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THE INSIDER'S VIEW

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Students moving around campus in droves. A certain crispness to the weather. Volleyball, soccer, football, water polo, basketball and cross country all in full swing. Yes, fall is in the air.

And it's during this time of year that I often find myself in a reflective mood. While some of this whimsy can be easily attributed to the upcoming holidays, on a personal level, it has more to do with the start of my journey at UCLA.

In the fall of 1969, I was wide-eyed and in awe of an opportunity with which nobody in my immediate family had ever been presented. As I packed my belongings and prepared for the drive to Westwood, I struggle now to put into words just exactly what I was feeling. However you describe those feelings, never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined the world of opportunities that would open before me simply by attending UCLA on an athletic scholarship.



DAN GUERRERO

Doors are still opening for me today because I attended UCLA, played baseball and received a world-class education.

With that said, this past June, 115 UCLA student-athletes walked across a stage inside Pauley Pavilion and received their degrees.

What's discouraging is that much of what we hear from pundits these days ranges from skepticism to downright cynicism in regard to just how much 'student' exists in the term 'student-athlete.' When you attend graduation, however, and listen to the accounts of sacrifice while witnessing the realization that it was all worth it for this very moment, you understand what receiving a UCLA diploma means to our young men and women.

Remembering back to the fall of 1969, recalling the sheer joy of graduation in June and with Thanksgiving imminent, I reminisce now how thankful I am for what UCLA represents, and what it means to so many of us.

You see, UCLA provides opportunity. And significant opportunities come in many forms.

On an academic level, take Anthony Barr for example. Many of us know his story, but not necessarily how the story ends. Beginning his career at UCLA on the offensive side of the ball, he shifted to defense to start the 2012 season and was one of the top performing linebackers in the nation as a junior. With the opportunity to pursue riches in the NFL after excelling at his new role, Anthony returned to school.

To say it worked out is an understatement. Chosen ninth overall in the 2014 NFL Draft, Anthony became the foundation upon which the Minnesota Vikings will build their franchise.

The story ends with Anthony standing alongside his fellow classmates in cap and gown, rope and tassel, diploma in hand at graduation. This is a very UCLA story, and it's something that never gets old.

I'm also thankful for the indelible moments that only college athletics can provide: like the priceless moments involving our student-athletes that make you realize that childhood dreams can, in fact, come true.

Growing up as a little boy, you wanted to be in Jerry Neuheisel's position. Trailing by four. The clock winding down, odds stacked against you and your team, needing THE play to win the game. And then you see the cornerback bite on the pump fake...

Growing up as a little girl, you wanted to be in Kodi Lavrusky's shoes. Tie game. Overtime of the national championship. Frigid North Carolina weather cracking your ankles, your team needing a goal to end it. A goal takes you to the pinnacle; soccer immortality. And then you receive the perfect pass...

Both Jerry and Kodi will never forget those moments. They will proudly carry these memories of opportunities seized with them for the rest of their lives. It's what's good about sport. It's what keeps us coming back for more. Jerry, lifted onto the shoulders of his teammates, raising his hands to the sky and soaking in the moment. Kodi, enveloped by her

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COVER PHOTO BY DON LIEBIG

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF UCLA ATHLETICS

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teammates as they piled on top of her to celebrate UCLA's first-ever national title in women's soccer.

The best part is we won't forget either. These are memories that we carry with us through life, too. We rally around our student-athletes because they represent our hopes and dreams, they represent what's good about athletics and they represent what we hold so dear – UCLA.

We all have those events in our lives where we can tell you exactly where we were, what we were doing, who we were with and how we felt at the precise moment history was made. Sometimes those moments are somber. Sometimes they change the world. But other times, those moments are uplifting. They are epic. They may not change *the* world, but they change *your* world.

As our fall and winter sports march on, I hope you experience your moment in time and share it with those close to you. May this holiday season allow you to reflect upon what you are truly thankful for. And in the end, I hope you experience the wonderful elation of being carried off the field, having beaten the odds, all while realizing your dreams.

Thank you, college athletics, and thank you, UCLA.

Dan Guerrero

A photograph of a Stanford women's soccer player in a white jersey with grey horizontal stripes and the number 4. She is running on a green field at night. In the foreground, another player in a white jersey is blurred. In the background, a person in a red shirt and a person in a green and orange patterned shirt are also blurred. The scene is lit by stadium lights.

THE TOP-RANKED **UCLA WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM** REMAINED UNBEATEN AFTER RALLYING TO DEFEAT SECOND-RANKED STANFORD ON OCT. 9 ON ANNIE ALVARADO'S FIRST CAREER GOAL. THE DEFENDING NATIONAL CHAMPIONS LOOK TO HOST NCAA PLAYOFF GAMES IN NOVEMBER.

(PHOTO BY SCOTT CHANDLER)



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BASKETBALL

Men's Home Schedule

Fri, Oct 31	Azusa Pacific (exh.)	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 14	Montana State	9:00 PM
Sun, Nov 16	Coastal Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 20	Nicholls State	8:00 PM
Sun, Nov 23	Long Beach State	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 3	Cal State Fullerton	9:00 PM
Sun, Dec 7	San Diego	4:00 PM
Wed, Dec 10	UC Riverside	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 13	Gonzaga	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 8	Stanford	6:00 PM
Sun, Jan 11	California	4:30 PM
Thu, Jan 29	Utah	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 31	Colorado	7:30 PM
Wed, Feb 11	Oregon State	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 14	Oregon	12:00 PM
Wed, Feb 25	Washington	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 1	Washington State	6:30 PM
Wed, Mar 4	USC	6:00 PM

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NETBALL



Women's Home Schedule

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Sun, Nov 23	Texas	1:00 PM
Fri, Nov 28	Nebraska	1:00 PM
Tue, Dec 2	Cincinnati	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 10	UC Riverside	5:00 PM
Fri, Dec 12	Sacramento State	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 28	Notre Dame	1:00 PM
Sat, Jan 3	Oregon State	5:00 PM
Mon, Jan 5	Oregon	5:00 PM
Sun, Jan 18	USC	7:30 PM
Fri, Jan 23	Stanford	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 25	California	3:00 PM
Fri, Feb 6	Colorado	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 8	Utah	2:00 PM
Fri, Feb 20	Arizona State	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 22	Arizona	1:00 PM

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SENIOR **NORMAN POWELL** LEADS THE BRUINS AS THEY ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE UPON LAST YEAR'S SWEET 16 APPEARANCE AND 28 WINS WITH ONE OF THE NATION'S BEST RECRUITING CLASSES. TURN TO PAGE 23 FOR A STORY ON FRESHMAN KEVON LOONEY.

(PHOTO BY SCOTT CHANDLER)



A full-page photograph of two UCLA gymnasts in blue leotards performing a vault. One gymnast is in the air above the vault, while the other is in a crouched position below it. The background is dark with blue bokeh lights.

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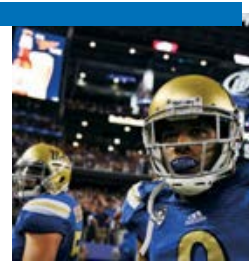
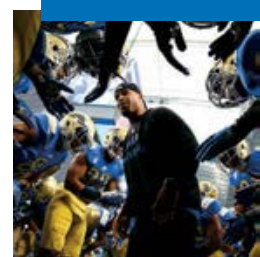


Behind the Scenes with UCLA Football

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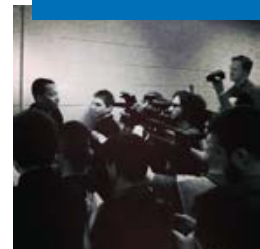


