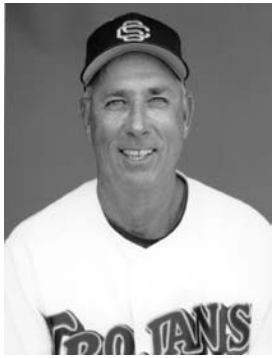


Coaches

Mike Gillespie

Head Coach Mike Gillespie



Mike Gillespie, one of the nation's top baseball coaches, is in very select company. By leading USC to the 1998 College World Series championship, he became one of only two people to both play for and coach an NCAA championship baseball team. The head coach at Troy was also the leftfielder on USC's NCAA title-winning team in 1961.

Now entering his 19th year, Gillespie has left an indelible mark on the USC baseball program with a career record of 697-416-2 (.626). His emphasis on education and conduct on and off the field have produced a number of quality baseball players as attested by 22 former Trojans who have

played in the major leagues.

When Gillespie took over at USC in 1987, he inherited a Trojan baseball program that had made just one postseason appearance in eight years. Since then, he has led USC to playoff spots in 14 of his 18 seasons, including the Trojans' record-setting 12th national title in 1998. In 2001, Gillespie guided Troy to the College World Series for the fourth time in seven years, including back-to-back appearances for the first time since 1973 and 1974.

His teams have also won five Pacific-10 titles (three Southern Division titles in 1991, 1995 and 1996 and two outright titles in 2001 and 2002 after

the conference went to its current nine-team alignment in 1999). The 1995 team made USC's first trip to the College World Series in 17 years (where the Trojans finished as the nation's runner-up).

In the summer of 2000, Gillespie served as the head coach of the 2000 USA Baseball National Team, made up of collegiate players. Gillespie guided the team to a 27-3-1 record, posting the highest winning percentage (.900) in history until the mark was surpassed by the 2003 team. The team reeled off a 21-game unbeaten streak at the end of the season, including the Haarlem Honkbal Week championship in the Netherlands. The team garnered the championship with an 8-5 win against Cuba. For his efforts, he was nominated by the United States Olympic Committee as the baseball coach of the year.

Previously, Gillespie was an assistant coach on the 1997 USA team.

Gillespie was named the 1998 National Coach of the Year (by both Collegiate Baseball and the American Baseball Coaches Association), the Pac-10 Coach of the Year four times (1991-1995-1996-2002) and the West Region Coach of the Year twice (1996 and 1998) by the American Baseball Coaches Association.

In 1998, the Trojans won their first national championship in 20 years. After losing their opener at the College World Series, they won five games in six days, including the title game against Arizona State, 21-14. Overall, the Trojans went 49-17 and placed second in the Pac-10 with a mark of 21-9.

The national championship was an exclamation point on an outstanding run at USC for Gillespie. The Trojans went 20-5 to finish the season.

The Gillespie File

- **1998 National Champions**
- **5 Pacific-10 Titles**
- **14 NCAA Regional appearances**
- **4 College World Series appearances**
- **1995 College World Series finalist**
- **1998 National Coach of the Year**
- **2000 USA National Team Head Coach**
- **4-Time Pacific-10 Coach of the Year**
- **2-Time West Region Coach of the Year**
- **42 All-American selections**
- **16 Freshman All-American selections**
- **28 All-Region selections**
- **9 Pacific-10 Players/Pitchers of the Year**
- **65 All-Pacific-10 First Team selections**
- **10 All-College World Series Picks**
- **3 All-Academic Honorees**
- **22 Major Leaguers**
- **1 Cy Young Award winner**
- **10 Major League All-Stars**
- **89 players drafted professionally**



Head Coach Mike Gillespie

USC has shown steady improvement since Gillespie took over for the legendary Raoul "Rod" Dedeaux (the nation's premier college baseball coach, who won 1,332 games and 11 national championships in 45 years as the Trojan head coach). He turned what was expected to be a weak transition season into one full of surprising successes. USC opened the 1987 season 11-4 before taking the conference by surprise, sweeping Arizona State in a three-game league-opening series. By the midway point of the season, the Trojans had an impressive 21-9 record and finished a respectable 32-28 overall (12-18 in league).

