Five members of UCLA’s 2000 U.S. Olympic track and field contingent were honored at the UCLA-Stanford football game at the Rose Bowl on Nov. 4, 2000. (l-r): John Godina (shot put, discus), Shakedia Jones (4 X 100m relay), Seilala Sua (discus), Amy Acuff (high jump) and Andrea Anderson (4 X 400m relay).

In 2004, Joanna Hayes won the gold medal in the 100m hurdles (12.37, Olympic Record) at the Athens Olympics and was given the Jesse Owens Award, U.S. Track and Field’s most prestigious honor. Hayes was the 1999 NCAA Outdoor 400m hurdle champion and three-time (1996-98) Pac-10 100m hurdle champion, graduated in June 2001 with a major in sociology.

UCLA’s 2000 NCAA Women’s Indoor Championship team was honored at the UCLA-Oregon State football game on Oct. 21, 2000 at the Rose Bowl. Standing (l-r): Assistant Coach Eric Peterson, Deana Simmons, Erica Hoernig, Men’s Head Coach Art Venegas, Christina Tolson, Shakedia Jones and Chaniqua Ross; Kneeling: Tracy O’Hara, Women’s Head Coach Jeanette Bolden and Darnesha Griffith.

UCLA’s 2004 NCAA Outdoor Championship team was honored at halftime of the USC-UCLA football game on December 4, 2004 at the Rose Bowl - Front row (l-r): Dawn Harper, Alejandra Barrientos, Monique Henderson, Candice Bauchum; Back Row (l-r): Head Coach Jeanette Bolden, Distance Coach Eric Peterson, Jessica Cosby, Ashley Caldwell, Jackie Nguyen, Kamaiya Warren, Jenna Timinsky, Throws Coach Art Venegas, Jumps Coach Robert Johnson.
2000 - At the U.S. Trials, Devers won the 100m hurdles in 12.33, breaking her old American record of 12.37 (1999). At the Olympic Games, she injured a hamstring in her semifinal heat and was unable to advance to the final.

1999 - Finished 10th in the USA's top athlete voting for World's Top Athlete and was third in the U.S. vote. In outdoor competition, Devers won the world 100m hurdles crown (then-American record of 12.37, breaking her old mark of 12.46, 1993) and placed fifth (12.95) in the 100m. At the USA Outdoor, Devers won the 100m hurdles (12.54w) and was second in the 100m (10.97w). Indoors, she won the USA flat 60 and took the World indoor silver. Devers' other honors included USATF Humanitarian Athlete of the Year and induction into the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame.

1996 - At the Olympic Games in Atlanta, Devers won the gold medal in the 100m for the second consecutive Olympiad. She also won a second gold on the winning U.S. 4x100m relay team and placed fourth in the 100m hurdles. Prior to the 2000 Games, a UCLA athlete had won the last four Olympic women's 100m titles (1996 and '92, Devers; 1988, Florence Griffith Joyner; and 1984, Evelyn Ashford).
**UCLA Track and Field — History in the Making**

**Jim Bush**

During his tenure as UCLA’s men’s head coach from 1965-1984, Bush led the Bruins to an impressive 20-year dual meet record of 151-21-0 (879), seven national dual meet titles, seven Pac-10 crowns and five NCAA championship team titles. In 1966, his Bruins recorded UCLA’s first ever dual meet victory over USC, winning 86-59 at the Coliseum. From 1968-88, 23 of his athletes competed in the Olympics, winning four gold, five silver and three bronze medals.

In 1987, Bush was inducted in the National Track & Field Hall of Fame. In December 1996, he was inducted into the U.S. Track Coaches Association Hall of Fame. And, the following year (1997), he was inducted into the UCLA Hall of Fame.

In the February 2000 issue of *Coach & Athletic Director* magazine, Bush was listed as one of the 13 most influential collegiate track and field coaches of the 20th century.

