



John Savage

Head Coach
21st Season at UCLA
24th Season overall
Nevada '91

Through 20 seasons as UCLA's head coach, John Savage has established the Bruins as a consistent national championship contender. Savage helped UCLA reach college baseball's pinnacle in 2013, as the Bruins won their first-ever NCAA baseball title. Under his guidance, UCLA has advanced to the postseason in 13 of the last 18 seasons, hosting an NCAA Regional six times during that span, including four-straight from 2010 through 2013 (there was no postseason held in 2020).

Savage completed his 20th season as UCLA's head coach in 2024. He is currently the third-longest-tenured head coach in UCLA baseball program history and has gone 676-463-2 in the past 20 seasons.

In 13 trips to the postseason at UCLA, Savage has compiled a 46-27 record (.630 winning percentage), recording the most postseason victories of any head coach in program history.

With Savage at the program's helm, UCLA advanced to the College World Series in 2010, 2012, and 2013, and reached the best-of-three championship series in 2010 and 2013. UCLA defeated Mississippi State, two games to none, at the 2013 College World Series. In 2010, the Bruins advanced to the championship series for the first time in school history, falling two games to none to South Carolina.

Savage's strong work with UCLA's program has been equally evident in player development and the MLB Draft. Over his 19 seasons in Westwood, UCLA has produced 126 draft selections. Under Savage, the Bruins led or co-led all NCAA schools in draft selections in both 2019 (13) and 2021 (10), and produced a first-round draft pick in three consecutive years (2019-21) for the first time in program history. In addition, he has coached 28 players at UCLA that have competed in the major leagues.



Coach Savage speaking at the 2013 College World Series

Savage is one of just two head coaches in college baseball history – alongside Vanderbilt's Tim Corbin – to have guided his team to a College World Series title, produced the first overall pick in the MLB Draft, coached a Golden Spikes Award winner, and had a former player win a Cy Young Award in Major League Baseball. Savage is one of just six coaches all-time with a CWS title, No. 1 pick, and Golden Spikes winner, joining an illustrious group of current and former head coaches in Corbin, Skip Bertman (LSU), Jim Brock (Arizona St.), Augie Garrido (Cal State Fullerton, Texas), and Jim Morris (Miami).

In addition, Savage has coached three pitchers who went on to win Cy Young Awards in MLB: Gerrit Cole, Trevor Bauer, and Barry Zito.

A tenacious recruiter with a keen eye for developing talent, Savage and his coaching staff have found success on the recruiting trail. In all, 16 of his 18 recruiting classes have been nationally ranked in the top-25 by Baseball America. Most recently, UCLA brought in the top-ranked recruit class in the country twice in a three-year span (fall 2021, fall 2023). Elsewhere, his classes have been ranked No. 5 (fall 2006), No. 13 (fall 2007), No. 7 (fall 2008), No. 7 (fall 2009), No. 19 (fall 2010), No. 3 (fall 2011), No. 2 (fall 2012), No. 7 (fall 2014), No. 3 (fall 2015), No. 16 (fall 2016), No. 16 (fall 2017), No. 4 (fall 2018), No. 5 (fall 2019), and No. 6 (fall 2020).

The Bruins put together another winning season in 2023, going 28-24-1. UCLA finished the season with strong national ranks in strikeout-to-walk ratio (2.9, ninth), walks allowed per nine innings (3.3, 12th), and ERA (4.50, 33rd). Senior right-hander Kelly Austin (3.39 ERA) led UCLA's pitching staff en route to All-America honors, while right-handed relievers Cody Delvecchio and Charles Harrison both earned All-Pac-12 honorable mentions.

In 2022 UCLA reached the 40-win plateau for the sixth time in 13 years, going 40-24 and making the NCAA Tournament as a No. 2 seed. Savage picked up a pair of milestone victories during the campaign, winning both his 700th game overall and 600th at UCLA. Despite myriad injuries to the staff, the Bruins were again among the top-pitching squads in the country, finishing the year ranked inside the top-15 nationally in ERA (3.99, 15th), WHIP (1.25, sixth), and strikeout-to-walk ratio (3.00, 10th). UCLA successfully integrated a high number of newcomers in 2022, leading the country with four Freshman All-America selections. Sophomore Max Rajcic emerged as one of the top pitchers in the west, going 8-5 with a 3.28 ERA and 92 strikeouts in 85 innings en route to All-Region and All-Pac-12 honors.

The Bruins posted a 37-20 record in 2021, reaching the NCAA Tournament for the fourth consecutive time and ending the season ranked No. 24 in the country. UCLA got it done on both sides of the ball in 2021, finishing as the only Pac-12 team to rank top-three in the league in both scoring (7.3 runs per game, second) and ERA (3.95, third). The Bruins were ranked as high as No. 6 over the course of the year, and earned a No. 2 seed in the postseason at the Lubbock Regional. UCLA had an NCAA-high 10 players selected in the 2021 MLB Draft, the second time in three years that the Bruins led or co-led the country in draft picks. Shortstop Matt McLain was the first Bruin off the board, going No. 17 overall to the Cincinnati Reds. With McLain's selection, UCLA produced a first-round draft pick in three consecutive seasons for the first time in program history. UCLA's offense was paced in 2021 by McLain, Pac-12 Batting Champion JT Schwartz, and Kevin Kendall, while the pitching staff saw breakthrough performances from Sean Mullen, Adrian Chaidze, and Max Rajcic.

UCLA was off to a hot start in 2020 before the abrupt cancellation of the season due to COVID-19, winning 11 straight games out of the gate en route to a 13-2 final record. The Bruins finished the abbreviated season with the top RPI in the country while placing top-five nationally in a number of pitching statistics including ERA (1.88, third), WHIP (0.87, first), and hits allowed per nine innings (4.97, first). A pair of Bruins were selected in MLB Draft - which was shortened to five rounds - as outfielder Garrett Mitchell went No. 20 overall to Milwaukee while closer Holden Powell was the third round choice of Washington. Mitchell's selection by the Brewers - paired with Michael Toglia in 2019 - meant that UCLA had a position player selected in the first round in back-to-back years for the first time ever.

Savage earned Pac-12 Coach of the Year and ABCA West Region Coach of the Year honors after leading the Bruins to one of the most successful seasons in program history in 2019. UCLA posted a 52-11 overall record (school record for wins), claimed the Pac-12 title, spent a program-record 12 consecutive weeks atop the national rankings, and earned the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament for the second time ever. UCLA won all 14 of its regular season series, a first in program history. Savage picked up a pair of milestone wins during the 2019 season, earning his 500th career victory at UCLA after a Friday night victory over Oregon State on Mar. 15 and his 600th career win overall after topping East Carolina on Apr. 12. Savage managed a pitching staff that led the NCAA in team ERA (2.60); no other team finished below 3.00 and only one team logged an ERA within a half-run of UCLA. The Bruins also paced the nation in shutouts (program-record 11), hits allowed per nine innings (6.18), and WHIP (1.05) while ranking in the top-10 in strikeout-to-walk ratio (3.13, fourth) and strikeouts per nine innings (10.2, seventh). Under his tutelage, junior righty Ryan Garcia (10-1, 1.44 ERA) was named the Pac-12 Pitcher of the Year and a consensus First Team All-American while sophomore closer Holden Powell (17 saves, 1.84 ERA) was dubbed the NCBWA Stopper of the Year. A program-record 13 Bruins were selected in the 2019 MLB First-Year Player Draft, including Michael Toglia (23rd overall, Colorado) who became UCLA's first position player to be picked in the first round since Chase Utley in 2000. UCLA had the most day one picks of any NCAA team, and finished tied with Vanderbilt for the most selections overall.

