



## 2017 USC COTTON BOWL GUIDE

**#14 QB Sam Darnold**  
All-Pac-12 First Team  
3,787 Yards Passing, 26 TD

**#25 TB Ronald Jones II**  
All-American First Team  
1,486 Yards Rushing, 18 TD

**#35 ILB Cameron Smith**  
All-Pac-12 First Team  
Team-High 102 Tackles

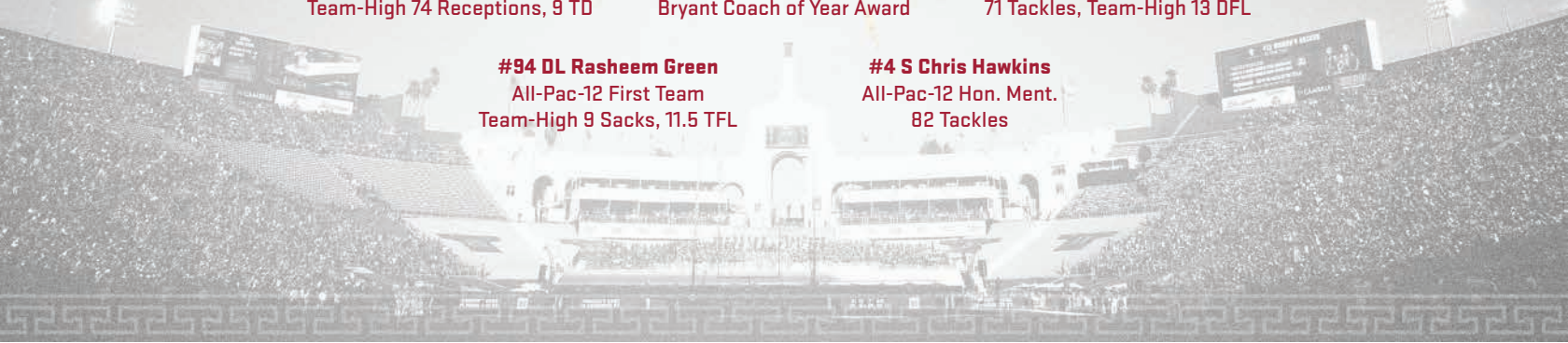
**#80 WR Deontay Burnett**  
All-Pac-12 Second Team  
Team-High 74 Receptions, 9 TD

**Head Coach Clay Helton**  
2-Time Finalist  
Bryant Coach of Year Award

**#42 OLB Uchenna Nwosu**  
All-American First Team  
71 Tackles, Team-High 13 DFL

**#94 DL Rasheem Green**  
All-Pac-12 First Team  
Team-High 9 Sacks, 11.5 TFL

**#4 S Chris Hawkins**  
All-Pac-12 Hon. Ment.  
82 Tackles







#27 CB Ajene Harris

#7 S Marvell Tell III

#10 ILB John Houston Jr.

#8 CB Iman Marshall

#25 CB Jack Jones



#50 OT Toa Lobendahn

#74 C Nico Falah

#70 OT Chuma Edoga

#21 WR Tyler Vaughns

## 2017 PAC-12 CHAMPIONS





## USC: AMERICA'S BOWL TEAM

USC has a remarkable record in bowl games. Entering the 2017 bowl season, the Trojans have the nation's fourth highest bowl winning percentage (.667) among the 91 schools that have made at least 10 bowl appearances (behind Marshall's .846, Utah's .800 and San Jose State's .700). USC's 34 bowl victories are second behind Alabama's 37 for most in the nation (not including 1 win for both teams vacated due to NCAA penalty; original record: 35 for USC, 38 for Alabama). Troy's 51 bowl appearances are sixth most, behind Alabama (66), Texas and Nebraska (53) and Tennessee and Georgia (52) (not including 2 USC appearances and 1 Alabama appearance vacated due to NCAA penalty; original record: 54 for USC, 66 for Alabama). USC once won 9 consecutive bowl games (the 1923-30-32-33-39-40-44-45 Rose Bowls and 1924 Christmas Festival); only Florida State has won more in a row (11).

USC's overall post-season record is 34-17 (not including 1 win and 1 loss later vacated due to NCAA penalty; original record: 35-18). The Trojans were a bowl participant each year they were eligible from 1972 to 1990 (USC was banned from bowl participation in 1980-82-83).

Troy has appeared in an unprecedented 33 Rose Bowls, where it has a 25-8 mark (.758) (not including 1 appearance and 1 loss later vacated due to NCAA penalty; original record: 34 Rose Bowls, 25-9, .735). That's not only the most Rose Bowl wins of any team, but also the most wins by a school in a single bowl. USC has won 12 of its last 14 Rose Bowls (not including 1 appearance and 1 loss later vacated due to NCAA penalty; original record: 12 of its last 15). USC is the only team to have won 3 consecutive Rose Bowls (2007-08-09). USC twice played in 4 consecutive Rose Bowl games (1967 to 1970 and 2006 to 2009); Ohio State (1973-76) is the only other team to have done so.

USC has also appeared in 13 other bowls--the Christmas Festival, Liberty Bowl, Bluebonnet Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, Aloha Bowl, Florida Citrus Bowl, Sun (John Hancock) Bowl (3 times), Freedom Bowl (twice), Cotton Bowl, Las Vegas Bowl (twice), Orange Bowl (twice), Emerald Bowl and Holiday Bowl (twice).

USC made 5 BCS bowl appearances (2003 Orange Bowl vs. Iowa, 2004 Rose Bowl vs. Michigan, 2007 Rose Bowl vs. Michigan, 2008 Rose Bowl vs. Illinois, 2009 Rose Bowl vs. Penn State) (not including 2 appearances--2005 Orange Bowl vs. Oklahoma, 2006 Rose Bowl vs. Texas--vacated by NCAA penalty; original record: an unprecedented 7 consecutive BCS bowl appearances). USC's 5 overall BCS bowl trips tied for seventh most, behind Ohio State's 9, Oklahoma's 9, Florida State's 8, Florida's 7, Virginia Tech's 6 and Alabama's 6 (not including 2 appearances vacated by NCAA penalty; original record: 7 appearances, tied for fourth most; also, 1 Ohio State appearance vacated by NCAA penalty). USC's 5 BCS bowl wins tied with Ohio State for the most of any school (not including 1 win vacated due to NCAA penalty; original record: 6 victories, tied with Ohio State for most; also, 1 Ohio State win vacated by NCAA penalty).

### USC's Rose Bowl Record

1923--USC 14, Penn State 3  
1930--USC 47, Pittsburgh 14  
1932--USC 21, Tulane 12  
1933--USC 35, Pittsburgh 0  
1939--USC 7, Duke 3  
1940--USC 14, Tennessee 0  
1944--USC 29, Washington 0  
1945--USC 25, Tennessee 0  
1946--Alabama 34, USC 14  
1948--Michigan 49, USC 0  
1953--USC 7, Wisconsin 0  
1955--**Ohio State** 20, USC 7

1963--USC 42, Wisconsin 37  
1967--Purdue 14, USC 13  
1968--USC 14, Indiana 3  
1969--**Ohio State** 27, USC 16  
1970--USC 10, Michigan 3  
1973--USC 42, **Ohio State** 17  
1974--**Ohio State** 42, USC 21  
1975--USC 18, **Ohio State** 17  
1977--USC 14, Michigan 6  
1979--USC 17, Michigan 10  
1980--USC 17, **Ohio State** 16  
1985--USC 20, **Ohio State** 17

1988--Michigan State 20, USC 17  
1989--Michigan 22, USC 14  
1990--USC 17, Michigan 10  
1996--USC 41, Northwestern 32  
\*2004--USC 28, Michigan 14  
\*2006--Texas 41, USC 38\*\* (BCS Championship Game)  
\*2007--USC 32, Michigan 18  
\*2008--USC 49, Illinois 17  
\*2009--USC 38, Penn State 24  
2017--USC 52, Penn State 49

### USC's Record in Other Bowls

1924--USC 20, Missouri 7 (Christmas Festival)  
1975--USC 20, Texas A&M 0 (Liberty Bowl)  
1977--USC 47, Texas A&M 28 (Bluebonnet Bowl)  
1982--Penn State 26, USC 10 (Fiesta Bowl)  
1985--Alabama 24, USC 3 (Aloha Bowl)  
1987--Auburn 16, USC 7 (Florida Citrus Bowl)  
1990--Michigan State 17, USC 16 (John Hancock Bowl)  
1992--Fresno State 24, USC 7 (Freedom Bowl)  
1993--USC 28, Utah 21 (Freedom Bowl)  
**1995--USC 55, Texas Tech 14 (Cotton Bowl)**  
1998--TCU 28, USC 19 (Sun Bowl)  
2001--Utah 10, USC 6 (Las Vegas Bowl)

\*2003--USC 38, Iowa 17 (Orange Bowl)  
\*2005--USC 55\*\*, Oklahoma 19 (Orange Bowl, BCS Championship Game)  
2009--USC 24, Boston College 13 (Emerald Bowl)  
2012--Georgia Tech 21, USC 7 (Sun Bowl)  
2013--USC 45, Fresno State 20 (Las Vegas Bowl)  
2014--USC 45, Nebraska 42 (Holiday Bowl)  
2015 --Wisconsin 23, USC 21 (Holiday Bowl)  
\*BCS Bowl game  
\*\*2005 win and 2006 loss later vacated due to NCAA penalty

## USC QUICK FACTS

Location ..... Los Angeles, Calif. 90089  
University Telephone ..... (213) 740-2311  
Founded ..... 1880  
Size ..... 235 acres  
Enrollment ..... 44,000 (19,000 undergraduates)  
President ..... C.L. Max Nikias  
Colors ..... Cardinal and Gold  
Nickname ..... Trojans  
Band ..... Trojan Marching Band (270 members)  
Fight Song ..... "Fight On"  
Mascot ..... Traveler VII  
Official Website ..... USC Trojans.com  
Sports Information Director ..... Tim Tessalone  
(w-213-740-8480; c-213-725-3572; tessalone@usc.edu)  
Assoc. Sports Information Director ..... Paul Goldberg  
(w-213-740-8480; c-213-725-3567; pgoldber@usc.edu)  
Asst. Sports Information Director ..... Katie Ryan  
(w-213-740-8480; c-949-874-5475; katierya@usc.edu)

First Football Team ..... 1888  
USC's All-Time Football Record ..... 834\*-338-54 (70.2%)  
Stadium ..... Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum  
(92,348 capacity, natural grass surface)  
Conference ..... Pac-12  
Athletic Director ..... Lynn Swann  
Head Football Coach ..... Clay Helton (Houston, 1994)  
Record at USC ..... 27-9, 4 Years  
Overall College Coaching Record ..... 27-9, 4 Years  
Coach's Telephone ..... (213) 740-4204  
Offensive Formation ..... Multiple  
Defensive Formation ..... 5-2  
*\*Not including 14 wins and 1 loss vacated due to NCAA penalty  
(original record: 848-339-54, 70.5%)*  
Cotton Bowl Media Director ..... Charlie Fiss  
(charlie@cottonbowl.com)



## USC FOOTBALL COTTON BOWL NOTES

### **RANKINGS**

USC is ranked eighth in the AP sports media poll and seventh in the Amway coaches poll. Ohio State is fifth in both polls.

### **SERIES**

\*USC holds a 13-9-1 series edge over Ohio State. The Trojans have won the past 7 meetings and 7 of the last 8.

\*Seven of the 23 USC-OSU games have been decided by a TD or less and there have been 7 shutouts in the series (5 by Ohio State).

\*At least one of the teams has been ranked in 17 of the previous meetings (including 13 times when both were ranked), with 10 of the games featuring an AP Top 5 team (and 4 with an AP No. 1 squad).

\*Seven of the meetings have been on New Year's Day in the Rose Bowl, where Troy owns a 4-3 mark. Five of those Rose Bowl meetings carried national championship implications for one of the teams (USC won the 1972 and 1974 national crowns after Rose Bowl wins over Ohio State, while the Buckeyes won the 1954 and 1968 titles after beating Troy in Pasadena; and a USC Rose Bowl win knocked Ohio State out of the 1979 top ranking).

\*The teams have met in September, October and January, but never in December until now.

\*In the latest meeting between the teams, USC beat Ohio State, 18-15, in Columbus in 2009. That came a year after a 35-3 Trojan victory in Los Angeles.

### **VERSUS BIG TEN CONFERENCE**

\*USC is 75-28-3 (.722) against current Big Ten opponents, most recently posting a 52-49 win over Penn State in the 2017 Rose Bowl. Before that, USC had won 13 consecutive games against Big Ten foes before losing to Wisconsin in the 2015 Holiday Bowl, 23-21. Troy has won 35 of its last 44 games (and 42 of its last 52) versus the Big Ten. USC is 20-10 against the Big Ten in bowls and has won 9 of the last 10 bowl meetings.

\*On the other hand, Ohio State is 59-26-2 (.690) against current Pac-12 members. The Buckeyes' most recent game against a Pac-12 foe was a 42-20 win over Oregon in the 2015 CFP final (following the 2014 season). Ohio State has faced USC more times (23) than any other Pac-12 team; the Trojans (13-9-1) and Stanford (3-2) are the only Pac-12 schools with a winning record against the Buckeyes. In bowls, Ohio State is 9-7 against the Pac-12 (most recently, the 2015 CFP final win over Oregon), including a 3-4 mark against USC.

### **SEASON ENDERS**

USC is 69-42-11 (.611) in all season finales (does not include 1 win and 1 loss vacated due to NCAA penalty; original record: 70-43-11, .609).

### **10-/11-/12-WIN SEASONS**

\*With an 11-2 overall mark in 2017, USC is going after its fifth-ever 12-win season (not including 2004, when 2 of its 13 wins were vacated due to NCAA penalty, and 2005, when all 12 wins were vacated due to NCAA penalty). USC won 12 games in 1972, 1978, 2003 and 2008.

\*USC now has had 11-win seasons 13 times (not including 2005, when all 12 wins were vacated due to NCAA penalty).

\*USC has posted at least 10 wins in a season 27 times (not including 2005, when all 12 wins were vacated due to NCAA penalty). Of those, USC hit the 10-win mark by the end of the regular season on 17 occasions (not including 2005, when all 12 wins were vacated due to NCAA penalty). The 2016 and 2017 seasons are the first time since 2007 and 2008 that USC has had back-to-back 10-win seasons.

### **14 GAMES**

This is just the third time that USC has played 14 games in a season, along with 2013 (10-4) and 2015 (8-6).

### **FRIDAY GAMES**

This will be USC's third Friday game of 2017 and second consecutive. USC has played just 8 Friday games since 1990: versus Syracuse in the 1990 Kickoff Classic in East Rutherford, N.J., versus Louisiana Tech in 1999 in the Coliseum, at Colorado in 2011, at Oregon State in 2013, at Colorado in 2015, at Utah in 2016, at Washington State in 2017 and against Stanford in the 2017 Pac-12 Championship Game (all wins except the 2016 Utah and 2017 Washington State contests). In the 1950s and 1960s, the Trojans played occasional Friday night games in the Coliseum when sharing the stadium with UCLA.

### **AT NIGHT**

USC owns a 171-58-4 (.742) record at night, including 101-27-4 in the Coliseum, 55-25 on the road and 15-6 at neutral sites. (Does not include 5 wins and 1 loss vacated due to NCAA penalty; original record: 176-59-4, .745 overall, 104-27-4 in the Coliseum, 17-7 at neutral sites.)

### **USC-OHIO STATE ON FRIDAY NIGHT**

This will be the first USC-Ohio State bowl game to be played at night and the second bowl meeting to be played on a Friday (along with the 1954 Rose Bowl). Interestingly, Ohio State's first-ever night game was against USC on a Friday in 1959 in the Coliseum (a 17-0 Trojan win). The 1959 contest originally was scheduled for a Saturday (Oct. 3), but was moved a day earlier to allow time to prepare the stadium and field once the Dodgers--who were using the Coliseum while Dodger Stadium was being built--advanced to the World Series and Game 3 was set for Sunday (Oct. 4).

### **IN DECEMBER**

USC has a 42-27-7 (.599) all-time record while playing in the month of December (not including 2 wins vacated due to NCAA penalty; original record: 44-27-7, .609).

### **ARTIFICIAL TURF**

USC is 41-25-1 in its last 67 games on artificial turf (not including 3 wins vacated due to NCAA penalty; original record: 44-25-1).

### **INSIDE**

USC is 3-1 inside domed (or closed roof) stadiums, beating Washington State in Seattle's Kingdome in 1976, Texas A&M in the 1977 Bluebonnet Bowl in Houston's Astrodome and Houston in the Astrodome in 1996, but losing to Alabama in 2016 in AT&T Stadium.

### **IN TEXAS**

\*This will be USC's second consecutive year visiting AT&T Stadium, the Metroplex area and the state of Texas, as the Trojans opened the 2016 season playing Alabama there. That 2016 Alabama game was USC's first-ever time in AT&T Stadium, its first trip to the Metroplex area since playing in the 1995 Cotton Bowl versus Texas Tech and its first visit to the state of Texas since the 2012 Sun Bowl in El Paso vs. Georgia Tech.

\*USC is 9-5 in games played in Texas: 2-0 at Texas, 2-0 against Texas Tech (1 game in Lubbock and 1 in the Cotton Bowl in Dallas), 1-1 at Baylor, 1-0 each versus Texas A&M (in the Bluebonnet Bowl in Houston), Rice, SMU and Houston, and 0-1 each versus Michigan State in the John Hancock Bowl, TCU in the Sun Bowl, Georgia Tech in the Sun Bowl and Alabama in AT&T Stadium (a 52-6 loss in 2016, USC's most recent game in Texas).

\*USC will return to the state for a regular season contest against Texas in 2018 (Troy defeated the Longhorns in the Coliseum this season, 27-24 in 2 overtimes).

\*This also will be the second time that Ohio State has played in AT&T Stadium. The Buckeyes beat Oregon there in the 2015 CFP final, 42-20.

### **NFL STADIUMS**

This is the fourth consecutive year that USC has played in a current NFL stadium besides the Los Angeles Coliseum (temporary home of the Los Angeles Rams). It beat Nebraska, 45-42, in the 2014 Holiday Bowl in Qualcomm Stadium, lost to Stanford, 41-22, in the 2015 Pac-12 Championship Game in Levi's Stadium and to Wisconsin, 23-21, in the 2015 Holiday Bowl in Qualcomm Stadium, lost to Alabama, 52-6, in AT&T Stadium in the 2016 season opener and beat Stanford, 31-28, in the 2017 Championship Game in Levi's Stadium.

### **WIN STREAKS**

USC is riding a:

--16-game home winning streak, its longest since 21 in a row from 2001 to 2004 (not including 6 wins later vacated due to NCAA penalty; original record: 35 in a row from 2001 to 2007) and currently the second longest regular season home winning streak in the nation (behind Alabama's 19).

--18-game winning streak in the Greater Los Angeles area, its longest since 23 in a row from 2001 to 2004 (not including 7 wins later vacated due to NCAA penalty; original record: 30 in a row from 2001 to 2005).



## USC-OHIO STATE CONNECTIONS

\*USC has no players from Ohio, but the Buckeyes have 2 Californians (OL **Wyatt Davis** from St. John Bosco High in Bellflower and TE **Marcus Baugh** from North High in Riverside).

\*USC running backs coach/run game coordinator **Deland McCullough** prepped at Campbell (Ohio) High and was a running back at Miami (Ohio) from 1992 to 1994 and with the Cincinnati Bengals (1996-97), then was the head coach at Harmony Community School in Cincinnati before serving as a football intern at Miami (Ohio) in 2010.

\*USC defensive coordinator **Clancy Pendergast** was an assistant coach with the Cleveland Browns in 2003.

\*On Jan. 18, 2018, the USC and Ohio State men's volleyball teams will meet in the Pac-12/Big Ten Challenge at UCLA.

## USC HEAD COACHES WITH OHIO ROOTS

Five former USC football head coaches have Ohio roots. **Howard Jones**, who guided the Trojans to 4 national championships, was born in Excello, Ohio, and coached the Buckeyes in 1910 to a 6-1-3 record. **Pete Carroll**, who led USC to a pair of national titles, was the secondary coach under Earle Bruce at Ohio State in 1979 (that top-ranked Buckeye squad lost to No. 3 USC in the 1980 Rose Bowl, 17-16). **Larry Smith** spent much of his early career in Ohio, playing at Van Wert High and then Bowling Green, then coaching at Lima Shawnee High and Miami of Ohio (he met his wife at a Woody Hayes coaching clinic at Ohio State). **Elmer "Gloomy Gus" Henderson**, who won 86.5% of his games at USC, graduated from Oberlin. **Paul Hackett** was an assistant coach with the Cleveland Browns for 2 seasons (1981-82).

## TEXAS CONNECTIONS

\*USC has 5 players from Texas: TB **Ronald Jones II** of McKinney North HS, TB **Aca'Cedric Ware** of Cedar Hill HS, ILB **Levi Jones** of Westlake High in Austin, QB **Thomas Fitts** of Episcopal School of Dallas and TB **Chris Edmondson** of Clemens High in Schertz.

\*USC head coach **Clay Helton** prepped at Clements HS in Sugar Land, Tex. He played quarterback at Houston (1993-94) and was an assistant coach there (1997-99).

\*USC defensive coordinator **Clancy Pendergast** was an assistant coach with the Dallas Cowboys (1996-2002) and a defensive assistant with the Houston Oilers (1995).

\*USC offensive line coach **Neil Callaway** was Houston's offensive coordinator from 1993 to 1996.

\*ILB-OLB **Levi Jones'** father, Robert Jones, was drafted in the first round by the Dallas Cowboys and played 4 years with the Cowboys (1992-95, including winning NFC Rookie of the Year in 1992 and winning 3 Super Bowls). His brother, Cayleb, was a wide receiver at Texas (2011).

\*Former USC OT **Tyron Smith** (2008-10) plays for the Dallas Cowboys, as does WR **Brice Butler**, who played at USC (2009-11) before transferring to San Diego State. Cowboys defensive coordinator/defensive line coach **Rod Marinelli** was an assistant at USC in 1995. Cowboys team physician **Dr. Drew Dossett** was a linebacker on the 1979 and 1980 Trojans.

\***Imani Ervins**, catering coordinator for Legends Hospitality at AT&T Stadium, is the daughter of former USC TB Ricky Ervins (1987-90).

\*Texas governor **Greg Abbott's** daughter, Audrey, is a student at USC.

\***Fred Williams**, head coach of the WNBA's Dallas Wings, was head coach of the USC women's basketball team (1996-97).

\*USC has 9,000 alumni in the state of Texas, more than any state besides California, with 3,000 of those living in the Dallas area.

## GRIDIRON POWERS

USC and Ohio State are among the nation's traditional college football powerhouses. To wit:

\*USC has won 11 national championships, Ohio State 8.

\*Both teams rank among the nation's Top 10 in career wins (Ohio State is tied for third with 897, USC is ninth with 834).

\*Troy has produced 6 Heisman Trophy winners and OSU has 7.

\*The Buckeyes claim 199 All-American first teamers, while the Trojans have 168.

\*USC has won 38 league titles and Ohio State has 36.

\*USC has 51 bowl appearances (with 34 wins), while Ohio State has made it to 47 bowls (with 22 victories).

\*The schools have been guided by legendary coaches, including USC's Howard Jones, John McKay, John Robinson and Pete Carroll and Ohio State's Paul Brown, Woody Hayes, Earle Bruce and Jim Tressel.

\*Both programs have nationally-recognized marching bands, famous mascots (Traveler with Tommy Trojan, Brutus Buckeye) and distinctive colors (USC's cardinal and gold, OSU's scarlet and gray).

## #TEAM125

The 2017 Trojans are USC's 125<sup>th</sup> football team. Troy has produced some of college football's most legendary players, coaches, games and moments. There have been 11 national championships, 34 bowl victories, 168 All-Americans, 6 Heisman Trophy winners, 43 College Football Hall of Famers, 22 Academic All-Americans, 494 NFL players and 15 Pro Football Hall of Famers.

## NATIONAL AWARD CONTENDERS

QB **Sam Darnold** is a finalist for the Manning Award and was a semifinalist for the Maxwell Award, Walter Camp Award and Davey O'Brien Award. TB **Ronald Jones II** is a semifinalist for the Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award and was a semifinalist for the Doak Walker Award. ILB **Cameron Smith** was a semifinalist for the Butkus Award and the Lott IMPACT Trophy. WR **Deontay Burnett** was a semifinalist for the Biletnikoff Award. SNP **Jake Olson** was a semifinalist for the Jason Witten Collegiate Man of the Year Award. Head coach **Clay Helton** is a finalist for the Paul "Bear" Bryant Coach of the Year Award. Assistant coach **Tee Martin** was a semifinalist for the Broyles Award.

## ALL-AMERICANS

TB **Ronald Jones II** (Pro Football Focus) and OLB **Uchenna Nwosu** (Sports On Earth) were named to All-American first teams, becoming USC's 167th and 168th All-American first teamers. ILB **Cameron Smith** (CollegeFootballMadness.com) made All-American second team. CB **Jack Jones** (AP) was an All-American third teamer. WR **Deontay Burnett** (Phil Steele) was named All-American fourth team.

## ALL-PAC-12

Seven USC players—more than from any other school—were named to the first team of the 2017 All-Pac-12 Football Team. USC's first teamers are quarterback **Sam Darnold**, tailback **Ronald Jones II**, defensive lineman **Rasheem Green**, outside linebacker **Uchenna Nwosu**, inside linebacker **Cameron Smith**, safety **Marvell Tell III** and wide receiver **Michael Pittman Jr.**, who was chosen as a special teams player. This is USC's most first team honorees since 2011, when Troy also had 7. Darnold is the first Trojan quarterback on the first team since Mark Sanchez in 2008, Jones is just the second USC tailback named to the first team since 2005 (along with Javorius Allen in 2014) and Smith is Troy's first inside linebacker on the first team since Rey Mualuga in 2008. USC's All-Pac-12 second team honorees are wide receiver **Deontay Burnett**, offensive tackle **Toa Lobendahn**, defensive lineman **Christian Rector** and safety **Matt Lopes**, who made it as a special teams player. Trojan honorable mention selections are offensive guard **Chris Brown**, tailback **Stephen Carr**, defensive tackle **Josh Fatu**, safety **Chris Hawkins**, cornerback **Iman Marshall**, wide receiver **Steven Mitchell Jr.**, tight end **Tyler Petite**, defensive tackle **Brandon Pili** and wide receiver **Tyler Vaughns**.

## USC TEAM AWARDS

QB **Sam Darnold** and OLB **Uchenna Nwosu** shared USC's Most Valuable Player Award. Darnold and Nwosu also shared USC's Lifter of the Year Award with C **Nico Falah**, junior OT **Toa Lobendahn**, ILB **Cameron Smith** and S **Marvell Tell III**. SNP **Jake Olson** was the Most Inspirational Player. Smith also was the Defensive Perimeter Player of the Year, while TB **Ronald Jones II** was the Offensive Perimeter Player of the Year. OG **Chris Brown** was Offensive Lineman of the Year, while DL **Rasheem Green** was Defensive Lineman of the Year. WR **Michael Pittman Jr.** and S **Matt Lopes** shared Special Teams Player of the Year. Falah and OG **Viane Talamaivao** shared the Trojan Commitment Award. Lobendahn and WR **Steven Mitchell Jr.** shared the Chris Carlisle Courage Award. S **Chris Hawkins** won the Trojan Way Leadership Award and Player of the Game Vs. UCLA Award. C **Richie Wenzel** and DLs **Jacob Lichtenstein** and **Jay Tufele** were the Service Team Players of the Year. WR **Deontay Burnett** won the Bob Chandler Award and DT **Josh Fatu** won the John McKay Award. P **Reid Budrovich** and PK **Chase McGrath** won the Joe Collins Walk-On Award. CB **Yoofi Quansah** won the Howard Jones/Football Alumni Club Academic Award. OG **Jordan Austin** won the Community Service Award.

## LOOKING TO 2018

On USC's current 48-man 2-deep (including the punter and kicker), 41 players (20 offense, 17 defense, 4 specialists) are non-seniors, including 20 starters (10 offense, 8 defense, 2 specialists). That does not include potential non-senior 2-deepers who are injured. USC's graduating starters are OLB **Uchenna Nwosu**, S **Chris Hawkins**, C **Nico Falah** and NT **Josh Fatu**.



## COTTON BOWL HISTORY

Jan. 1, 1937--No. 16 TCU 16, No. 20 Marquette 6  
 Jan. 1, 1938--Rice 28, Colorado 14  
 Jan. 2, 1939--St. Mary's (CA) 20, No. 11 Texas Tech 13  
 Jan. 1, 1940--Clemson 6, Boston College 3  
 Jan. 1, 1941--No. 6 Texas A&M 13, No. 12 Fordham 12  
 Jan. 1, 1942--No. 20 Alabama 29, No. 9 Texas A&M 21  
 Jan. 1, 1943--No. 11 Texas 14, Georgia Tech 7  
 Jan. 1, 1944--No. 14 Texas 7, Randolph Field 7  
 Jan. 1, 1945--Oklahoma A&M 34, TCU 0  
 Jan. 1, 1946--No. 10 Texas 40, Missouri 27  
 Jan. 1, 1947--No. 8 LSU 0, No. 16 Arkansas 0  
 Jan. 1, 1948--No. 10 SMU 13, No. 18 Penn State 13  
 Jan. 1, 1949--No. 10 SMU 21, No. 9 Oregon 13  
 Jan. 2, 1950--No. 5 Rice 27, No. 16 North Carolina 13  
 Jan. 1, 1951--No. 4 Tennessee 20, No. 3 Texas 14  
 Jan. 1, 1952--No. 15 Kentucky 20, No. 11 TCU 7  
 Jan. 1, 1953--No. 10 Texas 16, No. 8 Tennessee 0  
 Jan. 1, 1954--No. 6 Rice 28, No. 13 Alabama 6  
 Jan. 1, 1955--Georgia Tech 14, No. 10 Arkansas 6  
 Jan. 2, 1956--No. 10 Mississippi 14, No. 6 TCU 13  
 Jan. 1, 1957--No. 14 TCU 28, No. 8 Syracuse 27  
 Jan. 1, 1958--No. 5 Navy 20, No. 8 Rice 7  
 Jan. 1, 1959--No. 10 TCU 0, No. 6 Air Force 0  
 Jan. 1, 1960--No. 1 Syracuse 23, No. 4 Texas 14  
 Jan. 2, 1961--No. 10 Duke 7, No. 7 Arkansas 6  
 Jan. 1, 1962--No. 3 Texas 12, No. 5 Mississippi 7  
 Jan. 1, 1963--No. 7 LSU 13, No. 4 Texas 0  
 Jan. 1, 1964--No. 1 Texas 28, No. 2 Navy 6  
 Jan. 1, 1965--No. 2 Arkansas 10, No. 6 Nebraska 7  
 Jan. 1, 1966--LSU 14, No. 2 Arkansas 7  
 Dec. 31, 1966--No. 4 Georgia 24, No. 10 SMU 9  
 Jan. 1, 1968--Texas A&M 20, No. 8 Alabama 16  
 Jan. 1, 1969--No. 5 Texas 36, No. 8 Tennessee 13  
 Jan. 1, 1970--No. 1 Texas 21, No. 9 Notre Dame 17  
 Jan. 1, 1971--No. 6 Notre Dame 24, No. 1 Texas 11  
 Jan. 1, 1972--No. 10 Penn State 30, No. 12 Texas 6  
 Jan. 1, 1973--No. 7 Texas 17, No. 4 Alabama 13  
 Jan. 1, 1974--No. 12 Nebraska 19, No. 8 Texas 3  
 Jan. 1, 1975--No. 7 Penn State 41, No. 12 Baylor 20  
 Jan. 1, 1976--No. 18 Arkansas 31, No. 12 Georgia 10  
 Jan. 1, 1977--No. 6 Houston 30, No. 4 Maryland 21

Jan. 2, 1978--No. 5 Notre Dame 38, No. 1 Texas 10  
 Jan. 1, 1979--No. 10 Notre Dame 35, No. 9 Houston 34  
 Jan. 1, 1980--No. 8 Houston 17, No. 7 Nebraska 14  
 Jan. 1, 1981--No. 9 Alabama 30, No. 6 Baylor 2  
 Jan. 1, 1982--No. 6 Texas 14, No. 3 Alabama 12  
 Jan. 1, 1983--No. 4 SMU 7, No. 6 Pittsburgh 3  
 Jan. 2, 1984--No. 7 Georgia 10, No. 2 Texas 9  
 Jan. 1, 1985--No. 8 Boston College 45, Houston 28  
 Jan. 1, 1986--No. 11 Texas A&M 36, No. 16 Auburn 16  
**Jan. 1, 1987--No. 11 Ohio State 28, No. 8 Texas A&M 12**  
 Jan. 1, 1988--No. 13 Texas A&M 35, No. 12 Notre Dame 10  
 Jan. 2, 1989--No. 9 UCLA 17, No. 8 Arkansas 3  
 Jan. 1, 1990--No. 8 Tennessee 31, No. 10 Arkansas 27  
 Jan. 1, 1991--No. 4 Miami 46, No. 3 Texas 3  
 Jan. 1, 1992--No. 5 Florida State 10, No. 9 Texas A&M 2  
 Jan. 1, 1993--No. 5 Notre Dame 28, No. 4 Texas A&M 3  
 Jan. 1, 1994--No. 4 Notre Dame 24, No. 7 Texas A&M 21  
**Jan. 2, 1995--No. 21 USC 55, Texas Tech 14**  
 Jan. 1, 1996--No. 7 Colorado 38, No. 12 Oregon 6  
 Jan. 1, 1997--No. 5 BYU 19, No. 14 Kansas State 15  
 Jan. 1, 1998--No. 5 UCLA 29, No. 20 Texas A&M 23  
 Jan. 1, 1999--No. 20 Texas 38, No. 25 Mississippi St. 11  
 Jan. 1, 2000--No. 24 Arkansas 27, No. 14 Texas 6  
 Jan. 1, 2001--No. 11 Kansas St. 35, No. 21 Tennessee 21  
 Jan. 1, 2002--No. 10 Oklahoma 10, Arkansas 3  
 Jan. 1, 2003--No. 9 Texas 35, LSU 20  
 Jan. 2, 2004--No. 16 Mississippi 31, No. 21 Oklahoma St. 28  
 Jan. 1, 2005--No. 15 Tennessee 38, No. 22 Texas A&M 7  
 Jan. 2, 2006--No. 8 Alabama 13, No. 20 Texas Tech 10  
 Jan. 1, 2007--No. 10 Auburn 17, No. 22 Nebraska 14  
 Jan. 1, 2008--No. 7 Missouri 38, No. 25 Arkansas 7  
 Jan. 2, 2009--No. 20 Mississippi 47, No. 8 Texas Tech 34  
 Jan. 2, 2010--Mississippi 21, No. 21 Oklahoma State 7  
 Jan. 7, 2011--No. 11 LSU 41, No. 18 Texas A&M 24  
 Jan. 6, 2012--No. 7 Arkansas 29, No. 11 Kansas St. 16  
 Jan. 4, 2013--No. 9 Texas A&M 41, No. 11 Oklahoma 13  
 Jan. 3, 2014--No. 9 Missouri 41, No. 13 Oklahoma St. 31  
 Jan. 1, 2015--No. 7 Michigan State 42, No. 4 Baylor 41  
 Dec. 31, 2015--No. 2 Alabama 38, No. 3 Michigan St. 0  
 Jan. 2, 2017--No. 8 Wisconsin 24, No. 12 W. Michigan 16

## USC COTTON BOWL MEDIA ACTIVITIES

### **SATURDAY (Dec. 23)**

\*\*Travel to Dallas.

