



# Cal

You see us on the big stage, when the lights come on and the ball is tossed into the air. But for each of us, much has come before. Some have come from far away. Others are just a few miles from home. It's not the distance we've traveled that matters, but the experiences we've gathered along the way.

We each have our own story; our own tale of life, family, struggle, triumph and basketball. If you look closely, you'll find it in these pages. We've all shared pieces of ourselves.

Yet in these pages, too, is our collective story. Each of our paths has been unique, but they've all led to the same place: *right here, right now*. We are individuals, bonded together by shared dreams, sacrifice, selflessness, discipline, work ethic...and destiny. We have become a team. We are now a family. Together, we are on a journey, and it's the journey of a lifetime.

We invite you to join us for the ride.

**We are Cal Basketball.**

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# 2006-07 Schedule

## 2006-07 CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Tue.	Oct. 31	Australian Team (Exh.)	Berkeley, CA	7:00 pm
Sun.	Nov. 5	Love and Basketball (Exh.)	Berkeley, CA	2:00 pm
Sun.	Nov. 12	Saint Mary's	Berkeley, CA	2:00 pm
Fri.-Sat.	Nov. 17-18	at Pepperdine Tip-off Classic	Malibu, CA	
Fri.	Nov. 17	California vs. Florida	Malibu, CA	5:00 pm
Fri.	Nov. 17	Pepperdine vs. Rutgers	Malibu, CA	7:30 pm
Sat.	Nov. 18	Rutgers vs. California/Florida	Malibu, CA	5:00 pm
Sat.	Nov. 18	Pepperdine vs. California/Florida	Malibu, CA	7:30 pm
Fri.-Sat.	Nov. 24-25	at Vanderbilt Tournament	Nashville, TN	
Fri.	Nov. 24	Vanderbilt vs. Florida Atlantic	Nashville, TN	12:00 pm CT
Fri.	Nov. 24	California vs. Belmont	Nashville, TN	2:00 pm CT
Sat.	Nov. 25	Consolation Game	Nashville, TN	12:00 pm CT
Sat.	Nov. 25	Championship Game	Nashville, TN	2:00 pm CT
Sat.-Sun.	Dec. 2-3	<b>Contra Costa Times Classic</b>	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	
Sat.	Dec. 2	<b>California vs. Harvard</b>	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	5:00 pm
Sun.	Dec. 3	<b>San Jose State vs. Arkansas State</b>	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	7:00 pm
Sun.	Dec. 3	<b>Harvard vs. SJSU/Arkansas State</b>	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	3:00 pm
Sun.	Dec. 3	<b>California vs. SJSU/Arkansas State</b>	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	5:00 pm
Thu.	Dec. 7	<b>Fresno State</b>	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	7:00 pm
Sun.	Dec. 10	at Kansas	Lawrence, KS	2:00 pm
Wed.	Dec. 20	at UCLA*	Los Angeles, CA	7:00 pm
Fri.	Dec. 22	at USC*	Los Angeles, CA	1:00 pm
Thu.	Dec. 28	<b>Arizona State*</b>	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	7:00 pm
Sat.	Dec. 30	<b>Arizona*</b>	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	2:00 pm
Tues.	Jan. 2	<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	6:00 pm
Sat.	Jan. 6	<b>Stanford*</b>	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	2:00 pm
Thu.	Jan. 11	at Washington State*	Pullman, WA	7:00 pm
Sat.	Jan. 13	at Washington* (FSN)	Seattle, WA	1:30 pm
Thu.	Jan. 18	<b>Oregon State*</b>	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	7:00 pm
Sat.	Jan. 20	<b>Oregon*</b>	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	2:00 pm
Thu.	Jan. 25	at Arizona State*	Tempe, AZ	6:30 pm MT
Sat.	Jan. 27	at Arizona* (FSN)	Tucson, AZ	4:00 pm MT
Wed.	Jan. 31	<b>UC Riverside</b>	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	7:00 pm
Sun.	Feb. 4	at Stanford* (FSN)	Stanford, CA	1:00 pm
Thu.	Feb. 8	<b>Washington*</b>	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	7:00 pm
Sat.	Feb. 10	<b>Washington State*</b>	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	2:00 pm
Thu.	Feb. 15	at Oregon*	Eugene, OR	7:00 pm
Sat.	Feb. 17	at Oregon State*	Corvallis, OR	7:00 pm
Thu.	Feb. 22	<b>USC*</b>	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	7:00 pm
Sat.	Feb. 24	<b>UCLA*</b>	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	2:00 pm
Fri.-Mon.	Mar. 2-5	at Pac-10 Tournament#	San Jose, CA	TBA
Sat.-Tue.	Mar. 17-20	at NCAA First and Second Rounds	TBA	TBA
Sat.-Tue.	Mar. 24-27	at NCAA Regional	TBA	TBA
Sun.-Tue.	Apr. 1-3	at NCAA Final Four	Cleveland, OH	TBA

\* Pac-10 Conference game  
 # Pac-10 Tournament at HP Pavilion  
 FSN - Fox Sports Net

Home games in **bold** are played at Haas Pavilion (11,877) on campus.  
 All times are local to host institution and are subject to change.



