

SHARRON BACKUS

UCLA's head coach from 1975-1996



On Jan. 6, 1997, the UCLA softball program entered a new era as Sharron Backus announced her retirement from coaching after 22 years of leading the Bruins. Considered by many a softball icon, Backus was the guiding force of the top softball program in the nation at UCLA. Owner of the second-best winning percentage in NCAA Division I softball history, Backus coached 22 seasons, posting an 854-173-3 (.831) lifetime record - all at UCLA. Included in that impressive 22-year slate was a 111-32 (.776) mark in postseason play.

Backus and the Bruins brought eight national championship trophies to Westwood (seven NCAA and one AIAW), including an unprecedented three in a row (1988, '89 and '90). The Backus era's trophy case also includes four second-place finishes and three third-place awards. Her UCLA teams played in the Women's College World Series 16 times, and after the Bruins joined the NCAA in 1982, Backus' squads made the WCWS every year they made the NCAA Tournament.

Including her award as the Pac-10 Conference Coach of the Year in 1995, Backus earned the league's top honor four times in her final seven seasons, also winning in 1990, 1992 and 1993. In 1990, Backus was chosen Northwest Region Coach of the Year by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA). She was also selected as the Diamond National and Western Collegiate Athletic Association (WCAA) Coach of the Year in 1984 and 1985.

Backus has been enshrined in several Halls of Fame in recognition of her contributions as a player and coach. The National Softball Hall of Fame recognized her as one of the most honored players and coaches with induction in 1985. In 1992, the NFCA Hall of Fame welcomed Backus, honoring her tremendous successes in collegiate softball. In 1993, the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame inducted Backus, spotlighting her enormous contributions to women's athletics. And in 2001, Backus was inducted into the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame in her first year of eligibility.

The Bruin mentor is most noted for her ability to teach the fundamentals. In fact, UCLA did not commit a single error in WCWS play in the championship seasons of 1978, 1982 and 1988. Backus provided solid background in the handling of pitchers such as Debbie Doom, Tracy Compton, Lisa Longaker, Lisa Fernandez and DeeDee Weiman and hitters such as Fernandez, Janice Parks, Yvonne Gutierrez and Jennifer Brundage. Backus coached the first softball player to win the most prestigious honor in women's athletics, as Fernandez won the 1993 Honda-Broderick Cup, which recognized her as the most outstanding collegiate female athlete in all sports during the 1992-93 season.

UCLA's strength in fundamentals evolved from Backus' legendary ASA playing career. The Cal State Fullerton graduate was instrumental in seven ASA titles (1961, 1965 and 1971-75) and two international championships (1972 and 1974). A star shortstop, Backus was named to numerous ASA All-America teams during her playing career. She also played professional softball for the Connecticut Falcons from 1976-78, when the team won three World Championships.

A native of Anaheim and a resident of Fullerton, Backus continued her coaching duties in the professional ranks, coaching in the Women's Pro Softball League (WPSL). In 1998, she was named WPSL Coach of the Year after leading the Orlando Wahoos to the league championship. Backus also went on to serve as the Director of Player Personnel for the WPSL. She earned a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1969 from Cal State Fullerton, along with her teaching credential, which enabled her to teach at Western High School before coming to UCLA.

BACKUS' CAREER BY THE NUMBERS

Career Record at UCLA:	854-173-3 (.831)
Seasons at UCLA:	22
Record as Head Coach (1975-88):	451-117-3 (.792)
Record as Co-Head Coach (1989-96):	403-56 (.878)
National Championships:	8 (1978, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992)
Conference Championships:	10 (two SCWIAA, two WCAA, one PacWest, five Pac-10)
Postseason Appearances:	18
Postseason Record:	111-32 (.776)
Women's College World Series Record:	68-20 (.773)
40-Win Seasons:	13
U.S. National Team Members Coached:	24
Olympians Coached:	9
NFCA All-Americans (citations):	30 (53)
NFCA All-Region Honorees (citations):	46 (87)
All-Conference Awards:	94
Pac-10 Players of the Year (citations):	2 (6)
All-Women's College World Series Team Honorees:	52
Honda-Broderick Cup Winners:	1 (Lisa Fernandez, 1993)
Honda Sport Award Winners (citations):	5 (8)

