



UCLA GYMNASTICS

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2021 REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

January

Sat. 23	#15 Arizona State	W 196.150-195.950
Sun. 31	at #15 Arizona	W 196.750-195.075

February

Wed. 10	#11 BYU	W 196.600-196.325
Sun. 14	at Washington	W 195.625-193.500
Fri. 19	at #3 Utah	ESPNU 6 p.m.
Sat. 27	Oregon State	P12N 11 a.m.

March

Sat. 6	California	2 p.m.
Sat. 13	San Jose State	TBD
Sat. 20	at Pac-12 Champs. (West Valley City, Utah)	P12N TBD

All times are listed in PT.

CAREER-BEST MARKS

Gymnast	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
Andres	9.750	—	9.775*	9.875	—
Campbell	9.900	9.850	9.925	9.900	39.425
Dennis	9.950	9.950	9.975	9.975	39.475
Esparza	—	9.900	9.900	—	—
Flatley	9.750	9.975	9.950	9.950	39.275
Frazier	9.825	9.950	9.825	9.950	39.550
Hogan	—	—	—	9.450	—
Kooyman	—	9.900	9.600	9.825	—
Lashbrooke	9.825	—	—	9.900	—
Poston	9.900	—	9.900	—	—
Sakti	9.800	—	9.950	9.925	—
Shapiro	—	9.775	9.925	—	—
Steele	—	9.925	—	—	—
Taubman	—	9.825	—	9.650	—
Tratz	9.925	9.775	—	9.950	—
Ulias	—	9.725	—	9.725	—
Wright	9.875	—	—	9.800	—
Team	49.725	49.825	49.750	49.875	198.875

*denotes exhibition routine

2021 SEASON-BEST MARKS

Gymnast	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
Andres	—	—	—	9.825	—
Campbell	9.900	9.850	9.925	9.900	39.425
Dennis	9.900	9.850	9.900	9.950	39.475
Esparza	—	9.900	9.900	—	—
Flatley	—	—	—	—	—
Frazier	9.825	9.900	9.825	9.925	39.325
Hogan	—	—	—	9.450	—
Kooyman	—	9.825	9.600	—	—
Lashbrooke	—	—	—	—	—
Poston	9.875	—	9.850	—	—
Sakti	—	—	9.950	9.625	—
Shapiro	—	—	8.400*	—	—
Steele	—	9.725	—	—	—
Taubman	—	9.825	—	9.650	—
Tratz	9.850	9.775	—	9.900	—
Ulias	—	9.725	—	9.725	—
Wright	9.725	—	—	9.800	—
Team	49.225	49.125	49.300	49.425	196.750

*denotes exhibition routine

No. 14 UCLA at No. 3 Utah

Friday, Feb. 19, 2021 – 7 p.m. MT / 6 p.m. PT
Salt Lake City, Utah (Huntsman Center)

MEET INFORMATION

TV:	ESPNU
Online:	pac12.me/WGYM-UCLA-UTAH
TV Talent:	Sam Gore, Samantha Peszek
Live Stats:	utahutes.com



at



4-0, 3-0 in Pac-12

6-1, 3-0 in Pac-12

All-Time Series: Utah leads, 32-13

UCLA won the most recent dual meet in Salt Lake City, 198.025-197.625 in 2019, while Utah won the last matchup in Los Angeles last season, 198.075-198.025.

BRUINS FACE UTES IN FRIDAY NIGHT MATCHUP

Pac-12 rivals UCLA (4-0, 3-0 in conference play) and Utah (6-1, 3-0) will face off in a Friday night matchup in Salt Lake City. The meet will be televised live on ESPNU at 7pm MT/6pm PT. Sam Gore and 2015 NCAA all-around and beam champion Samantha Peszek will call the action.

REMATCH ON DECK

The dual meet matchup last year between UCLA and Utah was one for the ages, with the Utes squeaking out a 198.075-198.025 victory in Pauley Pavilion after Abby Paulson scored a perfect 10 on beam on their last routine. The Utes earned a school-record 49.775 on beam in the rotation to hold off the Bruins, who totaled 49.8 on floor. Earlier in the meet, another perfect 10 on beam made NCAA history, as UCLA's Grace Glenn became the first-ever leadoff performer to score a 10 on beam.