# Cal

## BY CLASS

### Seniors (2)

Emmelie Geraedts, Keanna Levy

### Juniors (2)

Krista Foster, Kelly O'Connell

### Sophomores (4)

Alexis Gray-Lawson, Devanei Hampton, Shantrell Sneed, Ashley Walker

### Freshmen (3)

Lauren Greif, Rama N'diaye, Natasha Vital

## BY POSITION

### Centers (4)

Emmelie Geraedts, Devanei Hampton, Rama N'diaye, Ashley Walker

### Forwards (6)

Krista Foster, Emmelie Geraedts, Devanei Hampton, Rama N'diaye, Shantrell Sneed, Ashley Walker

### Guards (5)

Alexis Gray-Lawson, Lauren Greif, Keanna Levy, Kelly O'Connell, Natasha Vital

## PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

### Players

Emmelie Geraedts Emily hee-ROTTs  
 Lauren Greif GRIFE  
 Devanei Hampton DEH-vuh-NAY  
 Keanna Levy KEY-ann-uh LEE-vee  
 Rama N'diaye RAH-muh en-JIE  
 Natasha Vital Vie-TULL

### Coaches

Dean Mendes men-DEEZ



## 2006-07 Roster

### 2006-07 CAL BASKETBALL

FRONT ROW (L-R): Lauren Greif, Keanna Levy, Natasha Vital, Alexis Gray-Lawson, Kelly O'Connell

BACK ROW (L-R): Shantrell Sneed, Ashley Walker, Rama N'diaye, Emmelie Geraedts, Devanei Hampton, Krista Foster

### 2006-07 CAL ROSTER

No	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Exp.	Hometown (Previous School)
1	Kelly O'Connell	G	5-5	Jr.	SQ	Lakewood, CO (Mullen HS)
2	Natasha Vital	G	5-8	Fr.	HS	Stockton, CA (Lincoln HS)
10	Lauren Greif	G	5-10	Fr.	HS	Portland, OR (Lincoln HS)
11	Emmelie Geraedts	F/C	6-2	Sr.	3V	Weert, The Netherlands (Philips van Horne S.G.)
14	Keanna Levy	G	5-10	Sr.	3V	Waterloo, IA (West Waterloo HS)
15	Krista Foster	F	6-0	Jr.	2V	Fair Oaks, CA (Del Campo HS)
20	Devanei Hampton	F/C	6-3	So.	1V	Oakland, CA (Oakland Tech HS)
21	Alexis Gray-Lawson	G	5-8	So.	1V	Oakland, CA (Oakland Tech HS)
22	Rama N'diaye	F/C	6-5	Fr.	HS	Dakar, Senegal (Keisei HS, Japan)
24	Shantrell Sneed	F	6-0	So.	1V	Fairfield, CA (St. Mary's HS)
44	Ashley Walker	F/C	6-1	So.	1V	Modesto, CA (Davis HS)

**Head Coach:** Joanne Boyle, 2nd year at Cal, 5th year overall (Duke, 1985)

**Assistant Coach:** Lindsay Gottlieb, 2nd year at Cal (Brown, 1999)

**Assistant Coach:** Kim Hairston, 2nd year at Cal (Richmond, 2000)

**Assistant Coach:** Dean Mendes, 2nd year at Cal (Fordham, 1982)





## Bears Arrive on National Scene

Coming off an 18-win season and an NCAA Tournament appearance, the preseason nationally-ranked California women's basketball team looks to make more waves on the national scene in 2006-07.

Head Coach Joanne Boyle led the Golden Bears to its best season in 13 years during her inaugural campaign in Berkeley. Last season, Cal posted an 18-12 record and earned a No. 10 seed in the NCAA Tournament, marking the Bears' first winning record and postseason appearance since 1992-93.

"Coming in, I don't think I had expectations about where we were supposed to go or what we were supposed to do," said Boyle, who owns a four-year career mark of 85-41 (.675). "In the end when I look back, I'm so pleased with what we were able to accomplish, not so much the record but how we grew from the beginning of the

year to the end of the year."

Cal gave a valiant effort against seventh-seeded St. John's in the first round of the NCAA Tournament but lost, 78-68, after leading at the half. This season, Boyle hopes her team is watching the NCAA Selection Show confident that it'll be among the 64 teams announced and eager to learn its seed.