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2018 saw the Bruins make their 10th postseason appearance with Savage at the helm, earning the No. 2 seed at the Minneapolis Regional. UCLA finished the season with a 38-21 record, including going 19-11 in Pac-12 play for the second-straight season. Savage surpassed two milestones as he reached his 800th career game at UCLA and also his 1,000th game overall as a head coach. Once again UCLA had one of the best pitching staffs in the country as they ranked sixth in the NCAA in ERA at 3.08, seventh in WHIP and top-20 in hits allowed per nine inning and walks allowed per nine innings. UCLA was one of just two teams in the country to rank top-10 in both ERA and fielding percentage as the Bruins were third in the nation at .982. UCLA's starting pitching was dominant as they combined to record a sub-3.00 ERA and a 2.7 strikeout-to-walk ratio led by All-Pac-12 selection Jake Bird who was the Pac-12 ERA leader at 2.18 in 16 starts. Zach Pettway earned first and second team All-American honors, while Holden Powell also earned freshman All-American honors. Offensively, UCLA was led by a trio of Sophomore All-Pac-12 selections in All-American honoree Chase Strumpf, Michael Toglia and Jeremy Ydens. Additionally, four Bruins were selected in the MLB Draft, highlighted by Jake Bird (156th pick, fifth round) as Savage now has 33 players selected in the first 10 rounds.

In the summer of 2017, Savage was the manager of the USA Baseball Collegiate National Team after being an assistant coach in 2000. He led the U.S. to a 15-5 record over the summer, including 11-4 during international play. The United States won all three international series it competed in, including going 4-0 against Chinese Taipei and 3-2 versus both Cuba and Japan. The win over Cuba marked the third-straight series win, while also improving to 23-18 in 41 all-time series against Japan.

In 2017, UCLA made its ninth postseason appearance under Savage earning a berth into the Long Beach Regional and finished with an overall record of 30-27. The Bruins finished third in the Pac-12 with a record of 19-11. UCLA continued its success on the mound as the team was ranked in the top-30 in the country in ERA, shutouts, hits allowed per nine innings and WHIP. The pitching staff was led by All-American and All-Pac-12 selection Griffin Canning and also All-Pac-12 team honoree Jon Olsen. Offensively, UCLA was led by All-Pac-12 selection Sean Bouchard and Freshman All-Americans Kyle Cuellar and Michael Toglia. The Bruins were one of only four teams in 2017 to defeat No. 1 Oregon State in the regular season, earning a 7-1 victory over ESPNU. Additionally, six Bruins were selected in the MLB Draft, highlighted by Griffin Canning (47th pick, second round) and Sean Bouchard (266th pick, ninth round) as Savage now has 32 players selected in the first 10 rounds. Canning also became the sixth UCLA pitcher since 2005 to be drafted in the first two rounds.

In 2016, the Bruins missed the postseason for just the third time in the past 11 seasons, finishing with an overall mark of 25-31. However, it was a year full of milestones for Savage who recorded both his 400th career win at UCLA and 500th career win as a Division I head coach. Savage's 400th win in Westwood came in dramatic fashion as UCLA topped crosstown rival USC in Dodger Stadium in a 14 inning thriller. Individually, first-year pitcher Kyle Molnar was named a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American, after finishing second in the Pac-12 among freshman in strikeouts, and senior outfielder Eric Filia earned All-Pac-12 honors. Additionally, five Bruins were selected in the MLB Draft, highlighted by Grant Dyer (227th pick, eighth round) who became the 30th player under Savage to be selected in the first 10 rounds.

In 2015, Savage led the Bruins to a 45-16 overall record, including a school record 22 conference wins. The team's success resulted in the program's 11th Pac-12 Conference Championship and the number one overall seed in the NCAA Tournament. The Bruins lost just one weekend series all season and won as many as eight games in-a-row. For the first time in his career, Savage was named Pac-12 Coach of the Year as he led his pitching staff to the lowest earned run average in the nation (2.17). The team ERA also set a new UCLA record for lowest team ERA in a single season.

Known for his ability to coach pitching, the 2015 staff was one of the best in school history. For the second time in his career, David Berg earned both the Pac-12 Pitcher of the Year and NCBWA Stopper of the Year awards. Berg broke the NCAA record for most career appearances, finishing his four-year run with 175 appearances. Senior left-hander Grant Watson also had a record-breaking year, making the most career starts (63) in school history and moving into second in UCLA history in career wins (30). Serving as the staff 'ace', James Kaprielian led the conference in strikeouts (114) for the second-straight year and threw nine no-hit innings to combine with Berg for the program's first ever no-hitter on May 15. Eight Bruins were selected in the 2015 MLB Draft, including Kaprielian (16th overall), who went in the first round, and Kevin Kramer (62nd overall), who went in the second round.

UCLA's 2014 ballclub fought through an injury-plagued season and missed postseason action after going 25-30-1. Relief pitcher David Berg secured All-Pac-12 honors for the third time in as many seasons, earning all-conference acclaim with right-hander James Kaprielian and catcher Shane Zeile. Kaprielian became the third pitcher under Savage to lead the conference in strikeouts (108), joining Trevor Bauer and Tim Murphy in that category. UCLA finished the season with four selections in the MLB Draft, including two top-10 round picks (Shane Zeile, fifth round and Max Schuh, seventh round).

Savage helped UCLA post a perfect 10-0 mark during its 2013 run to the NCAA title, going 4-0 against national seeds in the tournament while eliminating two of them – No. 5 Cal State Fullerton in Super Regional action and No. 1 North Carolina at the College World Series. The Bruins' pitching staff limited the opposition to four runs in five College World Series games. In the 68-year history of the CWS, only one national champion has surrendered fewer runs than UCLA's 2013 ballclub (California allowed three runs in 1957).



Coach Savage with sons Jack and Ryan, daughter Gabrielle and wife Lisa

UCLA went 49-17 in 2013, marking the program's second-highest single-season victories, and matched the school record with 21 conference wins. For the eighth consecutive year, UCLA finished with no lower than a third-place finish among Pac-12 teams. Berg became the conference's first-ever reliever to earn Pac-12 Pitcher of the Year honors. Three-year starting shortstop Pat Valaika became UCLA's first player to secure Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year acclaim.

Savage was named the 2013 National Coach of the Year by Collegiate Baseball, Baseball America, the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) and Perfect Game USA. His work with UCLA's pitching staff that season was no more evident than with the success of starting pitchers Adam Plutko, Nick Vander Tuig and Grant Watson. Plutko and Vander Tuig capped their UCLA careers in 2013 as the winningest pitching tandem in school history (56 total wins in three seasons).

In 2012, UCLA didn't miss a beat despite losing the No. 1 and No. 3 overall MLB draft selections (Gerrit Cole, Trevor Bauer) from the pitching rotation. The Bruins went 48-16 and returned to the College World Series for the second time in three seasons. In addition, UCLA won the Pac-12 co-championship (tied with Arizona), marking the first time in school history that the Bruins had won back-to-back conference titles. UCLA hosted the NCAA Los Angeles Super Regional for the second time in three years after hosting its third consecutive NCAA Regional. The Bruins entered the 2012 postseason as the NCAA Tournament's No. 2 overall seed and had seven players selected in the first 15 rounds of that season's MLB Draft.

