the sequins (though he is a big fan of the sport).

Georgia edged UCLA [by a score of 197.725 to 196.125](#) in a women's gymnastics dual meet, with the Bulldogs (ahem, Gym Dogs) sweeping all of the individual events.

Odds are, you missed it. And odds are, you made a mistake.

There's a lot of competition for our attention in Los Angeles. The entertainment capital of the world doesn't export everything -- we keep a lot of it for ourselves. Sports fans are particularly lucky, though often conflicted. Should you spend \$2,500 for a court-side seat at a Laker game? Or drive to Arizona and spend \$100 for a couple hours watching guys who are going to get cut from the Dodgers?

Sure, Hollywood -- and Mannywood -- have their allure, but many people flee for greener pastures, smaller crowds and a higher quality of life. No need to move to Portland or somewhere in the Midwest. Try Westwood for a few hours. [Tickets range](#) from \$6 to \$12, and you'll be rubbing elbows with Olympians. At least seven were in Pauley Pavilion this weekend, some medalists sitting inconspicuously in the stands.

Bruin head coach **Valorie Kondos Field** wasn't shy about making her pitch. "On a Sunday afternoon, what better event to take your family to? It's cheaper than a movie, it's healthy, it's good for young children. They're great role models -- we always talk about the girls' GPAs. I think it's one of the greatest events L.A. offers."

Want entertainment bang for your buck? Remember that most teams score points with a hoop or crossing a line. Gymnasts score points by impressing the judges. That means they have to impress you too.



Yes, **Kobe Bryant** is a tough guy because he can put up big numbers even when he's injured. But so can **Ariana Berlin** (pictured), a UCLA senior who wasn't sure if she could compete after injuring her knee on Thursday. Not only did she attempt every event, but she also scored a personal record 39.5 in the all-around. Then she went backstage, changed clothes and put on a post-meet [performance with the World Famous Dance Crew](#).

Would Kobe come out after scoring 39, *injured*, and get down with the **Jabberwockies**? (Answer: No, but **Shaq** might [during pre-game warm-ups](#).)

The Bruins were so committed on Sunday, they had their best performance on the floor routines -- a final event held after Georgia had already put the meet out of reach. Putting in the third string? Leave that for football.

UCLA gymnastics aren't exactly a secret. Average event attendance ranks behind only football and men's basketball among all the school's sports. Sunday's crowd of 4,709 would have compared favorably to a USC men's basketball game. The Trojans, ranked in the top 20 earlier in the season, averaged 5,618 fans this year.

The Bruins will host Nebraska at 2 p.m. this Sunday in Westwood. If you're a parent, it's your last chance to bring your future Olympian to a meet this season.

"Come out and see for yourself," said Kondos Field. "If you don't believe me, you can write me rotten notes -- and I'll read every one of them."

Wouldn't you like to hear **Phil Jackson** or **Joe Torre** make that kind of an offer?

-- Adam Rose

Top photo: UCLA gymnastics fans cheer for the Bruins at Pauley Pavilion. Credit: Don Liebig/UCLA Photography.

Bottom photo: UCLA's Ariana Berlin doing a floor routine. Credit: Don Liebig/UCLA Photography.

Posted by Adam Rose on March 9, 2009 in [Adam Rose](#) , [Gymnastics](#) , [UCLA](#) | [Permalink](#)



Anna Li

10.0 Spotlight - Anna Li

Meet the junior from Aurora, IL in the latest 10.0 Spotlight.

March 4, 2009

Junior Anna Li is the featured gymnast in 10.0 Spotlight, which profiles a member of the UCLA gymnastics squad throughout the season. Li is a five-time All-American and the 2006 Pac-10 co-champion on the balance beam. She has amassed 30 individual victories in her career and posted career-bests of 9.975 on bars, 9.95 on beam, 9.925 on floor and 9.9 on vault. Last year, she scored a career-high 39.6 to win the all-around in front of a hometown crowd at the IGI Chicago-Style meet. Li was a two-time USA Championships competitor and was coached by her parents, Jiani Wu and Yuejiu Li, who won Olympic medals in Pauley Pavilion at the 1984 Olympic Games.

You had arthroscopic surgery in November to have bone spurs removed. You're competing on bars and beam now, but do you think you'll be able to compete on floor this year? Your floor routine this year is quite a departure from your past two routines.

I'm still not sure yet! I would absolutely love to compete floor this year, but since my foot surgery, it hasn't been feeling too well. It's definitely been frustrating, but I really want to compete floor because it IS very very different! Originally, I was going to use the music Hoppy (Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs) has, but I told Miss Val that I wanted fun, upbeat music, and it took a lot of convincing! She actually called me in one morning to work on my routine, and it was the day after I had started begging Chris to convince her, and Miss Val came in the gym and played the "new" music that I wanted, and I didn't even realize that she changed my music!! She just walked over to me and said we're changing the whole beginning and then played the music and showed me the beginning! I was so excited and no longer bothered her about wanting to change my floor music! haha *Thanks Chris!

With your parents being Olympic medalists, you obviously have a great pedigree in the sport. Was it always a given that you were going to follow in their footsteps?

Actually, they didn't want me to do gymnastics, but I always LOVED this sport. I've always had so much passion for gymnastics, and it's been a huge part of my life! The first time I was ever in the gym, I was 17 days old. I always just played around in the gym until one day I saw the "older girls" get sized for their competition leos, and I told my mom I wanted one. The only way I could get one was if I competed, and so that's when it all began! I wanted a shiny competition leo!!

What was it like training with the Chinese team before the Olympics, and what are the Chinese gyms like?

In the summers when I went back to visit my dad, I always made sure I kept in shape! However, when I trained in the Chinese National Training Center, I always tried to stay out of their way!! But it was great training with them and watching how amazing they were! My dad would call me over and say "watch this", and he would tell a gymnast to do something crazy! It's also fun being friends with the girls and guys in the training center - but overall it's a great experience to train with them, and they are definitely amazing gymnasts!

The Chinese National Training Center is HUGE! It's very, very nice, compared to what it used to be like when my mom and dad both trained in China. I actually used to train at the old gym, and it was smaller and definitely, equipment-wise, not as nice! The training atmosphere, I would say, is quite strict! But I believe my dad definitely lightened the mood when he was in the gym! The girls train a lot of hours, and usually they are grouped into about five girls per coach. Overall their training atmosphere is really nice!

During your freshman season, your parents were here for your first home meet in Pauley. Did they share with you was it like for them to watch you compete in the same venue they won Olympic medals in?

Well, for me, it's just amazing to actually think that I'm here competing in Pauley Pavilion, where they both medaled in the 1984 Olympics! There was an article in the LA Times when they came, and I had no idea about it until I saw it in the newspaper! When I talked to them about it, they never even imagined that they would have a daughter attend such a great university and also compete at the same place where they both won medals in the Olympics!

You've been experimenting with different versions of your bar routine this year and pretty much throwing every trick in the book.

Have you decided on a final version, or do you play it by ear, depending on what the team needs at the time? In an ideal situation, what would you like your routine to consist of?

Haha, yes I have played around with many different bar routines! I believe right now we have come to a conclusion. However, I do still play it

by ear! The ideal routine right now is Shaposhnikova to bail to stalder up to the high bar, a Tkatchev, and then either a double layout or a layout full out. Usually, the coaches tell me to base it on how I feel, which is usually what is most comfortable for me before I compete. And so far, this routine seems to work out pretty well!

You taught yourself the Tkatchev, correct?

Yes! It was after my dad had left for China, and I felt that the only skill I had never really tried or learned was a regular Tkatchev. So I was watching the guys do it on the high bar and started learning the tap and timing of it all. When I threw the first one, I think I shot back probably 20 feet!! But once I realized I didn't need to throw that hard, I got the hang of it. I learn skills well just by doing a few and feeling it.

Describe your most memorable gymnastics moment.

I've had many memorable gymnastics moments! One that comes to mind would be making it to Level 10 Nationals my first year competing Level 10. It was definitely a shock that I made it, considering how naturally weak I was. I couldn't even climb the rope with my legs then!! (Here's my beam routine from Nationals: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SwhcbNdhjA>) Also, making it to USA Championships two years in a row while struggling with training on my fractured foot during both years was definitely memorable! After the second year of competing and training on it fractured was when I had to get two screws put in. And lastly, when I committed to UCLA and stood at Janss Steps! And all the competitions with such great teammates and coaches and trainers it's all so exciting!

What are your interests outside of gymnastics?

