

— THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF *Ucla* ATHLETICS —

BRUIN BLUE

SUMMER 2015

John Savage

HOW HIS BLUEPRINT MADE UCLA
BASEBALL A WINNER

FOUR & WELL DONE

NORMAN POWELL
MAKES THE MOST
OF CAREER

THE
TWO SIDES
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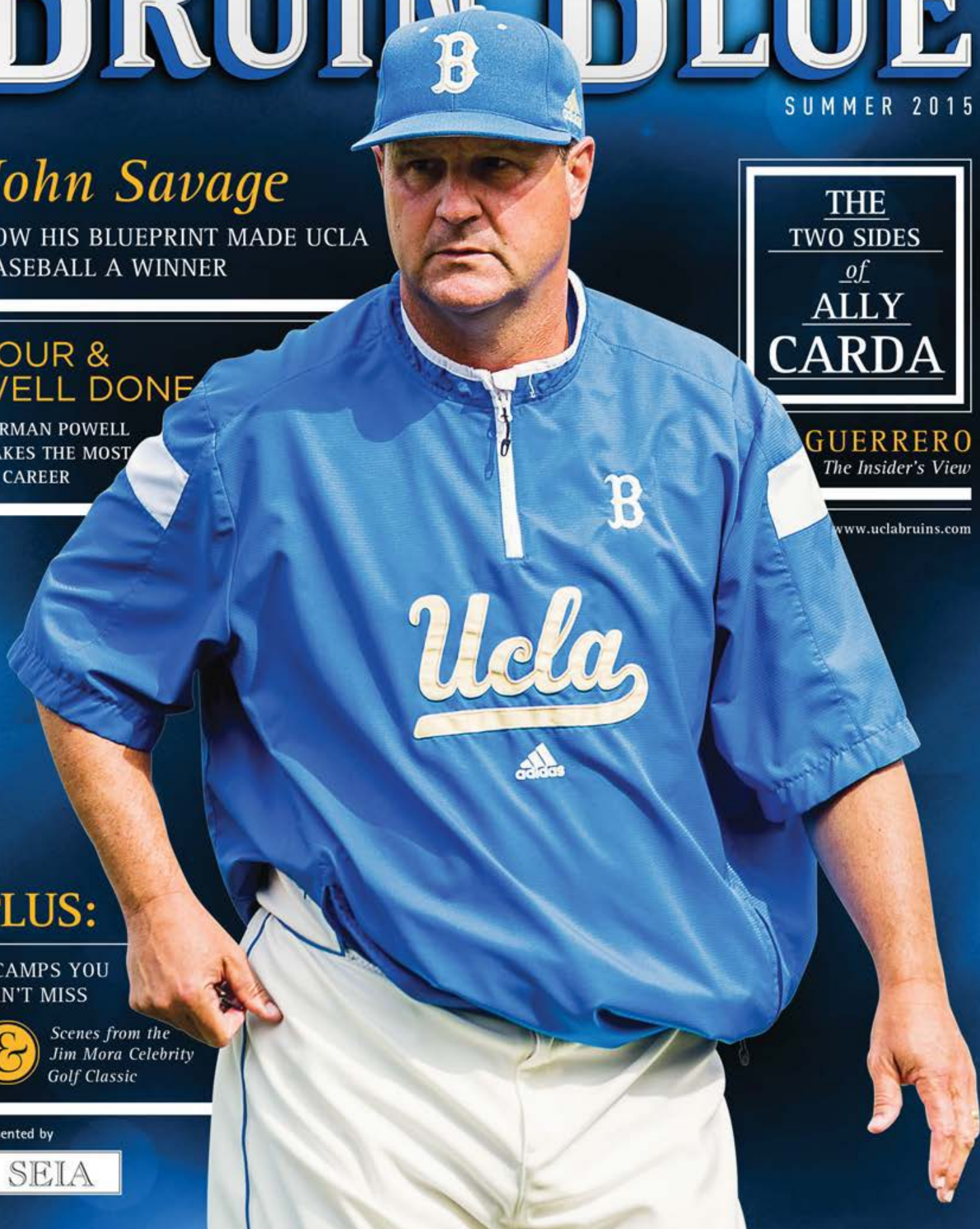
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THE INSIDER'S VIEW

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the mailbag edition of Insider's View. Just like everyone else, I receive a ton of email. Some deal with very complex NCAA governance issues. Others suggest, in quite colorful language, that I look into another line of work. I've received recruiting tips, coaching advice and notes from people who desperately need MY help to transfer \$25,000,000 out of secret foreign bank accounts. I've even apparently won 'The Worldwide International Lottery,' and I didn't even have to play since the winners are chosen randomly from a pool of public emails. Imagine that!



DAN GUERRERO

Then there are the emails that inspire; emails from fans touched by our UCLA student-athletes who feel compelled to share their stories. These are the emails that leave a lasting impression and whose stories often go untold to a larger audience, which is why I'm moved to share a few of them with you now.

– Jennie B. on traveling with the UCLA Baseball team: "...I was boarding a flight from Seattle to Spokane and ended up sitting right in the middle of the UCLA baseball team. I was so impressed with how kind and considerate each player was. Throughout the flight we had small conversations and by the end, I was even more

impressed by how professional and mature the guys were. I wanted to pass this compliment on to let you know how well the baseball team represented your school and themselves."

– Ed L. on his pregame experience at UCLA's homecoming football game against Arizona: "...I was fortunate for the first time to have the pleasure of being on the field prior to the game with my daughter who has special needs. She was blessed to be in the first class of the Pathway program at UCLA which teaches independence to individuals with special needs. Jerry (Neuheisel) walked by, and there was an 11-year old child in a motorized wheel chair on a ventilator. Spontaneously, he stopped and smiled at the child and said hello. When I saw that I asked my daughter if she would like to go over and ask Jerry for a picture. He was more than accommodating and patient. I wanted to thank Jerry for his random acts of kindness and warmth. To spontaneously acknowledge a seriously disabled child and bring warmth in his life reflects highly on the character and upbringing of Jerry. Taking time to pose with my daughter was another act of kindness that brought great joy to me ... Character counts."

– Doug B. on his experience at the UCLA women's basketball game against Cal: "I just wanted to email you to congratulate you on having such a great group of young ladies representing the university. My family and I were blessed to visit the campus and watch the game against Cal. Although it ended in a loss, I was impressed with the teamwork, hustle and humbleness they displayed. What really struck me as awesome was the professionalism displayed during the autograph session after the game. Lastly, the young lady from Sweden (Paulina Hersler) took the time to speak with my children and take photos outside of the arena. She could have rushed us off but she took time out to represent her team. That is awesome!!! Please pass on my appreciation to the coach for selecting such a great group of young ladies."