Savage's Year-by-Year Head Coaching Record

Year	School	Record	Pct.	Conf.	Pct.	NCAA Tournament
2024	UCLA	19-33	.365	9-21	.300	-
2023	UCLA	28-24-1	.538	12-16-1	.431	-
2022	UCLA	40-24	.625	19-11	.633	Auburn Regional
2021	UCLA	37-20	.649	18-12	.600	Lubbock Regional
2020	UCLA	13-2	.867	-	-	N/A (COVID-19)
2019	UCLA	52-11	.825	24-5	.828	Los Angeles Super Regional
2018	UCLA	38-21	.644	19-11	.633	Minnesota Regional
2017	UCLA	20-27	.526	19-11	.633	Long Beach Regional
2016	UCLA	25-31	.446	12-18	.400	-
2015	UCLA	45-16	.738	22-8	.733	Los Angeles Regional
2014	UCLA	25-30-1	.455	12-18	.400	-
2013	UCLA	49-17	.742	21-9	.700	NCAA Champions
2012	UCLA	48-16	.750	20-10	.667	College World Series
2011	UCLA	35-24	.593	18-9	.667	Los Angeles Regional
2010	UCLA	51-17	.750	18-9	.667	CWS runner-up
2009	UCLA	27-29	.482	15-12	.555	-
2008	UCLA	33-27	.550	13-11	.542	Fullerton Regional
2007	UCLA	33-28	.541	14-10	.583	Fullerton Super Regional
2006	UCLA	33-25	.560	13-10	.565	Malibu Regional
2005	UCLA	15-41	.260	4-20	.167	-
2004	UC Irvine	34-23-1	.595	10-11	.476	Midwest Regional
2003	UC Irvine	21-35	.375	8-13	.381	-
2002	UC Irvine	33-26	.559	14-10	.583	-
Career	23 years	764-547-3	.583	334-265-1	.558	1 title, 3 CWS, 5 SR, 14 R
UCLA	20 years	676-463-2	.593	302-231-1	.567	1 title, 3 CWS, 5 SR, 13 R
UC Irvine	3 years	88-84-1	.509	32-34	.485	1 Regional

Savage's Year-by-Year Assistant Coaching Record

Year	School	Record	Pct.	Conf.	Pct.	Postseason
2000	USC	44-20	.688	16-8	.667	College World Series
1999	USC	36-26	.581	17-7	.708	West Super Regional
1998	USC	49-17	.742	21-9	.700	NCAA Champions
1997	USC	42-20	.677	17-13	.567	South II Reg. Final
1996	Nevada	30-19	.612	8-13	.381	-
1995	Nevada	35-18	.660	12-9	.571	-
1994	Nevada	41-15	.732	16-5	.761	Midwest Regional
1993	Nevada	28-19-1	.615	7-14	.333	-
1992*	Nevada	43-11-1	.791	----	----	-
Totals	9 years	348-165-2	.677	114-78	.594	1 title, 2 SR, 5 R

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In 2011, the Bruins captured their first outright Pac-10 title since 1986 just days before seeing top pitchers Cole and Bauer selected No. 1 and No. 3, respectively, in the MLB Draft. No college program had seen two of its players selected within the draft's first three selections since 1978 (Arizona State). Bauer was named UCLA's first-ever Golden Spikes Award winner and became the first player in school history to earn National Player of the Year honors from either Baseball America or Collegiate Baseball.

Savage helped UCLA's 2011 pitching staff post the nation's third-lowest ERA (2.44), the lowest mark on record in school history. Likewise, the Bruins' staff finished the year second, nationally, in strikeouts per nine innings (9.8) and hits allowed per nine innings (6.61).

In 2010, UCLA set the school record for single-season victories, compiling a 51-17 overall record after opening the season with a school-record 22 consecutive wins. The Bruins also won a program-best 43 regular-season games and landed their first-ever national seed (No. 6-seed) in the NCAA Tournament. UCLA hosted postseason games at Jackie Robinson Stadium for the first time since 1986 and swept all three NCAA Regional contests. The Bruins overcame a Game 1 loss to Cal State Fullerton with consecutive victories in the next two games of the NCAA Super Regional to advance to Omaha for the first time since 1997. UCLA finished second in the Pac-10 Conference, a league that sent eight of its 10 teams to the postseason. The Bruins' pitching staff set the school and conference records for most strikeouts in one season (700). Additionally, UCLA logged the country's second-lowest ERA (3.00) and ranked first in the nation in strikeouts per nine innings (10.2) and ranked second in hits allowed per nine innings (7.31). Savage was named the National Coach of the Year in 2010 by CollegeBaseballInsider.com.

The development of Cole and Bauer proved instrumental to UCLA's success in 2010 and 2011. In his career at UCLA, Bauer (2009-2011) established UCLA's all-time records in strikeouts (460), wins (34) and innings (373.1) and set the program's top two marks in single-season strikeouts. Bauer logged a nation-leading and Pac-12 record 203 strikeouts in 2011 after having led the country with 165 strikeouts in 2010. Cole served as UCLA's Friday night pitcher in each of his three seasons (2009-11), logging 376 strikeouts, the second-highest career total in program history and becoming the first pitcher in program history to record at least 100 strikeouts in each of three seasons.

Savage's work at UCLA during his first five seasons (2005-2009) paid major dividends in setting up the program for long-term success. He became UCLA's first-ever head baseball coach to lead the program to at least three consecutive NCAA postseason appearances (2006-2008).

In 2009, Savage led UCLA to a third-place finish in the Pac-10 for the fourth consecutive season. The Bruins went 27-29 with a 15-12 mark in Pac-10 play. That year, UCLA's pitching staff finished ninth in the nation in strikeouts per nine innings (9.3). The team's success on the mound was fueled by the emergence of Cole and Bauer, who finished their freshman campaigns as two of the conference's three freshmen to earn All-Pac-10 team honors. Bauer captured National Freshman Pitcher of the Year honors from Louisville Slugger/Collegiate Baseball. Cody Decker became the only Bruin to hit 20 or more home runs under Savage in one season. He finished his senior season with 21 homers, becoming UCLA's first Pac-10 home run leader since 2002.

In 2008, UCLA went 33-27 with a 13-11 Pac-10 record, culminating in an NCAA Regional Final berth at Cal State Fullerton. Left-handed starter Tim Murphy became UCLA's first pitcher to lead the conference in strikeouts (111) since 1996, when Jim Parque totaled 116 strikeouts. The Bruins' regular-season schedule featured 26 games against teams that advanced to NCAA postseason play. UCLA's 2008 ballclub was led by a strong mainstay of talented infielders, including Jermaine Curtis at third, Brandon Crawford at shortstop and Alden Carrithers at second.

In 2007, Savage helped UCLA overcome an 8-14 start and record a 33-28 overall record, en route to the program's first NCAA Super Regional appearance since 2000. The Bruins went 14-10 with a third-place finish in the Pac-10, winning 19 of 23 games midway through the season. UCLA swept the NCAA Long Beach Regional with a trio of masterful starting performances from Tyson Brummett, Gavin Brooks and Murphy. The Bruins' season ended with consecutive losses to Cal State Fullerton at the NCAA Fullerton Super Regional.

In 2006, the Bruins engineered a remarkably-strong turnaround with a 33-25 overall record and third-place finish in the Pac-10. Guided by the nation's No. 5-ranked incoming class (Baseball America), Savage and the Bruins advanced to the NCAA Malibu Regional after having played the nation's most challenging schedule, as ranked by Boyd's World. The Bruins' 2006 campaign marked the first year in which UCLA won each of its home conference series. Much of the college baseball world noticed UCLA's success in 2006 and aimed their praise toward Savage. Following the 2006 campaign, Savage was named a finalist for the National Coach of the Year award by CollegeBaseballInsider.com. In July 2006, Baseball America hailed Savage as one of "10 People to Watch in the Future." The magazine listed the Bruins' head coach with other distinguished baseball personnel such as Mets all-star third baseman David Wright and then- L.A. Dodgers' assistant general manager Kim Ng. Baseball America lauded Savage for his winning ways: "UCLA has always been viewed as a sleeping giant on the West Coast, and it looks like Savage has the giant stirring."