PRIDE OF THE PAC

UCLA and Utah have combined to win seven of the eight contested Pac-12 Championships, with UCLA taking the titles in 2019, 2018, 2016 and 2012, and Utah winning in 2017, 2015, and 2014. The Utes also won the 2020 regular season Pac-12 title. At the national level, the teams have won a total of 16 NCAA Championships, with UCLA taking seven (1997, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2010, 2018) and Utah winning nine (1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1995).

LAST TIME OUT

UCLA remained unbeaten after a 195.625-193.500 win at Washington on Feb. 14. Competing for the second time in five days and with another meet coming up in five days, the Bruins rested some gymnasts and utilized many new faces on different events on their way to improving to 4-0 on the year. Junior Margzetta Frazier captured her first-ever all-around win, scoring a season-high 39.325. She also took first place on uneven bars with another season-high of 9.925, added the Bruins' top mark on floor exercise with a second-place mark of 9.9 and tied her career-best on beam with a 9.825. Freshman Chae Campbell won both events she competed, scoring 9.875 on vault to tie for first and earning 9.9 on beam to take top honors. Senior Kendal Poston also had a strong showing, earning Top 3 finishes on both vault (9.800, tied for third) and beam (season-high 9.850 in the leadoff position).

FOUR DEBUT PERFORMANCES

UCLA had the opportunity to debut four routines at Washington, with three Bruins making the floor lineup for the first time in their careers, and Kalyany Steele making her first run of the season on uneven bars after sitting out the first three meets while recovering from injury. Seeing the floor for the first time in either competition or even exhibition was junior Sara Taubman, who scored 9.650 on a routine passed down to her from her mentor, former UCLA All-American Alyssa Pritchett. Freshman Sara Ulias, who had performed a pair of exhibition floor routines earlier in the year, made the scoring lineup for the first time and contributed a 9.725. Junior Samantha Sakti, who regularly competed on floor as a freshman for William & Mary, saw her first competitive action on floor for the Bruins and showed off huge tumbling and scored 9.625 after a start value issue. Steele on bars contributed a 9.725 in her first competitive routine since Feb. 29, 2020.

ALL-AROUND RETURN FOR DENNIS AT BYU

Senior Nia Dennis made her first all-around appearance since January 2019 against BYU Feb. 10 and earned a career-high 39.475 to win the all-around against BYU on Feb. 10. Dennis also tied for first place on vault, balance beam and floor exercise, recording a season-high on beam and receiving one perfect 10 score on floor from the two judges. Dennis had not competed on uneven bars for two years due to a shoulder injury, which she had repaired in June. She scored 9.8 in her return to the event and improved to 9.85 a few days later at Washington. Dennis was a first-team All-American on bars in 2019.

DENNIS BREAKS THE INTERNET ... AGAIN

For the second time in as many years, and after her first performance of her new floor exercise routine, Nia Dennis has gone viral. Dennis' routine celebrating black culture picked up steam in a hurry after it was posted to social

NATIONAL RANKINGS (WEEK 6 - 2/15)

RK	TEAM	AVG	HIGH
1	Florida	197.635	198.150
2	LSU	197.325	198.050
3	Utah	197.090	197.475
4	Oklahoma	197.075	198.225
5	Arkansas	196.755	197.250
6	Alabama	196.665	197.000
7	Iowa	196.580	196.800
8	Michigan	196.538	197.225
9	Denver	196.510	197.000
10	Minnesota	196.410	197.025
11	BYU	196.407	197.075
12	Georgia	196.365	197.275
13	California	196.308	197.100
14	UCLA	196.281	196.750
15	Kentucky	196.245	197.000
16	Arizona State	196.163	197.150
17	Southern Utah	195.988	196.650
18	Iowa State	195.892	196.125
19	Auburn	195.805	197.075
20	Illinois	195.795	196.300
21	Boise State	195.640	196.400
22	Ohio State	195.490	196.375
23	Utah State	195.465	196.250
24	North Carolina	195.367	195.600
25	Missouri	195.265	196.175

NATIONAL RANKINGS - TOP 25 as of 2/15

Gymnast	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
Campbell	19	-	-	-	-
Dennis	-	-	-	4	8
Frazier	-	-	-	12	24
Team	11	18	17t	12	14

PAC-12 RANKINGS - TOP 10 as of 2/15

Gymnast	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
Campbell	1	-	8	7	10
Dennis	5	9	-	1	2
Frazier	-	2	-	4	5
Team	2	4	4	2	3

EVENT TITLES

Gymnast	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
Campbell	3	-	1	-	1
Dennis	2	-	1	3	1
Esparza	-	2	-	-	-
Frazier	-	2	-	1	1
Sakti	-	-	2	-	-