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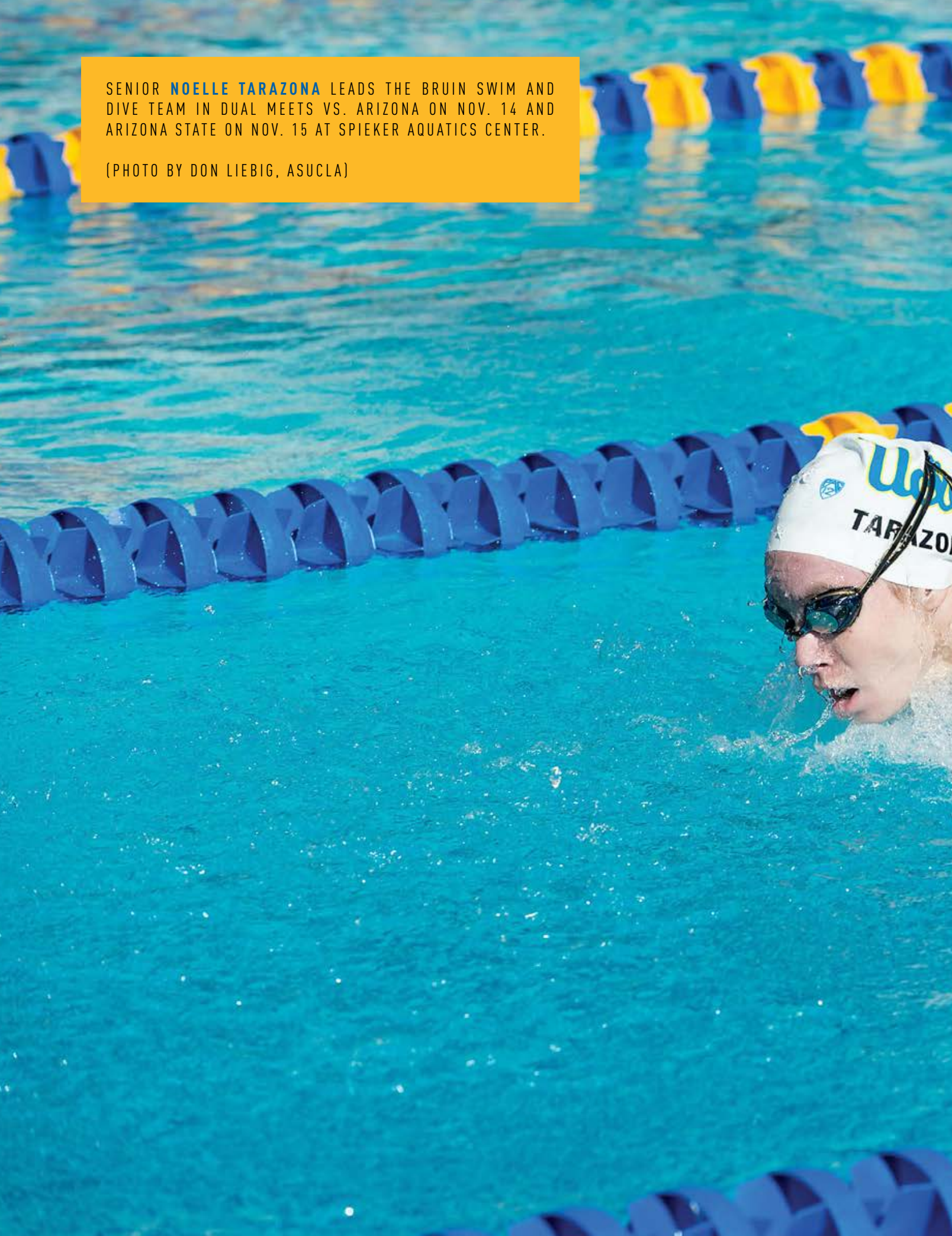
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SENIOR **NOELLE TARAZONA** LEADS THE BRUIN SWIM AND DIVE TEAM IN DUAL MEETS VS. ARIZONA ON NOV. 14 AND ARIZONA STATE ON NOV. 15 AT SPIEKER AQUATICS CENTER.

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Meb's TRIUMPH

BORN INTO WAR, BRUIN ALUMNUS OVERCOMES ODDS TO CAPTURE DISTANCE RUNNING'S BIGGEST STAGE

By Mark Whicker

When the pain burrowed deep into his legs, when the hills of Boston looked as formidable as Kilimanjaro, he grasped wildly for any thought that would soothe him.

Meb Keflezighi began thinking of his dad.

He is Russom's son. Russom lived in Eritrea, an old Italian colony on the African horn. There was war with Ethiopia, and six kids and another on the way. To care for them all, Russom had to leave.

"He walked 125 miles," Meb said. "It took him seven days. He didn't have any food. He had \$25, a bottle of water, a bag of barley and a stick."

Russom would get to the Sudan, then to Italy, then to a stepsister in San Diego named Ruth.

The children would come later. Meb got to San Diego when he was 12. Now he was an American, running in the first Boston Marathon since a bomb went off in a garbage can and killed three people, injured 264 others and traumatized a city and a horde of worldwide runners.

Twenty-six miles and two-tenths.

Against 125 miles.

Suddenly it didn't seem very far.

The first winner in post-bomb Boston was Meb Keflezighi, telling himself that nothing really hurt, riding the shrieks of the people yelling "U-S-A."

Two weeks short of his 39th birthday, he became the oldest winner of America's most famous annual marathon.

It was the most electric American sports moment of the year. And after an Olympic silver medal and a New York City Marathon victory, it was the climax of a career that he insists is not over. After all, Keflezighi ran a personal-best 2:08.37.

"With nine miles left I was dragging," he said. "Every step brought some pain. I dug down deep, thought about the noise, thought about the victims' names. I leaned forward at one point and told myself the hard part was over. Then, on mile 22, I got cramps."

Keflezighi was sitting outside at a Starbucks, in the quiet San Diego neighborhood of Mission Hills, where





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he lives. It was just before sunset, and cars and buses churned by, and pedestrians crossed the street in front of him, and no one seemed to know who he was.

He endorses products. He has a running shoe named for him. He is a vice president of Competitor Group, Inc., which oversees marathons. He has an office.

"We have it so easy here," he said quietly. "Look right here. There are grocery stores, street lights, schools. Back there (in Africa) I didn't have pencil and paper to write. Here, everything is at your fingertips."

Which is why Keflezighi takes those long fingers and makes a fist and squeezes his life so tightly.

"I was born in a war," he said. "Here, there is no room to complain. Not even after a marathon."

He smiled.

THE UCLA YEARS

Keflezighi was wearing a UCLA track shirt as he talked. He graduated in 1998. The Bruins' coach back then, Bob Larsen, is now his personal coach, and is involved in projects that have exhumed American long-distance racing.

Before the big races, they go to Mammoth Lakes and train at 7,800 feet, to try to parallel the way the great African runners ran.

Keflezighi's Bruin days were precious, but tough. He didn't do much, he said, except study and run. In that order. Every year he had 8 o'clock classes.

"If there were special classes for the athletes," he said with a laugh, "I never found out what they were until it was too late."

Although Keflezighi had been a CIF champion while at San Diego High, he needed to invest far more in himself. In his junior year at UCLA he took a Physiology 5 class. He does not remember the teacher, but he does remember that the instructor was a bodybuilder who had a stark, specific message. Eat right or live wrong.

"He had us sit down and write down everything we ate," he said. "He looked at what I ate and he said it was about 5,000 calories. My outtake was about 3,000. If I didn't get it straightened out, he said I would be obese. For breakfast I'd have pancakes, French toast, eggs, cereal, yogurt. For lunch I would do pretty much the same thing. I had to learn to eat just one instead of all four or five."

From then on, he and teammate Dan Bragg would challenge each other to eat healthy, and, if either didn't, a quarter would go into the coffers. Fortified, Keflezighi had a sensational senior year. In the fall of 1997 he won the NCAA cross country championship, and in the spring he captured the NCAA outdoor 5K and 10K.

He became friends with shotputter John Godina and sprinter Ato Boldon, both UCLA All-Americans. He also became a naturalized U.S. citizen.

"Before I went [to UCLA] I did a lot of research," he said. "I wanted to know who Jackie Joyner-Kersey was, who Bill Walton and John Wooden were. I read up on Jackie Robinson. The history was embroidered in you. Coach Larsen would tell us that when we went out and we were wearing that UCLA uniform, we weren't just representing ourselves anymore. It was the whole university family."

BECOMING A MARATHONER

For the distance runner, the marathon is the jagged peak in the distance, the one that dwarfs everything else, until it's conquered. Keflezighi postponed it as long as he could. His first was in 2002, the New York City Marathon, when he was 27.

How did it go?



"I remember thinking that I never want to do this again," he said.

Two years later he was winning Olympic silver in Athens.

"I was sore as hell the morning after that first one," Keflezighi said. "It was so painful. Right now I think I have five more left in me. I know in London (2008) I said I wouldn't ever do another Olympic marathon, but I finished fourth there without my usual training, and I had a personal best, and at Boston I did it again, another personal best. So I might as well keep going, just to show what you can do at this age."

"I think at this point he wants to run so his family can see him do well," Larsen said of Keflezighi, who has three daughters. "But he's taken care of himself so well that he still is capable. I can't imagine the discipline that he shows every day. To be training that long and never have a soft drink, never have dessert? That's a tremendous amount of dedication."

All Olympic marathons are special. They recreate the tale of Pheidippides, who ran from Marathon to Athens to bring news of the Greeks' victory over Persia, at which point he collapsed and died.

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THE 11 KEFLEZIGHI CHILDREN
WITH THEIR PARENTS (CENTER).

"WITH NINE MILES LEFT I WAS DRAGGING. EVERY STEP BROUGHT SOME PAIN. I DUG DOWN DEEP, THOUGHT ABOUT THE NOISE, THOUGHT ABOUT THE VICTIMS' NAMES. I LEANED FORWARD AT ONE POINT AND TOLD MYSELF THE HARD PART WAS OVER. THEN, ON MILE 22, I GOT CRAMPS."

— MEB KEFLEZIGHI

A more verifiable bit of history awaited Keflezighi when he got to Athens: Panathinako Stadium, which was part of the 1896 Olympics. The 2004 contestants started in the town of Marathon and finished in this gleaming oval, with marble benches all around.

An event as unwieldy as the marathon has enough room for the bizarre, especially this one. Vanderlei Cordeiro de Lima of Brazil led with seven kilometers left but was grabbed by a religious zealot and lost so much time he finished third.