"I was the first one out of the seat," Boyle said after the 2006 NCAA bids were announced. "I started jumping. It was out of control in the locker room. I think it took us all a couple of seconds to process it because there were only a couple of seeds left. When we all registered it was us, it was just mayhem."

In 2005-06, Cal earned at least one victory over eight of its nine league opponents, including season sweeps over fourth-place USC and Washington State and a home victory over Pac-10 Tournament

champion UCLA. The Bears' 66-64 win over No. 13/15 Arizona State Jan. 19 marked Cal's first over a team ranked in the Associated Press Top 25 poll since an 80-75 triumph over No. 9 Colorado State Dec. 21, 1998, in the championship game of the *Oakland Tribune* Classic. The Sun Devils entered the game ranked No. 15 in the AP poll and No. 13 in the ESPN-USA *Today*-WBCA poll. Nine days after the ASU win, Cal defeated No. 23/25 (AP/coaches) USC, 72-67, in Los Angeles.

While Cal triumphed over many tough opponents, the Bears sometimes struggled to secure consecutive wins.

"When you look at our record and see that we won big games and lost some games that we shouldn't have lost, that showed that we were a young team," said Boyle, who often started four freshmen last year. "I hope what our players take from that is an under-





standing that we need to play at a consistently high level and win the games we're supposed to win. That's maturity, to maintain a level of excellence and not go on a roller coaster. That's our goal for this year."

After recording a memorable 2005-06 season, Cal has earned a place in the national spotlight heading into this year. Four preseason polls have picked the Bears among the top 25 teams nationally, headlined by ESPN analyst and Hall of Famer Nancy Lieberman tabbing Cal No. 12 in an ESPN.com poll. *Athlon Sports*, *SportspageMagazine.com* and *Lindy's* chose Cal No. 19, No. 22 and No. 25, respectively, in their preseason predictions.

Cal returns three starters and seven letterwinners from last year's team, which also had a notable run during conference play. The Bears placed sixth in the Pac-10 at 10-8, marking the team's first

winning conference record since the 1992-93 squad tied for fourth with the same record. The Pac-10 coaches picked Cal to tie for fourth in the 2006-07 preseason poll, the Bears' highest-ever spot in the nine-year history of the poll. Last season in the Pac-10, the Bears finished in the top five in 10 different statistical categories.

Sophomores Devanei Hampton (forward/center), Alexis Gray-Lawson (guard) and Ashley Walker (forward/center) carried a heavy load for the Bears as rookie starters and will be looked to for leadership again this year.

Hampton became the 10th freshman to earn first-team All-Pac-10 honors after topping Cal and all conference rookies in scoring (15.4 ppg) and rebounding (7.9 rpg).

Gray-Lawson garnered Pac-10 Freshman of the Year – the first Cal player to win the award – after finishing second on the team in

scoring (14.6 ppg) and leading the Bears in assists (2.7 apg) and three-point percentage (38.9 percent).

Walker, who joined Hampton and Gray-Lawson on the Pac-10 All-Freshman team, led the conference in blocks (1.70 bpg) and was third on the team in scoring (13.3 ppg) and second in rebounding (7.7 rpg).

Cal also welcomes back seniors Keanna Levy and Emmelie Ger-aedts, juniors Krista Foster and Kelly O'Connell, who missed her first two seasons with injuries, and sophomore Shantrell Sneed.

Gray-Lawson ranked second in the Pac-10 in minutes played per game at 36.4 and was one of four Cal players to log over 30 minutes per game. Walker (32.6 mpg) and then-senior Renee Wright (35.5 mpg) also logged heavy minutes.

With a host of veterans returning and the addition of three talent-



ed freshmen in Rama N'diaye (6-5 forward/center), Natasha Vital (5-8 guard) and Lauren Greif (5-10 guard), Boyle anticipates that increased depth and versatility will be a strength of this year's team.

"The returners are going to embrace the freshmen, but they're going to make the freshmen earn their time," Boyle said. "Practices will be more competitive, which is only going to make us better. Hopefully, a little more depth will take some pressure off of foul trouble and the fatigue of going from back-to-back games with one-day rest in between."

Cal's strength will continue to be its post game, but the Bears are hopeful that they'll showcase an improved outside game this season. In 2005-06, Cal ranked seventh in the Pac-10 in scoring at 64.8 ppg, but there were moments when the Bears demonstrated their offensive explosiveness, including a 23-point home win over Washington

#### **GUARDS**

Sophomore Alexis Gray-Lawson is Cal's only returning starting guard. Gray-Lawson, 5-8, had an immediate impact during her freshman season and has been tabbed a preseason honorable mention All-America selection by *Street & Smith* after being a USA Basketball Under-20 National team finalist over the summer. As a rookie, the Oakland, Calif., product tied for second on the team with 23 double-digit scoring games, including a career-high 30 points at Stanford on 11-of-15 shooting.