TOP 3 FINISHES

Gymnast	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
Campbell	3	1	2	1	2
Dennis	4	-	1	3	1
Esparza	-	3	1	-	-
Frazier	-	4	-	4	4
Kooyman	-	1	-	-	-
Poston	2	-	1	-	-
Sakti	-	-	2	-	-
Tratz	1	-	-	-	-

media the day after the Bruins' season opener. Within an hour, it went viral, and the video currently has 11M views on Twitter alone. Her routine was shared by the likes of Michelle Obama, Janet Jackson, Missy Elliott, Common and Kerry Washington. Dennis made a repeat visit to The Ellen Show and appeared on the Today Show, the NBA on TNT and Access Hollywood. Last season, Dennis' Beyonce routine also went viral, as did a TikTok video of her hitting the woah in her routines.

FRAZIER JOINS VIRAL PARTY

Just two and a half weeks after Nia Dennis went viral, her teammate Margzetta Frazier also shot to internet stardom after debuting her new Janet Jackson routine on Feb. 10. Video of Frazier's routine was shared by Jackson herself, and the routine was also featured on Good Morning America. Frazier scored a season-high 9.925 on the routine, tying for first place with Dennis.

FRESH STARS

Although more than half of UCLA's expected freshman class did not make it to campus this year as they pursued Olympic berths, the three freshmen who are in Westwood are making a huge impression on the Bruin team. Chae Campbell has become an all-around force, recording 39.425 in just her second collegiate meet and receiving Pac-12 Freshman of the Week acclaim. She already has career-bests of 9.9 or better on vault, beam and floor, along with a 9.85 on bars. Frida Esparza has two uneven bars victories in four meets and won Pac-12 Freshman of the Week honors after her first meet, during which she won bars with a 9.9 and scored 9.8 on beam. Esparza improved upon her beam score the following week, scoring 9.9. Sara Ulias made her competitive debut on Feb. 10 against BYU, scoring 9.725 on uneven bars. She debuted on floor exercise on Feb. 14, scoring 9.725.

POWER VAULTERS

UCLA's highest-ranked event this season is vault, where the Bruins rank No. 11 nationally. This is all the more impressive considering UCLA had only competed five vaulters in all but one meet, with just one 10.0 start value vault among the five (Kendal Poston). Both Chae Campbell and Nia Dennis have scored 9.9 this season, and Poston has a high of 9.875. Campbell is the team's highest-ranked vaulter at No. 19. The Bruins competed six vaulters for the first time on Feb. 10 against BYU, adding Sekai Wright, who competed a 10.0 start-value Yurchenko 1.5 vault. The Bruins have scored 49.1 or higher on vault in three of four meets.

RAISING THE BAR

The Bruins' uneven bars squad is rounding into form with the return of Nia Dennis and Kalyany Steele last week. Dennis returned to the lineup on Feb. 10 for her first uneven bars routine since 2018 (shoulder injury) and scored 9.8. She improved her mark to 9.85 on Feb. 14. Steele returned on Feb. 14 for her first routine since Feb. 29 and contributed a 9.725. Also making her way into the bars lineup was freshman Sara Ulias, who impressed with a 9.725 on her debut performance on Feb. 10. Margzetta Frazier and Frida Esparza have been the Bruins' highest-scoring performers, with Frazier earning a high of 9.925 and Esparza twice hitting 9.9 with two victories.

SENIORS SHINING

Bruin seniors Nia Dennis, Savannah Kooyman, Kendal Poston and Pauline Tratz have been rock solid this season, hitting a combined 33-for-34. Dennis has scored 9.8 or higher on all but one routine and leads the Bruins with two 9.95 scores. Kooyman is averaging 9.775 on bars with a high of 9.825. Poston averages 9.831 on vault, with a high of 9.875, and 9.788 on beam, with a best of 9.85, achieved while in the leadoff position at Washington Feb. 14. And while Tratz has been strong on her usual events - vault and floor - with highs of 9.85 and 9.9, respectively, she also provided clutch uneven bars routines the first two meets, hitting under pressure situations despite having not competed at all on bars as a Bruin prior to this year.

IN THE RANKINGS

UCLA entered the week No. 14 in the national rankings, which are currently determined by season average. The Bruins rank No. 11 on vault, No. 12 on floor, No. 17 on beam and No. 18 on bars. Individually, Nia Dennis ranks fourth on floor and eighth in the all-around. Margzetta Frazier is 24th in the all-around, 12th on floor and 22nd on bars, and Chae Campbell is 19th on vault.