Keflezighi came in second behind Italy's Stefano Baldini, thus becoming the second living American marathon medalist, along with Frank Shorter. He entered the glorious stadium and heard the layers of noise, but not for long.

"I felt like I was cheated out of my victory lap," Keflezighi said. "They immediately took me to doping. No flowers, no flag, nothing. But I went back there last year and took my family, and I showed them that stadium."

And that's where his Olympic career stalled. He tried to qualify in 2008, but a mysterious injury thwarted his training, and during the Olympic Trials in New York he could run no more, with Larsen carrying him off the course. They thought it was a sports hernia. Later they learned Keflezighi had developed a stress fracture in his pelvis.

Three years later Nike withdrew its sponsorship of Keflezighi. It took him only a few months to sign with Skechers, but it brought yet another spur of motivation. Keflezighi won the 2012 Olympic Trials in Houston by cutting nearly five seconds off his best time.

The London course, in the Olympics, had tight turns, hills and heat. Keflezighi finished fourth, 90 seconds short of a medal. Normally fourth place is the most excruciating place to be. Keflezighi drew strength from it. Two years later in Boston, he demonstrated how much.

USING HIS EXPERIENCE

"I had so many foot issues," he said. "Blister issues. At one point they had to take the whole callus off."

"When the pain came in Boston and the other runners came to me, I had three choices. I could let them go, just catch up to me, or run away. I figured they had the momentum so they probably would go on by. I looked over and saw this bright orange uniform."

"But that's where his experience and intelligence took over," Larsen said. "The younger guys might have panicked in that situation. It was a time of the race when not a whole lot of oxygen is getting into his brain. He was still able to make good decisions and stay calm."

Keflezighi began training for Boston 2014 immediately after Boston 2013. He also elongated his career after Superstorm Sandy ravaged the Northeast and caused the cancellation of the 2012 New York marathon.

As he told *Runners World* magazine, Keflezighi concentrated less on the mileage and more on the quality, preparing for Boston. He worked in nine-day cycles, with one marathon-length run, one speed-conscious run, and one interval session. He said he had "no idea" how many miles he put in, but the



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name of this game, so close to his 40th birthday, is to err on the side of health.

But, after all these years of solitary striving, Keflezighi profited from a team concept in Boston. Finally there were enough credible American marathoners to strategize for each other, the way the runners from African nations have always done, and they took turns calibrating the pace so that Keflezighi could thrive out front. Six of the top 13 finishers were from the U.S.

"In the past we might have only one guy to meet the marathon qualifying standard," Keflezighi said. "Now we have a lot of guys. I remember writing to Asics, Reebok and Nike 20 years ago, outlining how we could build this. My feeling is that anybody can do it, if I can."

A typical case is Molly Huddle, who won the Oakley New York Mini 10K this year, the first American to do so since Deena Kastor 10 years ago. But then Kastor, now 40, finished ninth in the World Championship marathon in Moscow last year.

Kastor won bronze in Athens, when Larsen was coaching her, just before Keflezighi won silver. In London, Galen Rupp got silver in the 10K, as did Leonel Marzano in the 1,500 meters.

Larsen now helps run the Mammoth Track Club. It boasts 12 Olympians and 23 national records. Mammoth Lakes also rises 7,800 feet above sea level, which, Larsen says, is where Americans needed to go to compete.

They also needed to be more like Keflezighi.

"I think of him as the ultimate professional," Larsen said. "Everything he does is based on being the best he can be. He never takes a shortcut."

PAYING DAD BACK

Ten of the 11 Keflezighi children went to college and graduated; the 11th now attends San Diego State. Nine of the 11 have UC degrees, including Meb and his brother Merhawi, Meb's manager. A sister graduated from Stanford. Keflezighi has 11 sponsors, has written an autobiography and travels on behalf of his foundation and businesses.

When his marathon career is over he will not stop running.

"Vacation? What is that?" he said. "That's how my family looked at it. They might go visit other family members, but they kept going."

What keeps him going? Maybe it's the silhouettes in the background, the tall buildings of downtown San Diego.

Russom drove cabs for a while, but his main job was cleaning office buildings, sometimes in La Jolla and Del Mar and Kearny Mesa.

On Friday nights it was a family outing.

"We could go there at one in the morning," Keflezighi said, his eyes far away. "Brothers, uncles. We'd clean up and have bread and tea and Coca-Cola, and maybe some peanut butter cookies."

"And one day my father told me something. He said, 'You have a choice. You can leave here at 5 o'clock in the afternoon like everyone else does. Or you could come here in the middle of the night.'"

Now Meb Keflezighi has taken his father to his office. He also takes him to the finish line.

Mark Whicker is currently a columnist for the Los Angeles Daily News.

RECEE' CALDWELL

THE DIAMOND AMONG FIVE GOLDEN JEWELS

By Michael Ventre

More than one positive-thinking philosopher over the years has advised fellow humans to dream big. There are probably five to 10 quotes along those lines on a typical Facebook page each day. But when UCLA women's basketball coach Cori Close went to see Reece' Caldwell play a game during the summer of 2012 against a team that had both Jordin Canada and Kari Korver on it, she wasn't exactly wishing upon a star.

"I remember sitting next to (UCLA assistant coach) Tony (Newnan) and saying, 'That would be the ideal pair right there,'" said Close, referring to Reece' and Jordin. "And everybody said, 'Yeah, Reece' is about to commit to Baylor. Jordin is leaning toward USC.' I had just gotten [to UCLA]. I said, 'That's too bad.'"

"But I used it as an opportunity to tell my staff, 'If I could design a pair to build a backcourt around, that's the kind of characteristics I'd want,'" she added. "So as I looked elsewhere, I said I want people like Reece' Caldwell and Jordin Canada and here's why. I went on to explain it, even though I didn't think I'd have a chance with them."

Close learned a wonderful lesson that day: Sometimes big dreams come true.

Caldwell, from San Antonio, Texas, did not go to Baylor. Instead, she chose UCLA. And that set off a seismic chain reaction in the world of women's college basketball recruiting. Canada (Windward School in L.A.) opted against USC and other suitors to join her good friend Caldwell in Westwood. Lajahna Drummer (Long Beach Poly), Kelli Hayes (Archbishop Mitty H.S. of San Jose) and Monique Billings (Santiago H.S. in Corona) also committed to UCLA.

Those five comprise the top recruiting class in the nation, according to most recruiting services. It marks the first time the Bruins have signed a No. 1 recruiting class in women's basketball.

"In recruiting you can't control timing very much," Close explained. "If I were to have a dream of how it would go, that would have been the dream."

The linchpin of that dream is a personable 5-8 guard with infectious energy and boundless optimism who chose the Bruins over several top programs that were in hot pursuit. Caldwell grew up in the Riverside area until age 10 when she moved to San Antonio. Now she's back in Southern California to help spearhead an effort to bring UCLA its very first NCAA title in women's basketball.

"My last three were Duke, UConn and UCLA," she said of her college choices. "Coach Close and I had had a great relationship throughout. She started recruiting me my sophomore year. That's when we really started talking. She tried to challenge me as a person first, and then as a basketball player. She really invested in me and cared about me as a person."

Close admits she had little hope about getting Canada after Caldwell committed. "I said, 'Let's not waste our time.' The rumor was she was going to USC," she said.

But Close credits UCLA assistant coach Jenny Huth with refusing to give up.

"Coach Jenny doesn't believe there's a recruit out there we shouldn't go get," Close said. "She has a bulldog mentality and she just believes we have such an uncommon experience to offer kids that we should never decide that in advance. So she said 'I'm going. You can't tell me not to go after this.'"

It wasn't one factor that swayed her, Caldwell said. It was the vibe, the overall sense that Westwood was the right place for her.



photo by Don Liebig, ASUCLA

"I went to the Hall of Fame," she said of UCLA's Athletics Hall of Fame inside the J.D. Morgan Center. "We didn't have any (NCAA championships in women's basketball) there. I want to be part of something no one else has done before. I know (Ann) Meyers won one here (an AIAW title in 1978) but not an NCAA championship."

"My family is from California," Caldwell added. "I'm from California. All my family is here. So I'm coming home in a sense. Just my mom, dad and sister stay in Texas. Being able to play in front of my grandparents and family is really special. Los Angeles is beautiful. So it was a total package."

It took Close about a nanosecond to realize she had something special on her hands with Caldwell in the fold.

"I got a phone call from one of my former colleagues I worked with at Florida State," Close recalled, "and he said, 'You know, you only get to coach one of those in your career.' That's how elite she is in terms of mentality. I would have to describe her as driven, charismatic, fun-spirited, passionate about the game, and a still-waters-run-deep kid. She wants to grow as a young woman just as much as she wants to be an elite basketball player. That's what made her the perfect match to lead that class."

"She's a leader," Close added. "If I had to pick one word it would be leader. She leads by example and verbally. She's got sort of a strength and an edge to do it. She doesn't care what anyone thinks. Her goals are too big."

A tiny snag developed when Caldwell committed, but it was something that also served simultaneously as a major selling point.