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**Ato Boldon**

2004 - Retired from competition at the 2004 Athens Olympics
2001 - Was rated No. 3 in the world in the 100m (season best 9.88). At the World Championships, he placed fourth in the 100m.
2000 - At the Sydney Olympics, competing for Trinidad/Tobago, won his third and fourth Olympic career sprint medals, winning the silver in the 100m (9.99) and bronze in the 200m (20.20)
Entering 2000, he was ranked No. 3 in the world in the 100m (9.86) and No. 7 in the 200m (19.86).
1999 - Entered the season ranked No. 1 in the world in the 200m (20.88) and No. 2 in the 100m (9.86).
1997 - Won the World Championships 200m title.
1996 - As a Bruin senior, won the NCAA 100m title.
1995 - As a junior, won the NCAA 200m title.
School record holder in the 100m (9.90) and 200m (20.00).

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**John Godina**

2004 - No. 2 in the world and in the U.S. in the shot put (71-2.75).
2003 - No. 5 in the world in the shot put. In the U.S., was ranked No. 2 in the discus and No. 3 in the shot put.
2002 - No. 3 in the world in the shot put and No. 2 in the U.S. in the discus.
2001 - Ranked No. 1 in the world in the shot put, winning at the World Championships (71-9). U.S. Outdoor Championships (70-3.50) and World Indoor Championships (68-3.75). For the second time in his career, he was awarded the Jesse Owens Award.
2000 - At the Sydney Olympics, won his second Olympic medal, bronze, in the shot put (69.7). Also competed in the discus. He became the first American men’s track and field athlete since 1924 to make the U.S. Olympic team in both the shot put and discus.
At the U.S. Olympic Trials, placed second in the discus (208-8) and fourth in the shot put (69-2.50). Entered 2000 ranked No. 4 in the world in the shot put and No. 7 in the discus.
1999 - At the U.S. Nationals, won the shot put with a personal best throw of 72-3 and was second in the discus (228-8). Entering the season, Godina was ranked No. 1 in the world in the shot put (71-5.50) and No. 3 in the discus (229-4).
1998 - For the first time since Parry O’Brien in 1955, Godina won both the shot put and discus at the U.S. Outdoor Championships. He was voted the *Track & Field News* U.S. Athlete of the Year and received his first Jesse Owens Award.
1996 - At the Atlanta Olympics, won the silver medal in the shot put.
1995 - As a Bruin senior, won his first World Championship in the shot put, as well as the NCAA shot put and discus titles.
Jackie Joyner-Kersee was honored in April 2001 by the Honda Award as the Top Women's Collegiate Athlete of the Last 25 years. In January 2001, she was named the World's Greatest Female Athlete of the 20th Century by Sports Illustrated for Women. Joyner-Kersee was named the Summer Olympian of the Century by the Associated Press in December 1999.

At the 2000 U.S. Trials, she returned to long jump competition and placed sixth. JJK retired from heptathlon competition in 1998 after winning the event at the Goodwill Games. She won her sixth Olympic medal in Atlanta '96. Unable to finish the heptathlon (hamstring injury), she rallied to capture the bronze medal in the long jump in Atlanta.

The world record-holder in the heptathlon, JJK's six Olympic medals, including three golds, is the highest total ever won by a U.S. woman. (Marion Jones and Bruin alumnus Florence Griffith-Joyner and Evelyn Ashford are second with five apiece).

JJK was inducted into the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996. In 1987 and '86, she was given the Jesse Owens Award.

Known worldwide for her interest in helping others, JJK raised more than $12 million to build the Jackie Joyner Kersee Youth Center Foundation in her hometown of E. St. Louis, IL. She also keeps busy as the Chairperson of the St. Louis Sports Commission, and the Co-Founder of Jackie Joyner Kersee Racing (NASCAR).

The March 2002 issue of Ebony included Joyner-Kersee on its list of the Top 10 Greatest African-American Women Athletes. In 2003, the UCLA track and field programs hosted the first annual Rafer Johnson/Jackie Joyner-Kersee Invitational, named after two of the greatest Bruin athletes in school history.

JJK was inducted into the U.S. Track and Field Hall of Fame in Dec. 2004. She also had the ninth and 25th top moment of the past 25 years in track and field, according to USATF. Her world record breaking heptathlon total of 7,215 was the ninth best moment, while becoming the first woman to break the 7,000 point barrier was ranked 25th.

Florence Griffith Joyner, who died on Sept. 21, 1998 of a seizure at the age of 38, represents UCLA in the U.S. Track & Field Hall of Fame (1995) and was posthumously inducted into the Bruin Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998.

