

Longtime Bruins' Broadcaster Chris Roberts Retires

After more than two decades as the radio voice of UCLA football and basketball, four-time Golden Mike Award winner Chris Roberts retired after the 2014-15 basketball season. Roberts, a Hall of Fame member of the Southern California Sports Broadcasters Association, broadcast more NCAA Division I games on Los Angeles radio dating back to 1982 than anyone.

Roberts was twice honored by the broadcasters association with the Chick Hearn Award for best "play-by-play." He first signed on for the Bruins in the fall of 1992. Since then, he served as UCLA's voice at the football program's last 16 bowl games, including Rose Bowl appearances on Jan. 1, 1994 and Jan. 1, 1999. He also broadcast men's basketball games in 19 trips to the NCAA Tournament, most notably calling the memorable run to the 1995 NCAA Tournament Championship that culminated in an 89-78 title-game victory over Arkansas in Seattle.



Bill Roth Hired as UCLA's Play-by-Play Announcer

UCLA hired Bill Roth as the Bruins' new play-by-play voice in April 2015. Roth, an 11-time Virginia Sports Caster of the Year honoree, spent the previous 27 seasons as the lead play-by-play broadcaster for Virginia Tech's football and men's basketball teams. He replaces Chris Roberts, who retired after the 2014-15 season.

A veteran of the industry for more than 25 years, Roth arrives in Westwood as a member of both the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and Syracuse University's WAER Hall of Fame. He was involved in all facets of the athletic department at Virginia Tech. A frequent speaker at the university's fund raising and charitable functions throughout the region, he also hosted a Sunday morning television show, penned both online and magazine columns and even worked with campus police to develop unique emergency training modules for Virginia Tech faculty, staff and visitors.

Roth has also worked extensively with the United Way over the past two decades to serve the community. In each of the past 13 years, he has hosted Bill Roth's Kids Day, an event that treats more than 100 underprivileged children to a "VIP" experience before, during and after Virginia Tech men's basketball games.



Seven Former UCLA Standouts Inducted into UCLA Athletics Hall of Fame

Guy Baker (water polo), James Butts (men's track and field), Joanna Hayes (women's track and field), Joe-Max Moore (men's soccer), Francis Wai (football, basketball, track & field, rugby), Natasha Watley (softball), and Onnie Willis (women's gymnastics) entered the UCLA Athletics Hall of Fame in the Class of 2014.

Guy Baker (water polo)

Baker served as head coach of UCLA's men's and women's water polo teams in the 1990s, recording a combined record of 265-97 overall and 64-28 in league games. During his tenure at UCLA, Baker's teams won seven national titles - four NCAA men's championships (1995, 1996, 1999 and 2000) and three national collegiate women's titles (1996, 1997 and 1998). Baker resurrected the men's program in 1991 after it was originally dropped and started the women's program in 1993.

James Butts (men's track and field)

A record-setting triple jumper, Butts won three NCAA titles as a Bruin and went on to win the United States' first Olympic medal in that event in nearly 50 years. He made an immediate impact as a freshman, becoming the Pac-8 Conference and school record-holder in the triple jump (54-7 1/2) and capturing the Pac-8 title with a wind-aided mark of 54-2 1/2. Butts helped lead the Bruin men to two NCAA team titles in 1971 and 1972, placing fourth in the triple jump in 1971.

Joanna Hayes (women's track and field)

Current UCLA track and field assistant coach Joanna Hayes won an NCAA and seven Pac-10 individual titles while leading the Bruins to three straight Pac-10 titles and two consecutive NCAA runner-up finishes. A six-time All-America selection, she captured the 1999 NCAA outdoor title in the 400m hurdles and was third in the 100m hurdles, running a collegiate-best 12.89. Hayes won Olympic gold in 2004, breaking a 16-year Olympic record with a winning time of 12.37 in the 100m hurdles.

Joe-Max Moore (men's soccer)

Moore became the seventh UCLA men's soccer player to record 100 career points. He scored 11 goals, 10 assists and 32 points in his rookie season, leading UCLA to the 1990 NCAA title. He led UCLA in scoring with 18 goals in 1991 and nine in 1992, earning All-America acclaim both years. His three-year career total of 100 points (38 goals, 24 assists) still ranks in UCLA's all-time top 10. He played with the U.S. National Team at the 1994, 1998 and 2002 World Cups.

Francis Wai (football/basketball/track and field/rugby)

Captain Francis B. Wai lettered for the Bruins' football team in 1937-38, playing his final season with UCLA legends Kenny Washington and Woody Strode. In the Pacific Theatre of World War II, he attained the rank of Captain. Wai voluntarily commanded a group of leaderless, trapped American soldiers on Oct. 20, 1944, in Leyte, Philippine Islands, repeatedly exposing himself to enemy fire so the soldiers could advance. He lost his life just as the unit captured the last Japanese pillbox. In 2000, he posthumously received the Congressional Medal of Honor.



Joe-Max Moore



Natasha Watley

Natasha Watley (softball)

An Olympic gold medalist in 2004, Watley won a national championship both as a player and as a volunteer assistant coach at UCLA. Her first championship came in 2003 during a senior season in which she won not only the Honda Award but also the Honda Broderick Cup as the nation's best female collegiate athlete. She led the nation in hits in 2002 and 2003 and had the two longest hitting streaks in program history (32 and 29 games). She helped the U.S. win gold at the 2004 Olympics and also a silver medal at the 2008 Olympics.

Onnie Willis (gymnastics)

During her four years at UCLA, Willis won three NCAA team titles (2000, 2001, 2003), three Pac-10 team championships (2001-03) and four NCAA regional team titles. In 2001, she became UCLA's first-ever NCAA all-around champion, and as a senior in 2003 she won the Honda Award as the best collegiate gymnast in the nation. Academically, she earned the 2003 NCAA Top VII Award and an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship, securing CoSIDA Academic All-District honors three times.