"Lexi had a great opportunity to improve this spring going against competition at USA Basketball," said Boyle, who was named an assistant coach for the USA Basketball FIBA Americas Under-20 Women's Championship. "When Lexi got hurt (knee) and couldn't continue, it devastated her because she is such a competitor. She

final campaign. After seeing limited action most of the season, Levy was called on to play a big role during the Bears first-round NCAA Tournament game against St. John's. Levy saw a career-high 29 minutes against the Red Storm, notching eight points, one rebound and one assist. In that game, the 5-10 native of Waterloo, Iowa, was 2-of-3 from the floor – including 1-of-1 from three-point range – and 3-of-4 from the charity stripe.

Junior Kelly O'Connell has spent countless hours rehabbing due to foot injuries over the last two years and is excited to make her official debut in a Cal uniform this season. O'Connell, a point guard, did start an exhibition game for the Bears during the 2003-04 season. Prior to her arrival at Cal, she averaged 14.2 points, 7.1 assists and 4.3 steals per game at Mullen High School in Lakewood, Colo., to propel her school to a runner-up finish at the state tournament.



(81-58) – the Bears' biggest margin of victory ever over the Huskies.

Defense will continue to be the Bears' hallmark in Boyle's second season in Berkeley. Last year, the Bears ranked second in the Pac-10 in scoring defense (60.4 ppg) and third in field goal percentage defense (37.8), breaking the previous school records of 63.2 ppg (2001-02) and 40.2 percent (1978-79). The team showed dramatic improvement from 2004-05 when opponents averaged 71.3 ppg (10th Pac-10) and shot 44.4 percent (10th).

"I want our chemistry to continue to grow," Boyle said. "I want all of the classes to start taking ownership of this team. There are key people in each one of those classes. It's a process when you're figuring out who's going to lead and who's going to follow. Everyone is starting to understand what they need to do for this program to continue to develop."

wants to be a great player and leader, and she's finding that next gear. She's worked a lot on her game since last season."

Gray-Lawson saw most of her minutes at point guard last season but may spend more time at the shooting guard spot with the addition of freshman Natasha Vital. The 5-8 Vital was ranked No. 55 nationally by Blue Star Index after contributing 21 points, six assists, five rebounds and two steals per game as a senior at Lincoln High School in Stockton, Calif.

"Tasha loves to push the ball in transition," Boyle said. "She has a scorer's mentality at the point. She can get to the basket and finish, can shoot the three and has a pull-up jumper. However, Tasha's first instinct is to get her teammates involved."

Senior Keanna Levy, Cal's 2005-06 Most Improved Player, hopes to play a larger role at shooting guard or small forward during her

Freshman Lauren Greif is expected to contribute immediately to both the shooting guard and small forward spots. Greif led the state of Oregon in scoring at 22.9 ppg as a senior at Lincoln High School and graduated as the school's all-time leading scorer with 1,961 points (20.0 ppg). The 5-10 Portland product was the first player to verbally commit to Cal under Boyle and will be counted on to get everyone on the court involved.

#### **FORWARDS**

Sophomore Ashley Walker should start at power forward for Cal again this season. The small forward position is up for grabs with the graduation of Reneé Wright, who was third on the team in rebounding at 6.5 rpg and was the only senior on last year's young squad.





Walker, a 6-1 forward/center, registered career highs of 21 points - 18 coming in the second half – and a career-high six assists in the NCAA game against St. John’s. A native of Modesto, Calif., Walker ranked first in the Pac-10 with 51 blocks (fifth all-time in Cal history) and led the league in rebounding in Pac-10 games at 8.7 rpg.

“Ashley is listed at 6-1, but she plays much bigger and continues to improve,” Boyle said. “She and Devanei (Hampton) are a great post combination, and they complement each other really well. Ashley has more of that high-post game and is very deceptive. She’s guard-like for a four in some ways. She can handle it. Her confidence grew over the summer with USA Basketball.”

Junior Krista Foster (6-0), sophomore Shantrell Sneed (6-0) and freshman Rama N’diaye (6-5) will contend for time at small forward. Foster, who saw most of her action in the post last season, played in

all 30 games and made eight starts. In a career-high 38 minutes of playing time, Foster posted six points and six rebounds against St. John’s and recorded career highs of 13 points and seven rebounds in the win at Arizona last year.

Sneed, who also played in the post in 2005-06, battled a variety of injuries last season and is eager to make larger contributions this year. As a rookie, she tallied a career-high nine points, three rebounds and a block in the Bears’ first win in Tucson over the Wildcats since 1993.