At the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, she won three gold medals (100m, 200m, 4X100m relay) and a silver (4X400m relay). For her 1988 Olympic accomplishment, she was given the Jesse Owens Award. She holds world records in the 100m (10.49) and 200m (21.34).

While at UCLA, she won the national championship in the 400m in 1983 and the 200m in 1982. Her husband, Al Joyner, the men's triple jump gold medalist at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, was on the UCLA women's track and field staff for two seasons (2002-01), coaching the jumpers.

The March 2002 issue of Ebony included Griffith Joyner on its list of the Top 10 Greatest African-American Women Athletes. Her 100m and 200m world record breaking runs were ranked as the 10th and 19th best moments in USATF history for the past 25 years.
Former world record-holder in the decathlon Rafer Johnson won the gold medal at the 1960 Olympics in Rome, Italy. At the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, Johnson, competing with an injury, won the silver medal in the decathlon. For the remainder of his career, he would not lose another multi-event competition.

In 1974, he was inducted into the National Track & Field Hall of Fame and, in 1984, was a charter inductee into the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame. As a Bruin, he won Pac-10 Championships in the 220y low hurdles in 1956 and in the javelin in 1958. Johnson lit the Olympic torch at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. His daughter Jenny was an All-American volleyball player for the Bruins. As a Bruin senior, his son Josh placed second (248-7) in the javelin at the 1998 USA Outdoor. Johnson currently serves as President of the Southern California Special Olympics.

Sports Illustrated took this photo (right) of UCLA head coach “Ducky” Drake (l) with his two proteges, Rafer Johnson (r) and C. K. Yang (center) immediately after the conclusion of the decathlon 1500m at the 1960 Rome Olympic Games.

In an epic Olympic story, Johnson and Yang, teammates at UCLA, competed for the gold medal in the decathlon at the 1960 Rome Olympics. Johnson won the gold medal, with Yang, representing the People's Republic of China, earning the silver.

A 1988 UCLA Hall of Fame inductee, Yang was a former world-record holder in the decathlon and ranked No. 1 in the world in 1962 and 1963.

In his first competition since retiring in 1992, Bruin great Willie Banks set a world triple jump record in the 45-49 age group in June 2001(47-0.75). In 1999, the former world record-holder in the triple jump, was inducted into the USA Track & Field Hall of Fame. One of the greatest triple jumpers ever produced by the U.S., Banks had his best moment on June 16, 1985 when he set a world record of 58-11.50 at the USA Outdoor Championships in Indianapolis, IN. That was merely the culmination of a career that started in Oceanside, CA. After graduating from high school, Banks attended UCLA and was twice runner-up in the NCAA Championships (1977-78) and won two Pac-10 titles (1977-78).

After college, he achieved his greatest success, setting his first American record in 1981 and increasing that record six more times. Banks represented the U.S. in 15 international competitions and was a member of the 1980, '84 and 1988 Olympic teams. He was also on the 1983 and ‘87 U. S. World Championship teams. In 1985, Banks was the 'Track & Field News' and U. S. Olympic Committee Athlete of the Year. He also served USA Track & Field as chair of the Athletes’ Advisory Committee, in addition to serving as an organization vice president.
At the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Michael Marsh won a silver medal, running the third leg on the U.S. 4x100m relay. At the 1992 Games in Barcelona, Spain, he won two gold medals, winning the 200m and running on the victorious U.S. 4x100m relay. While at UCLA, Marsh was a member of two Bruin NCAA Outdoor title teams (1987-88) and he won the Pac-10 100m championship twice (1986, 1988).

In 1997, Evelyn Ashford was inducted into the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame. She was inducted into the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame in 1990. She ranked No. 1 in the world four times in the 100m and was the top-ranked American seven times, including four in a row from 1981-84.

A competitor at the 1976 Olympic Games while attending UCLA, she also competed in the 1984, 1988 and 1992 Games, winning four gold medals and a silver. She was a two-time World record holder in the 100m.

While at UCLA, Ashford won four national collegiate titles in the sprints and relays and led the Bruins to the 1977 national championship.

In 2003, she was named to the Board of Directors for the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency.