– Jeff D. on the Pac-12 Women's Gymnastics Championships in Salt Lake City: "I'd not be doing it justice if I didn't take a moment and talk about the class of UCLA gymnastics coach Val and the entire UCLA team. After Tory (Wilson)'s injury, the girls who were left to compete for Utah were clearly shaken. Utah had a commanding lead, but the no score for Tory could've left the door open for UCLA to come back if Utah's remaining three girls struggled, which would have been understandable having just watched their dear friend get hurt. Instead of hoping for their own opportunity, UCLA's team did all they could to support Utah. Samantha Peszek walked over to Co-lo (Corrie Lothrop) and said encouraging words. Val led their entire team in clapping and cheering for Utah's girls, even when their success meant her own team wouldn't win. It's easy to be classy and show

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Cover Photo by Katie Meyers

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF UCLA ATHLETICS

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sportsmanship when it doesn't affect you. But to show it in a moment when it takes something away from you is clearly a show of great character ...

On a night when they were surely disappointed to lose, UCLA's team was the first on its feet to clap for the empty first place spot for Tory's vault champion award, and again when Utah was announced as the winner. Everything they did in the last rotation and post meet was done with class, respect, dignity and amazing sportsmanship. The school and that program deserve a lot of respect for their actions tonight ...

Congrats to UCLA on their performance, but much more for their display of who they are as people and how they carry themselves. It was great to see. Good luck in the postseason."

I hope these emails make you as proud to be a Bruin as I am. In an age where cynicism often rules the day, stories like these make you realize what a special place this is. While our student-athletes come to UCLA for an education, in these instances, it's them who teach us the lesson.

Dan Guerrero



A group of UCLA softball players in blue and white uniforms are celebrating on a field. They are huddled together, with some players wearing helmets and others without. The players are smiling and cheering, with some holding lemons. The background shows a chain-link fence and spectators in the stands.

UCLA SOFTBALL CELEBRATES A HOME RUN BY **DELANEY SPAULDING** IN THE BRUINS' 10-6 WIN OVER MISSOURI THAT SEALED A WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES BERTH FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2010.

(PHOTO BY KATIE MEYERS)

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PLAYERS
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NFL DRAFTS



BRUINS SELECTED
IN 2015 NFL DRAFT:

ERIC KENDRICKS, OWAMAGBE
ODIGHIZUWA AND BRETT HUNDLEY



THE UCLA BASEBALL TEAM CLINCHED THE PAC-12 CONFERENCE TITLE IN MAY BEFORE EARNING THE **NO. 1 OVERALL SEED** IN THE NCAA TOURNAMENT.

(PHOTO BY KATIE MEYERS)



Thank You!

From the UCLA Athletics Class of 2015!



Norman Powell

Robin Anderson

Ally Carda

Eric Kendricks

Sam Mewis

Earl Edwards, Jr.

Samantha Peszek

David Berg



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Behind the Scenes with UCLA Athletics

Follow the Bruins on Social Media. #GoBruins



Congratulations to @samanthapeszek of @uclagymnastics for ending her career winning the 2015 #NCAA all-around, and balance beam individual title with a score of 9.95. #GoBruins #Champion



Congratulations to Catherine Harrison of @uclawtennis on her PAC-12 Tournament Individual Championship. #GoBruins



Here is a first look at @uclabruinsbaseball alternate jerseys for tonight's game against Cal. #GoBruins #JackieRobinson #42



That's a wrap for @uclafootball spring ball. Thank you to all of the fans who came out to the @rosebowlstadium this morning and those who watched on #PAC12 Network. #GoBruins #GrindSeason

#UCLA hosted the Rafer Johnson/Jackie Joyner-Kersey Invitational at Drake Stadium. The #Bruins defeated the Oklahoma Sooners on both the men's and women's side, and competed alongside #olympians.



@uclawaterpolo wins the MPSF conference title, defeating Cal, 9-8. #GoBruins #BruWINS #ChampionsMadeHere



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Rose Bowl
AMERICA'S STADIUM



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 filled with more fans in blue clothing.

WE THUNDER

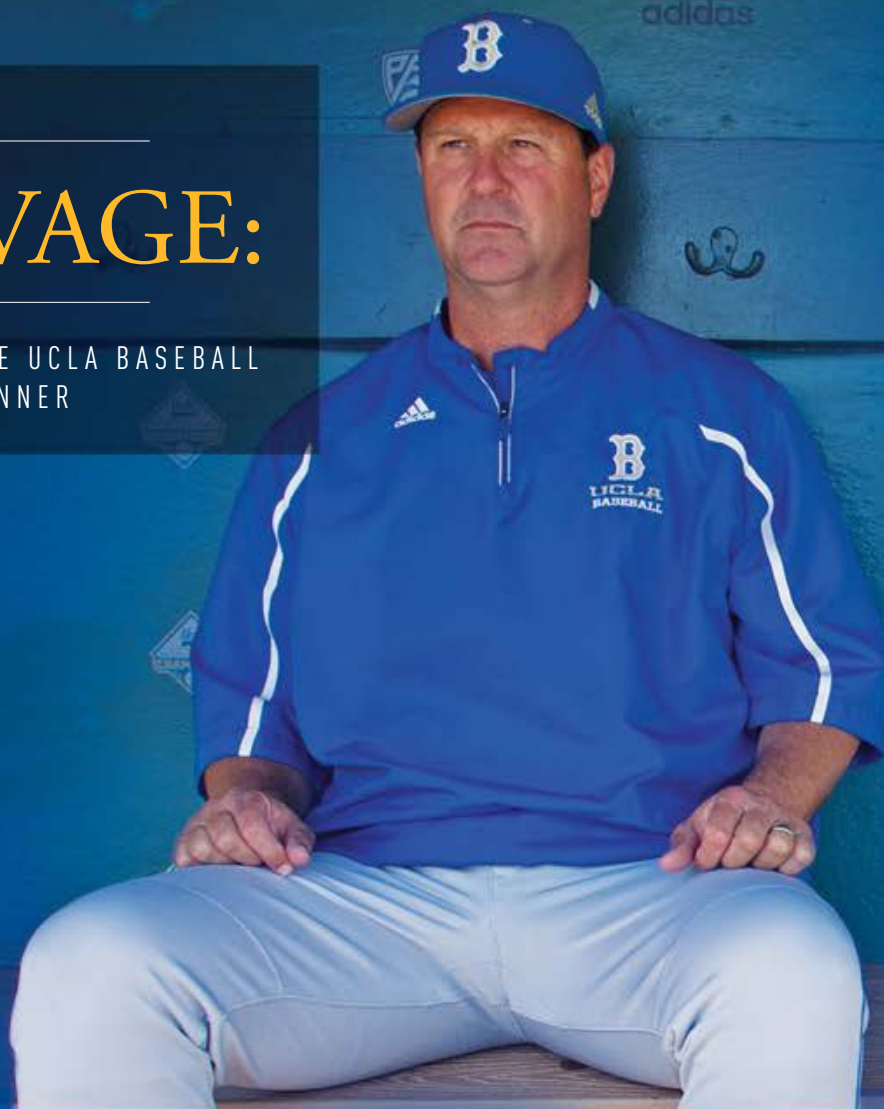
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JOHN SAVAGE:

BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS MADE UCLA BASEBALL
A CONSISTENT WINNER

By Mark Whicker



Who grows up in Reno, Nevada, and never skis? John Savage. He knew the seasons by what type of ball rested in his hand.