N’diaye, who hails from Dakar, Senegal, but attended high school in Japan, is capable of playing the three, four or five spots on the court for Cal.

“In the spring, we worked with Krista and Trel on their guard skills,” Boyle said. “We had them do guard workouts instead of post

workouts. Rama can also have an impact for us on the wing. We need somebody to move out and face the basket and be a threat for us with Renee leaving.”

#### **CENTERS**

Devanei Hampton, a 6-3 sophomore forward/center from Oakland, Calif., has emerged as one of the most dominant post players in the country. She enters this season as a preseason high honorable mention All-America selection, according to *Street & Smith*.

As a freshman, Hampton averaged 15.4 ppg – seventh overall in the Pac-10 – to become only the third freshman in Cal history to lead the team in scoring and the first since 1981-82. Over the summer, Hampton was named to the 12-player USA Under-20 National team.



"Devanei has shown unbelievable development in her maturity over the last year," Boyle said. "She has blossomed into someone who gets the opportunities that are in front of her. I am excited to see what the next three years at Cal hold for her."

Since joining the Bears for summer workouts, Rama N'diaye has gained 20 pounds of muscle and has proven to be a fast learner. As a senior at Keisei High School in Kumamoto, Japan, she averaged 20 points, 18 rebounds, six assists and seven blocks per game.

"Rama has done a great job adjusting to the rigors of academic and athletic life at Cal," Boyle said. "She is one of the most skilled post players I've ever seen. She's mobile, versatile, a shot-blocking threat and runs the floor well."

Walker is also an option for Boyle at the center spot. She effectively uses her quickness, athleticism and shot-blocking ability

Tip-off Classic with a match-up against Florida. The entire field consists of 2006 NCAA Tournament teams, as Pepperdine and Rutgers round out the group.

Cal's non-conference slate doesn't get any easier, as the Bears spend Thanksgiving Weekend at the Nov. 24-25 Vanderbilt Tournament, which includes WNIT participant Belmont and NCAA qualifiers Vanderbilt and Florida Atlantic.

After traveling most of November, Cal faces Harvard Dec. 2 on the opening day of the third-annual *Contra Costa Times* Classic. The tournament, which includes San Jose State and Arkansas State, wraps up Dec. 3. Cal then battles two WNIT participants – Fresno State Dec. 7 at home and Kansas Dec. 10 on the road.

Cal tips off conference play at UCLA Dec. 20 and at USC Dec. 22. The Bears close out 2006 as host to Arizona State Dec. 28 and

#### CAL'S TOP RETURNERS BY CATEGORY

Category	Leader	Avg./Percentage
Scoring	Devanei Hampton	15.4 ppg
Rebounding	Devanei Hampton	7.9 rpg
Steals	Ashley Walker	1.5 spg
Assists	Alexis Gray-Lawson	2.7 apg
Blocks	Ashley Walker	1.70 bpg
FG%	Ashley Walker	49.5%
3-FG%	Alexis Gray-Lawson	38.9%
FT%	Ashley Walker	68.0%
Minutes Played	Alexis Gray-Lawson	36.4 mpg



when she plays in the post.

Senior Emmelie Geraedts provides depth at forward and center for Cal. Geraedts, a 6-2 player from Weert, The Netherlands, gained additional experience training with the Dutch National team over the summer. Geraedts has seen action in 46 games off the bench during her career and shot a career-high 53.1 percent from the floor as a sophomore.

#### THE SCHEDULE

Cal's 2006-07 schedule features 11 teams that competed in the 2006 NCAA Tournament and four WNIT selections.

The Bears open the regular season at home against Saint Mary's Nov. 12 before playing their next four games on the road. After the contest against the Gaels, Cal begins the Nov. 17-18 Pepperdine

Arizona Dec. 30 and ring in 2007 against non-conference opponent Rhode Island Jan. 2. UC Riverside, a 2006 NCAA selection, travels to Berkeley Jan. 31. The regular season wraps up Feb. 24 against UCLA in Berkeley.

Stanford, USC, UCLA, Arizona State and Washington joined Cal as Pac-10 representatives at the 2006 NCAA Tournament, marking the first time the conference received six NCAA bids. The sixth-annual Pac-10 Tournament will be staged March 2-5 at the HP Pavilion in San Jose, Calif.

#### ESPN.COM TOP 25 PRESEASON POLL

1.	Maryland	14.	Washington
2.	Oklahoma	15.	USC
3.	Stanford	16.	Arizona State
4.	North Carolina	17.	Michigan State
5.	Ohio State	18.	Vanderbilt
6.	Duke	19.	LSU
7.	Tennessee	20.	Rutgers
8.	Georgia	21.	TCU
9.	Purdue	22.	George Washington
10.	Connecticut	23.	Old Dominion
11.	Kentucky	24.	Bowling Green
12.	<b>California</b>	25.	Louisville
13.	Texas A&M		





I guess everyone is influenced by where they come from. But for me, it's stronger than that.