ABOUT THE BRUINS

UCLA ended a shortened 2020 campaign ranked No. 3 in the nation, finishing with five straight meets scoring 197 or above. The Bruins return three All-Americans in Nia Dennis, Norah Flatley and Margzetta Frazier but lose five All-Americans and perfect 10 scorers in 2020 Honda Award winner and two-time Pac-12 Gymnast of the Year Kyla Ross, 2016 Olympic gold and silver medalist Madison Kocian, Grace Glenn, Felicia Hano and Gracie Kramer. The Bruins will also be without the services of sophomore Chloe Lashbrooke this season after she suffered a torn achilles tendon in January, and has been without Flatley, who injured her ankle just before the season opener. UCLA did keep one of last year's seniors - Nicole Shapiro, who had only competed two years and was granted another year of eligibility by the NCAA. New to the squad are freshmen Chae Campbell, Frida Esparza and Sara Ulias. Campbell

2021 HONORS

Chae Campbell

Pac-12 Freshman of the Week (2/2)

Nia Dennis

Pac-12 Specialist of the Week (1/27)

Frida Esparza

Pac-12 Freshman of the Week (1/27)

9.95+ SCORES

Gymnast	V	UB	BB	FX	Total
Dennis	-	-	-	2	2
Sakti	-	-	1	-	1
Team	0	0	1	2	3

9.9+ SCORES

Gymnast	V	UB	BB	FX	Total
Campbell	1	-	2	2	5
Dennis	1	-	1	3	5
Esparza	-	2	1	-	3
Frazier	-	2	-	4	6
Sakti	-	-	2	-	2
Team	2	4	6	9	21

MEDIA INFORMATION

UCLA Athletic Communications

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David E-Mail	ldavid@athletics.ucla.edu
Fax	(310) 825-8664
Website	www.uclabruins.com

Media Availability

UCLA head coach Chris Waller and selected student-athletes will be available weekly via a scheduled Zoom meeting. Please contact the Athletic Communications Office early in the week for meeting information. Due to Covid-19, practices are closed, and all media availability will take place via Zoom or phone.

Credentials

Credential requests for home meets must be made at least 48 hours in advance by emailing Liza David (ldavid@athletics.ucla.edu).

Credential Pickup

Credentials for home meets are available for pickup at the north entrance of Pauley Pavilion.

Media Seating

Media seating is available in the upper press box (south side) of Pauley Pavilion.

Photography Areas

A limited amount of photographers will be credentialed to home meets and must shoot from the mid-level seating on the west and east sides of Pauley. Please consult with Athletic Communications staff to confirm other locations. Flash and strobe photography are strictly forbidden.

Postmeet Procedure

Head coach Chris Waller and selected gymnasts will be available to the media via Zoom after the meets.

was the U.S. junior vault champion in 2016 and a two-time Level 10 national champion. Esparza is a two-time World Championships competitor and the 2018 all-around national champion for Mexico. Ulias has placed Top 3 on uneven bars in the last two Level 10 Region 1 Championships.

SCOUTING THE UTES

Utah ranks third in the nation and is Top 8 on every event, checking in at No. 3 on balance beam, No. 4 on floor exercise, No. 6 on vault and No. 8 on uneven bars. Sophomore Maile O'Keefe has won Pac-12 Gymnast of the Week honors in three of four weeks and ranks No. 7 in the all-around and No. 2 on beam. She scored a perfect 10 on beam on Jan. 30.

FRAZIER, STEELE JOIN PAC-12'S DIVERSITY & INCLUSION GROUP

Junior Margzetta Frazier and sophomore Kalyany Steele will serve as UCLA representatives on the newly-formed Gymnasts for Peace, Action, and Change™ (G-PAC). This student-athlete driven organization has representatives from all eight Pac-12 gymnastics programs. Together, these gymnasts will work to share ideas, formulate meet themes, host webinars, welcome guest speakers to campus, and more. G-PAC's mission statement is as follows: G-PAC facilitates an environment where diversity and inclusion is both welcomed and encouraged. Strives to ignite lasting change by sharing experiences, providing others with education and outside resources, and creating an authentic safe space for fellow student-athletes. Inspires others to thrive at the edge of their comfort zone furthering the journey to true equality.