\*\*3 p.m. CT--USC Welcome Press Conference, Gaylord Texan, coach Helton and players (Darnold, Ca. Smith).

### **SUNDAY (Dec. 24)**

\*\*12:30 p.m. CT--USC Practice, Coppell HS, closed to media, no interviews.

### **MONDAY (Dec. 25)**

\*\*2 p.m. CT--USC Practice, AT&T Stadium, 15 minutes open to media after pre-practice stretch, no interviews.

### **TUESDAY (Dec. 26)**

\*\*10 a.m. CT--USC Defensive Press Conference, Omni Dallas, DC Clancy Pendergast and players (Ca. Smith, Nwosu, Hawkins, Rector, Houston).

\*\*2 p.m. CT--USC Practice, AT&T Stadium, 15 minutes open to media after pre-practice stretch, no interviews.

### **WEDNESDAY (Dec. 27)**

\*\*10 a.m. CT--USC Offensive Press Conference, Omni Dallas, DC Tee Martin and players (Darnold, R. Jones, Burnett, Lobendahn, Petite).

\*\*12:30 p.m. CT--USC Hospital Visit, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital.

\*\*2 p.m. CT--USC Practice, AT&T Stadium, closed to media, no interviews.

### **THURSDAY (Dec. 28)**

\*\*8:30 a.m. CT--Head Coaches Press Conference, Omni Dallas.

\*\*11:30 a.m. CT--Goodyear Big Play Luncheon, Hilton Anatole.

\*\*4 p.m. CT--USC Practice, Coppell HS, closed to media, no interviews.

### **FRIDAY (Dec. 29)**

\*\*7:30 p.m. CT--USC vs. Ohio State, AT&T Stadium, Dallas, Tex.

*All times subject to change*





## USC FOOTBALL STATISTICS OF NOTE

### RANKINGS

\*\*\*USC has been ranked in the AP Top 25 for 160 of its past 207 games.  
 \*\*\*USC has been in the AP Top 10 for 101 of its past 200 games, including a since-snapped school record of 62 consecutive games.  
 \*\*\*USC has been in the AP Top 5 in 69 of the last 193 games.

### SCORING

\*\*\*USC has scored 170 of its 449 total points in the fourth quarter in 2017.  
 \*\*\*USC has entered the fourth quarter either trailing or tied 5 times in 2017, but the Trojans won 4 of them.  
 \*\*\*USC has scored at least 20 points in 184 of its past 211 contests (including a since-broken NCAA record 63 consecutive games, a streak that was snapped in the 2006 UCLA game).  
 \*\*\*USC has scored at least 30 points in 130 of its last 201 games.  
 \*\*\*USC has scored at least 40 points 82 times since the start of the 2001 season (including 27 times with at least 50 points).  
 \*\*\*Since 2003, USC has scored touchdowns of 20-plus yards 344 times.  
 \*\*\*USC has scored in its past 246 games dating to 1997, a school record (not including 15 scoring games later vacated due to NCAA penalty; revised record streak: 261 games).

### OFFENSE

\*\*\*USC is sixth nationally in first downs (317, first in Pac-12), 15th in total offense (489.5, second in Pac-12), 19th in passing offense (294.6, third in Pac-12), 20th in tackles for loss allowed (4.5, first in Pac-12), 23rd in passing efficiency (149.4, second in Pac-12), 24th in scoring offense (34.5, fourth in Pac-12) and 25th in completion percentage (.635, fifth in Pac-12).  
 \*\*\*USC's 489.5 yards of total offense in 2017 is its highest average since 2005 (and that is on the heels of last year's 477.1, the previous high since 2005).  
 \*\*\*USC has had at least 600 yards of total offense 3 times in 2017 (the other Pac-12 teams combined have 6).  
 \*\*\*USC has had at least 400 yards of total offense in 19 of its past 22 games (including 15 with 500-plus yards).  
 \*\*\*USC's 194.9 rushing average in 2017 is just off last year's 200.7, which was the program's highest since 2005.

### DEFENSE

\*\*\*USC is fourth nationally in red zone defense (.700, first in Pac-12), sixth in sacks (3.3, first in Pac-12), 11th in interceptions (16, second in Pac-12) and 17th in defensive touchdowns (3, first in Pac-12).  
 \*\*\*USC's 43 sacks in 2017 are the most in the nation.  
 \*\*\*USC's 24 takeaways are tied for 16th most in the nation in 2017.  
 \*\*\*USC has intercepted a pass in 144 of the last 205 games.  
 \*\*\*USC has held 103 of its last 201 opposing teams to 100 rushing yards or less.  
 \*\*\*Only 49 opposing runners have rushed for 100 yards against USC in the past 192 games (most recently, Stanford's Bryce Love with 125 in 2017).  
 \*\*\*Since the start of the 2001 season, USC is 73-7 when holding opponents to 300 yards of total offense or less (the losses were against UCLA in 2006, Stanford in 2007, Washington in 2009, Notre Dame in 2010, Washington State and Notre Dame in 2013 and Washington in 2015).

### MISCELLANEOUS

\*\*\*USC is 11th nationally in blocked kicks (4, second in Pac-12), 18th in punt returns (12.0, third in Pac-12) and 22nd in kickoff returns (23.5, third in Pac-12).  
 \*\*\*USC has won 20 of its last 22 games.  
 \*\*\*USC has won 16 of its last 17 games against teams from the Pac-12.  
 \*\*\*Five of USC's wins have been by 10 points or less (including 4 by 5 points or less) and one of its losses was by 3 points.  
 \*\*\*USC has won its last 16 home games, its longest streak since 21 in a row in 2001-04 (not including 6 wins later vacated due to NCAA penalty; original record 35 in a row from 2001 to 2007) and currently the second longest regular season home winning streak in the nation (behind Alabama's 19).  
 \*\*\*USC has won its last 18 games in the greater Los Angeles area, its longest streak since winning 23 straight in 2001-04 (not including 7 wins later vacated due to NCAA penalty; original record 30 in a row from 2001 to 2005).  
 \*\*\*Thirteen first-year freshmen have played in 2017, while 14 other Trojans have seen action for the first time in their USC careers this season.  
 \*\*\*USC has blocked 36 kicks/punts since 2010 (4 in 2017).  
 \*\*\*USC has appeared on live national, regional or local telecasts 503 times, including 370 of the past 372 games (Troy's last 210 games have been televised live, a school record).

### 2017 USC FOOTBALL SCHEDULE (11-2)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
Sept. 2	W. Michigan	W 49-31	Oct. 21	at Notre Dame	L 14-49
Sept. 9	Stanford	W 42-24	Oct. 28	at Arizona St.	W 48-17
Sept. 16	Texas	W 27-24 (2OT)	Nov. 4	Arizona	W 49-35
Sept. 23	at California	W 30-20	Nov. 11	at Colorado	W 38-24
Sept. 29 (Fr.)	at Wash. St.	L 27-30	Nov. 18	UCLA	W 28-23
Oct. 7	Oregon St.	W 38-10	Dec. 1 (Fr.)	Stanford (P12CG)	W 31-28
Oct. 14	Utah	W 28-27	Dec. 29 (Fr.)	Ohio St. (Cotton)	7:30 p.m. CT (ESPN)

### FUN FACT I

In its history, USC only has had 18 lettermen from Ohio: E **Allen Behrendt** (1924-25-26, East Cleveland HS), RHB **Ron Calabria** (1954, Wooster HS), C **Tom Cox** (1984-85, Xenia HS), All-American and Mackey Award-winning TE **Fred Davis** (2004-05-06-07, Rogers HS), LE **Roscoe Geller** (1908-09, Toledo), RG **Earl Haas** (1936, McKinley HS), LB **Erick Herrin** (1994-95, Central-Hower HS), All-American DT **Gary Jeter** (1973-74-75-76, Cathedral Latin HS), G **Nick O'Brovac** (1950, McKinley HS), P **Billy O'Malley** (2009, St. Ignatius HS), LG **Russell Powers** (1934, West HS), LG **Ed Pucci** (1951-52-53, McKinley HS), FB-LB **Ralph Pucci** (1948-49-50, McKinley HS), OT-OG **Aundrey Walker** (2011-12-13-14, Glenville HS), LT **Tom Weber** (1952-53, McKinley HS), RT **Chuck Weeks** (1951-52, West HS), LHB **Harry Welch** (1951-52, Kenmore HS) and C-LB **Lou Welsh** (1950-51-52, Steubenville). Incidentally, USC also has had just 35 lettermen from Texas.

### FUN FACT II

USC has played just once before on Dec. 29, a 24-7 loss to Fresno State in the 1992 Freedom Bowl.

### FUN FACT III

One of the participants in last year's Cotton Bowl was Western Michigan, which then opened its 2017 season with a 49-31 loss to USC in the Coliseum. The other Cotton Bowl participant last year was Wisconsin, which Ohio State defeated in this year's Big Ten Championship Game, 27-21.

### FUN FACT IV

**Traveler**, USC's white horse mascot that appears at all home football games with a Trojan warrior astride, will make an appearance in Dallas at the 2017 Cotton Bowl. Traveler rarely attends road games, but previously was at the 1995 Cotton Bowl. The farthest Traveler has traveled was the 2005 Orange Bowl in Miami.

### FUN FACT V

"Season of Sam," hosted by USC QB **Sam Darnold** and Pac-12 Network analyst **Yogi Roth**, is a first-of-its-kind podcast, where listeners are taken inside the mind of college football's most elite position, quarterback. Each week during the 2017 college football season, Darnold and Roth shared a conversation that detailed much more than just USC's most recent game; they unveiled untold stories of Darnold's life, discovered what makes a quarterback click and heard from special guests and Trojan teammates offering unique insights regarding leadership, team building and more. Guests included Will Ferrell, Pete Carroll, Luc Robitaille, Sam Hunt, Matt Leinart, Dr. Michael Gervais, Colin Cowherd, Justin Turner, Trent Dilfer, Jordan Palmer and Clay Helton. The podcast can be downloaded from the iTunes Store.



## USC FOOTBALL RANDOM NOTES

\*\*\*USC's 2017 team captains, as elected by their teammates prior to the season, are QB **Sam Darnold**, S **Chris Hawkins**, OLB **Uchenna Nwosu** and ILB **Cameron Smith**. This is the first time since 2004 that USC has only one offensive player as a captain.

\*\*\*For the first time since the 1995 season, USC did not have a bye between any of its regular-season games, only getting a week off on the final weekend of November before it advanced to the Pac-12 Championship Game on Dec. 1.

\*\*\*USC's Nov. 18 regular-season finale against UCLA this year was the earliest that the Trojans concluded a regular season since 2001 (Nov. 17).

\*\*\*USC is the only FBS school never to have had surnames on the back of its jerseys. The Trojan uniform was named the nation's seventh best in college football by USA Today in 2014.

\*\*\*USC is one of only 3 NCAA FBS (formerly Division I-A) schools that has never played an FCS (formerly non-Division I-A) opponent since the divisions were established in 1978. The other schools are UCLA and Notre Dame, both Trojan opponents every season.

\*\*\*USC's future non-conference schedule features Texas in 2018 (away) and BYU in 2019 (away), 2021 (home) and 2023 (home), plus home games versus UNLV (2018), Fresno State (2019, 2022, 2025), New Mexico (2020) and Rice (2022). Since 1926, USC has annually (except during World War II) played Notre Dame in a home-and-home series that currently runs through 2023. Since 2000, Troy also has had Alabama, Ohio State, Texas, Auburn, Nebraska, Penn State, Arkansas, Virginia Tech, Kansas State, Syracuse, Boston College, Hawaii, Minnesota, Virginia, Fresno State, Utah State, Western Michigan, Idaho and Arkansas State on its regular season non-conference slate.

\*\*\*USC's 2 conference "misses" in 2017 were Oregon and Washington. The last time that USC played neither the Ducks nor the Huskies in a season was 2014.

\*\*\*Five Trojans previously attended other 4-year schools: TE **Austin Applebee** (McKendree), WR **Jackson Boyer** (North Carolina), TE **Daniel Imatorbhebhe** (Florida), TB **Corbin Jountti** (Northern Arizona) and CB **Yoofi Quansah** (UC San Diego).

\*\*\*Nine Trojans played at Serra High in Gardena (Calif.): OLB **Olajuwon Tucker**, WR **Jalen Greene**, CB **Jalen Jones**, DL **Rasheem Green**, ILB **John Houston Jr.**, WR **Deontay Burnett**, OLB **Oluwale Betiku Jr.**, S **C.J. Pollard** and ILB **Christian Herrera**.

\*\*\*Six Trojans already earned their bachelor's degrees. WR **Steven Mitchell Jr.** received his bachelor's degree in communication from USC in the spring of 2016 and is now working towards a master's degree in communication management, OG-OT **Jordan Austin** received his bachelor's degree in international relations from USC in the spring of 2017 and is now working on a master's degree in studies in law, S **Chris Hawkins** received his bachelor's degree in policy, planning and development from USC in the spring of 2017 and is working on a second bachelor's degree, DT **Malik Dorton** received his bachelor's degree in communication from USC in the summer of 2017 and is now working on a master's degree in communication management, C **Nico Falah** received his bachelor's degree in non-governmental organizations from USC in the fall of 2017 and TB **Corbin Jountti** received his bachelor's degree in psychology (minor in ethnic studies) from Northern Arizona in December of 2016 before transferring to USC this fall. Each wears a "Graduate" patch on their uniform jersey in 2017.

\*\*\*USC currently has 18 players who graduated a semester early from high school and enrolled at USC that spring. S **Chris Hawkins** enrolled in the spring of 2013. OG-OT **Jordan Austin**, WR **Jalen Greene** and C-OG **Toa Lobendahn** all enrolled in the spring of 2014. DT **Chuma Edoga**, OT-OG **Roy Hemsley** and ILB **Cameron Smith** all enrolled in the spring of 2015. OLB **Oluwale Betiku Jr.**, QB **Matt Fink**, WR **Josh Imatorbhebhe**, DL **Liam Jimmons**, WR **Michael Pittman Jr.**, S **C.J. Pollard** and OT **Nathan Smith** all enrolled in the spring of 2016. ILB **Taylor Katoa**, QB **Jack Sears**, DT **Marlon Tuipulotu** and OT-OG **Andrew Vorhees** all enrolled in the spring of 2017. Since 1999, 47 Trojans have graduated at least a semester early from high school and come to USC (including 1 who graduated a full year early). Also, TE **Daniel Imatorbhebhe** graduated a semester early from high school and enrolled at Florida before transferring to USC.

\*\*\*SNP **Jake Olson** has been an inspiration to and involved with the USC football program since the age of 12 in 2009 when he lost his eyesight to cancer. Olson was born with retinoblastoma, a cancer of the retina. He lost his left eye when he was 10 months old and, despite numerous procedures on his other eye, he had his right eye removed when he was 12 in 2009 (he spent the day before his 2009 surgery at a USC football practice). His story was chronicled nationally, including several ESPN stories. After long snapping in high school as a junior and senior in 2013 and 2014 (he also played golf in high school and usually shot in the 80s), he received a scholarship in 2015 to attend USC from Swim With Mike's Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund (because that scholarship is regarded as athletic aid, USC sought and received a waiver from the NCAA so that he did not count against the Trojans' NCAA-mandated 85 scholarship roster limit). Now a walk-on redshirt sophomore, USC prevents contact during practice drills in which he is involved to make sure he is protected. He is guided onto the field and positioned over the ball by a teammate. In the 2017 season opener against Western Michigan, he got into the game to snap the final PAT and did so again mid-season against Oregon State. He is a motivational speaker and has co-authored 2 books about overcoming adversity. His guide dog's name is Quebec. The Swim With Mike swim-a-thon fundraiser has raised nearly \$20 million for 200-plus physically challenged athletes' scholarships at more than 100 universities for students who have overcome life-challenging accidents or illnesses. Olson won the 2016 Rare Disease Champion Award and was a nominee for the 2015 Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award.

\*\*\*Defensive line coach **Kenechi Udeze** was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (a blood cancer) in 2008 while playing for the NFL's Minnesota Vikings and he was placed on injured reserve that season. He received chemotherapy treatments and had a bone marrow transplant from his brother. He was the Vikings' recipient of the 2008 NFL Ed Block Courage Award, as voted by his teammates. After attempting to return to the playing field in 2009 but struggling with peripheral neuropathy in his feet as a result of chemotherapy, Udeze retired from the NFL that summer. His leukemia is in remission. He has been involved with charities that raise money for cancer research.

\*\*\*S **Chris Hawkins** is USC's 2017 representative on the Pac-12's Student-Athlete Leadership Team and also was 1 of 2 student-athletes to represent the Pac-12 at the 2017 NCAA Legislation meeting in Chicago.

\*\*\*Who's the fastest among the 2017 Trojans? TB **Ronald Jones II**, who sprinted briefly with the 2016 Trojan tracksters, had high school bests of 10.37 in the 100 meters and 21.88 in the 200 meters. CB-TB **Dominic Davis** has posted lifetime bests of 10.47 in the 100 meters (10.39 wind-aided) and 21.48 (21.27 wind-aided) in the 200 meters. He set a USC freshman indoor record in the 60 meters (6.78) at the 2016 MPSF Championships. He was fourth in the 100 (10.51) at the 2014 California high school state meet as a junior and third in the event as a 2015 senior (10.56). Jones and Davis have sprinted for USC's track team.

\*\*\*DT **Marlon Tuipulotu** was the Oregon state Class 5A 285-pound wrestling champion as a junior in high school.

\*\*\*P-HLD **Wyatt Schmidt** was on a 3-time Minnesota state champion ice hockey team in high school, then played junior ice hockey in South Dakota in 2013 before coming to USC.

\*\*\*P **Chris Tilbey**, a Melbourne native who played Australian Rules Football (as well as cricket), is the first Trojan football letterman from Australia. Former Trojan Riki (Gray) Ellison (1978-82) was born in New Zealand, but claimed Tucson, Ariz., as his home.

\*\*\*DT **Brandon Pili** is USC's first football letterman from Alaska.

\*\*\*OLB **Oluwale Betiku Jr.** was born in Lagos, Nigeria, where he participated in soccer and boxing. He moved to the United States when he was a sophomore in high school.

\*\*\*C **Brett Neilon** grew up in Japan, home of his mother, where he participated in baseball, basketball and the martial art of aikido.

\*\*\*ILB-OLB **Juliano Falaniko**, who attended Leone High in Pago Pago, American Samoa, is the first Trojan footballer who prepped in American Samoa since Travis Tofi (2003-06).





\*\*\*Adding to the foreign feel of USC's 2017 football team: assistant strength and conditioning coach/sports performance **Danny van Dijk** is from Australia, where he worked with rugby teams; assistant athletic director/recruiting and player personnel **Eric Ziskin** spent 2015 in Norway working for a business and technology services company; assistant coach **Tee Martin** played professionally in Canada (CFL's Winnipeg Blue Bombers) and Europe (NFL Europe's Rhein Fire); and assistant coach **Deland McCullough** played with the CFL's Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

\*\*\*WR **Josh Imatorbhebhe** traveled to Santiago, Chile, in May of 2017 as part of the USC Marshall School of Business' Learning About International Commerce (LINC) program that exposes USC freshmen business students to business practices outside of the United States.

\*\*\*Seventeen-year-old CB **Je'Quari Godfrey** is the first USC football player born in the 21st Century (Jan. 23, 2000). P **Chris Tilbey** is USC's oldest player (23, born Dec. 31, 1993).

\*\*\*OG-OT **Chris Brown** is an accomplished guitarist, specializing in the blues (he also plays several other instruments). OT **Josh Fatu** plays the ukelele.

\*\*\*ILB **Cameron Smith** played youth football against eighth graders when he was in fourth grade. At USC, he interned in the summer of 2017 at a winery.

\*\*\*P **Reid Budrovich's** brother, Evan, was a student journalist at USC who covered the Trojan football team.

\*\*\*Both of TE **Erik Krommenhoek's** parents attended USC's crosstown rival, UCLA.

\*\*\*Two former USC players--**Jonathan Labonty** and **Kevin Carrasco**--are serving the 2017 Trojans as undergraduate student coaches.

\*\*\*USC has 5 players with the surname of Jones (CB **Jack Jones**, CB **Jalen Jones**, ILB-OLB **Levi Jones**, TB **Ronald Jones II**, WR **Velus Jones Jr.**) and 3 named Smith (ILB **Cameron Smith**, C **Cole Smith**, OT **Nathan Smith**), but none are related.

\*\*\*USC's roster features players who are a Jr. (WR **Steven Mitchell Jr.**, ILB **John Houston Jr.**, OLB **Oluwale Betiku Jr.**, WR **Michael Pittman Jr.**, WR **Velus Jones Jr.**, P **James Bermingham Jr.**), a II (TB **Ronald Jones II**, OG **Frank Martin II**), a III (S **Marvell Tell III**) and a IV (TB **James Toland IV**, WR **Joseph Lewis IV**).

\*\*\*USC's roster palette has OG-OT **Chris Brown** and PK **Michael Brown**, as well as DL **Rasheem Green** and WR **Jalen Greene**.

\*\*\*No USC football letterman in history has a longer non-hyphenated single word surname than the 12-letter last names of TE **Daniel Imatorbhebhe**, WR **Josh Imatorbhebhe** and DL **Jacob Lichtenstein**. Two former lettermen also have 12-letter surnames: TE Dean Lingenfelter (1973) and P Mike MacGillivray (1998-2001). Also on the 2017 Trojan roster is the 11-letter surnamed TE **Erik Krommenhoek**. Fortunately, USC does not put players' last names on the back of its jerseys.

\*\*\*TE **Daniel Imatorbhebhe** and WR **Josh Imatorbhebhe** are USC's only brothers.

\*\*\*TE **Tyler Petite's** real first name is John, S **C.J. Pollard's** is Christopher, ILB **Jordan Iosefa's** is Loveni, S **Bubba Bolden's** is Damuzhea, head coach **Clay Helton's** is Charles and assistant coach **Tee Martin's** is Tamaurice. OLB **Olajuwon Tucker's** nickname is "Boodah," CB **Iman Marshall's** is "Biggie," WR-CB **Keyshawn Young's** is "Pie" (given to him by his late grandmother, who wanted him to be "Perfect In Everything") and WR **Joseph Lewis IV** is "Jody." Defensive line coach **Kenechi Udeze's** first name means "God's love will always be with me" in Nigerian; his nickname as a USC player was "BKU," which stood for Big Kenechi Udeze (he enrolled at USC weighing 375 pounds, but left at 275).

\*\*\*USC has 6 players who "blueshirted," which by NCAA rule allows a non-recruited student-athlete to receive athletic financial aid after beginning practice and have that student-athlete count towards the next year's signing class if the school has reached its NCAA-maximum aid limit for the current year. TE **Daniel Imatorbhebhe**, OT **Clayton Johnston**, WR **Deontay Burnett** and P **Chris Tilbey** all arrived in the fall of 2015, while PK **Michael Brown** joined in the fall of 2016 and OT **Jalen McKenzie** joined in the fall of 2017.

\*\*\*Assistant coach **Tee Martin's** wife, Toya, is a recording artist with hit singles "I Do!" (2001) and "No Matta What (Party All Night)" (2002).

\*\*\*Offensive line coach **Neil Callaway** served as the head coach at Alabama Birmingham (2007-11). As a player at Alabama (1974-77), he played under legendary head coach Paul "Bear" Bryant. He played against USC in 1977, a 21-20 Crimson Tide victory in the Coliseum over the No. 1 Trojans.

\*\*\*Head coach Clay Helton played for his father, Kim, at Houston (1993-94). In 1993, Clay completed 1-of-3 passes in late duty in the Cougars' 49-7 loss to USC in the Coliseum.

\*\*\*An all-USC alumni NFL starting lineup, based on the current highest paid ex-Trojans at all 22 positions, would be worth just under \$150 million annually, according to research by HeroSports.com in August of 2017.

\*\*\*Assistant coach **Ronnie Bradford** played in Super Bowl XXXIII with the Atlanta Falcons, defensive coordinator **Clancy Pendergast** coached in Super Bowl XLIII with the Arizona Cardinals, WR **Michael Pittman Jr.'s** father, Michael Pittman, played in Super Bowl XXXVII with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, ILB-OLB **Levi Jones' father**, Robert Jones, played in Super Bowls XXVII, XXVIII and XXX with the Dallas Cowboys, S **Isaiah Polamalu's** uncle, Troy Polamalu, played in Super Bowls XLIII and XLV with the Pittsburgh Steelers and OT **Jalen McKenzie's** uncle, Raleigh McKenzie, played in Super Bowls XXII and XXVI with the Washington Redskins.

\*\*\*In 2007 while playing with the San Diego Chargers, defensive quality control assistant **Mike Goff** cut his signature long hair and donated it to Locks of Love.

\*\*\*USC's fan base was ranked best in the Pac-12, ninth in college football and 107th in the world in the 2017 FanSided.com Fandom 250.

\*\*\*A new Traveler, the famous white horse that appears at all USC home football games with a Trojan warrior astride, debuted in 2017. Traveler IX took over for Traveler VII, which had been handling that duty since the 2003 season. Traveler first made an appearance at USC football games in 1961. Ever since, whenever USC scores, the Trojan Marching Band plays "Conquest" and Traveler gallops around the Coliseum.

\*\*\*The NFL's **Rams**, who returned to Los Angeles in 2016, shared the Coliseum with USC for a second consecutive year in 2017 (they also did so for part of their previous stint in L.A.) until their new stadium is completed in Inglewood in 2020. The Rams and Trojans previously shared the Coliseum for 34 years, from 1946 through 1979 (the Rams moved to Los Angeles from Cleveland and then departed L.A. for Anaheim). UCLA also played in the Coliseum during that 34-year span. Since the stadium opened in 1923, USC has been its sole football tenant in 25 seasons (1923-27, 1995-2000, 2002-15). There were 3 weekends this fall when the Trojans and Rams played back-to-back games in the Coliseum: Sept. 9 (USC hosted Stanford)/Sept. 10 (Rams hosted Indianapolis), Sept. 16 (USC hosted Texas)/Sept. 17 (Rams hosted Washington) and Oct. 7 (USC hosted Oregon State)/Oct. 8 (Rams hosted Seattle).

\*\*\*USC took control of the management of the Coliseum in the summer of 2013, becoming responsible for the operation, maintenance and upgrading of the facility. USC is required to spend \$70 million over a 10-year period for enhancements and improvements to the Coliseum's infrastructure (\$100 million by 2054). In October of 2015, USC announced plans to renovate and restore the Coliseum, including building a new structure on the stadium's south side (with suites, loge boxes, club seats, a new concourse and new press box), replacing every seat with wider ones, increasing leg room, adding aisles, restoring the iconic peristyle, upgrading Wi-Fi, improving audio and video with two new large screens, adding concession stands and installing new lighting. Work will begin after the 2017 USC season and be completed for the 2019 home opener, although some renovation to the Coliseum has already begun. New field and stadium lighting was installed for the 2016 season. New videoboards and scoreboards throughout the stadium were in place for the 2017 season, replacing the boards that sat atop the peristyle and thereby restoring the iconic peristyle to more closely resemble the stadium's original design. The renovation will be privately funded by USC and will preserve the Coliseum's historic nature. Improvements will reduce seating capacity to approximately 77,500 (from the current 92,348). USC has been a tenant in the Coliseum since the historic stadium opened in 1923. For more information, go to [www.ColiseumRenovation.com](http://www.ColiseumRenovation.com).