I am who I am, and what I am, because of the people around me.

My Granny, my God-Dad Pico, my Mom - they've all sacrificed to get me to where I am. They've inspired me to do more. They've always been there for me, through everything.

It's my little sisters that motivate me. Every sprint I run, every weight I lift, every post move I make, it's to take care of them someday.

And you know what? I've found myself in the process.

Being at Cal is the best thing that's ever happened to me.

As I continue to reach new heights, I'll always have my eyes on my roots.

**My name is Devanei Hampton,  
and I play basketball for Cal.**



## Interesting Facts

### about ALEXIS...

- Preseason All-America selection by *Street & Smith*
- 2005-06 Pac-10 Freshman of the Year and USA Under-20 National team finalist
- One of nine children – her sister, Vanessa, is a freshman at Cal this year
- First women's basketball player at her high school to have her jersey retired

### about SHANTRELL...

- Played her final game in high school with a torn laborum and rotator cuff, but still scored 37 points and 22 rebounds
- One of five players who comprised Cal's seventh-ranked recruiting class in 2004-05
- Writes poetry and is known as one of the funniest players on the team
- First in her family to attend a four-year college

### about ASHLEY...

- Pac-10 All-Freshman pick after leading the Pac-10 with 51 blocks
- USA Under-20 National team finalist
- Brother plays basketball for the Newcastle Eagles in England

### about NATASHA...

- Ranked No. 55 nationally by Blue Star Index
- *Street & Smith* All-America choice after averaging 21 points and six assists as a senior at Lincoln High School
- Hobbies include listening to music, writing and poetry

### about RAMA...

- Hails from Senegal but attended school in Japan
- Averaged 20 points, 18 rebounds, six assists and seven blocks per game last year at Keisei High School
- Speaks four languages – Wolof (language in Senegal), Japanese, French and English





**about EMMELIE...**

- Member of the Dutch National team
- Joins Keanna Levy as the only seniors on this year's Cal squad
- Had a chicken as a pet when she was younger

**about KELLY...**

- Set Mullen High School's career three-pointers record (226)
- Hoping to explore Hollywood this summer by interning on a movie set
- Plans to read 19 novels this semester in three English classes

**about KRISTA...**

- Started eight games last season, including seeing a career-high 38 minutes vs. St. John's in the NCAA Tournament
- Star water polo player in high school
- Hobbies include watching movies and collecting butterflies

**about KEANNA...**

- 2005-06 Cal Most Improved Player
- Had breakout game vs. St. John's in the 2006 NCAA Tournament
- Will be the first person in her family to graduate with a college degree

**about LAUREN...**

- Led the state of Oregon in scoring (22.9 ppg) as a senior at Lincoln High School
- Star golfer in high school with an 8 handicap
- Is Jewish but her family operates a Christmas tree farm

**about DEVANEI...**

- Preseason All-America selection by Street & Smith
- Member of the U.S. Under-20 National team and a first-team All-Pac-10 selection
- Aspires to be a role model for her younger siblings and children in Oakland



Have you ever dreamed about that moment?

That moment on the court where time stands still. Where the outside world seems a million miles away. Where it's just you and your teammates and the ball and opportunity.

Oh, there's a lot that comes before that moment. There are the playground games growing up with your dad and your brothers and your cousin. The games where they play physical and knock you down and never let you win. But it gets you ready for this.

Other stuff comes before the moment, too. Hard work, patience, frustration, growth. It's all part of the preparation. But you keep dreaming about the moment.

And then it comes. And your name is called. And it's the NCAA Tournament. And you are ready.

You're not nervous because it is your time, and you forget about everything and you just play.

That was my moment. I'm going to take it, and build on it, and hopefully, there are better things to come. But I certainly will never forget it.

My name is Keanna Leavy, and I play basketball for Cal.





## USA Basketball

**USA** Basketball is the national organization designed to develop the best talent across the country. Every summer, players are invited, tryouts are held, and teams are selected to compete in world tournaments. USA Basketball not only provides enriching experiences for those who participate, but it also prepares them for the World Championships and the Olympics.

Alexis-Gray Lawson, Ashley Walker, Devanei Hampton and coach Joanne Boyle were selected by USA Basketball this past summer. All three players made it to the final cut, while Hampton was ultimately selected to the travelling team. Boyle and Hampton travelled to Mexico City, Mexico, to compete in the FIBA Americas Under-20 World Championships. The USA won the gold medal. They comment on their experience...

"My overall experience was great. I got to meet new people, who are now lifetime friends I talk to on a daily basis. It was tough not being able to play after getting injured, but I cheered them on and had fun.