Ordinarily, premier point guards in basketball don't enjoy sharing the rock with other premier point guards. After all, there's only one rock. It belongs in the hands of the point guard — unless there are two. Then confusion ensues.

That could have been the case with Caldwell and Canada, except for the fact

that the two are such exceptionally close friends that any possible basketball bickering is immediately trumped by an overwhelming sense of teamwork and an omnipresent wave of unselfishness.

"I just feel we complement each other and play to each other's strengths," Caldwell said of Canada. "If I have a weakness, Jordin's gonna have my back. If she has a weakness, I have her back."

It doesn't disturb Close's state of recruiting nirvana to think about how she will coach the two point guards to play together.

"Recee' and Jordin were best buddies because they played on the USA Basketball Under-16 team that went to Mexico," the coach explained. "They had played together already. That wasn't an inhibitor at all. They played in a system where they could play together. They have very different strengths and very different weaknesses. They really complement each other. But more importantly, they're absolutely for each other. They want each other to be great. They care about each other deeply. They're best friends. That was the next step, Reccee' saying 'Hey let's do this together.'"

"For them to have that strength of character and know what they're trying to accomplish makes them a very special pair."

Last year Caldwell was homeschooled, which allowed her to strengthen her credentials — both academic and athletic — before heading to UCLA. Her dad, Ray, who runs one of the top AAU programs in Texas, said her senior year outside of organized high school basketball, plus all her hard work in recent years, helped his daughter tremendously.

"What I noticed the last couple of years is a renewed focus that allowed her to specify what she wanted to work on," he said. "That's been the biggest difference. She always had a well-rounded skill set. Over the last couple of years she's been extremely focused to tighten up particular skills. Her shooting, for instance. She was always a great shooter. She knew she had to raise the release point of her shot against different defenders, so she worked on her shot. That takes some courage. The old saying, 'If it's not broke, don't fix it.' Well, it wasn't broke, but she improved it."

This driven freshman leader, this mature-beyond-her-years student-athlete, this deadeye shooter with a versatile overall game, this central figure in an historic recruiting class, might have put her energies into some other endeavor had it not been for the fact that Ray Caldwell reneged on a promise to take her to Knott's Berry Farm when she was nine.

"I wanted to go to Knott's and he took me to an L.A. Sparks game instead," she said. "I was kind of disappointed at first until I saw the Magic Johnson statue outside of Staples Center. I was like, 'That is so cool.' Then I saw Lisa Leslie warming up, and Chamique Holdsclaw. During warm-ups I told my dad I loved it. I told him, 'I want to be a professional basketball player someday.' I re-solidified it at halftime — 'I want to be here one day.'"

Well, one thing at a time. She's at UCLA now. Of course, that may be one small step for Caldwell, but it's one giant leap for the UCLA women's basketball program.

Michael Ventre is a freelance writer based in Los Angeles. A former sports columnist for the Los Angeles Daily News, he has written for MSNBC.com, Variety, Los Angeles Confidential magazine, American Way (American Airlines) magazine, Adweek and many other publications.

BRUIN NEWCOMERS

MEN

JONAH BOLDEN G/F 6-10 SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA (BREWSTER ACADEMY, N.H.)
RANKED NO. 25 IN HIS CLASS AND NO. 5 POWER FORWARD BY SCOUT.COM; AVERAGED 18 PPG AND 13 RPG FOR NEW SOUTH WALES AT 2013 AUSTRALIAN U18 NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (WILL SIT OUT 2015 SEASON - NCAA RULING)

GYÖRGY "G.G." GOLOMÁN F 6-10 KORMEND, HUNGARY (THE SAGEMONT SCHOOL, FLA.)
AVERAGED 15.1 PPG, 8.5 RPG COMPETING FOR HUNGARY AT 2013 U18 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS; LED SAGEMONT TO A 33-1 RECORD IN 2014 AND THE FLORIDA 3A STATE TITLE

ISAAC HAMILTON G 6-4 LOS ANGELES, CALIF. (ST. JOHN BOSCO)
2013 McDONALD'S ALL-AMERICAN; AVERAGED 23.5 PPG, 7.6 RPG, 5.0 APG IN 2013; LED SJB TO THE CIF SS D III-A TITLE; SAT OUT THE 2014 SEASON

KEVON LOONEY F 6-9 MILWAUKEE, WIS. (HAMILTON)
2014 McDONALD'S AND PARADE ALL-AMERICAN; GATORADE AND AP PLAYER OF THE YEAR IN WISCONSIN, AVERAGED 27.9 PPG, 12.7 RPG, 8.0 BPG, 7.0 APG

THOMAS WELSH C 7-0 REDONDO BEACH, CALIF. (LOYOLA)
2014 McDONALD'S ALL-AMERICAN; AVERAGED 15.3 PPG, 11.2 RPG, 2.7 BPG, 1.4 APG AND SHOT 59% FROM THE FIELD.

ALEC WULFF G 6-3 LAGUNA BEACH, CALIF. (LAGUNA BEACH)
TWO-TIME FIRST-TEAM ALL-ORANGE COAST LEAGUE; AVERAGED 15.2 PPG IN 2014

WOMEN

JORDIN CANADA G 5-6 LOS ANGELES, CALIF. (WINDWARD)
2014 McDONALD'S ALL-AMERICAN AND FOUR-TIME FIRST-TEAM ALL-CIF AND ALPHA LEAGUE SELECTION; AVERAGED 18.0 PPG, 7.0 APG, 5.0 SPG, 4.0 RPG

RECEE' CALDWELL G 5-8 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS (HOMESCHOOLED)
2014 McDONALD'S ALL-AMERICAN AND GOLD MEDALIST AT FIBA AMERICAS CHAMPIONSHIP; AVERAGED 20.0 PPG, 5.1 RPG, 5.5 APG, 3.4 SPG, 1.3 BPG IN 2014

LAJAHNA DRUMMER F 6-1 INGLEWOOD, CALIF. (LONG BEACH POLY)
2014 McDONALD'S ALL-AMERICAN, ALL-CIF SS, ALL-MOORE LEAGUE AND ALL-CITY FORWARD WHO AVERAGED 11.2 PPG, 6.7 RPG, 2.2 SPG TO LEAD LBP TO A 27-3 OVERALL RECORD, A MOORE LEAGUE TITLE (12-0) AND CIF CHAMPIONSHIP

KELLI HAYES G 6-0 SAN JOSE, CALIF. (ARCHBISHOP MITTY)
THREE-TIME ALL-CCS PLAYER OF THE YEAR, WHO AVERAGED 18.0 PPG, 8.0 RPG, 3.2 APG, 2.8 SPG, 1.7 BPG AS A SENIOR; TOP 15 RANKED WING BY SEVERAL RECRUITING SERVICES; LED MITTY TO THE 2012 STATE TITLE

PAULINA HERSLER F 6-3 MALMÖ, SWEDEN (IGELSTAVIKENS GYMNASIUM)
2014 REDSHIRT; VETERAN OF THE SWEDISH NATIONAL TEAM; LED U18 EURO CHAMPIONSHIP IN SCORING AT 20.9 PPG

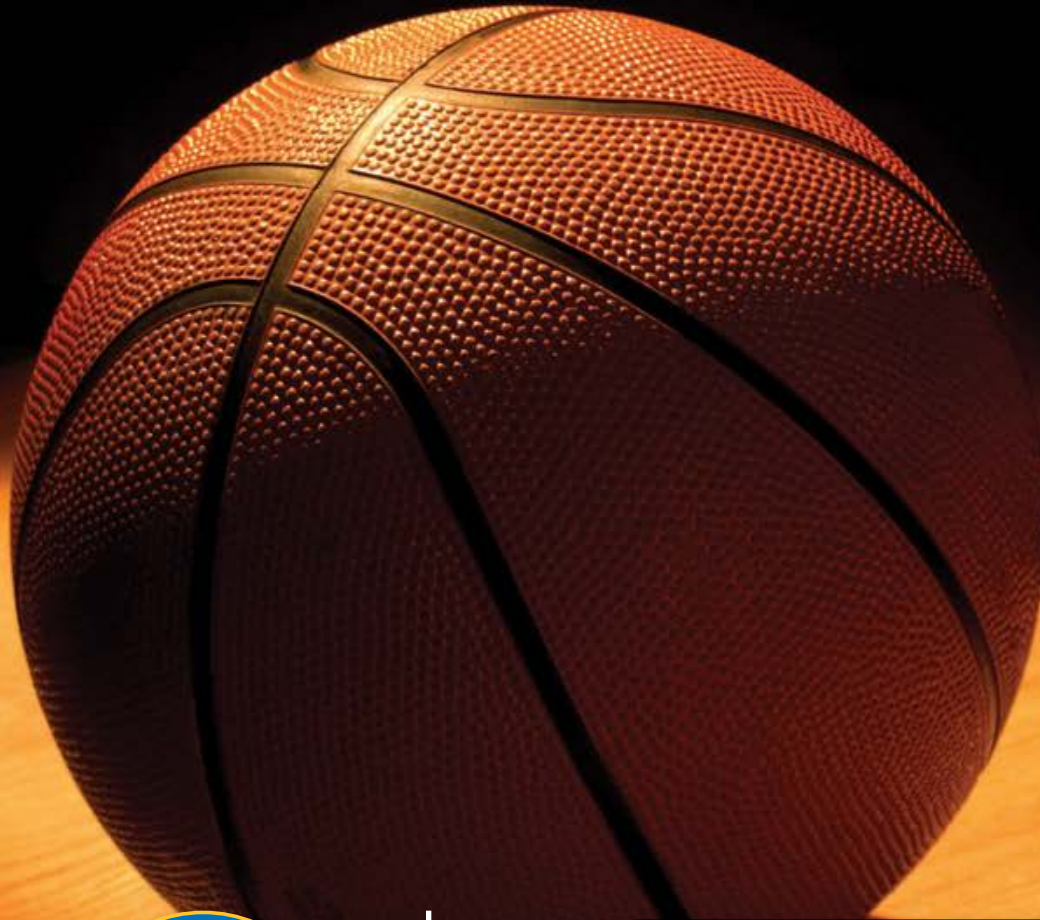
MONIQUE BILLINGS F 6-4 CORONA, CALIF. (SANTIAGO)
TOP 10 RANKED FORWARD IN 2014, WHO AVERAGED 18.3 PPG, 12.7 RPG, 2.1 SPG, 1.5 APG; LED SANTIAGO TO THE 2013 CIF SS DI AA TITLE

