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**CREDITS:** The 2010 UCLA women's water polo media guide was written and designed by Alex Timiraos. Photography by ASUCLA Campus Studio (Don Liebig, Scott Quintard and Todd Cheney). Printing coordinated by Marina Graphic Center. Championship photos courtesy of NCAA Images and Dwight Belden. Cover photo (2009 team) courtesy of NCAA Images. Olympic photos courtesy of Getty Images.

**PURCHASE:** Copies of the UCLA women's water polo media guide can be purchased in person at the UCLA Sports Information Office for \$6. By mail, make checks payable for \$8 to UC Regents and mail to UCLA Sports Information Office, Women's Water Polo Media Guide, PO Box 24044, Los Angeles, CA 90024-0044. Please include your name and return address.

**MEDIA REQUESTS:** To request a credential for a UCLA women's water polo game or to schedule an interview with a player or coach, call Alex Timiraos at (310) 206-4008. Please notify at least 24 hours in advance. Players and coaches are generally available after practice and games.



## Quick Facts

Location	J.D. Morgan Center, PO Box 24044 Los Angeles, CA 90024-0044
Athletics Phone	(310) 825-8699
Chancellor	Gene Block
Director of Athletics	Dan Guerrero
Associate Athletics Director	Ken Weiner
Faculty Athletic Representative	Donald Morrison
Home Facility	Sunset Canyon Recreation Center
Enrollment	37,500
Founded	1919
Colors	Blue and Gold
Nickname	Bruins

Conference	MPSF
	(Mountain Pacific Sports Federation)
Conference Phone	(925) 296-0723
Conference Fax	(925) 296-0724
National Affiliation	NCAA Division I
Head Coach	Brandon Brooks, UCLA '05
Record at UCLA	First year
Career Record	First year
Women's Water Polo Phone	(310) 794-7412
Assistant Coach	Molly Cahill, UCLA '08

2009 Record	25-6 (NCAA Champions)
2009 MPSF Record	5-2 (3rd)
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	17/4
National Championships	11
Women's Water Polo SID	Alex Timiraos
SID E-mail	atimiraos@athletics.ucla.edu
SID Phone	(310) 206-4008
SID Fax	(310) 825-8664
Sports Information Director	Marc Dellins
Athletics Web Site	www.uclabruins.com



# SPIEKER AQUATICS CENTER

Spieker Aquatics Center made its long-awaited debut on Saturday, Sept. 26. The UCLA men's water polo team defeated UC Irvine, 10-4, that evening.



The long-awaited new home to UCLA's aquatics program has become a reality. The Spieker Aquatics Center opened in September 2009, in time for the start of the men's water polo season. PCL Construction broke ground on the facility in July 2008.

The Bruins' new aquatics center features a 52-meter by 25-yard all-deep water pool with a dividing bulkhead, allowing races to take place at varying distances (meters, versus yards). The pool also features four platforms on a diving tower, at heights of three, five seven and one half, and 10-meter platforms, as well as one and three-meter springboards. In addition, the aquatics center features a warming pool for divers directly behind the tower.

Adjacent to Sunset Canyon Recreation Center on the northwest portion of campus, the Spieker Aquatics Center was made possible thanks to a generous lead gift from former student-athlete Tod Spieker and his wife, Catherine. Tod, a 1971 UCLA graduate and All-

American, swam for the Bruins from 1968-71 and still competes successfully in Master's Swimming.

The main pool, Dirks Pool, is named after Carolyn Dirks, who provided the lead gift for the swimming pool. Dirks Pool will also be used for special use events and Masters Swim meets. The signature feature of the Spieker Aquatics Center is the diving tower, which sits at the west end of the pool. The east end of the pool houses the new scoreboard, an LED, state-of-the-art piece of electronics, making scores, statistics and messages easily visible to all in attendance.

Next to the scoreboard is the "Wall of Champions", showcasing all of UCLA's water polo, swimming and diving national championship teams, as well as all individual student-athletes' achievements, record-holders and Olympians.

Separate men's and women's locker rooms house enough lockers for all team members, with shower

space and bathroom stalls and sinks for each team. Equipment needed for meets and matches have storage capacity on the facility's south side.

When walking through the public entryway to the center, visitors first notice the Donor Wall. All donors who generously made gifts to the Spieker Aquatics Center are recognized on this wall. Additionally, over 50 former UCLA water polo players, swimmers and divers made gifts to "name" a locker. Those names will forever be part of the locker rooms in the new facility.

The state-of-the-art facility brings together all three of UCLA's intercollegiate aquatic sports – water polo, swimming and diving – to one venue. The aquatics center features event lighting and permanent seating with the possibility of additional temporary seating for larger events.



# Different Head Coach, Same Goal for UCLA Water Polo

*Five-time defending NCAA champions encouraged by team's depth, youth*

The UCLA women's water polo program enters its 2010 season having won their fifth consecutive NCAA championship last May, but must navigate its course with a new head coach and a roster without any seniors. The Bruins return 17 letterwinners from one year ago, but lost their three leading scorers and top goalkeeper to graduation.