He read boxscores. He played all the games, hanging with his older brothers and his friends, knowing those games would take him somewhere, someday. He had every reason to trust them.

Then came 2005. Savage had been USC's pitching coach when Barry Zito and Mark Prior were there. He had restarted UC Irvine's baseball program as the head coach and pointed the Anteaters toward a College World Series in Omaha that they eventually visited without him.

He was in his first year coaching UCLA, the school with the 100 national championships, none of them won by the baseball team.

And his team lost 19 consecutive games.

"I'll never forget, we played UC Santa Barbara and we finally won," Savage said, sitting in his office at Jackie Robinson Stadium one morning as the marine layer began to recede.

"I went back to the hotel room and sat down. And I cried."

He never had been to rock bottom before. He hasn't been back.

In his second year, after that intolerable 17-41 debut season, the Bruins made the NCAA tournament. Soon that became a habit, and in 2010 UCLA

got to Omaha. It returned in 2012, and the next year it beat Mississippi State in the finals, with strong pitching from Adam Plutko and Nick Vander Tuig to bring the 109th championship to Westwood.

"I hate to call those guys 'system quarterbacks,' but they knew what I was going to do before I did it," Savage said of his two aces. "It was a powerful mental game going on at that time. It didn't matter who we played. Our numbers offensively weren't good. It just seemed it didn't matter. If we needed two, we got two."

"It was a really good boring team, almost like silent assassins. They weren't counting outs, they weren't counting wins. They kept playing baseball. It was like somebody had to beat us. And there were no more games at the end."

But there are more seasons.

The 2015 Bruins finished 45-16, won the Pac-12 title with a record 22 conference victories and earned the top overall seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Savage's first 10 years at UCLA yielded 34.5 wins per season and 10 players who have appeared in a major league uniform, including Gerrit Cole, a first-overall draft pick by the Pirates. Savage just turned 50 in February and, two years ago, turned down a lucrative offer to become USC's head coach.

Gradually, that night of despair in Santa Barbara fades to blue.



SLEEPING GIANT

Savage was far from unhappy at UC Irvine. He was there for three seasons, hired by Dan Guerrero, who became the athletics director at UCLA. His third team made the NCAA tournament, but his first team, assembled from scratch, went 33-26.

"It was like the Devil Rays and the Diamondbacks," Savage said. "It was like an expansion team. You could be the manager, the GM, the field coordinator, the recruiter. I loved being there. For one thing, it was a much easier drive."

Savage lived in Cypress at the time; he lives in Seal Beach now.

"But I knew when I took that job (UCI) I was leaving Omaha for a while," said Savage, who was the pitching coach when USC won the College World Series in 1998. "We built a ballpark, the foul poles, the dugouts, the bathrooms, the locker rooms. Everything imaginable, we had a say. It was the opportunity of a lifetime."

But so was UCLA. The Bruins were famous for pumping out major league players, but the program had lagged behind the rest of the Pac-12. Savage again walked in with eyes open. It would take uncommon organization and recruiting ability to get the Bruins righted.

Savage exemplifies the modern college baseball coach: well-organized and consistent.

"Generally speaking, we try to run this like a professional program while keeping the aspects of going to college," he said.

He also has to be persuasive enough to dissuade some top prospects from signing professionally for big money if they are inclined to play in college.

In effect, he and his colleagues are competing against the minor league system, which throws players into an everyday schedule, often in a remote, unfamiliar area, and teaches them pro baseball's ways.

The college players normally perform on Tuesday and then Friday through Sunday. He's involved in baseball throughout the school calendar, but he also can savor life as a regular student. For that player, especially a pitcher, there's an opportunity to improve oneself in the draft and perhaps take a short-cut through the minor league system.

Cole got to the Pittsburgh Pirates' varsity level after 42 minor league starts. Trevor Bauer, who was the National Pitcher of the Year as Cole's teammate, got to the Arizona Diamondbacks after 39 starts in the minors.

Savage recruits ambitiously. Cole was a first-round pick by the Yankees after he finished up at Orange Lutheran High and was eligible for a bonus in the millions, but his parents were adamant that he play in college. They never even talked to the Yankees.

Lucas Giolito of Harvard Westlake High also committed to UCLA, but the Washington Nationals drafted him and offered him nearly \$3 million.

JOHN SAVAGE



He signed, and then underwent Tommy John elbow surgery.

One of Savage's first recruits at UCLA was shortstop Brandon Crawford, who slipped through the draft in high school. He has now won two World Series rings with the San Francisco Giants.

"We need to be 80 percent correct," Savage said. "If we recruit 10 guys, we need to keep eight of them. If you're 50-50, that's how you kill recruiting classes."

"We talk to guys about growing the résumé. Guys who recognize the value of going to Omaha, playing in the Cape Cod League during the summer, investing in their careers. They have a much better chance that way to be the professional players they want to be. We feel we can show them guys who signed here and became the players they wanted to be."

But Savage notes how difficult it can be. When he was at USC, the Trojans recruited players who were drafted No. 9 in the first round for three straight years.

"It's a crystal ball," he said. "You have to have strong relationships. When the bad economy hit, it was really tough. Guys were getting offered millions, and we have 11.7 scholarships (the NCAA limit)."

It's a decision Savage himself faced, as a curveball pitcher from Reno High. One dream was derailed. It took him to a comfortable reality.

THE COACHING PATH

Savage was the star pitcher. Matt Williams, today the Washington Nationals' manager, was the hitter at nearby Carson City High.

Savage was drafted in the sixth round by the Yankees, but decided to go to Santa Clara instead. After three productive years there, he was drafted 16th by the Reds. Shoulder problems arrived, but Savage was part of the

1987 Salt Lake Trappers of the independent Pioneer League. They won 29 consecutive games, still a professional baseball record.

"Thankfully it was a short playing career," he said. "It meant I could start my coaching career."

His father, L.J., ran Savage and Son, the family plumbing and heating business. In fact, the Savages were one of the first families to establish themselves in Reno, and Savage's brothers run the firm today.

"GENERALLY SPEAKING, WE TRY TO RUN THIS LIKE A PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM WHILE KEEPING THE ASPECTS OF GOING TO COLLEGE."

– JOHN SAVAGE

Leonard Savage passed away in late 2012, seven months before the Bruins won the national championship. "He was on my brain pretty heavily that whole time in Omaha," John said. "I was really hoping that we could get one for him in 2010 or 2012."