UCLA track and field has a tradition of recruiting the nation’s top high school athletes. UCLA’s women’s program has recruited four Track & Field News’ High School Athletes of the Year since 1993. Pictured are (l-r): Amy Acuff (1993), Suzy Powell (1994), Seliala Sua (1996 women’s runner-up), Michael Granville II (1996 men’s runner-up), Joanna Hayes (1995) and Kim Mortensen (1996).
UCLA's track and field program has been just as successful indoors as outdoors. The Bruin women won back-to-back NCAA Indoor team titles in 2000 and 2001. Lena Nilsson won the 2003 800m title. In 2002, Darnesha Griffith won the high jump and the Bruin women won the distance medley relay. In 2001, Christina Tolson won the shot put. And, in 2000, the UCLA women won the school's first-ever NCAA Indoor title and the Bruin program had four individual champions - Tracy O'Hara (pole vault), Keyon Soley (long jump), Jess Strutzel (800m) and Seilala Sua (shot put).

The first NCAA Indoor meet for men was held in 1965 and 1983 for women.

**UCLA's NCAA Indoor Champions (24)**

2003 - Lena Nilsson, 800m
2002 - Darnesha Griffith, HJ
       UCLA Women's DMR
2001 - Christina Tolson, SP
2000 - Tracy O'Hara, PV
       Keyon Soley, LJ
       Jess Strutzel, 800m
       Seilala Sua, SP
1999 - UCLA Men's DMR
1997 - Amy Acuff, HJ
       Mebrahtom Keflezighi, 5000m
1996 - Valelyta Althouse, SP
       Jonathan Ogden, SP
1995 - Amy Acuff, HJ
       Dawn Dumble, SP
       John Godina, SP
1994 - Amy Acuff, HJ
       Dawn Dumble, SP
       John Godina, SP
1992 - Dawn Dumble, SP
1991 - Eric Berggreen, SP
       Tracie Millett, SP
1990 - Tracie Millett, SP
1978 - Mike Tully, PV
UCLA Track and Field — History in the Making

There have been nine World Outdoor and eight World Indoor Championship meets from 1983-2003.

### World Outdoor Champions

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-</td>
<td>John Godina, SP</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999-</td>
<td>Gail Devers, 100mH</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997-</td>
<td>Ato Boldon, 200m</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John Godina, SP</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995-</td>
<td>Gail Devers, 100mH</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Godina, SP</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993-</td>
<td>Gail Devers, 100m/100mH</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jackie Joyner-Kersee, HEP</td>
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<td>Kevin Young, 400mH</td>
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<td>Mike Powell, LJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991-</td>
<td>Jackie Joyner-Kersee, LJ</td>
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<td>Greg Foster, 110mH</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mike Powell, LJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>1987-</td>
<td>Jackie Joyner-Kersee, LJ/HEP</td>
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<td>1983-</td>
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### World Indoor Champions

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<td>Gail Devers, 60m</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991-</td>
<td>Greg Foster, 60mH</td>
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Kevin Young  
World Record-Holder in the 400m hurdles (46.78, 1992)  

Mike Powell  
World Record-Holder in the LJ (29.4.50,1991)
In 1998, UCLA had three more athletes inducted into the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame — high jumper Dwight Stones, hurdler Greg Foster and distance runner Francie Larrieu-Smith.

Dwight Stones, a former world record-holder in the high jump, was one of the world’s top jumpers from 1973-84. He represented the U.S. in three Olympic Games, winning the bronze in both 1972 and ’76 and placing fourth in 1984. An 11-time national champion, Stones, who attended UCLA and Long Beach State, set his first world-record in Munich, Germany in 1973 by clearing 7-6.50. That jump also made him the first “flop” jumper to set a world high jump record. He raised the world record to 7-7 in 1976 and added another quarter inch to the record two months later. He won the Olympic Trials in 1972 and ’84. While at UCLA, Stones placed third at the 1972 NCAA Outdoor Championships. He is now the television networks’ top track and field analyst.

In 2003, Stones was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Los Angeles Track & Field Organizing Committee.

Greg Foster was one of the world’s greatest hurdlers from 1981-91. He was a national collegiate champion while at UCLA in both the high hurdles (1978, ’80) and 200m (1979), and still leads the All-time Bruin chart in the high hurdles (13.22).