The 1988 season — Gillespie's second at USC — began in record-setting fashion, as the Trojans set a new school standard for best start (15-0, topping the old mark of 14-0 set by the 1943 team) and finished 36-26 (13-17 for fourth place in league). Troy finished one game away from the College World Series, losing the final two games of the West Regional to host Fresno State.

The 1989 season was another successful one for USC (41-25 overall, 16-14 in league play for third place). The Trojans had a disappointingly brief trip to the Midwest Regional in Austin, Texas, losing the first two playoff games.

The 1990 Trojans went 40-22 overall (18-12 in league play for third place) and finished No. 6 in the final rankings. The Trojans narrowly missed the College World Series, losing the final two games at the NCAA South I Regional to host LSU.

Gillespie led the 1991 team to an impressive 46-17-1 overall record and was honored as the 1991 Pac-10 Coach of the Year. USC went 23-7 in the difficult Pac-10 Southern Division and won its first conference title since the Southern Division was formed in 1979. The Trojans, who hosted the 1991 West I Regional playoffs at Dedeaux Field, also posted a remarkable 31-6 record at home (14-1 in conference games at home).

The 1992 Trojans went 28-26 overall and 13-17 in the Pac-10 for sixth place.

In 1993, Gillespie led the Trojans to a 35-29 mark (15-15 in league) and the Trojans reached the finals of the Central II Regional in Austin, Texas, losing to host Texas in the finale.

In 1994, Troy went 41-20 overall and 19-11 in league play for third place. USC reached the final game of the South I Regional in Baton Rouge, La., losing a wild 12-10 contest to host LSU.

The 1995 season was a banner year for the Trojans, who went 49-21 overall and 21-9 in league play. USC won the Pac-10 Southern Division title and then defeated Washington State twice to win the league's automatic bid. Troy emerged as the College World Series representative from the West Regional in Fresno (deemed by some as the toughest regional in the nation) and reached the CWS finals (losing to Cal State Fullerton, 11-5).

USC had a fine season in 1996, posting a 44-16-1 overall mark and 24-6 conference record for first place. The 1996 Trojans won a second consecutive league crown after defeating Washington in two of three games in the league championship series and then reached the finals of the Central II Regional at Lubbock, Texas, losing to Oklahoma State in the finale.

The 1997 Trojans, who went 42-20 overall and 17-13 in league play for third place, reached the finals of the South II Regional (losing to host and eventual College World Series finalist Alabama).

In 1999, the first year of the expanded NCAA Tournament, the Trojans won their own four-team regional, but fell just short of the College World Series when they then lost to Stanford in the Super Regionals. USC overcame numerous early-season injuries and close losses to post a 36-26 overall record and a second-place Pac-10 finish at 17-7.

The 2000 team used a 16-game winning streak at the end of the season and wins on the road at the Regional (Cal State Fullerton) and Super Regional (Georgia Tech) to make it to the College World Series and the 2001 squad made it to the CWS for the third time in four years with a 45-19 record and the Pac-10 championship with an 18-6 record.

Despite injuries that decimated the pitching staff, the 2002 version of



Gillespie's Record at USC

YEAR	OVERALL				PAC-10			FINISH
	W	L	T	PCT.	W	L	PCT.	
1987	32	28	0	.533	12	18	.400	T-5th
1988	36	26	0	.581	13	17	.433	4th
1989	41	25	0	.621	16	14	.533	3rd
1990	40	22	0	.645	18	12	.600	3rd
1991	46	17	1	.727	23	7	.767	1st
1992	28	26	0	.519	13	17	.433	6th
1993	35	29	0	.547	15	15	.500	4th
1994	41	20	0	.672	19	11	.633	3rd
1995	49	21	0	.700	21	9	.700	1st
1996	44	16	1	.730	24	6	.800	1st
1997	42	20	0	.677	17	13	.567	3rd
1998	49	17	0	.742	21	9	.700	2nd
1999	36	26	0	.581	17	7	.708	2nd
2000	44	20	0	.688	16	8	.667	4th
2001	45	19	0	.703	18	6	.750	1st
2002	37	24	0	.607	17	7	.708	1st
2003	28	28	0	.500	11	13	.458	T-5th
2004	24	32	0	.429	10	14	.417	T-6th
TOTALS	697	416	2	.626	301	203	.597	(18 years)

