

# UCLA BRUINS

## POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2009

**QUARTERBACKS** - In both '06 & '07 BYU transfer Ben Olson (PS#1) started just 5 due to injuries. Patrick Cowan (PS#157) started 13 in his place. With both QB's injured in '07, converted WR Osaar Rasshan (PS#23) threw for 259 (109 rush) and McLeod Bethel-Thompson played most of the bowl. It appeared only Bethel-Thompson (transfer) had to be replaced in '08 but the Bruins then lost Cowan (ACL) while Olson broke his foot for the 2nd time and DNP Kevin Craft, who had 5 starts and threw for 737 (57%) with a 4-6 ratio at SDSt in '06, won the starting job over Chris Forcier (PS#14). Craft threw for 4,231 (61.3%) with a 44-10 ratio as a soph at JC in '07. While Craft had his moments, he will be remembered for his int's. In the opener vs Tenn he threw 4 in the 1H but amazingly Neuheisel stuck with him and he guided the come-from-behind win. Vs Stanford, Craft had 1 int, 1 fumble and was sacked 7 times but led an 87 yd drive with his 7 yard TD pass (:10 left) pulling out the victory. He had 2 IR TD's vs Cal and 3 vs Ariz St. In the last 5, Craft had an 0-13 ratio! Forcier played in 7 (11 pass, 14 rush) and moves to WR as does Rasshan. This year rFr Nick Crissman (PS#12) and Kevin Prince (PS#49), who Neuheisel announced as the starter entering fall, are added to the mix. The Bruin QB's should improve upon their 54.7% and 9-21 ratio of 2008.

**RUNNING BACKS** - Maurice Jones-Drew led in rushing for 3 straight years ('03-'05) and was the #2DC of JAX. In 2006, Chris Markey became the first Bruin to lead in both rushing (1,107, 4.9) and rec (35) since Kermit Alexander in 1962. Kahlil Bell played in just 7 (inj) but was #2 (239, 4.0). In '07, Bell was having a great year with 795 in 8 until an ACL. Markey had 7 starts but was hampered by turf toe and finished with 715 (4.1). Last year they had to replace Markey and Bell was not 100% and after avg 5.6 ypc in '07, he avg just 2.8 ypc leading with 397 yards. True frosh Derrick Coleman had 284 (5.4) and FB Chane Moline (8 st) added 118 (3.9). Raymond Carter (PS#14) only had 29 (1.2) while true frosh Andre Dean (PS#6) took off his RS and played in 6 but was plagued by injuries. Not listed below are Johnathan Franklin (5'10" 200 rFr, PS#46) and Craig Sheppard (6'0" 201 Sr, PS#183). This year they lose Bell and although Carter and Dean opted to transfer, I'll still call for vastly improved RB stats.

**RECEIVERS** - Last year they had to replace their top 2 WR's and the leading returners were Marcus Everett (#3 in '05, #2 in '06, missed most of '07), Dominique Johnson (PS#41), who had 322 (12.9) as a true in '07 and Terrence Austin (PS#9) who had 248 (14.6). Neuheisel had said that TE Logan Paulsen (13 st, 144 yd '07) would have 40-60 catches and had the potential to play on Sundays but he was lost in the 1H of the opener. Everett missed 5 of the first 6 and was only #6 with 151 (10.1). True frosh Taylor Embree started 8 and led with a UCLA freshman record 531 (13.3). Austin led in rec with 53 (460, 8.7) and Johnson was #3 with 373 (11.0). TE Ryan Moya (PS#30) had 364 (9.6). This year they lose Everett (4 st) and Johnson (6 st, trans) but have everyone else back incl Paulsen. Not listed below are Alex Pearlstone (5'11" 185 Sr), Jerry Johnson (6'4" 214 rFr, PS#46), former QB's Forcier (6'3" 198 So, 4.4 spd) and Rasshan (6'4" 227 Sr) and TE's Glenn Rauscher (6'3" 227 So), Cory Harkey (6'5" 248 So, PS#98DL, 7 st, 5 rec LY) and Jeff Miller (6'5" 254, 2 st, 4 rec). This group should remain healthier and put up better stats.