## DEPTH CHART OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Twitter • Instagram	Major
<b>WR</b>	21	Tyler Vaughns (6-2, 185, Fr.*)	@tswag03 • @tvaughns_21	Communication
	10	Jalen Greene (6-2, 200, Jr.*)	– • @classic.jg	Communication
	17	Josh Imatorbhebhe (6-2, 215, Fr.*)	@JoshBhebhe • @josh_bhebhe	Business Administration
	9	Randal Grimes (6-4, 205, Fr.)	@RandaRandal • @therandalgrimes	Sociology
	85	Jackson Boyer (6-2, 195, Sr.*)	– • @jackson_boyer	Social Sciences (Economics)
	36	Jack Webster (6-0, 185, Fr.)	– • –	
<b>WR</b>	80	Deontay Burnett (6-0, 170, Jr.)	@Deontay_Burnett • @tay.80	Communication
	23	Velus Jones Jr. (6-0, 190, Fr.*)	@VelusJr • @iam_vjj	Psychology
	81	Trevon Sidney (5-11, 170, Fr.*)	@TrevonSidney • @t.sid2	Communication
	15	Keyshawn “Pie” Young (5-11, 170, So.)	@youngpie_1 • @miami_pie	Communication
	24	Jake Russell (5-11, 170, So.*)	@jakeruss5 • @jake_russ	Business Administration
	41	Milo Stewart (5-9, 165, Sr.*)	– • @miloclark41	Human Biology
<b>TE</b>	88	Daniel Imatorbhebhe (6-3, 235, So.*) <b>OR</b>	@_bhex2 • @1bhebhe5	Social Sciences (Economics)
	82	Tyler Petite (6-4, 250, Jr.)	@TylerPetite • @tylerpetite	Communication
	84	Erik Krommenhoek (6-5, 245, Fr.) <b>OR</b>	@ekromme11 • @erik_krommenhoek	Human Biology
	83	Josh Falo (6-6, 235, Fr.)	@Josh_falo • @philthyj	Communication
	89	Austin Applebee (6-6, 245, Jr.*)	@AAApplebee24 • @austinapplebee	Sociology
	87	Alec Hursh (6-3, 220, Jr.*)	– • –	Biomedical Engineering (Mech. Eng.)
<b>RT</b>	70	Chuma Edoga (6-4, 295, Jr.)	@edogawd • –	Political Economy
	76	Clayton Johnston (6-5, 295, So.*) <b>OR</b>	@KingClayton76 • @kingclayton76	Communication
	73	Austin Jackson (6-6, 290, Fr.)	@ChocoDro • @austindjackson	Political Science
	54	Jalen McKenzie (6-5, 305, Fr.)	@pcBjayepez • @jay_peek54	
	78	#Nathan Smith (6-6, 285, Fr.*)	@Nathan7099 • @nathansmith70	Business Administration
<b>RG</b>	72	Andrew Vorhees (6-6, 310, Fr.)	@Andrew_Vorhees • @andrew_vorhees	Business Administration
	56	Jordan Austin (6-5, 290, Jr.*)	@jaustin0056 • @jaustin56	Studies In Law • Master's
	65	Frank Martin II (6-4, 300, Fr.*)	@IAMFMII • @iamfmii	Communication
	60	#Viane Talamaivao (6-2, 325, Sr.)	– • @vianetalamaivo	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>C</b>	74	Nico Falah (6-4, 285, Sr.*)	@NicoFalah • @nicofalah	Non-Governmental Organizations
	66	Cole Smith (6-3, 275, So.*)	@coledsmith56 • @coledsmith66	
	62	Brett Neilon (6-2, 295, Fr.)	@brettn110 • @brettn110	Business Administration
	64	Richie Wenzel (6-3, 285, Jr.*)	– • @r_wenzel3	Real Estate Development
<b>LG</b>	77	Chris Brown (6-5, 310, Jr.*)	@ChrisBrown77 • @chrisryanbrown77	Real Estate Development
	63	Roy Hemsley (6-5, 315, So.*)	@leagueme_roy • @bigsmooth_63	Psychology
	52	Jacob Daniel (6-4, 305, Jr.)	@559JDan • @jminivanjdan	Political Science
	68	Alijah Vera-Tucker (6-4, 300, Fr.)	@yung_lijh • @yung_lijh	Communication
<b>LT</b>	50	Toa Lobendahn (6-3, 290, Jr.*)	@T_Lo55 • @godswarriorr	Policy, Planning and Development
	73	Austin Jackson (6-6, 290, Fr.) <b>OR</b>	@ChocoDro • @austindjackson	Political Science
	76	Clayton Johnston (6-5, 295, So.*)	@KingClayton76 • @kingclayton76	Communication
<b>WR</b>	6	Michael Pittman Jr. (6-4, 215, So.) <b>OR</b>	@MikePitt_Jr • @michael_pittman_jr	
	4	Steven Mitchell Jr. (5-10, 195, Sr.*)	@smj_vii • @smj.iv	Communication Mgmt. • Master's
	1	Joseph Lewis IV (6-2, 205, Fr.)	@jodyforthewin • @getoff.jody	Communication
	87	Matt Nyman (6-2, 185, Fr.)	– • –	
<b>QB</b>	14	Sam Darnold (6-4, 220, So.*)	– • @samdarnold	Communication
	19	Matt Fink (6-3, 190, Fr.*)	@FinkMattfink • @matt_fink12	Communication
	13	Jack Sears (6-3, 200, Fr.)	@jackpsears12 • @jack_sears12	Business Administration
	16	Holden Thomas (6-6, 195, Fr.*)	@holdenthomas12 • @holdenthomass	Business Administration
	18	Thomas Fitts (6-1, 200, So.*)	@thomasfitts12 • @thomasfitts	Business Administration
<b>FB</b>	47	Reuben Peters (6-0, 230, Jr.*)	– • @reubenrpeters	Real Estate Development
<b>TB</b>	25	Ronald Jones II (6-0, 200, Jr.)	@RonaldJones25 • @rojo	Communication
	7	Stephen Carr (6-0, 210, Fr.) <b>OR</b>	@yt_deon • @yt_deon	Communication
	28	Aca'Cedric Ware (6-0, 195, Jr.) <b>OR</b>	@ware_ced • @acacedric.ware.jr	Real Estate Development
	29	Vavae Malepeai (6-0, 210, Fr.*)	@vavaeee • @vavaeee	Communication
	26	James Toland IV (5-11, 195, Sr.*)	@Toland25 • @jtoland26	Social Sciences (Psychology)
	30	Corbin Jountti (6-0, 205, Sr.*)	– • –	
	38	Chris Edmondson (5-9, 195, Fr.*)	@ChrisEdmondson_ • @cie210	
	37	Ben Easington (5-10, 205, Fr.)	– • –	

Players connected with “OR” are considered equal

\*Used redshirt year

#Entered game week with an injury or uncertain status

Players listed above underlined numbers are in primary playing rotation



## DEPTH CHART DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Twitter • Instagram	Major
<b>OLB</b>	42	Uchenna Nwosu (6-2, 240, Sr.)	@UchennaN_42 • @42nwosu	Political Science
	99	Oluwale Betiku Jr. (6-3, 250, So.)	@oluwalebetiku • @kingwolehoudini	
	<u>41</u>	Juliano Falaniko (6-4, 220, Fr.)	@julianofalaniko • @julianofalaniko_17	Communication
<b>DE</b>	94	Rasheem Green (6-4, 275, Jr.)	@ras_green • @ras_green	Sociology
	<u>44</u>	Malik Dorton (6-2, 280, Jr.*)	@theeEliteMalik • –	Communication Mgmt. • Master's
	78	Jay Tufele (6-3, 295, Fr.)	@tufele123 • @jay_tufele	Sociology
<b>NT</b>	98	Josh Fatu (6-2, 315, Sr.)	@jayfatu • @jayfatu	Sociology
	<u>91</u>	Brandon Pili (6-4, 320, Fr.)	@BrandonPili • @brandonpili_55	
	79	Connor Rossow (6-1, 315, Fr.*)	@connorw52 • @connorw	
	51	#Marlon Tuipulotu (6-3, 295, Fr.)	@marlont_51 • @mtuipulotu51	History
<b>DE</b>	44	Malik Dorton (6-2, 280, Jr.*)	@theeEliteMalik • –	Communication Mgmt. • Master's
	89	Christian Rector (6-4, 275, So.*)	@the_real_rector • @christian_rector	Economics
	<u>93</u>	Liam Jimmons (6-4, 285, Fr.*)	@LJblack98 • @liam_usc93	Real Estate Development
	97	Jacob Lichtenstein (6-5, 255, Fr.)	– • –	
<b>OLB</b>	56	Jordan Iosefa (6-2, 225, So.)	@JordanIosefa • @iosefa_4	Economics
	89	Christian Rector (6-4, 275, So.*) <b>OR</b>	@the_real_rector • @christian_rector	Political Science
	45	#Porter Gustin (6-5, 255, Jr.) <b>OR</b>	@portergustin • @portergustin	Communication
	<u>90</u>	Connor Murphy (6-7, 260, So.)	@CMurph_90 • @cmurphy_90	Communication
	31	Hunter Echols (6-5, 240, Fr.)	@hunter_tyb • @huntertyb	
<b>ILB</b>	35	Cameron Smith (6-2, 250, Jr.)	@CamSc35 • @camusc35	Communication
	56	Jordan Iosefa (6-2, 225, So.)	@JordanIosefa • @iosefa_4	
	<u>50</u>	Grant Moore (6-0, 210, Jr.*)	@gmoore_10 • @grantmoore_50	Real Estate Development
	34	Olajuwon Tucker (6-2, 220, Sr.)	@BThree4 • @bthree4	Int. Relations (Global Business)
	49	Matt Bayle (6-0, 215, So.*)	@realmattbayle • @matthewbayle3	Communication
<b>ILB</b>	10	John Houston Jr. (6-3, 210, So.*)	@Official_John10 • @johnhouston10	Sociology
	<u>13</u>	Levi Jones (6-3, 220, Fr.)	@TheViJones • @thevijones	
	52	Christian Herrera (6-0, 215, Sr.*)	– • @christian_herrera94	Social Sciences (Economics)
	53	Bryce Matthews (6-3, 220, Fr.)	– • –	
	56	#Tayler Katoa (6-2, 230, Fr.)	@taylerkatoa • @taylerkatoa	Business Administration
<b>CB</b>	8	Iman Marshall (6-1, 205, Jr.)	@iman_marshall8 • @biggie	Political Science
	24	Isaiah Langley (6-0, 175, Jr.)	@_IsaiahLangley • @_isaiahlangley	Sociology
	<u>21</u>	Jamel Cook (6-4, 190, Fr.*)	@_retiremomms21 • @_retiremomms21	
	18	Jalen Jones (5-8, 165, Jr.*)	– • @jay.bo	Real Estate Development
	22	Je'Quari Godfrey (6-2, 185, Fr.)	@Jay_Godfrey22 • @jaygodfrey22	Psychology
	9	#Greg Johnson (5-11, 195, Fr.)	@quick6gjohnson • @ykg.three	Communication
<b>NK</b>	27	Ajene Harris (5-10, 190, Jr.*)	@ajeneharris • @harristhechosen1	Communication
	<u>14</u>	Ykili Ross (6-1, 190, So.*)	@TheRealYK_7 • @bilix30	Sociology
<b>SS</b>	4	Chris Hawkins (5-11, 190, Sr.*)	@CHawk_4 • @chawk_4	Sociology • Second Bachelor's
	2	Bubba Bolden (6-3, 190, Fr.)	@BubbBolden • @b_.bold	
	<u>28</u>	C.J. Pollard (6-1, 185, Fr.*)	@CJPollard1 • @cjpollard_28	Communication
	26	Davonte Nunnery (5-10, 215, Jr.*)	@USC_26 • –	Sociology
<b>FS</b>	7	Marvell Tell III (6-2, 195, Jr.)	@MarvellTell_7 • @marvelltell7	Real Estate Development
	<u>37</u>	Matt Lopes (5-11, 200, Sr.*)	– • @lopeseyy	Business Administration
	31	Richard Hagestad (6-1, 195, Fr.*)	– • @bighag	Business Administration
	6	#Isaiah Pola-Mao (6-4, 200, Fr.)	@The_Real_Zay • @isaiah_pola_mao	Sociology
<b>CB</b>	25	Jack Jones (5-11, 170, So.)	@presidentjacc • @presidentjacc	Sociology
	<u>24</u>	Isaiah Langley (6-0, 175, Jr.)	@_IsaiahLangley • @_isaiahlangley	Communication
	16	Dominic Davis (5-9, 190, Jr.)	@dominicadajr • @domo_fast	Computer Science
	30	Yoofi Quansah (5-7, 170, Sr.*)	@stemyoofi • @yquansah_	Non-Governmental Organizations
	23	#Jonathan Lockett (5-11, 180, Sr.)	@Jlock_23 • @jlock23_	

Players connected with “**OR**” are considered equal

\*Used redshirt year

#Entered game week with an injury or uncertain status

Players listed above underlined numbers are in primary playing rotation

## DEPTH CHART SPECIALISTS

Pos.	No.	Name	Twitter • Instagram	Major
<b>P</b>	46	Reid Budrovich (5-11, 185, Jr.*)	@Reid_Bud • @reidbud	Business Administration Political Economy Business Administration
	36	Chris Tilbey (6-5, 215, Jr.*)	@Chris36Tilbey • @christilbey	
	47	James Birmingham Jr. (6-4, 185, Jr.*)	– • @biggamejamesb	
<b>PK</b>	40	Chase McGrath (6-0, 190, Fr.)--PAT, FG, KO	– • –	Political Science Business Administration Real Estate Development
	46	Reid Budrovich (5-11, 185, Jr.)--KO	@Reid_Bud • @reidbud	
	49	#Michael Brown (6-1, 195, Fr.)--KO	@michaelbrown15 • @brownieboi15	
<b>SNP</b>	58	Damon Johnson (6-0, 200, Fr.)	@damon_james24 • @damonj24	Human Biology Real Estate Development Business Administration
	46/86	Wyatt Schmidt (6-3, 205, Jr.*)	@yitschmidt • @yitschmidt	
	61	Jake Olson (6-3, 225, So.*)	@JakeOlson61 • @jakethesnakeolson	
<b>HLD</b>	46/86	Wyatt Schmidt (6-3, 205, Jr.*)	@yitschmidt • @yitschmidt	Real Estate Development Business Administration Communication
	46	Reid Budrovich (5-11, 185, Jr.*)	@Reid_Bud • @reidbud	
	14	Sam Darnold (6-4, 220, So.*)	– • @samdarnold	

## RETURNERS

<b>KOR</b>	23	Velus Jones Jr. (6-0, 190, Fr.*) <b>AND</b>	@VelusJr • @iam_vjj	Psychology Communication
	7	Stephen Carr (6-0, 210, Fr.) <b>OR</b>	@yt_deon • @yt_deon	
	25	Jack Jones (5-11, 170, So.) <b>OR</b>	@presidentjacc • @presidentjacc	Communication
	27	Ajene Harris (5-10, 190, Jr.*)	@ajeneharris • @harristhechosen1	
<b>PR</b>	27	Ajene Harris (5-10, 190, Jr.*)	@ajeneharris • @harristhechosen1	Communication
	25	Jack Jones (5-11, 170, So.)	@presidentjacc • @presidentjacc	Communication
	80	Deontay Burnett (6-0, 170, Jr.)	@Deontay_Burnett • @tay.80	

Players connected with “OR” are considered equal

\*Used redshirt year

#Entered game week with an injury or uncertain status

Players listed above underlined numbers are in primary playing rotation

## PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

### PLAYERS

APPLEBEE, Austin  
BAYLE, Matt  
BERMINGHAM Jr., James  
BETIKU, Oluwole  
BOLDEN, Bubba  
BOYER, Jackson  
BUDROVICH, Reid  
BURNETT, Deontay  
CARR, Stephen  
COOK, Jamel  
DARNOLD, Sam  
DAVIS, Dominic  
DORTON, Malik  
EASINGTON, Ben  
ECHOLS, Hunter  
EDMONDSON, Chris  
EDOGA, Chuma  
FALAH, Nico  
FALANIKO, Giuliano  
FALO, Josh  
FATU, Josh  
GODFREY, Je-Quari  
GREEN, Rasheem  
GREENE, Jalen  
GRIMES, Randal  
GUSTIN, Porter  
HAGSTAD, Richard  
HARRIS, Ajene  
HEMSLEY, Roy  
HERRERA, Christian  
HURSCH, Alec  
IMATORBHEBHE, Daniel/Josh  
IOSEFA, Jordan  
JACKSON, Austin  
JIMMONS, Liam  
JOHNSON, Damon  
JONES, Jalen/Levi/Velus  
JOUNTTI, Corbin  
KATOA, Tayler  
KROMMENHOEK, Erik  
LANGLEY, Isaiah  
LICHTENSTEIN, Jacob  
LOEBENDAHN, Toa

APP-ul-bee  
BAIL  
BUR-ming-ham  
buh-TEE-koo, OE-loo-WOE-lee  
BOWL-dun, BUB-uh  
BOY-ur  
BUD-roe-vitch  
bur-NET, dee-ON-tay  
CAR, STEEV-un  
COOK, juh-MEL  
DAR-nuld  
DAY-vis, DOM-in-ick  
DOOR-tun, muh-LEEK  
EEZ-ing-tun  
ECK-olz  
ED-mun-sun  
uh-OOE-guh, CHOO-muh  
FAA-laa, NEE-coe  
fah-lah-NEE-coe, jew-lee-AH-no  
FALL-oe  
FAH-too  
GAUD-free, juh-CAR-ee  
GREEN, ruh-SHEEM  
GREEN, JAY-lin  
GRYMZ  
GUS-tin  
HAG-uh-stad  
HAIR-us, uh-JAY-nay  
HEMS-lee  
huh-RARE-uh  
HERSH, AL-eck  
ee-MAT-tor-bay-bay  
ee-oe-SEF-uh  
JAX-sun, AWE-stin  
JIM-uns, LEE-um  
JON-sun, DAY-mun  
JOENS, JAY-lin/LEE-vye/VAY-lus  
JUN-tee, CORE-ben  
kuh-TOE-uh, TAY-lur  
krome-mun-HOKE  
LANG-lee, eye-ZAY-uh  
LICK-tun-styne  
low-ben-DON, TOE-uh

LOPES, Matt  
MALEPEAI, Vavae  
MARSHALL, Iman  
McGRATH, Chase  
McKENZIE, Jalen  
NEILON, Brett  
NUNNERY, Davonte  
NWOSU, Uchenna  
NYMAN, Matt  
PETERS, Reuben  
PETITE, Tyler  
PILI, Brandon  
POLA-MAO, Isaiah  
POLLARD, C.J.  
QUANSEH, Yoofi  
RECTOR, Christian  
ROSS, Ykili  
ROSSOW, Connor  
SCHMIDT, Wyatt  
SIDNEY, Trevon  
STEWART, Milo  
TALAMAIVAO, Viane  
TELL III, Marvell  
TILBEY, Chris  
TOLAND IV, James  
TUCKER, Olajuwon  
TUFELE, Jay  
TUIPULOTU, Marlon  
VAUGHNS, Tyler  
VERA-TUCKER, Alijah  
VORHEES, Andrew  
WARE, Aca'Cedric  
WENZEL, Richie  
YOUNG, Keyshawn

LOEPS (as in Copes)  
mah-lay-PAY-eye, vah-VYE  
MAR-shull, EE-mon  
muh-GRATH  
muh-KEN-zee, JAY-lin  
NEE-lun  
NONE-ur-ee, duh-VON-tay  
noo-WOE-sue, oo-CHEN-uh  
NIE-mun  
PEE-turs, RUE-bin  
puh-TEET  
PEE-lee  
POE-luh MDW (as in Cow), eye-ZAY-uh  
PAUL-urd  
KWAN-suh, YO-fee  
RECK-tur  
ROSS, eye-KEE-lee  
ROSS-oe  
SHMIT, WHY-ut  
SID-nee, TRAY-von  
STU-urt, MY-low  
tal-uh-MY-vow, vee-ON-ee  
TELL, mar-VELL  
TILL-bee  
TOE-lund  
TUCK-ur, uh-LAW-juh-wawn  
too-FAY-lay  
TOO-ee-poo-LOE-too  
VONS  
VARE-uh TUK-ur, uh-LIE-jhuh  
VORE-heez  
WEAR, awk-uh-SAID-rick  
WEN-zul  
YUNG, KEY-shon

### COACHES/STAFF

ARCE, Brett  
CALLAWAY, Neil  
GILL, Prentice  
HELTON, Clay  
LEWIS, Ivan  
McCULLOUGH, Deland  
NANSEN, Johnny  
PENDERGAST, Clancy  
UDEZE, Kenechi

ARE-see  
CAL-uh-way  
GIL, PREN-tis  
HELL-tun  
LOO-is, EYE-vun  
muh-CULL-uh, DEE-land  
NAN-sun  
PEN-dur-gassed  
oo-DEZ-zay, kun-EE-chee





## 2017 USC FOOTBALL ROSTER - ALPHABETICAL

No.	Name	Pos	Hgt	Wgt	Birthday	Cl (Ath/Ac)	Exp.	Hometown(High School/JC/College)
89	APPLEBEE, Austin	TE	6-6	245	3/23/96	Jr.*/Sr.	TR	Seneca, IL (Seneca/McKendree/Arizona Western)
56	AUSTIN, Jordan	OG-OT	6-5	290	5/4/96	Jr.*/Sr.	1V	Claremont (Claremont)
49	BAYLE, Matt	OLB	6-0	215	2/27/97	So.*/Jr.	SQ	San Marino (St. Francis)
47	BERMINGHAM JR., James	P	6-4	185	6/12/96	Jr.*/Sr.	SQ	Laguna Beach (Dana Hills)
99	BETIKU JR., Oluwole	OLB	6-3	250	6/22/97	So./So.	1V	Lagos, Nigeria (Serra)
2	BOLDEN, Bubba	S	6-3	190	5/28/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Las Vegas, NV (Bishop Gorman)
85	BOYER, Jackson	WR	6-2	195	6/22/94	Sr.*/Sr.	1V	Chapel Hill, NC (East Chapel Hill/North Carolina)
77	BROWN, Chris	OG-OT	6-5	310	4/26/96	Jr.*/Sr.	2V	Los Angeles (Loyola)
49	BROWN, Michael	PK	6-1	195	12/23/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Temecula (Linfield Christian)
46	BUDROVICH, Reid	P	5-11	185	5/1/96	Jr.*/Sr.	SQ	Torrance (St. John Bosco)
80	BURNETT, Deontay	WR	6-0	170	10/4/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	Compton (Serra)
7	CARR, Stephen	TB	6-0	210	1/16/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Gardena (Summit)
21	COOK, Jamel	S	6-4	190	12/11/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Miami, FL (Miami Central)
52	DANIEL, Jacob	OG	6-4	305	4/7/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	Fresno (Clovis North)
14	DARNOLD, Sam	QB	6-4	220	6/5/97	So.*/Jr.	1V	Capistrano Beach (San Clemente)
16	DAVIS, Dominic	CB-TB	5-9	190	12/8/96	Jr./Jr.	2V	Los Angeles (Bishop Alemany)
44	DORTON, Malik	DT	6-2	280	5/23/96	Jr.*/Sr.	2V	Los Angeles (St. John Bosco)
37	EASINGTON, Ben	TB	5-10	205	4/23/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Evanston, IL (Evanston)
31	ECHOLS, Hunter	OLB	6-5	240	11/1/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Los Angeles (Cathedral)
38	EDMONDSON, Chris	TB	5-9	195	3/5/98	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Cibola, TX (Clemens)
70	EDOGA, Chuma	OT	6-4	295	5/25/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	Atlanta, GA (McEachern)
74	FALAH, Nico	C	6-4	285	1/6/95	Sr.*/Sr.	3V	Hermosa Beach (St. John Bosco)
41	FALANIKO, Juliano	ILB-OLB	6-4	220	3/27/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Pago Pago, American Samoa (Leone)
83	FALO, Josh	TE	6-6	235	8/10/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Sacramento (Inderkum)
98	FATU, Josh	DT	6-2	315	3/8/96	Sr./Sr.	1V	Long Beach (Lakewood/Long Beach CC)
19	FINK, Matt	QB	6-3	190	12/13/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Rancho Cucamonga (Glendora)
18	FITTS, Thomas	QB	6-1	200	9/24/96	So.*/Jr.	SQ	Dallas, TX (Episcopal School of Dallas)
22	GODFREY, Je'Quari	CB	6-2	185	1/23/00	Fr./Fr.	--	Oakland (Bishop O'Dowd)
94	GREEN, Rasheem	DL	6-4	275	5/15/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	Los Angeles (Serra)
10	GREENE, Jalen	WR	6-2	200	6/13/96	Jr.*/Sr.	2V	Inglewood (Serra)
9	GRIMES, Randal	WR	6-4	205	7/27/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Las Vegas, NV (Desert Pines)
45	GUSTIN, Porter	OLB	6-5	255	2/8/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	Elk Ridge, UT (Salem Hills)
31	HAGESTAD, Richard	S	6-1	195	3/21/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Del Mar (Bishop's School)
27	HARRIS, Ajene	CB	5-10	190	6/1/96	Jr.*/Sr.	2V	Los Angeles (Crenshaw)
4	HAWKINS, Chris	S	5-11	190	3/11/95	Sr.*/Sr.	3V	Rancho Cucamonga (Rancho Cucamonga)
63	HEMSLEY, Roy	OT-OG	6-5	315	3/4/97	So.*/Jr.	SQ	Los Angeles (Windward School)
52	HERRERA, Christian	ILB	6-0	210	7/15/94	Sr.*/Sr.	SQ	Manhattan Beach (Serra/Harbor JC/El Camino JC)
10	HOUSTON JR., John	ILB	6-3	210	6/25/97	So.*/Jr.	1V	Carson (Serra)
87	HURSH, Alec	TE	6-3	220	4/26/96	Jr.*/Sr.	SQ	Kansas City, KS (Pembroke Hill)
88	IMATORBHEBHE, Daniel	TE	6-3	235	12/9/96	So.*/Jr.	1V	Suwanee, GA (North Gwinnett/Florida)
17	IMATORBHEBHE, Josh	WR	6-2	215	4/12/98	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Suwanee, GA (North Gwinnett)
56	IOSEFA, Jordan	ILB	6-2	225	9/20/98	So./So.	1V	Waipahu, HI (St. Louis)
73	JACKSON, Austin	OT	6-6	290	8/11/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Phoenix, AZ (North Canyon)
93	JIMMONS, Liam	DL	6-4	285	1/6/98	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Huntington Beach (Huntington Beach)
58	JOHNSON, Damon	SNP	6-0	200	10/7/97	Fr./Fr.	JC	Glendora (Glendora/Citrus JC)
9	JOHNSON, Greg	CB	5-11	195	1/12/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Los Angeles (Hawkins)
76	JOHNSTON, Clayton	OT	6-5	295	10/7/96	So.*/Jr.	1V	Orange (Servite)
25	JONES, Jack	CB	5-11	170	12/20/97	So./So.	1V	Long Beach (Long Beach Poly)
18	JONES, Jalen	CB	5-8	165	2/10/96	Jr.*/Sr.	SQ	Los Angeles (Serra)
13	JONES, Levi	ILB-OLB	6-3	220	5/5/98	Fr./Fr.	--	Austin, TX (Westlake)
25	JONES II, Ronald	TB	6-0	200	8/3/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	McKinney, TX (McKinney North)
23	JONES JR., Velus	WR	6-0	190	5/11/97	Fr.*/Fr.	SQ	Saraland, AL (Saraland)
30	JOUNTTI, Corbin	TB	6-0	205	2/2/95	Sr.*/Sr.	TR	Bakersfield (Liberty/Northern Arizona)
54	KATO, Tayler	ILB	6-2	230	7/27/98	Fr./Fr.	--	Layton, UT (Layton)
84	KROMMENHOEK, Erik	TE	6-5	245	11/12/98	Fr./Fr.	--	Danville (Monte Vista)
24	LANGLEY, Isaiah	CB	6-0	175	10/13/96	Jr./Jr.	2V	Hayward (Foothill)
1	LEWIS IV, Joseph	WR	6-2	205	11/22/98	Fr./Fr.	--	Los Angeles (Hawkins)
97	LICHTENSTEIN, Jacob	DL	6-5	255	11/6/98	Fr./Fr.	--	Weston, FL (Cypress Bay)
50	LOBENDAHN, Toa	C-OG	6-3	290	2/14/96	Jr.*/Sr.	2V	Cerritos (La Habra)
23	LOCKETT, Jonathan	CB	5-11	180	4/18/96	Sr./Sr.	3V	Bellflower (Mater Dei)
37	LOPES, Matt	S	5-11	200	5/12/95	Sr.*/Sr.	3V	Palos Verdes Estates (Palos Verdes)



# **USC FOOTBALL: 168 ALL-AMERICANS, 6 HEISMANS**

No.	Name	Pos	Hgt	Wgt	Birthday	Cl (Ath/Ac)	Exp.	Hometown(High School/JC/College)
29	MALEPEAI, Vavae	TB	6-0	210	1/21/98	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Aiea, HI (Mililani)
8	MARSHALL, Iman	CB	6-1	205	2/27/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	Long Beach (Long Beach Poly)
65	MARTIN II, Frank	OG	6-4	300	9/5/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	West Covina (Mater Dei)
53	MATTHEWS, Bryce	OLB	6-3	220	4/30/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Los Angeles (Bishop Montgomery)
40	McGRATH, Chase	PK	6-0	190	9/13/98	Fr./Fr.	--	Newport Beach (Mater Dei)
54	McKENZIE, Jalen	OT	6-5	305	7/10/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Concord (Clayton Valley)
4	MITCHELL JR., Steven	WR	5-10	195	5/2/94	Sr.*/Sr.	3V	Pasadena (Bishop Alemany)
50	MOORE, Grant	ILB	6-0	210	2/8/96	Jr.*/Sr.	SQ	Santa Ana (Mater Dei)
90	MURPHY, Connor	OLB	6-7	260	10/29/97	So./So.	1V	Mesa, AZ (Brophy Prep)
62	NEILON, Brett	C	6-2	295	7/7/98	Fr./Fr.	--	Rancho Santa Margarita (Santa Margarita)
26	NUNNERY, Davonte	S	5-10	215	10/12/95	Jr.*/Sr.	SQ	Oxnard (St. Bonaventure)
42	NWOSU, Uchenna	OLB	6-2	240	12/28/96	Sr./Sr.	3V	Carson (Narbonne)
87	NYMAN, Matt	WR	6-2	185	11/11/98	Fr./Fr.	--	Los Angeles (Brentwood)
61	OLSON, Jake	SNP	6-3	225	3/26/97	So.*/Jr.	SQ	Huntington Beach (Orange Lutheran)
47	PETERS, Reuben	FB	6-0	230	10/25/96	Jr.*/Sr.	2V	Westchester (Loyola)
82	PETITE, Tyler	TE	6-4	250	12/14/96	Jr./Jr.	2V	Lafayette (Campolindo)
91	PILI, Brandon	DT	6-4	320	4/2/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Anchorage, AK (Westview (OR))
6	PITTMAN JR., Michael	WR	6-4	215	10/5/97	So./So.	1V	Woodland Hills (Oaks Christian)
6	POLA-MAO, Isaiah	S	6-4	200	6/30/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Phoenix, AZ (Mountain Pointe)
28	POLLARD, C.J.	S	6-1	185	10/31/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Carson (Serra)
30	QUANSAH, Yoofi	CB	5-7	170	10/13/95	Sr.*/Sr.	SQ	Chino Hills (Chino Hills/UC San Diego)
89	RECTOR, Christian	DL	6-4	275	4/22/97	So.*/Jr.	1V	South Pasadena (Loyola)
14	ROSS, Ykili	S	6-1	190	9/17/96	So.*/Jr.	1V	Riverside (Riverside Poly)
79	ROSSOW, Connor	DT	6-1	315	4/23/98	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Tustin (Mater Dei)
24	RUSSELL, Jake	WR	5-11	170	12/18/96	So.*/Jr.	SQ	San Clemente (San Clemente)
46/86	SCHMIDT, Wyatt	P-HLD	6-3	205	12/25/94	Jr.*/Sr.	1V	Inver Grove Heights, MN (St. Thomas Academy)
13	SEARS, Jack	QB	6-3	200	4/17/98	Fr./Fr.	--	San Clemente (San Clemente)
81	SIDNEY, Trevon	WR	5-11	170	10/24/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Pasadena (Bishop Amat)
35	SMITH, Cameron	ILB	6-2	250	3/26/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	Roseville (Granite Bay)
66	SMITH, Cole	C	6-3	275	8/19/96	So.*/Jr.	SQ	Mission Viejo (Mission Viejo)
78	SMITH, Nathan	OT	6-6	285	4/17/98	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Murrieta (Murrieta Mesa)
41	STEWART, Milo	WR	5-9	165	10/29/94	Sr.*/Sr.	SQ	Palm Desert (Marywood-Palm Valley)
60	TALAMAIVAO, Viane	OG	6-2	325	12/13/95	Sr./Sr.	3V	Moreno Valley (Centennial)
7	TELL III, Marvell	S	6-2	195	8/2/96	Jr./Jr.	2V	Pasadena (Crespi)
16	THOMAS, Holden	QB	6-6	195	6/20/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Pacific Palisades (Brentwood)
36	TILBEY, Chris	P	6-5	215	12/31/93	Jr.*/Sr.	1V	Melbourne, Australia (Sandringham/ San Francisco CC)
26	TOLAND IV, James	TB	5-11	195	12/29/94	Sr.*/Sr.	2V	Indio (Shadow Hills)
34	TUCKER, Olajuwon	OLB	6-2	220	7/30/96	Sr./Sr.	3V	Harbor City (Serra)
78	TUFELE, Jay	DL	6-3	295	7/25/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Salt Lake City, UT (Bingham)
51	TUIPULOTU, Marlon	DT	6-3	295	5/31/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Independence, OR (Central)
21	VAUGHNS, Tyler	WR	6-2	185	6/1/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Pasadena (Bishop Amat)
68	VERA-TUCKER, Alijah	OG-OT	6-4	300	6/17/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Oakland (Bishop O'Dowd)
72	VORHEES, Andrew	OT-OG	6-6	310	1/21/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Kingsburg (Kingsburg)
28	WARE, Aca'Cedric	TB	6-0	195	6/29/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	DeSoto, TX (Cedar Hill)
36	WEBSTER, Jack	WR	6-0	185	8/20/98	Fr./Fr.	--	La Canada Flintridge (Loyola)
64	WENZEL, Richie	C	6-3	285	2/10/95	Jr.*/Sr.	SQ	Chevy Chase, MD (Our Lady of Good Counsel)
15	YOUNG, Keyshawn "Pie"	WR-CB	5-11	170	12/29/96	So./So.	1V	Miami, FL (Miami Senior)

\*Used up redshirt year

**HEAD COACH:** Clay HELTON (Houston, 1994), Fourth Year (*interim 1 game in 2013, 7 in 2015; permanent 2 games in 2015, all 2016 and 2017*)

**ASSISTANT COACHES:** Brett ARCE, Defensive Graduate Assistant (Stony Brook, 2011); John BAXTER, Special Teams Coordinator/Tight Ends (Loras College, 1985); Ronnie BRADFORD, Secondary (Colorado, 1995); Neil CALLAWAY, Offensive Line (Alabama, 1978); Austin CLARK, Defensive Graduate Assistant (California, 2014); Bryan ELLIS, Quarterbacks (Alabama-Birmingham, 2011); Prentice GILL, Offensive Graduate Assistant (Old Dominion, 2012); Tee MARTIN, Offensive Coordinator/Wide Receivers (Tennessee/U.S. Sports Academy, 2004); Johnny NANSEN, Assistant Head Coach/Linebackers/Recruiting Coordinator (Washington State, 1997); Clancy PENDERGAST, Defensive Coordinator (Arizona, 1990); Deland McCULLOUGH, Running Backs/Run Game Coordinator (Miami (Ohio), 1996); Dane STEVENS, Offensive Graduate Assistant (USC, 2016); Kenechi UDEZE, Defensive Line (USC, 2010)

**STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACH:** Ivan LEWIS (Idaho, 2000)





## 2017 USC FOOTBALL ROSTER - NUMERICAL

No.	Name	Pos	Hgt	Wgt	Birthday	Cl (Ath/Ac)	Exp.	Hometown(High School/JC/College)
1	LEWIS IV, Joseph	WR	6-2	205	11/22/98	Fr./Fr.	--	Los Angeles (Hawkins)
2	BOLDEN, Bubba	S	6-3	190	5/28/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Las Vegas, NV (Bishop Gorman)
4	MITCHELL JR., Steven	WR	5-10	195	5/2/94	Sr.*/Sr.	3V	Pasadena (Bishop Alemany)
4	HAWKINS, Chris	S	5-11	190	3/11/95	Sr.*/Sr.	3V	Rancho Cucamonga (Rancho Cucamonga)
6	PITTMAN JR., Michael	WR	6-4	215	10/5/97	So./So.	1V	Woodland Hills (Oaks Christian)
6	POLA-MAO, Isaiah	S	6-4	200	6/30/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Phoenix, AZ (Mountain Pointe)
7	TELL III, Marvell	S	6-2	195	8/2/96	Jr./Jr.	2V	Pasadena (Crespi)
7	CARR, Stephen	TB	6-0	210	1/16/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Gardena (Summit)
8	MARSHALL, Iman	CB	6-1	205	2/27/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	Long Beach (Long Beach Poly)
9	GRIMES, Randal	WR	6-4	205	7/27/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Las Vegas, NV (Desert Pines)
9	JOHNSON, Greg	CB	5-11	195	1/12/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Los Angeles (Hawkins)
10	GREENE, Jalen	WR	6-2	200	6/13/96	Jr.*/Sr.	2V	Inglewood (Serra)
10	HOUSTON JR., John	ILB	6-3	210	6/25/97	So.*/Jr.	1V	Carson (Serra)
13	SEARS, Jack	QB	6-3	200	4/17/98	Fr./Fr.	--	San Clemente (San Clemente)
13	JONES, Levi	ILB-OLB	6-3	220	5/5/98	Fr./Fr.	--	Austin, TX (Westlake)
14	DARNOLD, Sam	QB	6-4	220	6/5/97	So.*/Jr.	1V	Capistrano Beach (San Clemente)
14	ROSS, Ykili	S	6-1	190	9/17/96	So.*/Jr.	1V	Riverside (Riverside Poly)
15	YOUNG, Keyshawn "Pie"	WR-CB	5-11	170	12/29/96	So./So.	1V	Miami, FL (Miami Senior)
16	DAVIS, Dominic	CB-TB	5-9	190	12/8/96	Jr./Jr.	2V	Los Angeles (Bishop Alemany)
16	THOMAS, Holden	QB	6-6	195	6/20/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Pacific Palisades (Brentwood)
17	IMATORBHEBHE, Josh	WR	6-2	215	4/12/98	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Suwanee, GA (North Gwinnett)
18	FITTS, Thomas	QB	6-1	200	9/24/96	So.*/Jr.	SQ	Dallas, TX (Episcopal School of Dallas)
18	JONES, Jalen	CB	5-8	165	2/10/96	Jr.*/Sr.	SQ	Los Angeles (Serra)
19	FINK, Matt	QB	6-3	190	12/13/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Rancho Cucamonga (Glendora)
21	COOK, Jamel	S	6-4	190	12/11/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Miami, FL (Miami Central)
21	VAUGHNS, Tyler	WR	6-2	185	6/1/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Pasadena (Bishop Amat)
22	GODFREY, Je'Quari	CB	6-2	185	1/23/00	Fr./Fr.	--	Oakland (Bishop O'Dowd)
23	LOCKETT, Jonathan	CB	5-11	180	4/18/96	Sr./Sr.	3V	Bellflower (Mater Dei)
23	JONES JR., Velus	WR	6-0	190	5/11/97	Fr.*/Fr.	SQ	Saraland, AL (Saraland)
24	LANGLEY, Isaiah	CB	6-0	175	10/13/96	Jr./Jr.	2V	Hayward (Foothill)
24	RUSSELL, Jake	WR	5-11	170	12/18/96	So.*/Jr.	SQ	San Clemente (San Clemente)
25	JONES II, Ronald	TB	6-0	200	8/3/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	McKinney, TX (McKinney North)
25	JONES, Jack	CB	5-11	170	12/20/97	So./So.	1V	Long Beach (Long Beach Poly)
26	TOLAND IV, James	TB	5-11	195	12/29/94	Sr.*/Sr.	2V	Indio (Shadow Hills)
26	NUNNERY, Davonte	S	5-10	215	10/12/95	Jr.*/Sr.	SQ	Oxnard (St. Bonaventure)
27	HARRIS, Ajene	CB	5-10	190	6/1/96	Jr.*/Sr.	2V	Los Angeles (Crenshaw)
28	WARE, Aca'Cedric	TB	6-0	195	6/29/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	DeSoto, TX (Cedar Hill)
28	POLLARD, C.J.	S	6-1	185	10/31/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Carson (Serra)
29	MALEPEAI, Vavae	TB	6-0	210	1/21/98	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Aiea, HI (Mililani)
30	QUANSAH, Yoofi	CB	5-7	170	10/13/95	Sr.*/Sr.	SQ	Chino Hills (Chino Hills/UC San Diego)
30	JOUNTTI, Corbin	TB	6-0	205	2/2/95	Sr.*/Sr.	TR	Bakersfield (Liberty/Northern Arizona)
31	ECHOLS, Hunter	OLB	6-5	240	11/1/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Los Angeles (Cathedral)
31	HAGESTAD, Richard	S	6-1	195	3/21/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Del Mar (Bishop's School)
34	TUCKER, Olajuwon	OLB	6-2	220	7/30/96	Sr./Sr.	3V	Harbor City (Serra)
35	SMITH, Cameron	ILB	6-2	250	3/26/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	Roseville (Granite Bay)
36	TILBEY, Chris	P	6-5	215	12/31/93	Jr.*/Sr.	1V	Melbourne, Australia (Sandringham/ San Francisco CC)
36	WEBSTER, Jack	WR	6-0	185	8/20/98	Fr./Fr.	--	La Canada Flintridge (Loyola)
37	LOPES, Matt	S	5-11	200	5/12/95	Sr.*/Sr.	3V	Palos Verdes Estates (Palos Verdes)
37	EASINGTON, Ben	TB	5-10	205	4/23/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Evanston, IL (Evanston)
38	EDMONDSON, Chris	TB	5-9	195	3/5/98	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Cibola, TX (Clemens)
40	McGRATH, Chase	PK	6-0	190	9/13/98	Fr./Fr.	--	Newport Beach (Mater Dei)
41	FALANIKO, Juliano	ILB-OLB	6-4	220	3/27/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Pago Pago, American Samoa (Leone)
41	STEWART, Milo	WR	5-9	165	10/29/94	Sr.*/Sr.	SQ	Palm Desert (Marywood-Palm Valley)
42	NWOSU, Uchenna	OLB	6-2	240	12/28/96	Sr./Sr.	3V	Carson (Narbonne)
44	DORTON, Malik	DT	6-2	280	5/23/96	Jr.*/Sr.	2V	Los Angeles (St. John Bosco)
45	GUSTIN, Porter	OLB	6-5	255	2/8/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	Elk Ridge, UT (Salem Hills)
46/86	SCHMIDT, Wyatt	P-HLD	6-3	205	12/25/94	Jr.*/Sr.	1V	Inver Grove Heights, MN (St. Thomas Academy)
46	BUDROVICH, Reid	P	5-11	185	5/1/96	Jr.*/Sr.	SQ	Torrance (St. John Bosco)
47	PETERS, Reuben	FB	6-0	230	10/25/96	Jr.*/Sr.	2V	Westchester (Loyola)
47	BERMINGHAM JR., James	P	6-4	185	6/12/96	Jr.*/Sr.	SQ	Laguna Beach (Dana Hills)



# **USC FOOTBALL: 168 ALL-AMERICANS, 6 HEISMANS**

No.	Name	Pos	Hgt	Wgt	Birthday	Cl (Ath/Ac)	Exp.	Hometown(High School/JC/College)
49	BROWN, Michael	PK	6-1	195	12/23/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Temecula (Linfield Christian)
49	BAYLE, Matt	OLB	6-0	215	2/27/97	So.*/Jr.	SQ	San Marino (St. Francis)
50	LOBENDAHN, Toa	C-OG	6-3	290	2/14/96	Jr.*/Sr.	2V	Cerritos (La Habra)
50	MOORE, Grant	ILB	6-0	210	2/8/96	Jr.*/Sr.	SQ	Santa Ana (Mater Dei)
51	TUIPULOTU, Marlon	DT	6-3	295	5/31/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Independence, OR (Central)
52	DANIEL, Jacob	OG	6-4	305	4/7/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	Fresno (Clovis North)
52	HERRERA, Christian	ILB	6-0	210	7/15/94	Sr.*/Sr.	SQ	Manhattan Beach (Serra/Harbor JC/El Camino JC)
53	MATTHEWS, Bryce	OLB	6-3	220	4/30/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Los Angeles (Bishop Montgomery)
54	KATOA, Tayler	ILB	6-2	230	7/27/98	Fr./Fr.	--	Layton, UT (Layton)
54	McKENZIE, Jalen	OT	6-5	305	7/10/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Concord (Clayton Valley)
56	AUSTIN, Jordan	OG-OT	6-5	290	5/4/96	Jr.*/Sr.	1V	Claremont (Claremont)
56	IOSEFA, Jordan	ILB	6-2	225	9/20/98	So./So.	1V	Waipahu, HI (St. Louis)
58	JOHNSON, Damon	SNP	6-0	200	10/7/97	Fr./Fr.	JC	Glendora (Glendora/Citrus JC)
60	TALAMAIWAO, Viane	OG	6-2	325	12/13/95	Sr./Sr.	3V	Moreno Valley (Centennial)
61	OLSON, Jake	SNP	6-3	225	3/26/97	So.*/Jr.	SQ	Huntington Beach (Orange Lutheran)
62	NEILON, Brett	C	6-2	295	7/7/98	Fr./Fr.	--	Rancho Santa Margarita (Santa Margarita)
63	HEMSLEY, Roy	OT-OG	6-5	315	3/4/97	So.*/Jr.	SQ	Los Angeles (Windward School)
64	WENZEL, Richie	C	6-3	285	2/10/95	Jr.*/Sr.	SQ	Chevy Chase, MD (Our Lady of Good Counsel)
65	MARTIN II, Frank	OG	6-4	300	9/5/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	West Covina (Mater Dei)
66	SMITH, Cole	C	6-3	275	8/19/96	So.*/Jr.	SQ	Mission Viejo (Mission Viejo)
68	VERA-TUCKER, Alijah	OG-OT	6-4	300	6/17/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Oakland (Bishop O'Dowd)
70	EDOGA, Chuma	OT	6-4	295	5/25/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	Atlanta, GA (McEachern)
72	VORHEES, Andrew	OT-OG	6-6	310	1/21/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Kingsburg (Kingsburg)
73	JACKSON, Austin	OT	6-6	290	8/11/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Phoenix, AZ (North Canyon)
74	FALAH, Nico	C	6-4	285	1/6/95	Sr.*/Sr.	3V	Hermosa Beach (St. John Bosco)
76	JOHNSTON, Clayton	OT	6-5	295	10/7/96	So.*/Jr.	1V	Orange (Servite)
77	BROWN, Chris	OG-OT	6-5	310	4/26/96	Jr.*/Sr.	2V	Los Angeles (Loyola)
78	SMITH, Nathan	OT	6-6	285	4/17/98	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Murrieta (Murrieta Mesa)
78	TUFELE, Jay	DL	6-3	295	7/25/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Salt Lake City, UT (Bingham)
79	ROSSOW, Connor	DT	6-1	315	4/23/98	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Tustin (Mater Dei)
80	BURNETT, Deontay	WR	6-0	170	10/4/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	Compton (Serra)
81	SIDNEY, Trevon	WR	5-11	170	10/24/97	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Pasadena (Bishop Amat)
82	PETITE, Tyler	TE	6-4	250	12/14/96	Jr./Jr.	2V	Lafayette (Campolindo)
83	FALO, Josh	TE	6-6	235	8/10/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Sacramento (Inderkum)
84	KROMMENHOEK, Erik	TE	6-5	245	11/12/98	Fr./Fr.	--	Danville (Monte Vista)
85	BOYER, Jackson	WR	6-2	195	6/22/94	Sr.*/Sr.	1V	Chapel Hill, NC (East Chapel Hill/North Carolina)
87	HURSH, Alec	TE	6-3	220	4/26/96	Jr.*/Sr.	SQ	Kansas City, KS (Pembroke Hill)
87	NYMAN, Matt	WR	6-2	185	11/11/98	Fr./Fr.	--	Los Angeles (Brentwood)
88	IMATORBHEBHE, Daniel	TE	6-3	235	12/9/96	So.*/Jr.	1V	Suwanee, GA (North Gwinnett/Florida)
89	RECTOR, Christian	DL	6-4	275	4/22/97	So.*/Jr.	1V	South Pasadena (Loyola)
89	APPLEBEE, Austin	TE	6-6	245	3/23/96	Jr.*/Sr.	TR	Seneca, IL (Seneca/McKendree/Arizona Western)
90	MURPHY, Connor	OLB	6-7	260	10/29/97	So./So.	1V	Mesa, AZ (Brophy Prep)
91	PILI, Brandon	DT	6-4	320	4/2/99	Fr./Fr.	--	Anchorage, AK (Westview (OR))
93	JIMMONS, Liam	DL	6-4	285	1/6/98	Fr.*/So.	SQ	Huntington Beach (Huntington Beach)
94	GREEN, Rasheem	DL	6-4	275	5/15/97	Jr./Jr.	2V	Los Angeles (Serra)
97	LICHTENSTEIN, Jacob	DL	6-5	255	11/6/98	Fr./Fr.	--	Weston, FL (Cypress Bay)
98	FATU, Josh	DT	6-2	315	3/8/96	Sr./Sr.	1V	Long Beach (Lakewood/Long Beach CC)
99	BETIKU JR., Oluwole	OLB	6-3	250	6/22/97	So./So.	1V	Lagos, Nigeria (Serra)

\*Used up redshirt year

**HEAD COACH:** Clay HELTON (Houston, 1994), Fourth Year (*interim 1 game in 2013, 7 in 2015; permanent 2 games in 2015, all 2016 and 2017*)

**ASSISTANT COACHES:** Brett ARCE, Defensive Graduate Assistant (Stony Brook, 2011); John BAXTER, Special Teams Coordinator/Tight Ends (Loras College, 1985); Ronnie BRADFORD, Secondary (Colorado, 1995); Neil CALLAWAY, Offensive Line (Alabama, 1978); Austin CLARK, Defensive Graduate Assistant (California, 2014); Bryan ELLIS, Quarterbacks (Alabama-Birmingham, 2011); Prentice GILL, Offensive Graduate Assistant (Old Dominion, 2012); Tee MARTIN, Offensive Coordinator/Wide Receivers (Tennessee/U.S. Sports Academy, 2004); Johnny NANSEN, Assistant Head Coach/Linebackers/Recruiting Coordinator (Washington State, 1997); Clancy PENDERGAST, Defensive Coordinator (Arizona, 1990); Deland McCULLOUGH, Running Backs/Run Game Coordinator (Miami (Ohio), 1996); Dane STEVENS, Offensive Graduate Assistant (USC, 2016); Kenechi UDEZE, Defensive Line (USC, 2010)

**STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACH:** Ivan LEWIS (Idaho, 2000)



## 2017 USC FOOTBALL PLAYER BIOGRAPHIES

(Class years are listed athletically/academically, with "\*" indicating player who has used up redshirt year.)  
(Pre-2017 biographical information is available in the 2017 USC football media guide or online at [USCTrojans.com](http://USCTrojans.com).)

**(89) AUSTIN APPLEBEE**  
Tight End, 6-6, 245, Jr.\*/Sr.,  
Seneca, IL (Seneca HS/McKendree/Arizona Western)

**2017:** Applebee, who transferred to USC in the spring of 2017, saw brief action in 4 games (Western Michigan, Oregon State, Arizona State, Colorado) as a reserve tight end as a walk-on junior in 2017, but he did not catch a pass.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2015 (Fr.)#...	4	0/0	0	0
#At McKendree				

**(56) JORDAN AUSTIN**  
Offensive Guard-Offensive Tackle, 6-5, 290, Jr.\*/Sr.  
Claremont, CA (Claremont HS)

**CAREER:** He has appeared in 24 games in his career.

**2017:** Austin saw action in all 13 games as a backup at offensive guard and tackle and on special teams as a junior in 2017. He played most of the Pac-12 Championship Game against Stanford at right guard after starter Andrew Vorhees was sidelined early with a concussion. He won **USC's Community Service Award**. He made **2017 Pac-12 All-Academic honorable mention**.

**(49) MATT BAYLE**  
Outside Linebacker, 6-0, 215, So.\*/Jr.  
San Marino, CA (St. Francis HS)

**2017:** Bayle did not see action as a backup walk-on outside linebacker as a sophomore in 2017.

**(47) JAMES BERMINGHAM JR.**  
Punter, 6-4, 185, Jr.\*/Sr.  
Laguna Beach, CA (Dana Hills HS)

**2017:** Bermingham did not see action as a backup walk-on punter as a junior in 2017.

**(99) OLUWOLE BETIKU JR.**  
Outside Linebacker, 6-3, 250, So./So.  
Lagos, Nigeria (Serra HS)

**CAREER:** He has 2 tackles (0.5 for loss) while appearing in 14 games in his career.

**2017:** Betiku served as a backup outside linebacker as a sophomore in 2017. Overall in 2017 while seeing action in 9 games (all but Stanford, Utah, Arizona and Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game), he had 2 tackles, including 0.5 for a loss. He had a tackle each against Texas and California (with the 0.5 for a loss).

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (So.)...	2	0.5/0	0	0

## GAME-BY-GAME WITH OLUWOLE BETIKU JR.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
Texas	1	0/0	0	0
Arizona St.	1	0.5/0	0	0
2017 (So.)...	2	0.5/0	0	0

**(2) BUBBA BOLDEN**  
Safety, 6-3, 190, Fr./Fr.  
Las Vegas, NV (Bishop Gorman HS)

**2017:** Bolden served as a backup strong safety and played on special teams as a first-year freshman in 2017. Overall in 2017 while appearing in 12 games (all but Stanford), he had 8 tackles. He had 3 tackles against UCLA and 2 against Texas. He sprained his knee against Western Michigan and missed the Stanford game.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Fr.)...	8	0/0	0	0

## GAME-BY-GAME WITH BUBBA BOLDEN

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
Texas	2	0/0	0	0
Utah	1	0/0	0	0
Notre Dame	1	0/0	0	0
UCLA	3	0/0	0	0
Stanford(P12)	1	0/0	0	0
2017 (Fr.)...	8	0/0	0	0

**(85) JACKSON BOYER**  
Wide Receiver, 6-2, 195, Sr.\*/Sr.  
Chapel Hill, NC (East Chapel Hill HS/North Carolina)

**CAREER:** He has appeared in 13 collegiate games (6 at USC, 7 at North Carolina) in his career.

**2017:** Boyer saw brief action in 2 games (Oregon State, Arizona) as a backup walk-on wide receiver as a senior in 2017, but did not catch a pass.

**(77) CHRIS BROWN**  
Offensive Guard-Offensive Tackle, 6-5, 310, Jr.\*/Sr.  
Los Angeles, CA (Loyola HS)

**CAREER:** He has 16 career starts and has appeared in 40 games.

**2017:** Brown started all 13 games at left offensive guard as a junior in 2017. He also was able to play tackle. He made **2017 All-Pac-12 honorable mention** and won **USC's Offensive Lineman of the Year Award**.

**(49) MICHAEL BROWN**  
Placekicker, 6-1, 195, Fr.\*/So.  
Temecula, CA (Linfield Christian HS)

**2017:** Brown emerged as USC's placekicker on kickoffs as a redshirt freshman entering in 2017, but he tore ligaments in his left knee in the Stanford game and missed the rest of the season. Overall while appearing in 2 games, he kicked off 9 times, with 3 touchbacks (and 2 pinning opponents within the 20), but he did not attempt any placement kicks.

## GAME-BY-GAME WITH MICHAEL BROWN

	KICKOFFS	WITHIN 20 (TOUCHBACKS)
W. Michigan*	8	1 (3)
Stanford*	1	1 (0)
2017 (fr.)...	9	2 (3)
*Starter		

**(46) REID BUDROVICH**  
Punter, 5-11, 185, Jr.\*/Sr.  
Torrance, CA (St. John Bosco HS)

**2017:** The left-footed Budrovich emerged from 2017 fall camp as USC's starting punter as a walk-on junior. He also served as the backup holder (he handled that role for the Utah and Notre Dame games) and placekicker (he kicked off against Arizona, Colorado and UCLA). Overall in 2017, he averaged 42.5 yards on 49 punts, with 19 of them pinning opponents within the 20-yard line, 15 being fair caught and 10 traveling at least 50 yards (and only 3 were touchbacks). He kicked off 11 times, with 8 being touchbacks and the other 3 pinning opponents within the 20-yard line. He also made 2 tackles. He won **USC's Joe Collins Walk-on Award**.

He averaged 51.0 yards on his 4 punts against Western Michigan (with a 55-yarder and 2 that pinned the Broncos within the 20). He had a 45-yard punt against Stanford, then averaged 46.2 yards on 6 punts against Texas, with 2 pinning the Longhorns within the 20 and 3 traveling





50-plus yards. At California, he averaged 42.3 yards on 3 punts with a 50-yarder. At Washington State, he averaged 43.2 yards on 6 punts, including a 63-yarder, and pinned the Cougars within the 20 4 times. Against Oregon State, he averaged 39.0 on his 2 punts, then averaged 42.5 yards on his 4 punts against Utah (with 1 pinning the Utes within the 20). He averaged 43.0 yards on his 6 punts at Notre Dame (with 1 pinning the Irish within the 20). At Arizona State, he averaged 48.0 yards on his 2 punts (with 1 pinning ASU within the 20). Against Arizona, he averaged 42.8 yards on his 4 punts (with a 62-yarder and another that pinned the Wildcats within the 20) and he also had touchbacks on his 4 kickoffs. At Colorado, he averaged 44.7 yards on 3 punts (with a 57-yarder) and all 3 pinned the Buffaloes within the 20 but he had 1 blocked and he also had touchbacks on 4 of his 7 kickoffs (with 2 others pinning CU within the 20). Against UCLA, he averaged 33.4 yards on 5 punts (with 2 pinning the Bruins within the 20), he kicked off 5 times and he made a tackle. Against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game, 2 of Budrovich's 3 punts pinned Stanford within the 20.

	P	YDS	AVG	LG	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Jr.)...	49	2083	42.5	63	2	0/0	0	0

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH REID BUDROVICH**

2017

	P	YDS	AVG	LG	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
W. Michigan*	4	204	51.0	59	0	0/0	0	0
Stanford*	1	45	45.0	45	0	0/0	0	0
Texas*	6	277	46.2	56	0	0/0	0	0
California*	3	127	42.3	50	0	0/0	0	0
Wash. St.*	6	259	43.2	63	0	0/0	0	0
Oregon St.*	2	78	39.0	46	0	0/0	0	0
Utah*	4	170	42.5	49	0	0/0	0	0
Notre Dame*	6	258	43.0	53	0	0/0	0	0
Arizona St.*	2	96	48.0	49	0	0/0	0	0
Arizona*	4	171	42.8	62	1	0/0	0	0
Colorado*	3	134	44.7	57	0	0/0	0	0
UCLA*	5	167	33.4	40	1	0/0	0	0
Stanford(P12)*	3	97	32.3	43	0	0/0	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	49	2083	42.5	63	2	0/0	0	0

	KICKOFFS	WITHIN 20 (TOUCHBACKS)
Arizona*	4	0 (4)
Colorado*	7	2 (4)
UCLA*	5	1 (0)
2017 (Jr.)...	16	3 (8)

\*Starter

**(80) DEONTAY BURNETT**  
Wide Receiver, 6-0, 170, Jr./Jr.  
Compton, CA (Serra HS)

**CAREER:** He has 140 catches for 1758 yards (12.6 avg) with 16 TDs in his career, along with 29 yards on 5 carries (5.8 avg), 4 punt returns for 26 yards (6.5 avg) and 2 tackles. In his career, he has 17 starts and has appeared in 38 games. His 140 career catches are 14th on the USC all-time list.

**2017:** Burnett made quite an impact while starting at wide receiver as a junior in 2017. Overall in 2017 while starting 12 games (all but Utah) and appearing in all 13 games, he led USC in receiving with 74 receptions for 975 yards (13.2 avg) with 9 TDs and he also had 2 carries for -2 yards (-1.0 avg). He is 20th nationally in receiving TDs (9, second in Pac-12). His 74 catches in 2017 puts him 11th on USC's season receiving list. He is 25 yards shy of becoming the 18th time a Trojan has had 1,000-plus receiving yards in a season. He made **2017 Phil Steele All-American fourth team, All-Pac-12 second team, AP All-Pac-12 first team, Athlon All-Pac-12 first team, Phil Steele All-Pac-12 first team and Pro Football Focus All-Pac-12 first team**. He was a **semifinalist for the 2017 Biletnikoff Award**. He won **USC's Bob Chandler Award**.

He had 8 catches for 142 yards (both game bests) against Western Michigan, then 9 catches for 121 yards (both game highs) with 2 TDs (22 and 25 yards) and added a 3-yard rush against Stanford. He had a game-best 8 catches for 123 yards with 2 TDs (15 and 25 yards) against Texas to earn **Rose Bowl Game Pac-12 Player of the Week** honors. He had a game-best 9 catches for 76 yards with a 4-yard TD at California, then 6 grabs for 45 yards at Washington State. He had 2 catches for 20 yards with a 16-yard TD against Oregon State, 8 catches for 99 yards (both game highs) against Utah, 8 catches for 113 yards (both game highs) with

a 16-yard TD at Notre Dame, and then 4 grabs for 49 yards with a 32-yard TD at Arizona State. He had 2 receptions for 44 yards against Arizona, 6 catches for 79 yards, with a 18-yard TD, at Colorado, 4 grabs for 55 yards versus UCLA and a 9-yard catch against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2015 (Fr.)...	10	161	16.1	0	34	0	0	0.0	0	0
2016 (So.)...	56	622	11.1	7	40	3	31	10.3	0	15
2017 (Jr.)...	74	975	13.2	9	42	2	-2	-1.0	0	3
CAREER.....	140	1758	12.6	16	42	5	29	5.8	0	15

	PR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2016 (So.)...	4	26	6.5	0	15	2	0/0	0	0

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH DEONTAY BURNETT**

2017

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan*	7	142	20.3	0	42	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanford*	9	121	13.4	2	35	1	3	3.0	0	3
Texas*	8	123	15.4	2	25	0	0	0.0	0	0
California*	9	76	8.4	1	19	0	0	0.0	0	0
Wash. St.*	6	45	7.5	0	13	0	0	0.0	0	0
Oregon St.*	2	20	10.0	1	16	0	0	0.0	0	0
Utah	8	99	12.4	0	23	0	0	0.0	0	0
Notre Dame*	8	113	14.1	1	34	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona St.*	4	49	12.3	1	32	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona*	2	44	22.0	0	41	0	0	0.0	0	0
Colorado*	6	79	13.2	1	37	0	0	0.0	0	0
UCLA*	4	55	13.8	0	25	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanford(P12)*	1	9	9.0	0	9	1	-5	-5.0	0	-5
2017 (Jr.)...	74	975	13.2	9	42	2	-2	-1.0	0	3

\*Starter

**(7) STEPHEN CARR**  
Tailback, 6-0, 210, Fr./Fr.  
Gardena, CA (Summitt HS)

**2017:** Carr made an instant impression as an often-used backup tailback as a first-year freshman in 2017. Overall in 2017 while appearing in 9 games (all but Oregon State, Utah, Notre Dame and Arizona State, all of which he missed while recuperating from a sprained right ankle suffered at Washington State) and starting once (California), he had 363 yards on 63 carries (5.8 avg) with 3 TDs, plus he caught 16 passes for 189 yards (11.8 avg), had 3 kickoff returns for 64 yards (21.3 avg) and made a tackle. He made **2017 All-Pac-12 honorable mention**.

He debuted against Western Michigan with 69 yards and 2 scores (1 and 52 yards) on 7 carries for a 9.9 average (it was the most rushing TDs by a Trojan true freshman in an opener since Charles White had 93 in 1976 against Missouri) and he also caught 3 passes for 23 yards. He had 119 yards on 11 carries (a 10.8 average), caught an 18-yard pass and had a tackle against Stanford. He had 28 yards on 9 carries and had 3 catches for 42 yards against Texas. At California, he had a game-high 82 yards on 29 carries, with a 2-yard TD, and also caught 6 passes for 47 yards as he became the first USC first-year freshman to start at tailback since Dillon Baxter did so against Arizona State in 2010. He had 11 yards on 5 carries and returned 2 kicks for 52 yards at Washington State before getting injured. He gained 10 yards on 3 rushes and also caught a 10-yard pass against Arizona State. He had a 2-yard run, caught 2 passes for 49 yards and returned a kickoff 12 yards against UCLA, then added 42 yards on 7 carries against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2017 (Fr.)...	63	373	5.8	3	52	16	189	11.8	0	29

	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Fr.)...	3	64	21.3	0	38	1	0/0	0	0

GAME-BY-GAME WITH STEPHEN CARR

2017

	TQB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan	7	69	9.9	2	52	3	23	7.7	0	8
Stanford	11	119	10.8	0	52	1	18	18.0	0	18
Texas	9	28	3.1	0	11	3	42	14.0	0	21
California*	20	82	4.1	1	13	6	47	7.8	0	15
Wash. St.	5	11	2.2	0	5	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona	3	10	3.3	0	6	1	10	10.0	0	10
UCLA	1	2	2.0	0	2	2	49	24.5	0	29
Stanford(P12)	7	42	6.0	0	10	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (Fr.)...	63	373	5.8	3	52	16	189	11.8	0	29

	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
Stanford	0	0	0.0	0	0
Wash. St.	2	52	26.0	0	38
UCLA	1	12	12.0	0	12
2017 (Fr.)...	3	64	21.3	0	38

\*Starter

**[21] JAMEL COOK**  
Safety, 6-4, 190, Fr.\*/So.  
Miami, FL (Miami Central HS)

**2017:** Cook saw brief action in 3 games (Western Michigan, California, Arizona State) at safety and cornerback as a redshirt freshman in 2017. Overall in 2017, he made 2 tackles.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Fr.)...	2	0/0	0	0

GAME-BY-GAME WITH JAMEL COOK

2017

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
Stanford	1	0/0	0	0
Texas	1	0/0	0	0
2017 (Fr.)...	2	0/0	0	0

**[52] JACOB DANIEL**  
Offensive Guard, 6-4, 305, Jr./Jr.  
Fresno, CA (Clovis North HS)

**CAREER:** He has 9 tackles and a deflection in his career while appearing in 11 games.

**2017:** Daniel was moved to offensive guard from defensive tackle in the fall of 2017, but did not see any action as a junior in 2017.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2015 (Fr.)...	3	0/0	1	0
2016 (So.)...	6	0/0	0	0
CAREER.....	9	0/0	1	0

**[14] SAM DARNOLD**  
Quarterback, 6-4, 220, So.\*/Jr.  
Capistrano Beach, CA (San Clemente HS)

**CAREER:** Darnold has completed 523-of-801 passes (65.3%) for 6,873 yards with 57 TDs and 21 interceptions, plus he has run for 350 yards on 126 carries (2.8 avg) with 7 TDs. He is seventh on USC's career passing list (523 completions) and seventh on its all-time total offense chart (7,223 yards). He has thrown for at least 200 yards in 22 games (and 11 times in his career over 300 yards). He has thrown at least 3 TD passes in a game 10 times in his career (and 4 times with at least 4 TDs). He has won 20 of his 23 career starts and is 12-0 at home.

**2017:** The poised-beyond-his-years Darnold, one of the nation's elite quarterbacks known for his quick release, accuracy, mobility and heady play, started for his second season as just a sophomore in 2017. Overall in 2017 while starting all 13 games, he completed 277-of-435 passes (63.7%) for 3,787 yards with 26 TDs and 12 interceptions, plus he had 64 carries for 100 yards (1.6 avg) with 5 TDs and he made 2 tackles. In his past 8 games, he has thrown 17 TDs and just 4 interceptions. He is USC's season recordholder in total offense (3,887 yards in 2017). His 277 completions in 2017 puts him seventh on the USC season list (28 shy of

Cody Kessler's record of 315 in 2014) and he is on the verge of becoming the first Trojan to throw for 4,000 yards in a season (he has 3,787, just 155 yards shy of Carson Palmer's 3,942 in 2002). He is 13th nationally in passing yards (291.3, third in Pac-12), 16th in passing TDs (26, second in Pac-12), 18th in total offense (299.0, third in Pac-12), 21st in completions (21.3, fourth in Pac-12) and 23rd in passing efficiency (151.0, second in Pac-12).

He made **2017 CollegeFootballNews.com All-American honorable mention, All-Pac-12 first team, AP All-Pac-12 first team, Athlon All-Pac-12 first team, Phil Steele All-Pac-12 first team and CollegeFootballNews.com All-Pac-12 first team, won USC's Co-MVP and Co-Lifter of the Year Award.** He is a **semifinalist for the 2017 Manning Award** and was a **semifinalist for the 2017 Maxwell Award, Walter Camp Award and Davey O'Brien Award.** He was a **USC captain.**

He completed 69.7% of his passes (23-of-33) for 289 yards against Western Michigan, but had 2 picked off, and he also ran for an 11-yard TD. He completed a career-best 80.8% of his passes (21-of-26), including the first 11 throws in the game, for 316 yards with 4 TDs (4, 11, 22 and 25 yards) and 2 picks against Stanford to earn **Pac-12 Offensive Player of the Week, CollegeSportsMadness.com Pac-12 Offensive Player of the Week and O'Brien Award Great 8** honors. He hit 28-of-49 passes for 397 yards with 3 TDs (15, 56, 25 yards) and 2 picks against Texas, completing 3 straight passes under duress to lead USC 52 yards in the final 39 seconds of regulation to set up the game-tying field goal. He was 26-of-32 for 223 yards with 2 TDs (16 and 4 yards) and 1 interception and he also ran for 14 yards on 2 tries at California. At Washington State, he was 15-of-29 for 164 yards with a pick and also ran for 25 yards on 9 carries with 2 short TDs. He was 23-of-35 for 316 yards with 3 TDs (37, 16 and 30 yards) and an interception against Oregon State. He was 27-of-50 for 358 yards and 3 TDs (52, 17 and 1 yards) and also ran for 15 yards on 6 carries against Utah, but lost 3 fumbles. He completed 20-of-28 passes for 229 yards with 2 TDs (5 and 16 yards) at Notre Dame, but threw an interception and lost a fumble. He hit 19-of-35 passes for 266 yards with 3 TDs (32, 42 and 19 yards) at Arizona State and also ran for 19 yards on 4 tries (with a career-long 39-yard scramble), plus he had a tackle. He hit 76.9% of his passes (20-of-26) for 311 yards and 2 TDs (27 and 22 yards) with an interception against Arizona. He completed 21-of-34 passes for 329 yards with 2 TDs (10 and 18 yards) and also scrambled for a 24-yard touchdown at Colorado. He was 17-of-28 for 264 yards with an interception against UCLA and ran for 10 yards on 5 carries (with a 1-yard TD). He hit 70.8% of his passes (17-of-24) for 325 yards with 2 TDs (7 and 19 yards) against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game to earn the **game's MVP.**

	PA	PC	PI	PCT	YDS	TD	LG	TQB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2016 (Fr.)...	366	246	9	.672	3086	31	67	62	250	4.0	2	18
2017 (So.)...	435	277	12	.637	3787	26	56	64	100	1.6	5	39
CAREER.....	801	523	21	.653	6873	57	67	126	350	2.8	7	39

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2016 (Fr.)...	3	0/0	0	0
2017 (So.)...	2	0/0	0	0
CAREER.....	5	0/0	0	0

GAME-BY-GAME WITH SAM DARNOLD

2017

	PA	PC	PI	PCT	YDS	TD	LG	TQB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan*	33	23	2	.697	289	0	42	5	-6	-1.2	1	11
Stanford*	26	21	2	.808	316	4	49	2	4	2.0	0	5
Texas*	49	28	2	.571	397	3	56	6	-12	-2.0	0	10
California*	38	26	1	.684	223	2	19	2	14	7.0	0	19
Wash. St.*	29	15	1	.517	164	0	26	9	25	2.8	2	11
Oregon St.*	35	23	1	.657	316	3	37	4	-18	-4.5	0	7
Utah*	50	27	0	.540	358	3	52	6	15	2.5	0	14
Notre Dame*	28	20	1	.714	229	2	34	9	7	0.8	0	18
Arizona St.*	35	19	0	.543	266	3	42	4	19	4.8	0	39
Arizona*	26	20	1	.769	311	2	41	5	10	2.0	0	10
Colorado*	34	21	0	.618	329	2	37	3	31	10.3	1	24
UCLA*	28	17	1	.607	264	0	29	5	10	2.0	1	9
Stanford(P12)*	24	17	0	.708	325	2	54	4	1	0.3	0	7
2017 (So.)...	435	277	12	.637	3787	26	56	64	100	1.6	5	39

\*Starter

**(16) DOMINIC DAVIS**  
**Cornerback-Tailback, 5-9, 190, Jr./Jr.**  
**Los Angeles, CA (Bishop Alemany HS)**

**CAREER:** In his career, he has 201 yards on 37 carries (5.4 avg), 11 receptions for 121 yards (11.0 avg), a 2-yard kickoff return and a tackle. He has appeared in 23 games in his career.