His mom, Eileen, who is from the Spanish side of the Pyrenees and is of Basque origin, is 82 and follows every Bruins game on the internet. "She critiques me, our infield play, everything," Savage said. "She's my GM."

Savage coached in high school and then became an assistant for Gary Powers at the University of Nevada, which won the tough Big West conference in 1994. USC's Mike Gillespie hired him to coach the pitchers at USC, where Savage encountered Barry Zito, Mark Prior and Seth Etherton.

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JOHN SAVAGE

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— JOHN SAVAGE



This is the era of small-arms fire in college baseball. No one hit a home run during the entire College World Series in 2013. The team with the best arms wins, which is tailor-made for Savage, a guy who is opinionated and forceful on many topics but becomes nearly evangelical on the ins and outs of pitching.

"We're a fastball-changeup program," he said. "We recruit breaking balls. To me, the breaking ball pitcher is like Stephen Curry, like a great jump shooter. It's difficult to teach that. But you can teach changeups and you can teach how to command fastballs. You can't teach Dennis Rodman to be a jump shooter. If you don't have a swing-and-miss pitch, it's really tough to go get one."

If there is a trademark pitch of a UCLA pitcher in Savage's tenure, it's the changeup. Savage is a believer because it does not unduly tax the arm, and it's far too difficult to be read by the typical college hitter.

"You go into a hitting facility and the machine can simulate two things: velocity and spin," he said. "And you can get it to throw 90 mph and then 80 mph. But it can't show you the arm action, can't simulate the fast-arm slow ball."

None of it works without health. Savage has heard too many people say that arm injuries are a fact of a pitcher's life.

Then again, he doesn't let many assumptions go unchallenged.

"Fortunately, we haven't had a Tommy John surgery since I've been here, although we've inherited some," he said.

He held up a color-coded sheet that listed all the Bruins pitchers and their day-to-day activities through April.

"Here's the days they do long-toss, here's when they throw their bullpens (between games), here's their yoga, here's video, here's pool workouts, here's their Ravizza sessions (with sports psychologist Dr. Ken Ravizza)," he said. "We have our guys throw two bullpens between starts like the Braves used to do with

(pitching coach) Leo Mazzone. Generally, guys don't throw enough. Pitch counts are fine, but if you throw 100 pitches, I want to know how that breaks down. If you have a heavy workload in a certain inning, that can be a problem.

"There are ways to keep them healthy. We try to run a preventable injury system. It's been successful, and when they leave here, we feel they're prepared. But you never see that punch coming around the corner."

HOME TEAM

Savage's commitment is similar to that of ex-Nevada football coach Chris Ault. "A 24/7 guy," Savage said approvingly.

So Lisa Ault, Chris' daughter, knew what the deal was when she began dating Savage at Nevada. They married and have two boys and two girls.

Jack will be a preferred walk-on for UCLA football this fall. Ryan is playing football at Servite and was born on May 9, 1999 — "the day Barry Zito struck out 16 against Washington," Savage said.

Julia is on the cheer team at UCLA, and Gabrielle is attending Rosary High.

As rational and fact-based as he is, Savage recognizes the role of mysticism and coincidence, especially when it concerns June 6. He was married that day, graduated from high school that day, was drafted that day, and was on USC's staff when it won the championship that day.

"And our first win at UC Irvine was over UCLA," he said, grinning, "and my 100th win at UCLA was over UC Irvine."

The next project is to keep tracing a circle that leads the Bruins to Omaha and back again. That, rest assured, will have nothing to do with coincidence.

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

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The TWO SIDES of ALLY CARDA

BRUINS' STAR POSSESSES MULTI-FACETED GAME, OFF-FIELD TALENTS

By Mike Ventre

Athletes spend most of their careers in pigeonholes, because that's where the public likes to put them in order to better understand them. But the public is undoubtedly bewildered when it comes to Ally Carda.

She is an intense competitor, but also laid back. She is a great pitcher, but also a great hitter. She's an extremely hard worker, but she likes to have fun, too. She's had a college career to brag about, yet she's super humble.

If there is a pigeonhole for the Bruins' star softball player, it's spacious and exclusive.

"Usually you have one word to describe somebody, but in this case we have two: competitive and chill," UCLA softball coach Kelly Inouye-Perez said of Carda. "We laugh about that. Her personality is very laid back. She is a free spirit. She is someone who is a true team player. She is somebody who keeps everybody loose. She's a very supportive teammate, someone who takes care of her teammates and makes everyone around her better.

"Yet when it comes to competition, she is a fierce competitor. She is very unique and a very, very important part of the culture of this program."

Said Stephany LaRosa, Carda's catcher and best friend on the team: "People don't see how the two of us are so close. I'm more of a homebody. She's like, 'Hey, let's go out.' She's definitely the life of the party."

While observers spend time examining Carda's many facets, she's busy knuckling down and helping to win softball games for UCLA's storied program.

Last season the 5-8 senior from Elk Grove, just outside Sacramento, was the Pac-12 Player of the Year and one of three finalists for USA Softball Player of the Year honors. She led the Bruins' pitching staff with a 1.90 ERA, a 32-5 record and 230 strikeouts. Meanwhile, at the plate she hit .394 with 55 RBI and 13 home runs.

At a school that has produced a small conga line of superior hitting pitchers that includes Lisa Fernandez, Amanda Freed and Megan Langenfeld, Carda has added her moniker to that elite company through dedication and a passion for the game.

Inouye-Perez recalls seeing Carda play in 16-and-under competition and described her as "a stud from a very young age."

"Ally back then did what she's doing now," the coach explained. "She was a phenomenal pitcher with great presence and command on the mound and she always swung a big stick. She was able defensively to get in there and play her position."

For Carda, UCLA was an easy choice. She was aware of the softball tradition at Westwood. She noted the 11 NCAA championships. She loved the Southern California lifestyle.

But the transition from high school to college wasn't perfect. As a frosh, she was 13-5 with a puffy 3.38 ERA and batted .290. "My freshman year was definitely not my greatest softball year," she said. "But the fact that I loved the school and everyone around me made it a lot easier."



AN INTENSE COMPETITOR ON THE FIELD, **ALLY CARDA** WAS THE PAC-12 PLAYER OF THE YEAR IN 2014 AND 2015.

She admitted to feeling some pressure to make the jump. "I think I kind of made it bigger than what it should have been," she said. "Looking back now I'm trying to help my freshman pitchers and tell them to just go for it, you have nothing to lose. Just be free and have fun with it. I wish I had somebody like that tell me all that my freshman year.

"I felt pressure to come in and start and be the top pitcher and the top hitter," she added. "When you put that kind of pressure on yourself it's hard to get it done."

She quickly got on track during her sophomore year. Carda batted .339 with 18 home runs and 50 RBI during the 2013 campaign. On the mound she was 23-10 with a 2.30 ERA and 217 strikeouts. Those credentials were enough to earn inclusion on the All-Pac-12 squad. And 2014 was just a continuation of a climb to that local collegiate softball version of Mount Rushmore.