After college, Foster won 10 national titles, both indoor and outdoor, and he won the first three world outdoor championships (1983-87-91). Foster’s best Olympic Games showing was a silver in 1984. He was world ranked for 15 of 16 years from 1977-92, achieving Top-five rankings five times. He was world-ranked in the 200m in 1979 and set world indoor hurdles records in 1986 and ’87. He was a member of 12 international teams, and was the 1991 world indoor champion and the 1981 World Cup winner.

It was once said that running was Francie Larrieu Smith’s way of life. How else could you describe an athlete whose running career spanned four decades and 35 U. S. distance records from 1000m to two miles?

Smith was on 28 national teams and won 21 national titles. She was a member of five Olympic teams, starting in 1972 when she ran the 1500m. She also ran the 1500m at the 1976 Games and was a team member at that distance in 1980. She missed out on the 1984 team but ran the 10,000m at the 1988 Games, taking fifth. She moved up to the marathon for the 1992 Games. At the ’92 Games, she carried the U.S. flag at the Opening Ceremonies.

She has been nationally ranked in every event from 800m to the marathon. She also ran in the 1987 and ’91 World Track and Field Championships in the 10,000m.

While at UCLA, Larrieu Smith won the 1974 AIAW Outdoor titles in the 880, mile and two-mile and still leads the UCLA chart in the 3000m (9:52.2).
SEILALA SUA: WINNINGEST NCAA OUTDOOR CHAMPION IN WOMEN’S HISTORY

During her four-year career (1997-2000), Seilala Sua won a combined seven NCAA Outdoor and Indoor individual throwing titles, including six in Outdoor competition, making her the winningest women’s athlete in NCAA Outdoor history. Sua, who attended Aquinas High School in Cooper City, FL, won four consecutive Outdoor discus crowns, only the second women in Outdoor history to win four straight individual titles in the same event. During her NCAA Championship career, Sua scored 107 points, a school record. In Pac-10 competition, Sua won six individual throwing championships. Her best marks while at UCLA were 57-11/57-4.25i in the shot put, 212-10/212-4 in the discus, 161-2 in the javelin and 198-10 in the hammer.

2004 — Athens Olympic Games - Did not advance to the finals in the discus
   USA Trials - Ranked No. 4 in the U.S. in the discus
   NCAA Outdoor - Ranked No. 2 in the U.S. in the shot put and No. 4 in the discus
   Pac-10 - Second in the shot put (57-0.50) and third in the discus (196-10)

2003 — Athens Olympic Games - Did not advance to the finals in the discus
   USA Trials - Ranked No. 2 in the U.S. in the shot put for the second consecutive year and No. 3 in the discus
   NCAA Outdoor - Ranked No. 2 in the U.S. in the shot put (56-11.50) and discus (207-10); it was Sua’s fourth consecutive discus crown and the first USA shot put/discus double winner since 1994.

2002 — Did not advance to the finals in the discus
   NCAA Outdoor - First in shot put (56-11.50) and discus (205-3)
   NCAA Indoor - First in shot put (56-8); Second in weight throw (69-0)

2001 — Athens Olympic Games - Did not advance to the finals in the discus
   NCAA Outdoor - First in shot put (56-11.50) and discus (200-9)
   NCAA Indoor - First in shot put (56-11.50), Third in weight throw (65-1150)

1999 — NCAA Outdoor Championships - Sixth (209-1) in the discus (first time a U.S. woman advanced to final; highest finish by an American woman)
   NCAA Indoor - Second in shot put (57-9), discus (210-10, meet record)
   NCAA Outdoor - First in shot put (57-11); Second in shot put (56-2.50) and weight throw (67-4)
   NCAA Indoor - Fifth in shot put (56-3.25)

1998 — NCAA Outdoor Championships - Sixth (209-11) in the discus, first American to win an individual title at the NCAA meet
   NCAA Indoor - Third in shot put (53-3.75) and discus (189-11, meet record)

1997 — NCAA Indoor - First in shot put (53-3.75) and discus (189-11, meet record)
   NCAA Outdoor - First in shot put (53-9.25) and discus (338-7, meet record)
   Pac-10 - Second in shot put (54-8) and discus (393-11)
   NCAA Indoor - Third in shot put (57-3.50, U.S. Junior indoor record)
   Honors - American junior record in the discus (208-2)
JOHN GODINA
SHOT PUT/DICUS THROW, 1992-95
(CHEYENNE, WY/CENTRAL HS)