**2017:** The speedy Davis, who also has sprinted on USC's track team, was moved to cornerback in the 2017 fall camp, but redshirted as a junior in 2017. He was also available at tailback.

	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2015 (Fr.)...	14	69	4.9	0	19	7	102	14.6	0	35
2016 (So.)...	23	132	5.7	0	85	4	19	4.8	0	8
CAREER.....	37	201	5.4	0	85	11	121	11.0	0	35

	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2015 (Fr.)...	1	2	2.0	0	2	1	0/0	0	0

**(44) MALIK DORTON**  
**Defensive Tackle, 6-2, 280, Jr.\*/Sr.**  
**Los Angeles, CA (St. John Bosco HS)**

**CAREER:** He has 35 tackles (5 for losses, with 3.5 sacks), 6 deflections and a forced fumble in his career. He has appeared in 26 games in his career, with 4 starts.

**2017:** Dorton saw significant action as a defensive lineman in all 13 games in 2017, including starting 3 times (Notre Dame, UCLA, Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game). Overall in 2017, he had 24 tackles (3.5 for losses of 30 yards, with 2.5 sacks for 29 yards), 5 deflections and a forced fumble. He had 3 tackles against Utah, Arizona (with a sack) and Colorado, 2 tackles against Western Michigan, Texas, Washington State, Notre Dame and UCLA (with a sack) and 1 each versus Stanford, Oregon State (with 2 deflections), Arizona State and Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game (with 2 deflections).

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2015 (Fr.)...	2	0/0	0	0
2016 (So.)...	9	1.5/16	1	0
2017 (Jr.)...	24	3.5/30	5	0
CAREER.....	35	5/46	6	0

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH MALIK DORTON**

2017

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
W. Michigan	2	0/0	0	0
Stanford	1	0/0	0	0
Texas	2	0.5/1	0	0
California	1	0/0	0	0
Wash. St.	2	0/0	0	0
Oregon St.	1	0/0	2	0
Utah	3	1/1	0	0
Notre Dame*	2	0/0	0	0
Arizona St.	1	0/0	0	0
Arizona	3	1/14	0	0
Colorado	3	0/0	0	0
UCLA*	2	1/14	1	0
Stanford(P12)*	1	0/0	2	0
2017 (Jr.)...	24	3.5/30	5	0

\*Starter

**(37) BEN EASINGTON**  
**Tailback, 5-10, 205, Fr./Fr.**  
**Evanston, IL (Evanston)**

**2017:** Easington did not see action as a reserve tailback as a walk-on first-year freshman in 2017.

**(31) HUNTER ECHOLS**  
**Outside Linebacker, 6-5, 240, Fr./Fr.**  
**Los Angeles, CA (Cathedral HS)**

**2017:** Echols redshirted as a first-year freshman outside linebacker in 2017. He had surgery for a hip infection during 2017 fall camp that slowed him early in the season.

**(38) CHRIS EDMONDSON**  
**Tailback, 5-9, 195, Fr.\*/So.**  
**Cibola, TX (Clemens HS)**

**2017:** Edmondson did not see action as a backup walk-on tailback as a redshirt freshman in 2017.

**(70) CHUMA EDOGA**  
**Offensive Tackle, 6-4, 295, Jr./Jr.**  
**Atlanta, GA (McEachern HS)**

**CAREER:** He has appeared in 33 games in his career, with 15 career starts.

**2017:** Edoga started 11 games at right offensive tackle as a junior in 2017. He sprained an ankle at Washington State and missed the Oregon State and Utah games.

**(74) NICO FALAH**  
**Center, 6-4, 285, Sr.\*/Sr.**  
**Hermosa Beach, CA (St. John Bosco HS)**

**CAREER:** He has appeared in 40 games in his career, with 26 career starts.

**2017:** The reliable Falah started for his second season at center as a senior in 2017. He started all 13 games in 2017. He won **USC's Trojan Commitment Award and Co-Lifter of the Year Award**. He was also able to play offensive tackle.

**(41) JULIANO FALANIKO**  
**Inside Linebacker-Outside Linebacker, 6-4, 220, Fr./Fr.**  
**Pago Pago, American Samoa (Leone HS)**

**2017:** Falaniko served as a backup outside linebacker and played on special teams as a first-year freshman in 2017. Overall in 2017 while appearing in 11 games (all but Texas and Colorado), he had 6 tackles. He had 2 tackles against both California and Colorado. He was also able to play inside linebacker.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Fr.)...	6	0/0	0	0

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH JULIANO FALANIKO**

2017

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
California	2	0/0	0	0
Oregon St.	2	0/0	0	0
Notre Dame	1	0/0	0	0
Arizona St.	1	0/0	0	0
2017 (Fr.)...	6	0/0	0	0

**(83) JOSH FALO**  
**Tight End, 6-6, 235, Fr./Fr.**  
**Sacramento, CA (Inderkum HS)**

**2017:** Fallo served as an often-used backup tight end and played on special teams as a first-year freshman in 2017. Overall while appearing in 11 games (all but Arizona State and Arizona), he had 4 catches for 65 yards (16.2 avg) with 2 TDs and made a tackle. He sprained his ankle prior to the Arizona State game and missed 2 games (Arizona State, Arizona). He caught a 30-yard TD against Oregon State on his first career reception, added 2 catches for 20 yards, with a 1-yard TD, against Utah, and had a key 15-yard fourth down reception late in the Pac-12 Championship Game against Stanford to pick up a first down.

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Sr.)...	4	65	16.2	2	30	1	0/0	0	0





**GAME-BY-GAME WITH JOSH FALO**

**2017**

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
Texas	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	0/0	0	0
Oregon St.	1	30	30.0	1	30	0	0/0	0	0
Utah	2	20	10.0	1	19	0	0/0	0	0
Stanford(P12)	1	15	15.0	0	10	0	0/0	0	0
2017 (Sr.)...	4	65	16.2	2	30	1	0/0	0	0

**[98] JOSH FATU**

**Defensive Tackle, 6-2, 315, Sr./Sr.  
Long Beach, CA (Lakewood HS/Long Beach CC)**

**CAREER:** He has 51 tackles in his career, including 9.5 for losses (with 7 sacks), plus a forced fumble and a deflection. He has appeared in 23 games in his career, with 12 starts.

**2017:** Fatu started at defensive tackle as a senior in 2017. Overall in 2017 while appearing in 12 games (all but Notre Dame) and starting 11 times (all but Notre Dame and Arizona State), he had 30 tackles, including 8 for losses of 39 yards (with 6 sacks for 33 yards), a forced fumble and a deflection. He suffered a knee injury from a car accident prior to the Notre Dame game and was sidelined for that game. He made **2017 All-Pac-12 honorable mention and won USC's John McKay Award**. He was **invited to the 2018 College Gridiron Showcase**.

He had 3 tackles against Western Michigan, 2 tackles for loss (with a sack) against Stanford, 4 tackles versus Texas (0.5 for a loss), 3 tackles at California (with a sack), 6 tackles (1.5 sacks) at Washington State, 2 tackles against Oregon State, 7 tackles (2 for a loss, with a sack) against Utah, 2 tackles (with a sack) against UCLA and 1 tackle against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2016 (Jr.)...	21	1.5/5	0	0
2017 (Sr.)...	30	8/39	1	0
CAREER.....	51	9.5/14	1	0

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH JOSH FATU**

**2017**

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
W. Michigan*	3	0/0	0	0
Stanford*	2	2/10	0	0
Texas*	4	0.5/4	0	0
California*	3	1/5	1	0
Wash. St.*	6	1.5/9	0	0
Oregon St.*	2	0/0	0	0
Utah*	7	2/4	0	0
UCLA*	2	1/7	0	0
Stanford(P12)*	1	0/0	0	0
2017 (Sr.)...	30	8/39	1	0

\*Starter

**[19] MATT FINK**

**Quarterback, 6-3, 190, Fr./So.  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA (Glendora HS)**

**2017:** Fink, equally effective as a passer and runner, was the backup quarterback as a redshirt freshman in 2017. Overall in 2017 while appearing in 3 games, he completed 6-of-9 passes (66.7%) for 43 yards, plus he had 7 carries for 82 yards (11.7 avg) with 1 TD.

Against Oregon State in his first collegiate action while playing the game's final 2 series, he ran for a 51-yard TD on his first career rush (the longest run by a USC quarterback since Carson Palmer's 54-yarder against California in 2001) and completed a 12-yard pass on his first career aerial (he also added a 1-yard run). He completed 5-of-8 passes for 31 yards and ran for 17 yards on 3 tries while playing most of the fourth quarter at Notre Dame. He played the final series at Arizona State and ran for 13 yards on 2 carries.

	PA	PC	PI	PCT	YDS	TD	LG	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2017 (Fr.)...	9	6	0	.667	43	0	16	7	82	11.7	1	51

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH MATT FINK**

**2017**

	PA	PC	PI	PCT	YDS	TD	LG	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
Oregon St.	1	1	0	1.000	12	0	12	2	52	26.0	1	51
Notre Dame	8	5	0	.625	31	0	16	3	17	5.7	0	18
Arizona St.	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	2	13	6.5	0	13
2017 (Fr.)...	9	6	0	.667	43	0	16	7	82	11.7	1	51

**[18] THOMAS FITTS**

**Quarterback, 6-1, 200, So.\*/Jr.  
Dallas, TX (Episcopal School of Dallas)**

**2017:** Fitts did not see action as a backup walk-on quarterback as a sophomore in 2017.

**[22] Je'QUARI GODFREY**

**Cornerback, 6-2, 185, Fr./Fr.  
Oakland, CA (Bishop O'Dowd HS)**

**2017:** Godfrey redshirted as a first-year freshman cornerback in 2017. He was slowed early in the season while recuperating from torn knee ligaments suffered in high school.

**[94] RASHEEM GREEN**

**Defensive Line, 6-4, 275, Jr./Jr.  
Los Angeles, CA (Serra HS)**

**CAREER:** He has 113 tackles, including 19 for losses (with 15.5 sacks), plus 8 deflections, 2 blocked field goals, a fumble recovery (for a TD) and 3 forced fumbles in his career. He has appeared in 40 games in his career, with 25 starts.

**2017:** Green started for his second season as a defensive lineman as a junior in 2017 and made his presence felt to opposing ballcarriers and quarterbacks. Overall in 2017 while starting all 13 games, he had 39 tackles, including a team-best 11.5 for loss (with a team-high 9 sacks), plus 4 deflections and a forced fumble. He is 21st nationally in sacks (0.7, third in Pac-12). He made **2017 CollegeFootballNews.com All-American second team, All-Pac-12 first team, AP All-Pac-12 first team, Athlon All-Pac-12 first team, Phil Steele All-Pac-12 first team and CollegeFootballNews.com All-Pac-12 first team**. He won **USC's Defensive Lineman of the Year Award**.

He had a game-high 9 tackles (1 for a loss) with a deflection against Western Michigan, 3 tackles (0.5 for loss) and 2 deflections against Stanford, 3 tackles (with a sack) against Texas before leaving late in the first half with an ankle sprain, 5 tackles at California and 3 tackles (1.5 sacks) at Washington State. He had 3 tackles (2 for a loss, with a sack) against Oregon State and 3 tackles (0.5 sack) and a deflection against Utah. Three of his 4 tackles were sacks at Arizona State. He had 2 tackles against Arizona and a sack at Colorado. He had 3 tackles (with a sack) and a forced fumble against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2015 (Fr.)...	19	1/4	0	1#
2016 (So.)...	55	6.5/34	6##	0
2017 (Jr.)...	39	11.5/45	4	0
CAREER.....	113	19/83	10##	1#

#Includes 1 returned for TD

##Includes 2 blocked field goals

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH RASHEEM GREEN**

**2017**

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
W. Michigan*	9	1/1	1	0
Stanford*	3	0.5/1	2	0
Texas*	3	1/4	0	0
California*	5	0/0	0	0
Wash. St.*	3	1.5/5	0	0
Oregon St.*	3	2/8	0	0
Utah*	3	0.5/1	1	0
Arizona St.*	4	3/19	0	0
Arizona*	2	0/0	0	0
Colorado*	1	1/3	0	0
Stanford(P12)*	3	1/3	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	39	11.5/45	4	0

\*Starter



**[10] JALEN GREENE**  
Wide Receiver, 6-2, 200, Jr.\*/Sr.  
Gardena, CA (Serra HS)

**CAREER:** In his career, he has 26 receptions for 318 yards (12.3 avg) and 8 carries for 23 yards (2.9 avg), plus he has completed 3-of-5 passes for 127 yards with a TD. He has appeared in 37 games, with 8 starts.

**2017:** Green, who came to USC as a quarterback but has developed into an effective pass catcher, was a key contributor at wide receiver as a junior in 2017. Overall in 2017 while appearing in 10 games (all but Oregon State, Utah and UCLA) and the first 5 games (Western Michigan, Stanford, Texas, California, Washington State), he had 8 receptions for 98 yards (12.2 avg), a 4-yard run and an 11-yard TD after he picked up a blocked punt. He is 10<sup>th</sup> nationally in punt return TDs (1, third in Pac-12).

He had an 11-yard catch against Western Michigan, 2 catches versus Stanford for 22 yards, a 23-yard catch versus Texas, 2 catches for 12 yards at California, 2 catches for 30 yards against Arizona and a 4-yard run at Colorado. He suffered a concussion at Washington State during warmups and missed that game and the Oregon State and Utah games.

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2015 (Fr.)...	10	104	10.4	0	16	3	7	2.3	0	7
2016 (So.)...	8	116	14.5	0	28	4	12	3.0	0	20
2017 (Jr.)...	8	98	12.2	0	23	1	4	4.0	0	4
CAREER.....	26	318	12.3	0	28	8	23	2.9	0	20

	PA	PC	PI	PCT	YDS	TD	LG	PR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2015 (Fr.)...	4	3	0	.750	127	1	75	0	0	0.0	0	0
2016 (So.)...	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	11	0.0	1	11
CAREER.....	5	3	0	.600	127	1	75	0	11	0.0	1	11

## GAME-BY-GAME WITH JALEN GREENE

2017

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan*	1	11	11.0	0	11	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanford*	2	22	11.0	0	12	0	0	0.0	0	0
Texas*	1	23	23.0	0	23	0	0	0.0	0	0
California*	2	12	6.0	0	8	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona	2	30	15.0	0	22	0	0	0.0	0	0
Colorado	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	4	4.0	0	4
2017 (Jr.)...	8	98	12.2	0	23	1	4	4.0	0	4

\*Starter

**[9] RANDAL GRIMES**  
Wide Receiver, 6-4, 205, Fr./Fr.  
Las Vegas, NV (Desert Pines HS)

**2017:** Grimes saw brief action in 3 games (Oregon State, Notre Dame, Arizona State) as a first-year freshman wide receiver in 2017. Overall in 2017, he had 2 receptions for 17 yards (8.5 avg). He had a 12-yard catch against Oregon State and a 9-yard grab at Notre Dame. He suffered a broken bone in his hand in practice late in the year, which slowed him.

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2017 (Fr.)...	2	17	8.5	0	12

## GAME-BY-GAME WITH RANDAL GRIMES

2017

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
Oregon St.	1	12	12.0	0	12
Notre Dame	1	9	9.0	0	5
2017 (Fr.)...	2	17	8.5	0	12

**[45] PORTER GUSTIN**  
Outside Linebacker, 6-5, 255, Jr./Jr.  
Elk Ridge, UT (Salem Hills HS)

**CAREER:** He has 109 tackles, including 23 for losses (with 14 sacks), plus 4 deflections in his career. He has appeared in 31 games in his career, with 17 starts.

**2017:** The high-energy Gustin, often a disruptive force in an opponent's backfield, began his 2017 junior season starting for the second season at outside linebacker before getting injured. He broke his toe in practice and had surgery to insert 2 screws prior to the Texas game, but played the first half of that game. He then injured his bicep against Texas and was sidelined the next 5 games, returning to play at Arizona State for the first half before being sidelined the rest of the season while recuperating from both injuries. Overall in 2017 while appearing in 4 games (Western Michigan, Stanford, Texas, Arizona State) and starting twice (Western Michigan, Stanford), he had 16 tackles, including 3 sacks for 12 yards.

He had 7 tackles (with a sack) against Western Michigan, 4 tackles against Stanford, 4 tackles (with 2 sacks) against Texas while playing just the first half after having 2 pins inserted into his broken big toe several days prior and a tackle at Arizona State.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2015 (Fr.)...	25	7/44	0	0
2016 (So.)...	68	13/58	4	0
2017 (Jr.)...	16	3/12	0	0
CAREER.....	109	23/114	4	0

## GAME-BY-GAME WITH PORTER GUSTIN

2017

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
W. Michigan*	7	1/3	0	0
Stanford*	4	0/0	0	0
Texas	4	0/0	0	0
Arizona St.	1	2/9	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	16	3/12	0	0

\*Starter

**[31] RICHARD HAGESTAD**  
Safety, 6-1, 195, Fr.\*/So.  
Del Mar, CA (Bishop's School)

**2017:** Hagestad did not see action as a backup walk-on safety as a redshirt freshman in 2017.

**[27] AJENE HARRIS**  
Cornerback, 5-10, 190, Jr.\*/Sr.  
Los Angeles, CA (Crenshaw HS)

**CAREER:** In his career, he has 85 tackles, including 5 for losses (with 1.5 sacks), 10 deflections, 5 interceptions (2 for a TD), 2 forced fumbles and 2 fumble recoveries on offense, 4 receptions for 38 yards (9.5 avg), a 14-yard rush and an incomplete pass on offense, and 12 punt returns for 70 yards (5.8 avg) and a 20-yard kickoff return. He has appeared in 31 games in his career, with 13 starts.

**2017:** Harris was USC's nickel back and returned punts as a junior in 2017. Overall while appearing in all 13 games and starting 9 times (all but Stanford, California, Notre Dame, UCLA), he had 55 tackles, including 1.5 for losses of 5 yards (with 0.5 sack), 1 fumble recovery, 6 deflections and 3 interceptions (with a TD), plus 12 punt returns for 70 yards (5.8 avg) and a 20-yard kickoff return.

He had 2 stops and returned a punt 15 yards against Western Michigan, then 4 stops (1 for a loss) against Stanford. He recovered a fumble in the second overtime to set up USC's game-winning field goal to go along with his 8 tackles and he returned 2 punts for no yards against Texas. He had a team-best 7 tackles at Washington State and returned a punt for 0 yards, then had 4 tackles and returned a punt for minus 1 yard against Oregon State. He had 2 tackles and a deflection against Utah, 3 tackles and a deflection at Notre Dame and 3 tackles and returned 3 punts for 22 yards at Arizona State. He had 4 tackles, an interception, a deflection and a 9-yard punt return against Arizona, then had 5 tackles (0.5 sack), 2 deflections and 2 interceptions (returning 1 for a 34-yard TD) at Colorado. He had 9 tackles, a 17-yard punt return and a 20-yard kickoff return against UCLA, then had 3 tackles and a deflection and lost 5 yards on a punt return against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	INT	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2016 (So.)...	30	3.5/17	4	1	2	66	33.0	1	33
2017 (Jr.)...	55	1.5/5	6	1	3	31	10.3	1	34
CAREER.....	85	5/22	10	1	5	97	19.4	2	34



2017 (Jr.)...	PR 12	YDS 70	AVG 5.8	TD 0	LG 21	KOR 1	YDS 20	AVG 20.0	TD 0	LG 20		
2014 (Fr.)...	REC 4	YDS 38	AVG 9.5	TD 0	LG 21	PA 1	PC 0	PI 0	PCT .000	YDS 0	TD 0	LG 0
2016 (So.)...	TCB 1	YDS 14	AVG 14.0	TD 0	LG 14							

## GAME-BY-GAME WITH AJENE HARRIS

	2017								
	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	INT	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan*	2	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanford	4	1/5	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Texas*	8	0/0	0	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Wash. St.*	7	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Oregon St.*	4	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Utah*	2	0/0	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Notre Dame	3	0/0	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona St.*	3	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona*	4	0/0	1	0	1	-4	-4.0	0	-4
Colorado*	6	0.5/0	2	0	2	35	17.5	1	34
UCLA	9	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanford[P12]*	3	0/0	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 [Jr.]...	55	1.5/5	6	1	3	31	10.3	1	34

	PR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan*	1	15	15.0	0	15	0	0	0.0	0	0
Texas*	2	0	0.0	0	3	0	0	0.0	0	0
California	1	13	13.0	0	13	0	0	0.0	0	0
Wash. St.*	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Oregon St.*	1	-1	-1.0	0	-1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona St.*	3	22	7.3	0	21	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona*	1	9	9.0	0	9	0	0	0.0	0	0
UCLA	1	17	17.0	0	17	1	20	20.0	0	20
Stanford[P12]*	1	-5	-5.0	0	-5	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 [Jr.]... *Starter	12	70	5.8	0	21	1	20	20.0	0	20

(4) CHRIS HAWKINS  
Safety, 5-11, 190, Sr.\*/Sr.  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA (Rancho Cucamonga HS)

**CAREER:** He has 228 tackles, including 13 for losses (with 4 sacks), 6 deflections, 2 fumble recoveries (1 for a TD), 3 forced fumbles and 4 interceptions in his career. He has 35 career starts (17 at strong safety, 14 at free safety and 4 at cornerback) and has appeared in 40 games.

**2017:** The experienced Hawkins, the veteran of USC's secondary, started all 13 games at strong safety as a senior in 2017. Overall in 2017, he had 82 tackles (second on USC), including 6.5 for losses of 30 yards (with 3 sacks for 22 yards), plus an interception, 2 deflections and a forced fumble. He made **2017 All-Pac-12 honorable mention, AP All-Pac-12 second team and Pro Football Focus All-Pac-12 first team.** He won **USC's Trojan Way Leadership Award and Player of the Game Versus UCLA Award.** He was a **USC captain.**

He had 5 tackles against Western Michigan, 6 tackles against Stanford, 5 tackles versus Texas and 5 tackles, an interception and 2 deflections at California. He had 4 tackles at Washington State, 7 tackles against Oregon State, 7 tackles (1 for a loss) against Utah and 4 tackles (1.5 for losses, with a sack) at Notre Dame. He had 2 tackles at Arizona State, 8 tackles (1 sack) against Arizona and 5 tackles at Colorado. He had a game-best 10 tackles (with a sack) against UCLA, then had a game-best and career-high 14 tackles (2 for losses) and forced a fumble against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game (after learning that morning of his grandmother's passing).

[illegible]

## GAME-BY-GAME WITH CHRIS HAWKINS

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	INT	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan*	5	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanford*	6	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Texas*	5	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
California*	5	0/0	2	0	1	7	7.0	0	7
Wash. St.*	4	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Oregon St.*	7	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Utah*	7	1/3	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Notre Dame*	4	1.5/11	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona St.*	2	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona*	8	1/5	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Colorado*	5	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
UCLA*	10	1/7	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanford[P12]*	14	2/4	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 [Sr.]...	82	6.5/30	2	0	1	7	7.0	0	7

**[63] ROY HEMSLEY**  
Offensive Tackle-Offensive Guard, 6-5, 315, So.\*/Jr.  
Los Angeles, CA (Windward School)

**CAREER:** He has appeared in 15 games in his career.

**2017:** Hemsley played briefly in all 13 games as a backup offensive guard (he was also available at tackle) and on special teams as a sophomore in 2017.

[52] CHRISTIAN HERRERA  
Inside Linebacker, 6-0, 210, Sr./Sr.  
Manhattan Beach, CA (Serra HS/Harbor JC/El Camino JC)

**2017:** Herrera did not see action as a backup walk-on inside linebacker as a senior in 2017.

(10) JOHN HOUSTON JR.  
Inside Linebacker, 6-3, 210, So.\*/Jr.  
Carson, CA (Serra HS)

**CAREER:** Houston has 92 tackles, including 3.5 for losses (with 1.5 sacks), plus 3 deflections, a fumble recovery and an interception in his career. He has appeared in 25 games in his career, with 11 starts.

**2017:** Houston started at inside linebacker as a sophomore in 2017. Overall in 2017 while appearing in 12 games [all but Texas] and starting 11 times [all but Texas and Utah], he had 76 tackles [fourth on USC], including 3.5 for losses of 19 yards [with 1.5 sacks for 12 yards], plus 3 deflections, an interception and a fumble recovery. He suffered a stinger against Stanford and missed the Texas game.

He had 6 tackles and a deflection against Western Michigan and 3 tackles against Stanford. He had 6 tackles at California, 6 tackles (1 sack) at Washington State, 4 tackles against Oregon State, 6 tackles against Utah, 8 tackles at Notre Dame and 5 tackles and a deflection at Arizona State. He had a team-high 10 tackles (0.5 sack) and had an interception against Arizona to earn **CollegeSportsMadness.com Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Week** honors. He had a game-best 11 tackles (2 for losses), plus a deflection, at Colorado, then 7 tackles and a fumble recovery against UCLA and 4 tackles against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	INT	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2016 (Fr.)...	16	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (So.)...	76	3.5/19	3	1	1	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER.....	92	3.5/19	3	1	1	0	0.0	0	0



**GAME-BY-GAME WITH JOHN HOUSTON JR.**

	2017									
	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	INT	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	
W. Michigan*	6	0/0	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Stanford*	3	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
California*	6	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Wash. St.*	6	1/8	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Oregon St.*	4	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Utah	6	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Notre Dame*	8	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Arizona St.*	5	0/0	1	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	
Arizona*	10	0.5/4	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Colorado*	11	2/7	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
UCLA*	7	0/0	0	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Stanford[P12]*	4	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
2017 (So.)...	76	3.5/19	3	1	1	0	0.0	0	0	

\*Starter

**(87) ALEC HURSH**  
Tight End, 6-3, 220, Jr./Sr.  
Kansas City, KS (Pembroke Hill School)

**2017:** Hursh did not see action as a backup walk-on tight end as a junior in 2017.

**(88) DANIEL IMATORBHEBHE**  
Tight End, 6-3, 235, So.\*/Jr.  
Suwanee, GA (North Gwinnett HS/Florida)

**CAREER:** In his career, he has 23 receptions for 369 yards (16.0 avg) with 4 TDs. He has appeared in 21 games in his career, with 8 starts.

**2017:** Imatorbhebhe, whose younger brother also is on the USC roster, fought through an early-season injury to make an impact in the second half of his sophomore year in 2017 as an equally skilled blocker and receiver at tight end. He suffered a hip flexor injury prior to the Stanford game and missed the next 5 games (Stanford, Texas, California, Washington State, Oregon State). Overall in 2017 while appearing in 8 games (all but Stanford, Texas, California, Washington State, Oregon State) and starting the last 3 (Colorado, UCLA and Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game), he had 6 catches for 119 yards (19.8 avg) and made 1 tackle.

He had a 12-yard catch against Western Michigan, 2 grabs for 25 yards against Arizona, 2 receptions for 34 yards versus UCLA and a 48-yard catch against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2016 (Fr.)...	17	250	14.7	4	37	0	0/0	0	0
2017 (So.)...	6	119	19.8	0	48	1	0/0	0	0
CAREER.....	23	369	16.0	4	48	1	0/0	0	0

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH DANIEL IMATORBHEBHE**

	2017									
	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG					
W. Michigan	1	12	12.0	0	12					
Arizona	2	25	12.5	0	17					
UCLA*	2	34	17.0	0	18					
Stanford[P12]*	1	48	48.0	0	48					
2017 (So.)...	6	119	19.8	0	48					

\*Starter

**(17) JOSH IMATORBHEBHE**  
Wide Receiver, 6-2, 215, Fr.\*/So.  
Suwanee, GA (North Gwinnett HS)

**2017:** Imatorbhebhe, whose older brother also is on the USC roster, saw action in 5 games (Stanford, Texas, Washington State, Oregon State, Notre Dame) as a backup wide receiver as a redshirt freshman in 2017. Overall in 2017, he caught 2 passes for 11 yards (5.5 avg). He had a 9-yard reception at Washington State and a 2-yard catch against Oregon State.

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2017 (Fr.)...	2	11	5.5	0	9

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH JOSH IMATORBHEBHE**

	2017					
	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	
Wash. St.	1	9	9.0	0	9	
Oregon St.	1	2	2.0	0	2	
2017 (Fr.)...	2	11	5.5	0	9	

**(56) JORDAN IOSEFA**  
Inside Linebacker, 6-2, 225, So./So.  
Waipahu, HI (St. Louis HS)

**CAREER:** He has 38 tackles, including 3 for losses (with a sack), 2 deflections and a forced fumble in his career. He has appeared in 23 games, with 6 starts.

**2017:** Iosefa proved to be a valuable and versatile linebacker as a sophomore in 2017. He started twice at inside linebacker (Western Michigan, Texas) and 4 times at outside linebacker (Arizona State, Arizona, Colorado, UCLA), and played on special teams, while appearing in 11 games (all but Washington State and Oregon State) in 2017. He suffered a concussion at Washington State during warmups and missed that game and the Oregon State game. Overall in 2017, he made 29 tackles, including 3 for losses of 11 yards (with a 3-yard sack), plus 2 deflections and a forced fumble.

He had 4 tackles while starting for Cameron Smith at inside linebacker against Western Michigan, 5 tackles while starting for John Houston at inside linebacker against Texas, a tackle at Notre Dame, 4 tackles at Arizona State while starting at outside linebacker, 8 tackles (with a sack) against Arizona, 4 tackles at Colorado, 2 tackles for loss against UCLA and a tackle and deflection against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2016 (Fr.)...	9	0/0	0	0
2017 (So.)...	29	3/11	2	0
CAREER.....	38	3/11	2	0

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH JORDAN IOSEFA**

	2017					
	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR		
W. Michigan*	4	0/0	0	0		
Texas*	5	0/0	0	0		
Notre Dame	1	0/0	0	0		
Arizona St.*	4	0/0	0	0		
Arizona*	8	1/3	0	0		
Colorado*	4	0/0	0	0		
UCLA*	2	2/8	0	0		
Stanford[P12]	1	0/0	0	0		
2017 (So.)...	29	3/11	2	0		

\*Starter

**(73) AUSTIN JACKSON**  
Offensive Tackle, 6-6, 290-, Fr./Fr.  
Phoenix, AZ (North Canyon HS)

**2017:** Jackson appeared in all 13 games, including getting significant action against Washington State, Oregon State and Utah, as a backup offensive tackle and he also played on special teams as a first-year freshman in 2017. He had 3 tackles and a blocked field goal (at Colorado).

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Fr.)...	3	0/0	1#	0

#Includes 1 blocked field goal

**(93) LIAM JIMMONS**  
Defensive Line, 6-4, 285, Fr.\*/So.  
Huntington Beach, CA (Huntington Beach HS)

**2017:** Jimmons saw action in 9 games (all but Western Michigan, Stanford, Texas, Oregon State) as a backup defensive lineman and on special teams as a redshirt freshman in 2017. Overall in 2017, he had 5 tackles. He had 1 tackle against Utah and 2 each at Notre Dame and Colorado. He sprained his ankle in 2017 fall camp and missed USC's first 2 games (Western Michigan, Stanford)



	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Fr.)...	5	0/0	0	0

GAME-BY-GAME WITH LIAM JIMMONS

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
Utah	1	0/0	0	0
Notre Dame	2	0/0	0	0
Colorado	2	0/0	0	0
2017 (Fr.)...	5	0/0	0	0

**[58] DAMON JOHNSON**  
**Snapper, 6-0, 200, Fr./Fr.**  
**Glendora, CA (Glendora HS/Citrus JC)**

**2017:** Johnson, who enrolled at USC in the spring of 2017 after transferring from a junior college, played in 11 games as USC's starting long snapper as a first-year freshman in 2017. He suffered a concussion against Oregon State and missed the next 2 games (Utah, Notre Dame).