Gillespie's Victory Milestones

- No. 100**
vs. Stanford (10-4) — April 16, 1989
- No. 200**
vs. Portland (3-0) — Feb. 21, 1992
- No. 300**
vs. Washington St. (8-0) — Feb. 2, 1995
- No. 400**
vs. UCSB (11-8) — Feb. 11, 1997
- No. 500**
vs. SDSU (13-0) — March 30, 1999
- No. 600**
vs. Long Beach St. (10-2) — May 15, 2001



Head Coach Mike Gillespie

Major Leaguers Who Have Played At USC Under Mike Gillespie



Gabe Alvarez



Bret Barberie



Aaron Boone



Bret Boone



Damon Buford



Jeff Cirillo



Brian Cooper



Morgan Ensberg



Seth Etherton



Randy Flores



Bobby Hughes



Geoff Jenkins



Jacque Jones



Jason Lane



Justin Lehr



Chad Moeller



Eric Munson



Mark Prior



Mike Robertson



Mark Smith



Steve Smyth



Barry Zito

the Trojans still rallied to earn a 37-24 mark and won their second straight Pac-10 championship with a 17-7 finish. Injuries once again played a factor with the pitching staff with the 2003 team that finished 28-28 overall and 11-13 (tied for fifth) in the Pac-10 as the Trojans saw their streak of 10 straight appearances in the NCAA Tournament snapped.

The Trojans suffered their first losing season in 18 years with a 24-32 mark during the 2004 season.

Gillespie came to USC from College of the Canyons (a community college located in Valencia, Calif., north of the San Fernando Valley) where he started from scratch and developed the baseball program into a dynasty of Dedeaux-like proportions. For example:

- In his 16 years (1971-86) at Canyons, Gillespie compiled an impressive 418-165 record, a .717 winning percentage.

- He won 11 Mountain Valley Conference championships, including six in a row (1981-86). In his last six years, he won three state championships and finished as the California runner-up twice. No other California community college coach has made it to five finals in a six-year span.

- Gillespie's teams also finished with 20 or more wins in 13 of his 16 years at Canyons and he had six 30-plus win seasons. His final squad picked up 41 wins in 1986, the most ever by a California community college at that time.

- Gillespie, who also served as Canyon's athletic director from 1977-86 and taught English, physical education and health education, was named California Community College Co-Coach of the Year three times (1981-83-86).

- He was inducted into the California Community College Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1993.

Gillespie's involvement with successful teams goes back to his prep days at Hawthorne (Calif.) High, where he was an All-CIF baseball and football player. He went on to play both infield and outfield at USC while lettering three years (1960-62) under Dedeaux. The 1961 Trojan team won the national championship and the 1960 team finished as the NCAA runner-up. In fact, Gillespie is only one of two people (Arizona's Jerry Kindall) to play on and coach a national championship team.

A physical education major, Gillespie earned both bachelor's (1962) and master's (1963) degrees from USC before becoming the freshman baseball coach at Palos Verdes (Calif.) High for one season (1964). He then took over as varsity baseball coach at Rolling Hills (Calif.) High, where his teams won three league championships in his six years there (1965-70). Mike was also an assistant varsity football coach at Rolling Hills until moving on to College of the Canyons.

For three summers (1983-85), Gillespie managed the North Pole Nicks in the Alaska Semipro League, earning 1984 Alaska League Manager of the Year honors. His 1985 team won the league championship and finished second out of 34 teams in the National Baseball Congress World Series.

Gillespie is married (Barbara, his wife, is also a USC alumnus) and has four children — Kelly Kreuter (whose husband, Chad, was a catcher for the Anaheim Angels, Chicago White Sox, Detroit Tigers, Kansas City Royals, Seattle Mariners, Los Angeles Dodgers and Texas Rangers), Mitch, Matt and Tiffany — and two grandchildren (Cade and Cole).

"With the steady success of this program, our expectations are that we should never have a down year. I'm disappointed if in any year, we are saying 'not this year' with the team and that we are going to have to scratch and claw. We are a program that should compete with the best every year which means you are competing for the conference championship. I believe if you win the Pac-10 Conference, you are a national championship contender. There is an extraordinarily high level of expectations on the staff's part and this program should have a top product every year."