- In 2004, ranked No. 2 in the world and in the U.S. in the shot put (71.275).
- USA Trials runner-up in the shot put (69-2).
- In 2003, ranked No. 5 in the world in the shot put (69-8). In the U.S. rankings, was No. 2 in the discus and No. 3 in the shot put. U.S. Indoor and Outdoor Championships runner-up in the shot put (68-5.25/69-0.50).
- Silver medalist at the World Indoor Championships (69-8).
- In 2002, ranked No. 3 in the world (71.10.75) in the shot put and No. 2 in the U.S. in the discus.
- In 2001, ranked No. 1 in the world (72-0.25) in the shot put and No. 2 in the U.S. in the discus. Won the World Indoor and Outdoor Shot Put titles, throwing 68-3.75 and 71.9, respectively.
- 2000 Olympic Shot Put Bronze Medalist
- 1998 USA Discus Champion
- 1996 Olympic Shot Put Silver Medalist
- Collegiate Record-Holder in the Shot Put (72-2.25, 1995)
- Six-time Pac-10 Shot Put/Discus Champion (1993-95)

MEBRAHTOM “MEB” KEFLEZIGHI

5,000M/10,000M/CROSS COUNTRY, 1995-98
(SAN DIEGO, CA/SAN DIEGO HS)

- 2004 - Won the silver medal in the marathon at the Athens Olympics (2:11:29). Won the 10,000m race at the USA Trials. Ranked No. 1 in the U.S. in the 10,000m. Finished second at the ING New York Marathon (2:09.52).
- 2003 - Ranked No. 2 in the U.S. in the 5000m and 10,000m. Was the runner-up at the U.S. Outdoor Championships (10,000m-27:57.59). At the World Outdoor Championships, placed 16th (10,000m-28:35.08) in cross country, second place at the U.S. Championships (12K, 38:34) and 11th at the World Cross Country Championships (12K, 37:35). Named the USA Track & Field Men’s Cross Country Athlete of the Year. At the Chicago Marathon, was the highest American finisher, placing seventh in 2:30.03, a 2004 Olympic Games ‘A’ standard time.
- 2002 - Ranked No. 1 in the U.S. in the 5000m and 10,000m. At the World Cup, placed fourth in the 5000m. At the U.S. Outdoor, won the 10,000m (27:41.68) and was second in the 5000m (13:30.05). “Meb” won five national titles - 5K, 12K cross country, 25K roads, 10,000m track and 7-mile roads and also placed ninth (2:12.35, top finishing U.S. runner in his marathon debut) in the New York City Marathon, the best performance by an American in New York since 1994.
- 2001 - Ranked No. 3 in the U.S. in the 5,000m and No. 2 in the 10,000m. Recipient of the Glen Cunningham Award (Outstanding Male Athlete in the Distance Events of 800m and longer) and the Robert E. DeCelle Award (Outstanding Male Long Distance Runner) from U. S. Track & Field
- 10,000m American Record-Holder (27:13.98, 2001)
- Two-time (2001-02) U. S. 12K Cross Country Champion
- 2000 U. S. Olympic Trials 10,000m Champion
- Four-time NCAA Champion (1997-Indoor 5,000m, Outdoor 5,000m/10,000m, Cross Country)
- Two-time (1996-97) Pac-10 5,000m Champion
Bob Larsen

Men’s T&F Head Coach (15 yrs) • CC/Distance Coach (21 yrs) • San Diego State ’61

Larsen Quick Facts
- 2004 U.S. Men’s Olympic T&F Team Assistant Coach (Distances)
- Four-time NCAA Coach of the Year
- Nine-time Pac-10 Coach of the Year
- In Mt. SAC Relays and CA CC Cross Country and Track Coaches Hall of Fame
- Two NCAA Outdoor Titles
- Four National Dual Meet Championships

Bob Larsen, four-time National Coach of the Year (track and field - 1987-88-95; cross-country - 1980) on July 30, 1999 announced his retirement as the UCLA men’s track and field and cross country head coach. He directed the Bruin men’s track and field program for 15 seasons and the cross country team for 21 years. In 2004, Larsen served as the distance coach on the U.S. Men’s Olympic track and field team and was named as the Dist. VII Men’s Coach of the Year by the U.S. Track Coaches Association, an honor he also earned in 1998. In 1995, Larsen was named the USTCA National Men’s Coach of the Year.