**[9] GREG JOHNSON**  
**Cornerback, 5-11, 195, Fr./Fr.**  
**Los Angeles, CA (Hawkins HS)**

**2017:** Johnson saw brief action in USC's first 4 games as a first-year freshman cornerback in 2017. He injured his shoulder prior to the Washington State game, had surgery and missed the rest of the season.

**[76] CLAYTON JOHNSTON**  
**Offensive Tackle, 6-5, 295, So.\*/Jr.**  
**Orange, CA (Servite HS)**

**CAREER:** He has appeared in 16 games in his career, with 3 starts.

**2017:** Johnston saw action in all 13 games at offensive tackle, including starting 3 times (Washington State, Oregon State, Utah), and he also played on special teams as a sophomore in 2017.

**[25] JACK JONES**  
**Cornerback, 5-11, 170, So./So.**  
**Long Beach, CA (Long Beach Poly HS)**

**CAREER:** In his career, he has 53 tackles, 9 deflections, 4 interceptions, 2 fumble recoveries, a forced fumble and a blocked field goal, plus 6 kickoff returns for 76 yards (12.7 avg) and 4 kickoff returns for 48 yards (12.0 avg). He has appeared in 26 games in his career, with 13 starts.

**2017:** Jones started all season at cornerback as a sophomore in 2017 and saw some action in the return game. Overall in 2017 while starting all 13 games, he had 40 tackles, 8 deflections, a team-best 4 interceptions, a fumble recovery, a forced fumble and a blocked field goal, plus he had 3 kickoff returns for 45 yards (15.0 avg) and 4 punt returns for 48 yards (12.0 avg). He made **2017 AP All-American third team and AP All-Pac-12 second team**.

He had 2 tackles and a deflection and returned 2 kickoffs for 14 yards against Western Michigan, then had 6 tackles against Stanford. He had 5 tackles, an interception and a deflection against Texas. He had 2 interceptions at California to earn **Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Week and Thorpe Award Player of the Week honorable mention** honors. He had 2 tackles at Washington State, 3 tackles, an interception, a forced fumble, a blocked field goal and a deflection against Oregon State, 7 tackles and 2 deflections against Utah, 3 tackles, a deflection and returned 4 punts for 48 yards at Notre Dame and a deflection at Arizona State. He had 5 tackles and a fumble recovery against Arizona, 2 tackles and a deflection at Colorado, 3 tackles versus UCLA and 2 stops against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	INT	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2016 (Fr.)...	13	0/0	1	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (So.)...	40	0/0	9#	1	4	17	4.2	0	15
CAREER.....	53	0/0	10#	2	4	17	4.2	0	15

#Includes 1 blocked field goal

	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	PR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2016 (Fr.)...	3	31	10.3	0	13	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (So.)...	3	45	15.0	0	31	4	48	12.0	0	21
CAREER.....	6	76	12.7	0	31	4	48	12.0	0	21

GAME-BY-GAME WITH JACK JONES

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	INT	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan*	2	0/0	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanford*	6	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Texas*	5	0/0	1	0	1	0	0.0	0	0
California*	0	0/0	0	0	2	15	7.5	0	15
Wash. St.*	2	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Oregon St.*	3	0/0	2#	0	1	2	2.0	0	2
Utah*	7	0/0	2	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Notre Dame*	3	0/0	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona St.*	0	0/0	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona*	5	0/0	0	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Colorado*	2	0/0	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
UCLA*	3	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanford(P12)*	2	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (So.)...	40	0/0	9#	1	4	17	4.2	0	15

#Includes 1 blocked field goal

	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	PR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan*	2	14	14.0	0	14	0	0	0.0	0	0
Notre Dame*	0	0	0.0	0	0	4	48	12.0	0	21
Colorado*	1	31	31.0	0	31	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (So.)...	3	45	15.0	0	31	4	48	12.0	0	21

\*Starter

**[18] JALEN JONES**  
**Cornerback, 5-8, 165, Jr.\*/Sr.**  
**Los Angeles, CA (Serra HS)**

**CAREER:** He has 1 tackle in his career. He has appeared in 5 games in his career.

**2017:** Jones saw action in 4 games (Western Michigan, Oregon State, Arizona State, Colorado) as a backup walk-on cornerback and on special teams as a junior in 2017. Overall, he had 1 tackle (at Arizona State).

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Jr.)...	1	0/0	0	0

GAME-BY-GAME WITH JALEN JONES

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
Arizona St.	1	0/0	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	1	0/0	0	0

**[13] LEVI JONES**  
**Inside Linebacker-Outside Linebacker, 6-3, 220, Fr./Fr.**  
**Austin, TX (Westlake HS)**

**2017:** Jones saw action in all 13 games as a backup inside linebacker and on special teams as a first-year freshman in 2017. He was also available at outside linebacker. Overall in 2017, he had 15 tackles. He had 3 tackles against Notre Dame and Arizona and 2 stops against California and Washington State.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Jr.)...	15	0/0	0	0

GAME-BY-GAME WITH LEVI JONES

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
W. Michigan	1	0/0	0	0
California	2	0/0	0	0
Wash. St.	2	0/0	0	0
Oregon St.	1	0/0	0	0
Utah	1	0/0	0	0
Notre Dame	3	0/0	0	0
Arizona	3	0/0	0	0
UCLA	1	0/0	0	0
Stanford(P12)	1	0/0	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	15	0/0	0	0



**(25) RONALD JONES II**  
**Tailback, 6-0, 200, Jr./Jr.**  
**McKinney, TX (McKinney North HS)**

**CAREER:** He has run for 3,555 yards on 572 carries (6.2 avg) with 38 TDs and caught 32 passes for 301 yards (9.4 avg) with 3 TDs in his career. He is fifth on USC's career rushing list with 3,555 yards, with 2 Heisman Trophy winners and 2 Heisman runnersup ahead of him. His 6.22 career yards per carry is fourth best among those on USC's Top 40 all-time rushing ladder. He has 14 100-yard rushing games in his career. He has had at least 1 TD in 18 of the last 19 games he has played (including 13 consecutive games from 2016 to 2017 until he was shut out at Notre Dame in 2017, the most in a row since Anthony Davis' 17 in 1973-74). He is the seventh Trojan to have at least a pair of 1,000-yard rushing seasons (along with O.J. Simpson in 1967-68, Anthony Davis in 1972-73-74, Ricky Bell in 1975-76, Charles White in 1977-78-79, Marcus Allen in 1980-81 and LenDale White in 2004-05). He has appeared in 39 games in his career, with 18 starts.

**2017:** The explosive Jones, who also has sprinted for USC's track team, started for his second season at tailback as a junior in 2017 and was among the nation's top running backs. Overall in 2017 while appearing in and starting 12 games (all but California, which he missed after suffering an ankle sprain and leg bruise against Texas), he had 242 carries for 1,486 yards (6.1 avg) with 18 TDs, plus 14 receptions for 187 yards (13.4 avg) and 1 TD (he also had 2 tackles).

He has 9 100-yard rushing games in 2017. His 1,486 rushing yards in 2017 puts him 10th on USC's season rushing list (and is the 30th time a Trojan has eclipsed 1,000 rushing yards in a season). He is fifth nationally in rushing touchdowns (18, second in Pac-12), sixth in total touchdowns (19, second in Pac-12), ninth in rushing (123.8, third in Pac-12), 11th in scoring (9.5, third in Pac-12), 15th in all-purpose running (139.4, third in Pac-12) and 22nd in rushing yards per carry (6.1, fourth in Pac-12).

He made **2017 Pro Football Focus All-American first team, Sports On Earth All-American second team, AP All-American third team, CollegeSportMadness.com All-American third team, Phil Steele All-American fourth team, CollegeFootballNews.com All-American honorable mention, All-Pac-12 first team, AP All-Pac-12 first team, Athlon All-Pac-12 first team, Phil Steele All-Pac-12 first team, CollegeFootballNews.com All-Pac-12 first team and Pro Football Focus All-Pac-12 first team.** He won USC's **Offensive Perimeter Player of the Year Award**. He is a **finalist for the Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award** and was a **semifinalist for the Doak Walker Award**.

He ran for a game-high 159 yards with 3 TDs (16, 1, 37 yards) on 18 carries for an 8.8 average and added a 19-yard reception against Western Michigan to earn **Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award Player of the Week honorable mention**. He had 116 yards on 23 rushes with 2 TDs (1 and 23 yards) and also had a 10-yard reception against Stanford. He had a game-best 47 yards on 18 carries and scored a TD on a zig-zagging 56-yard TD pass at the first half gun against Texas (he also had a tackle). At Washington State, he ran for a game-best 128 yards on 14 carries (a 9.1 average), including an 86-yard TD burst that was USC's longest rush since LaVale Woods' school record 96-yarder in 1996 versus Oregon State. He had a game-high 79 yards on 12 carries with a 4-yard TD along with 2 catches for 17 yards and a tackle against Oregon State. Against Utah, he had 111 yards on 17 carries, with an 11-yard somersaulting TD run late in the game for the decisive points, and he also caught a 10-yard pass. He had 32 yards on 12 carries and a 1-yard catch at Notre Dame. He ran for 216 yards on 18 carries (a 12.0 average) with 2 long touchdowns (67 and 64 yards) and he had a 1-yard catch at Arizona State to earn **Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award Player of the Week honorable mention**. He ran for 194 yards on 27 tries (7.2 average) with 3 short TDs (5, 1, 1 yards, with the last 2 coming to seal the victory) and he caught 3 passes for 39 yards against Arizona to earn **CollegeSportsMadness.com Pac-12 Offensive Player of the Week and Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award Player of the Week honorable mention** honors. He rushed for 142 yards on 25 tries with a TD (a 22-yard cutback run) and added a 6-yard catch at Colorado. He ran for a game-best 122 yards on a then-career-high 28 carries, with 2 short TDs, and also caught a 22-yard pass against UCLA to earn **Rose Bowl Game Pac-12 Player of the Week and Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award Player of the Week honorable mention**. He had a game-best 140 yards on a career-high 30 carries with 2 TDs (1 and 8 yards) and he added a 6-yard reception against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2015 (Fr.)...	153	987	6.5	8	74	7	39	5.6	1	15
2016 (So.)...	177	1082	6.1	12	66	11	76	6.9	1	16
2017 (Jr.)...	242	1486	6.1	18	86	14	186	13.4	1	56
CAREER.....	572	3555	6.2	38	86	32	301	9.4	3	56

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Jr.)...	2	0/0	0	0

## GAME-BY-GAME WITH RONALD JONES II

2017

	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan*	18	159	8.8	3	37	1	19	19.0	0	19
Stanford*	23	116	5.0	2	23	1	10	10.0	0	10
Texas*	18	47	2.6	0	11	1	56	56.0	1	56
Wash. St.*	14	128	9.1	1	86	0	0	0.0	0	0
Oregon St.*	12	79	6.6	1	13	2	17	8.5	0	16
Utah*	17	111	6.5	1	21	1	10	10.0	0	10
Notre Dame*	12	32	2.7	0	18	1	1	1.0	0	1
Arizona St.*	18	216	12.0	2	67	1	1	1.0	0	1
Arizona*	27	194	7.2	3	52	3	39	13.0	0	33
Colorado*	25	142	5.7	1	25	1	6	6.0	0	6
UCLA*	28	122	4.4	2	23	1	22	22.0	0	22
Stanford(P12)*	30	140	4.7	2	26	1	6	6.0	0	6
2017 (Jr.)...	242	1486	6.1	18	86	14	186	13.4	1	56

\*Starter

**(23) VELUS JONES JR.**  
**Wide Receiver, 6-0, 190, Fr./So.**  
**Saraland, AL (Saraland HS)**

**CAREER:** He ranks 15<sup>th</sup> on USC's career kickoff return list (682 yards).

**2017:** The speedy Jones saw action in all 13 games as a backup wide receiver and USC's main kick returner as a redshirt freshman in 2017. Overall in 2017, he had 6 receptions for 46 yards (7.7 avg), 5 carries for 15 yards (3.0 avg) and 26 kickoff returns for 682 yards (26.2 avg). He made **2017 CollegeFootballNews.com All-Pac-12 first team (as a kick returner), Athlon All-Pac-12 second team (as a kick returner) and Phil Steele All-Pac-12 second team (as a kick returner)**. He is 15<sup>th</sup> nationally in kickoff returns (26.2, first in Pac-12).

He had 2 kickoff returns for 61 yards and a rush for -7 yards against Western Michigan, a 16-yard reception against Stanford and a 9-yard grab and returned 3 kickoffs for 88 yards against Texas. He had a 3-yard run and returned 2 kickoffs for 55 yards at California. He returned 2 kickoffs for 52 yards at Washington State, had a 5-yard catch, a 4-yard run and 2 kick returns for 45 yards against Oregon State and had a 4-yard catch and a 25-yard kick return versus Utah. He had an 8-yard catch and 6 kickoff returns for 144 yards at Notre Dame, returned a kickoff 17 yards at Arizona State, and returned 5 kickoffs for 115 yards against Arizona. He had a 4-yard catch, a 3-yard run and a 23-yard kickoff return at Colorado and 2 kickoff returns for 85 yards against UCLA.

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2017 (Fr.)...	6	46	7.7	0	16	5	15	3.0	0	12

	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2017 (Fr.)...	26	682	26.2	0	59

## GAME-BY-GAME WITH VELUS JONES

2017

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	-7	-7.0	0	-7
Stanford	1	16	16.0	0	16	0	0	0.0	0	0
Texas	1	9	9.0	0	9	0	0	0.0	0	0
California	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Oregon St.	1	5	5.0	0	5	1	4	4.0	0	4
Utah	1	4	4.0	0	4	1	12	12.0	0	12
Notre Dame	1	8	8.0	0	8	0	0	0.0	0	0
Colorado	1	4	4.0	0	4	1	3	3.0	0	3
2017 (Fr.)...	6	46	7.7	0	16	5	15	3.0	0	12



	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan	2	61	30.5	0	32
Texas	3	88	29.3	0	37
California	2	55	27.5	0	29
Wash. St.	1	24	24.0	0	24
Oregon St.	2	45	22.5	0	23
Utah	1	25	25.0	0	25
Notre Dame	6	144	24.2	0	38
Arizona St.	1	17	17.0	0	17
Arizona	5	115	23.0	0	29
Colorado	1	23	23.0	0	23
UCLA	2	85	42.5	0	59
2017 (Fr.)...	26	682	26.2	0	59

**(30) CORBIN JOUNTTI**  
**Tailback, 6-0, 205, Sr./Sr.**  
**Bakersfield, CA (Liberty HS/Northern Arizona)**

**CAREER:** He has appeared in 39 collegiate games (8 at USC, 31 at Northern Arizona) in his career, with 1 start (at Northern Arizona).

**2017:** Jountti, who transferred to USC in the fall of 2017 after receiving his bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona (he was eligible to play at USC in 2017), was as a backup tailback and played on special teams as a walk-on senior in 2017. Overall while appearing in 8 games (all but Western Michigan, Texas, Utah, Notre Dame, Arizona), he had 5 yards on 2 carries (2.5 avg), with the yardage coming at Arizona State.

	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2014 (Fr.)#...	68	401	5.9	4	37	4	45	11.3	0	19
2015 (So.)#...	78	378	4.8	6	27	1	10	10.0	0	10
2016 (Jr.)#...	67	262	3.9	3	18	2	21	10.5	0	12
2017 (Sr.)#...	2	5	2.5	0	3	0	0	0.0	0	0
NAU CAREER	213	1041	4.9	13	37	7	76	10.9	0	19
USC CAREER	2	5	2.5	0	3	0	0	0.0	0	0
COMBINED	215	1046	4.9	13	37	7	76	10.9	0	19
#At Northern Arizona										
##At USC										

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH CORBIN JOUNTTI**

2017

	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
Arizona St.	2	5	2.5	0	3
2017 (Sr.)#...	2	5	2.5	0	3
Arizona					
##At USC					

**(54) TAYLER KATOA**  
**Inside Linebacker, 6-2, 230, Fr./Fr.**  
**Layton, UT (Layton HS)**

**2017:** Katoa, who enrolled at USC in the spring of 2017 after graduating a semester early from high school, was set to battle for playing time at inside linebacker as a first-year freshman in 2017, but he missed the 2017 season after suffering a torn ligament in his right knee during 2017 spring practice.

**(84) ERIK KROMMENHOEK**  
**Tight End, 6-5, 245, Fr./Fr.**  
**Danville, CA (Monte Vista HS)**

**2017:** Krommenhoek saw key action in all 13 games as a backup tight end and on special teams as a first-year freshman in 2017. He even started at California. Overall in 2017, he had 2 receptions for 11 yards (5.5 avg). He had a 7-yard catch at California and a 4-yard grab against Oregon State.

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2017 (Fr.)...	2	11	5.5	0	7

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH ERIK KROMMENHOEK**

2017

	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
California*	1	7	7.0	0	7
Oregon St.	1	4	4.0	0	4
2017 (Fr.)...	2	11	5.5	0	7
*Starter					

**(24) ISAIAH LANGLEY**  
**Cornerback, 6-0, 175, Jr./Jr.**  
**Hayward, CA (Foothill HS)**

**CAREER:** He has 52 tackles and 7 deflections in his career. He has appeared in 36 games in his career, with 3 starts.

**2017:** Langley saw significant action at cornerback and on special teams as a junior in 2017. Overall in 2013 while appearing in all 13 games and starting 3 times (Arizona State, Arizona, Colorado), he had 32 tackles and 6 deflections.

He had 9 tackles at Colorado, 6 at Arizona State in his first career start, 5 versus Notre Dame and Arizona, 2 tackles at California and 1 stop each against Western Michigan, Washington State, Oregon State, UCLA and Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game. He had 2 deflections against UCLA and 1 each versus California, Washington State, Oregon State and Arizona.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2015 (Fr.)...	12	0/0	1	0
2016 (So.)...	8	0/0	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	32	0/0	6	0
CAREER...	52	0/0	7	0

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH ISAIAH LANGLEY**

2017

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
Stanford	1	0/0	0	0
California	2	0/0	1	0
Wash. St.	1	0/0	1	0
Oregon St.	1	0/0	1	0
Notre Dame	5	0/0	0	0
Arizona St.*	6	0/0	0	0
Arizona*	5	0/0	1	0
Colorado*	9	0/0	0	0
UCLA	1	0/0	2	0
Stanford(P12)	1	0/0	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	32	0/0	6	0
*Starter				

**(1) JOSEPH LEWIS IV**  
**Wide Receiver, 6-2, 205, Fr./Fr.**  
**Los Angeles, CA (Hawkins HS)**

**2017:** Lewis saw action in 10 games (all but California, Utah, Notre Dame) as a backup wide receiver and on special teams as a first-year freshman in 2017. He suffered a shoulder injury against Texas and missed the California game. Overall in 2017, he had 4 receptions for 39 yards (9.8 avg) and made 2 tackles. He had 2 catches at Washington State for 21 yards, a 12-yard grab against Texas and a 6-yard catch at Arizona State.

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Fr.)...	4	39	9.8	0	14	2	0/0	0	0

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH JOSEPH LEWIS IV**

2017

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
Stanford	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	0/0	0	0
Texas	1	12	12.0	0	12	0	0/0	0	0
Wash. St.	2	21	10.5	0	14	1	0/0	0	0
Arizona St.	1	6	6.0	0	6	0	0/0	0	0
2017 (Fr.)...	4	39	9.8	0	14	2	0/0	0	0

**(97) JACOB LICHTENSTEIN**  
**Defensive Line, 6-5, 255, Fr./Fr.**  
**Weston, FL (Cypress Bay HS)**

**2017:** Lichtenstein redshirted as a first-year freshman defensive lineman in 2017. He injured his left calf prior to the Stanford game and was sidelined for the next 2 games (Stanford, Texas). He won **USC's Co-Defensive Service Team Player of the Year Award**.



**[50] TOA LOBENDAHN**  
Center-Offensive Guard, 6-3, 290, Jr.\*/Sr.  
La Habra, CA (La Habra HS)

**CAREER:** He has started all 33 games in which he has appeared in his career (17 at left tackle, 8 at left guard, 5 at right guard, 3 at center).

**2017:** The versatile and well-tested Lobendahn, who is able to play any offensive line position, appeared in and started 12 games (all but Washington State) at left offensive tackle as a junior in 2017. He developed a skin infection prior to the Washington State game and was sidelined for that game. He made **2017 All-Pac-12 second team, CollegeFootballNews.com All-Pac-12 first team, Athlon All-Pac-12 second team and Phil Steele All-Pac-12 second team** and won **USC's Chris Carlisle Courage Award and Co-Lifter of the Year Award**. He was limited in 2017 spring drills while recuperating from the knee injury.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Jr.)...	1	0/0	0	0

**[23] JONATHAN LOCKETT**  
Cornerback, 5-11, 180, Sr./Sr.,  
Bellflower, CA (Mater Dei HS)

**CAREER:** He has 40 tackles (0.5 for a loss), 4 deflections and an interception in his career. He has appeared in 33 games in his career, with 7 starts.

**2017:** The experienced Lockett was set to battle for a starting role at cornerback or nickelback as a senior in 2017, but was sidelined all year after having additional hip surgery in 2017 fall camp. He was limited in 2017 spring drills while recuperating from 2016 hip surgery.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	INT	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2014 (Fr.)...	5	0/0	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2015 (So.)...	18	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2016 (Jr.)...	17	0.5/1	3	0	1	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER.....	40	0.5/1	4	0	1	0	0.0	0	0

**[37] MATT LOPES**  
Safety, 5-11, 200, Sr.\*/Sr.  
Palos Verdes Estates, CA (Palos Verdes HS)

**CAREER:** He has 49 tackles (2.5 for losses) and a deflection in his career. He has appeared in 39 games in his career.

**2017:** Lopes saw significant time while appearing in all 13 games as a backup safety and on special teams as a senior in 2017. Overall in 2017, he had 26 tackles (1 for a loss of 2 yards) and a deflection. He made **2017 All-Pac-12 second team (as a special teams player) and was USC's Co-Special Teams Player of the Year**. He had 5 tackles (1 for a loss) at Colorado, 4 tackles against Arizona, 3 tackles versus UCLA, 2 stops against Stanford, Notre Dame and Arizona State and 1 each against Western Michigan, Washington State, Utah and Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2014 (Fr.)...	4	0/0	0	0
2015 (So.)...	14	1.5/1	0	0
2016 (Jr.)...	5	0/0	0	0
2017 (Sr.)...	26	1/2	1	0
CAREER.....	49	2.5/3	1	0

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH MATT LOPES**

**2017**

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
W. Michigan	1	0/0	0	0
Stanford	2	0/0	0	0
California	4	0/0	0	0
Wash. St.	1	0/0	0	0
Utah	1	0/0	0	0
Notre Dame	2	0/0	1	0
Arizona St.	2	0/0	0	0
Arizona	4	0/0	0	0
Colorado	5	1/2	0	0
UCLA	3	0/0	0	0
Stanford(P12)	1	0/0	0	0
2017 (Sr.)...	26	1/2	1	0

**[29] VAVAE MALEPEAI**  
Tailback, 6-0, 210, Fr.\*/So.  
Aiea, HI (Mililani HS)

**2017:** Malepeai saw key action as a backup tailback and on special teams as a redshirt freshman in 2017. Overall in 2017 while appearing in 12 games (all but Arizona), he had 48 carries for 259 yards (5.4 avg), 2 receptions for 2 yards (1.0 avg) and 4 tackles. He sprained his knee late at Arizona State and was sidelined against Arizona.

He had 14 yards on 2 carries and a tackle against Western Michigan, 49 yards on 6 carries against Stanford, 8 yards on 4 rushes and caught a pass for minus 4 yards against Texas and 17 yards on 4 carries at California. He had 32 yards on 8 carries and had a tackle against Oregon State, 42 yards on 4 carries against Utah, 12 yards on 4 attempts and also had a tackle at Notre Dame and 68 yards on 11 rushes, a 6-yard reception and a tackle at Arizona State. He had 10 yards on 3 carries at Colorado and 7 yards on 2 attempts against UCLA.

	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2017 (Fr.)...	48	259	5.4	0	26	2	2	1.0	0	6

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Fr.)...	4	0/0	0	0

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH VAVAE MALEPEAI**

**2017**

	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan	2	14	7.0	0	11	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanford	6	49	8.2	0	15	0	0	0.0	0	0
Texas	4	8	2.0	0	10	0	0	0.0	0	0
California	4	17	4.3	0	9	0	0	0.0	0	0
Oregon St.	8	32	4.0	0	21	0	0	0.0	0	0
Utah	4	42	10.5	0	26	0	0	0.0	0	0
Notre Dame	4	12	3.0	0	8	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona St.	11	68	6.2	0	14	0	0	0.0	0	0
Colorado	3	10	3.3	0	5	0	0	0.0	0	0
UCLA	2	7	3.5	0	5	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (Fr.)...	48	259	5.4	0	26	2	2	1.0	0	6

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
W. Michigan	1	0/0	0	0
Oregon St.	1	0/0	0	0
Notre Dame	1	0/0	0	0
Arizona St.	1	0/0	0	0
2017 (Fr.)...	4	0/0	0	0

**[8] IMAN MARSHALL**  
Cornerback, 6-1, 205, Jr./Jr.  
Long Beach, CA (Long Beach Poly HS)

**CAREER:** He has 165 tackles, including 4 for losses, plus 27 deflections and 6 interceptions in his career. He has appeared in 37 games in his career, with 35 starts.

**2017:** The physical, veteran Marshall started for his third year at cornerback as a junior in 2017. Overall in 2017 while appearing in and starting 10 games (he sprained his left knee at Notre Dame and missed the Arizona State, Arizona and Colorado games), he had 47 tackles (1 for a loss of 2 yards) and 10 deflections. He made **2017 All-Pac-12 honorable mention and Phil Steele All-Pac-12 third team**.

He had 6 tackles and a deflection against Western Michigan, 4 tackles and 3 deflections versus Stanford, 8 tackles (1 for loss) against Texas, 3 tackles at California, 6 tackles and a deflection at Washington State, 3 tackles and 2 deflections against Oregon State and 3 tackles and a deflection against Utah. He had 9 tackles and a deflection against UCLA and 5 tackles and a deflection against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	INT	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2015 (Fr.)...	67	0/0	9	0	3	15	5.0	0	8
2016 (So.)...	51	3/5	8	0	3	12	4.0	0	12
2017 (Jr.)...	47	1/2	10	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER.....	165	4/7	27	0	6	27	4.5	0	12



**GAME-BY-GAME WITH IMAN MARSHALL**

	2017			
	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
W. Michigan*	6	0/0	1	0
Stanford*	4	0/0	3	0
Texas*	8	1/2	0	0
California*	3	0/0	0	0
Wash. St.*	6	0/0	1	0
Oregon St.*	3	0/0	2	0
Utah*	3	0/0	1	0
UCLA*	9	0/0	1	0
Stanford(P12)*	5	0/0	1	0
2017 (Jr.)...	47	1/2	10	0

\*Starter

**(65) FRANK MARTIN II**  
Offensive Guard, 6-4, 300, Fr.\*/So.  
West Covina, CA (Mater Dei HS)

**2017:** Martin did not see action as a backup offensive guard as a redshirt freshman in 2017.

**(53) BRYCE MATTHEWS**  
Outside Linebacker, 6-3, 220, Fr./Fr.  
Los Angeles, CA (Bishop Montgomery HS)

**2017:** Matthews redshirted as a reserve outside linebacker as a walk-on first-year freshman in 2017.

**(40) CHASE McGRATH**  
Placekicker, 6-0, 190, Fr./Fr.  
Newport Beach, CA (Mater Dei HS)

**2017:** McGrath handled USC's placekicking duties as a walk-on first-year freshman in 2017. He also kicked off in 9 games (all but Western Michigan, Arizona, Colorado, UCLA). Overall in 2017 while appearing in all 13 games, he was 12-of-16 on field goals and 57-of-58 on PATs. He also made a tackle (against Texas) and recovered a fumble (against Oregon State). He made 8 consecutive field goals after missing his first career kick (against Texas). He was hampered the second half of the season with a strained groin. He won **USC's Joe Collins Walk-on Award**.

He hit all 7 of his PATs against Western Michigan. He hit all 6 of his PATs and took over the kickoff duties when Michael Brown was injured early in the Stanford game. He hit the first 2 field goals of his career in highlight fashion against Texas, the first a 31-yarder with no time remaining to send the game into overtime and the second the game winner from 43 yards in the second overtime (he missed a 46-yarder in the second quarter, his first ever attempt) as well as connecting on all 3 PATs, kicking off twice and making a tackle. At California, he hit all 3 of his field goal tries (37, 34 and a career-long 46 yards) and all 3 of his PATs, plus 2 of his 7 kickoffs were touchbacks (another pinned the Golden Bears within the 20). At Washington State, he hit both field goals (20 and 29 yards) and all 3 PATs and had touchbacks on 3 of 6 kickoffs. Against Oregon State, he hit a 29-yard field goal and all 5 of his PATs, had touchbacks on 3 of his 7 kickoffs (2 others pinned the Beavers within the 20) and he recovered a fumble. He hit all 4 of his PATs and 2 of his 5 kickoffs were touchbacks against Utah. At Notre Dame, he hit both of his PATs but missed a short field goal and he also had 2 of his 3 kickoffs pin the Irish within the 20. At Arizona State, he hit 2 of his 3 field goals (51 and 33 yards) and all 6 of his PATs and 5 of his 9 kickoffs were touchbacks (another pinned the Sun Devils within the 20). Against Arizona, he hit all 7 of his PATs and kicked off 4 times (with 1 pinning the Wildcats within the 20). He hit 1-of-2 field goals (a 26-yarder) and 3-of-4 PATs at Colorado, then hit all 4 of his PATs against UCLA. Against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game, he hit a 24-yard field goal and all 4 of his PATs and 2 of his 6 kickoffs were touchbacks and another pinned the Cardinal within the 20.

	FGA	FGM	LG	PAT ATT	PAT	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Fr.)...	16	12	51	58	57	1	0/0	0	1

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH CHASE McGRATH**

	2017			
	FG-FGA	MADE	MISS	PAT-PAT ATT
W. Michigan*	0-0	--	--	7-7
Stanford*	0-0	--	--	6-6
Texas*	2-3	31, 43	46 WL	3-3
California*	3-3	37, 34, 46	--	3-3
Wash. St.*	2-2	20, 29	--	3-3
Oregon St.*	1-1	29	--	5-5
Utah*	0-0	--	--	4-4
Notre Dame*	0-1	--	27 WR	2-2
Arizona St.*	2-3	51, 33	38 WL	6-6
Arizona*	0-0	--	--	7-7
Colorado*	1-2	26	40 WL	3-4
UCLA*	0-0	--	--	4-4
Stanford(P12)*	1-1	24	--	4-4
2017 (Fr.)...	12-16			57-58

	KICKOFFS	WITHIN 20 (TOUCHBACKS)
Stanford*	6	0 (1)
Texas*	2	1 (0)
California*	7	1 (2)
Wash. St.*	6	2 (3)
Oregon St.*	7	2 (3)
Utah*	5	1 (2)
Notre Dame*	3	2 (0)
Arizona St.*	9	1 (5)
Arizona*	4	0 (1)
Stanford(P12)*	6	1 (2)
2017 (Fr.)...	55	11 (19)

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
Texas*	1	0/0	0	0
Oregon St.*	0	0/0	0	1
2017 (Fr.).....	1	0/0	0	1

\*Starter

**(54) JALEN MCKENZIE**  
Offensive Tackle, 6-5, 305, Fr./Fr.  
Concord, CA Clayton Valley HS)

**2017:** McKenzie redshirted as a backup first-year offensive tackle at USC in 2017. He enrolled at USC in the fall of 2017 and was awarded a scholarship at USC by virtue of an NCAA rule known as "blueshirting" (it allows a non-recruited student-athlete to receive athletic financial aid after beginning practice and have that student-athlete count towards the next year's signing class if the school has reached its NCAA-maximum aid limit for the current year).

**(4) STEVEN MITCHELL JR.**  
Wide Receiver, 5-10, 195, Sr.\*/Sr.  
Pasadena, CA (Bishop Alemany HS)

**CAREER:** He has 109 receptions for 1,287 yards (11.8 avg) with 11 TDs in his career, plus 5 kickoff returns for 91 yards (18.2 avg), 2 punt returns for 2 yards (1.0 avg) and 3 carries for 7 yards (2.3 avg). His 109 receptions is 25<sup>th</sup> on USC's career list. He has appeared in 41 games in his career, with 18 starts.

**2017:** The fleet Mitchell bounced back from a 2016 knee injury and once again was a key component of USC's wide receiver corps as a senior in 2017. Overall in 2017 while appearing in 11 games (all but Cal and Washington State) and starting 7 of those (Western Michigan, Stanford, Texas, Oregon State, Utah, Notre Dame, UCLA), he had 41 catches (third on USC) for 644 yards (15.7 avg) with 4 TDs and also had a 10-yard run. He suffered a groin injury against Texas and missed the next 2 games (California, Washington State). He made **2017 All-Pac-12 honorable mention** and **Phil Steele All-Pac-12 third team**. He won **USC's Chris Carlisle Courage Award**. He was limited in 2017 spring drills while recuperating from the knee injury.

He had 4 catches for 39 yards against Western Michigan, 4 catches for 94 yards with 2 scores (22 and 25 yards) versus Stanford and 6 catches for 90 yards against Texas. He had 4 catches for 46 yards at Washington State, 5 grabs for 64 yards versus Utah and 7 catches for 71 yards with a 5-yard TD at Notre Dame. He caught a 27-yard TD against Arizona, had 4 grabs for 91 yards at Colorado, 4 catches for 56 yards and a 10-yard rush against UCLA and 2 receptions for 26 against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.