BACKUS' HONORS AND ACCOLADES

1984	WCAA Coach of the Year
1984	Diamond National Coach of the Year
1985	WCAA Coach of the Year
1985	Diamond National Coach of the Year
1985	National Softball Hall of Fame induction
1990	Pac-10 Coach of the Year
1990	NFCA Regional Coach of the Year
1992	Pac-10 Coach of the Year
1992	National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Hall of Fame induction
1993	Pac-10 Coach of the Year
1993	International Women's Sports Hall of Fame induction
1999	"Sharron Backus Clubhouse" constructed at Easton Stadium
2001	UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame induction



SUE ENQUIST

**UCLA's head coach from 1997-2006,
co-head coach from 1989-1996**

After spending 31 years as a player, assistant coach or head coach in the UCLA softball program, Sue Enquist announced her retirement from coaching on Sept. 26, 2006. Enquist spent 10 years as the Bruins' head coach, taking over that role for the 1997 season following the retirement of longtime mentor Sharron Backus. Enquist compiled a 484-119-1 (.802) from 1997-2006 and an overall mark of 887-175-1 (.835) in 18 seasons of coaching, serving as co-head coaches with Backus from 1989-96.



Enquist's .835 winning percentage puts her at the top of the NCAA charts for Division I head softball coaches. As co-head and head coach, Enquist led the Bruins to six national championships (1989, 1990, 1992, 1999, 2003, 2004) and seven Pac-10 Conference titles. Before being named co-head coach, Enquist spent nine seasons (1980-88) as an assistant under Backus, with the Bruins posting a record of 352-85-3 (.803).

A three-time Pac-10 Coach of the Year (1995, 1999, 2006), Enquist was named National Coach of the Year by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) three times in 1992, 1995 and 2004. She also led coaching staffs that were named NFCA Regional Coaching Staff of the Year in 2000 and NFCA National Coaching Staff of the Year in 2004. Enquist coached 33 players to 66 NFCA All-America awards during her 18 seasons as head coach and five players to seven Honda Sport Awards, including Lisa Fernandez and Natasha Watley, who both won the Honda-Broderick Cup, given to the most outstanding collegiate female athlete in all sports.

Enquist was either a player or coach on 11 UCLA national championship teams, including the program's first as a member of the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (IAIW) in 1978 when she was the tournament's leading hitter. When the NCAA brought women's sports under its umbrella starting with the 1982 season, the Bruins won the inaugural championship.

As one of eight softball coaches chosen to work with the U.S. National Team, Enquist was involved in the preparation of the gold-medal winning U.S. Olympic Team for the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta, the inaugural Games for softball as an Olympic sport.

After graduating from San Clemente High School in December of 1974, Enquist went on to play four seasons for Backus from 1975-78. Enquist became the prototypical player for Bruin softball in terms of attitude, desire and will to win. UCLA's first softball All-American, Enquist led the Bruins in batting average and doubles three times, triples twice and homers and runs batted in once. A three-time All-Region selection, Enquist still stands fourth on UCLA's all-time list with a .401 career batting average. On April 29, 2000, Enquist's No. 6 jersey was immortalized when it became the third number in Bruin softball history to be retired.

A three-time ASA All-American for the Raybestos Brakettes, Enquist helped lead them to four ASA National Championships (1976-78, '80). She also enjoyed success as a player at the international level, earning gold medals at three National Sports Festivals, the 1978 World Championships and the 1979 Pan American Games.

Away from the field, Enquist has received numerous honors, including induction into five Halls of Fame. In 1993, she became the first softball player inducted into the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2000, Enquist was enshrined into the Capistrano Unified School District Hall of Fame, and in 2006, she was inducted into the NFCA Hall of Fame. In June of 2008, Enquist was inducted into the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame. Seven years later, she was enshrined into the National Softball Hall of Fame. Enquist was recognized with the 2004 C. Vivian Stringer Coaching Award by the United States Sports Academy. The award pays tribute to those who have made significant contributions to sports and is named in honor of C. Vivian Stringer, the Women's Basketball Hall of Famer who is the only coach to take three different schools to the Final Four.