Larsen’s current star pupil is Meb Keflezighi, the longest-distance runner in UCLA’s men’s track history. In 2004, he won a silver medal in the marathon, becoming the first American since 1976 to medal at the Olympic Games. He also finished second in the ING New York Marathon. At the U.S. Olympic Trials he won the 10,000m race. In 2002, Meb won five national distance running titles and in 2001, set the American record in the 10,000m (27:13.98). In 1999, he won the 10,000m at the U.S. Trials and placed 12th at the Olympics. Keflezighi as a Bruin junior in 97 won four NCAA titles — cross country, indoor 5000m, and outdoor 5000/10,000m (becoming the eighth athlete in NCAA history to win this double) — and became the third athlete in NCAA history to win the outdoor double and the cross country title in the same season (997). In addition, he holds the school records in the 5000m (13:23.85) and 10,000m (28:16.79). In 1998, Meb was honored with the first-ever Carl Lewis Award, given to the nation’s top male collegiate track and field athlete. Other athletes coached by Larsen at UCLA include Steve Ortiz, who held four UCLA distance records (2 Mi - 8:24; 5000m - 13:35.0; 10,000m - 28:17.0; and marathon - 2:13.22) until Keflezighi broke the 5000m and 10,000m records; Ron Cornell (3:57 mile); Dave Daniels (8:29 mile); Mark Junkermann (8:31 mile); Del Davis (7:25 mile high jump to tie the American record in 1982); Anthony Curnan (8:25 pole vault) and Dokie Williams (55-2 triple jump).

When Larsen took over the Bruin men’s cross country program in 1979 it had never won a Pac-10 title. In his initial season (79-80), he coached the first UCLA cross country team to ever qualify to the NCAA championship.

During his tenure, the NCAA (1980) and two-time Pac-10 (1980-81) Men’s Cross Country Coach of the Year led the Bruins to two conference crowns (1980-81) and six NCAA appearances, highlighted by national fifth-place finishes in 1980 and 81.

The fall of 1992 marked the first of two consecutive seasons that Larsen directed both the UCLA men’s and women’s cross country programs. In 1993, Karen Hecox became the first Bruin woman to win both the Pac-10 and NCAA Dist. 8 meets and placed 10th at the NCAA championship. Those accomplishments earned her the 1993 Pac-10 Female Cross Country Athlete of the Year.

In track and field at Grossmont with Larsen as an assistant and head coach, the Griffins won nine consecutive conference titles, and its distance runners set 31 national community college records.

Larsen developed, among others, Kirk Pfeiffer, junior world marathon record holder at 2:17.44 who won on to run a 2:07 marathon, and Ed Mendoza, a 1976 U.S. Olympian at 10,000m and also a 2:07 marathoner.

As well, at Grossmont, Larsen coast-founded and served as head coach of the JamulToads, a track club in the San Diego area that in 1976 won the AAU National cross country title.

He coached four years at Monte Vista HS in Spring Valley, CA, where he led his cross country teams to four straight CIF titles. During Larsen’s last three years at the school, his team remained undefeated.

**Larsen’s UCLA Record**

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2005 UCLA Men’s Track & Field
Under Jim Bush, UCLA won its third (1971—left) and fourth (1972—below) NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships. The Bruin men have won eight NCAA outdoor titles.
Tom Bradley, 1917-1998

Tom Bradley, who in 1973 was elected as the first African-American mayor of Los Angeles and would serve an unprecedented five terms as the city’s mayor before stepping down in 1993, died on Sept. 29, 1998 of a heart attack at the age of 80. Bradley competed for the Bruin track team from 1938-40.

Bradley was the most prominent political figure in the history of Los Angeles. In 1963 he was the first African-American elected to the City Council; served as mayor for 20 years presiding over a period of enormous growth; twice ran unsuccessfully for governor of California (in 1982, running against Republican George Deukmejian, Bradley came within 52,295 votes of becoming the first African-American to win the top office in any state) and he helped bring the Olympics back to Los Angeles in 1984.