In late May, the Bruins earned a trip the Women's College World Series with a two-game sweep of Missouri in the Super Regional. Carda finished her senior season with a .328 batting average with eight home runs and 50 RBI. She dominated opponents from the circle with a 32-8 record, 2.62 ERA and 281 strikeouts.

Those sparkling numbers are the residue of a great deal of perspiration and elbow grease.

"Ally is just a pure athlete," her coach said. "She is very, very talented, but



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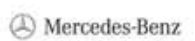
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ALLY CARDA WILL PLAY FOR THE USA SOFTBALL WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM THIS SUMMER.

behind all of that she has an incredible work ethic. She works hard. She has gotten better throughout her career. She came in just talented, but she's formed this work ethic with training."

Inouye-Perez said that is not only evident to those in and around the UCLA softball community, but throughout the university in general.

"If you asked anyone on the team who works the hardest, it would be unanimous: Ally Carda," she declared. "If you ask in athletics, in all sports teams here on campus, they know who Ally is in the weight room. The weight coaches in other sports know who Ally is because she puts the work in. She's one of the strongest and the fastest.

"There's a lot of competition in training in the offseason," Inouye-Perez added. "She's beaten out other athletes in the weight room and in conditioning drills. She's recognized not just by her execution but by putting the work in."

The work she puts in is double what you might expect. In baseball, for instance, a pitcher is a pitcher, a specialist; he isn't expected to be one of his team's leading hitters. Rarely will you see him taking extra batting practice. Even rarer still will he produce the extra-base hit in a game.

In softball, it's a bit different. "The game back in the day was more pitcher dominated," Inouye-Perez explained. "The mound was closer, the ball wasn't as live. The bats weren't as advanced as they are today. And the pitchers just put more time in. It was a very pitching dominated sport — 1-0 games, extra-inning games.

"The game has evolved," she continued. "The game has changed. Hitting has caught up. People are training more offensively, and you see that. You see players who have the ability to impact both sides of the field, and Ally Carda is one of the best at that."

It was Carda's focus on every aspect of her game that helped to produce the well-rounded athlete she is today as a senior.

"If I'm not helping my team pitching that day, at least I can try and help with my bat, or vice versa," she said. "I think it actually takes a little pressure off."

And it was the UCLA tradition, with the great players who came before her, that shaped her and sharpened her focus.

"I wasn't aware of it until a little later, that all these great pitchers were also great hitters," Carda said. "I think that was a huge reason why I was excited to

come here, because they recruit athletes and they were going to let me play other positions. I've always been an athlete and not just a pitcher. When I was younger I tried to play every position and take ground balls and do everything everybody else did, not just pitch."

After the 2015 season, Carda still has more softball on the horizon. In the summer she will play for the USA Softball Women's National team and compete both in the World Cup of Softball X from June 29-July 5, then later in the Pan American Games in Toronto from July 15-26.

Outside the diamond Carda is looking at some career endeavors involving business and leadership. She has worked with Shelly Carlin, a former UCLA softball player who is now an executive at Motorola and a major donor to the university.

"I made up my own class designed around leadership beyond softball," Carda explained. "I'd like to be a leader in the corporate world. I've been working with (Carlin) this quarter to learn more about being a leader. Maybe she'll mentor me after college.

"I've started trying to lead in the sports world," she continued. "Ultimately I'd like to do that with big businesses and companies, helping CEOs and bosses of companies become better leaders and to make the companies better."

For Carda, her lives both on and off the field have meshed perfectly with the UCLA experience. While many in the softball program marvel at the myriad benefits she brings to the table, she also got what she came to Westwood for.

"We do have high standards and expectations," she said, "not just as softball players, but being part of the university. That will help me in the long run after college with expectations in the work place.

"I would definitely say L.A. is a fun town to be in college," she added. "I've met a lot of people, not only as a friend but as an athlete. I'm building a good network. When I get out of college it will be fun to have all these people who I've met help me to get where I want to go. It's really cool how much they want you to succeed and to be the best you can."

Mike 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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FOUR & WELL DONE

AFTER FOUR YEARS AT UCLA, POWELL IS FINALLY READY TO FULFILL HIS NBA DREAMS

By Mike Ventre

College basketball fans are intimately familiar with the phrase “one and done.” It refers to the national trend whereby a star high school athlete goes on to play his freshman year of college hoops, then bolts to the NBA before the ink on his final exams has dried — assuming he took his finals.

What is much less common is “two and done” and “three and done.”

And “four and done” is about as likely as spotting a snowdrift on Sunset Boulevard. True, there are many college basketball players across the land who play four years before earning their degrees. But seldom do you find one who blossoms in his senior year to such an extent that he becomes almost as desirable to NBA teams as his more highly touted “one and done” brethren.

UCLA has just produced one of those talents.

His name is Norman Powell. After a sluggish start to his college career, the 6-foot-4, 215-pound Powell has made such rapid progress in his game the past two seasons under head coach Steve Alford that he is now auditioning for NBA teams in workouts and the combine.

“I think four years were meant to be,” said the San Diego native. “A lot of players dream about being a one-and-done, two-and-done-type player. I thought of myself that way coming into UCLA. But circumstances happened that made me stay for four years. Going through those obstacles that I experienced helped build my character, made me more determined. It all made me the person I am now, a much more mature person.”

“I realized you have to work for everything you get,” he added, “and not to take anything for granted. These four years have been essential for me becoming the person I want to be.”

Glen Worley, who coached Powell at Lincoln High School in San Diego and also played under Alford at Iowa, used the term “old soul” to describe Powell.

“His maturity level is really something that stands out,” Worley said. “He understands basketball a lot better. I think he benefitted from having two different head coaches. Coach [Ben]

Howland was a really defensive-minded coach. That’s not to say he doesn’t like offense, but he’s defensive-minded. Coach Alford runs more of a free-flowing offense, getting up and down, which helped Norman tremendously.”

Powell was recruited by Howland, best known for a methodical approach to the game that emphasized defense. As a freshman in 2011-12, Powell averaged just over 17 minutes per contest, competing in all 33 games and earning one start.

In his sophomore year, Powell bumped up to an average of 22 minutes per game and averaged 6.1 points, only a slight increase from the 4.6 points per game he posted as a freshman. He made nine starts.