Outside of the gym, I'm always looking for SOMETHING to do! I'm usually up for anything and always looking for something new. I love playing other sports for fun, but I haven't settled on something specific. I've played around with some martial arts recently, but besides always being active and playing other sports, I love my couch as well! Sometimes I like to just go for a drive around LA and see what's around me. Beverly Hills and all the famous people and their mansions are just 5 minutes away! I love driving because it gives me time to appreciate where I am and just think about my life!

You are known for your stellar level of difficulty and the artistic quality of your gymnastics. Have you ever considered going to Cirque du Soleil or any other kind of performance work after your gymnastics career is over?

I have definitely considered staying active, that's for sure! I know I would not be able to go from 22 years of gymnastics to sitting behind a desk all day! I can barely do that now in class (Miss Val is probably rolling her eyes at me now haha). But yes, I am looking forward to working with Miss Val in San Diego with SeaWorld when I'm done competing here at UCLA. After that, if I don't go into Cirque, I've actually been wanting to pursue being a stunt double, similar to a previous UCLA gymnast, Heidi Moneymaker! I've spoken to her, and that is also why I have been playing around with martial arts outside of gymnastics!

The Bruins are competing against Georgia this weekend. The last time Georgia came to Pauley Pavilion, you clinched the win for your team with a 9.9 on floor. Talk about that moment and talk about what your team needs to do to pull off the upset again.

My freshman year, I remember just walking into the meet and going straight to Miss Val and saying "We're going to win this today!" She looked at me kind of oddly, but I just knew we were going to win it! Our team this year is so mentally and physically strong that I know we are definitely by far one of the strongest teams out there this year. We all know what we need to work on to prepare for this weekend, and we are all excited to compete against one of the best teams out there! It's going to be a great competition, and the Bruins are ready to dominate. :-)

Lightning Round

Favorite sports movie?

American Anthem! (only because my dad's in it - haha)

Can't-miss TV show?

NCIS, One Tree Hill, Friends

All-time favorite gymnast?

Catalina Ponor

Something you can't live without ...

My little sister Andi and my best friends. Oh - and my camera!

Favorite thing about LA?

Opportunities! EVERYTHING is right here!!

Favorite UCLA leotard?

The navy blue scalloped leo we wore for the first time my freshman year at Nationals!

What is your internet home page?

Apple start page since i just got a MacBook for Christmas.

Any pre-meet superstitions?

Just visualizations and listening to certain songs!

Describe yourself in one word

Passionate

Describe your team in one word

Champions

10.0 Spotlight - Brittani McCullough

Meet the redshirt sophomore from Corona in the latest 10.0 Spotlight.

Feb. 26, 2009

Redshirt sophomore Brittani McCullough is the featured gymnast in 10.0 Spotlight, which profiles a member of the UCLA gymnastics squad throughout the season. McCullough has battled through injuries throughout her career at UCLA, redshirting her freshman year in 2007 after a car accident severed a tendon in her toe. She returned to competition in 2008 and was having a very successful season before suffering a season-ending Achilles injury in the Bruins' last home meet. Despite her season being cut short, she was named the Pac-10 Freshman of the Year. McCullough came back yet again from her Achilles injury and a November ankle scope to post top marks for the Bruins this season. In her first weekend back, she scored career-highs of 9.95 on vault and 9.925 bars.



Previous Entries

You've had more than your share of injuries in this sport. What has kept you motivated to stay with gymnastics, and what did you tell yourself during your worst times of rehab and recovery in order to stay motivated?

I definitely have had my share of injuries, but I think what has kept me motivated to stay with gymnastics is first, that gymnastics is a sport that I love. Second, I really love a challenge, and coming back from an injury is the best challenge to have! During the worst times of rehab and recovery, I just kept reminding myself of my goal and reminding myself that everything happens for a reason. It also helped to focus on the small steps and small improvements that I made; it made a difference and helped me to realize that I was still on the path to recovery.

How did you deal with having to sit out your freshman year? And did you learn anything from it that helped you the second time around when you got hurt last year?

When I first found out that I was going to have to redshirt my freshman year, I was devastated, but I had to soon bring myself back to knowing and realizing that everything in life, good or bad, happens for a reason. Sitting out my freshman year taught me more about how gymnastics is a team sport and how you can help and contribute to your team by doing more than gymnastics. It also helped me to be more patient and learn my body as I went through my injury last year. I think the biggest thing I have learned from all of my injuries is patience.

What was going through your mind before your first full floor routine at the last home meet? You looked very emotional both before and after your performance.

Before my first full floor routine at the last home meet, I was so thankful that God brought me back onto the floor to compete again. I remembered all of the hard work that I put into coming back, and it hit me that it all finally was coming together. I was just very thankful and felt very blessed to be able to compete again.

Your floor routine gets a huge reaction from the crowd. Do you notice the reaction while you are performing it? Was this routine something Miss Val came up, or did you collaborate with the choreography? How did the runway walk come about?

I do notice the reaction that I am getting from the crowd, and to be honest, it makes me perform and use my expressions even more. The choreography for me was a lot of fun to come up with. It is always fun to practice it and even more fun to compete it. Miss Val chose the music and explained to me her vision for the routine. Then we both put our heads together to put the routine together. There were parts that I took from some dances that I did in church, and then we listened to the music and started dancing and putting things together. It was a lot of fun. Miss Val choreographed the runway walk. I figured out the part right before it, and then she took it from there.

Are you planning any upgrades to your floor routine as you start to come back from your injuries?

I do plan to upgrade my routine. I have started to work my full-in again and hope to put that in soon, and I also just started doing front-full front lay-out for my middle pass on Tuesday. I think that both of those are definite possibilities.

What is it like having your sister Brianna on the team with you?

I absolutely love having my sister on the team with me. My sister and I are very close, and I missed her so much when I left my freshman year. But having her here now is great! We definitely have a connection, and it's kind of funny because she can read my mind and tell me what I am going to say before I say it sometimes.

What was your most memorable gymnastics moment and your most memorable moment as a Bruin, outside of competition?

My most memorable gymnastics moment now would definitely have to be coming back from my injuries and competing floor again. That was a very big deal to me and has really shown me how everything does happen for a reason, but with hard work

and PATIENCE, so many things are possible. My most memorable moment as a Bruin outside of competition was when I was accepted into the UCLA School of Nursing.

You made a pretty rapid ascent from Level 10 to the U.S. National Team. Talk about what it was like to make it up to that level that quickly.

That year was so exciting for me. Just to be able to qualify to the Elite level and compete at the US Championships was amazing. It was so much fun to continue competing that entire year. I think traveling to all the places I did was the most exciting part. Also, making the US National Team was honestly icing on the cake for me at the end of that year. It all was just such a blessing and so much fun!

What are your interests outside of gymnastics?

As most people can probably tell, I love to dance (any kind of dance). I also love to hang out with my family and friends and do different things. I love kids, so any chance I have to babysit or play for a little while, I will take it.

What is the best thing about being a Bruin?

I think the best part about being a Bruin is meeting so many new and different people everyday. The people that we get to learn from are amazing people with amazing backgrounds. It is so cool to be in a place where there is so much history and so many legacies, and to be able to contribute to making our future history is really cool.

Lightning round

Favorite book?

Don't Make A Black Woman Take Off Her Earrings by Tyler Perry

Favorite movie?

Any movie by Tyler Perry

Can't-miss TV show?

Grey's Anatomy

Favorite musician?

India.Arie

Favorite website?

Facebook

All-time favorite gymnast?

Dominique Dawes

Favorite event to compete on?

Floor

Something you can't live without?

Graston (Thanks, Lorita)

Favorite leotard that you've worn at UCLA?

The scalloped leo

Something about yourself that few people know?

I sleep with more than one stuffed animal at night.

Describe yourself in one word.

Unique

Describe your team in one word.

United

10.0 Spotlight - Allison Taylor

Meet the sophomore from Dallas, TX in the latest 10.0 Spotlight.

Feb. 20, 2009

Sophomore Allison Taylor is the featured gymnast in 10.0 Spotlight, which profiles a member of the UCLA gymnastics squad throughout the season. The Dallas, TX native trained at the famed gymnastics club WOGA, home of the last two Olympic all-around champions. Taylor competed at the 2003 USA Championships and 2005 U.S. Classic and placed eighth on bars at the 2004 Voronin Cup in Moscow. Last season as a freshman, she competed on uneven bars in five meets, setting a career high of 9.8 at the Chicago Style Meet. Taylor has performed exhibition routines on both uneven bars and floor exercise this season, with highs of 9.75 on bars and 9.725 on floor.



Previous Entries

You've had to battle injuries since you've been at UCLA. What is your status now, and are you just concentrating your training on certain events only because of your injuries?