Born to sharecropper parents on Dec. 29, 1917 in Calvert, TX, Bradley’s family moved to Los Angeles in 1924. He attended John H. Francis Polytechnic High School, a mostly white campus, where he was the first African-American to be elected president of the Poly Boys’ League and the first to be inducted into the Ephebians, a national honor society. Bradley was also captain of the track team and a standout in the quarter-mile, long jump and relays. In 1937 he was the All-Southern California 440y champion. Bradley also made the All-City football squad as a tackle.

After graduation from Poly HS, Bradley earned a track scholarship to attend UCLA. He was a three-year letterman, competing in the 440y, 880y and relays. His best time in the 440y was 48.2, in 1939. One of Bradley’s track teammates was Jackie Robinson, who would later break baseball’s color barrier. As a Bruin, Bradley was a prominent member of Kappa Alpha Psi UCLA’s African-American fraternity.

For his outstanding career achievements in public service and collegiate athletics, Bradley in 1977 was given the NCAA’s top honor, The Theodore Roosevelt Award.

The inscription on the Roosevelt Award describes Bradley’s many and life-long contributions to the nation, the City of Los Angeles and to UCLA—The Teddy Award annually is presented to a prominent American “for whom competitive athletics in college and attention to physical well-being thereafter have been important factors in a distinguished career of national significance and achievement.”
Florence Griffith Joyner, known to her friends as DeeDee and to the world as “Flo Jo”, died on Sept. 21, 1998 at the age of 38 of a seizure. Griffith Joyner starred as a Bruin runner from 1981-83.

Flo Jo’s potential as a great runner was first witnessed at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, when she won a silver medal in the 200m. But it was four years later when she made the track world sit up and take notice of women’s sprinting. Flo Jo will be as famous for her skin-tight, one-legged running outfits, glittering fingernails and flowing hair as she will be for her two world records and five Olympic medals, including three gold.

Flo Jo’s greatness first came through at the 1988 U.S. Olympic Trials in Indianapolis, where she set the world record in the 100m with a time of 10.49. Two months later at the ’88 Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea, Flo Jo would captivate the world with her accomplishments. She won gold in the 100m (10.54w) and 200m, setting her second world-record (21.34), and anchored the winning U.S. 4x100m relay (41.98), while also winning a silver medal on the U.S. 4x400m relay.

Those amazing accomplishments earned her the 1988 AP Female Athlete of the Year, USOC Sportswomen of the Year and Sullivan (top amateur athlete) awards.

Flo Jo’s track career began to blossom while at UCLA. A 1978 graduate of Jordan HS in Los Angeles, Griffith Joyner first attended CS Northridge before transferring to UCLA. There, under the guidance of Bob Kersee and with teammates Jackie Joyner-Kersee and current Bruin women’s head coach Jeanette Bolden, the Bruins became the best women’s collegiate team in the nation, winning national team championships in 1982 and ’83. In 1982 as a junior, Flo Jo won the NCAA 200m (22.39) and as a senior in ’83, she won the NCAA 400m, setting at the time an NCAA record with a mark of 50.94.

On the Bruin all-time charts, her 100m mark of 11.06 is No. 2, and her times of 22.23 (a collegiate record) in the 200m and 50.94 in the 400m are No. 1.

Flo Jo was inducted into the U.S. Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1995 and was anxiously awaiting her 1998 induction into UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame (she died two weeks before the induction ceremony).

Following her track career, Flo Jo remained involved as a public servant, serving on the Presidents Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and as a spokeswoman for Project Eco-School (a resource center for environmental education), the American Cancer Society, the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation and the Osteoporosis Business Coalition. She also received a Distinguished Service Award from the United Negro College Fund. Along with her husband Al Joyner, Jackie’s brother who won a gold medal in the triple jump at the ’84 Olympics and who coached the UCLA women’s jumpers for two seasons (2002-01), they formed the Florence Griffith Joyner Youth Foundation.

On Nov. 13, 1990, Flo Jo gave birth to her daughter, Mary Ruth, who is now 12 years old. Donations to the Mary Ruth Joyner trust fund can be sent to—Final Kick Marketing, 26522 La Alameda, Suite 270, Mission Viejo, CA, 92691.

The March 2002 issue of Ebony listed Griffith Joyner as one of the Top 10 Greatest African-American Women Athletes.

In 2004, Joyner’s 100m and 200m world records at the 1988 Olympics were named the 30th and 39th best moments in USA Track and Field of the past 25 years.
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