WR Terrence Austin

**OFFENSIVE LINE** - In '07, it was surprising when a veteran O-line opened holes for just 151 ypg rush (3.7), their lowest ypc in 4 years. Last year Neuheisel had to replace 4 starters from '07 and he had 16 career starts returning (6th fewest FBS). UCLA's new OL coach, Bob Palcic summed it up by saying, "We're thin, we're young, we're inexperienced." Last year projected starting RT Sean Sheller tore his ACL and an expected JUCO DNP. Their lone returning starter, C Micah Reed, missed 4 and most of 2 others. The Bruins used 9 different starting OL combos and of the top 10 OL two were converted TE's and two were converted DL. As you would expect, the Bruins had their lowest ypg rush since 1985 with 83 (2.6) and allowed 35 sacks (8.1%). This year they lose C Reed (7 st) and G Scott Glicksberg (5 st). Not only do the Bruins return six players who started 5+ but they get back last year's projected starter Sheller and add Colorado transfer Kai Maiava who was a 1st Tm Frosh AA (9 st LG true). For the first time since 2005, UCLA has the same OL coach and this is one of the nation's most improved O-lines.

**DEFENSIVE LINE** - In '04 and '05 Karl Dorrell played a lot of frosh on the D-line as former HC Bob Toledo had gone 2 years without recruiting a DL. In '05 UCLA yielded 233 ypg (5.4), its worst numbers in more than 15 years. They had 7 of their top 8 back in '06 and I called them one of the most improved D-lines in the NCAA and they allowed just 91 ypg (2.8!). In '07 they had 7 of their top 8 back but had an injury-plagued year and still only allowed 109 ypg (3.0) and the D did record 39 sacks. Last year they had to replace 2 starters (#3DC) but did get back DT Brigham Harwell (23 st '05-'06, miss '07). Surprisingly the Bruins slipped to allowing 170 ypg (4.4) with just 21 sacks. This year they lose 2nd Tm P10 DT Harwell (12 st, 53 tkl, 6 fl), DE Tom Blake (5 st, 17 tkl until inj), DT Nathaniel Skaggs (6 tkl, 1 sk) and Chase Moline (10 tkl). They return 1st Tm P10 DT Brian Price and 2nd Tm P10 DE Corey Bosworth who led with 7.5 sacks. This figures to be a much improved D-line.

**LINEBACKERS** - UCLA had all 3 starters back at LB in '07. Last year they had to replace one starters and then lost Kyle Bosworth (7 st '07, #5 tkl'r) in the 2nd game, so they basically ret'd one starter in Reggie Carter. Carter had 20 tackles vs BYU, the most here since 1989, and led in tackles with 83 despite having to move from MLB to back to WLB due to Bosworth's inj. Three frosh combined for 12 starts and 87 tackles. This year they lose SLB John Hale (9 st, 39 tkl) and Joshua Edwards (1 tkl). Not listed below are Lucas Barbosa (6'0" 233 So) and Frank Guzman (6'1" 227 Jr). Carter moves back to his preferred MLB spot with the return of Bosworth and Neuheisel feels like he has four starters back to this 3 man group as #2 tkl'r Akeem Ayers (PS#20) and Steve Sloan (PS#49) who started 9 games at MLB also returns.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS** - Only once since 1997 has UCLA not finished in the top 50 of my pass D rankings and that was in 2005 (#58). In '06 they had to replace 2 starters but still moved up to #23. With 4 veteran Sr starters in '07 they finished #16. Last year they had to replace 4 players (comb 45 st, #5, #7DC's). Neuheisel brought in four VHT DB's but four of their 11 DB's in the spring were walk-ons and the unit returned just 13 career starts (Alterraun Verner had 12). Verner led the NCAA in passes defended (20) and earned 1st Tm P10. Surprisingly, the very inexperienced secondary still finished #18. This year they lose SS Bret Lockett (11 st, 61 tkl, 2 pbu), CB Michael Norris (HM P10, 12 st, 47 tkl, 3 int, 13 pbu) and Chris Meadows (1 tkl). They now have 38 career starts returning and those four VHT frosh should have a bigger impact.

**SPECIAL TEAMS** - Heading into last year the Bruins were the only team in the country to finish in the Top 10 of my ST rankings in each of the last 4 years ('07 in '07). Last year they ret'd K Kai Forbath (5-5 from 50+ in '07) and he hit 19-22 (long 53). Aaron Perez had an outstanding 37.6 net in '07 and improved his avg to 45.2 (36.2 net). Terrence Austin set a school record for all-rupt yards (24.1 KR, 9.5 PR) and Jimmy Roistein had 1 TB on 40 KO. On top of the good numbers they added ST coach extraordinaire Frank Ganz Jr but surprisingly dropped to #23. This year they lose P Perez but could get back to their accustomed Top 10 spot.