# USC FOOTBALL: 168 ALL-AMERICANS, 6 HEISMANS

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2014 (Fr.)...	7	82	11.7	2	24	0	0	0.0	0	0
2015 (So.)...	37	335	9.1	4	28	0	0	0.0	0	0
2016 (Jr.)...	24	226	9.4	1	23	2	-3	-1.5	0	2
2017 (Sr.)...	41	644	15.7	4	49	1	10	10.0	0	10
CAREER.....	109	1287	11.8	11	49	3	7	2.3	0	10

	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	PR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2015 (So.)...	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	1	1.0	0	1
2016 (Jr.)...	5	91	18.2	0	32	1	1	1.0	0	1
CAREER.....	5	91	18.2	0	32	2	2	1.0	0	1

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2014 (Fr.)...	1	0/0	0	0

## GAME-BY-GAME WITH STEVEN MITCHELL JR.

2017

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan*	4	39	9.8	0	39	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanford*	4	94	23.5	2	34	0	0	0.0	0	0
Texas*	6	90	15.0	0	90	0	0	0.0	0	0
Oregon St.*	4	46	11.5	0	46	0	0	0.0	0	0
Utah*	5	64	12.8	0	64	0	0	0.0	0	0
Notre Dame*	7	71	10.1	1	71	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona	1	27	27.0	1	27	0	0	0.0	0	0
Colorado	4	91	22.8	0	91	0	0	0.0	0	0
UCLA*	4	56	14.0	0	56	1	10	10.0	0	10
Stanford[P12]	2	66	33.0	0	66	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (Sr.)...	41	644	15.7	4	49	1	10	10.0	0	10

\*Starter

**(50) GRANT MOORE**  
Inside Linebacker, 6-0, 210, Jr./Sr.  
Santa Ana, CA (Mater Dei HS)

**CAREER:** He has 3 tackles in his career. He has appeared in 8 games in his career.

**2017:** Moore, a one-time walk-on who earned a scholarship in the fall of 2017, saw action in 4 games (Western Michigan, Oregon State, Arizona State, Arizona) as a backup inside linebacker as a junior in 2017. Overall in 2017, he had 2 tackles (1 each against Western Michigan and Arizona).

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2015 (Fr.)...	1	0/0	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	2	0/0	0	0
CAREER.....	3	0/0	0	0

## GAME-BY-GAME WITH GRANT MOORE

2017

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
W. Michigan	1	0/0	0	0
Arizona	1	0/0	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	2	0/0	0	0

**(90) CONNOR MURPHY**  
Outside Linebacker, 6-7, 260, So./So.  
Mesa, AZ (Brophy Prep)

**CAREER:** He has 9 tackles and a fumble recovery in his career. He has appeared in 26 games in his career.

**2017:** Murphy saw action in all 13 games as a backup outside linebacker and on special teams as a sophomore in 2017. Overall in 2017, he had 3 tackles (all versus Oregon State).

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2016 (Fr.)...	6	0/0	0	1
2017 (So.)...	3	0/0	0	0
CAREER.....	9	0/0	0	0

## GAME-BY-GAME WITH CONNOR MURPHY

2017

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
Oregon St.	3	0/0	0	0
2017 (So.)...	3	0/0	0	0

**(62) BRETT NEILON**  
Center, 6-2, 295, Fr./Fr.  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA (Santa Margarita HS)

**2017:** Neilon redshirted as a first-year freshman backup center at USC in 2017.

**(26) DAVONTE NUNNERY**  
Safety, 5-10, 215, Jr./Sr.  
Oxnard, CA (St. Bonaventure HS)

**2017:** Nunnery did not see action as a backup walk-on safety as a junior in 2017.

**(42) UCHENNA NWOSU**  
Outside Linebacker, 6-2, 240, Sr./Sr.  
Carson, CA (Narbonne HS)

**CAREER:** He has 164 tackles (18.5 for a loss, with 10.5 sacks), 19 deflections, an interception, a fumble recovery and a forced fumble in his career. He has appeared in 51 games in his career, with 27 starts.

**2017:** Nwosu was a disruptive force while starting for his second season at outside linebacker as a senior in 2017. Overall in 2017 while starting all 13 games, he had 71 tackles, including 9.5 for losses of 40 yards (with 7.5 sacks for 36 yards), a team-best 13 deflections, 1 interception and 1 fumble recovery. His 13 deflections are tied for the most at USC since 2003 and are the most by a USC linebacker since Chris Claiborne's 16 in 1998. He made **2017 Sports On Earth All-American first team, All-Pac-12 first team, AP All-Pac-12 first team, Athlon All-Pac-12 first team, Phil Steele All-Pac-12 first team, CollegeFootballNews.com All-Pac-12 first team and Pro Football Focus All-Pac-12 first team**. He was **USC's Co-MVP and won USC's Co-Lifter of the Year Award**. He has been invited to play in the **2018 Senior Bowl**. He was a **USC captain**.

He had 7 tackles and a deflection against Western Michigan, 4 tackles (with a sack) and 5 deflections (the most by a Trojan since Will Poole's 5 versus Michigan in the 2004 Rose Bowl) against Stanford and a team-high 9 tackles (1 for a loss) with a deflection against Texas. He had 4 tackles, a fumble recovery and a deflection at California, 6 tackles (0.5 sack) and an interception at Washington State, 4 tackles against Oregon State, 3 tackles against Utah and 2 tackles at Notre Dame. He had a team-best 8 tackles, including 3 sacks, and a deflection at Arizona State to earn **CollegeSportsMadness.com Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Week** honors. He had 8 tackles, including 2 for losses (with a sack), against Arizona, 5 tackles and 2 deflections at Colorado and 8 tackles (with a sack) and 2 deflections against UCLA. He had 3 tackles (with a sack), including a goal line stop on fourth-and-1 in the fourth quarter, against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	INT	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2014 (Fr.)...	9	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2015 (So.)...	31	1.5/2	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2016 (Jr.)...	53	7.5/39	5	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (Sr.)...	71	9.5/40	13	1	1	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER.....	164	18.5/81	19	1	1	0	0.0	0	0

## GAME-BY-GAME WITH UCHENNA NWOSU

2017

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	INT	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan*	7	0/0	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanford*	4	1/5	5	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Texas*	9	1/3	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
California*	4	0/0	1	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Wash. St.*	6	0.5/3	0	0	1	0	0.0	0	0
Oregon St.*	4	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Utah*	3	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Notre Dame*	2	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona St.*	8	3/12	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona*	8	2/6	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Colorado*	5	0/0	2	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
UCLA*	8	1/7	2	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanford[P12]*	3	1/4	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (Sr.)...	71	9.5/40	13	1	1	0	0.0	0	0

\*Starter



**[87] MATT NYMAN**  
Wide Receiver, 6-2, 185, Fr./Fr.  
Los Angeles, CA (Brentwood School)

**2017:** Nyman did not see action as a reserve wide receiver as a walk-on first-year freshman in 2017.

**[61] JAKE OLSON**  
Snapper, 6-3, 225, So.\*/Jr.  
Huntington Beach, CA (Orange Lutheran HS)

**2017:** Olson, who has been an inspiration to and involved with the USC football program since the age of 12 in 2009 when he lost his eyesight to cancer, served as a backup snapper as a sophomore in 2017. In one of college football's most memorable moments, he got into the game to snap the final PAT in the 2017 season opener against Western Michigan (he was named the **Pac-12 Special Teams Player of the Week**). He then did so again mid-season against Oregon State. He was a **semifinalist for the Jason Witten Collegiate Man of the Year Award** and he was **honored for his accomplishments at the Lott IMPACT Trophy dinner**. He was **USC's Most Inspirational Player**. USC prevents contact during any practice drills in which he is involved to make sure he is protected.

**[47] REUBEN PETERS**  
Fullback, 6-0, 230, Jr.\*/Sr.  
Westchester, CA (Loyola HS)

**CAREER:** He has 8 tackles, a rush for 0 yards and a 3-yard kickoff return in his career while appearing in 31 games.

**2017:** Peters appeared in 12 games (all but Western Michigan) as a fullback and primarily on special teams as a junior in 2017. Overall in 2017, he had a rush for 0 yards (at Arizona State) and made a tackle (against Arizona).

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2015 (Fr.)...	6	0/0	0	0	1	3	3.0	0	3
2016 (So.)...	1	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	1	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER.....	8	0/0	0	0	1	3	3.0	0	3

	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2017 (Jr.)...	1	0	0.0	0	0

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH REUBEN PETERS**

2017

	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
Arizona St.	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0/0	0	0
Arizona	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	0/0	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	1	0	0.0	0	0	1	0/0	0	0

**[82] TYLER PETITE**  
Tight End, 6-4, 250, Jr./Jr.  
Lafayette, CA (Campolindo HS)

**CAREER:** He has 47 catches for 606 yards (12.9 avg) with 6 TDs in his career. He has appeared in 40 games in his career, with 13 starts.

**2017:** Petite started most of the year at tight end as a junior in 2017. Overall in 2017 while appearing in all 13 games and starting 10 times (all but the final 3), he had 22 receptions for 305 yards (13.9 avg) with 3 TDs. He made **2017 All-Pac-12 honorable mention**.

He had 3 catches for 24 yards against Western Michigan, 3 catches for 35 yards against Stanford, 2 catches for 21 yards against Texas, 4 catches for 46 yards, with a 16-yard TD, at California, 2 catches for 40 yards against Oregon State and 3 catches for 79 yards against Utah, with TDs of 52 and 17 yards. He caught 2 passes for 42 yards at Arizona State, a 5-yard reception against Arizona, a 4-yard grab against UCLA and a 9-yard catch against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2015 (Fr.)...	15	145	9.7	1	25
2016 (So.)...	10	156	15.6	2	38
2017 (Jr.)...	22	305	13.9	3	52
CAREER.....	47	606	12.9	6	52

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH TYLER PETITE**

2017

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan*	3	24	8.0	0	8
Stanford*	3	35	11.7	0	19
Texas*	2	21	10.5	0	14
California*	4	46	11.5	1	16
Oregon St.*	2	40	20.0	0	22
Utah*	3	79	26.3	2	52
Arizona St.*	2	42	21.0	0	37
Arizona*	1	5	5.0	0	5
UCLA	1	4	4.0	0	4
Stanford(P12)	1	9	9.0	0	9
2017 (Jr.)...	22	305	13.9	3	52

\*Starter

**[91] BRANDON PILI**  
Defensive Tackle, 6-4, 320, Fr./Fr.  
Anchorage, AK, (Westview HS (OR))

**2017:** Pili was a key contributor at defensive tackle as a first-year freshman in 2017. Overall while seeing action in USC's final 8 games (starting twice, versus Notre Dame and Arizona State), he made 14 tackles and blocked a field goal. He made **2017 All-Pac-12 honorable mention**.

He had 3 tackles against Oregon State in his first career action and at Arizona State, 2 tackles versus Notre Dame, Colorado (with a blocked field goal) and Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game, and 1 stop against Utah and UCLA.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Fr.)...	14	0/0	1#	0

#Includes 1 blocked field goal

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH BRANDON PILI**

2017

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
Oregon St.	3	0/0	0	0
Utah	1	0/0	0	0
Notre Dame*	2	0/0	0	0
Arizona St.*	3	0/0	0	0
Colorado	2	0/0	1#	0
UCLA	1	0/0	0	0
Stanford(P12)	2	0/0	0	0
2017 (Fr.)...	14	0/0	1#	0

\*Starter

**[6] MICHAEL PITTMAN JR.**  
Wide Receiver, 6-4, 215, So./So.  
Woodland Hills, CA (Oaks Christian HS)

**CAREER:** In his career, he has 26 receptions for 417 yards (16.0 avg) with 2 TDs, plus 12 tackles and 2 blocked punt, 4 punt returns for 152 yards (38.0 avg) with 1 TD and 4 kickoff returns for 31 yards (7.8 avg). He has appeared in 23 games in his career, with 5 starts.

**2017:** Pittman played a key role as a wide receiver and on special teams as a sophomore in 2017. Overall in 2017 while appearing in 10 games (all but the first 3, which he missed after spraining his left ankle in 2017 fall camp) and starting 5 times (Utah, Arizona State, Arizona, Colorado, Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game), he had 20 receptions for 335 yards (16.8 avg) with 2 TDs, made 5 tackles and blocked a punt and returned 2 punts for 89 yards (44.5 avg) with a TD. He made **2017 All-Pac-12 first team (as a special teams player)** and was **USC's Co-Special Teams Player of the Year**. He is 10th nationally in punt return TDs (1, third in Pac-12).

He had 2 catches for 24 yards and a tackle against Oregon State, a 17-yard catch and a tackle versus Utah, a tackle at Notre Dame, 2 receptions for 23 yards and a tackle at Arizona State, 3 grabs for 59 yards, blocked a punt (that USC returned for a TD) and made a tackle against Arizona and 4 catches for 59 yards (including a 10-yard TD) at Colorado. He had a 7-yard catch and returned a punt on a trick play for a 72-yard touchdown to earn **Pac-12 Special Teams Player of the Week** honors against UCLA. He had game bests and career highs in receptions (7) and receiving yards (a Pac-12 Championship Game record 146) with a 7-yard TD against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

# USC FOOTBALL: 168 ALL-AMERICANS, 6 HEISMANS

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2016 (Fr.)...	6	82	13.7	0	21	7	0/0	1#	0
2017 (So.)...	20	335	16.8	2	54	5	0/0	1#	0
CAREER.....	26	417	16.0	2	54	12	0/0	2##	0

#Includes 1 blocked punt

##Includes 2 blocked punts

	PR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2016 (Fr.)...	2	63	31.5	0	35	4	31	7.8	0	13
2017 (So.)...	2	89	44.5	1	72	0	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER.....	4	152	38.0	1	72	4	31	7.8	0	13

## GAME-BY-GAME WITH MICHAEL PITTMAN JR.

2017

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
Oregon St.	2	24	12.0	0	14	1	0/0	0	0
Utah*	1	17	17.0	0	17	1	0/0	0	0
Notre Dame	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	0/0	0	0
Arizona St.*	2	23	11.5	0	15	1	0/0	0	0
Arizona*	3	59	19.7	0	21	1	0/0	1#	0
Colorado*	4	59	14.8	1	32	0	0/0	0	0
UCLA	1	7	7.0	0	7	0	0/0	0	0
Stanford(P12)*	7	146	20.9	1	54	0	0/0	0	0
2017 (So.)...	20	335	16.8	2	54	5	0/0	1#	0

	PR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
Arizona*	1	17	17.0	0	17
UCLA	1	72	72.0	1	72
2017 (So.)...	2	89	44.5	1	72

\*Starter

(6) ISAAH POLA-MAO  
Safety, 6-4, 200, Fr./Fr.  
Phoenix, AZ (Mountain Pointe HS)

**2017:** Pola-Mao redshirted as a first-year freshman safety in 2017 after having season-ending shoulder surgery in 2017 fall camp.

(28) C.J. POLLARD  
Safety, 6-1, 185, Fr.\*/So.  
Carson, CA (Serra HS)

**2017:** Pollard saw action in 4 games (Western Michigan, California, Oregon State, Arizona State) as a backup safety as a redshirt freshman in 2017. Overall in 2017, he had 4 tackles, including 1 for a loss of 10 yards. He had a tackle for a loss against California and 1 tackle against Western Michigan, Oregon State and Arizona State.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Fr.)...	4	1/10	0	0

## GAME-BY-GAME WITH C.J. POLLARD

2017

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
W. Michigan	1	0/0	0	0
California	1	1/10	0	0
Oregon St.	1	0/0	0	0
Arizona St.	1	0/0	0	0
2017 (Fr.)...	4	1/10	0	0

(30) YOOFI QUANSAH  
Cornerback, 5-7, 170, Sr.\*/Sr.  
Chino Hills, CA (Chino Hills HS/UC San Diego)

**2017:** Quansah did not see action as a backup walk-on cornerback as a senior in 2017. He won USC's Trojan Football Alumni Club Award (senior with the highest GPA).

(89) CHRISTIAN RECTOR  
Defensive Line, 6-4, 275, So.\*/Jr.  
South Pasadena, CA (Loyola HS)

**CAREER:** In his career, he has 40 tackles, including 11 for losses (with 7.5 sacks), a deflection, 2 fumble recoveries and a 10-yard kickoff return. He has appeared in 23 games in his career, with 5 starts.

**2017:** Rector proved to be a force as a sophomore defensive lineman in 2017. Overall in 2017 while appearing in 11 games (he broke his hand in practice prior to the Arizona State game and missed the Arizona State and Arizona games) and starting 5 times (California, Washington State, Oregon State, Utah, Notre Dame) as a hybrid defensive end/outside linebacker, he had 35 tackles, including 11 for losses of 64 yards (with 7.5 sacks for 56 yards), 2 fumble recoveries, 2 forced fumbles and a 10-yard kickoff return. He was named to the **2017 AP Midseason All-American second team**. He made **2017 All-Pac-12 second team**, **CollegeFootballNews.com All-Pac-12 first team**, **AP All-Pac-12 second team**, **Athlon All-Pac-12 second team** and **Phil Steele All-Pac-12 second team**. He is 23rd nationally in fumbles recovered (2, third in Pac-12) and 24th in sacks (0.7, fourth in Pac-12).

He had a tackle against Western Michigan and Stanford. Against Texas, he stripped the ball from a Longhorn in the second overtime and USC recovered to set up the game-winning field goal, to go along with an earlier fumble recovery and 6 tackles (2.5 for losses, with 1.5 sacks). He had 2 sacks and a forced fumble at California and 6 tackles (0.5 sack) at Washington State. He had 7 tackles, including 1 for a loss (with 0.5 sack), recovered a fumble and returned a short kickoff 10 yards against Oregon State. He had 6 tackles (with 2 sacks) against Utah, then 2 of his 3 tackles were for losses at Notre Dame. He had 2 tackles (1 for a loss, with a sack) at Colorado, then a tackle against UCLA and Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2016 (Fr.)...	5	0/0	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (So.)...	35	11/64	0	2	1	10	10.0	0	10
CAREER.....	40	11/64	1	2	1	10	10.0	0	10

## GAME-BY-GAME WITH CHRISTIAN RECTOR

2017

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan	1	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanford	1	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Texas	6	2.5/17	0	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
California*	2	2/15	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Wash. St.*	6	0.5/2	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Oregon St.*	7	1/7	0	1	1	10	10.0	0	10
Utah*	6	2/13	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Notre Dame*	3	2/3	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Colorado	1	1/7	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
UCLA	1	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanford(P12)	1	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (So.)...	35	11/64	0	2	1	10	10.0	0	10

\*Starter

(14) YKILI ROSS  
Safety, 6-1, 190, So.\*/Jr.  
Riverside, CA (Riverside Poly HS)

**CAREER:** He has 15 tackles (1 for a loss), a deflection and 2 interceptions (1 for a TD) in his career. He has appeared in 24 games in his career, with 2 starts.

**2017:** Ross saw significant playing time at safety and on special teams as a sophomore in 2017. Overall in 2017 while appearing in all 13 games and starting twice (California and Utah) as a nickelback, he had 13 tackles, including 1 for a 3-yard loss, and 2 interceptions for 89 yards (94.5 avg) with 1 TD.

He had a tackle against Stanford, 2 tackles and an interception at California, a tackle at Washington State, 3 tackles versus Oregon State and 5 tackles (1 for a loss) against Utah. He returned an interception 37 yards for a TD at Arizona State, then had a tackle against UCLA.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	INT	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2016 (Fr.)...	2	0/0	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (So.)...	13	1/3	0	0	2	89	44.5	1	49
CAREER.....	15	1/3	1	0	2	89	44.5	1	49





**GAME-BY-GAME WITH YKILI ROSS**

2017

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	INT	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
Stanford	1	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
California*	2	0/0	0	0	1	49	49.0	0	49
Wash. St.	1	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Oregon St.	3	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Utah*	5	1/3	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona St.	0	0/0	0	0	1	37	37.0	1	37
UCLA	1	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (So.)...	13	1/3	0	0	2	89	44.5	1	49

\*Starter

**(79) CONNOR ROSSOW**  
Defensive Tackle, 6-1, 315, Fr.\*/So.  
Tustin, CA (Mater Dei HS)

**2017:** Rossow did not see action as a backup walk-on defensive tackle as a redshirt freshman in 2017. He was limited in 2017 spring drills while recuperating from a 2016 injury.

**(24) JAKE RUSSELL**  
Wide Receiver, 5-11, 170, So.\*/Jr.  
San Clemente, CA (San Clemente HS)

**CAREER:** He has 1 tackle in his career. He has appeared in 3 games in his career.

**2017:** Russell saw brief action in 2 games (Arizona State, Colorado) as a backup walk-on wide receiver as a sophomore in 2017. Overall in 2017, he made 1 tackle (at Arizona State).

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (So.)...	1	0/0	0	0

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH JAKE RUSSELL**

2017

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
Arizona St.	1	0/0	0	0
2017 (So.)...	1	0/0	0	0

**(46/86) WYATT SCHMIDT**  
Punter-Holder, 6-3, 205, Jr.\*/Sr.  
Inver Grove Heights, MN (St. Thomas Academy)

**CAREER:** He has appeared in 24 games in his career, making 1 tackle.

**2017:** Schmidt spent his second season as USC's holder on placekicks as a walk-on junior in 2017. He was the holder in 10 games and saw action as the snapper in the other 2 games (Utah and Notre Dame). Overall in 2017, he made 1 tackle (at Notre Dame). He was named the **Mortell Award Holder of the Week** against Texas. He also was available to placekick and punt. He made **2017 Pac-12 All-Academic honorable mention**.

	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2016 (So.)...	1	-8	-8.0	0	-8	0	0/0	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	0/0	0	0
CAREER.....	1	-8	-8.0	0	-8	1	0/0	0	0

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH WYATT SCHMIDT**

2017

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
Notre Dame	1	0/0	0	0
2017 (Sr.)...	1	0.0	0	0

**(13) JACK SEARS**  
Quarterback, 6-3, 200, Fr./Fr.  
San Clemente, CA (San Clemente HS)

**2017:** Sears, who enrolled at USC in the spring of 2017 after graduating a semester early from high school, did not see action as a backup quarterback as a first-year freshman in 2017.

**(81) TREVON SIDNEY**

Wide Receiver, 5-11, 170, Fr.\*/So.  
Pasadena, CA (Bishop Amat HS)

**2017:** Sidney saw action in 8 games (all but Texas, Washington State, Utah, Colorado, Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game) as a backup wide receiver as a redshirt freshman in 2017. Overall in 2017, he had 3 receptions for 35 yards (11.7 avg). He had a 7-yard catch against Western Michigan, 23-yard catch against Oregon State and a 5-yard catch at Arizona State. He was limited in 2017 spring drills while recuperating from 2016 post-season hip surgery.

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2017 (Fr.)...	3	35	11.7	0	23

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH TREVON SIDNEY**

2017

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan	1	7	7.0	0	7
Oregon St.	1	23	23.0	0	23
Arizona St.	1	5	5.0	0	5
2017 (Fr.)...	3	35	11.7	0	23

**(35) CAMERON SMITH**  
Inside Linebacker, 6-2, 250, Jr./Jr.  
Roseville, CA (Granite Bay HS)

**CAREER:** He has 263 tackles, including 18 for losses (with 2.5 sacks), plus 10 deflections, 3 fumble recoveries and 4 interceptions (with a TD) in his career. He has appeared in 36 games in his career, with 34 starts.

**2017:** The intense, physical Smith, who is always around the ball, started for his third year at inside linebacker as a junior in 2017 and led the team in tackles for the second consecutive year. Overall in 2017 while appearing in all 13 games and starting 12 (he had to sit out the first half of the Western Michigan opener because of a targeting penalty in the 2017 Rose Bowl), he had a team-high 102 tackles, including 10 for losses of 29 yards (with 0.5 sack for 6 yards), plus an interception, 3 deflections and a fumble recovery along with a 2-yard kickoff return. He is the first Trojan since 2012 to have 100-plus tackles (and just the third since 2004).

He was named to the **2017 CBSSports.com Midseason All-American first team (unanimous pick)**. He made **2017 Phil Steele All-American third team**, **CollegeSportMadness.com All-American third team**, **All-Pac-12 first team**, **AP All-Pac-12 second team**, **Athlon All-Pac-12 first team** and **Phil Steele All-Pac-12 first team** and was named a **semifinalist for the 2017 Butkus Award and Lott IMPACT Trophy**. He won **USC's Defensive Perimeter Player of the Year Award and Co-Lifter of the Year Award**. He was a **USC captain**.

He had 6 tackles (2 for losses) against Western Michigan despite having to sit the first half because of a targeting penalty in the 2017 Rose Bowl. He had 8 tackles (0.5 for a loss) against Stanford and a team-best 9 tackles (0.5 for loss) against Texas. He had a team-best 12 tackles (1.5 for losses) and a fumble recovery at California to earn **Lott IMPACT Trophy Player of the Week** honors. He had 6 tackles (1 for a loss) at Washington State and 5 tackles (0.5 sack) against Oregon State. He had a game-best 16 tackles (0.5 for a loss) against Utah (the most stops by a Trojan since Hayes Pullard had 16 against Georgia Tech in 2012) and he also had a point-blank interception (the fourth of his career, all coming against Utah) to earn **Lott IMPACT Trophy Player of the Week** honors. He had a team-leading 10 tackles (1.5 for loss) at Notre Dame, 7 tackles at Arizona State, 4 tackles and he returned a short kickoff 2 yards against Arizona, 4 tackles at Colorado, 8 tackles (1 for a loss) and a deflection against UCLA and 7 tackles (1 for a loss) and 2 deflections against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	INT	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2015 (Fr.)...	78	1/9	3	1	3	122	40.7	1	54
2016 (So.)...	83	7/24	4	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	102	10/29	3	1	1	4	4.0	0	4
CAREER.....	263	18/62	10	3	4	126	31.5	1	54

	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2016 (So.)...	1	7	7.0	0	7
2017 (Jr.)...	1	2	2.0	0	2
CAREER.....	2	9	4.5	0	7



**GAME-BY-GAME WITH CAMERON SMITH**

2017

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	INT	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan	6	2/5	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanford*	8	0.5/2	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Texas*	9	0.5/2	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
California*	12	1.5/5	0	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Wash. St.*	6	1/2	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Oregon St.*	5	0.5/6	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Utah*	16	0.5/1	0	0	1	4	4.0	0	4
Notre Dame*	10	1.5/2	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona St.*	7	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona*	4	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Colorado*	4	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
UCLA*	8	1/2	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Stanford(P12)*	7	1/2	2	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	102	10/29	3	1	1	4	4.0	0	4

\*Starter

**(66) COLE SMITH**  
Center, 6-3, 275, So.\*/Jr.  
Mission Viejo, CA (Mission Viejo HS)

**CAREER:** He has appeared in 7 games in his career.

**2017:** Smith played briefly in 4 games (Oregon State, Notre Dame, Arizona State, UCLA) as a backup center as a sophomore in 2017.

**(78) NATHAN SMITH**  
Offensive Tackle, 6-6, 285, Fr.\*/So.  
Murrieta, CA (Murrieta Mesa HS)

**2017:** Smith, who has a promising future at offensive tackle, was sidelined as a redshirt freshman in 2017 while recuperating from a 2016 knee injury.

**(41) MILO STEWART**  
Wide Receiver, 5-9, 165, Sr.\*/Sr.,  
Palm Desert, CA (Marywood-Palm Valley HS)

**2017:** Stewart did not see action as a backup walk-on wide receiver as a senior in 2017.

**(60) VIANE TALAMAIVAO**  
Offensive Guard, 6-2, 325, Sr./Sr.  
Moreno Valley, CA (Centennial HS)

**CAREER:** He has 37 career starts and has appeared in 44 games.

**2017:** Talamaivao, USC's most experienced offensive lineman as a 4-year starter, started the first 5 games (Western Michigan, Stanford, Texas, California, Washington State) at right guard as a senior in 2017, but he injured his left pectoral muscle at Washington State and was sidelined the rest of the season. He missed part of 2017 spring practice after having surgery on his left elbow. He won **USC's Trojan Commitment Award**.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2016 (Jr.)...	1	0/0	0	0

**(7) MARVELL TELL III**  
Safety, 6-2, 195, Jr./Jr.  
Pasadena, CA (Crespi HS)

**CAREER:** He has 158 tackles, including 5.5 for losses (with 1 sack), 8 deflections and 4 interceptions (with a TD) in his career. He has appeared in 36 games in his career, with 28 starts.

**2017:** The rangy Tell, who has a nose for the football, started for his second year at free safety as a junior in 2017. Overall in 2017 while starting all 13 games, he had 79 tackles (third on USC), including 2.5 for losses of 9 yards (with a 6-yard sack), 3 interceptions (1 for a TD) and 2 deflections. He made **2017 All-Pac-12 first team and Phil Steele All-Pac-12 second team and won USC's Co-Lifter of the Year Award**.

He had 8 tackles, a deflection and returned an interception for a 37-yard TD against Western Michigan, had 3 tackles against Stanford, 4 tackles and an interception against Texas, a team-high 12 tackles at California, a team-best 7 tackles at Washington State, a game-high 10

tackles (0.5 for loss) and a deflection against Oregon State, 4 tackles versus Utah, 5 tackles at Notre Dame, 6 tackles at Arizona State, 7 tackles (0.5 sack) against Arizona and 4 tackles (0.5 sack) at Colorado. He had 6 tackles (1 for a loss) and returned an endzone interception for 27 yards against UCLA to earn **CollegeSportsMadness.com Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Week** honors, then had 3 tackles against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	INT	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2015 (Fr.)...	36	1/2	4	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2016 (So.)...	43	2/7	2	0	1	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	79	2.5/9	2	0	3	64	21.3	1	37
CAREER.....	158	5.5/18	8	0	4	64	16.0	1	37

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH MARVELL TELL III**

2017

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR	INT	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan*	8	0/0	1	0	1	37	37.0	1	37
Stanford*	3	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Texas*	4	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
California*	12	0/0	0	0	1	0	0.0	0	0
Wash. St.*	7	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Oregon St.*	10	0.5/2	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Utah*	4	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Notre Dame*	5	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona St.*	6	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Arizona*	7	0.5/5	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Colorado*	4	0.5/1	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
UCLA*	6	1/1	0	0	1	27	27.0	0	27
Stanford(P12)*	3	0/0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	79	2.5/9	2	0	3	64	21.3	1	37

\*Starter

**(16) HOLDEN THOMAS**  
Quarterback, 6-6, 195, Fr.\*/So.  
Pacific Palisades, CA (Brentwood School)

**2017:** Thomas did not see action as a backup walk-on quarterback as a redshirt freshman in 2017.

**(36) CHRIS TILBEY**  
Punter, 6-5, 215, Jr.\*/Sr.  
Melbourne, Australia (Sandringham HS/San Francisco CC)

**2017:** Tilbey, USC's starting punter in 2016 who has a background in Australian Rules Football, did not see action as a junior punter in 2017.

	P	YDS	AVG	LG	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2016 (So.)...	50	1917	38.3	54	1	-17	-17.0	0	-17

**(26) JAMES TOLAND IV**  
Tailback, 5-11, 195, Sr.\*/Sr.  
Indio, CA (Shadow Hills HS)

**CAREER:** He has run for 207 yards on 49 carries (4.2 avg) and made 13 tackles in his career. He has appeared in 34 matches in his career.

**2017:** Toland saw action in USC's first 9 games of 2017 as a backup tailback and on special teams as a senior in 2017. He suffered a shoulder injury at Arizona State and was sidelined the rest of the season. Overall in 2017, he had 4 carries for 13 yards (3.2 avg) and 3 tackles. He had 9 yards on 3 rushes versus Oregon State and a 4-yard run at Arizona State before getting hurt. He made 1 tackle versus Stanford, Washington State and Notre Dame.

	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2014 (Fr.)...	29	102	3.5	0	16	1	0/0	0	0
2015 (So.)...	3	23	7.7	0	17	6	0/0	0	0
2016 (Jr.)...	13	69	5.3	0	10	3	0/0	0	0
2017 (Sr.)...	4	13	3.2	0	6	3	0/0	0	0
CAREER.....	49	207	4.2	0	17	13	0/0	0	0

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH JAMES TOLAND IV**

**2017**

	TAC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
Stanford	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	0/0	0	0
Wash. St.	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	0/0	0	0
Oregon St.	3	9	3.0	0	6	0	0/0	0	0
Notre Dame	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	0/0	0	0
Arizona St.	1	4	4.0	0	4	0	0/0	0	0
2017 (Sr.)...	4	13	3.2	0	6	3	0/0	0	0

**(34) OLAJUWON TUCKER**  
Outside Linebacker, 6-2, 220, Sr./Sr.  
Harbor City, CA (Serra HS)

**CAREER:** He has 52 tackles (3.5 for losses, with 2.5 sacks) in his career. He has 3 career starts and has appeared in 27 games.

**2017:** Tucker redshirted as a backup outside linebacker as a senior in 2017. He also was able to play inside linebacker.

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2014 (Fr.)...	3	0/0	0	0
2015 (So.)...	40	3.5/22	0	0
2016 (Jr.)...	9	0/0	0	0
CAREER.....	52	3.5/22	0	0

**(78) JAY TUFELE**  
Defensive Line, 6-3, 295, Fr./Fr.  
Salt Lake City, UT (Bingham HS)

**2017:** Tufele redshirted as a first-year freshman defensive lineman at USC in 2017. He won **USC's Co-Defensive Service Team Player of the Year Award**.