As of right now, I am healthy! Finally! (Everyone knock on wood as they are reading this, please!) I have battled injuries throughout my entire gymnastics career, and it is nice to finally be able to train consistently. When I was coming back from my injury last year, I mainly focused on bars and floor because that is what I could contribute on, but this year I am branching out! A couple of months ago, I began training beam again (thanks to Miss Val), and just within the last few weeks, I have started to vault again, which feels great. I finally feel like a whole gymnast again. I can't wait until summer when I can really start training to get back to where I was on those two events.

What intangibles would you say you bring to the team?

I would say that I bring just a general positive attitude to the team just by being the complete goober that I am. Especially in competitions, I try to keep the energy up and make the mood light. If you look for me during meets I will probably be doing some silly dance just to try and put a smile on everyone else's face. Ask any of my teammates ... I have excellent dance moves. NOT! But I do love dancing! I also try to be aware of everyone else's needs during practice and meets so that I can support them in any way I can. For example, in meets, I always bring Miss Val her glass of water before beam, and I know that Marci likes to have her flip flops!

Talk about what it was like training with the last two Olympic champions (Carly Patterson and Nastia Liukin). And do you think that the success of your club gym (WOGA) was due to an abundance of talent being there at once or to really great coaching?

Well, first of all, I have to say that it was an amazing experience to train with Carly and Nastia. Nastia and I practically grew up together and trained together, so watching her win was an emotional experience! It was very motivating to be surrounded by such great athletes all the time. I think that WOGA's success is definitely a combination of those two things - talent and coaching. Obviously, Valeri and Evgeny are amazing coaches who can bring so much to the table in terms of personal gymnastics experience and coaching experience. Their Russian coaching style is very important to their success. I think that the abundance of talent at WOGA is there because of the success that the gym has. Therefore, the talented girls want to go to the best gym to improve and reach their personal goals. Once you put good coaching, talent and lots of hard work together, you can create champions!

What made you decide to attend UCLA?

I went on several unofficial visits during my junior year, including one to UCLA. Within five minutes of being on campus, I knew that UCLA was the place for me. The campus is absolutely beautiful, and you can't beat the Southern California weather! The team was great, and I loved the coaches. They were so genuine and caring, I couldn't turn them down.

UCLA is known all over the world for its academic and athletic excellence, which was appealing to me. It is rare that you can get such a great education and have such a successful athletic program at the same school. Getting an education from UCLA is an unbelievable thing and will create so many opportunities for me later in life. Being part of an athletic program that has won 103 national championships is something I could not experience at any other school. IT'S GREAT TO BE ALIVE & BE A BRUIN!

You were one of two Bruins to be selected to attend the NCAA Leadership Conference this year. Talk about that experience.

Kevin Craddock from the track team and I were selected to be UCLA's representatives at the Division I NCAA Leadership Conference in San Diego. It was such a great honor to be selected by the administration. It was an amazing experience. I couldn't have imagined how much fun I had and what close friendships I made in the span of 3 days. We talked about leadership, sportsmanship and team dynamics. Not only did I learn so much about other people, but I learned a lot about myself and how to become a better leader on my team during the conference. Kevin and I had a blast and brought a lot of our ideas back to school to make some improvements on our campus. I got really close to my group, and everyone was crying on the last day! It was unbelievable how close we had all gotten. We still keep in touch with each other. It was definitely one of the best things I have done since being at UCLA.

What are you studying in school, and what are your career aspirations? I am a sociology major here at UCLA, and I love it! People watching is one of my favorite things, so a sociology major is appropriate. In terms of a career, I definitely want to go into something that involves sports. I am really interested in becoming a sports broadcaster or doing PR/Communications for a team. If I could end up working at UCLA in the athletic department I would be more than happy! (Hint, hint to our administration!)

What was your most memorable gymnastics moment?

My number one is definitely when I called Miss Val and told her that I was accepting her scholarship offer to UCLA. She started crying, and it was just the happiest moment of my life.

What is your best blooper moment in the gym or in competition?

Well, I have blooper moments every day! If you want to know my absolute most embarrassing moment, go ask Ariana Berlin, she'll be happy to tell you. But my best blooper moment in competition was at my Level 8 state meet. It was the last rotation, and I was going to win the all-around. I started my floor routine, was dancing all pretty and stepped in the corner for my first pass. I started running and went to hurdle, but my foot got caught, and I just ate it on my face. I didn't even make it to the hurdle! No roundoff ... no nothing. I just rolled across the floor on my head! I stood up and didn't really know what to do, so I just ran to the corner and kept going with my dance. Needless to say, I definitely didn't end up winning the meet. I wish I had the video online so you all could see it!

What are your interests outside of gymnastics?

I am really interested in other sports, actually. My parents definitely got the best of both worlds since they had a little girl who loved sports but was also a girly girl! I follow the NBA and the NFL mostly, and when the Tour de France comes around, I keep up with that (I am a HUGE Lance Armstrong fan!). Outside of gymnastics, I really like just hanging out with my friends and relaxing! I love to travel, even though I don't really have time for it at this point in my life. I just love seeing and experiencing new things. I can be very adventurous!

Was it the best thing about being a Bruin?

Everything! What I especially love about being a Bruin athlete is the amazing athletic family that you automatically have when you come to UCLA. Right away, I had 800 people surrounding me who were ready to support me in any way they could. Even if it's just a head nod of acknowledgement on Bruin Walk, you know that everyone has your back. I have made so many lifelong friendships and memories since I have been here that can never be replaced.

Lightning round

All-time favorite Dallas Maverick?

Jason "Jet" Terry

All-time favorite gymnast?

Nastia Liukin :)

If you had one song to pick as your daily anthem, what would it be?

"Fighter" by Christina Aguilera

What quote or saying do you live by?

"Everything happens for a reason."

Favorite event to compete on?

Floor. I love performing!

What are you addicted to?

Like Marci ... candy! Shhhhh! And also my boyfriend Danny.

Nickname?

Al, Big Tex, Little One

Any pre-meet superstitions?

I used to have to eat pasta every morning for breakfast before a meet! Yes, pasta for breakfast.

If you could trade places with any member of your team, who would it be and why?

I would want to trade places with either Elyse or Marci. They have competed at World Championships and Olympic Games. I just think that would be the most unbelievable experience.

Tell us something about yourself that people would be surprised to know.

I learned Spanish practically before I learned English.

Describe yourself in one word.

Loving

Describe your team in one word.

Determined

They say everything is bigger in Texas. What IS the biggest thing in Texas?

MY SMILE! ;)

Interview: Aisha Gerber (Canada)

Written by John Crumlish | Tuesday, February 17, 2009 [PRINT](#)

(4 votes, average 5.00 out of 5)

Although Canada's **Aisha Gerber** did not reach her original goal of competing at the 2008 Olympic Games, she is pursuing new ambitions as a freshman competitor for UCLA. "There is so much more to gymnastics than the Olympics," she told IG.



Aisha Gerber

Born June 21, 1990, in Thunder Bay, Ont., Gerber emerged as a top Canadian prospect while training under coach **Elvira Saadi** at the Cambridge Kips club. Saadi won team gold medals for the Soviet Union at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, the 1974 World Championships in Varna and the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal. As a coach, Saadi's most prominent gymnasts have included Soviet prodigy **Tatiana Groshkova** and 1996 and 2000 Canadian Olympian **Yvonne Tousek**. Tousek went on to compete for UCLA from 2001-2004.

Gerber's international successes included third place all-around at the 2006 American Cup in Philadelphia; fourth place (tie) on floor exercise and sixth place on balance beam at the 2006 World Cup of Ghent, Belgium; and sixth place on vault at the 2008 Tournament of Masters, a World Cup meet in Cottbus, Germany.

She won team bronze medals at the 2005 Pan American Championships in Rio de Janeiro and the 2006 Pacific Alliance Championships in Honolulu. In Canadian domestic competition, Gerber's best results included first all-around at the 2005 Elite Canada meet and first place on uneven bars at the 2005 Canadian Championships.

In late 2006, Gerber took a break from gymnastics, and resumed training in early 2007 at Oakville Gymnastics Club, under coaches **Kelly** and **Susan Manjak**, **Lorne Bobkin** and **Ashley Sportun**. In 2008, Gerber won vault at the Gymnix International in Montreal and competed on two events (vault and floor exercise) at the Canadian Championships, where she finished eighth on floor exercise.

Gerber is now midway through her freshman season at UCLA, where her teammates include 2008 Canadian Olympian **Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs** and 2004 Canadian Olympic team alternate **Marci Bernholtz**. She has not declared a major, but is interested in a career in athletic therapy or coaching and choreography.

In this IG Online interview, Gerber assesses her career to date, and describes the motivations that now drive her as a collegiate competitor.



Aisha Gerber

IG: We didn't see much of you after 2006. What was the nature of your absence from major competitions from 2006-2008?

