



UCLA BIO

National Championships - 1



PAC-12 Championships: 17
(Last: 1998)

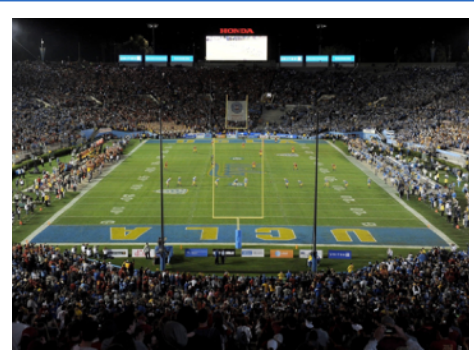
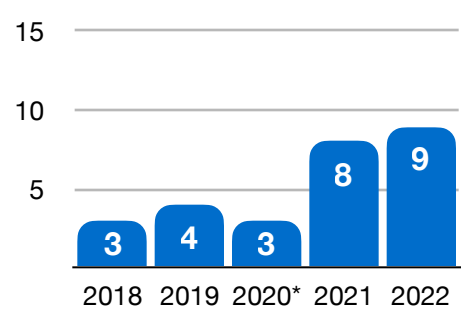
Location: Los Angeles, CA

All-Time Record: 600-411-31

2022 Results: 9-4
Lost in Sun Bowl

Head Coach: Chip Kelly
5th Year (27-29)

5-YEAR WIN TREND



Rose Bowl (80,616)

Will UCLA Rebuild or Reload?

In hindsight, UCLA was a bigger rebuilding job than anyone realized. After only going 10-21 in his first 3 seasons, Chip Kelly finally appears to have the foundation poured in Los Angeles to have UCLA consistently win. 2021 was the turning point, when UCLA broke a four-year bowl game drought and they following up with a nine win season in 2022. The key to the Bruin turnaround, other than patience, was the growth of quarterback Dorian Thompson-Robinson under Kelly's tutelage. "DTR" took the starting quarterback job in 2018 and slowly improved each season until he popped in his final two seasons. With a 6-0 start that included huge victories over Washington and Utah, the Bruins were serious conference title contenders and were ranked as high as #9. Unfortunately, their hopes came to a halt with a tough loss in Eugene to the Ducks. Health of Thompson-Robinson became a major question as close losses down the stretch to Arizona and USC sealed the fate of the season. Big picture, the team took a step forward, but was also dealt a dose of reality of the improvements needed to win a conference championship. Thompson-Robinson has left for the NFL which left a huge gap at the quarterback position.

Kelly got busy in the transfer portal this offseason to help fill that void and he initially brought in Kent State transfer **Colin Schlee** to compete for the starting job with previous backup **Ethan Garbers**. Suddenly, then entered five star freshman quarterback **Dante Moore** who flipped from Oregon at the last moments of his recruitment. The future appears to be now as Moore has dazzled in camp and is expected to be the starter. He will have plenty of freshman moments, but should also mix in some spectacular plays to remind fans and observers why he's on the field so early. Ball State transfer running back **Carson Steele** was also brought in to fill big shoes left by Zach Charbonnet, who ran for nearly 2,500 yards in his 2 seasons in Los Angeles and set the tone for the team. Despite Kelly's high flying and spread offense, a consistent run game has always been a constant for his successful teams. Look for Steele to thrive as he is made in the same mold as Charbonnet: a big and physical back with something to prove. And, also, he owns a pet alligator. So that's something.

UCLA must improve on the backend of their defense to have a successful season. Breaking in so many new players on offense means that there will be more moments that the defense is called upon to carry the team. Last year the run defense was fairly stout, finishing a respectable 35th in the country. The pass defense, however, was borderline awful and finished 117th in the country, surrendering 273 yards per game. The weak pass defense was often the defining factor in their biggest games of the season and teams like Oregon and USC took full advantage of the vulnerability. New defensive coordinator D'Anton Lynn is tasked with manufacturing a respectable product in the secondary. The Bruins will hope his experience in the NFL will help provide an immediate fix even though the talent at the position is more or less the same. **Darius Mausau** was the leader of the defense last year with 91 tackles and two picks and his return helps bolster that strong front seven. **Laiatu Latu** was completely dominant in his redshirt freshman season on the line and had 10.5 sacks and he also forced three fumbles.