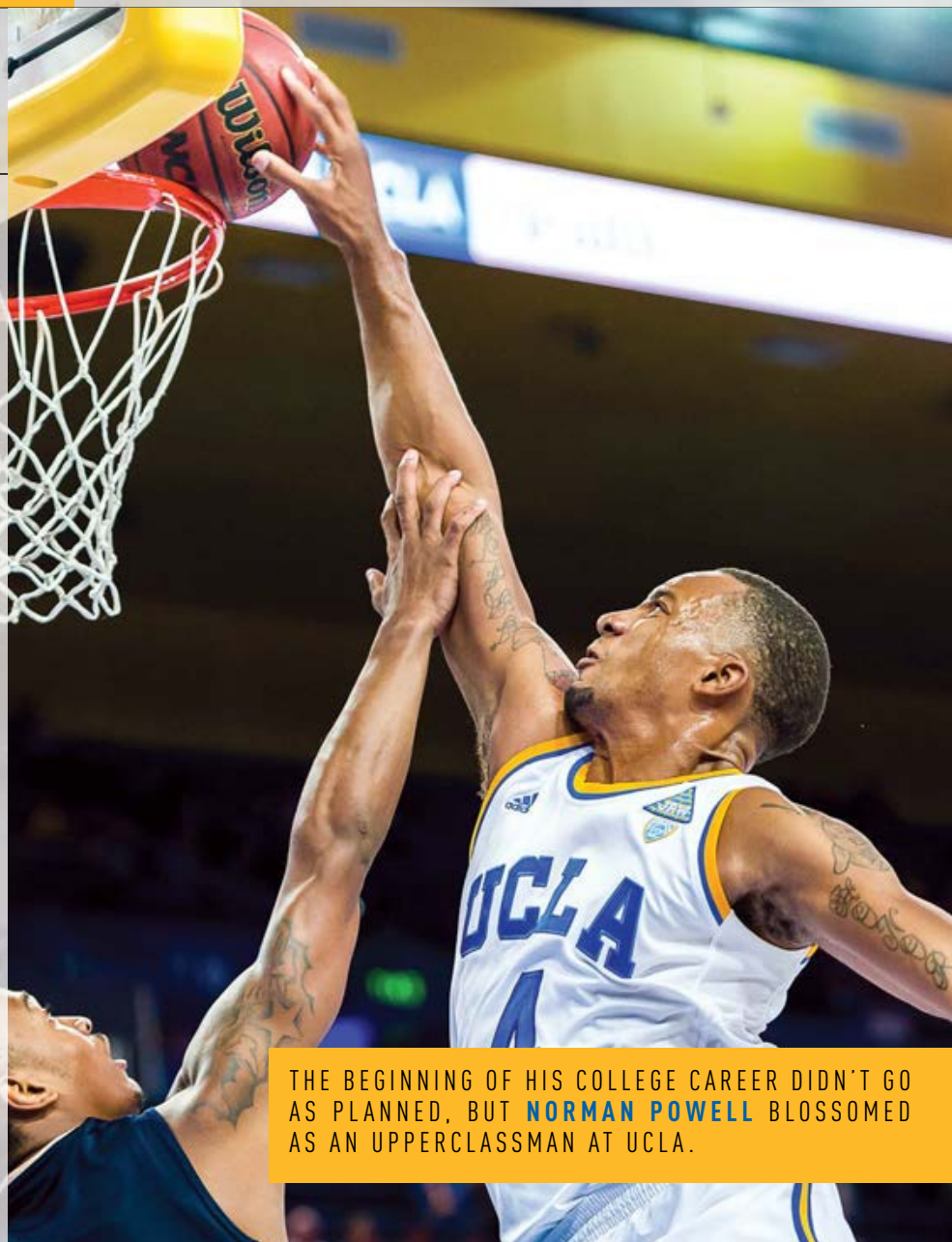
Then Alford was hired to replace Howland.

So as a junior in 2013-14, Powell’s production

spiked dramatically. He started all 37 games and averaged 11.4 points per game, third on the team. The Bruins went on to reach the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament.

Powell followed that campaign up with a breakout senior year. He started all 36 games and led the Bruins in scoring (16.4 points per game) before securing first-team All-Pac-12 acclaim. A three-time Pac-12 Player of the Week selection, Powell averaged 17 points in UCLA’s five postseason contests.

With a showing like that, Powell could now be described as “four and well done.” It might have simply been the coaching change that took the brakes off of Powell’s career. But his teammate and good friend Nick Kazemi believes it’s more than that.



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"It wasn't necessarily a matter of coaching style," said Kazemi, who will graduate with Powell this June. "It's maturity. It was his time. From his junior year, he blossomed and began attacking harder. He created more opportunities to dunk. The dog came out of him. His mentality changed and that opened up because of the players we had on the court. The year before, we lost Jordan Adams, Zach LaVine and Kyle Anderson to the NBA. That's a big roster hit. Year after year Norman would go up the depth chart naturally, and he improved by working hard in the offseason."

"He stuck to what he knew and kept up the defensive pressure," Kazemi added. "By adding skills he kept improving his shot, his ball-handling and his decision-making. That's how he moved up the depth chart and became a priority scoring option."

But Alford certainly was a factor. Both Howland and Alford had been successful coaches before coming to Westwood. Yet Alford and Powell had some history.

"He came to me as soon as he got hired," Powell said. "He said I was the first guy he called. He said he was excited to coach me. Actually me and coach Alford go way back to high school [and Worley]. We had a connection right away."

"He told me I was his guy, and that year – my junior year – would be my breakout year," Powell continued. "He really let me just play the game and taught me along the way. But he opened it up for me to play my style of basketball. That was the reason why I had a big jump my junior year followed with a great senior year."

Alford may have guided the way, but it's Powell's work ethic that enabled him to complete his degree in history while at the same time honing his game for an NBA career. Many basketball players can accurately describe themselves as gym rats. But Powell is one of the most active and aggressive of that particular species.

"Everything he does, he does 100 percent," Kazemi said.

Worley has known Powell since he was 14 and said he has always been a determined young man who puts his head down and gets to work.

"He's a good kid. He listens," Worley said. "He puts a lot of hard work into everything. He's not one of those kids who has been given everything. He's not entitled. He works for everything he has. He knows he will reap the benefits of hard work."

One of those benefits is a career in the NBA. It's something Powell said he's been dreaming about since he was a little kid.

"I used to watch Kobe," he said. "I'd watch Allen Iverson. I'd watch Michael Jordan and tapes of

those championship runs. I've always wanted to play at the highest level."

Spring is a time for marveling at colorful flowers, listening to the soft melodies of songbirds, and evaluating potential NBA players who are about to bloom. After completing the credits needed for his degree, Powell began studying for basketball finals – the 2015 NBA Draft. He said he has heard from various insiders that he will go anywhere from mid to late first round, or early second round.

"I think I can be a go-to player," Powell said. "I think I can develop into a high-caliber player. That comes with a lot of work and focus. I have to keep working on my game, understanding my game. I modeled my game after Dwyane Wade and Russell Westbrook, the way they attack, their mindsets. I think I can develop into that type of player."

Staying at UCLA for four years has a side benefit – Powell has become rather media savvy. He hopes to be a sports commentator someday. But four years of playing in Los Angeles for one of the most storied sports programs in the country has prepared him for the outside world, which includes being grilled by potential NBA employers.