AG: Toward the end of 2006 I decided to take a rest from gymnastics. My body was extremely worn down and, subsequently, I had lost all of my passion and drive to compete and train. When I left, I had no intentions of returning to the sport. Thankfully, time was the medicine I needed, and I made the decision to return to training in February 2007 with no laid-out plan of what I wanted in terms of returning to competition. But slowly I realized that I felt I owed it to myself to at least try for the Olympic dream that I had work all my life for.

IG: Looking back, what is your feeling about not reaching the Olympics?

AG: The road was a lot harder than I expected; my body had changed and grown a lot in the time I had taken off, but I feel like I kept pushing for my goal. In hindsight, I feel I did everything in my power and so I have no regrets, even though I didn't make it. Sure there was disappointment, but coming here to UCLA and getting to experience a sense of "team" like I've never felt before helped me to quickly realize the Olympics, though a great dream to have, is not the be-all and the end-all. There is so much more to gymnastics than the Olympics. It's about the privilege of getting to do things very few people can, and having the opportunity to do something that I love, every single day.

IG: Elvira Saadi was known as a tough but excellent coach in Russia, and Yvonne Tousek said she had a good relationship with her. What is your view of Elvira as a coach?

AG: Elvira is an amazing technical coach. Everything I know about the sport, I learned from her. I am so appreciative of everything she taught me.

IG: When and why did you switch clubs from Cambridge Kips to Oakville?

AG: I switched clubs in February 2007. Over the five-month break I took, it gave me the chance to figure out what I really wanted out of my career and who I was. When I decided to return, I felt that Oakville fit my priorities and my goals.

IG: In the past you were a rival with Elyse (Hopfner-Hibbs) for spots on the Canadian team, and now you are UCLA teammates. How has your relationship with Elyse changed since you started training and competing together at UCLA?

AG: Elyse and I have always been friends. Even though there was strong competition between us, I don't think we ever let that get in the way. We are teammates now and we were teammates then, too. Being at UCLA together has only strengthened our friendship, and I'm so glad that we are able to share the experience together.

IG: Some people find it easy to compare your style to Yvonne Tousek's - you are very artistic and have a unique quality of movement. What do you think of this comparison? Do you enjoy it, or can it be frustrating?

AG: I am truly honored by this comparison. Yvonne was a beautiful gymnast. I grew up watching her and wanting to be just like her someday. I think it's pretty cool to be compared to her.

IG: How did you and your former coaches develop your style? And, how are you and (UCLA head coach) Valorie (Kondos Field) working to continue evolving your style?

AG: My coaches and I have always worked hard to make my routines unique, both in artistry and in skill level. We always tried to find at least one thing that no one else was doing and put it in. Miss Val and I have continued with this and make every effort to make my routines, especially floor, stand out from the crowd.

IG: How challenging has it been for you to get all of your skills back as an all-arounder in college competition, rather than focus on your best events?

AG: It hasn't been as difficult as I thought. Even when my focus was on competing my best events, I still took the time to train bars and beam, and I think that it has really helped. Bars has been the biggest challenge, but my coaches and I have worked hard and worked smart, to get me to a place where I'm capable of doing all of the events in competition again.

IG: What is your priority at this point in your career - getting your routines to ultimate difficulty, improving your routines from your Elite days, or something else?

AG: Right now my focus is on my team here at UCLA. It's always in the back of my mind that I might return to elite competition, but time will tell. I'm just focused on building my routines in any which way my team needs me.

IG: After several years training and competing in the Canadian program, what can you suggest so the Canadian team can have better results between now and the 2012 Olympics in London?

AG: My best suggestion is to train smart. Make every effort to stay strong and healthy. With the minimum age at the Olympics being 16 now, girls need to sustain their bodies and make them last until they are old enough. I see so many young girls burning out before they are old enough to have a chance.

IG: Based on your consideration of a career in coaching and choreography, what ideas or changes would you personally like to implement in gymnastics?

AG: It's very frustrating to me to see "artistic" gymnastics losing its artistry. In each new cycle the rules cut further and further into the possibility of individual expression. Gymnastics is no longer about doing something beautiful, it's about cramming in all the skills the judges want to see. I'd like to see a return to uniqueness in the sport.



Gerber on uneven bars for UCLA



Gerber on balance beam for UCLA



Marci Bernholtz

10.0 Spotlight - Marci Bernholtz

Meet the sophomore from Unionville, ON in the latest 10.0 Spotlight.

Feb. 13, 2009

Sophomore Marci Bernholtz is the featured gymnast in 10.0 Spotlight, which profiles a member of the UCLA gymnastics squad throughout the season. Bernholtz, a native of Unionville, ON, competed for Canada at the 2006 and 2007 World Championships and won the national uneven bars title in 2007. She was an alternate for the 2004 Olympics. As a freshman at UCLA, she competed mostly on balance beam and recorded a 9.875 on her first collegiate beam routine to win the event at Cal State Fullerton and earn Pac-10 Event Specialist of the Week honors. This season, she has posted season-highs of 9.75 on bars and 9.8 on beam.

You've made great strides this season. To what do you attribute your improvement from last year to this year?

Last year I came in not really knowing what to expect. I had been competing Elite right up until my arrival in late September and didn't really get the chance to take that step back before coming to college. I had a lot of goals for the year but really was not prepared for some of the challenges of training and adapting to a completely new environment. This year, I decided that I wanted to contribute to the team on a variety of levels, and I committed the summer to strengthening my knee and rekindling my passion for gymnastics. I spent a lot of time working on my physical condition and just finding ways to make gymnastics fun. I try to bring that attitude into the gym and inspire my teammates with a hard work ethic and a positive attitude.

Talk about your decision last year to come to UCLA in the fall instead of trying for an Olympic berth.

My decision to come to school instead of staying to try for an Olympic berth actually happened pretty quickly. I had originally planned on staying to train and compete in Canada and start in September 2008 after the Olympics. Miss Val and I had discussed both options of starting in 2008 and 2007, but when the Canadian team did not qualify a full team to Olympics and instead would only send two individuals, I decided it was in my best interest to come to school. It was a difficult decision because I had spent so much time working for the Olympics after being named alternate in 2004, but I feel like everything happens for a reason, and last year was a learning and growing year, and I am so thankful for being a part of the UCLA team.

What were the big factors in choosing UCLA over other schools?

When I came on my recruiting trip, everything just felt right. I knew before I even left the school that this was where I wanted to come. The combination of academics and athletics is like nothing you can receive anywhere else. The campus, community and people are great, and I know I made the right choice.

Coming from Eastern Canada, you probably don't get to go back home too often. Do you often get homesick, or do all the Canadians on the team make it feel like home?

Being far from home can become a challenge at times. I definitely don't have the convenience of going home for the weekend to get my mom to do my laundry, but I still talk to my family and friends at home on a regular basis. I was used to traveling and being away from home, so getting homesick doesn't happen too easily. My teammates and friends do a great job of filling that void also. I always have a place to go for holidays, breaks, or even just a weekend getaway. Now instead of one family, I have lots!

What do you feel is your biggest challenge in training or in competition, and what steps do you take to try to conquer it?

In training, I think my biggest challenge is learning to take minimal turns but make them count. I was so used to training 7 hours a day and spending hours on an event repeating skills over and over that with the limited training times here it was something to get used to. This year I have tried to adopt the Ariana Berlin fast-train technique. Some days I'm really good, but it's still a work in

progress.

How did you get started in gymnastics?

Like most gymnasts, I was a very hyper child. I would always bounce around, climb on counters and swing from shower doors. My parents noticed my strength and decided to put me in gymnastics. I started in a recreational class, got picked out by the head coach at the facility I was training at and never looked back.

What was your most memorable gymnastics moment?

My most memorable moment was probably having the meet of my life at Olympic Trials in 2004. I was a little bit of an underdog but just went in and hit some of the best sets I had ever done. I remember feeling like I was on autopilot, not noticing anything else and just enjoying the experience.

You've traveled all over the world for competitions. What was your most memorable trip and most unusual travel moment? Which place would you most like to visit again and why?

My most memorable trip was to 2007 Worlds because it taught me so much, about gymnastics and about life in general. My most unusual trip was to Brazil in 2006. The trip alone took 36 hours between plane delays, missed connections and all the other transportation. Also, it poured the day of competition, and there was a leak in the ceiling and equipment was being moved around in the middle of the meet to avoid getting wet. The place I would most like to visit again is Hawaii. It is so pretty, and the water is amazing!

What are your thoughts about the way the elite code has changed over the past several years and the loss of the 10?