CHRISSY BAIRD G 6-1 WHEATON, ILL. (WHEATON NORTH)
WHEATON NORTH'S ALL-TIME LEADING SCORER (1,076) AND REBOUNDER (828), WHO WAS A SECOND-TEAM ALL-USA TODAY ILLINOIS CHOICE; ONCE HAULED IN 24 REBOUNDS IN A GAME FOR WHEATON

SAVANNA TRAPP C 6-9 ESKO, MINN. (ESKO)
2014 REDSHIRT; AVERAGED 20.1 PPG, 9.5 RPG AND 6.8 BPG IN 2011-12; LED ESKO TO FOUR STRAIGHT SECTION 7AA CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

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ENTER KEVON

LOONEY'S NAME WILL BE A HOUSEHOLD WORD SOON

Kevon rhymes with LeBron.

Don't confuse the former with his dad and older brother (both named Kevin), or his nephew (Keon), or even his basketball idol, Kobe.

And don't compare him to the Cleveland Cavaliers' superstar either.

What might be a proper assessment of Kevon Looney is that the excitement and anticipation he's created in Westwood over his basketball prowess are genuine. Add in fellow freshman and McDonald's All-American Thomas Welsh and UCLA fans are thrilled.

"He's a great rebounder," head coach Steve Alford said of Looney. "He's long, athletic. He has an incredible skill set. There is a reason why he was ranked among the McDonald's top 10. He's a special talent."

Looney, a 6-9, 220-pound forward, is somewhat freakish. He rebounds and blocks shots like a frontcourt demon. (He averaged 12.4 and 7, respectively, as a high school senior last season, along with 26 points a game.) But he has a point-guard background, having played the position in high school because he was the best overall playmaker. His versatility also excites Bruin fans.

"He's also a terrific kid, from a great family," Alford said. "He's a very humble individual. Through our first three months with him here – July, August, September – we've all had a chance to be around Kevon. He works extremely hard and is a great teammate."

With Looney and Welsh, a 7-foot center from nearby Loyola High School, the Bruins have welcomed a pair of talented big men who look to help UCLA improve off last season's Sweet 16 finish.

"Kevon's a big-time player," said UCLA assistant coach David Grace, who was a pivotal figure in Looney's recruitment to Westwood. "He's got a great personality. He's a great kid. He's a very hard worker and he's very physically gifted. He's going to do what it takes to win. Kevon is a winner. And he's a quiet leader. People tend to follow him."

Whereas Welsh was a local product, having grown up in Redondo Beach, Looney was a wild card from cheese country. A highly sought-after star at Milwaukee's Hamilton High School and an excellent student, Looney had narrowed down his college choices to Wisconsin, Florida, Duke, Tennessee, Michigan State and UCLA.

"Wisconsin was close to home, but I didn't feel it

was the style of play for me," Looney explained. "I actually wanted something different. I didn't want to be home. The other [schools], I just felt they were good fits for me. But California is a great place and [UCLA] the best campus. And if I was going to be in college for four years, I could see myself at UCLA. It's the best campus, great weather and a great education."

Looney created some mystery, as modern-day recruits sometimes do, opening a box on decision day and pulling out the baseball cap of the school he had chosen. Donning the UCLA cap was somewhat of a surprise, as many of the top recruiting services did not predict he would choose Westwood. He said he didn't even tell any family members, because they decided they wanted to know when everybody else found out.

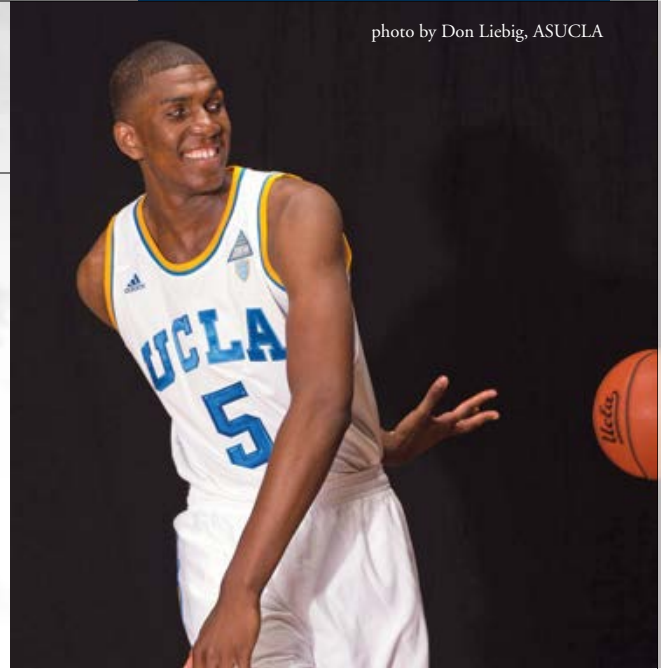
Grace said the combination of UCLA, Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Lakers all ganged up on Looney and seduced him.

"Kevon has always liked Los Angeles and he's been a lifelong Lakers fan," Grace said. "I know he's a big fan of Kobe Bryant. At the end of the day, I think he wanted a change from where he grew up. Coming from Milwaukee, with the opportunity to go to college in L.A., I think that's something that he didn't want to pass up. I think Kevon wanted to get away and start something new."

What makes Looney's presence so valuable to UCLA's lineup is a formidable and varied skill set. In Alford's system, Looney is expected to be given the freedom to maximize his talents, whether on the wing, inside or in transition. He is expected to adapt easily to college basketball because, style-wise, it won't be much different than what he's used to.

"I can play anywhere on the court, I believe," said Looney. "In high school I had the ball in my hands a lot. I was the playmaker. I was there to make decisions. I can still pass and dribble. I can rebound. The best things about my game are my rebounding and playmaking ability. I can create for others and for myself. When I have other guys on my team who can score, I can just go down there and rebound. I'm a high-motor guy, too."

Then there's the Kobe factor. Bryant is a 6-6, 205-pound shooting guard. Looney is three inches taller, 15 pounds heavier and has a larger wingspan.



From the outside, it wouldn't seem as though Kevon is a mirror image of Kobe. But that didn't stop Looney from emulating the Lakers' superstar. Originally it was Kevon's brother who developed the Kobe obsession. But as brothers do, he passed it down to Kevon.

"I'm a big Kobe fan too," Kevon said. "He's my favorite player to watch. Growing up I was always watching Laker games as a young kid. I was real small, playing in my backyard. I'd watch the Lakers win the Finals, then I couldn't wait to see Kobe get into the Finals again."

As he grew older and began seriously studying the man, he enrolled in his own private Kobe 101.

"I watched a lot of his moves," Looney explained. "I have seen every mix tape of Kobe and watched his greatest games. I try to model my game after his. Also, other players — a young Tracy McGrady, Dirk (Nowitzki), Paul Pierce. But Kobe is my favorite. I try to steal a lot of his moves."

"Recently I've been watching his post moves, mid-post moves, to try to incorporate a lot of that into my game," he added. "I actually didn't post up much in high school other than bullying and shooting over the top, so I've been watching his footwork and incorporating some of his moves into my game."

Looney has experienced Kobe's game from afar, but said he hasn't met the man yet.

"I'm waiting for that to happen," Looney said with a smile.

When it does happen, Kobe would be advised to call him "Ke-VON," because certainly by that time Looney will have made a name for himself.

This story was co-written by Michael Ventre and the editorial staff.