—Mike Gillespie





Head Coach Mike Gillespie

Gillespie's Record vs. Pac-10 Opponents at USC

Arizona	57-33
Arizona State	53-38
California	64-26
Oregon State	16-5
Stanford	39-72
UCLA	68-40
Washington	11-10
Washington State	19-3



Penn State.....	2-0
Pepperdine.....	30-13-1
Portland.....	3-0
Portland State.....	1-1
San Francisco.....	1-0
San Diego.....	9-3
San Diego State.....	15-8-1
Santa Clara.....	1-0
South Alabama.....	8-2
South Florida.....	1-0
Southern Mississippi.....	2-0
Southwest Louisiana.....	1-0
Tennessee.....	0-1
Texas.....	1-8
Texas A&M.....	2-0
TCU.....	1-0
Texas Tech.....	4-3
Troy State.....	1-0
Tulane.....	3-2
UC Irvine.....	11-6
UC Riverside.....	7-4
UC Santa Barbara.....	28-6
UNC Greensboro.....	2-0
UNLV.....	1-0
USIU.....	5-0
Virginia Commonwealth.....	1-1
Virginia Tech.....	2-1
Western Michigan.....	0-1
Westmont.....	2-1

Nonconference Records

Akron.....	2-1	Grand Canyon.....	4-0
Alabama.....	0-1	Hartford.....	1-0
Arkansas.....	1-0	Hawaii-Hilo.....	5-1
Azusa Pacific.....	1-0	Hawaii Pacific.....	2-0
Baylor.....	0-6	Houston.....	5-4
BYU.....	3-0	Kansas State.....	2-0
Cal Lutheran.....	3-1	Kentucky.....	1-0
Cal Poly Pomona.....	3-1	Long Beach State.....	31-20
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.....	2-0	Louisville.....	3-0
Cal State Dominguez Hills.....	5-1	Loyola Marymount.....	26-11
Cal State Fullerton.....	23-21	LSU.....	3-7
Cal State Los Angeles.....	8-0	Miami (Fla.).....	3-2
Cal State Northridge.....	15-10	Michigan.....	1-0
Central Florida.....	1-0	Middle Tennessee State.....	2-0
Chapman.....	5-3	Minnesota.....	0-1
Citadel.....	1-0	Mississippi.....	1-0
Clemson.....	2-0	Mississippi State.....	5-1
Creighton.....	1-1	Nebraska.....	0-1
Florida.....	2-0	Nevada.....	1-2
Florida International.....	2-0	New Orleans.....	1-1
Florida State.....	3-1	North Carolina.....	5-0
Fordham.....	1-0	North Carolina State.....	2-2
Fresno State.....	10-8	Notre Dame.....	1-2
Georgia.....	1-0	Ohio State.....	2-2
Georgia Tech.....	4-0	Oklahoma.....	2-1
Gonzaga.....	2-1	Oklahoma State.....	1-2
		Oral Roberts.....	1-0
		Pacific.....	1-0



Assistant Coaches



Dave Lawn

Dave Lawn begins his fifth season at USC and serves as the recruiting coordinator and pitching coach for the Trojans.

Lawn, 41, was instrumental in his first season at USC with the outstanding performance by National Player of the Year Mark Prior and the rest of the pitching staff. Prior set a school and Pac-10 Conference record with 202 strikeouts for the season. The pitching staff also set a school record and tied a Pac-10 record with 605 strikeouts. The staff's 3.46 ERA was the lowest at USC since 1978 (2.63).

Along with Prior, he also coached All-American Rik Currier and Anthony Reyes, a member of the 2000 and 2001 USA National Team.

Lawn served in similar duties as assistant coach for 10 years at California prior to his tenure with USC. He was instrumental with recruiting classes that were ranked in the Top 30 nationally from 1991 to 1998, including 1998 National Freshman of the Year Xavier Nady, a 2000 first round draft pick and member of the 2000 USA National Team. He also coached Brian Oliver, who was the first-ever Freshman All-American in school history in 1996. At California, 28 players signed professional contracts as Lawn coached seven All-Americans, 10 All-Pac-10 and seven All-Pac-10 All-Academic players.



Seven players that Lawn recruited or coached have gone on to play in the major leagues.