Savage was hired by former UCLA Athletic Director Dan Guerrero on July 1, 2004, to replace the retired Gary Adams. Prior to taking over UCLA's program, Savage had made stops as head coach at UC Irvine (2002-2004) and as an assistant coach at USC (1997-2000) and Nevada (1992-1996).



Coach Savage as head coach of the U.S. Collegiate National Team in 2017

Savage's Former Pitchers what they're saying...

**Gerrit Cole – New York Yankees
2011 MLB Draft (1st overall pick)**

"Coach Savage taught me how to become a complete pitcher. He not only improved my game on the field, but also made a huge impact for me working with the mental game away from the field. In my eyes, there isn't a pitching coach better than him out there."



**Trevor Bauer – Los Angeles Dodgers
2011 MLB Draft (1st round, No. 3 pick)**

"Coach Savage was instrumental in my development as a pitcher. He allowed me the freedom to learn through my experiences while providing the proper structure to lead me in the right direction. His knowledge created an environment very conducive to my growth as a player and person."



**David Huff – Cleveland Guardians
2006 MLB Draft (1st round, supplemental)**

"Everyone that comes into UCLA's program has talent and athleticism. Coach Savage takes that talent and shapes it into a quality professional ballplayer. He has been very instrumental in my success at the collegiate and professional levels."



**Rob Rasmussen – Miami Marlins
2010 MLB Draft (2nd round)**

"Every pitcher Coach Savage recruits has the 'stuff' to be great. He helps young pitchers sharpen their talent, allowing them to improve their game mentally and physically. Baseball is a grind, but he makes sure that you are forming good habits that prepare you to have a successful season."



**Hector Ambriz – Cleveland Guardians
2006 MLB Draft (5th round)**

"After I missed the 2005 season with an arm injury, Coach Savage really helped me regain my confidence on the mound. He makes it a priority that his players not only succeed in college, but that they also have a chance to excel as professional ballplayers."



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Savage's Head Coaching Record vs. Opponents

at UC Irvine	W-L-T	at UCLA	W-L	Overall	W-L-T
Arizona	2-7-1	Arizona	33-24	Arizona	35-32-1
Arizona State	0-1	Arizona State	26-31	Arizona State	26-32
Army	1-0	Army	1-0	Army	1-0
Auburn	-	Auburn	0-1	Auburn	0-1
Baylor	3-3	Baylor	7-5	Baylor	10-8
Bethune-Cookman	-	Bethune Cookman	2-0	Bethune Cookman	2-0
BYU	2-1	BYU	-	BYU	2-1
Cal Poly	7-2	Cal Poly	17-10	Cal Poly	24-12
California	5-4	California	31-28	California	36-32
Cal State Bakersfield	-	Cal State Bakersfield	5-1	Cal State Bakersfield	5-1
Cal State Fullerton	2-7	Cal State Fullerton	22-30	Cal State Fullerton	24-37
Cal State Northridge	2-7	Cal State Northridge	19-8	Cal State Northridge	21-15
Connecticut	-	Connecticut	0-1	Connecticut	0-1
Creighton	-	Creighton	2-0	Creighton	2-0
East Carolina	-	East Carolina	8-1	East Carolina	8-1
Florida	-	Florida	1-0	Florida	1-0
Florida State	-	Florida State	1-2	Florida State	1-2
Fresno State	3-3	Fresno State	4-3	Fresno State	7-6
Georgia	-	Georgia	3-1	Georgia	3-1
Georgia Tech	-	Georgia Tech	2-1	Georgia Tech	2-1
Gonzaga	3-0	Gonzaga	9-2	Gonzaga	12-2
Harvard	-	Harvard	2-1	Harvard	2-1
Hawaii	3-1	Hawaii	1-0	Hawaii	4-1
Hofstra	-	Hofstra	3-0	Hofstra	3-0
Houston	-	Houston	0-1	Houston	0-1
Illinois	-	Illinois	2-0	Illinois	2-0
Illinois-Chicago	-	Illinois-Chicago	1-0	Illinois-Chicago	1-0
Kent State	-	Kent State	1-0	Kent State	1-0
Long Beach State	6-5	Long Beach State	22-17	Long Beach State	28-22
Loyola Marymount	-	Loyola Marymount	21-6	Loyola Marymount	21-6
LSU	-	LSU	2-0	LSU	2-0
Maryland	-	Maryland	2-4	Maryland	2-4
Miami	-	Miami	1-5	Miami	1-5
Michigan	0-1	Michigan	5-3	Michigan	5-4
Michigan State	-	Michigan State	4-0	Michigan State	4-0
Minnesota	2-1	Minnesota	3-3	Minnesota	5-4
Mississippi	-	Mississippi	3-3	Mississippi	3-3
Mississippi State	-	Mississippi State	4-0	Mississippi State	4-0
Missouri	-	Missouri	0-1	Missouri	0-1
N.C. State	-	N.C. State	5-0	N.C. State	5-0
Nebraska	-	Nebraska	4-2	Nebraska	4-2
Nevada	-	Nevada	2-1	Nevada	2-1
New Mexico	-	New Mexico	1-0	New Mexico	1-0
North Carolina	-	North Carolina	5-4	North Carolina	5-4
Notre Dame	0-1	Notre Dame	2-0	Notre Dame	2-1
Oklahoma	-	Oklahoma	4-6	Oklahoma	4-6
Oklahoma State	-	Oklahoma State	2-0	Oklahoma State	2-0
Omaha	-	Omaha	4-1	Omaha	4-1
Oral Roberts	0-1	Oral Roberts	3-0	Oral Roberts	3-1
Oregon	-	Oregon	27-17	Oregon	27-17
Oregon State	-	Oregon State	22-36	Oregon State	22-36
Pacific	5-4	Pacific	5-4	Pacific	10-8
Pepperdine	5-2	Pepperdine	23-9	Pepperdine	28-11
Portland	-	Portland	5-1	Portland	5-1
Purdue	-	Purdue	2-1	Purdue	2-1
Rice	-	Rice	0-1	Rice	0-1
Sacramento State	2-1	Sacramento State	6-1	Sacramento State	8-2
Saint Mary's	3-0	Saint Mary's	6-1	Saint Mary's	6-1
San Diego	3-5	San Diego	2-2	San Diego	5-7
San Diego State	3-4	San Diego State	9-9	San Diego State	12-13
San Francisco	-	San Francisco	7-1	San Francisco	7-1
San Jose State	-	San Jose State	3-2	San Jose State	3-2
Santa Clara	3-2	Santa Clara	-	Santa Clara	3-2
South Carolina	-	South Carolina	0-2	South Carolina	0-2
Southeastern Louisiana	-	Southeastern Louisiana	1-0	Southeastern Louisiana	1-0
Southern	-	Southern	2-0	Southern	2-0
Stanford	-	Stanford	29-28	Stanford	29-28
St. John's	-	St. John's	3-0	St. John's	3-0
Stony Brook	-	Stony Brook	1-0	Stony Brook	1-0
TCU	-	TCU	4-6	TCU	4-6
Texas	-	Texas	3-5	Texas	3-5
Texas A&M	-	Texas A&M	1-3	Texas A&M	1-3
Texas A&M-C.C.	-	Texas A&M-C.C.	1-0	Texas A&M-C.C.	1-0
Texas Tech	-	Texas Tech	0-1	Texas Tech	0-1
Tulane	-	Tulane	1-0	Tulane	1-0
UC Davis	-	UC Davis	4-2	UC Davis	4-2
UC Irvine	-----	UC Irvine	25-19	UC Irvine	25-19
UCLA	4-0	UCLA	-----	UCLA	4-0
UC Riverside	4-5	UC Riverside	15-7	UC Riverside	19-12
UC Santa Barbara	6-3	UC Santa Barbara	12-12-1	UC Santa Barbara	18-15-1
UNLV	4-1	UNLV	2-0	UNLV	6-1
USC	2-4	USC	46-26	USC	48-30
Utah	-	Utah	28-8-1	Utah	28-8-1
Vanderbilt	1-0	Vanderbilt	3-4	Vanderbilt	3-4
Virginia	-	Virginia	1-0	Virginia	1-0
Washington	2-6	Washington	35-24	Washington	37-29
Washington State	2-2	Washington State	40-17	Washington State	42-19
Winthrop	-	Winthrop	2-1	Winthrop	2-1
Wright State	-	Wright State	3-0	Wright State	3-0
TOTALS	88-84-1	TOTALS	676-463-2	TOTALS	764-547-3