SAMANTHA PESZEK

One of those
BIG DREAMER KIDS

ALL-AMERICA GYMNAST RETURNS FOR HER FINAL SEASON, ALSO CHASING HER BROADCAST DREAMS

By Michael Ventre

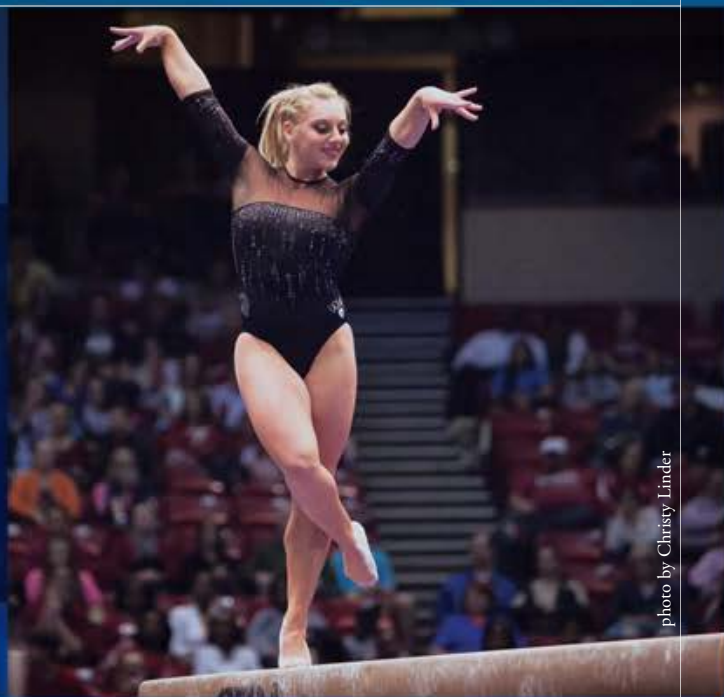


photo by Christy Linder

Naturally talented. It's a phrase that's tossed around often when an athlete boggles the mind. Certainly hard work, determination, dedication and perseverance factor in; they're givens. But natural talent is one of those extra special gifts that often sets some performers apart from the rest.

And you can see it in Samantha Peszek, the broadcaster. She was practically born with a microphone in her hand and a network patch on her blazer. As a star and elder stateswoman for the UCLA women's gymnastics team as well as a member of the silver medal-winning 2008 Olympic squad, Peszek slips into the analyst's role with aplomb to do analysis on web casts for USA Gymnastics and regular interviews on uclabruins.com.

"I think she's the kind of kid that really wants to get better at everything she does," noted Allan Brum, a producer for NBC and the Pac-12 Network who has known Peszek since she was seven. "The best thing she's got going for her is that she is very much herself on camera. That's not something you can teach anyone. People who can be themselves without being nervous on camera, they're the ones that really light up. That's a key ingredient. She's the same on camera as she is in person."

So when Sam Peszek reveals that when it came to gymnastics she was the opposite of naturally talented, it doesn't compute. Here is someone who, in 2013, was inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame as a member of the 2007 Women's World Championships Team. Usually we don't think of a Hall of Famer as a teenager short on talent. She's been a member of the USA National Team since 2004. Her father, Ed, was a hockey player and wrestler, and mom, Luan, was a gymnast (and now a vice president of USA Gymnastics), so the genes are there.

But Peszek looked back at how it all began for her in the sport, and she made a sour face.

"As a kid I was terrible at gymnastics," she recalled. "Really awful. On top of being awful I had a lot of fear issues to the point where people were advising me to quit because I would come home sobbing every night. I was just too scared to do all my skills. I was miserable. It's like, 'No one is pushing you to do this. Stick with soccer. Stick with dance. Go with something that you love.' And I would say, 'But I love gymnastics. I want to go to the Olympics.' I was one of those big dreamer kids.

"My parents always told me I could do anything I set my mind to," she

added. "Even though I was so awful I really believed I could go to the Olympics even though my coaches and I were like, 'Maybe this isn't for you.' But I really believed in myself and I believed I could do anything I set my mind to. I love to pass that message around to anyone and any little athlete. You never realize Kobe Bryant and Peyton Manning started where little kids are. At some point they were awful."

Natural talent is a gift. But as Peszek has demonstrated throughout her career, it's overrated. Elbow grease is a more important commodity. Peszek started in gymnastics when she was two, and began competing at six. She set out at a young age to realize a dream, lack of innate ability be damned.

"I have athletics in my genes and I'm very competitive," she said. "But I was never that flexible for a gymnast. I wasn't naturally talented. So for me it was always hard work that got me to wherever I was. Hard work. When I started competing I was a level behind everyone else. All my friends were moving on and I wasn't. I did privates. I wanted it more than I wanted fear.

"It took about a year to overcome my first fear," she added. "The next time I had a really serious fear it took me maybe six months to get over. And the next fear it was even less time. So you learn how to overcome your obstacles."

Valorie Kondos Field, women's gymnastics coach for the Bruins and a UCLA alumnus herself, has been Peszek's coach for four years but knew her well before that through recruiting. She pointed out that Peszek has something deep inside her that is more valuable than sheer athletic talent.

"She has the heart of a champion," Kondos Field said. "She has the mind of a champion. There are people who are just born with the DNA of a champion. Sam would be successful at anything she did. She loves a challenge. She loves to compete."

Peszek gradually climbed the ladder of young gymnasts. She made the TOPs National Team when she was 10, a big deal in the sport. She also trained at Bela Karolyi's ranch outside of Houston. There Peszek saw photos of alumni like the "Magnificent Seven," members of the 1996 Olympic women's gymnastics team that won the first-ever gold medal for the U.S. in team competition – Shannon Miller, Dominique Moceanu, Dominique Dawes, Kerri Strug, Amy Chow, Amanda Borden and Jaycie Phelps.

It had an impact. "Once I made the national team and I started training

A close-up photograph of a diverse group of UCLA fans at a sporting event. In the center, a man with a beard and a blue UCLA cap is shouting with his mouth wide open. He has yellow and blue face paint on his cheeks. He is wearing a blue UCLA t-shirt and a lanyard. To his left, a woman with blonde hair and a blue cap is also cheering. In the foreground, the faces of other fans are partially visible, some also cheering. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the crowd.

WE THUNDER

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we, the optimists **UCLA**

Samantha PESZEK

with the coaches who coached those girls I was like, 'Why not me? Why can't I do this too?' she said. "Every time I went to the ranch I became reignited and a little more driven and passionate and more serious."

The rest is history. The 5-foot-1 native of Indianapolis is now a redshirt senior in Westwood, returning to competition after missing the 2013 season with a torn Achilles tendon. Although that was painful, Peszek isn't one to wallow. That brings us back to natural talent.

One of her great strengths is her versatility as a student-athlete. She is one of those organized individuals who has just about every minute of her daily schedule planned out. "I wish sometimes I didn't," she exclaimed, "because it's exhausting."

But that's her curse. She's motivated.

She puts the same amount of effort into her extracurricular activities – most of which require energy, passion, dedication, enthusiasm and competitive fire, all of which she has in abundance – that she did into her gymnastics career. One of her favorites is "Bruin Banter," a series of interviews with fellow gymnasts for uclabruins.com.

"I started that after I tore my Achilles," she explained. "I always had an interest in doing sports broadcasting. I'm a big fan of sports in general, but obviously I specialize in gymnastics. It was a way to stay involved with the team, not only as a coach and non-competitor and cheerleader, but I can also participate by trying something new and exciting. It kind of got me excited for the year even though I wasn't able to compete."

"I had a lot of fun doing it," she added, "just interviewing the girls and giving the audience or whoever was watching a little more insight about our sport, about UCLA gymnastics and the competition, what to look forward to in the next week. Just keep them informed a little bit better and try to keep it light and fun and casual."

Said Brum: "She has the key ingredients, which are great knowledge of her sport and the people in it, and the ability to communicate. She has things she needs to develop like all analysts in the transition all athletes make. But she has the assets to do it."

In addition to gymnastics and broadcasting, Peszek was chosen to serve on the Bruin Athletic Council, which helps to give student-athletes a voice in the athletic department, on campus as a whole and in the community. She sometimes serves as a representative of the BAC at larger conferences.

And this past summer, aside from doing commentary on USA Gymnastics, she had an internship at Sports 1 Marketing, whose founder

and president is former NFL quarterback Warren Moon. Through that, she worked on something called the Inspirational Sports Network, which tells uplifting tales of athletes who have surmounted great challenges to find success.

In a perfect world, Peszek would love to combine her penchant for TV chatter with stirring stories about athletes.

"I think if I could have my ultimate dream job it would be my own talk show about sports," she said. "Not necessarily about athletes' careers, but more about their personalities, how they got to where they were. Like those little pieces on NBC all about the struggle athletes go through to get to the Olympics. Something like that, so fans not only connect with their sport, but on a personal level, the emotional road to get to that point. I always fell in love with those pieces and would like to expand on that if I could. Just casual, conversational, so people can get to know athletes on a personal level."

When she isn't putting her body through various gymnastic moves or casting her voice over the airways, Peszek likes to do typical student stuff — going to the beach, hiking, cycling, yoga. If anyone thinks her schedule is so preposterously packed that she doesn't have a spare minute for fun, think again.

"If you ask anyone who knows me," she said, "I'm not lacking in the fun department. I have lots of fun. But I always have priorities. I keep my responsibilities in check."

