Ben Goldberg thankful for extra year of tennis

After graduating from Palisades Charter High School in Pacific Palisades, California, Ben Goldberg walked on to UCLA and ultimately won 48 singles matches and 33 doubles matches, including three seasons with double digit singles wins.

This past season was filled with many positive emotions: happiness, contentment, love, trust, and an overall feeling of pure gratitude. I am blessed beyond measure, surrounded by incredible humans and for UCLA beach volleyball, it means to be a Bruin. The world suddenly seemed so much more special when I was able to cheer on our teams. Go Bruins!

SAVY SIMO

When I look back at my five years at UCLA, I can’t help but smile and feel proud of so many positive emotions: happiness, contentment, love, trust, support, fulfillment and an overall feeling of pure gratitude. I am blessed beyond measure to have been able to play on the beach and volleyball court at UCLA and the opportunity to have experienced every day.

This past season was filled with more ups and downs than anyone could have imagined. I knew it was going to be a tough season going into it because of the lack of certainty and the way the world was, but I am so glad we were able to play. Looking back, I think we did a good job of being resilient and finding that extra drive to push ourselves every day. Although nothing was normal and I felt so many emotions and so many memories, all of which have shaped me into the person and player I am today. From the good days to the not-so-good times as a college athlete, I am still completely filled with nothing but happiness and gratitude. It’s so easy to get wrapped up in the moment and lose sight of the bigger picture, but I try to embrace the big moments, take advantage of the opportunities, and focus on the things that makes UCLA special.

It’s something I’m most proud of. As a Bruin, and I will be a Bruin for life. While it’s been a winding road, I’ve loved the path I’ve walked and I know that I have a Bruin heart and I will never forget my Bruin roots. I am so thankful I had just that. Amazing.

Savvy Simo played for both UCLA’s volleyball and beach volleyball teams. During her career, she was a two-time All-Pac-12 Honorable Mention and was named MVP for the 2017 volleyball season.

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Love, Savvy Simo #11

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This senior reflection was written by Ben Goldberg, a member of the 2020 men’s tennis team. Goldberg, who graduated from Palisades Charter High School in Pacific Palisades, California, walked on to UCLA and ultimately won 48 singles matches and 33 doubles matches, including three seasons with double digit singles wins.

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DAILY BRUIN SPORTS’ 2020-2021

Superlatives: Daily Bruin Sports recognizes UCLA’s outstanding 2020-2021 athletes

BY CORY SMITH
Daily Bruin senior staff

After her phenomenal 2019 season, when she won both the national and Pac-12 championships, the Pac-12’s Female Athlete of the Year, Garcia had exceeded any expectations.

But in her final season as a Bruin, she put together another outstanding performance and became the unanimous choice for the Pac-12 Gymnast of the Year.

In the 2020-21 season, Garcia finished 4th overall in the NCAA Championships with 186.150 points, her highest career total, and also won both the all-around and the floor exercise.

Garcia’s performance in the NCAA Championships was a testament to her dedication and hard work.

Female Athlete of the Year: Rachel Garcia

Male Athlete of the Year: Johnny Juzang

Superlatives: Daily Bruin Sports recognizes UCLA’s outstanding 2020-2021 athletes

BY JON CHRISTON
Sports editor

The 6-foot-5 guard from Los Angeles averaged 22.8 points per game during UCLA men’s basketball’s NCAA tournament run after averaging 14.8 points per game during the regular season.

Juzang’s performance in the tournament made him one of the most watched athletes in the country.

Rookie of the Year: Chae Campbell

BY SAM SETTLEMAN
Assistant Sports editor

Chae Campbell was clearly the impact player UCLA needed, and he didn’t disappoint.

In the Pac-12, Campbell averaged 14.5 points per game, earning him Pac-12 Freshman of the Year honors.

Campbell’s impact was evident from the start, and he continued to improve throughout the season.

Superlatives: Daily Bruin Sports recognizes UCLA’s outstanding 2020-2021 athletes

BY KYLE ROAL
Daily Bruin senior staff

Coach of the Year: Adam Wright

BY JAVIER DE LA CRUZ
Daily Bruin senior staff

Wright has been a steady presence on the Bruin coaching staff since 2006, and his team’s success is a testament to his leadership.

Wright’s coaching philosophy is centered around bringing out the best in his players, and he has done that with UCLA men’s basketball.

BY MATTHEW GONZALES
BY JASON CHRISTON
Sports editor

Comeback Player of the Year: Marley Canales

BY MARILYN KAZAKOFF
Sports editor

In what was essentially a one-game season, Canales was named the Pac-12’s Comeback Player of the Year.

Despite only playing one game, Canales was able to showcase his talent and determination.

Superlatives: Daily Bruin Sports recognizes UCLA’s outstanding 2020-2021 athletes

BY JACQUELINE PEREZ
Daily Bruin staff

Most Improved: Greg Dulcich

In 2020-21, Dulcich showed significant improvement and became a key player for UCLA.