The Bottom Line: The foundation is set for UCLA to be a consistent winner, but they aren't quite ready for the next step with so much turnover on offense and a poor pass defense. This will be a year of regrouping and growth. Another 8 or 9 win season is certainly on the table with a manageable non-conference schedule before a tricky stretch of PAC 12 games. A young quarterback at the helm will make for an exciting roller coaster ride of a season and the Bruins will have the ability to both defeat any opponent and lose to nearly every opponent. Expect them to upset a top conference contender at some point in the season despite facing all on the road (perhaps a beat up Utah team or overconfident USC will fall prey to them). On the other side of the coin, don't be surprised if there is a shocking loss or two to teams in the conference's "lower half".

Projection: 8-4 (6th in PAC-12)

2022 Statistics

Points Scored 39.2 8th in FBS	Rush Yards 237.2 6th in FBS	Pass Yards 266.4 34th in FBS	Turnover Margin -3 T-85th in FBS
Points Allowed 29.0 91st in FBS	Rush YDS Allowed 130.3 35th in FBS	Pass YDS Allowed 273.0 117th in FBS	

2023 UCLA Schedule

Week	Date	Team
1	Sat, Sept 2	 vs. Coastal Car
2	Sat, Sept 9	 @ San Diego St.
3	Sat, Sept 16	 vs. NC Central
4	Sat, Sept 23	 @ Utah
5	Bye Week	
6	Sat, Oct 7	 vs. Wash St.
7	Sat, Oct 14	 @ Oregon State
8	Sat, Oct 21	 @ Stanford
9	Sat, Oct 28	 vs. Colorado
10	Sat, Nov 4	 @ Arizona
11	Sat, Nov 11	 vs. Arizona State
12	Sat, Nov 18	 @ USC
13	Sat, Nov 25	 vs. California

Conference Games in Bold

KEY GAMES

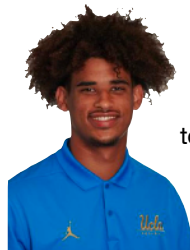
Sat, Sept 23: @ Utah - The Utes will be battled tested with previous games against Florida and Baylor and are nearly impossible to beat at home. A win would provide UCLA with a fantastic start to the season and would provide critical confidence.

Sat, Nov 4: @ Arizona - A trip to Tucson could be tricky for a young team that could be prone to some wild swings. The Wildcats have improved each season since Fisch arrived and shouldn't be overlooked.

Sat, Nov 18: @ USC - The crosstown rivalry will provide an opportunity for the Bruins to ruin the Trojans season and perhaps announce Dante Moore to the nation (if he isn't a household name by then). The Trojans have claimed three of the last four.

KEY PLAYERS

Dante Moore - QB



Replacing mainstay quarterback Dorian Thompson-Robinson comes with its own set of challenges and the standard of quarterback in this conference is overwhelming. Moore will need to show toughness and maturity as he gets thrown in the fire as a freshman. He'll thrive if he plays within Kelly's system that will utilize his dynamic skill and if he doesn't try to singlehandedly outdo the likes of Caleb Williams and Bo Nix.

Jaylin Davies - CB

The UCLA pass defense has floundered ever since Hip Kelly arrived. The PAC-12 is the best quarterback league in the country by a wide margin this season and an experienced corner like Davies (team-high three interceptions last season) will need provide a lift to the defense. Without an improved secondary the new offensive pieces will have to bear too much weight.



2022 RESULTS (9-4)

Bowling Green (W 45-17)
Alabama State (W 45-7)
South Alabama (W 32-31)
@ Colorado (W 45-17)
Washington (W 40-32)
Utah (W 42-32)
@ Oregon (L 30-45)
Stanford (W 38-13)
@ Arizona State (W 50-36)
Arizona (L 28-34)
USC (L 45-48)
@ California (W 35-28)
Pittsburgh (L 35-37)

UCLA

RECRUITING

2023 Class Ranking

46th

(Via 24/7 Sports)