In fact, she remembered coming up the ranks in gymnastics as a kid and one particular coach was concerned about the fun factor.

"I remember he was always having meetings with my parents and he would say, 'You need to make her more serious. She's too fun. She just laughs and jokes around,'" Peszek said with a laugh. "That's why I did gymnastics originally, just because it was so much fun. Once I saw where it could be something, then I became more serious."

Whether or not she's doing something at which she feels she has innate talent, you can be sure that if Samantha Peszek sets a goal, she'll pursue it with everything she has. That kind of focus comes naturally to her.

Michael Ventre is a freelance writer based in Los Angeles. A former sports columnist for the Los Angeles Daily News, he has written for MSNBC.com, Variety, Los Angeles Confidential magazine, American Way (American Airlines) magazine, Adweek and many other publications.

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DAVID DOLLINGER

LIFELONG BRUIN BELIEVES IN THE
POWER OF SPORTS, UCLA

By Emily Lerner

Director of Communications, UCLA Athletics Development

He is a big believer in sports. He also believes that being on sports teams, in his case at UCLA, taught him a great deal about life. Add to that parents who attended UCLA, a good education, and a healthy set of social skills, and one can understand why David B. Dollinger gives back to UCLA and UCLA Athletics.

Contrary to popular belief, a boy growing up in the Bay Area can be a big Bruin fan. Thanks in part to his father, Dave grew up rooting for the Bruins. He remembers watching UCLA basketball on TV and going to games with his dad whenever the Bruins were in town to play Stanford. In fact, when it was time to apply to colleges, he didn't apply to any other schools.

"There was only one school I was going to, and that was UCLA," said Dave. "In fact, I believe my dad said that's where I needed to go and that was it."

Dave came from a "semi-Bruin" background. His father Michael attended UCLA for his undergraduate education and met his future wife, Dave's mother—also a UCLA undergrad—there. However, fate dictated that he move back to the Bay Area to care for his parents, so Michael completed his college degree at Cal. Dave's mother joined Michael, they got married and settled in the Bay Area. But the Dollinger family remained stalwart Bruin fans, and Dave, as well as his brother Steven and sister Barrie, all went to UCLA and graduated with honors.

While at UCLA, Dave went out for both the rugby and rowing teams. At that time, rowing was an NCAA sport, and he was on the lightweight crew. He rowed for one year, and continued to play rugby for three. Dave assuredly states that being involved in sports at UCLA taught him a good deal about life.

"I'm a big believer in sports and athletics," said Dave. "I believe extracurricular activities are important for people and I think those who are involved in sports tend to be successful in life. All of it is important; you learn great life skills like teamwork and community."

In fact, being on the rowing team taught Dave more than just teamwork. It actually taught him some rudimentary life skills and lessons.

"When I was on the rowing team, we had to raise our own revenue," Dave recalled. "In order to do that, we had to clean Pauley Pavilion after the basketball games. We had to go in there and sweep all the garbage and pick it all up and put it in the trash cans. So I thought it was kind of funny that when the Pauley Campaign began I contributed to the renovation."

In spite of the fact that he had to help clean Pauley after basketball games, or perhaps because of it, Dave made a generous gift to the Pauley Pavilion Campaign of Champions in 2009. But Dave's philosophy on school, education, and UCLA isn't just about dollars and sense.

"I have a different view of college," Dave said. "I actually view it as an emotional and social growing experience. I think I got a lot more out of college when I started thinking about athletics and the emotional and social aspects of it rather than only the academics side."

Dave has firsthand knowledge of the pressure put on students now. His children, Danielle (16), Cole (15), and Chase (8) are already going through it.

"I think we should be enjoying ourselves more and finding out what our



DAVE DOLLINGER WITH HIS CHILDREN AT THE SOCHI OLYMPICS, FROM LEFT: COLE, DANIELLE, DAVE AND CHASE.

passion is and what we love to do. These days people are so focused on academics and grades that there's tremendous pressure put on kids of every age," he said.

In addition to his philosophies on athletics and teamwork, another social aspect of his days at UCLA—Greek life—was integral to Dave's start in business. After graduating from UCLA in 1986, he went directly to grad school for his Masters degree at USC. He was in the inaugural class of USC's School of Public Policy, Masters of Real Estate Development (MRED) program, and received his degree in 1987.

Coming from a family of real estate builders, Dave, whose grandfather began building houses after the war, knew he did not want to be a builder and started Dollinger Properties, a property development firm headquartered in Redwood City. He and some of his fraternity brothers from UCLA decided to combine their funds to start their real estate careers.

"I didn't have the money after grad school so a bunch of my fraternity brothers and I pooled our money and that's how I bought our first building," said Dave. "It was a 30,000 square foot R&D building in San Jose. That's how I got my start buying buildings."

So Dollinger Properties, with Dave at the entrepreneurial helm, became one of the largest real estate development companies in California, building or buying shopping centers and other multi-tenant buildings for long-term ownership. Dollinger is responsible for the development and management of over 60 premier properties in California representing more than 4 million square feet of retail and R&D space.

In 2012, Dave decided to give back to his graduate school and endowed USC's MRED degree program, thereby renaming it the "Dollinger Master of Real Estate Development Program." He feels strongly about giving back to the institutions that afforded him his own opportunities.

In that vein, Dave decided to give back to the athletics programs that taught him so much by making a gift in 2014 to UCLA Athletics: "The David B. Dollinger Endowed Excellence Fund." This endowed, unrestricted fund, one of the first gifts to the newly-created Forever Champions Endowment Campaign, will make a long-term impact on UCLA Athletics and its student-athletes by endowing an excellence fund under the direction and discretion of the Athletic Director, in perpetuity. This way, the Dollinger Family will always have a legacy with UCLA, and will also enjoy annual Wooden Athletic Fund recognition and benefits for life.

"I always said college is a social and growing experience and I think people on sports teams learn to deal better with others, are able to keep more focus on an end goal, and learn a lot of life skills," said Dave. "At least that's what being in sports at UCLA did for me."



CALLING ALL BRUINS!!!

Join us at the Bel-Air Bay Club in Pacific Palisades on **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2014**, the eve of UCLA's biggest rivalry competition of the year: the UCLA vs. USC football game for our Sixth Annual "Revelry Before the Rivalry." UCLA Athletics' "Revelry" is THE PARTY to attend if you want the best opportunity to join with fellow Bruin alumni, supporters and fans and "prepare for battle" as we take on the Trojans the next day at the Rose Bowl.

The evening will feature gourmet food stations, open bar, an extensive silent auction, live entertainment, dancing, mingling with Bruin Legends and much more! Please keep an eye out for further details in the coming months, but be sure to save the date NOW!

Silent Auction item donations and sponsorship opportunities are available! Your support as a donor/sponsor of the Sixth Annual "Revelry Before the Rivalry" will not only help make this event a great celebration, but will help generate much-needed support for UCLA Athletics and our competing student-athletes.

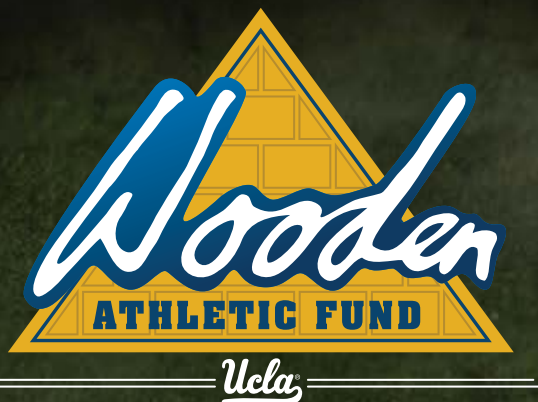
We hope to see you on November 21st! GO BRUINS!!



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development@athletics.ucla.edu

THANK YOU!

The Wooden Athletic Fund is proud to honor the 5,603 donors who generously provide invaluable support for all UCLA student-athletes and honor the lasting educational and athletic legacy of Nell and John Wooden. Every gift has a positive impact on UCLA student-athletes' ability to succeed in the classroom, in competition and in the community.



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WHAT'S GOING ON IN WESTWOOD

1&2. WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10
M/W BASKETBALL

VS.

Pauley Pavilion, 5 p.m. women, 8 p.m. men (TV: Pac-12 Networks)
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN (admission good for both games)
See both the women and men in action in a Pauley Pavilion doubleheader vs. UC Riverside. Your ticket is good for both games!

3. SATURDAY, DEC. 13
MEN'S BASKETBALL

VS.

Pauley Pavilion, 7 p.m. (TV: ESPN2)
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN
The last time these two teams met, Gus Johnson was exalting, Adam Morrison was crying on the court, and the Bruins were on their way to the Elite Eight.

4. SUNDAY, DEC. 28
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

VS.

Pauley Pavilion, 1 p.m. (TV: Pac-12 Networks)
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN
UCLA faces NCAA runner-up Notre Dame in the final non-conference game of the season.

5. THURSDAY, JAN. 8
MEN'S BASKETBALL

VS.