Enquist's coaching career and passion transcends past softball. She has served as a mental performance coach for the 2020 and 2024 U.S. Olympic Women's Volleyball Teams and also manages her own personal coaching firm, Sue Enquist LLC. Enquist is also a professor at UCLA, instructing classes filled with UCLA student-athletes in the John Wooden's Transformative Coaching and Leadership program.

Enquist earned her bachelor's degree in kinesiology from UCLA in 1980. A native of San Clemente, Enquist surfed professionally from 1979-1981 and continues to be an avid surfer. She currently resides in Huntington Beach, Calif.

ENQUIST'S CAREER BY THE NUMBERS

Career Head Coaching Record at UCLA:	887-175-1 (.835)
Seasons at UCLA:	18
Record as Head Coach (1997-06):	484-119-1 (.802)
Record as Co-Head Coach (1989-96):	403-56 (.878)
Record as Assistant Coach (1980-88):	352-85-3 (.803)
NCAA Championships as HC/Co-HC:	6 (1989, 1990, 1992, 1999, 2003, 2004)
NCAA Championships as Assistant Coach:	4 (1982, 1984, 1985, 1988)
IAIW Championships as a Player:	1 (1978)
Pac-10 Championships as HC/Co-HC:	7
Conference Championships as Assistant Coach:	4
Postseason Appearances:	16
Postseason Record:	114-26 (.814)
Women's College World Series Record:	57-20 (.740)
National Top-Four Finishes:	15
40-Win Seasons:	17
U.S. National Team Members Coached:	31
Olympians Coached:	12
NFCA All-Americans (citations):	33 (60)
NFCA All-Region Honorees (citations):	39 (79)
All-Pac-10 Conference Awards:	141
Pac-10 Players of the Year (citations):	5 (9)
Pac-10 Pitchers of the Year (citations):	2 (2)
All-Women's College World Series Team Selections:	53
Honda-Broderick Cup Winners:	2 (Lisa Fernandez, Natasha Watley)
Honda Sport Award Winners (citations):	5 (7)
USA Softball Collegiate Players of the Year:	1 (Stacey Nuveman, 2002)

ENQUIST'S HONORS AND ACCOLADES

- 1978 UCLA Softball's First All-American
- 1991 NFCA Regional Coach of the Year
- 1992 NFCA Regional Coach of the Year
- 1992 NFCA National Coach of the Year
- 1993 UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame induction
- 1995 Pac-10 Coach of the Year
- 1995 NFCA National Coach of the Year
- 1999 Pac-10 Coach of the Year
- 2000 NFCA Regional Coach of the Year
- 2000 NFCA Regional Coaching Staff of the Year
- 2000 Capistrano Unified School District Hall of Fame induction
- 2004 NFCA National Coach of the Year
- 2004 NFCA National Coaching Staff of the Year
- 2004 C. Vivian Stringer Coaching Award Recipient
- 2006 Pac-10 Coach of the Year
- 2006 National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Hall of Fame induction
- 2008 International Women's Sports Hall of Fame induction
- 2015 National Softball Hall of Fame induction
- U.S. Softball National Team Coach
- U.S. Women's Volleyball National Team Mental Performance Coach