**COACHES** - Last year the Bruins made a controversial hire in Rick Neuheisel. In stops at Colorado and Wash, Neuheisel's teams were 38-10 in his first 2 years when he was playing with his predecessors' players but 28-20 in the rest of his career. Also, both schools were in trouble with the NCAA after he left. He was the OC for Baltimore (NFL) in '07. Neuheisel had the best set of coord in the NCAA in OC Norm Chow and DC DeWayne Walker but Walker left to become the HC at NMSt. The new DC is Chuck Bullough who has coached the Bruin LB's the last 3 years and was with the Chicago Bears from 1999-'03. Chow actually interviewed for the HC spot here before they hired Neuheisel and returns for his 2nd season. He was a long-time OC with BYU before moving on to work with Philip Rivers (NCS'00), Carson Palmer and Matt Leinart (USC '01-'04) and Vince Young (NFL's Titans '05-'07).

## PHIL'S FORECAST

USC and UCLA used to battle it out annually for the Pac-10 Title. Just a decade ago the Bruins' program was clearly ahead of the Trojans. From 2000-'04, however, UCLA was just 19-21 in Pac-10 play. In 2005 they managed a 6-2 record in the conf despite being -72.9 ppg. At one point they stood 8-0 and were talking National Title and about an unbeaten showdown with USC. They were aided by four 4Q comebacks and finished 10-2. In '06 UCLA had just 12 ret starters. They also lost QB Ben Olson in the 5th game to injury. Dorrell appeared on his way out with the team at 6-5 and facing #2 USC at home, a game the Trojans needed to win to advance to the National Title game. UCLA pulled the improbable 13-9 upset to finish with a winning record but did drop their bowl game. In 2007 the Bruins had 20 starters returning (most in NCAA) and big things were expected. It was an injury-plagued season, especially at QB where their options at one point were a 4th string walk-on QB or a converted WR. In Dorrell's 5 seasons ('03-'07), he lost 14 times when they were expected to win (as a fav). His last year was a rollercoaster ride as they lost 4 times as a favorite but also managed to upset two Top 10 teams. DC Walker was the interim HC of the bowl vs BYU and the Bruins had a 28 yd FG blocked on the final play in a 17-16 loss. Last year the Bruins had just 6 returning starters and QB was a major question mark again. Both Olson and Cowan were injured and Kevin Craft became the starter. Craft completed 56% with 7 TD's and an amazing 20 int's. Things started out well for the Neuheisel era as they upset #18 Tenn on Labor Day night to open the season. After losing by a combined 90-10 to BYU and Arizona, they almost upset #25 Fresno. They beat Wash St but lost in Autzen Stadium by 7. UCLA got a TD with :10 left to beat Stanford and moved to 3-4. They trailed Cal just 17-13 in the 4Q but lost by 21 (2 IR TD in gm). They were tied with Oreg St at the half but lost by 28. Neuheisel traveled back to Wash and came away with the win snapping the Bruins' streak of 7 straight road losses. UCLA suffered an amazing loss to Ariz St as they had a 306-122 yd edge but tied an NCAA record by allowing FOUR def TD's (3 int) which also clinched a losing season. They did lead USC 7-0 and were respectable in a 28-7 loss at home to the powerful Trojans but finished 4-8 (8th the Pac-10). UCLA has some factors pointing in their favor this year. Their 44 starts lost made them the 6th most banged up team in the country. As opposed to the 6 starters back they had in '08, they have 16 back and the Bruins qualify for my Turnovers=Turnaround by being -10. UCLA makes my Most Improved List which means a return to the post season.