I think the 10.0 scoring system is what gymnastics was known for. Every young gymnast dreamed of scoring a perfect 10 just like Nadia Comaneci, and the new system has changed this ideal. While the thrill factor of gymnastics is still there, it's difficult for spectators to fully grasp the new scoring system

If you could trade places with any member of your team, who would it be and why?

I would trade with Ari. Her positive attitude and ridiculous mental strength never cease to amaze me, and I just want to see what goes on in her head. It would also be really cool to dance like her.

Lightning Round

What movie can you watch over and over without getting sick of it?

Remember the Titans - all day every day

Current favorite song?

"Love Story" by Taylor Swift

Can't-miss TV show?

Grey's Anatomy

What are you addicted to?

Candy, but don't tell Miss Val

Nickname?

Marci-pahnts, Marcella

Best thing about being a Bruin?

Everything

What quote or saying do you live by?

"Everything happens for a reason" and "You only live once. Live it to the fullest and have no regrets."

Describe yourself in one word.

Genuine

Describe your team in one word.

Unbreakable

What are your pre-meet superstitions?

I never take off my livestrong bracelet, and I always have to clean my grip bag out before the meet. If you've ever seen it, it's probably a good thing I do.

What kind of new skills are you working on that we haven't seen in competition at UCLA yet?

A gymnast never reveals their secrets. If you want to see, you'll just have to come out to the meets!



Talia Kushynski

10.0 Spotlight - Talia Kushynski

Meet the sophomore from Sherman Oaks, CA in the latest 10.0 Spotlight.

Feb. 5, 2009

Sophomore Talia Kushynski is the featured gymnast in 10.0 Spotlight, which profiles a member of the UCLA gymnastics squad throughout the season. Kushynski, who hails from nearby Sherman Oaks, CA, trained as a Level 10 gymnast under Bruin assistant head coach Chris Waller at Waller's GymJam Academy prior to walking on at UCLA. Last season, she competed once on floor, earning a Top 10 finish at Cal State Fullerton. In addition to her gymnastics prowess, Kushynski is an accomplished hip hop dancer, and she uses those dance skills in her popular floor exercise routine.

How did you get involved in both gymnastics and dancing?

I was a VERY hyper child when I was little, so my mom put me in ballet and tap classes when I was about three years old. I didn't like it very much (my mom said I thought the tutu was too itchy. haha), so I decided to try gymnastics, and I loved it! Throughout elementary school and middle school, I experimented with different types of dancing and found that I was very passionate about hip hop and modern, so I decided to go to a performing arts school, where I could dance during the day and train afterwards.

Tell us about your dance background ...

When I was younger, I was a part of different dance companies. I did at least one performance at school every year from 6th grade to 12th. I was in a crew for a couple of months, but we were all from different areas, so it didn't work out. The past two years I started teaching private lessons during the summer, which was really fun! Now, I'm just taking classes in North Hollywood when I find time around school and gym, just trying to improve! This is me in class: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFuB7vLFPxg>

How much does your dance background help your gymnastics, and how much does your gymnastics background help your dancing?

I feel that both backgrounds give a little something to each other. For instance, dancing has made it a habit for me to spot when I do my double turns on floor. I also feel that dance helps me in the choreography aspect of gymnastics on beam and floor.

Performing on those events is so exciting for me because I feel like I can really express myself! I also think that gymnastics has helped me improve my dancing, not just physically but also mentally. The focus I have in the gym is the same when I am trying to learn and perfect a new dance routine.

Do you do your own floor choreography, or is it a collaborative effort with Miss Val? Do you help with other teammates' choreography, and if so, whose?

Usually, I'll choreograph a section of my routine, then I will ask Miss Val, "What do you think about this?", and she'll either say "yes, that works" or "no". And then whatever her answer is, I'll end up changing it the next day anyway. Haha - only sometimes! Once I set my choreography, Miss Val will clean it up and tweak it. As far as my teammates' routines go, yes, I love helping out with choreo on floor! I did a little section in Marci, Pritch and Kaelie's floor routines.

Do you plan on pursuing dancing as a profession after you graduate?

I definitely plan on dancing after I graduate, but at this point I don't know how serious I want to go with it. It is one of my passions, but I am still trying to figure out what interests me.

You've been going to Bruin meets since you were little. What is your first memory of UCLA Gymnastics and your fondest UCLA Gymnastics memory when you were a kid?

Yes! I was the biggest little Bruin gymnastics fan! My first memory of UCLA gymnastics was going to UCLA gymnastics camp in the summer. I remember Amy Smith was teaching the dance, and I think Valerie Velasco and Onnie Willis were my counselors. My fondest UCLA gymnastics memory was going to my first home meet when I was 10, and my eyes were glued to the team. That's when I decided I was going to be a Bruin.

What was your most memorable gymnastics moment?

My most memorable gymnastics moment was competing at the 2005 Maccabiah Games for the U.S. and winning a team gold. It was so fun to meet gymnasts from around the world and compete in Israel!

What was your best blooper moment in the gym or in competition?

My best blooper is when I was doing an exhibition when I was about 9 years old. You can watch it on video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqYvL5OXN30>

How is your back holding up?

My back is stronger than it has been in the past three years! I took a couple of months off during the summer and just focused on rehab and core training, and I felt that time off really helped.

What do you feel is your biggest challenge in training or in competition, and what steps do you take to try to conquer it?

I think my biggest challenge is to compete how I train. I'm trying to be calmer in competition so that I can do my "normal" gymnastics that I do in training.

Lightning Round

Favorite dance movie?

Step Up 2

Favorite dancer and/or favorite dance crew?

My favorite dancer is Shaun Evaristo, and my favorite crew is QUEST!

Better show - So You Think You Can dance, America's Best Dance Crew or Dancing with the Stars?

America's Best Dance Crew because my friends from QUEST are competing on the show this season!

All-time favorite gymnast?

Mohini Bhardwaj

Favorite skill to compete and the skill you'd most like to perfect?

My most favorite skill to compete is my double pike on floor. I'd most like to perfect my front handspring/front layout/front full.

Something you can't live without?

My phone

Favorite song?

"Lost Without You" by Robin Thicke

Favorite singer/band/artist?

Laurn Hill and N.E.R.D.

Describe yourself in one word.

Spacey

Describe your team in one word.

Committed

What quote or saying do you live by?

Life isn't always choreographed - sometimes you have to freestyle.

Who wins in a You Got Served-style dance battle between you and Ariana Berlin?

I'd make her be on my team!



Tauny Frattone

10.0 Spotlight - Tauny Frattone

Meet the freshman from Lake Forest, CA in the latest 10.0 Spotlight.

Jan. 29, 2009

Freshman Tauny Frattone is the featured gymnast in 10.0 Spotlight, which profiles a member of the UCLA gymnastics squad throughout the season. Frattone, who comes from Lake Forest, CA, is a four-time Level 10 National qualifier and three-time State vault champion. Last May, she placed third in the all-around at the 2008 Level 10 National Championships to make the JO National Team. Performing a difficult Yurchenko half-on, piked front off vault, she has averaged 9.825 in exhibition in the Bruins' last three meets.

You're nearly one month into your first season of collegiate gymnastics. Describe how the season has been going for you so far, both as a team and individually.

As a team we have been doing very well, taking those baby steps to win a National Championship. The team is bought-in 100%, which makes competition that much more exciting. Individually, I got off to a little bit of a rough start in Utah, but in the following competitions my vaults have been more consistent.

What has been the biggest surprise for you as far as collegiate competition goes?

The biggest surprise was probably nerves. I thought competitions were going to be a lot more nerve-wracking, but with all the energy from the team, you hardly have time to be nervous.

You had a bit of a late start with things in the gym due to an ankle injury you suffered before you came to UCLA. How is your ankle now, and how up to speed are you on the other events?

My ankle is getting better and better each day. I am back to training everything in the gym, and I am working on cleaning up my other routines, so it is only a matter of time till I am ready to compete everything.

As someone who competes one of the most difficult vaults in collegiate gymnastics, what are your thoughts on the start values of the different vaults in the NCAA? There are some out there who think the Yurchenko full should be devalued ...

I respect the start values of the vaults in the NCAA. I do believe that some diversity in the competition makes for an exciting vault rotation, and while each person performs the Yurchenko full in a different way, it can sometimes seem repetitive. All in all, though, the Yurchenko full is a powerful vault, and there are many gymnasts out there who execute it very well.

Every meet so far, including the meet at Utah, you've had a lot of vocal fan support. Talk about what it's like to have people there cheering for you and what it means to you and the team.

It's amazing! I absolutely love having all my previous teammates and family there supporting not just me but our whole team. The fans are a very big part of our competitions because they help keep the energy up.

What is your favorite event, favorite skill to compete, and skill you most wish to perfect?