"It caught me off guard (that I made the team). It was a total shock but a great achievement. It was another stepping stone for me, as it was one of my goals to make the team."

-Devanei Hampton

"One of my most memorable moments had to be back at the trials in May when they picked three Cal players (Alexis Gray-Lawson, Devanei Hampton and Ashley Walker). I think Lexi was picked first. I don't think I heard anyone else's name throughout the whole thing. Having three of our four kids make it said a lot

about their growth within our program and their individual development.

"The thing that impressed me with Devanei was that every time she walked on the court, whether she played well or didn't play well, she was working as hard as she possibly could. I never could say to her after practice that she had to work harder. She was consistent with how she approached practice. We were having two-a-days. Going against Erlana Larkins and Courtney Paris all of the time, she started to feel like she was right there with those players. Then she got hurt, but she realized what an opportunity she had and might continue to have."

-Joanne Boyle





## Selection Monday *March 13, 2006*

**Assistant coach Lindsay Gottlieb describes the evening of Monday, March 13, 2006. It was 4 p.m. in the Cal basketball locker room, and the team was watching ESPN's broadcast of the NCAA Tournament selection show, known as "Selection Monday."**

**T**he clock creeps closer to midnight, yet the adrenaline rushing through my veins turns its nose up at the time, and just keeps on pumping. I finally begin to accept the realization that sleep isn't coming anytime soon, and so I get out my pen and paper.

You see, today was not one of those days that you merely live through, check off on your calendar, and then move on to the next. Oh no, not at all. Rather, it was one of those days that reaches out and grabs you. It swoops you up and spins you around in its

grip, and has such a profound effect on you that you lay awake at midnight, heart pounding, adrenaline pumping, nowhere close to sleep.

Today was a day to be captured. And so I will write: partly to savor every detail that is etched brilliantly in my mind, and partly to ensure that the moment is forever woven into the fabric of Cal athletics. Today was Selection Monday.

Our journey with this young team began way back in August. It started with a collective dedication to a new identity for Cal Women's Basketball. We set out to achieve a new standard of excellence, and following through on that has been anything but easy. You see, aiming to get somewhere that no team member has ever been can be

daunting. Besides, not much that is worth achieving is ever effortless. It has been in the struggle to reach new heights, in the growth process, in the journey itself, that the most rewards have come.

We've seen this group play with a fearlessness that belied its age. We've seen them go toe-to-toe with their more experienced Pac-10 brethren and come out on top more times than can be called a fluke. We've also seen them stumble at times, at the hands of fatigue or inexperience. We've taken some hits, but never failed to get up and get after it again. The ride has been fast, it's been furious, and it's been full of twists and turns. That's what you get with a young team that is striving for greatness but is unwilling to wait for it to happen at a later date; it's the price you pay when you are determined to make greatness happen now.





UNIVERSITY PARK, PA - SUNDAY			
7	ST. JOHN'S	21-7	
10	CALIFORNIA	18-11	
UNIVERSITY PARK, PA - SUNDAY			
2	MARYLAND	28-4	
15	SACRED HEART	26-4	
HL	CANUCKS	21	STARS

*I should have known that Selection Monday would be a day to remember.*

*The pundits and prognosticators sum it up in two words: "The Bubble." Yes, we entered today balancing gingerly on the NCAA Tournament's proverbial bubble. The waiting and build up throughout the day was almost too much to take. When we finally gathered in our locker room to find out, together, if we would be invited to participate in the world's greatest sporting event, the NCAA Tournament, the tension was palpable. There's not much that can bring our normally gregarious group to near silence, but throughout the first 50 minutes of the hour-long selection show, the room was so quiet that I could actually hear my own heart beating in my chest.*