"I think I'm ready," he said. "At UCLA, I've been through just about every situation. I've messed up in games and done well in games. You learn to handle questions in a professional way. I believe one of my strengths is the way I can handle myself in interviews."

Worley has witnessed Powell's development since

he was a young high school player and believes his determination and work ethic will result in a successful NBA career.

"I definitely do," he said. "Anything it takes for him to stick in the NBA he'll improve on. He likes working out. He likes working on weaknesses. He's very humble. He's not into hanging out or social media. He's not into a lot of things your normal 21-year-old would be into. That helps him."

"He works hard," Worley added. "He knows he has a goal. He knows he has to do it."

One of his goals as a youngster was to play at a big-time college program. Mission accomplished, four times over.

"I really chose UCLA because of the tradition and the history of the school," he said. "I watched UCLA growing up. I always wanted to play in a program like that. So when the opportunity came up, it was a no-brainer for me. I wanted to try and etch my name into the UCLA history books."

"Knowing all the great players who came through and left their marks, I wanted to be one of those players. I never back down from a challenge and competition. That's what UCLA is all about."

Mike 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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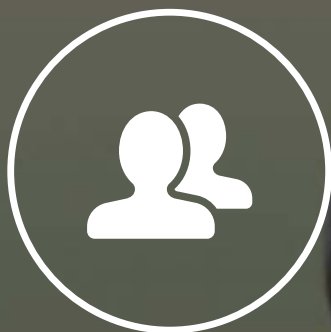
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EXTRAORDINARY VISION

DON AND SHERIE MORRISON HELP SHAPE
UCLA ATHLETICS

By Emily Lerner

UCLA Athletics Development Communications Director

She is a distinguished professor at UCLA, teaching classes while running a large lab in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics. He is now Professor Emeritus at the UCLA Anderson School, has taught intermediate classes specializing in probabilities, statistics and marketing research, and held the William E. Leonhard Chair in Management. Yet these two highly distinguished and respected professionals have not only found the time to give advice and mentorship to UCLA student-athletes, but have been able to give financially and quite generously to their passion projects within the UCLA Athletics Department.

In the past five years, Sherie and Don Morrison have given more than a half million dollars to UCLA's women's basketball program, and nearly \$1 million to UCLA's men's and women's track and field program. Married more than 50 years, their accomplishments both together and individually amount to hundreds of published articles on a variety of areas of scientific research and mathematics, several lucrative patents, and hundreds of classes taught to hundreds of students at UCLA, Columbia and other top-notch universities. But why, one may ask, are these people who have forged their way in the science and math worlds making all these large gifts to UCLA Athletics? Part of the reason goes back to Don's college years.

"Athletics has been a big part of my life," says Don. "I ran track as an undergrad at MIT. I ran between five and seven events indoors every meet. We as a group were terrible – I think we won one dual meet in all my years there."

Being a "terrible" team aside, Don's passion for college athletics, particularly track and field, along with his lifelong passion for learning and helping students, is in close sync with Sherie's love of teaching and working with students. But when it is said that timing is everything, it could not have been more true than in their case. As Don admitted, if they had met while both were undergrads, he would have been too intimidated to approach her.

"I was from Detroit where I went to a mediocre high school before I got into MIT," said Don. "Sherie was from the Bay Area, and had already won awards like the Westinghouse before she even set foot on the Stanford campus. Fortunately by the time we met at grad school, I was a decent PhD student."

Don is referring to the Westinghouse Science Talent Search. This search for the best teenage scientific minds began in 1942 and is now, since 1998, known as the Intel Science Talent Search. The Westinghouse, which President George H.W. Bush referred to as "The Super Bowl of Science," is a research-based contest for high school seniors whose work is judged on submitted original research much like a graduate school thesis. Sherie, only 16 years old, was one of the 40 finalists chosen in 1959, and took a two-day bus ride – all alone – from the Bay Area to Washington, D.C., so that she could meet President Eisenhower in the Oval Office. Out of the thousands of students who enter this contest each year, only two percent are chosen to go to the White House to meet the President.



SHERIE AND DON MORRISON HAVE GIVEN MORE THAN HALF A MILLION DOLLARS TO UCLA'S WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PROGRAM AND NEARLY \$1 MILLION TO UCLA'S MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD PROGRAM IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

All of these accolades aside, both Sherie and Don remain humble and steadfast to helping students in various ways both inside and outside of the classroom. Don served as the Athletics Department Faculty Representative from 1996 until recently, where he was the liaison between the UCLA Athletics' Compliance Office and the Chancellor. In his duties as faculty rep, his most treasured role was to advise and mentor student-athletes who had the desire to continue their education.

"The best part of being the faculty rep for me for so many years was being able to meet and advise some of our student-athletes, particularly about going on to graduate school," said Don. "That's been incredibly rewarding."

Both Sherie and Don agree that UCLA's student-athletes are some of the best in the country, which became more apparent as they got to know them better.

"UCLA student-athletes represent the university well," said Don. "They are articulate and do all the right things and that's one of the reasons we give to Athletics. They not only excel in athletics, but are some of the brightest and most talented scholastic students at UCLA."

Sherie's patents are the reason that the Morrisons are able to give back generously to the departments that have embraced them at UCLA. Both Don's love for athletics and Sherie's love for aiding students prompted their first few large gifts to UCLA Athletics.

Their first scholarship, the "Parker and Spencer Felix Endowed Women's Basketball Scholarship," was established in 2005, followed by another, the "Jake Oliva Endowed Men's Track & Field Scholarship" in 2007. Not ones to have their names splashed on buildings or donor walls, the Morrisons named both of these scholarships for their three grandchildren. One can understand why they established a track scholarship, but at first glance it wasn't as easy to understand the one established for women's basketball.

"We love so many of UCLA's teams. But when our grandson Parker was about three, we started bringing him with us to the women's basketball games at Pauley," said Don. "The coaches and players treated him so well and made him feel important and welcome at their games. [Then head coach] Kathy

Olivier would give him high-fives and let him sit on the bench sometimes. He felt like a prince.”

One of Sherie’s research studies on antibodies was patented some years back, which led to the creation of a drug that is successfully being used to treat arthritis and other diseases, so when the Morrisons were more financially fit, they sought out other ways to give back to the university. Besides giving generously to their own departments of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics, and the Anderson School (where both of their daughters



(FROM LEFT) SPENCER FELIX, DON AND SHERIE, JAKE OLIVA (MIDDLE) AND PARKER FELIX

earned their MBAs) they continued to give to UCLA Athletics. So when head women’s basketball coach Cori Close joined the Athletics staff in 2011, the Morrisons asked to meet her, to discuss the needs of her program.

“For both the women’s basketball and track and field programs, we realized there was a lot that we could do for them,” explained Don. “Neither program had that many endowed scholarships, and what might be a drop in the bucket for some of the bigger programs could do an enormous amount for these teams.”

