

AI Scates



PROFILE

Last College:
UCLA '61

Position:
Head Coach

Experience:
50th year
-

Record:
1,217-282 (.812)

Playing Experience:
Played on six USA championship teams.
All-American several times

Experience:
Helped write the first complete set of official
wallyball rules

Each season the UCLA volleyball team points toward one goal: winning the NCAA championship. First place is the desired finish. Al Scates, entering his 49th season, has coached UCLA to 19 NCAA titles, capturing nearly half of the championships awarded since 1970. Scates' 19th title, won against Penn State in 2006, continued one of the greatest careers in collegiate coaching.

Wrote the late Jim Murray, a Pulitzer Prize winning columnist for the Los Angeles Times, "Al Scates?! Precisely. The one and only. The man who is to volleyball what (John) Wooden was to basketball, (Red) Sanders was to football, Napoleon to artillery..."

"California boasts some of the world's best sporting mentors, among them UCLA volleyball coach Al Scates . . .," wrote Sally B. Donnelly in Time Magazine.

Scates' program produces unparalleled success because of three elements: 1) outstanding student-athletes; 2) an excellent coaching staff and 3) a winning tradition.

Al Scates and UCLA volleyball won NCAA championships in 1970-71-72-74-75-76-79-81-82-83-84-87-89-93-95-96-98-2000-06. He is the only coach to have guided his team to three successive titles three times, including four straight from 1981-84. Scates was named Coach of the Year in 1984, '87, '93, '96, '98 and 2006.

Scates' 49-year coaching record of 1,217-282 (.812) is one of the best in collegiate sports. That record ranks first among all Division I volleyball coaches. In addition to their 19 NCAA titles, the Bruins also won USVBA collegiate championships in 1965 and '67 under Scates' stewardship. During his five decades at UCLA, he has coached 52 different first-team NCAA and 26 USVBA All-Americans, 44 U.S. National Team members, 27 Olympians and seven different Players of the Year. In addition, Scates is the longest serving active Division I coach in the United States.

In 2011, Scates guided the Bruins to their 48th playoff appearance. Junior Weston Dunlap and freshman Gonzalo Quiroga earned All-MPSF honors as the Bruins won their sixth Outrigger Hotels Tournament title in 11 appearances. Dunlap and Quiroga were also selected players of the week, while Dunlap led the nation in hitting percentage for the season. Quiroga set a UCLA freshman record by serving 39 aces. In addition, juniors Thomas Amberg and Jeremy Casebeer were voted to the All-MPSF Academic Team.

In 2010, the Bruins made their 47th playoff appearance under Scates after he won his nation-leading 1,200th career match on Apr. 9 against Long Beach State at the Pyramid. The Bruins defeated top-ranked Cal State Northridge twice and eventual NCAA champion Stanford once as senior Garrett Maugututia ended his career as one of the program's elite players. Maugututia earned second-team All-America honors and four other players were named to the MPSF All-Academic Team.

In 2009, several freshmen emerged as future stars and Maugututia earned All-America honors.

In 2008, the Bruins extended their national record to 46 consecutive winning seasons before falling in the first round of the MPSF playoffs. UCLA's playoff berth was its 45th under Scates. In addition, senior Tony Ker earned national Defensive Player of the Year honors for the third straight season, another first, and he was named a First-Team AVCA All-American.

In 2007, the Bruins recorded their 45th consecutive winning season. Ker became the 52nd first-team All-American in the Scates Era and Steve Klosterman became the Bruins' all-time leader in kills and points during the rally-scoring era.

In 2006, Scates guided the Bruins to their most exciting NCAA title, taking a team that was 12-12 through mid-season and leading it on a 14-match march through the last third of the league season, the MPSF playoffs and the NCAA Tournament. No player earned AVCA 1st Team All-America or 1st Team All-MPSF honors, and yet, when the dust settled at the end of the season, the Bruins were NCAA champions once again. Their final 26-12 mark and they became the first seventh-seeded team in league history to win the conference tournament.

At the NCAA Championship, Steve Klosterman earned Most Outstanding Player honors and seniors Damien Scott and Dennis Gonzalez were named to the All-Tournament Team.

Scates was named the 2006 Coach of the Year by Spike/Volleyball magazine.

In 2005, Scates guided the Bruins to a record of 26-6 and an appearance in the NCAA Finals for the 24th time, a collegiate record. Quick hitter Paul Johnson became UCLA's 51st First-Team All-American and freshman Ker earned second-team honors. The Bruins finished second in conference play with a record of 18-4 and both Ker and Johnson were First-Team All-MPSF selections. On March 8, 2005 Scates won his 1,100th match -- a 3-0 victory in Pauley Pavilion against Penn State.

On Dec. 16, 2004, Scates was inducted into the AVCA Hall of Fame.