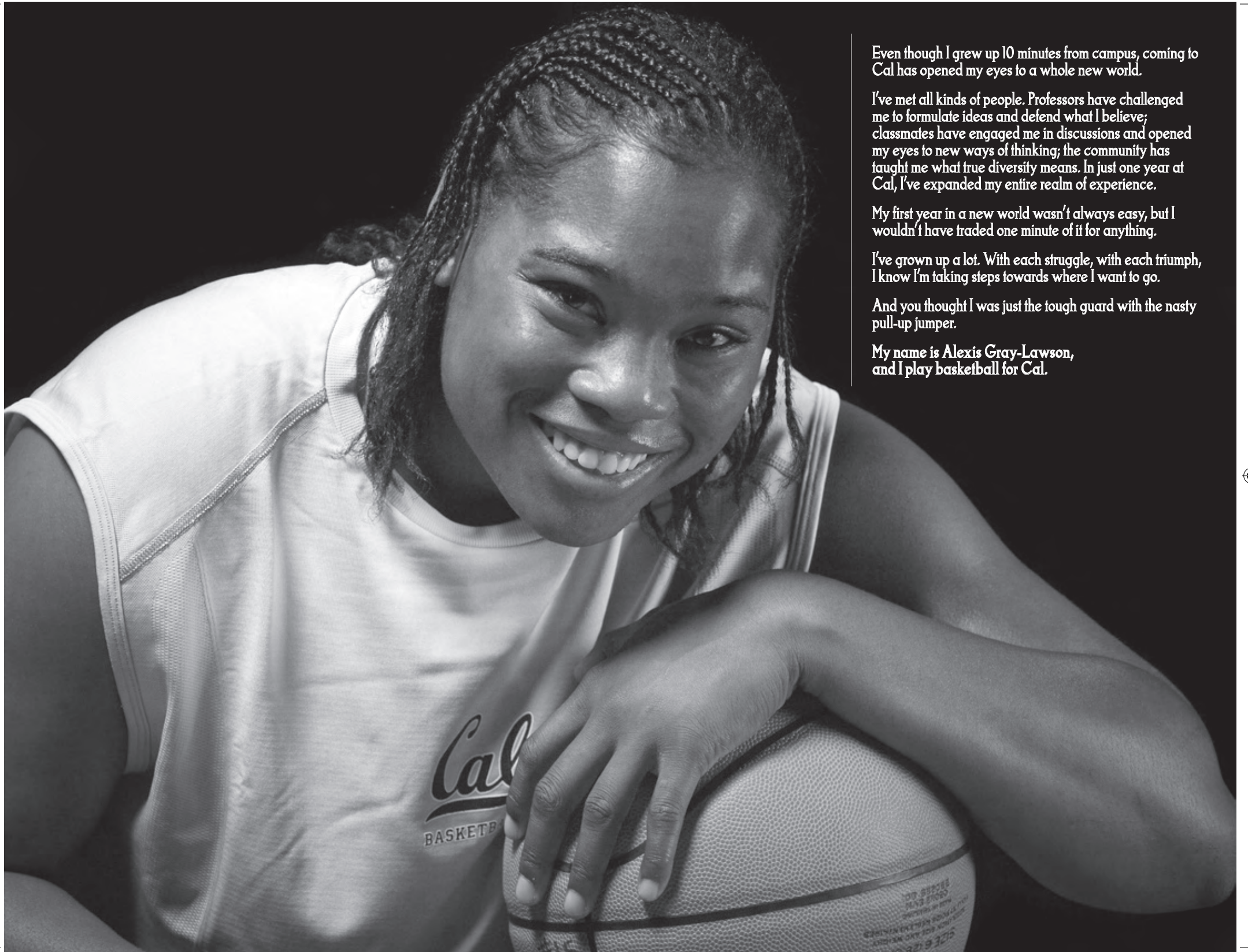
*What I realized in that room as the anticipation built was this: **here we are.** No media, no fans, no doubters. Just the core group of coaches, players and staff. The ones who have believed all along. Just a group of people who made a commitment to each other, and to themselves, to change the legacy of Cal Basketball. The ones who embarked on a long journey, together.*

*And then, when there were only a few teams left to announce, just as the outlook was becoming bleak... "CALIFORNIA" appeared on the big screen in front of us. Mayhem broke out in the room. Absolute mayhem. I hugged Renee who grabbed Krista who was jumping up and down with Ash and Dev. Lexi sat in shock while Joanne screamed and Sarah Pool cried. All I could hear was the sound of sheer joy, the reverberation of unmitigated excitement.*

*When I close my eyes, I can still hear that sound.*

*If things go according to plan, we won't be in this position – on the bubble – in the years to come. No, the nerves on future Selection Mondays will not be about whether or not we are in, but about what seed we will be and who we will play. Our dreams are of greatness: high seeds and Final Fours and championships. The goals are lofty, and our future is bright. But no matter what may lie ahead, I can't imagine anything feeling so fulfilling as what I felt today. It was a moment that you never let go of, you never forget. It is now a part of us all.*





Even though I grew up 10 minutes from campus, coming to Cal has opened my eyes to a whole new world.

I've met all kinds of people. Professors have challenged me to formulate ideas and defend what I believe; classmates have engaged me in discussions and opened my eyes to new ways of thinking; the community has taught me what true diversity means. In just one year at Cal, I've expanded my entire realm of experience.

My first year in a new world wasn't always easy, but I wouldn't have traded one minute of it for anything.

I've grown up a lot. With each struggle, with each triumph, I know I'm taking steps towards where I want to go.

And you thought I was just the tough guard with the nasty pull-up jumper.

My name is Alexis Gray-Lawson,  
and I play basketball for Cal.