One of the things on Coach Close’s list seemed like a small request, but turned into a gift that gave the Morrisons a great deal of joy. They made a gift that went towards the team’s annual photo shoot. These photos, shot by a professional photographer, are lit like Hollywood glamour shots.

“When we were at the [women’s basketball] year-end awards banquet, a few of the players said that their favorite thing was the photo shoot,” said Don. “One of the parents told me that her daughter said that it was the first time she felt attractive. We were happy to be able to do something that made the team feel good about themselves.

“We give to things we’re passionate about and to people we have confidence in,” said Don. “The best thing a coach can say about a player is that they’re low maintenance. We want to be low maintenance donors! We don’t like to have our names up all over the place, but Mike (Maynard) had another idea.”

Mike Maynard is UCLA’s Director of Track & Field. Shortly after he was hired in 2009, Don and Sherie met with Mike to discuss the new coach’s vision for UCLA Track & Field. He presented them with an all-encompassing vision for a renovation of Drake Stadium, home of UCLA Track & Field, which hadn’t undergone upgrades since it was first built in 1969. As the Morrisons shared this vision, Sherie and Don pledged \$250,000 to what is now known as the Drake Enhancement Project.

So as to not seem too overwhelming, the Drake Enhancement Project was divided into four separate phases, the first two of which have already been completed. The first was the complete resurfacing of the track to a new, blue Mondo track — the same surface used at the 2012 London Olympic Games. Financed by former UCLA track letterman, Jim Collins, and his wife, Carol, this new track is one of the few of its kind in the United States. The second phase, completed shortly after the Mondo track was installed, was the placement of a state-of-the-art video scoreboard, a gift from UCLA alumni Bob and Marion Wilson.

It is the third phase of this ambitious project that the Morrisons’ gift will be utilized. This phase will visually recognize UCLA’s storied track and field history. Once completed, there will be a brick entryway leading from Bruin Walk to the stadium. The first thing you will see will be a statue of the stadium’s namesake, Coach Elvin “Ducky” Drake. Up to now, except for the name of the stadium over the bleachers, there was no real recognition of the man who coached and trained some of UCLA’s most famous track stars.

Attached to the large concrete edifice where the statue of Ducky Drake will stand will be two reliefs of two of UCLA’s greatest multi-event track stars, Rafer Johnson and Jackie Joyner-Kersey. Between the two life-sized reliefs will be a wall honoring UCLA’s track and field’s illustrious past. Olympic gold medalists, world champions, and world record-holders, of which UCLA currently has over 40, will be recognized on this wall. On the opposite side of this wall will be a Wall of Honor to record all of UCLA’s national champions and All-Americans, dating back to 1934, of which there are now over 550 student-athletes and coaches. This timeline of the legacy of UCLA Track & Field will be named “Legacy Lane.” This entire area, once completed, will be known as the “Sherie and Don Morrison Recognition Plaza.”

“Don and Sherie have been part of this from the outset,” said Coach Maynard. “They have taken it on personally to fulfill this vision for UCLA Track & Field. Don has such love and passion for track and field and has shown great stamina and drive in helping us with this project both as a benefactor and as an advisor for the long-range plan for UCLA Track & Field.”

Phase three of the Drake Enhancement Project is expected to break ground in the summer or fall of 2016, so that it will be ready for the start of the track season in 2017. What this project will do, once completed, is multi-fold in scope. Don is certain that it will do as much for the track program’s future as it will to its past.

“This enhancement project will bring recognition and validate what UCLA student-athletes have accomplished in the past,” said Don. “But I think it will also impact current and future track student-athletes to see this wall with its extensive lists of All-Americans, national champions, and record-holders of all types and know that they, too, will be recognized.”

The fourth and final phase of the Drake Enhancement Project will include the placement of enclosed press and media areas, video production services area, offices for coaches which will also be used as meet and events management and conference areas, as well as a multi-purpose terrace and TV production platform. These upgrades will return UCLA to the forefront of NCAA track and field facilities, and will also strengthen UCLA’s bids to host upcoming competitions such as the Pac-12 Track & Field Championships and future premier NCAA and high school competitions. Once completed, Drake Stadium will be one of the finest track and field stadiums in the country; one befitting UCLA.

Without the Morrisons, UCLA student-athletes might not have some of the means necessary for them to attain the excellence of which they are capable. We thank Sherie and Don for their continued support and invaluable advice and mentorship, as well as for their vision, passion, and generosity.

The Wooden Athletic Fund

Cherry Park Invests in Tomorrow's Champions Today.

Cherry Park is passionately committed to UCLA and supporting Bruin student-athletes through the Wooden Athletic Fund. After graduating from UCLA in 1995 and then returning to earn her MBA degree from UCLA's Anderson School of Management in 2004, Cherry joined the Wooden Athletic Fund and has steadily increased her donation level over the past decade. Cherry worked in the UCLA Sports Information office as the Women's Gymnastics Sports Information Director during her undergraduate years and is now a Senior Director of Marketing for Qualcomm in San Diego. Supporting the Bruins has become a family affair with her parents joining Cherry at every home game in the Rose Bowl along with her sister and brother-in-law, both UCLA alumni.



UCLA and the UCLA Athletic Department thank the 5,603 Wooden Athletic Fund members, including Cherry Park.

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.

"I'm so proud to be a Bruin for many reasons. But one in particular is that being a Bruin means that we're always striving for excellence, not only on the field or court but in our everyday lives. By supporting the Wooden Athletic Fund, we are not just helping our students become great athletes. We are encouraging them to become even greater people."



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SENIOR **ROBIN ANDERSON** WAS A FOUR-TIME ALL-AMERICAN WHO LED THE BRUINS TO THE NCAA TITLE IN 2014 AND A RUNNER-UP FINISH IN 2015.

(PHOTO BY DANNY HARRINGTON)

SENIOR **EMILY DONOHOE** WRAPPED UP HER ILLUSTRIOUS UCLA CAREER WITH A PAIR OF MPSF TOURNAMENT TITLES AND FIVE STRAIGHT VICTORIES OVER USC. SHE HELPED THE BRUINS TO A PAIR OF NCAA RUNNER-UP FINISHES IN 2014 AND 2015.

(PHOTO BY GREG TURK)



CELEBRITY SIGHTINGS

THE JIM MORA CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC



TOP ROW (L-R): *Troy Aikman, Steve Alford, Cade McNown and actor Peter Dante.*

SECOND ROW (L-R): *Tyus Edney, Rick and Jerry Neuheisel, Matt Stevens, Troy Aikman and Wayne Cook.*

THIRD ROW (L-R) *Jason Kapon, Mark McMillian with Jim Mora, NFL Hall of Famer Jonathan Ogden and Mora.*

BOTTOM ROW: *Mora and his wife Shannon.*

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