COACHING HISTORY

Year	Coach(es)	Overall Record	Pct.	Conf. Record	Pct.	Conf. Finish	Home Record	Away Record	Neutral Record	Postseason	National Finish
1975	Sharron Backus	14-6	.700	9-0	1.000	1st	5-1	5-1	4-4	--	--
1976	Sharron Backus	13-4	.765	9-1	.900	1st	7-0	6-2	0-2	--	--
1977	Sharron Backus	17-10	.630	--	--	--	7-1	6-7	4-2	4-2	--
1978	Sharron Backus	31-3	.912	--	--	--	--	--	--	9-1	1st
1979	Sharron Backus	24-9	.727	--	--	--	--	--	--	7-4	2nd
1980	Sharron Backus	24-13	.649	11-5	.688	2nd	16-7	8-4	0-2	0-2	--
1981	Sharron Backus	38-10	.792	10-5	.667	2nd	13-4	15-3	10-3	7-4	3rd
1982	Sharron Backus	33-7-2	.810	15-4-1	.775	2nd	19-5-1	9-2-1	5-0	7-0	1st
1983	Sharron Backus	40-7	.851	17-3	.850	1st	17-1	17-3	6-3	5-2	3rd
1984	Sharron Backus	45-6-1	.875	7-3	.700	1st	25-3	10-1-1	10-2	7-1	1st
1985	Sharron Backus	41-9	.820	9-3	.750	2nd	14-1	12-6	15-2	7-2	1st
1986	Sharron Backus	28-15	.651	10-2	.833	1st	12-7	13-6	3-2	--	--
1987	Sharron Backus	50-10	.833	7-3	.700	2nd	27-3	11-4	12-3	6-2	2nd
1988	Sharron Backus	53-8	.869	15-3	.833	1st	24-4	17-3	12-1	7-1	1st
1989	Backus/Enquist	48-4	.923	18-2	.900	1st	23-1	18-3	7-0	7-0	1st
1990	Backus/Enquist	62-7	.899	16-2	.889	1st	23-1	17-3	22-3	7-1	1st
1991	Backus/Enquist	56-7	.889	16-4	.800	1st	21-0	15-4	20-3	6-2	2nd
1992	Backus/Enquist	54-2	.964	14-2	.875	2nd	17-1	11-1	26-0	7-0	1st
1993	Backus/Enquist	50-5	.909	25-1	.962	1st	23-1	16-2	11-2	6-2	2nd
1994	Backus/Enquist	43-14	.754	16-6	.727	2nd	15-3	13-6	15-5	6-3	4th
1995	Backus/Enquist	43-6	.878	23-4	.852	2nd	23-2	13-4	7-0	--	--
1996	Backus/Enquist	47-11	.810	20-7	.741	3rd	17-5	19-4	11-2	6-3	t-3rd
1997	Sue Enquist	49-14	.778	21-7	.750	2nd	14-4	18-8	17-2	8-3	2nd
1998	Sue Enquist	18-27	.400	8-18	.308	7th	7-8	8-13	3-6	--	--
1999	Sue Enquist	63-6	.913	22-6	.786	1st	25-3	16-3	22-0	8-0	1st
2000	Sue Enquist	46-12-1	.788	14-7	.667	3rd	14-4	10-4	22-4-1	7-1	2nd
2001	Sue Enquist	62-6	.912	16-5	.762	2nd	23-2	19-3	20-1	7-1	2nd
2002	Sue Enquist	55-9	.859	18-3	.857	1st	25-1	10-5	20-3	5-3	t-5th
2003	Sue Enquist	54-7	.885	17-4	.810	2nd	17-3	17-2	20-2	9-1	1st
2004	Sue Enquist	47-9	.839	12-8	.600	4th	15-3	7-5	25-1	8-0	1st
2005	Sue Enquist	40-20	.667	11-10	.524	5th	19-9	8-5	13-6	10-4	2nd
2006	Sue Enquist	50-9	.847	15-5	.750	1st	24-4	9-3	17-2	7-2	4th
2007	Kelly Inouye-Perez	37-18	.673	12-9	.571	t-3rd	14-9	10-4	13-5	1-2	t-17th
2008	Kelly Inouye-Perez	51-9	.850	17-4	.810	2nd	21-3	12-3	18-3	6-2	t-5th
2009	Kelly Inouye-Perez	45-11	.804	16-5	.762	1st	19-6	11-3	15-2	4-2	t-9th
2010	Kelly Inouye-Perez	50-11	.820	14-7	.667	2nd	20-4	17-4	13-3	10-0	1st
2011	Kelly Inouye-Perez	36-19	.655	9-12	.429	t-6th	16-5	5-9	15-5	3-2	t-17th
2012	Kelly Inouye-Perez	36-20	.643	12-12	.500	t-4th	15-5	8-9	13-6	0-2	t-17th
2013	Kelly Inouye-Perez	40-20	.667	10-14	.417	t-5th	12-10	9-7	19-3	3-2	t-17th
2014	Kelly Inouye-Perez	52-8	.867	19-5	.792	2nd	31-4	11-4	10-0	4-2	t-9th
2015	Kelly Inouye-Perez	51-12	.810	19-5	.792	2nd	27-4	10-3	14-5	6-2	t-5th
2016	Kelly Inouye-Perez	40-16-1	.711	16-5-1	.750	2nd	17-5	11-4-1	12-7	5-3	t-7th
2017	Kelly Inouye-Perez	48-15	.762	16-8	.667	t-3rd	21-6	13-3	14-6	6-2	t-5th
2018	Kelly Inouye-Perez	58-7	.892	20-4	.833	2nd	27-3	13-2	18-2	8-3	t-3rd
2019	Kelly Inouye-Perez	56-6	.903	20-4	.833	t-1st	23-4	14-1	19-1	10-1	1st
2020	Kelly Inouye-Perez	25-1	.962	canceled	--	--	12-1	2-0	11-0	canceled	--
2021	Kelly Inouye-Perez	47-7	.870	19-2	.905	1st	30-2	14-2	3-3	6-3	t-3rd
2022	Kelly Inouye-Perez	51-10	.836	19-5	.792	2nd	26-1	8-4	17-5	8-3	t-3rd
2023	Kelly Inouye-Perez	52-7	.881	21-3	.875	1st	21-3	16-2	15-2	0-2	t-17th
2024	Kelly Inouye-Perez	43-12	.782	17-4	.810	1st	17-4	13-3	13-5	6-2	t-5th
Totals		2156-501-5	.811	697-241-2	.742	18 Titles	900-171-1	570-187-3	631-131-1	266-82	13 Titles
							(.840)	(.750)	(.827)	(.764)	