Pauley Pavilion, 6 p.m. (TV: ESPN or ESPN2)
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN
Two 2014 Sweet 16 teams battle it out in a nationally-televised contest in Pauley Pavilion.

6. SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JAN. 17-18
BRUIN DIVING INVITATIONAL

Spieker Aquatics Center, All Day
Tickets: Free admission
Watch some of the best divers in the nation compete in the annual Bruin Diving Invitational.

7. SUNDAY, JAN. 18
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

VS.

Pauley Pavilion, 7:30 p.m. (TV: Pac-12 Networks)
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN
SoCal BMW Crosstown Cup points are on the line as the Bruins take on the Women of Troy.

8. MONDAY, JAN. 19
GYMNASTICS

VS.

Pauley Pavilion, 1 p.m. (TV: Pac-12 Networks)
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN
Spend your Monday holiday with the six-time NCAA champion gymnastics team in its home opener.

9. FRIDAY, JAN. 23
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

VS.

Pauley Pavilion, 7 p.m. (TV: Pac-12 Networks)
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN
2014 Final Four participant Stanford comes to town as the Bruins challenge the perennial Pac-12 power.

10. SUNDAY, JAN. 25
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

VS.

Pauley Pavilion, 3 p.m. (TV: Pac-12 Networks)
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN
Watch the Bruins tackle the Bears in a battle for UC supremacy.

11. THURSDAY, JAN. 29
MEN'S BASKETBALL

VS.

Pauley Pavilion, 7 p.m. (TV: ESPN2)
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN
UCLA takes on upstart Utah in a nationally-televised game.

12. THURSDAY, JAN. 29
MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

VS.

Pauley Pavilion, 5:30 p.m. (TV: Pac-12 Networks)
Tickets: \$8 for adults, \$5 for students/youth. FREE for UCLA students and Olympic Sports Card holders.
The Bruins upset the No. 1 Cardinal in five sets a year ago. Don't miss out on another epic match between UCLA and 2014 NCAA runner-up Stanford.

13. MONDAY, FEB. 9
GYMNASTICS

VS.

Pauley Pavilion, 6 p.m. (TV: Pac-12 Networks)
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN
No more Monday Night Football? Fill the void with Monday Night Gymnastics Madness!

14. SATURDAY, FEB. 14
MEN'S BASKETBALL

VS.

Pauley Pavilion, Noon (TV: FOX or Fox Sports 1)
Tickets: uclabruins.com/tickets or 310-UCLA-WIN
Start your Valentine's Day off right with some UCLA Basketball in Pauley! There is little love lost between UCLA and Oregon after two very close matchups a year ago. See who gets the upper hand this time.

15. SUNDAY, FEB. 20
MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

VS.

Pauley Pavilion, 7:30 p.m. (TV: Pac-12 Networks)
Tickets: \$8 for adults, \$5 for students/youth. FREE for UCLA students and Olympic Sports Card holders.
The first of two regularly-scheduled matches between the crosstown rivals will take place in Pauley Pavilion. Five points are on the line for the SoCal BMW Crosstown Cup.

All dates and times subject to change due to television.

The Wooden Athletic Fund

Cori Close Invests in Tomorrow's Champions Today.

Cori Close, UCLA Women's Basketball Head Coach, is passionately committed to UCLA and supporting Bruin student-athletes through the Wooden Athletic Fund. Cori began her education and collegiate sports career as a four-year starting point guard at UC Santa Barbara. She was the first UCSB player to record over 1,000 points and 500 assists, and was the 1993 Big West Tournament MVP. Upon graduation, Cori became a UCLA Women's Basketball Assistant Coach for two years, and earned her Masters of Education degree in 1995. She left UCLA to head back to Santa Barbara to coach at her alma mater. In 2011, Cori returned to UCLA as Head Coach of the Women's Basketball team, and joined the Wooden Athletic Fund almost immediately. Her father was a teacher and a coach and he and her mother instilled in her the philosophy of giving of oneself to make a difference in others' lives.

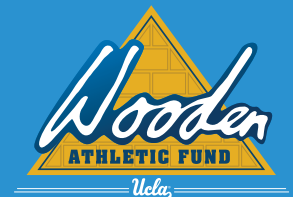
UCLA and the UCLA Athletic Department thank the 5,603 Wooden Athletic Fund members, including Cori Close.

The Wooden Athletic Fund is committed to honoring the educational and athletic legacy of Nell and John Wooden.

Together, members of the Wooden Athletic Fund team provide invaluable support for all UCLA student-athletes and every gift has a positive impact on their ability to succeed in the classroom, in competition and in the community.

This funding is directed to the people, places and programs that need it most, allowing UCLA Athletics to act quickly to enhance the student-athlete experience, retain coaches, and seize opportunities.

"UCLA has made such a huge difference in my life. From my educational days here, getting my Master's degree, to my very first coaching job, to now: being able to be the Head Coach of the UCLA Women's Basketball Program. To me, it's a no-brainer. If you love sports, and you have received a world-renowned education from UCLA, you have to be involved with the Wooden Athletic Fund. Period. I think when you receive so much that you have to pay it forward. So by giving to the Wooden Athletic Fund, I am doing my part."



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Champions Today

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WoodenAthleticFund.com

A LETTER TO OUR SUPPORTERS

FROM ATHLETICS DIRECTOR DAN GUERRERO

Dear Bruin Fans and Supporters:

On behalf of our coaches, staff and student-athletes, I wish to express my gratitude and thanks for your continued loyalty and support of UCLA Athletics. As we look forward to another successful year, I want to make you aware that as an NCAA member institution, UCLA has the responsibility to remind all members of the Bruin family about compliance with NCAA rules.

As a supporter of UCLA Athletics, you may be defined by the NCAA as a “representative of UCLA’s athletic interests” (commonly known as a “booster”), and therefore you are bound by NCAA rules and UCLA is responsible for your actions.

The most important NCAA restrictions pertain to booster interaction with prospective student-athletes (“prospects”) and UCLA student-athletes. Some guidelines for you to keep in mind:

A REPRESENTATIVE OF UCLA’S ATHLETIC INTERESTS MAY:

- Employ a current student-athlete provided you are paying them the going rate for work actually performed and are not providing pay or perks based on their status as a student-athlete.
- Watch a prospect’s athletic competition (but do not contact the prospect or prospect’s family or coach).
- Provide information to UCLA coaches about noteworthy prospects, but do not contact a prospect’s coach or high school officials regarding recruitment.

A REPRESENTATIVE OF UCLA’S ATHLETIC INTERESTS MAY NOT:

- Have any in-person contact with a prospect or his/her family on or off the UCLA campus.
- Communicate with a prospect or encourage them to attend UCLA through written correspondence, email, texting, Internet or social media such as Twitter, Facebook or Instagram.
- Provide prospects with anything of value (e.g., loan, gifts, services) that might be considered an inducement to persuade them to enroll at UCLA.
- Provide any current student-athlete, or his/her relatives or friends, with an extra benefit. (An extra benefit is defined as something not normally available to UCLA students, their relatives or friends.) For example, you may not pay for a restaurant meal, offer a ride, or provide a gift or loan at any time.

In addition, NCAA regulations state that any benefits or privileges provided to you will be withheld if it is found that you are involved in a violation of NCAA legislation.

You can find more detailed information at the NCAA Rules for UCLA Boosters link on the Compliance page of our website www.uclabruins.com, and you can follow UCLA Compliance on Twitter at @uclacompliance.

I sincerely appreciate your willingness to assist us in maintaining the highest standards of ethical conduct, including adherence to NCAA rules. We encourage you to “ask before acting” and contact the UCLA Athletics Compliance Office with any questions about NCAA rules. Please do not hesitate to contact Dan Goldberg, Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance, at (310) 794-8813 (dgoldberg@athletics.ucla.edu) with any questions you may have so that we can prevent any actions that might place UCLA Athletics, student-athletes, coaches or fans in jeopardy. Thank you very much and Go Bruins!

Sincerely,



Dan Guerrero
Athletics Director



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CELEBRITY SIGHTINGS

WHERE THE STARS COME OUT



TOP ROW (L-R): UCLA women's soccer star Abby Dahlkemper and Gareth Bale of Real Madrid. Chris Bosh of the Miami Heat and women's soccer assistant coach Louise Lieberman. Green Bay Packers defensive lineman Datone Jones and UCLA Athletics staff member Jolie Oliver.

SECOND ROW (L-R): Academy Award-winning actor Denzel Washington speaks to the Bruin football team. Women's soccer Head Coach Amanda Cromwell and Dodgers prospect Joc Pederson. Bruin Varsity Club Director Courteney Bailey (l) with singer Lean Rimes and Rimes' husband, actor Eddie Cibrian, a UCLA football alumnus.

THIRD ROW (L-R): San Antonio Spurs rookie Kyle Anderson and UCLA legend Rafer Johnson. Former San Diego Chargers linebacker Jamir Miller and UCLA sideline reporter Wayne Cook. English-Irish pop band One Direction.

BOTTOM ROW (L-R): UCLA women's soccer alumna and Olympic gold medalist Sydney Leroux with some UCLA soccer fans.

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