## OFFENSE

JERSEY # IN BLUE

## 2009 PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

JERSEY # IN BLUE

## DEFENSE

**QB 14 KEVIN PRINCE** rFr. 6-2 226 PS#49.3 Kevin Craft (6'4" 211 rFr) PS#51JC. 5 st @ SDSt '06. JC '07. 12 st, 2341 (56%), 7-20 ratio here LY. **18** Nick Crissman (6'3" 217 rFr) PS#12.  
**RB 33 Derrick Coleman** So. 6-0 231 PS#16. 1 st, 10 gm, 284 (5.4) true. Milton Knox (5'8" 198 rFr) PS#8. **24** Christian Ramirez (6'2" 220 Jr) PS#78. 11 gm, 98 (5.2) '07. RS LY.  
**FB 42 CHANE MOLINE** Sr. 6-1 244 PS#33. 297 (3.4) 2Y. 8 st, 118 (3.9) LY. Trevor Theriot (6'0" 241 Sr) 8 st, 4 rec 3Y. Tobi Umodu (5'11" 237 Jr) PS#34. Jayson Almond PS#114.  
**WR 4 TERENCE AUSTIN** Sr. 5-11 173 PS#9. 277 (14.6) 2Y. 7 st, 460 (8.7), 46 KR (24.1), 2nd Tm P10 KR LY. **10** Gavin Ketchum (6'5" 210 Sr) PS#81. 21 rec (12.4) 3Y. 1 st, 61 (10.2) LY.  
**WR 82 TAYLOR EMBREE** So. 6-3 194 GS '07. 8 st, 531 (13.3) true. **83** Nelson Rosario (6'5" 214 So) PS#38. 9 gm, 169 (15.4) true. **6** Anton Moutra (6'2" 193 So) PS#32DB. 10 gm LY. **TE 15 RYAN MOYA** Sr. 6-3 247 PS#30. 5 st, 279 (12.7) '05-'06. RS '07. 2 st, 364 (9.6), 2nd Tm P10 LY. **86** Logan Paulsen (6'5" 268 Sr) 2 rec true. 25 st, 475 (12.2) '06-'07. RS (inj) LY.  
**C 51 KAI MAIAVA** So. 6-1 322 PS#26. Colo trans. **57** Jake Dean (6'4" 311 Jr) PS#48. 7 st LY. **71** Gabriel Fernandez (6'0" 273 rFr). **LS** Christian Yount (6'1" 251 Jr) 25 gm 2Y.  
**RG 75 NICK EKKBATANI** Sr. 6-5 308 PS#245JC. RS '07. 12 st (6RT, 6RG) LY. **77** Darius Savage (6'4" 335 Jr) PS#86DL. 12 gm '07. 7 st @ LG. 10 gm LY. **Nick Garibay** (6'2" 277 rFr).  
**LG 60 JEFF BACA** So. 6-4 305 PS#89. 8 st @ LT. 9 gm true. **73** Micah Kia (6'5" 320 Sr) PS#47. 13 gm true. 8 st @ LT '07. 7 st LY. **Sonny Tevaga** (6'5" 345 Jr) PS#84. 2 st @ RG. 4 gm LY.  
**RT 65 MIKE HARRIS** So. 6-5 314 PS#129. 5 st rFr. No spp. **68** Nate Chandler (6'5" 290 So) PS#7. 2 st @ TE. 1 rec rFr. **Xavier Su'a-Filo** is PS#8. Connor Bradford (6'5" 284 rFr) PS#166.  
**LT 72 SEAN SHELTER** Jr. 6-5 295 PS#44. Travel squad rFr. Out yr LY (ACL). **Brandon Bennett** (6'4" 327 Jr) PS#86. 9 gm LY. **Brett Downey** (6'7" 285 rFr). **Austin Hill** (6'3" 285 rFr).  
**K 25 KAI FORBATH** Jr. 6-1 198 PS#1. 25-30 FG, L/54, 30-30 xp, HM P10 as rFr. 19-22 FG, L/53, 5-6 from 40+, 21-22 xp, 1st Tm P10 LY. **49** Jeff Locke (6'1" 203 rFr) PS#2.