In the summer of 2000, Lawn served as manager for the Brewster Whitecaps of the Cape Cod League. The Whitecaps won the league championship and set the franchise record with 28 wins during the regular season.

In his first season at California, Lawn was part of a staff that led the team to the 1991 NCAA Midwest Regional final. The following year, the Bears won the East Regional championship and advanced to the 1992 College World Series. In 1995, the Bears again earned a berth to the NCAA Tournament and recorded a school-record 18 wins in Pac-10 play.

Prior to his stint at California, Lawn was the pitching coach and top recruiter at Nevada for two seasons (1989-90) as the Wolf Pack recorded back-to-back 30-win seasons. He was also the pitching coach at Contra Costa College in 1987 and 1988. Contra Costa won back-to-back Bay Valley Conference championships and played in the 1987 state tournament.

He graduated from San Francisco State in 1986 and pitched one year at UC Santa Barbara before suffering a career-ending arm injury. He was the team captain of the 1986 team at UCSB that won the Pacific Coast Athletic Association championship. He was also drafted twice professionally in 1984 by the Minnesota Twins in the second round and by the Texas Rangers in the third round of the secondary draft.

Lawn and his wife, Stacey, have three children: Mackenzie (15), Michael (10) and Matthew (8).



Andy Nieto

Andy Nieto, who serves as Troy's hitting coach, is starting his ninth season at USC.

Along with John Savage and Rob Klein, he was named one of the Assistant Coaches of the Year by Collegiate Baseball in 1998.

Nieto, 39, served as the head baseball coach at Glendale (Calif.) Community College in 1996. He was the head assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for East Los Angeles (Calif.) Community College in 1995 and was the head baseball coach at Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High School in Montebello (Calif.) for four years (1991-94), where he posted a 62-35 career record and led the Cardinals to three consecutive Camino Real league championships (1991-93).

He also worked as an associate scout for the California Angels (1993-96) and regularly serves as an instructor at several Southern California youth baseball camps. In addition, he was coached the 714 Angels' team in the high school Area Code games in 1993 and 1994.

Nieto was a designated hitter-infielder for two seasons (1985-86) at Cal State Fullerton after starting at second base at Mt. San Antonio Community College in Walnut (Calif.) in 1984. He then played four seasons (1986-89) of professional baseball in the Chicago White Sox and Detroit Tigers organizations.

Following his professional career, Nieto earned his bachelor's degree in physical education from USC in 1991 and a master's degree from Azusa Pacific in 1996.

A 1982 graduate of Schurr High in Montebello, Nieto was a three-year infielder who earned 1982 All-CIF honors.

Andy and his wife, Judy, have a daughter, Samantha (4) and son, Andrew-Cody (born on Nov 4, 2004). His brother, Tony, was a pitcher-utility player at USC from 1991-94.



Assistant Coaches/Support Staff



Rob Klein

Rob Klein, who enters his 18th season assisting the Trojans, serves as Troy's first-base coach, assists with practice and game organization, handles team travel coordination and organizes USC's videotaping services.

Klein was a volunteer assistant coach for the Trojans for five seasons (1988-92), then returned in 1995 to USC after a two-year absence.

Along with John Savage and Andy Nieto, he was named one of the Assistant Coaches of the Year by Collegiate Baseball in 1998.

The 45-year-old Klein has been associated with USC head coach Mike Gillespie for the past 26 years. He played for Gillespie at College of the Canyons (1978-79) where he earned two-time All-Mountain Valley Conference honors as

a right-handed pitcher.

Following his playing career at Canyons, Klein signed with the California Angels and pitched one season for the Angels' Idaho Falls rookie-class team. He then returned to College of the Canyons, where he served as the team's pitching coach from 1982-84 (the 1983 team won the California junior college championship).

He has been a member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for the past 23 years. He currently serves as a training sergeant assigned to the custody division.

Klein and his wife, Charleen, have three children: Halie (11), Marlena (10) and Wesley (6).



Chad Kreuter

Chad Kreuter begins his first season as a director of baseball operations for the baseball program.

In a major league career that spanned 17 seasons, Kreuter played in a total of 944 games with a .237 career average, 54 home runs, 274 RBI and .990 fielding percentage. He started with the Texas Rangers in 1988 and later played with the Detroit Tigers, Seattle Mariners, Anaheim Angels, Chicago White Sox, Kansas City Royals and Los Angeles Dodgers.