He averaged 11.7 points and 7.1 rebounds per game, an increase of over 100% from his freshman year.

Superlatives: Daily Bruin Sports recognizes UCLA’s outstanding 2020-2021 athletes

BY GAVIN CARLSON
Daily Bruin senior staff

Best UCLA Talk Show: Bruin Table Talk (Women’s Basketball)

Superlatives: Daily Bruin Sports recognizes UCLA’s outstanding 2020-2021 athletes

BY MATTHEW COOK
Daily Bruin senior staff

Superlatives: Daily Bruin Sports recognizes UCLA’s outstanding 2020-2021 athletes

BY JACQUELINE PEREZ
Daily Bruin staff

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Brooke Maxson played for the UCLA women’s water polo team from 2017-2021, when graduating from Westfield High School in Santa Ana, California, in 2017, is a senior chemistry major, and has played water polo since she was four years old.

Reflecting back on her own freshman season, I was really nervous. I wasn’t sure if I was going to be able to keep up with the Pac-12. I had a hard time transitioning from gymnastics to water polo. My role within the program was not what I had anticipated. I ended that first year questioning everything, UCLA was the place for me? Was water polo the right path? I had freelancer on my back.

After UCLA gymnastics, Nia Dennis pursues entertainment career

BY SAM SETTLEMAN
Assistant Sports editor

Don’t step out on ladies.
Don’t slip off the beam.

For Nia, Maxson is one of her best is needed. “During my five years at UCLA, however, doesn’t bring extra steps.

Don’t take extra steps.
Don’t slip off the beam.

When she was four years old, Maxson played for the UCLA women’s water polo team from 2017-2021, when graduating from Westfield High School in Santa Ana, California, in 2017, is a senior chemistry major, and has played water polo since she was four years old.

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Izzy Anstey recounts immigration obstacles, joining Bruin family

By FRANCIS MONO
Assistant Sports editor

Izzy Anstey packed her bags and placed them on the bed. Her heart was heavy. She was ready to go.

The freshman forward from Melbourne, Australia—who played beach volleyball and was named to the U.S. beach volleyball women's national team—was weeks away from UCLA women's volleyball's first practice of the season on Nov. 5. But a life-changing accident occurred on Aug. 12, 2020.

“By Jack Nelson
Daily Bruins’ favorite

The senior faced the prospect of playing for UCLA's beach volleyball team in 2020, only to have her season cut short due to a devastating injury.

“Seven months later, Izzy Anstey is still trying to get back to normal. She has to. She’s going to be playing for UCLA’s beach volleyball team next season. She’s going to be playing against her old self. She’s going to be playing for her family. She’s going to be playing for UCLA.”

“Anstey said, “’It’s kind of odd because all the athletes at UCLA are some of the best athletes in the country. It was really hard, to be honest, to know that I wasn’t going to play.”

Tom Brown
Assistant Sports editor

Smith has made his mark. He’s been a leader, a winner and now been a leader, a winner and now a Bruin?

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challenging year away, the Bruin faithful are Rewards. They will be rewarded for their talents going forward. Anstey is looking to the future as she closes her Bruins chapter and anticipates her next move.

Close also remembers her first year on the floor in 2019 FIBA U19 World Cup in Australia in the title game of the tournament. In the game against Anstey’s Team Australia, Close got her start in the big-time. She was an up-and-down season that ended in an upset loss in the conference final. But that included her teams’ high-water mark in program history in 1998 and won two championships in the industry. This is an unprec edented opportunity for the future. The Bruins have won two of the last two years, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only made matters worse. With access from athletes, the school can recoup its losses.

For Dennis, the future meant the realization of her dreams, Dennis has one goal for herself: to be happy. “Growing up, gymnastics wasn’t always the easiest path for Dennis,” said her coach. “She has had to work through her share of challenges, both on and off the mat. But she never gave up, always pushing herself to be the best she could be.”

For Close, the Bruins were more than just a team, they were a family. “The Bruins were my second home,” said Close. “They will always be a part of me, and I can’t wait to be a part of that community again.”

Dennis

The amount of opportunities that Anstey has had at UCLA is incredible. She said, “I knew from a long time ago that I wanted to play at UCLA. When I visited, I knew that was the right place for me.”

The Bruins were the perfect fit for Dennis, and she has made the most of her time there. She has been a key player on the court that doesn’t take any prisoners. She is the type of player that can break games wide open, provide a spark when needed, and close stores. She is the type of athlete that can do it all. She is a true athlete, and she has the potential to be one of the greatest athletes to ever play at UCLA.

For Anstey, the Bruins were more than just a team. They were a family. “The Bruins were my second home,” said Anstey. “They will always be a part of me, and I can’t wait to be a part of that community again.”

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