**DE 55 KOREY BOSWORTH** Sr. 6-1 244 PS#149. 41 tkl, 8.5 fl 2Y. 12 st, 55 tkl, 7.5 sk, 5 pbu LY. **57** Daniel Holmes (6'3" 258 rFr) PS#34. Keenan Graham is PS#47. **Ian Davis** (6'5" 220 rFr).  
**DT 92 BRIAN PRICE** Jr. 6-2 295 PS#13. 5 st, 14 tkl, 7 fl true. 12 st, 35 tkl, 4.5 sk, 9.5 fl, 1st Tm P10 LY. **85** David Carter (6'5" 280 Jr) PS#187. 16 tkl, 2.5 fl 2Y. **Justin Edison** (6'4" 271 So).  
**DT 90 JERZY SIEWIERSKI** Sr. 6-2 297 PS#152. 14 tkl, 3.5 fl 2Y. 6 tkl, 2.5 fl LY. **52** Jess Ward (6'4" 288 Sr) 6 st, 23 tkl 2Y. 6 tkl LY. **Andy Keane** (6'2" 293 Jr) from OL. **Justin Mann** (6'3" 270 rFr).  
**DE 56 DATONE JONES** So. 6-4 253 PS#22. 2 st, 10 gm, 15 tkl true. **91** Reginald Stokes (6'3" 259 Jr) PS#149. 5 st, 11 gm, 20 tkl, 2.5 fl LY. **Chinonso Anyarwan** (6'4" 224 Sr) 9 tkl, 2 fl 2Y.  
**SLB 40 AKEEM AYERS** So. 6-4 255 PS#20. RS (inj) '07. 3 st, 12 gm, 40 tkl, 5 fl, 5 fl, HM P10 as rFr. **11** Donovan Carter (6'1" 255 rFr) PS#45. **41** Mike Schmitt (6'1" 237 Jr) 1 tkl LY.  
**MLB 51 REGGIE CARTER** Sr. 6-1 240 PS#114. 20 st, 110 tkl, 18 fl 2Y. 12 st, 83 tkl, 4.5 fl, 2nd Tm P10 LY. **43** Steve Sloan (6'4" 235 So) PS#49. 9 st, 29 tkl rFr. **Patrick Larimore** (6'3" 254 rFr) PS#39.  
**WLB 54 KYLE BOSWORTH** Jr. 6-1 236 PS#150. 14 tkl 2Y. 7 st, 74 tkl, 5 fl '07. 2 st, 3 gm, 1 int & RS LY. **21** Sean Westgate (5'11" 210 So) PS#105. 18 tkl true. **Ryan Medina** (6'3" 245 rFr).  
**CB 9 AARON HESTER** rFr. 6-1 200 PS#18. Lowell Tm Defco-POY LY. **7** Courtney Viney (6'5" 159 So) PS#50. 17 tkl rFr. **Sheldon Price** is PS#61. **Scott Rose** (6'0" 187 rFr) PS#315.  
**CB 1 ALTEARRAUN VERNER** Sr. 5-11 184 PS#125. 59 tkl, 8 pd true. 75 tkl, 19 pd, HM P10 '07. 73 tkl, 20 pd (#1 NCAA), 1st Tm P10 LY. **Marlon Pollard** is PS#31. **26** Andrew Abbott (5'10" 174 rFr).  
**SS 6 Tony Dye** So. 5-11 198 PS#41. 1 st, 15 tkl true. **20** Glenn Love (6'4" 212 So).  
**23** tkl rFr. **EJ Woods** (6'0" 212 rFr) PS#23. **Garrett Rubio** (5'10" 196 Jr). **Jeff Dickmann** (5'9" 182 rFr).  
**FS 3 RAHIM MOORE** So. 6-1 188 PS#4. 12 st, 60 tkl, 7 pd, HM P10 true. **27** Aaron Ware (6'0" 206 Sr) PS#18. 26 tkl, 1 st 3Y. **Alex Mascarenas** is PS#78. **29** Terry O'Neal (6'0" 204 So).  
**P 49 JEFF LOCKE** rFr. 6-1 203 PS#2. All-American as senior in HS. 43.3 avg on punts, superb hang time. **39** Danny Rees (6'3" 195 Jr). No gm action in 3 years on team.

## TOP NEWCOMERS FOR 2009

OL Xavier Su'a-Filo 6-5 285 PS#8  
 WR Randall Carroll 5-11 185 PS#7  
 TE Marell Presley 6-4 215 PS#3  
 QB Richard Brehaut 6-2 206 PS#14  
 DB Marlon Pollard 6-0 170 PS#31  
 OL Stanley Hasiak 6-3 320 PS#24  
 LB Todd Golper 6-1 225 PS#47  
 DL Keenan Graham 6-4 225 PS#70  
 RB Damien Thigpen 6-9 170 PS#50  
 DB Sheldon Price 6-2 165 PS#61  
 RB Dalton Hilliard 5-11 195 PS#63  
 OL Ryan Taylor 6-3 305 PS#93JC  
 DB Alex Mascarenas 6-0 175 PS#78  
 OL Eddie Williams 6-1 331 PS#122JC  
 LB Isaiah Bowens 6-3 220 PS#68  
 OL Nik Abele 6-6 255 PS#61  
 OL Greg Capella 6-4 326 PS#86  
 WR Ricky Marvay 6-0 184 PS#76  
 RB Jayson Almond 6-1 257 PS#114  
 LB Tanelia Maki 6-1 220 PS#145  
 DB Brandon Sermons 6-1 180 PS#178  
 DL Luta Tapa 6-3 238 PS#237  
 DB Stan McKay 6-2 205 PS#257  
 WR Jerry Rice Jr 5-10 180 PS#299  
 LB Jared Koster 6-1 220 PS#354