Coincidentally, Guerrero hired Savage at UC Irvine four years prior, giving him the unique opportunity to help launch a dormant college baseball program. Savage showed his ability to not just coach a team, but to resurrect a program in three seasons at UC Irvine. He used the 2000-01 school year to build the program from scratch, before turning on the lights at Anteater Ballpark and getting the season underway in 2002.

In their first season at the Division I level and under Savage's guidance, UC Irvine posted a 33-26 overall record and the pitching staff set a school record with 487 strikeouts. After going 21-35 in 2003, Savage and the Anteaters broke through with an NCAA Tournament appearance in 2004. That season, UC Irvine went 34-23-1 and competed at the NCAA Notre Dame Regional. In his third season as UC Irvine's head coach, Savage saw freshman pitcher Blair Erickson earn national Freshman of the Year accolades from Collegiate Baseball as well as Big West Conference Freshman Pitcher of the Year honors. The Anteaters earned their highest national ranking at the time, climbing to the No. 7 spot in Collegiate Baseball's weekly rankings in April 2004. At season's end, Savage was tabbed a finalist for National Coach of the Year honors by CollegeBaseballInsider.com.

As pitching coach and recruiting coordinator at the University of Southern California (USC) from 1997 through 2000, Savage helped the Trojans produce consecutive Pac-10 Pitcher of the Year selections in Seth Etherton, Rik Currier and eventual American League Cy Young Award winner Barry Zito. Etherton was named the 1998 Sporting News National Player of the Year, helping guide the 1998 USC program to the NCAA Championship. Also under Savage's mentorship was former Chicago Cubs right-hander Mark Prior.

As the Trojans' recruiting coordinator, Savage helped facilitate the nation's top-ranked recruiting class in 1999-2000, as ranked by Collegiate Baseball, and served as an assistant coach to then-USC head coach Mike Gillespie for the USA Baseball Collegiate National Team in the summer of 2000. Team USA went 27-3-1 that summer, bringing home a gold medal from the Haarlem Baseball Week Tournament in the Netherlands.

Savage was honored as Collegiate Baseball's Assistant Coach of the Year in 1998, following the Trojans' run to the College World Series title. USC advanced to the NCAA Super Regional in 1999 and back to the College World Series in 2000.

Savage served as an assistant coach at the University of Nevada from 1992-1996, helping the Wolf Pack compile a 177-82 record in five seasons. During his tenure at Nevada, the baseball program won the 1994 Big West Conference title and strung together its first back-to-back 35-win seasons in school history. In five seasons as an assistant coach at Nevada, 24 Wolf Pack players signed professional contracts.

Savage began his coaching career as the pitching coach for Reno High School (Nevada) during the 1988-1989 school year.

Savage was a sixth-round MLB Draft selection by the New York Yankees in 1983 following his senior season at Reno High School and later would be inducted into the Reno High School Hall of Fame in 1997. Savage chose to attend Santa Clara University, where he pitched for three seasons. He was selected by the Cincinnati Reds in the 16th round of the 1986 MLB Draft. Savage played two seasons in the Reds' minor league system before moving on to help the independent league Salt Lake City Trappers set a professional baseball record with 29 consecutive wins in 1987.

Following his professional career, Savage earned his bachelor's degree in secondary education, with an emphasis in physical education and history, from Nevada in 1991.

Savage, and his wife, Lisa, have four children – Julia, Jack, Ryan and Gabrielle.

COACHING STAFF

John Savage's 40 Major Leaguers

NAME	SCHOOL	YEARS	DEBUT MLB TEAM
Chris Singleton	Nevada	1992-93	Chicago White Sox
Chris Prieto	Nevada	1993	Los Angeles Angels
Andy Dominque	Nevada	1994-97	Boston Red Sox
Lyle Overbay	Nevada	1996-99	Milwaukee Brewers
Randy Flores	USC	1994-97	St. Louis Cardinals
Morgan Ensberg	USC	1995-98	Houston Astros
Seth Etherton	USC	1995-98	Cincinnati Reds
Eric Munson	USC	1997-99	Detroit Tigers
Jason Lane	USC	1998-99	Houston Astros
Ron Flores	USC	1998-00	Oakland Athletics
Barry Zito	USC	1999	Oakland Athletics
Justin Lehr	USC	1999	Oakland Athletics
Steve Smyth	USC	1999	Chicago Cubs
Mark Prior	USC	2000-01	Chicago Cubs
Brian Bannister	USC	2000-03	Kansas City Royals
Anthony Reyes	USC	2000-01	St. Louis Cardinals
Sean Tracey	UC Irvine	2002	Chicago White Sox
Josh Roenicke	UCLA	2003-06	Colorado Rockies
David Huff	UCLA	2006	Cleveland Indians
Hector Ambriz	UCLA	2003-06	Cleveland Indians
Brandon Crawford	UCLA	2006-08	San Francisco Giants
Trevor Bauer	UCLA	2009-11	Arizona Diamondbacks
Tyson Brummett	UCLA	2006-07	Philadelphia Phillies
Jermaine Curtis	UCLA	2006-08	St. Louis Cardinals
Charles Brewer	UCLA	2007-09	Arizona Diamondbacks
Gerrit Cole	UCLA	2009-11	Pittsburgh Pirates
Rob Rasmussen	UCLA	2008-10	Seattle Mariners
Erik Goeddel	UCLA	2008-10	New York Mets
Matt Grace	UCLA	2008-10	Washington Nationals
Cody Decker	UCLA	2006-09	San Diego Padres
Trevor Brown	UCLA	2010-12	San Francisco Giants
Pat Valaika	UCLA	2011-13	Colorado Rockies
Adam Plutko	UCLA	2011-13	Cleveland Indians
Zack Weiss	UCLA	2011-13	Cincinnati Reds
Kevin Kramer	UCLA	2012-15	Pittsburgh Pirates
Griffin Canning	UCLA	2015-17	Los Angeles Angels
Tyler Heineman	UCLA	2010-12	Miami Marlins
James Kaprielian	UCLA	2013-15	Oakland Athletics
Cody Poteet	UCLA	2013-15	Miami Marlins
Jake Bird	UCLA	2015-18	Colorado Rockies
Sean Bouchard	UCLA	2015-17	Colorado Rockies
Garrett Mitchell	UCLA	2018-20	Milwaukee Brewers
Michael Tolia	UCLA	2017-19	Colorado Rockies
Ryan Kreidler	UCLA	2017-19	Detroit Tigers
Matt McLain	UCLA	2019-21	Cincinnati Reds