His best season came in 1993 with Detroit, batting .286 (107-for-374) with 15 home runs and 51 RBI.

Kreuter is married to USC head coach Mike Gillespie's daughter, Kelly, with two sons, Cade (13) and Cole (9).



Paul Diaz
Baseball Athletic
Trainer

Paul Diaz begins his first season as athletic trainer for the baseball program. He started at USC in the fall of 2004 after four years (2000-2004) at Northwestern University, working primarily with the football program with oversight responsibilities of the men's and women's tennis teams and wrestling team. Prior to Northwestern, Diaz was a graduate assistant athletic trainer at San Jose State University for 2 years (1998-2000), working with the football program and a variety of other programs. He attended Cal Poly Pomona (1993-1998) where he served as a student athletic trainer and received his bachelor's degree in kinesiology.

Diaz is a native of southern California and currently resides in Redondo Beach, Calif.



Support Staff



John Henderson
Game Management

John Henderson enters his fifth year as assistant athletic director for operations and game management. Henderson coordinates game management for all baseball home games after spending three years (1997-99) as the department's director of operations.

He spent two years as assistant coach with the USC women's basketball team (1996-97) after a three-year stint at Pacific (1993-95).

Henderson earned a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1989 from San Diego State. He is also a current high school and junior college basketball referee.

He is married to Stacey and has one son, Jeremy (7), and one daughter, Kenna (3).



Jamie Yanchar
Strength and Conditioning

Jamie Yanchar is in his 14th year at USC and handles strength and conditioning for the baseball program. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Yanchar has worked with seven national championship teams at USC, including the 2003 and 2004 football squads. Along with his duties with football and baseball, he is the head strength and conditioning coach for the men's and women's tennis and women's volleyball programs.

Yanchar has an extensive professional background, serving as a consultant with the Los Angeles Lakers (1993-95) and Los Angeles Sparks (1998-99), as well as the strength and conditioning coordinator for the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim (1993-96). He worked as a part-time coach for the Los

Angeles Rams (1992-95), Louisville Icehawks (1990-91) and Cleveland Browns (1986-88).

He attended the University of Louisville, where he received a bachelor's degree in 1987 and a master's degree in 1989 while serving as a graduate assistant strength and conditioning coach.

Yanchar and his wife, Stephanie, have a son, Tjaden (3).



John Soldate
Academic Services

John Soldate begins his fifth year at USC as associate director of academic services, working with the baseball program.

Soldate, 30, earned his master's degree at Cal State Chico and worked at Butte Community College (1998-2000) as an assistant baseball and academic coach. He played baseball at Cal State Chico and was an All-American pitcher for the 1997 national championship squad.

The Santa Rosa, Calif., native also played two years professionally in the Western Baseball League.



Jason Pommier
Baseball Sports Information Director

Jason Pommier begins his sixth season with the USC baseball program as the sports information director. He also coordinates the play-by-play broadcasts on usctrojans.com., along with handling play-by-play duties on selected road games.

With his baseball duties, Pommier also handles media relations for the USC men's and women's water polo and women's soccer programs. He is in charge of statistics as well for the football team.

A graduate of Cal State Fullerton, Pommier spent nine years (1988-97) as a student assistant, serving as the sports information director at various times for the women's gymnastics and men's and women's soccer programs. He was the baseball sports information director from 1995-97, including the Titans' 1995 national championship season when the team went 57-9. Ironically, the 1995 Titans defeated USC, under head coach Mike Gillespie, to win the national title.

Pommier then served as a game night assistant with the Los Angeles Kings of the National Hockey League during the 1997-98 season and worked full time as media relations assistant (1998-2000). He was responsible for team stats and press box operations at the Great Western Forum and Staples Center.

He has coordinated the media campaigns for two Golden Spikes Award winners: Mark Kotsay in 1995 and Mark Prior in 2001.

During his tenure at Cal State Fullerton, Pommier handled public address announcing duties for most sports, including the football and baseball teams. He served as the P.A. announcer for several exhibitions featuring the 1994 U.S. men's soccer team prior to the World Cup, as well as the 1994 Gold Cup at the Rose Bowl. He also announced all three games at Dodger Stadium during the 2002 series between USC and Baylor.