My favorite event is vault. My favorite skill to compete is probably my release on bars (piked Jaeger). The skill I most wish to perfect is probably my bail/shoot-over from handstand on bars.

You have one quarter under your belt at UCLA. Do you know yet what you want to major in or what you hope to do as a career?

Currently I am still deciding on a major. I am considering sports medicine or physical therapy.

What is your favorite and least favorite thing about gymnastics?

My favorite thing about gymnastics is being involved with the most difficult sport in the world. Not many people swing around bars and flip on balance beams on a day-to-day basis. My least favorite thing about gymnastics would probably be injuries. Gymnastics is a very grueling sport, and injuries occur often.

What are your interests outside of gymnastics?

I love just being with family and friends. Every Thanksgiving my family goes out to the desert for about five days, and we stay in a trailer and ride motorcycles and ATVs. It's nice to get away from reality for a short amount of time and fully take advantage of nature and family.

What is the best thing about being a Bruin?

Being a part of the most prestigious school in the world and knowing that I will be a success after college.

Lightning round:

What song gets you pumped up to compete?

"I'm In LA Trick"

Favorite singer/band/artist?

Switchfoot

Favorite movie of all-time?

Happy Gilmore

Can't-miss TV show?

Lost and CSI: Las Vegas

Favorite book?

My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult

Favorite website?

UCLA Gymnastics

All-time favorite gymnast?

Nadia Comaneci

What are you addicted to?

Blankets. I probably have enough blankets to keep LA warm.

What was your most memorable gymnastics moment?

Being a part of the National Team and receiving my full scholarship to UCLA!

Describe yourself in one word

Perfectionist

Describe your team in one word

Determined!



Mizuki Sato

10.0 Spotlight - Mizuki Sato

Meet the sophomore from Fair Oaks, CA in the latest 10.0 spotlight.

Jan. 22, 2009

Sophomore Mizuki Sato is the featured gymnast in 10.0 Spotlight, which profiles a member of the UCLA gymnastics squad throughout the season. Sato, who hails from Fair Oaks, CA, is off to a great start in her second season, averaging 9.863 on both vault and floor and ranking in the Top 15 nationally on those events.

You have had an outstanding start to the 2009 season. To what do you attribute your improvement from last year to this year?

Thanks so much! Looking back at my freshman year, I realized that I needed to change my mindset in order to accomplish the goals that I set for myself. I learned that I can control only what I can control and that I needed to stop worrying about things outside my control. I think I wasted a lot of mental energy over what I couldn't control last year. Having a year under my belt helped because I know what to expect. And physically, all the body positioning drills helped tremendously with my gymnastics.

At the same time, the team dynamic within the gym has helped me get better. I learned a lot about what it meant to be part of a team last year, but I actually understand the true meaning of a team now. It's fun to be able to look around you and know that everyone has your back; it's very liberating, and it has allowed me to focus on the things that I can control to help the team as a whole be better. When gymnastics is fun, everything gets a little easier.

With so many freshmen on the squad this year, you're practically a seasoned veteran. What kind of wisdom have you been able to impart to your freshman teammates, and what things have you learned from your first year that you've been able to apply this year?

I remember early in the year when someone thought they had to "prove themselves" to the coaches and the team, and it kind of reminded me of how I felt freshman year. There's no need for that mentality because then you're concentrating on the wrong thing. The fact is that we all deserve to be on the team, so it's a waste of energy thinking about "proving" yourself.

I've definitely learned that you should be prepared for whatever circumstance possible. It's ridiculous how much of a mental sport collegiate gymnastics is. Lineup changes actually happen mid-meet, so always be prepared.

Miss Val has commented about the closeness of your sophomore class. Describe the bond the five of you have.

There aren't enough words to describe how much they all mean to me. The five of us all bring something different to the table, but we all have the same goals and the same intense drive to be as good of an individual as a whole. We understand each other extremely well, and things can be left unspoken, and we'll know exactly what that person is thinking. We're a support system for each other, and we rely on each other to keep us sane with our busy schedules haha. If I ever get to experience another connection like this in my lifetime I'll be surprised.

What do you feel is your biggest challenge in training or in competition, and what steps do you take to try to conquer it?

I've learned that if I overthink something, that's when I'm in trouble. I have to make sure to take one skill at a time and stay in the moment. If I'm having one of those days, I'll ask one of my teammates to give me one thing to concentrate on, and it usually does the trick.

How did you get started in gymnastics?

A lot of my friends from kindergarten took gymnastics classes, so whenever they had birthday parties, it would be held at the gym. I guess I got hooked, and ever since then, I haven't looked back. Also, when I was a baby, my parents would take me to the local park and let me hang on the bars, so I guess even from a young age I was meant to be a gymnast.

What was your most memorable gymnastics moment?

Receiving the opportunity to come to UCLA and contribute to the team has been by far my most memorable gymnastics moment. I'm thankful for every day that I can go into the gym and be part of an amazing team.

What was your best blooper moment in the gym or in competition?

It was on floor at the Washington dual meet my freshman year. I had kicked over on my bridge on accident and ended up dancing around aimlessly, went too early for my last pass, fell, stood there and realized I still had a while before my ending, so I did a full turn and stumbled. I then realized that I couldn't just do a simple turn, but I was so mortified that I did another turn, stumbled again and finally ended my routine. I can laugh about it now, but I was absolutely horrified at the time.

What are your interests outside of gymnastics?

I really love to read whenever I get a spare moment. I'll pretty much read anything as long as it looks interesting. I'm also kind of a nature/outdoor junkie and love to be outside whether I'm at the beach or up in the mountains. I've gone backpacking with my family a couple of times in the mountains near Tahoe, and I also love to ski (although I haven't gone in a long time due to the unfortunate fact that gymnastics season clashes with ski season). I'm also into photography, so I usually have my camera on me whenever I'm outdoors.

What are you studying in school and what are your career aspirations?

I'm currently a Physiological Science major, and I've always been interested in medicine. If I decide to go the med school route, I would want to become an orthopedic surgeon. Ideally, I would want to work with the organization Doctors Without Borders and travel. I'm also interested in pursuing a Global Studies minor and getting some practical knowledge out of it.

What has been your favorite class at UCLA so far?

I've actually enjoyed a lot more classes than I thought I would, but my favorite would definitely have to be my Introduction to Global Studies that I took this past quarter. It was really interesting learning about how interactions between global actors affect so many features of society. It was really eye-opening.

Lightning round:**Nickname**

Zuk, Bam, Pizookie, Florence, basically anything goes

Favorite movie?

Lion King, of course!

Favorite Lion King song?

"Hakuna Matata"

Can't-miss TV show?

Friends and Lost

Favorite book?

The Hot Zone

Favorite event to compete on?

Definitely floor

What quote or saying do you live by?

Stay in the Moment

If you could trade places with any member of your team, who would it be and why?

Chris Waller - I really want to see how it would feel like to have his crazy amount of energy haha.

What are you obsessed with?

I love love love country music

Favorite singer/band/artist?

Brooks & Dunn

Favorite thing to do in LA?

Getting dressed up and going to dinner with friends

Describe yourself in one word.

Fierce

Describe your team in one word.

Bought-In



Kaelie Baer

10.0 Spotlight - Kaelie Baer

Meet the freshman from Columbus, IN in the latest 10.0 spotlight.

Jan. 14, 2009

Freshman Kaelie Baer is the featured gymnast in 10.0 Spotlight, which will profile a member of the UCLA Gymnastics squad throughout the season. Baer, who hails from Columbus, IN, is a four-time Level 10 National qualifier and won the 2007 Level 10 national vault title. She competed on three events for the Bruins in the 2009 season opener, scoring 9.8 on vault, 9.775 on beam and 9.75 on floor.

You just had your first collegiate meet last Friday. What was that experience like, and how was it different than past competitions you've been in?

Our first meet was absolutely amazing. The team had so much energy and excitement going in that it just made the whole experience fun. I was nervous, of course, but with the team right there screaming and cheering, I didn't even notice the huge Utah crowd.

Competing for a team like we have is like nothing I have ever experienced before. I came from a pretty big Level 10 club team, so I have felt the sense of team before, but nothing compared to this. In college, it is all about the final team score, and we all have the same vision and goals. This competition had more excitement and fun than any I have been at before.

Talk about your first quarter at UCLA. Have you decided yet what to major in or what career you are looking to get into?

My first quarter here was a little harder than I think I had expected. I am far away from home and did not think I would get homesick, but I did. I had no doubts this is where I wanted to be, but adjusting to a completely different lifestyle just takes time. After I went home for Thanksgiving and came back, everything was much better. I feel settled in, and I am really excited about our season! As far as a major or a career, I do not know. I am taking a wide range of classes just to figure out what I like and what interests me.