John Savage's Head Coaching Milestones

- Jan. 29, 2002: first victory: UC Irvine 6, UCLA 4
- June 4, 2004: first postseason appearance: vs. Arizona (Notre Dame Regional)
- July 1, 2004: hired as UCLA's head baseball coach
- Jan. 29, 2005: first victory at UCLA: UCLA 7, Cal Poly 4
- May 10, 2005: 100th career head coaching victory: UCLA 11, UC Irvine 1
- June 2, 2006: first postseason game at UCLA: UCLA 3, UC Irvine 2
- June 19, 2010: first College World Series game at UCLA: UCLA 11, Florida 3
- April 20, 2013: 300th win at UCLA: UCLA 1, Oregon 0
- May 19, 2013: 400th career win: UCLA 5, USC 2
- March 6, 2016: 400th career win at UCLA: UCLA 5, USC 2 (14)
- April 23, 2016: 500th career win: UCLA 4, Oregon 2
- March 15, 2019: 500th career win at UCLA: UCLA 8, Oregon State 0
- April 12, 2019: 600th career win: UCLA 7, East Carolina 5
- April 5, 2022: 1,000th game at UCLA: UCLA 5, LMU 4
- April 12, 2022: 700th career win: UCLA 9, Pepperdine 7

The Savage File

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

- Two-time Pac-12 Coach of the Year (2015, 2019)
- Two-time ABCA West Region Coach of the Year (2013, 2019)
- Named the Collegiate Baseball, Baseball America, ABCA and Perfect Game National Coach of the Year (2013)
- Led UCLA to school-record 52 wins in 2019, setting record for winning % in modern era (.825)
- Has coached three players who went on to win Cy Young Awards (Barry Zito, Trevor Bauer, Gerrit Cole)
- Set UCLA record with 13 selections in the 2019 MLB First-Year Player Draft
- Has produced four Pac-12 Pitchers of the Year: Barry Zito (USC, 1999), David Berg (2013, 2015), Ryan Garcia (2019)
- Led NCAA in ERA in 2019 at 2.60
- Named Head Coach of USA Baseball Collegiate National Team (2017)
- 1 of 2 head coaches in NCAA history (Tim Corbin) to guide his team to a College World Series title, produce a No. 1 overall MLB draft pick, coach a Golden Spikes Award winner, and have a former player win a Cy Young
- Produced a first-round position player MLB draftee in three consecutive seasons (2019-21)
- Led or co-led all NCAA schools in MLB draft picks in 2019 and 2021
- Signed the No. 1-ranked recruit class twice in three years (2021, 2023)
- Coached the first ever two-time NCBWA Stopper of the Year winner (David Berg 2013, '15)
- Coached UCLA to a school-record 24 conference wins to take the Pac-12 title (2019)
- Coached UCLA to its first NCAA Championship in program history (2013)
- Became one of 10 Pac-12 coaches all-time to lead their teams to back-to-back CWS appearances (2013)
- Became first coach in UCLA history to lead the Bruins to two College World Series (2012)
- Coached the first-ever Golden Spikes Award winner (Trevor Bauer, 2011) at UCLA
- Produced the school's first-ever No. 1 MLB Draft selection (Gerrit Cole, 2011)
- Led UCLA to its first-ever appearance in the finals of the College World Series (2010)
- Helped the Bruins garner their first-ever national seed in the NCAA Tournament (2010)
- Guided UCLA's 2010 program to its longest win streak to program start (22-0 record)
- In 2010, UCLA hosted first NCAA Regional since 1986; first Super Regional host ever
- Named National Coach of the Year by CollegeBaseballInsider.com at UCLA in 2010
- Developed two NCBWA Stoppers of the Year (Berg, Holden Powell in 2019)
- Coached UCLA to three consecutive postseason berths for first time in school history
- Helped guide UC Irvine to its first-ever NCAA Division I Regional appearance (2004)
- Resurrected UC Irvine's baseball program in 2002 after being hired in July of 2000
- Landed nation's top-ranked recruiting class at USC in 1999-2000 (*Collegiate Baseball*)
- Earned *Collegiate Baseball's* Assistant Coach of the Year honors in 1998

PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS

- Sixth-round draft selection in 1983 by the New York Yankees as a senior at Reno HS
- Chose to attend Santa Clara University, where he pitched for three seasons (1984-86)
- 16th-round draft selection in 1986 by the Cincinnati Reds
- Played three years of professional baseball (1986-88)



Bryant Ward

Assistant Coach /
Recruiting Coordinator
10th Season at UCLA
East Carolina '02
Hitting/Infield Coach

Bryant Ward enters his 10th season as Assistant Coach/Recruiting Coordinator for the UCLA Baseball program in 2025 after joining the staff in the summer of 2015. In addition to taking the lead on recruiting efforts, Ward is the infield and hitting coach for the Bruins, and also runs the offense. Prior to his arrival in Westwood, Ward spent five seasons as assistant coach/recruiting coordinator at LMU.

During Ward's tenure with the Bruins, UCLA has gone 281-185-1 (.603) and advanced to the postseason in all but one year in which an NCAA Tournament was held. In his nine previous years in Westwood, UCLA has had 28 position players selected in the MLB Draft. That included a stretch of three straight years (2019-2021) UCLA saw a position player selected in the first round: Michael Toglia (2019, Colorado), Garrett Mitchell (2020, Milwaukee), and Matt McLain (2021, Cincinnati).

Ward has been among the top recruiters on the west coast and in the country during his time at UCLA, producing nationally-ranked classes in each of his years on staff and bringing in the No. 1 class in the country according to Baseball America in both 2021 and 2023. His first group, in 2015, was ranked No. 3 in the country, followed by the No. 16 class in both 2016 and 2017. He produced the highest-ranked class in the west in each of four straight seasons from 2018-21, putting together the No. 6-ranked group in 2018, the No. 5-ranked class in 2019, the No. 6 class in 2020.

The Bruins put together another winning season in 2023, going 28-24-1 en route to the No. 7 seed in the Pac-12 Tournament. UCLA was led on the position player side by senior catcher Darius Perry and sophomore infielder Duce Gourson. Perry earned Pac-12 All-Conference Team and Pac-12 All-Defensive Team honors, batting .278 and throwing out 42% of attempted base stealers. Gourson led the Bruins offensively with a .319/.438/.515 slash line, earning All-Pac-12 honors and an invite to the USA Baseball Collegiate National Team.

UCLA had another successful season in 2022, going 40-24 and earning a berth into the Auburn Regional as a No. 2 seed. The Bruins' top-ranked recruiting class paid immediate dividends, as UCLA had an NCAA-leading four players selected as Freshman All-Americans. That contingent included the middle infield duo of shortstop Cody Schrier (team-leading nine home runs) and second baseman Ethan Gourson (program freshman record 23 doubles). UCLA did a little bit of everything as part of a productive offensive campaign, recording the most hits (619) by a Bruin team since 2012, the most walks (318) since 1997, the most stolen bases (74) since 2010, and the most HBPs (106) in school history.

The Bruins went 37-20 overall in 2021 and reached the NCAA Tournament for the fourth consecutive time. UCLA's offense played a key part in the team's success, with the Bruins scoring their most single-season runs (416) since the 2010 season. UCLA ranked among the league's best in scoring (7.3 runs per game, second), hits (573, third), and OBP (.396, third) while producing the Pac-12 Batting Champion in first baseman JT Schwartz (.396). The Pac-12 All-Conference Team featured four Bruin position players.