Rose Andrade
Tickets/Game Management



Ronnie Frescas
Manager



Tiffany Grommon
Administrative Assistant



Michael McCormack
Manager



Brenton Sullivan
Manager



Kevin Zelenay
Manager





Rod Dedeaux, one of the most successful college coaches ever, became USC's director of baseball after retiring as Troy's head baseball coach in June of 1986.

In his 45-year tenure at USC (1942-86), Dedeaux led the Trojans to 11 national championships and 28 conference titles. He posted an overall record of 1,332-571-11 for a superb .699 winning percentage. At his retirement, he had won more games than any other college baseball coach (he currently ranks fifth among Division I coaches).

His teams from 1970-74 won five straight NCAA championships, a record that may never be broken. No other school has won more than two in a row.

Two of his most recent honors, which are quite fitting considering his accomplishments, came in the last year when he was named "Coach of the Century" by both Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball.

As part of the 50th anniversary of the College World Series in 1996, Dedeaux was named the head coach of the All-Time CWS team by a panel of former World Series coaches, media and college baseball officials. In 1999, he was presented with keys to the city of Omaha (home to the College World Series).

Dedeaux was named Coach of the Year six times by the American Baseball Coaches Association and was inducted into the organization's Hall of Fame in 1970. He received the ABCA's Lefty Gomez Award in 1980 as "an individual that has distinguished himself amongst his peers and has contributed significantly to the game of baseball locally, nationally,

and internationally." In 1989, he was awarded the U.S. Baseball Federation's W.P. "Dutch" Fehring Award of Merit for outstanding service.

Dedeaux helped develop more than 50 major leaguers, including such top stars as Tom Seaver, Mark McGwire, Randy Johnson, Fred Lynn, Dave Kingman, Roy Smalley, Don Buford, Ron Fairly, Rich Dauer, Steve Busby, Jim Barr and Steve Kemp.

Rod also spearheaded the development of amateur baseball nationally and internationally. He was instrumental in bringing baseball to the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles as a demonstration sport and coached the silver medal-winning U.S. team. He also coached the U.S. amateur team that played in Tokyo in conjunction with the 1964 Olympics.

Dedeaux founded the USA-Japan Collegiate World Series in 1972. He served as Series Chairman from 1972-84 and is now Chairman Emeritus. Dedeaux also was honored in May of 1996 by the Japanese government with the Fourth Order of Merit — Cordon of the Rising Sun award.

Hollywood has enlisted Dedeaux's expertise as well, inviting him to serve as a technical director and consultant for two highly successful movies: "Field of Dreams" and "A League of Their Own."

As if that's not enough, Dedeaux still serves as president of Dart Transportation, Inc., a million-dollar trucking firm that specializes in world-wide distribution.

Dedeaux played baseball at USC and was a three-year letterman as the starting shortstop from 1933-35. He played briefly in the Major Leagues with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1935.



On Feb. 14, 2004, the Trojans opened the regular season by celebrating Rod Dedeaux's 90th birthday (Rod's actual birthday is Feb. 17, 1914). The legendary play-by-play announcer of the Los Angeles Dodgers Vin Scully (center) and former owner Peter O'Malley (right) were on hand, along with one of Dedeaux's closest friends, former Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda. Over 100 former Trojans, including Tom Seaver and Roy Smalley, attended the festivities. Remarkably, USC's first national championship squad from 1948 was well-represented as 15 members of that team were in attendance.

**The following excerpts are from a
1976 Jim Murray
column in the Los Angeles Times:**

"... But the greatest farm club in the history of the major leagues ... and the most consistent supplier of major league talent the past 10 years is a franchise maintained at no cost to baseball. It finds and signs its own prospects, suits them up, develops them, refines them, weeds them out — and then turns them over to the big leagues fully polished and ready for the World Series.

"The University of Southern California baseball team is to the majors what the Mesabi range is to steel or the forest is to Weyerhaeuser — a seemingly limitless supply of basic ore or timber.

"... Rod Dedeaux went to bat only four times in the big leagues. Nevertheless he probably should go to the Hall of Fame as a man who has done as much for the great game in his own way as Babe Ruth."