In 2004, the Bruins recorded an overall record of 24-6, 17-5 in conference play. Two players earned All-America honors and six were selected to various All-MPSF Teams. At the Olympics in Athens, five former players represented UCLA, including four who played on the beach.

On May 17, 2003, Scates received the UCLA Alumni Association Award for Professional Achievement.

In September 2003, Scates was named as a coach to the USA Volleyball Men's All-Era Team for the period between 1978-2002, joining former Bruin players Doug Partie and Karch Kiraly.

On October 3, 2003 Scates was inducted into the UCLA Athletics Hall of Fame, the first active coach in UCLA history to be enshrined.

In 2003, he co-authored his fourth book, "The Complete Guide to Volleyball Conditioning," with former UCLA Strength Coach, Mike Linn.

In 2002, the Bruins rose to No.1 in the rankings before untimely injuries to key starters at playoff time ended their season. Still, three starters earned post-season honors, and three other players earned all-conference acclaim. Sophomore Adam Shrader was named ASICS/Volleyball Libero of the Year and senior Matt Komer earned second-team AVCA All-America honors. Freshman Jonathan Acosta earned distinction in *Sports Illustrated's* Faces in the Crowd.

In 2001, seniors Mark Williams and Adam Naeve earned first-team AVCA All-America honors and led the Bruins to the NCAA finals for the second time in three years. The Bruins won their 23rd league title, 11th in the previous 13 years. Scates also was awarded the Distinguished Sports Award by the U.S. Sports Academy.

On Feb. 3, 2001, Scates won his 1,000th career match, a 3-1 triumph at Pepperdine. In addition, the Bruins won their fourth straight Outrigger Hotels Invitational. Finally, Scott Morrow and Adam Naeve earned NCAA All-Tournament honors.

In 2000, senior Brandon Taliaferro inspired the Bruins on the court and Scates prepared them for an exciting run to the national championship. Forced to win the grueling MPSF Championship, the Bruins defeated defending NCAA champion BYU in the first round, beat Loyola Marymount in the semifinals and ousted Pepperdine in the league championship match to earn the top seed at the NAAs. Then, they swept Penn State in the semifinals and Ohio State in the finals to capture title No. 18. Taliaferro earned Player of the Year honors from Volleyball Magazine, senior Matt Davis earned Libero of the Year honors and Williams, Seth Burnham, Evan Thatcher and Morrow earned either All-America, NCAA All-Tournament or All-MPSF honors.

In 1999, five of six starters received all-league accolades and juniors Taliaferro and Naeve repeated as AVCA First-Team All-Americans.

In 1998, Scates' masterful expertise brought the Bruins to the NCAA finals for the sixth straight season. After outlasting Lewis University in the NCAA semifinals, the Bruins' championship experience enabled them to sweep Pepperdine for their 17th title. Scates also earned a unique trifecta of coaching accolades: he was voted AVCA, USA Volleyball and U.S. Olympic Committee Coach of the Year. Finally, he was elected to the California Beach Volleyball Hall of Fame.

In 1997, Scates guided a team that had lost the co-player of the year and its primary passer to the NCAA title match for the fifth consecutive year. The Bruins, who rallied from an 0-2 deficit in the final, came within two swings of stealing their third straight title. Scates coached the Bruins to their fifth consecutive MPSF Mountain Division crown and was named 1997 MPSF Coach of the Year. On February 19, 1997, the Bruins defeated USC on the road, capturing Scates' 900th career victory.

In 1996, Scates took a team that lost four starters from the previous season's national championship squad and guided it to a fourth straight division title and league championship, finally culminating in UCLA's 16th NCAA title and 21st national championship in men's volleyball.

In 1995, Scates guided the Bruins to their 15th NCAA title, a 31-1 record and a third straight conference divisional title. The Bruins finished the season with 19 straight victories, and were ranked No.1 nationally in the coaches poll for 34 consecutive weeks dating to 1993. From 1993-95, the Bruins amassed streaks of 42 consecutive conference victories, 34 straight home wins and 28 straight road triumphs. In May of 1995, he was selected as one of the inaugural recipients of USA Volleyball's All-Time Great Volleyball Coaches Award.

Scates became the first active coach to be inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame in ceremonies at Holyoke, MA, in October of 1993.

Under Scates, UCLA holds 27 NCAA men's volleyball team and individual records, including consecutive victories (48), consecutive home court victories (83), consecutive NCAA tournament victories (15) and most undefeated seasons (3). No other program boasts an undefeated season.

In 1984, Scates saw three of his former players, Karch Kiraly, Dave Saunders and Steve Salmons, lead the U.S. Olympic volleyball team to the gold medal. In addition, former UCLA All-Americans Doug Partie and Ricci Luyties joined Kiraly and Saunders on the 1988 Olympic Team, which successfully defended its Olympic title.