UCLA SIGNS TOP-RANKED RECRUITING CLASS

UCLA has inked the No. 1-ranked signing class in the nation, according to College Gym News. The Bruins' top-ranked class includes U.S. National Team members Jordan Chiles, Emily Lee and Emma Malabuyo, Canadian World medalist Ana Padurariu and U.S. senior elite Alexis Jeffrey. The rankings are based on a points system from the website's recruit ratings system and include gymnasts who signed during the 2020 early signing period (Lee, Jeffrey) and those who signed previously but have deferred enrollment (Chiles, Malabuyo, Padurariu). The ranking does not include Canadian National Team member Brooklyn Moors, who has enrolled this year but will redshirt the season.

NO. 1 IN SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

UCLA Gymnastics has the largest social media followings in all of women's collegiate sports, ranking No. 1 in combined followers on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, a total over 1 million. The team has an additional reach of over 1 million on TikTok (441k followers) and Snapchat (582k subscribers). The Bruins rank first among all NCAA gymnastics teams on Instagram (416k), Facebook (539k) and Twitter (79.8k).

2021 UCLA GYMNASTICS ROSTER

Name	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown (High School/Last School/Club)
Emma Andres	5-6	So.	Rocklin, Calif. (Rocklin/Byers Roseville Gymnastics)
Chae Campbell	5-7	Fr.	Carrollton, Texas (Prestonwood Christian Academy/Metroplex Gymnastics)
Nia Dennis	5-1	Sr.	Columbus, Ohio (Meteva Valley/Legacy Elite Gymnastics)
Frida Esparza	5-4	Fr.	Pittsburg, Calif. (K12 International Academy/Head Over Heels)
Norah Flatley	5-1	Jr.	West Des Moines, Iowa (Connections Academy/Chow's Gymnastics)
Margzetta Frazier	5-1	Jr.	Sicklerville, N.J. (Connections Academy/Parkettes)
Paige Hogan	5-2	So.	Simi Valley, Calif. (Simi Valley/Waller's GymJam Academy)
Savannah Kooyman	5-3	Sr.	Laguna Hills, Calif. (Aliso Niguel/Precision Gymnastics)
Chloe Lashbrooke*	5-3	So.	Scottsdale, Ariz. (Chaparral/Gold Medal Gymnastics)
Brooklyn Moors*	5-3	Fr.	Cambridge, Ont., Canada (Bishop Macdonell Catholic/Dynamo Gymnastics)
Kendal Poston	5-1	Sr.	Foothill Ranch, Calif. (Trabuco Hills/Azarian Gymnastics)
Samantha Sakti	5-0	Jr.	Arcadia, Calif. (Arcadia/All Olympia Gymnastics Center)
Nicole Shapiro	5-1	Sr.	Los Angeles, Calif. (Santa Monica/All Olympia Gymnastics Center)
Kalyany Steele	5-2	So.	Colorado Springs, Colo. (Colorado Connections Academy/Colorado Aerials)
Sara Taubman	5-3	Jr.	Fairfax, Calif. (Sir Francis Drake/Head Over Heels)
Pauline Tratz	5-7	Sr.	Karlsruhe, Germany (Otto-Hahn Gymnasium/Kunstturn Region Karlsruhe)
Sara Ulias	5-1	Fr.	Thousand Oaks, Calif. (Century Academy/Paramount Elite Gymnastics)
Lilia Waller	5-5	Sr.	Santa Clarita, Calif. (Hart/Waller's GymJam Academy)
Sekai Wright	5-6	Jr.	Paramount, Calif. (Paramount/American Gymnastics Academy)

*redshirting

COACHING STAFF

Chris Waller	Head Coach (2nd season/19th overall)	UCLA '91
Kristina Comforte	Associate Head Coach (2nd season)	UCLA '10
Dom Palange	Assistant Coach (2nd season/6th overall)	
BJ Das	Volunteer Assistant Coach (2nd season)	Washington '06
Kyla Ross	Undergraduate Assistant Coach (1st season)	

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Emma Andres	AWN-drayss	Samantha Sakti	SOCK-tee
Chae Campbell	SHAY	Kalyany Steele	KAH-lee-AH-nee
Nia Dennis	KNEE-uh	Pauline Tratz	paw-LEAN-uh TRATZ
Frida Esparza	FREE-duh	Sara Ulias	YOU-lee-US
Margzetta Frazier	Marg-ZETTA	Sekai Wright	suh-KAI
Savannah Kooyman	COY-mun	Kristina Comforte	come-FORTY
Kendal Poston	POST-un	Dom Palange	puh-LANGE-ee
		BJ Das	DAHSS