UCLA was off to a hot start in 2020 before the abrupt cancellation of the season due to COVID-19, winning 11 straight games out of the gate en route to a 13-2 final record. The offense was a key part of that, as eight Bruin regulars were hitting over .300 at season's end while the team's .308 batting average ranked No. 20 in the country.

The Bruins had an outstanding year with the bats in 2019, a key factor in the team's record-setting year. UCLA ranked inside the top-25 nationwide in triples (program-record 31, third), slugging (.468, 22nd), and hits (611, 25th). UCLA's power numbers saw a big spike, as the team's 67 home runs were the most for the program since 2003 and the team's slugging percentage was the best since 1999. Key contributors included sophomore outfielder Garrett Mitchell (.349/.418/.566, 12 triples), junior first baseman Michael Toglia (.314/.392/.624, 17 home runs), and junior infielder Ryan Kreidler (.300/.370/.502, 45 RBIs). Six of UCLA's nine starting position players earned All-Pac-12 consideration. The Bruins eventually set a program-record in wins with a 52-11 record, spent 12 consecutive weeks atop the national rankings, won all 14 regular season series for the first time in program history, claimed the 2019 Pac-12 title, and earned the No. 1 national seed in the NCAA Tournament.

The Ward File

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

- UCLA set school record for wins (52) and was ranked No. 1 for 12 consecutive weeks in 2019
- Helped UCLA to five consecutive NCAA Tournament berths from 2017-22
- Signed the No. 1 recruiting class twice in a three-year span (2021, 2023)
- Has produced a nationally-ranked recruit class every season at UCLA
- UCLA produced 1st rd. position player draftee in 3 consecutive seasons (2019-21)
- Seven consecutive winning seasons at UCLA (2017-23)
- Helped LMU record a school-record .980 fielding percentage in 2015.
- Tutored David Fletcher who earned the WCC Defensive Player of the Year in 2014.

PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS

- Led East Carolina to four consecutive NCAA Regional appearances and one Super Regional appearance.
- Left in 2002 as the school's winningest player.
- Finished ECU career fifth in games, seventh in at-bats and third in doubles.



Ward took over as hitting coach for the 2018 season and yielded immediate results. UCLA hit .286 as a team, the highest since 2012, while scoring over 400 runs and recording over 370 RBIs for the first time since 2010. The Bruins saw their power numbers go up as they slugged .429 on the season with 129 doubles, the highest numbers in four years. UCLA also raised its on-base percentage by drawing almost 300 walks, the most since 2000. Overall, UCLA ranked top-25 in the country in doubles, on-base percentage and runs. Chase Strumpf became the first UCLA position player since Kevin Kramer in 2015 to earn All-America honors ranking top-10 in the Pac-12 in 10 offensive categories. UCLA had three position players earn All-Pac-12 honors in Strumpf, Michael Toglia and Jeremy Ydens. Strumpf and Toglia became the first UCLA teammates since 2007 to hit double-digit home runs in a season. They are also just the fourth and fifth UCLA players since 2001 with 50-RBIs and 10 home runs in the same year, while also the first teammate to each drive in 50 runs since 2008. Ydens led the conference during Pac-12 play hitting .406 and also finished second in slugging at .693 and sixth in on-base percentage at .461. The Bruins' defense was also stellar as it finished third in the NCAA in fielding percentage at .982, a UCLA school record.

Ward spent five years on staff at Loyola Marymount prior to his arrival in Westwood, helping the Lions to a 146-124-1 record during his tenure. His time in Westchester culminated in a trip to the WCC Championship game in 2016. Ward joined the LMU coaching staff in 2011 as recruiting coordinator, infield coach, and third base coach. His tenure coincided with an uptick in the Lions' defensive numbers, particularly in 2015 when the Lions ranked fourth in the NCAA with a school-record .980 fielding percentage. Under his tutelage, shortstop David Fletcher became the 2014 WCC Defensive Player of the Year before eventually breaking into MLB with the Los Angeles Angels.

Ward also had plenty of success on the recruiting front at LMU, bringing in a pair of top-25 recruiting classes. His very first recruiting class at LMU was ranked No. 23 by Baseball America, the school's first nationally-ranked class in 15 years. His recruiting and coaching efforts resulted 13 MLB Draft selections and 29 All-WCC picks over five seasons with the Lions.

Prior to joining LMU, Ward made assistant coaching stops at the University of South Florida (2007-10), Cal State Fullerton (2005-06), and Pitt (N.C.) Community College (2004).

While at USF, Ward served as hitting coach, infield coach, and third base coach. In Ward's four years in Tampa, the Bulls had a 125-110 overall record and a team batting average of .295. His 2009 offense hit .315 – the highest team batting average at USF since 1997. Additionally, Ward led two hitters to consecutive individual BIG EAST batting titles in 2008 and 2009. During his four years with USF, 27 Bulls were selected in the MLB Draft.

As a player, Ward was a four-year standout at East Carolina University, where he played under ECU Hall of Fame coach Keith LeClair. The Pirates went 182-67 overall with Ward on the roster, making four consecutive NCAA Regional appearances and one Super Regional appearance. He finished his ECU career ranked fifth in games played (194), seventh in at-bats (687), and third in doubles (50), and left in 2002 as the winningest player in school history. In high school, Ward won the class 4A North Carolina High School state championship in 1997 and played under Hall of Fame Coach Ronald Vincent at J.H. Rose High School.

Ward earned a degree in communications from ECU and currently resides in Hermosa Beach with his wife, Anna, their daughter, Harper Ward, and their sons, Jackson Ward and Dylan Ward.

Ward's Year-by-Year Assistant Coach Record

Year	School	Record	Pct.	NCAA Tournament
2024	UCLA	19-33	.365	-
2023	UCLA	28-24-1	.538	-
2022	UCLA	40-24	.625	Auburn Regional
2021	UCLA	37-20	.649	Lubbock Regional
2020	UCLA	13-2	.867	N/A
2019	UCLA	52-11	.825	Los Angeles Super Regional
2018	UCLA	38-21	.644	Minnesota Regional
2017	UCLA	30-27	.526	Long Beach Regional
2016	UCLA	25-31	.446	-
2015	LMU	33-21-1	.609	-
2014	LMU	33-24	.561	-
2013	LMU	24-27	.471	-
2012	LMU	27-27	.500	-
2011	LMU	30-25	.545	-
2010	South Florida	26-32	.448	-
2009	South Florida	34-25-1	.575	-
2008	South Florida	31-27	.534	-
2007	South Florida	34-26	.567	-
2006	Cal State Fullerton	50-15	.769	College World Series
2005	Cal State Fullerton	46-18	.719	Super Regional
Career	20 years	611-439-3	.582	3 Super Regionals, 1 CWS



Niko Gallego

Assistant Coach
4th Season as A.C.
11th Season on staff at UCLA
UCLA '10

Niko Gallego enters his 11th season on the UCLA baseball coaching staff in 2025. He was promoted to a full-time assistant coach position in September 2021 after spending the previous seven years as a volunteer assistant coach. Gallego re-joined the program ahead of the 2015 campaign following a four-year professional career.

Gallego primarily serves as an infield coach and assists with the hitters. In addition, he aids assistant coach/recruiting coordinator Bryant Ward and head coach John Savage on the recruiting front. UCLA has regularly turned in nationally-ranked recruiting classes during Gallego's tenure, including top-five classes in 2015, 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2023. Most recently, the Bruins produced the No. 1 recruiting class in the country twice in a three-year span (the freshman groups for the 2022 and 2024 seasons).