ASSISTANT COACHING HISTORY

Name	Years as Asst.	Record
Sue Enquist	1980-88	352-85-3 (.803)
Kirk Walker	1984-94; 2013-24	828-156-1 (.840)
Kelly Inouye-Perez	1994-06	617-150-1 (.804)
Lisa Fernandez	1997-99; 2007-pres.	1212-259-2 (.822)
Gina Vecchione	2000-12	609-160-1 (.792)
Rob Schweyer	2024-pres.	43-12 (.782)

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANTS

Name	Years
Jennifer Brundage	1998
Courtney Dale	2005
Rodney Davis	2018
GiOnna DiSalvatore	2012
Andrea Duran	2011
Yvonne Gutierrez	1995
Jodie Legaspi-Kiaha	2013
Hayden Maurice	2015
Will Oldham	2023-pres.
Kylee Perez	2019
Don Slaught	2020-22
Natasha Watley	2006-10

NATIONAL AFFILIATION HISTORY

Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW)
1975-81 (7 yrs.) Record: 161-55 (.745)

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)
1982-pres. (43 yrs.) Record: 1,995-446-5 (.816)

CONFERENCE AFFILIATION HISTORY

Southern Calif. Women's Intercol. Athletic Conf. (SCWIAAC)
1975-76 (2 yrs.) Record: 18-1 (.947)

Western Collegiate Athletic Association (WCAA)
1980-85 (6 yrs.) Record: 69-23-1 (.747)

PacWest Conference
1986 (1 yr.) Record: 10-2 (.833)

Pac-10/12 Conference
1987-24 (38 yrs.) Record: 600-215-1 (.735)

Big Ten Conference
2025 (1 yr.)

POSTSEASON RECORDS

AIAW	27-13 (.675)
NCAA Tournament	239-68 (.779)
Regionals	109-18 (.858)
Super Regionals	26-7 (.788)
Women's College World Series	104-43 (.707)



Sharron Backus

1975-1996

as Head Coach: 451-117-3 (14 years)

as Co-Head Coach: 403-56 (8 years)

8 National Titles (7 NCAA) as Head Coach



Sue Enquist

1989-2006

as Head Coach: 484-119-1 (10 years)

as Co-Head Coach: 403-56 (8 years)

as Asst. Coach: 352-85-3 (9 years)

6 NCAA Titles as Head Coach



Kelly Inouye-Perez

2007-Pres.

as Head Coach: 818-209-1 (18 years)

as Asst. Coach: 617-150-1 (13 years)

2 NCAA Titles as Head Coach