

STELLA SAMPRAS WEBSTER

Stella Sampras Webster enters her 13th season as the head coach of the UCLA women's tennis program coming off her first, and UCLA's first NCAA National Championship Title. UCLA completed their best season ever in 2008 with a (23-5) record and defeated Cal-Berkeley 4-0 to win the 2008 NCAA National Championship. Sampras Webster enters this season with a career record of 209-103 (.67%). Sampras Webster became only the third head coach in UCLA women's tennis history when she was named the successor to longtime head coach Bill Zaima, who announced his retirement effective following the 1996 season.

In her first 12 seasons at UCLA, Sampras Webster has established herself as one of the premier coaches in the college game. Besides winning the 2008 National Championship, she has twice guided the Bruins to second place finishes at the NCAA Championships, as UCLA finished as the national runner-up in 2004 and 2007. In all, Sampras Webster has led the Bruins to top 10 finishes in 11 of her 12 seasons in Westwood. UCLA has also finished in the top 5 on seven occasions (1997, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2007 and # 1 in 2008.)

UCLA's run to the championship match in 2004 marked the Bruins first trip to the NCAA Finals since 1991. It also marked the first time since 1991 that the Bruins surpassed the 20-win mark, finishing with a 21-8 overall record. Sampras Webster nearly guided UCLA to the school's first NCAA title in women's tennis in 2007 as well, as the Bruins were narrowly edged out by Georgia Tech in the championship match in Athens, Ga. In the 2008 season, the team eased through the NCAA Championship Tournament by shutting out 5 of the 6 opponents they played in the tournament by scores of 4-0 (Buffalo, Denver, USC, Arkansas, and Cal-Berkeley in the Championship match.) The only team to even register any points against the Bruins in the 2008 NCAA Championships was Florida which UCLA defeated 4-2.

Sampras Webster has recruited and coached some of the top players in collegiate tennis. Under her tutelage, 15 Bruins have achieved All-America status, including current players Riza Zalameda, Yasmin Schnack and Tracy Lin. In 2000, she was named the ITA West Region Coach of the Year.

A 1991 graduate of UCLA with a degree in Psychology, Sampras Webster enjoyed a successful four-year career as a Bruin player from 1987-91 and competed on the pro circuit for a season prior to joining Zaima's staff. An NCAA Doubles Champion as a freshman in 1988 with Allyson Cooper, Sampras Webster was also the NCAA doubles runner-up as a senior in 1991 with Kimberly Po. A four-time All-American, Sampras Webster was only the second player in UCLA history to obtain this status. She also won the 1989 and '91 Pac-10 doubles championship and the 1990 Rolex Regional doubles title. Sampras Webster completed her UCLA career ranked No. 3 nationally in doubles and No. 42 in singles. Team accomplishments were most important to Sampras Webster, who helped lead the Bruins to four straight NCAA top-three finishes.

As a professional, Sampras Webster's highest international singles ranking was No. 248, and her best in doubles was No. 142. Her professional highlights include competing in both singles and doubles at the U.S. Open and Lipton Championships. She advanced to the U.S. Open second round in doubles and also competed in doubles at Wimbledon. She also won three satellite tournament titles and competed in Team Tennis for the Wichita Advantage in 1992.

Born in Potomac, Md., Sampras Webster moved to the Los Angeles area as a child and graduated from Palos Verdes High School. A top-three player in Southern California and among the top 10 in the country as a junior, Sampras Webster claimed the CIF doubles title as a freshman and the singles title as a senior in 1987. She capped her high school career by being named her school's Athlete of the Year.

The second-oldest of four children of Sam and Georgia Sampras, Stella considers the support of her entire family most significant. Younger brother Pete demonstrated his level of support for Stella and the Bruin program when he personally endowed a scholarship and assisted with the important fund-raising effort in Stella's first fall at the helm. Pete won a record 14 Grand Slam singles titles during his playing days, including seven Wimbledon championships. Sampras Webster and her husband Steve were married on Jan. 3, 2003 in Dana Point, Calif. They welcomed two new members to their family in September of 2005 when Stella gave birth to twin girls Sophia and Savannah. Sampras Webster and her family reside in El Segundo, CA.