The Bruins put together another winning season in 2023, going 28-24-1 en route to the No. 7 seed in the Pac-12 Tournament. UCLA was led on the position player side by senior catcher Darius Perry and sophomore infielder Duce Gourson. Perry earned Pac-12 All-Conference Team and Pac-12 All-Defensive Team honors, batting .278 and throwing out 42% of attempted base stealers. Gourson led the Bruins offensively with a .319/.438/.515 slash line, earning All-Pac-12 honors and an invite to the USA Baseball Collegiate National Team.

The Bruins went 40-24 and earned a No. 2 seed in the Auburn Regional in 2022. Gallego helped the development of UCLA's middle-infield duo of SS Cody Schrier (team-leading nine home runs) and 2B Ethan Gourson (program freshman record 23 doubles), who both went on to earn Freshman All-America status. In addition, UCLA had one of its most well-rounded offensive years in some time, recording the most hits (619) by a Bruin team since 2012, the most walks (318) since 1997, the most stolen bases (74) since 2010, and the most HBPs (106) in school history.

UCLA went 37-20 as a team in 2021, reaching the postseason for the fourth consecutive time and finishing the season ranked No. 24 in the country.

UCLA was off to a hot start in 2020 before the abrupt cancellation of the season due to COVID-19, winning 11 straight games out of the gate en route to a 13-2 final record. The offense was a key part of that, as eight Bruin regulars were hitting over .300 at season's end while the team's .308 batting average ranked No. 20 in the country.

Gallego helped the Bruins to one of the best seasons in program history in 2019, as the Bruins set a school record for wins at 52-11 while winning the Pac-12 title, spending 12 weeks at the top of the national rankings, and earning the No. 1 national seed in the NCAA Tournament. For the second consecutive season, UCLA finished third in the nation in fielding percentage at .982.

In 2018, the Bruins finished third in the NCAA in fielding percentage at .982. Chase Strumpf led the Pac-12 during the regular season in assists and was eighth in the conference with 32 double plays. In total, the Bruins turned 42 double plays on the season.

Gallego's Year-by-Year Assistant Coach Record

Year	School	Record	Pct.	NCAA Tournament
2024	UCLA	19-33	.365	-
2023	UCLA	28-24-1	.538	-
2022	UCLA	40-24	.625	Auburn Regional
2021	UCLA	37-20	.649	Lubbock Regional
2020	UCLA	13-2	.867	N/A
2019	UCLA	52-11	.825	Los Angeles Super Regional
2018	UCLA	38-21	.644	Minnesota Regional
2017	UCLA	30-27	.526	Long Beach Regional
2016	UCLA	25-31	.446	
2015	UCLA	45-16	.738	Los Angeles Regional
Career	10 years	290-189-1	.605	1 Super Reg., 6 Reg.



Assisting with the defensive effort, Gallego helped UCLA secure a .977 fielding percentage in 2015, good for second in the Pac-12 and 18th in the nation, and helped lead the Bruins to a 45-16 record in 2015 and the program's 11th Pac-12 Championship. The Bruins turned 42 double plays and infielders Chris Keck (5) and Trent Chatterton (8) each had single-digit errors, posting fielding percentage marks of .972 and .968 respectively.

The Yorba Linda, Calif. native played three seasons at UCLA (2008-10), leading the Bruins to NCAA Regionals in 2008 and 2010 and the team's third-ever trip to the College World Series in 2010. In 141 games (133 starts) for the Bruins, Gallego hit .274 with 64 RBI and 81 runs. A two-time honorable mention All-Pac-10 honoree, Gallego was selected in the 27th round of the 2010 MLB Draft by the Arizona Diamondbacks following his junior season in Westwood.

In 2010, Gallego started more games than any other Bruin (67). The starting shortstop batted .267 with three home runs, two triples, 14 doubles, 33 RBI and 51 runs. Gallego led the team and ranked second in the Pac-10 with 27 stolen bases (on 29 attempts). His stolen base total was more than any Bruin since former major leaguer Eric Byrnes had 30 steals as a senior in 1998. Overall, Gallego recorded 14 multiple-hit contests, including one four-hit game and one three-hit effort.

As a sophomore in 2009, Gallego started 55 games, all at shortstop, while batting .273 with eight doubles, one triple, 27 RBI and 26 runs. That season, Gallego collected 12 multi-hit games, including two three-hit efforts. In addition, he had a career-best seven game hit streak from April 14-25.

In 2008 as a freshman, Gallego played in 19 games (11 starts). Gallego batted .317, totaling two doubles, one triple, four RBI and four runs while hitting safely in nine of 11 starts.

Over 255 career minor league games, Gallego racked up 173 hits, 92 runs and 65 RBI between A and AA ball. In his rookie season with the Visalia Rawhide, Gallego hit .238 with 18 runs and 14 RBI in 39 games at shortstop.

Gallego graduated from Esperanza High School and currently resides in Brentwood.

The Gallego File

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Helped UCLA to postseason in six of nine seasons (there was no postseason in 2020)
- Winning record in eight of nine seasons
- 2019: UCLA set school record for wins (52) and was ranked No. 1 for 12 consecutive weeks
- UCLA produced 1st rd. position player MLB draftee in 3 consecutive seasons (2019-21)
- Bruins finished third in the NCAA in fielding percentage in 2018, 2019

PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS

- 27th round selection of the Arizona Diamondbacks in the 2010 MLB Draft.
- In 255 minor league games, racked up 174 hits, 92 runs and 65 RBI between A and AA.
- Starting shortstop for UCLA's 2010 College World Series team (team-high 67 starts)
- Led the team and ranked second in the conference with 27 steals in 2010.

COACHING STAFF



Griffin Barnes

Assistant Coach
1st as A.C.
3rd Season on staff at UCLA

Griffin Barnes is in his second season on the UCLA baseball staff. He served as the program's Director of Player Development for the 2023 season before earning a promotion to Director of Baseball Operations ahead of the 2024 campaign.

Barnes arrived in Westwood with an extensive history as a player and coach at the high school, collegiate, and professional levels.

He was a three-year letterwinner at Grand Canyon University from 2015-18, serving as team captain in his junior and senior seasons. He was the Lopes' primary catcher in the 2018 season, hitting .285 for the year with 17 RBIs. He had a blistering start to that season, batting .361 through his first 26 games.

After graduating from GCU, Barnes signed as an undrafted free agent with the Los Angeles Angels organization. He spent time with the Orem Owlz and AZL Angels at the rookie-ball level that summer. He went on to make Independent League stops with Monterey, Rocky Mountain, and Saltillo from 2019-22. His high-water mark in Indy ball came with the Rocky Mountain Vibes of the Pioneer League in 2021, slashing .307/.337/.426 over 76 games.

On the coaching side, Barnes has made stops as an assistant volunteer coach at La Sierra University in Riverside, Calif., and as assistant coach for the varsity baseball team at Esperanza High School in Yorba Linda, Calif. His main emphasis at La Sierra was skill development with the team's pitchers and catchers.



Max Schuh

Director of Baseball Operations
1st as A.C.
1st Season on staff at UCLA

Max Schuh is in his first season on the UCLA baseball staff. He pitched for two seasons at UCLA (2023-24) after initially coming to Westwood as a member of the football team, where he played quarterback. Schuh took his talents to the diamond in the fall of 2012 and enjoyed a great deal of success as left-handed pitcher, posting a 1.44 ERA over 31.1 innings pitched, totaling 49 appearances out of the bullpen over his two seasons. He was selected in the 7th round (pick 211) of the 2014 MLB Draft by the Baltimore Orioles. Schuh spent five seasons in the minor leagues before beginning his coaching career in 2018.