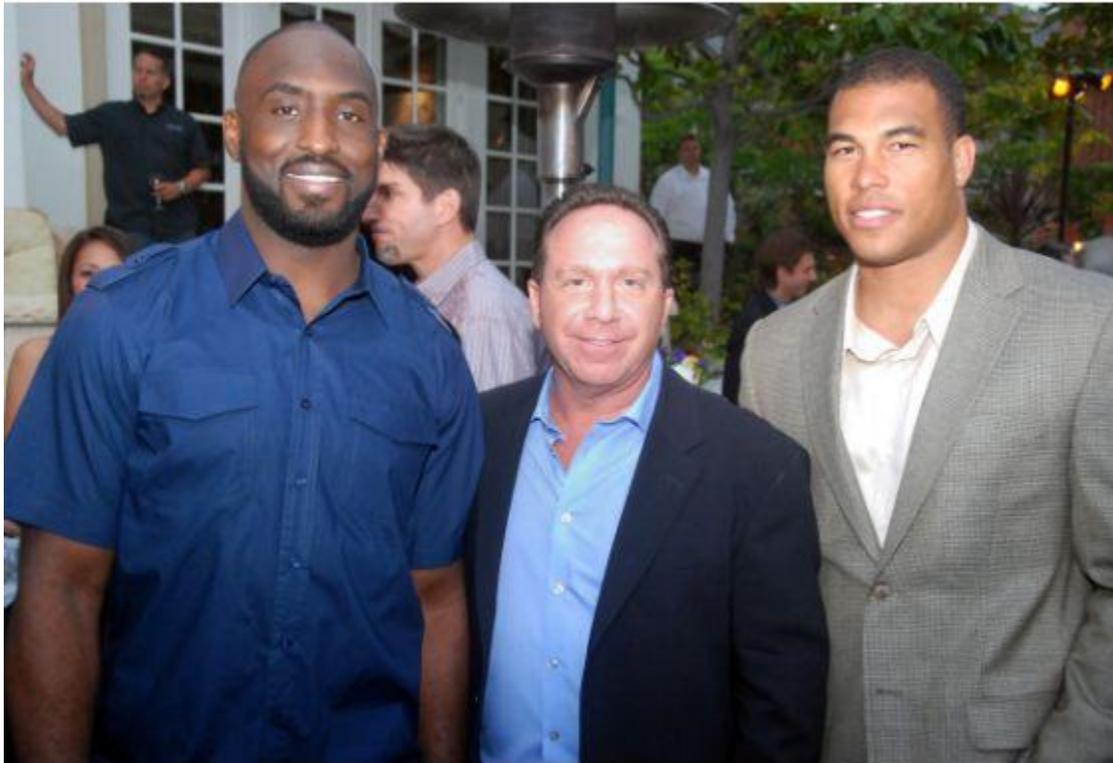


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UCLA Alums and Sports Stars Join Forces in Support of Wooden Athletic Fund



Former NFL Running Back DeShaun Foster, event host Barry Saywitz and NFL Cornerback Jason Bell joined more than 300 people from all over Southern California in support of UCLA's 2012 Orange County Bruin Bash at Saywitz's estate in Newport Beach on Saturday, June 2. The VIP event raised more than \$54,000 for the Wood Athletic Fund, which generates financial support to assist more than 700 student-athletes.

DANNY HARRINGTON

By Lynn Selich, Special to The Orange County Register

More than 300 UCLA alums and friends from all over Southern California attended the 2012 UCLA Orange County Bruin Bash held on Saturday, June 2 at the beautiful Belcourt Estate of alumnus **Barry Saywitz**.

The VIP event raised more than \$54,000 for the Wooden Athletic Fund, which generates financial support to assist more than 700 student-athletes.

When asked how he became the host of the annual Bruin Bash, Saywitz said, "I became involved with the UCLA Orange County Wooden Athletic Fund event three years ago when I agreed to host the fundraiser at my home. In the past, the event was held at hotels and other public venues, which was extremely cost prohibitive."

He continued, "The goal of this event is to raise awareness for UCLA, its athletic department and their athletic programs at the university. Since hosting at my home, the amount of funds that were raised have increased significantly and the awareness of the event has created a following here in Orange County."

Special guests included an impressive lineup of UCLA leadership including head men's basketball coach, **Ben Howland**, as well as head women's basketball coach **Cori Close**, head women's golf coach **Carrie Forsythe**, and defensive coordinator **Lou Spanos**. Also in attendance were UCLA legends **Toby Bailey**, **Tyus Edney**, **Keith Erickson**, **DeShaun Foster**, **Lisa** and **Phillip Hadfield**, **Rafer Johnson**, **Andre McCarter**, **Tasha Schwikert**, **Sinjin Smith**, **Nellie Spicer**, **Mike Roll**, **Kiki Vandeweghe** and **Jamaal Wilkes**.

Saywitz's back yard was transformed in to an impressive UCLA-themed playground complete with a huge silent auction featuring rare and collectible sport memorabilia, open bar, dinner, live music and dancing.

Event sponsors included The Saywitz Company, Beach Pit BBQ, Miguel's Jr, Fletcher Jones, Capital Grille, Blue Ice Vodka, Tatratea Liquor, Anheuser-Busch, Enterprise Rent-A-Car and Farmers Insurance.

The Wooden Athletic Fund is dedicated to honoring the lasting educational and athletic legacy of Nell and John Wooden. Together, members of the Wooden Athletic Fund team provide invaluable support for all 700 UCLA student-athletes, providing a positive impact on their ability to succeed in the classroom, in competition and in the community.

With the UCLA Athletic department growing every year, we're looking forward to seeing what Saywitz comes up with for next year's Bruin Bash!

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