Under the leadership of Kiraly, Partie and Salmons, the U.S. Team completed its only Triple Crown, adding a 1986 World Championship title to its 1985 World Cup crown and '84 Olympic gold medal. Kiraly left no doubt that he was the world's best volleyball player, earning World Cup and USA Cup Most Valuable Player honors.

At the 1992 Olympics, Partie returned to the USA Team and led it to a bronze medal. Fred Sturm (UCLA '76) served as head coach.

At the 1996 Atlanta Games, Kiraly made history by becoming the only male volleyball player ever to win three Olympic gold medals. Kiraly and partner, Kent Steffes, won the inaugural Olympic Beach Volleyball competition at Atlanta Beach. Indoors at Atlanta, Scates served as a consultant to the U.S. team, watching former All-Americans Jeff Nygaard and Dan Landry as well as coaches Fred Sturm and Rudy Suwara.

On the AVP Tour, former Bruins Sinjin Smith and Randy Stoklos were the beach circuit's premier team in the 1980s. Smith won 139 professional beach tournaments. Prior to his retirement, Kiraly dominated the beach circuit by winning a record 148 open beach tournaments. He also has earned more than \$3 million in his professional beach career.

Scates played on six USA championship teams and was named All-American several times.

During his first year coaching at UCLA, Scates founded the Southern California Volleyball Assn. and served as its commissioner from 1963-72. The SCVA is now known as the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation.

He chaired the NCAA Volleyball Committee for two years and was also chairman of the USVBA Collegiate Volleyball Committee. From 2005-07, he served a three-year term on the AVCA Board of Directors as the men's collegiate representative.

The UCLA alumnus earned a BS in Physical Education in 1961 and completed his Master's in P.E. from UCLA in 1962.

The former UCLA All-American has traveled the world as both a player and coach, and is recognized as one of the United States' foremost volleyball authorities. In the summer of 1997, he guided a contingent of current and former collegiate players at the World University Games in Sicily.

In 1999 Scates served as the Head Coach of the USA Team that competed in the World University Games in Mallorca, Spain.

AL SCATES' CAREER COACHING RECORD

		Conf.	National
Year	Record	Finish	Finish*
1963	26-3	2nd	Second, USVBA
1964	23-4	1st	Second, USVBA
1965	24-2	1st	USVBA National Champions
1966	25-3	1st	Second, USVBA
1967	23-3	1st	USVBA National Champions
1968	24-5	2nd	Fourth, USVBA
1969	27-3	2nd	Second, USVBA
1970	24-1	1st	NCAA Champions
1971	29-1	2nd	NCAA Champions
1972	27-7	2nd	NCAA Champions
1973	21-8	4th	Regional Runner-up
1974	30-5	3rd	NCAA Champions
1975	27-8	4th	NCAA Champions
1976	15-2	1st	NCAA Champions
1977	19-4	2nd	Regional Runner-up
1978	21-3	1st	NCAA Runner-up
1979	30-0	1st	NCAA Champions
1980	32-2	1st	NCAA Runner-up
1981	32-3	2nd	NCAA Champions
1982	29-0	1st	NCAA Champions
1983	27-4	1st	NCAA Champions
1984	38-0	1st	NCAA Champions
1985	32-8	3rd	Regional Runner-up
1986	30-9	2nd	Regional Runner-up
1987	38-3	1st	NCAA Champions
1988	28-10	4th	First Round, Regionals
1989	29-5	1st, tie	NCAA Champions
1990	23-5	1st	Regional Runner-up

1991	16-9	1st	Regional Runner-up
1992	17-7	2nd	Regional Runner-up
1993	24-3	1st	NCAA Champions
1994	27-2	1st	NCAA Runner-up
1995	31-1	1st	NCAA Champions
1996	26-5	1st	NCAA Champions
1997	24-5	1st	NCAA Runner-up
1998	28-4	1st	NCAA Champions
1999	20-7	3rd	First Round, Regionals
2000	29-5	1st	NCAA Champions
2001	24-8	1st	NCAA Runner-up
2002	25-7	5th, tied	First Round, Regionals
2003	15-14	ninth	--
2004	24-6	3rd	Regional Semifinals
2005	26-6	2nd	NCAA Runner-up
2006	26-12	7th	NCAA Champions
2007	19-11	5th	1st Round, Regionals
2008	17-14	5th	1st Round, Regionals
2009	14-16	8th	1st Round, Regionals
2010	16-14	7th	1st Round, Regionals
2011	16-15	8th	1st Round, Regionals
Totals	1,217-282	23 Titles,	19 NCAA Titles,
-	(.812)	1 shared	2 USVBA Titles
NCAA Record:	1045-259 (.801)	-	-

*UCLA also won USVBA Collegiate Championships in 1953, '54 and '56.