What made you decide to attend UCLA?

I took visits to many other schools before looking at UCLA. Once I came here, everything just fell into place. I liked the other schools, but I loved UCLA. The coaches, the weather, and just the name UCLA itself are what stood out above all the rest.

What is your favorite thing to do in LA?

I love just discovering new places in LA because there is so much to do. I love going to Manhattan Beach or Malibu. The sunsets here are gorgeous. The shopping isn't too bad either. Ha.

How did you get started in gymnastics?

My family was able to get tickets to watch gymnastics at the 1996 Olympic Games. Before that time, I had always taken

dance classes, but after I saw gymnastics, I begged my parents to put me in it.

You were competing as a junior national elite in 2003. What made you decide to return to Level 10?

I went elite for a while and had been home-schooled during that time and for several years before. I was at a gym that was over two hours away from my house, and after awhile I just looked at what my ultimate goal was. I decided my main goal was to get a college scholarship, and I knew that could still happen even with going back to Level 10. Since that was the goal, I was able to move to a gym that was only an hour away and go back to normal school and have a somewhat normal life.

What was your most memorable gymnastics moment?

Before last weekend, it was probably getting second at Nationals in '07. But after this last meet, I know there will be many memorable team moments that will beat that one out.

What other sport or activity would you participate in if you weren't doing gymnastics?

I grew up riding and showing horses, but if I would have had more time, I would have been showing horses every weekend. I was doing both for awhile until gymnastics started demanding more time. I made the choice that I can only do this once, and if I wanted to show horses I could do that the rest of my life.

What are your interests outside of gymnastics?

I love being around water, whether it's the ocean or my lake back home. I enjoy riding jet skis and boating. I also like watching football and basketball.

What is the best thing about being a Bruin?

The opportunities you get and people you get to meet. Each day I have so many opportunities I could never have had without coming here. It's always a great day to be a Bruin!

Lightning round

Favorite event to compete on?

I really like them all. I guess it depends on the day. Ha.

Favorite skill to compete?

Side somi on beam or a Hecht on bars

Favorite website?

ESPN.com because it tells me when games are on

Favorite book?

I Am Not But I Know I AM

Favorite singer/band/artist?

Hillsong United

Best movie you've seen recently?

Yes Man. I'm a huge Jim Carrey fan.

What are you addicted to?

I'm a huge fan of smoothies.

If you could trade places with any member of your team, who would it be and why?

It would be cool to be Ari or Tal so I could know how to dance like that. Ha ha.

Describe yourself in one word.

Random

Describe your team in one word.

Tough



Aisha Gerber

10.0 Spotlight - Aisha Gerber

Meet the Bruin freshman from Cambridge, ON in the latest 10.0 spotlight.

Jan. 7, 2009

Freshman Aisha Gerber is the featured gymnast in 10.0 Spotlight, which will profile a member of the UCLA Gymnastics squad throughout the season. Gerber, who hails from Cambridge, ON, is a former Canadian National Team member. In 2006, she became the first Canadian woman ever to medal at the American Cup, taking home a bronze medal in the all-around. Also that year, she placed fifth on floor and sixth on beam at the World Cup finals. In 2005, she won the Canadian national title on uneven bars.

What made you decide to attend UCLA?

There are so many reasons why I came. I think that the best way to sum it up is that everything felt right. With other schools that I looked at, there always seemed to be little details, however small, that I just didn't like or agree with. I didn't have any of that with UCLA!

How would you describe your first quarter at UCLA? Do you have any ideas yet about what you want to major in or what you hope to do as a career?

First quarter was a challenge. It was all really new, and I felt far away from home. However, I'm really looking forward to this next quarter. Not only will we be competing, but I feel like I'll have a better understanding of how to live as a college student in general. Right now, I'm majoring in Physiological Science, and in the end I hope to work in some field of athletic therapy.

You are known for your performance quality and dance ability. Were these innate or did you take dance and work on these? Would you ever consider pursuing dance as a career?

I started dancing in my living room before I ever started gymnastics. To this day, I still do that very thing, except now it's in my dorm room. I just can't help myself. Other than basic ballet exercises with my old choreographer, I've had no training in dance. I've often thought of dance as a career, but to be honest, I wouldn't know where to begin. Either way, I know that once I retire from gymnastics I will probably pick up dance as a replacement activity. I really can't see my life without dance.

You have always had exceptional choreography. What was your experience like working with Miss Val as new choreographer? How is her aesthetic, technique and teaching style different from others you have worked with? And did the artistic reputation of UCLA have anything to do with your decision to come here?

My experience with Miss Val was extremely fun. It was very different from what I've done in the past, but I thoroughly enjoyed the fresh artistic challenge that it brought. When I was being recruited, artistic poise was one of the points I had written down on my checklist. When I found out that Miss Val was a dancer and I saw the routines she had choreographed in the past I got really excited.

What are the top three stereotypes Americans have about Canadians that you've discovered since moving to the U.S., and how accurate or inaccurate are they?

1. Apparently Canadians have an accent. I personally don't know what you guys are talking about. The most common example is the way we pronounce the "ou" sound in words like "out", "house" and "couch".
2. A lot of Americans think Canada is always cold. It is in some parts, this is true, but where I live we get temperatures of well over 90F during the summertime.
3. Then of course there's always the very stereotypical "eh". I really don't say it very often, nor do most of the Canadians I know. However, people here always love to point it out when I do say it.

What are your thoughts about the way the elite code has changed over the past several years and the loss of the 10? Are you excited to get back to the old 10.0 scoring system in college?

I love, love, love the 10.0 scoring system. I really don't like the change that has been made in the elite scoring system. I have yet to see any benefits from the switch, and I am very excited to be working with the old code again.

What is your most favorite skill to compete, and what skill do you most wish to perfect?

I LOVE competing vault. It's so fast and aggressive. I just love standing at the end of the runway and feeling the adrenaline build. And then when you go, you can release all of that energy in one short, powerful burst. I am really working hard to perfect my bar dismount.

You've traveled all over the world for competitions. What was your most memorable trip and most unusual travel moment?**Which place would you most like to visit again and why?**

My most memorable trip was this past April when I went to Germany. I knew that it would probably be my last international trip before going to UCLA, and I made it my goal to enjoy every moment of it, and I did. When I shifted my focus onto having fun, I got a lot less nervous, and even though it wasn't my best competition, I was able to experience every minute of it to the fullest.

I've been fortunate enough to have escaped any terrible travel stories, and I can't say that I've had any really unusual ones either, but I do have a funny one. It was on my trip to Hawaii in 2004. Our team had spent a week in Calgary, Alberta for a training camp, during which I got a really bad cold. My coach at the time, not wanting me to get cold on the plane, bundled me up in at least 3-4 layers of clothing. It was all well and good until I got off the plane in Honolulu. Not only was I ridiculously hot, but I got about a million weird looks as I made my way back to the hotel.

I would love to visit Switzerland again. It was such a beautiful country. I got to see the Alps from a distance, and they were stunning. I'd love to go back and drive through them sometime.

What are your interests outside of gymnastics?

I like reading, dancing in my dorm (or anywhere really), singing and doing outdoor stuff (one of my favourites is hiking)

What is your favorite song to sing?

I have so many!! Probably one of my top favourites, though, was a piece called "Lux Aurumque". It's this beautiful Latin, a capella piece. Outside of choir, I love singing anything that I know the lyrics to.

Lightning round:**Favorite book?**

Redeeming Love

Best movie you've seen recently?

The Pursuit of Happyness

Can't-miss TV show?

The Office

All-time favorite gymnast?

Lilia Podkopyayeva

Biggest pet peeve in gymnastics?

WEDGIES ... without a doubt!

Something you can't live without ...

Sleep :)

Favorite thing to do in LA?

Go driving places with my team

Favorite singer?

Bruce Cockburn

Best blooper moment in the gym or in competition?

I fell on cat-leap 2/1 at Pacific Alliance 2006. I won't ever forget that one, even if I try to.

If you could trade places with any member of your team, who would it be and why?

I kind of wonder what it would be like to be Miss Val for a day. I wonder what it would be like to be the boss ...

Describe yourself in one word.

Intense

Describe your team in one word.

Genuine



Vanessa Zamarripa

10.0 Spotlight - Vanessa Zamarripa

Meet the freshman from O'Fallon, IL in the latest 10.0 spotlight.

Dec. 31, 2008

Freshman Vanessa Zamarripa is the featured gymnast in 10.0 Spotlight, which will profile a member of the UCLA Gymnastics squad throughout the season. Zamarripa, who hails from O'Fallon, IL, is one of the most accomplished gymnasts in JO history, capturing nine Level 10 individual national titles from 2003-07. She won the Senior A national all-around and beam titles in 2007 and consecutive Junior national all-around titles from 2003-04.