Nevertheless, first-year head coach Brandon Brooks and company are excited for what the future has to offer, as UCLA features among its deepest rosters in recent memory. Serving as an assistant under former head coach Adam Krikorian the last three seasons, Brooks understands the formula to success and looks to continue UCLA's winning ways.

"Our team has to rise to meet this year's challenge," Brooks said. "Each year is totally different, especially this one. We have a totally different team, even though 17 players return this season."

Among the key returners on offense include junior Priscilla Orozco and sophomore KK Clark, two talented players who combined for nearly 20 percent of last season's offensive production. Orozco, who added 42 goals before securing honorable mention All-America acclaim, will be relied upon as one of UCLA's key leaders in the pool. Clark netted 30 goals in a strong freshman campaign and should become a more instrumental player on both offense and defense for the Bruins this season.

"We're going to need Priscilla to step up for us, as she enters her third year in the program," Brooks said. "She needs to be able to create more of her shots since teams will really be keying on her. We also need more consistency from KK Clark, who is a very talented, athletic player. She had a good freshman year but we feel like she can really step up her game."

Sophomore Sarah Orozco proved to be one of the Bruins' key threats at the two-meter position last season, recording 17 goals and a team-leading 41 earned exclusions. Sarah, the younger sister of Priscilla Orozco, will see playing time at both the center position and around the perimeter. She joined Clark as UCLA's two All-MPSF Freshman Team selections last season.

"Sarah worked very hard in the offseason and we look for her to have a strong sophomore season," Brooks said. "We need for her to continue improving, and we expect her to contribute on the perimeter for us as well this year."

For a team that lost nearly half its scoring output from 2009 in Tanya Gandy (79 goals), Katie Rulon (60 goals) and Anne Belden (47 goals), the addition of transfer student Grace Reynolds will be instrumental to UCLA's success this spring. Reynolds starred at California in 2007 and 2008, leading the



**junior defender MEGAN BURMEISTER**

Golden Bears in goals each season (48 as a freshman, 52 as a sophomore). A talented, ambidextrous center, Reynolds should thrive at the position for UCLA in 2010.

"The addition of Grace Reynolds is huge for us," Brooks said. "I think we can do a very good job playing around her and setting her up for scoring opportunities. She's a very smart player with skilled hands and will be key for us at both ends of the pool."

In addition, UCLA returns a wealth of additional scorers with juniors Katie Estrada, Kelsey McGinley, Monica Powers, Carny Sullivan and Noel Umphrey and sophomores Nicole Barker, Randi Bresee and Hannah Sebenaler.

"We return a lot of girls who have had playing time as freshmen and sophomores," Brooks said. "They have been important to this program, and they will be what makes our team great. Everybody has to be ready to step up when their name is called and bring it their all at practice each day."

Defensively, the Bruins will look for juniors Kelly Easterday and Megan Burmeister to lead the way. Easterday, a two-time Academic All-America selection, has recorded 18 goals and 25 steals in two seasons. Burmeister registered 14 steals and 11 goals in her sophomore season, one that may be most remembered for her buzzer-beating game-winning goal versus Stanford in the NCAA Tournament semifinals.

"Kelly and Megan have established themselves as two of our top defenders," Brooks said. "They've each gained a ton of experience the past two years and have developed a great mind for the game. Kelly has really expanded her game and will be an even greater threat on offense for us. Megan is one of the country's most underrated defenders and will have an even more important role for us this season."

UCLA looks for freshman Emily Greenwood to make an immediate impact on defense. The native of Sanger, Calif., has experience as a center defender and should contribute alongside Easterday and Burmeister.

Other freshmen expected to step up in 2010 include Brooke Martin, Leah Trella and Heather Van Hiel. A standout at Chaparral High School (Temecula, Calif.), Martin registered 112 goals as a senior en route to earning Citrus Belt Area Athlete of the Year honors in 2009. Trella competed with Greenwood and Martin on the USA Junior National Team, and Van Hiel earned first-team All-CIF Southern Section honors her senior year.

"We will certainly look for offense from several of our freshmen," Brooks said. "Heather is very fast in the pool and can especially help on the counterattack. Brooke has a great shot and can create scoring opportunities for herself. And Leah may be among our biggest surprises. She has a strong work ethic and is a very smart player. We look forward to seeing these girls improve as they get more playing time."

The Bruins will rely on sophomore Caitlin Dement to serve as the team's primary goalkeeper. The native of Chino, Calif., looks to fill the shoes of two-year starter Brittany Fullen, who helped guide UCLA to NCAA titles in 2008 and 2009. Dement played in five games as a freshman last season, registering 19 saves in just over 10 quarters. She will be backed up by sophomore Kristen Simonds and junior Morgan Ronimus.

"Caitlin is tremendously athletic and very quick," Brooks said. "She is still somewhat raw with her knowledge of the game, but she shows a ton of promise for the future. Getting more consistent playing time will help her game, and we look forward to watching her grow."

A new season presents new challenges, but UCLA has continued to excel each season after losing multiple key members from each of its NCAA championship teams.

"The fact that we have won in the past does not guarantee that we will win in the future," Brooks said. "It takes a lot of hard work and determination, and those previous teams have found ways to get the job done. We have done things the right way in the past, which has led to success. But by no means does that guarantee anything."



**sophomore utility KK CLARK**