What made you decide to attend UCLA?

I decided to attend UCLA because I have over 100 plus family members out here (on my dad's side), so it's like a home away from home. UCLA is renowned worldwide in regards to the academic degree and its athletics. I absolutely love the campus, the weather, and the gymnastics team and coaches are amazing, so I would have had to be crazy to not have chosen UCLA!

How has the transition been between club gymnastics and college gymnastics, as well as the transition between high school and college life?

College gymnastics is a lot different than club gymnastics because I was basically the only gymnast training at a higher level at my club. I would have a few other girls who would work out with me, but not at my level or age. I love college gymnastics so far because now I am a part of a team. It is also sooooo much different because of the conditioning, the different styles in coaching, and the different types of personalities on the team.

High school is also a lot different than college. We have to train before we go to class, and on some days we have hour breaks in between. What's also different is having to go to office hours and tutoring for my classes. The pace here is a lot faster than in the Midwest, and in L.A. there are a lot more things to do around here.

Why did you decide to stay Level 10 rather than elite? Would you consider elite again in the future?

I decided that I would stay healthy and have a successful JO career and arrive here at UCLA without any potentially prolonged injuries. I am definitely interested in going the elite route. As long as everything goes well and I stay healthy, I would say why not in giving it a shot. I feel that I have yet to reach my peak, and I believe that training here at UCLA can help me achieve that.

What upgrades, if any, have you learned since coming to UCLA?

I learned a double layout. I had only done it on the tumble track into the foam pit and never on the real floor before. The other thing I've learned, outside of gymnastics, is time management skills. College is a lot different than high school, and there isn't enough time as there was before to do other things, so it's imperative to have good time management skills so that I am still able to have a balanced lifestyle.

How did you get started in gymnastics?

Oh yes, I can still remember it like it was yesterday. But long story short, I was watching the Olympics in 1996, and gymnastics was on TV. Without any hesitation, I told my parents, "I can do that", and ever since then I was flipping everywhere and continuously begged my parents to find me a gymnastics gym so that I could start training. I would come home after school and ask them if I can join gymnastics. It was about a year's worth of patience until I was at the age of seven that they finally let me start my first class.

How has dorm life been treating you?

It actually isn't too bad; the food here is pretty good, and I was fortunate enough to have an awesome roommate - Kelsey Loudon, a swimmer; she is pretty much amazing! :) - and my awesome suitemates - swimmer Paige Treleven and softball player Brooke Finley!

Were you able to go home for the holidays this year?

It is nice having family near L.A. because I wasn't able to go home during Thanksgiving break. I spent time with my family out in Rancho Cucamonga, Chino Hills, Corona and Ontario. I have so many relatives that live in so many different cities around here! I was not able to visit ALL of them on Thanksgiving break, but I will most definitely reunite with them once again during gymnastics season at our home meets in Pauley Pavilion! And let me tell you, they are really loud, so be prepared for some intense fans this upcoming season!

For Christmas break I did have a chance to go back to Illinois and visit my family and friends. It was really cold back home, and I was definitely not prepared for the cold weather! I have been so spoiled with the nice weather here in California! It was nice going back and seeing everyone again though because it had been about six months since the last time I have seen them.

You competed in the pole vault in high school and set a school record after about a week of training. How did that all come about, and do you think you might pursue the sport after you are finished with gymnastics?

Actually it was only a few days that it took for me to accomplish that feat, which was pretty cool because that record hadn't been broken for about 10 years. I decided to try it because my brother Anthony was involved in it and showed me that it involves gymnastics, so having many years of experience with gymnastics, I thought that I would be decent at it. I didn't do it all too much because I didn't want it to interfere with gymnastics training. To pursue that in the future is questionable; I haven't put much thought into whether I would like to try that sport again.

What are your interests outside of gymnastics?

I love spending time with my teammates and friends by going shopping or just hanging out. I also like playing ping pong, beach volleyball, pretty much any other sport there is out there. I also enjoy supporting my friends at their games/competitions/meets. When I have time I like helping out others, such as doing volunteer work. The last event I helped out with was the Dribble for the Cure event.

What are your goals for the upcoming season?

Nothing specific...but my goals are to stay healthy and to be able to perform at my best at every meet!

Lightning Round:

Favorite website?

cnn.com

Best sports movie?

Cinderella Man

Can't-miss TV show?

House

All-time favorite gymnast?

Kerri Strug

Biggest pet peeve in gymnastics?

When there is "goop" (a combination of water and chalk). It gets on the chalk tray, and my arm always manages to get a good scoop of it. haha..

What are you addicted to?

It's a close tie between Heath Bars and Twist, (It's a frozen yogurt place, so good!)

Nickname?

People like to call me Zam or Ness.

Favorite event to compete on?

All of them! Okay, well if I had to pick one, vault.

Describe yourself in one word.

Random

Describe your team in one word.

Wondrous!



Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs

10.0 Spotlight: Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs

Meet the freshman Olympian from Toronto in the first 10.0 spotlight of the season.

Nov. 20, 2008

*Freshman Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs is the featured gymnast in **10.0 Spotlight**, which will profile a member of the UCLA Gymnastics squad throughout the season. Hopfner-Hibbs came to UCLA directly from the 2008 Olympic Games, where she earned a Top 16 finish in the all-around. The Toronto, ON native made history in 2006 when she became the first Canadian woman ever to win a medal at the World Championships, earning a bronze on the balance beam.*

What has been the biggest adjustment for you coming from elite gymnastics to college gymnastics?

The biggest adjustment would have to be training for a team. When I was at home preparing for the Olympics, I was training for an individual competition, which is a different experience altogether. Now everything is team-oriented, and I love it!! It's something completely new and exciting for me. My UCLA Bruin family is so supportive, and it makes training so much fun!

How has the transition been between living in Canada and living in Southern California? What do you miss most about Canada?

The transition from Canada to California has been the hardest part for me so far. I really love living in Canada, so moving away from home was difficult for me. The things I miss most from Canada are the seasons. I love autumn and winter, and here in California, they don't really exist! I'm not complaining about the sun, that's for sure, but it's just one more adjustment I need to make.

Talk about your Olympic experience a little bit. What was the highlight of your Olympic Games?

My Olympic experience was a memorable one, to say the least. Unfortunately, I didn't have my best competition, but I still had some amazing routines in Beijing. I have two main highlights from my experience. First were the closing ceremonies. We got to march into the Bird's Nest (the stadium where both the opening and closing ceremonies were held), which was packed full of spectators, and all the athletes celebrated the closing of the Games. Secondly was the fact that both my mom and my sister were able to come to China and watch me compete. They have never travelled to one of my international competitions before, so for them to get to come to this one was a big deal for me, as well as them.

Do you have any plans to continue competing elite?

In December, the World Cup Finals are being held in Spain, and if I'm invited to those, I am ready to attend. Gymnasts get invited based on the points accumulated over the past few years at the World Cup competitions.

How would you describe your gymnastics style?

I would say that my style is powerful and aggressive. Those are the two things that help me train and compete successfully.

What is your most favorite skill to compete, and what skill do you most wish to perfect?

A lot of the skills in my beam routine are unique, and not many gymnasts compete them. These are the skills that I enjoy competing because they tend to catch the eyes of the spectators. I do an aerial cartwheel, layout step-out that is world-original, and I also compete an illusion turn and a spin double on the beam. The thing I need to work on the most is being able to say in bounds on floor when I compete.

What was your most memorable gymnastics moment?

My most memorable gymnastics moment was when I won a bronze medal at the 2006 World Championships in Denmark. It was the first-ever medal at a World Championships for a Canadian female gymnast.

What is the best thing about being a Bruin?

I love training with my Bruin team. We have a lot of fun in the gym (and outside of it too), and we all get along awesomely!!!

What do you like to do outside of gymnastics?

Outside of the gym I love to read, dance, and most of all shop!

We hear that you're obsessed with the Christmas season. What is it about Christmas that you enjoy so much?

I love anything and everything to do with the Christmas season! What I love most is the atmosphere of Christmas-time, as well as the decorations, lights, and the fact that I get to see my entire family (something I don't get to do too often because of my busy gymnastics schedule!). When I was traveling for elite gymnastics, I got a Christmas tree ornament from every country I went to.

Lightning Round

Favorite Christmas movie?

Elf

Tim Hortons or Starbucks?

Starbucks

Sun or snow?

Snow!!!

What are you addicted to?

All of the *Friends* episodes

Favorite event to compete on?

Floor

Describe yourself in one word.

Competitive

Describe your team in one word.

AWESOME!!!!