**(51) MARLON TUIPULOTU**  
Defensive Tackle, 6-3, 295, Fr./Fr.  
Independence, OR (Central HS)

**2017:** Tuipulotu, who enrolled at USC in the spring of 2017 after graduating a semester early from high school and had an impressive showing in spring drills, was set to be a big contributor at defensive tackle as a first-year freshman in 2017 before injuries struck. He sprained his left knee against Stanford and missed the Texas game, then suffered a back injury prior to the Washington State game that sidelined him the rest of the season. Overall while appearing in 3 early games (Western Michigan, Stanford and California, even starting versus Stanford), he had 2 tackles (both against Western Michigan).

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Fr.)...	2	0/0	0	0

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH MARLON TUIPULOTU**

**2017**

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
W. Michigan	2	0/0	0	0
2017 (Fr.)...	2	0/0	0	0

**(21) TYLER VAUGHNS**  
Wide Receiver, 6-2, 185, Fr.\*/So.  
Pasadena, CA (Bishop Amat HS)

**2017:** Vaughns emerged as a key wide receiver as a redshirt freshman in 2017. Overall in 2017 while appearing in all 13 games and starting 9 times (all but Western Michigan, Stanford, Texas and California), he had 51 receptions for 690 yards (13.5 avg) with 5 TDs, along with a 9-yard punt return and a tackle. He made **2017 All-Pac-12 honorable mention**.

He had an 8-yard catch and a tackle against Western Michigan, then had 4 catches for 25 yards against Texas and 3 grabs for 32 yards at California. He had 6 catches for 89 yards at Washington State, 5 catches for 68 yards with a 37-yard TD against Oregon State, 6 receptions for 65 yards versus Utah, 6 receptions for 65 yards at Notre Dame and 6 catches for 126 yards with 2 TDs (42 and 19 yards) at Arizona State. He caught 4 passes for 59 yards, with a 22-yard TD, against Arizona, then had 5

catches for 90 yards and a 9-yard punt return at Colorado, 2 catches for 37 yards against UCLA and 3 catches for 26 yards, with a 19-yard TD, against Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Fr.)...	51	690	13.5	5	42	1	0/0	0	0

	PR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2017 (Fr.)...	1	9	9.0	0	9

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH TYLER VAUGHNS**

**2017**

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan	1	8	8.0	0	8
Texas	4	25	6.3	0	10
California	3	32	10.7	0	14
Wash. St.*	6	89	14.8	0	26
Oregon St.*	5	68	13.6	1	37
Utah*	6	65	10.8	0	17
Notre Dame*	6	65	10.8	0	28
Arizona St.*	6	126	21.0	2	42
Arizona*	4	59	14.8	1	22
Colorado*	5	90	18.0	0	29
UCLA*	2	37	18.5	0	22
Stanford(P12)*	3	26	8.7	1	19
2017 (Fr.)...	51	690	13.5	5	42

	PR	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
Colorado*	1	9	9.0	0	9
2017 (Fr.)...	1	9	9.0	0	9

\*Starter

**(68) ALIJAH VERA-TUCKER**  
Offensive Guard-Offensive Tackle, 6-4, 300, Fr./Fr.  
Oakland, CA (Bishop O'Dowd HS)

**2017:** Vera-Tucker redshirted as a first-year freshman offensive guard and tackle at USC in 2017.

**(72) ANDREW VORHEES**  
Offensive Tackle-Offensive Guard, 6-6, 310, Fr./Fr.  
Kingsburg, CA (Kingsburg HS)

**2017:** Vorhees, who enrolled at USC in the spring of 2017 after graduating a semester early from high school, started USC's final 8 games at right offensive guard as a first-year freshman in 2017. He saw key action off the bench in 4 other early-season games (Western Michigan, Stanford, Texas, Washington State). He also was available to play offensive tackle. He had 1 tackle (at Notre Dame).

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2017 (Fr.)...	1	0/0	0	0

**(28) ACA'CEDRIC WARE**  
Tailback, 6-0, 195, Jr./Jr.  
DeSoto, TX (Cedar Hill HS)

**CAREER:** He has run for 671 yards on 136 carries (4.9 avg) with 4 TDs, caught 10 passes for 91 yards (9.1 avg) and made a tackle in his career. He has appeared in 33 games in his career.

**2017:** Ware saw playing time at tailback and on special teams as a junior in 2017. Overall in 2017 while appearing in all 13 games, he ran for 238 yards on 46 carries (5.2 avg) with 1 TD and caught 6 passes for 62 yards (10.3 avg).

He had a 3-yard run and 4-yard catch against Western Michigan and 18 yards on 3 tries against Stanford. He had 20 yards on 8 carries and had a 3-yard reception at California. He had 28 yards on 6 carries plus a 37-yard reception against Oregon State, 4 yards on 2 tries versus Utah, 8 yards on 3 tries and also had a catch for minus 3 yards at Notre Dame and 22 yards on 6 attempts and also caught an 8-yard pass at Arizona State. He had 122 yards on 14 carries (8.7 average) with a career-long 42-yard TD against Arizona. He had 7 yards on 2 tries at Colorado and a 6-yard run against UCLA.





**USC FOOTBALL: 168 ALL-AMERICANS, 6 HEISMANS**

	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2015 (Fr.)...	12	36	3.0	1	9	0	0	0.0	0	0
2016 (So.)...	78	397	5.1	2	37	4	29	7.3	0	20
2017 (Jr.)...	46	238	5.2	1	42	6	62	10.3	0	37
CAREER.....	136	671	4.9	4	42	10	91	9.1	0	37

	TAC	LS/YDS	DFL	FR
2016 (So.)...	1	0/0	0	0

**GAME-BY-GAME WITH ACA'CEDRIC WARE**

2017

	TCB	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
W. Michigan	1	3	3.0	0	3	1	4	4.0	0	4
Stanford	3	18	6.0	0	9	0	0	0.0	0	0
California	8	20	2.5	0	11	1	3	3.0	0	3
Oregon St.	6	28	4.7	0	13	1	37	37.0	0	37
Utah	2	4	2.0	0	3	0	0	0.0	0	0
Notre Dame	3	8	2.7	0	7	1	-3	-3.0	0	-3
Arizona St.	6	22	3.7	0	7	1	8	8.0	0	8
Arizona	14	122	8.7	1	42	1	13	13.0	0	13
Colorado	2	7	3.5	0	7	0	0	0.0	0	0
UCLA	1	6	6.0	0	6	0	0	0.0	0	0
2017 (Jr.)...	46	238	5.2	1	42	6	62	10.3	0	37

**[36] JACK WEBSTER**  
Wide Receiver, 6-0, 185, Fr./Fr.  
La Canada Flintridge, CA (Loyola HS)

**2017:** Webster redshirted as a reserve wide receiver as a walk-on first-year freshman in 2017.

**[64] RICHIE WENZEL**  
Center, 6-3, 285, Jr.\*/Sr.  
Chevy Chase, MD (Our Lady of Good Counsel HS)

**CAREER:** He has appeared in 4 games in his career.

**2017:** Wenzel, who rejoined the Trojans in the spring of 2017, saw brief action in 2 games (Oregon State, Arizona State) as as a backup center as a walk-on junior in 2017. He won **USC's Offensive Service Team Player of the Year Award**.

**[15] KEYSHAWN "PIE" YOUNG**  
Wide Receiver-Cornerback, 5-11, 170, So./So.  
Miami, FL (Miami Senior HS)

**2017:** Young redshirted as a backup wide receiver as a sophomore in 2017. He also was available at cornerback.



## 2017 USC FOOTBALL ALL-STAR HONORS

### OG-OT **Jordan Austin**

USC Community Service Award  
Pac-12 All-Academic honorable mention

### OG-OT **Chris Brown**

All-Pac-12 honorable mention  
USC Offensive Lineman of the Year

### P **Reid Budrovich**

USC Joe Collins Walk-on Award

### WR **Deontay Burnett**

Biletnikoff Award semifinalist  
Phil Steele All-American fourth team  
All-Pac-12 second team  
AP All-Pac-12 first team  
Athlon All-Pac-12 first team  
Phil Steele All-Pac-12 first team  
Pro Football Focus All-Pac-12 first team  
USC Bob Chandler Award  
Rose Bowl Game Pac-12 Player of the Week (9/18)

### TB **Stephen Carr**

All-Pac-12 honorable mention

### QB **Sam Darnold**

Maxwell Award semifinalist  
Walter Camp Award semifinalist  
Davey O'Brien Award semifinalist  
Manning Award semifinalist  
CollegeFootballNews.com All-American honorable mention  
All-Pac-12 first team  
AP All-Pac-12 first team  
Athlon All-Pac-12 first team  
Phil Steele All-Pac-12 first team  
CollegeFootballNews.com All-Pac-12 first team  
USC Co-MVP  
USC Co-Lifter of the Year Award  
USC Captain  
Pac-12 Championship Game MVP  
CollegeSportsMadness.com Pac-12 Offensive Player of Week (9/10)  
Pac-12 Offensive Player of the Week (9/11)  
O'Brien Award Great 8 (9/11)  
CFPA National Player of Week honorable mention (12/4)

### C **Nico Falah**

USC Trojan Commitment Award  
USC Co-Lifter of the Year Award

### DT **Josh Fatu**

All-Pac-12 honorable mention  
USC John McKay Award  
College Gridiron Showcase invitee

### DL **Rasheem Green**

CollegeFootballNews.com All-American second team  
All-Pac-12 first team  
AP All-Pac-12 first team  
Athlon All-Pac-12 first team  
Phil Steele All-Pac-12 first team  
CollegeFootballNews.com All-Pac-12 first team  
USC Defensive Lineman of the Year Award

### S **Chris Hawkins**

All-Pac-12 honorable mention  
AP All-Pac-12 second team  
Pro Football Focus All-Pac-12 first team  
USC Trojan Way Leadership Award  
USC Player of the Game Versus UCLA Award  
USC Captain

### ILB **John Houston Jr.**

CollegeSportsMadness.com Pac-12 Defensive Player of Week (11/5)

### CB **Jack Jones**

AP All-American third team  
AP All-Pac-12 second team  
Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Week (9/25)  
Thorpe Award Player of the Week honorable mention (9/26)

### TB **Ronald Jones II**

Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award finalist  
Doak Walker Award semifinalist  
Pro Football Focus All-American first team  
Sports On Earth All-American second team  
AP All-American third team  
CollegeSportMadness.com All-American third team  
Phil Steele All-American fourth team  
CollegeFootballNews.com All-American honorable mention  
All-Pac-12 first team  
AP All-Pac-12 first team  
Athlon All-Pac-12 first team  
Phil Steele All-Pac-12 first team  
CollegeFootballNews.com All-Pac-12 first team  
Pro Football Focus All-Pac-12 first team  
USC Offensive Perimeter Player of the Year Award  
Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award Player of Week honorable mention (9/5)  
Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award Player of Week honorable mention (10/31)  
CollegeSportsMadness.com Pac-12 Offensive Player of Week (11/5)  
Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award Player of Week honorable mention (11/7)  
Rose Bowl Game Pac-12 Player of the Week (11/20)  
Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award Player of Week honorable mention (11/21)

### WR **Velus Jones Jr.**

CollegeFootballNews.com All-Pac-12 first team (as a kick returner)  
Athlon All-Pac-12 second team (as a kick returner)  
Phil Steele All-Pac-12 second team (as a kick returner)

### DL **Jacob Lichtenstein**

USC Co-Defensive Service Team Player of the Year Award

### OT **Toa Lobendahn**

All-Pac-12 second team  
CollegeFootballNews.com All-Pac-12 first team  
Athlon All-Pac-12 second team  
Phil Steele All-Pac-12 second team  
USC Chris Carlisle Courage Award  
USC Co-Lifter of the Year Award

### S **Matt Lopes**

All-Pac-12 second team (as a special teams player)  
USC Co-Special Teams Player of the Year

### CB **Iman Marshall**

All-Pac-12 honorable mention  
Phil Steele All-Pac-12 third team

### PK **Chase McGrath**

USC Joe Collins Walk-on Award

### WR **Steven Mitchell Jr.**

All-Pac-12 honorable mention  
Phil Steele All-Pac-12 third team  
USC Chris Carlisle Courage Award

### OLB **Uchenna Nwosu**

Sports On Earth All-American first team  
All-Pac-12 first team  
AP All-Pac-12 first team  
Athlon All-Pac-12 first team  
Phil Steele All-Pac-12 first team  
CollegeFootballNews.com All-Pac-12 first team  
Pro Football Focus All-Pac-12 first team  
USC Co-MVP  
USC Co-Lifter of the Year Award  
USC Captain  
Senior Bowl invitee  
CollegeSportsMadness.com Pac-12 Defensive Player of Week (10/29)



**SNP Jake Olson**

Jason Witten Collegiate Man of the Year Award semifinalist  
USC Most Inspirational Player  
Pac-12 Special Teams Player of the Week (9/5)

**TE Tyler Petite**

All-Pac-12 honorable mention

**DT Brandon Pili**

All-Pac-12 honorable mention

**WR Michael Pittman Jr.**

All-Pac-12 first team (as a special teams player)  
USC Co-Special Teams Player of the Year  
Pac-12 Special Teams Player of the Week (11/20)

**CB Yoofi Quansah**

USC Trojan Football Alumni Club Award

**DL Christian Rector**

All-Pac-12 second team  
CollegeFootballNews.com All-Pac-12 first team  
AP All-Pac-12 second team  
Athlon All-Pac-12 second team  
Phil Steele All-Pac-12 second team  
AP Midseason All-American second team

**HLD Wyatt Schmidt**

Mortell Award Holder of the Week (9/18)  
Pac-12 All-Academic honorable mention

**ILB Cameron Smith**

Butkus Award semifinalist  
Lott IMPACT Trophy semifinalist  
Phil Steele All-American third team  
CollegeSportMadness.com All-American third team  
All-Pac-12 first team  
Athlon All-Pac-12 first team  
Phil Steele All-Pac-12 first team  
AP All-Pac-12 second team  
CBSSports.com Midseason All-American first team (unanimous pick)  
USC Defensive Perimeter Player of the Year Award  
USC Co-Lifter of the Year Award  
USC captain  
Lott IMPACT Trophy Player of the Week (9/25)  
Lott IMPACT Trophy Player of the Week (10/16)

**OG Viane Talamaivao**

USC Trojan Commitment Award

**S Marvell Tell III**

All-Pac-12 first team  
Athlon All-Pac-12 first team  
Phil Steele All-Pac-12 second team  
USC Co-Lifter of the Year Award  
CollegeSportsMadness.com Pac-12 Defensive Player of Week (11/19)

**DL Jay Tufele**

USC Co-Defensive Service Team Player of the Year Award

**WR Tyler Vaughns**

All-Pac-12 honorable mention

**C Richie Wenzel**

USC Offensive Service Team Player of the Year Award

**Head Coach Clay Helton**

Bryant Award finalist  
AP Pac-12 Coach of the Year  
Athlon Pac-12 Coach of the Year

**Assistant Coach Tee Martin**

Broyles Award semifinalist





## CLAY HELTON

### USC HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

It didn't take long for Clay Helton to make his mark as USC football's head coach.

The 45-year-old Helton is 27-9 (750) as the Trojan head coach, with 9 victories over AP Top 25 teams, including 3 in the Top 5. He went 11-2 in 2017 with wins over No. 14 Stanford twice (including in the Pac-12 Championship Game) and No. 23 Arizona, 10-3 in 2016 with wins over No. 4 Washington, No. 5 Penn State in a legendary Rose Bowl thriller and No. 21 Colorado, 5-4 in 2015 with wins over No. 3 Utah and No. 22 UCLA, and 1-0 in 2013, beating No. 21 Fresno State.

He is the first USC head coach to have 10-win seasons in each of his first 2 full seasons. He has led USC to an active 16-game home winning streak (its longest since 2001-04) and a since-snapped 13-game overall winning streak from 2016 to 2017 (its longest since 2003-04). He is 16-0 in the Coliseum. Two of his career losses came while serving as USC's interim head coach.

In 2017, his Trojans are 11-2 (ranked eighth) despite playing all 12 regular season games without a bye and they are headed to the Cotton Bowl Classic. He led USC to an 8-1 Pac-12 record (the loss was by 3 points on a Friday night on the road on a late field goal) and its first Pac-12 title since 2008 by winning the Pac-12 Championship Game (the first ever by a South Division team). He was the **2017 AP Pac-12 Coach of the Year** and **Athlon Pac-12 Coach of the Year** and a finalist for the **2017 Paul "Bear" Bryant Coach of the Year Award** (the second consecutive year he has been a finalist).

After his Trojans started off 1-3 in 2016 in his first full season as head coach (all 3 losses were to AP Top 25 teams away from home), USC went on a 9-game winning streak (its longest since 2008-09) to rise to a final No. 3 national AP ranking (USC's highest since 2008 and the highest ever of any 3-loss team) and earn a berth in the Rose Bowl (finishing second in the Pac-12 South at 7-2) while playing a schedule ranked among the 10 most difficult in the nation. Troy capped the season with an instant classic 52-49 at-the-gun victory over No. 5 Penn State in the Rose Bowl. He guided USC to wins over UCLA and Notre Dame and in the Rose Bowl, just the 13<sup>th</sup> season that has happened in Trojan history. USC was perfect (6-0) at home for the first time since 2008 and undefeated in the greater Los Angeles area (8-0). His Trojans beat both teams (No. 4 Washington and No. 21 Colorado) that played in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

Under Helton's guidance in 2016, Adoree' Jackson was named the Thorpe Award winner, a consensus All-American first teamer, the Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year and a finalist for the Hornung Award and Lott IMPACT Trophy. Sam Darnold was a Manning Award finalist and a Freshman All-American first teamer and both Zach Banner and Chad Wheeler were All-American first team and All-Pac-12 first team picks. USC's offense had at least 400 total yards in its last 10 games, while its defense held 7 opponents to season lows in points. Helton was named a finalist for the **2016 Paul "Bear" Bryant Coach of the Year Award** and won the **Football Writers First Year Co-Coach of the Year Award**. He served as the grand marshal of the 2017 Long Beach Grand Prix and he threw out the first pitch at a Dodgers game in April.

After starting the 2015 season as the offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach, Helton was named USC's permanent head coach on Nov. 30 of that year (for 2 post-season games), dropping the interim head coach title he had held since Oct. 12 (for USC's final 7 regular season games). He signed a 5-year contract.

Helton guided the 2015 Trojans to 5 wins in the last 6 regular-season games (including victories over No. 3 Utah and No. 22 UCLA), the co-championship of the challenging Pac-12 South Division, a berth in the Pac-12 Championship Game and a trip to the Holiday Bowl. He was named the **2015 Los Angeles Sports Council Coach of the Year**.

As the coordinator of USC's offense in 2015, the Trojans ranked ninth nationally in fumbles lost (5), 11<sup>th</sup> in both passes had intercepted (7) and completion percentage (.667), 16<sup>th</sup> in fourth down conversions (.654) and 20<sup>th</sup> in passing efficiency (153.6). USC averaged 437.9 total yards and 33.9 points a game. Quarterback Cody Kessler, a finalist for the Unitas Award and a NFL Draft third round pick, ranked in the national Top 20 in completion percentage (13<sup>th</sup> at .668), passing TDs (15<sup>th</sup> at 29) and passing efficiency (19<sup>th</sup> at 151.7). Kessler ended his career in USC's career Top 4 in TD passes, completions, passing yards and total offense (and set school career records for completion percentage and interception rate). All-Pac-12 first team wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster was in the Top 20 nationally in receiving yards (11<sup>th</sup> at 103.9), receiving TDs (17<sup>th</sup> at 10) and receptions (20<sup>th</sup> at 6.4). Tailbacks Justin Davis and Ronald Jones II each had 900-plus yard rushing seasons. Jones set the USC frosh season rushing record and was just the second Trojan first-year freshman to top the squad in rushing.

"After weeks of searching the collegiate and pro ranks, interviewing candidates, and speaking with head coaches, athletic directors, NFL executives, and very knowledgeable football people, and after observing Clay in action the past seven weeks, it became abundantly clear that what we were searching for in a coach was right here in front of us," said then-USC athletic director Pat Haden upon announcing Helton's hiring. "Choosing a coach is an inexact science. In Clay's case, there is exactness. We have a man with unquestioned integrity. He is a fantastic person and he is real. Clay is a leader of young men. He is a terrific communicator. He brings high character, stability, continuity, consistency, toughness and resiliency to our program."

"We have known Clay well for the past six years. He earned this opportunity. He has been positive and upbeat handling adversity. He was built to be a head coach. Football is his family business. He is a coach on the rise and he will be coaching a team on the rise. As our interim head coach, Clay brought back USC's style of physical football. I have been impressed with how hard and how inspired our team has played for him, as well as the support they have shown for him."

Helton joined the USC staff in February of 2010 as the quarterbacks coach after spending 10 seasons as an assistant at Memphis. He added the passing game coordinator role in 2012 and became the offensive coordinator in 2013.

In 2014, quarterback Cody Kessler had the most efficient passing season in USC history (69.7%, 39 TDs, 5 interceptions) while setting USC season records for completions (315), completion percentage (69.7), passing efficiency (167.1) and interception rate (1.1) and tying USC season marks for TD passes (39) and 300-yard passing games (7). He also threw a school record 7 TD passes against Colorado and a Notre Dame opponents record 6 TDs against the Irish. USC's offense ranked in the national Top 25 in passing efficiency, passing offense, third down conversions and scoring offense in 2014. USC played in the 2014 Holiday Bowl.

In 2013, he served as USC's interim head coach in its victory over Fresno State in the Las Vegas Bowl. The Trojan offense was in the national Top 25 in red zone scoring.

In 2012, quarterback Matt Barkley won the Wuerrfel Trophy and was a finalist for the Manning Award, Unitas Golden Arm Award, Senior CLASS Award and ARA Sportsmanship Award as he became the Pac-12 career recordholder for passing yards (12,327), completions (1,001), touchdowns (116) and total offense (12,214). He also was a 2012 National Football Foundation National Scholar-Athlete. He was a fourth round pick in the 2013 NFL draft. USC played in the 2012 Sun Bowl.

In 2011, Barkley was a Manning Award and Wuerrfel Trophy finalist as he set the Pac-12 season record for TD passes (39) and the USC season mark for pass completion percentage (69.1%), as well as school game standards for completions (35), pass yardage (468), passing TDs (6) and total offense (470). He was eighth nationally in passing efficiency and 16<sup>th</sup> in total offense. He finished sixth in the Heisman Trophy voting.

Helton began his 10-year (2000-09) Memphis career as the running backs coach for 3 seasons, then coached the Tigers' receivers for the next 4 seasons before becoming the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach the final 3 years. He served as Memphis' interim head coach for several months in early 2006 when head coach Tommie West had off-season heart surgery.

Among the Tigers' running backs he tutored was school rushing/scoring/all-purpose running recordholder DeAngelo Williams, who went on to finish seventh in the Heisman Trophy voting in 2005 and be an NFL first round selection.

As the receivers coach, he produced a pair of Conference USA All-Freshman picks in Maurice Jones (2005) and Duke Calhoun (2006), as well as the school's No. 4 all-time receptions leader in Ryan Scott. In 2003, Memphis set school season records for receptions and receiving yardage.

As the Tigers' offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, the 2007 and 2008 offenses were among the top 6 in school history in total yards and points. Both squads were ranked in the top 26 nationally in total offense. Quarterback Martin Hankins became Memphis' No. 2 career passer and set single season records for completions, passing yards and touchdown passes in 2007. In 2009, Curtis Steele had his second consecutive season with 1,000 rushing yards, Calhoun became the school's all-time leading receiver and Carlos Singleton set the career mark for receiving touchdowns.

Memphis played in 5 bowls during Helton's time: the 2003 and 2007 New Orleans Bowls, 2004 GMAC Bowl, 2005 Motor City Bowl and 2008 St. Petersburg Bowl.



Helton was hired as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Arkansas State after the 2009 season, but was there just 2 months before coming to USC.

Before Memphis, he was the running backs coach at Houston, his alma mater, for 3 seasons (1997-99), working under his father, head coach Kim Helton.

He began his coaching career at Duke, serving as a graduate assistant in 1995 and then the running backs coach in 1996.

He played quarterback at Houston in 1993 and 1994, playing for his father both seasons and captaining the Cougars as a 1994 senior. In 1993, he completed 1-of-3 passes in late duty in Houston's 49-7 loss to USC in the Coliseum.

He spent 1991 and 1992 at Auburn, where he earned 1992 SEC All-Academic honors. He redshirted there in 1990.

He earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics and interdisciplinary science from Houston in 1994.

He prepped at Clements High in Sugar Land (Tex.)

He was born on June 24, 1972. He and his wife, Angela, have 3 children: sons Reid (a USC student), 20, and Turner, 14, and daughter Aubrey, 18. Besides being Houston's head coach from 1993 to 1999, his father, Kim, was an assistant in college (Florida, Miami and Alabama Birmingham), the NFL (Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Houston Oilers, Los Angeles Raiders, Washington Redskins) and the CFL (Toronto Argonauts) following his playing career at Florida. His brother, Tyson, was the quarterbacks coach and pass game coordinator at USC (2016-17) until becoming Tennessee's offensive coordinator in early December of 2017 (he previously had assistant coaching stops at Western Kentucky, Cincinnati, Alabama Birmingham, Memphis and Hawaii and played at Houston).

### CLAY HELTON YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORD

YEAR	TEAM	POSITION	BOWL
1995	Duke	Graduate Assistant	--
1996	Duke	Running Backs	--
1997	Houston	Running Backs	--
1998	Houston	Running Backs	--
1999	Houston	Running Backs	--
2000	Memphis	Running Backs	--
2001	Memphis	Running Backs	--
2002	Memphis	Running Backs	--
2003	Memphis	Receivers	New Orleans
2004	Memphis	Receivers	GMAC
2005	Memphis	Receivers	Motor City
2006	Memphis	Receivers	--
2007	Memphis	Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks	New Orleans
2008	Memphis	Offensive Coordinator/ Quarterbacks	St. Petersburg
2009	Memphis	Offensive Coordinator/ Quarterbacks	--
2010	USC	Quarterbacks	--
2011	USC	Quarterbacks	--
2012	USC	Passing Game Coord./Quarterbacks	Sun
2013	USC	Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks*	Las Vegas
2014	USC	Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks	Holiday
2015	USC	Off. Coord./QBs/Head Coach#	Holiday
2016	USC	Head Coach (10-3)	Rose
2017	USC	Head Coach (11-2)	Cotton

\*1-0 as USC's interim head coach for bowl game

#5-2 as USC's interim head coach for last 7 games of regular season and 0-2 as permanent head coach in post-season

### TYSON HELTON TO TENNESSEE; BRYAN ELLIS TO COACH QBS

USC quarterbacks coach/pass game coordinator **Tyson Helton**, the brother of USC head coach **Clay Helton**, left USC in early December to become Tennessee's offensive coordinator. **Bryan Ellis**, who has served as USC's offensive quality control assistant in 2017, will handle the quarterbacks coach duties for the Cotton Bowl. The 29-year-old Ellis was an offensive quality control coach in his first year at Western Kentucky in 2014, assisting quarterbacks coach Tyson Helton. WKU's Brandon Doughty led the nation in passing yards (4,380) and TDs (49) in 2014 while winning the Sammy Baugh Award as the nation's top quarterback. Ellis then was WKU's running backs coach in 2015, as Anthony Wales ran for 1,086 yards and D'Andre Ferby made the Conference USA All-Freshman team. In 2016, Ellis was the Hilltoppers' wide receivers coach and passing game coordinator, as Taywan Taylor had 98 catches for 1,730 yards with 17 TDs and Nicholas Norris added 76 receptions for 1,318 yards with 14 TDs (the Hilltoppers threw for 4,715 yards and 42 scores). Due to a coaching change, Ellis served as WKU's offensive coordinator in the 2016 Boca Raton Bowl and helped the Hilltoppers roll up 51 points and 598 total yards in a victory over Memphis. Before WKU, he was an offensive graduate assistant at Alabama-Birmingham, his alma mater, for 2 seasons (2012-13). He played quarterback at UAB (2007-11) for head coach **Neil Callaway** (currently USC's offensive line coach). He started the final 9 games of his 2010 junior season, completing 231-of-411 passes (56.2%) for 2,940 yards and 25 TDs to rank 18th nationally in passing yards (267.3). His 2011 senior year was cut short by a concussion and season-ending wrist injury. He finished his UAB career in the school's all-time Top 5 in passing yards (3,697) and TD passes (27). He spent his 2006 senior year of high school at Peach County High in Fort Valley (Ga.), where he was the Atlanta Journal Constitution's AAA State Offensive Player of the Year while leading his team to the Class AAA state championship.



2017 USC FOOTBALL STATISTICS



2017 USC Football  
USC Overall Team Statistics (as of Dec 02, 2017)  
All games



Team Statistics	USC	OPP
SCORING	449	342
Points Per Game	34.5	26.3
Points Off Turnovers	54	48
FIRST DOWNS	317	269
Rushing	129	116
Passing	176	125
Penalty	12	28
RUSHING YARDAGE	2534	2058
Yards gained rushing	2828	2434
Yards lost rushing	294	376
Rushing Attempts	507	472
Average Per Rush	5.0	4.4
Average Per Game	194.9	158.3
TDs Rushing	28	18
PASSING YARDAGE	3830	3204
Comp-Att-Int	283-446-12	247-458-16
Average Per Pass	8.6	7.0
Average Per Catch	13.5	13.0
Average Per Game	294.6	246.5
TDs Passing	26	22
TOTAL OFFENSE	6364	5262
Total Plays	953	930
Average Per Play	6.7	5.7
Average Per Game	489.5	404.8
KICK RETURNS: #-Yards	35-823	48-1156
PUNT RETURNS: #-Yards	19-227	18-180
INT RETURNS: #-Yards	16-209	12-172
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	23.5	24.1
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	11.9	10.0
INT RETURN AVERAGE	13.1	14.3
FUMBLES-LOST	18-11	19-8
PENALTIES-Yards	104-940	91-754
Average Per Game	72.3	58.0
PUNTS-Yards	50-2083	64-2682
Average Per Punt	41.7	41.9
Net punt average	36.9	36.8
KICKOFFS-Yards	80-5004	66-3879
Average Per Kick	62.5	58.8
Net kick average	39.0	36.8
TIME OF POSSESSION/Game	30:36	29:24
3RD-DOWN Conversions	72/171	72/195
3rd-Down Pct	42%	37%
4TH-DOWN Conversions	10/24	14/25
4th-Down Pct	42%	56%
SACKS BY-Yards	43-257	22-170
MISC YARDS	0	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	59	43
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	12-16	14-22
ON-SIDE KICKS	0-0	0-1
RED-ZONE SCORES	(42-55) 76%	(35-50) 70%
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	(33-55) 60%	(26-50) 52%
PAT-ATTEMPTS	(57-58) 98%	(40-40) 100%
ATTENDANCE	508781	260925
Games/Avg Per Game	7/72683	5/52185
Neutral Site Games		1/48031

Score by Quarters	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
USC	94	123	76	146	10	449
Opponents	51	106	76	102	7	342







2017 USC Football  
USC Overall Individual Statistics (as of Dec 02, 2017)  
All games



Rushing	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Jones, Ronald	12	242	1512	26	1486	6.1	18	86	123.8
Carr, Stephen	9	63	370	7	363	5.8	3	52	40.3
Malepeai, Vavae	12	48	264	5	259	5.4	0	26	21.6
Ware, Aca'Cedric	13	46	252	14	238	5.2	1	42	18.3
Darnold, Sam	13	64	281	181	100	1.6	5	39	7.7
Fink, Matt	3	7	90	8	82	11.7	1	51	27.3
Jones, Velus	13	5	22	7	15	3.0	0	12	1.2
Toland, James	9	4	15	2	13	3.2	0	6	1.4
Mitchell, Steven	11	1	10	0	10	10.0	0	10	0.9
Jountti, Corbin	8	2	5	0	5	2.5	0	3	0.6
Greene, Jalen	10	1	4	0	4	4.0	0	4	0.4
Peters, Reuben	12	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Burnett, Deontay	13	2	3	5	-2	-1.0	0	3	-0.2
TEAM	12	21	0	39	-39	-1.9	0	0	-3.2
Total	13	507	2828	294	2534	5.0	28	86	194.9
Opponents	13	472	2434	376	2058	4.4	18	84	158.3

Passing	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Darnold, Sam	13	151.01	277-435-12	63.7	3787	26	56	291.3
Fink, Matt	3	106.80	6-9-0	66.7	43	0	16	14.3
TEAM	12	0.00	0-2-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Total	13	149.44	283-446-12	63.5	3830	26	56	294.6
Opponents	13	121.56	247-458-16	53.9	3204	22	79	246.5

Receiving	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Burnett, Deontay	13	74	975	13.2	9	42	75.0
Vaughns, Tyler	13	51	690	13.5	5	42	53.1
Mitchell, Steven	11	41	644	15.7	4	49	58.5
Petite, Tyler	13	22	305	13.9	3	52	23.5
Pittman, Michael	10	20	335	16.8	2	54	33.5
Carr, Stephen	9	16	189	11.8	0	29	21.0
Jones, Ronald	12	14	187	13.4	1	56	15.6
Greene, Jalen	10	8	98	12.2	0	23	9.8
Imatorbhebhe, Daniel	8	6	119	19.8	0	48	14.9
Ware, Aca'Cedric	13	6	62	10.3	0	37	4.8
Jones, Velus	13	6	46	7.7	0	16	3.5
Falo, Josh	11	4	65	16.2	2	30	5.9
Lewis, Joseph	10	4	39	9.8	0	14	3.9
Sidney, Trevon	8	3	35	11.7	0	23	4.4
Grimes, Randal	3	2	17	8.5	0	12	5.7
Imatorbhebhe, Josh	5	2	11	5.5	0	9	2.2
Krommenhoek, Erik	13	2	11	5.5	0	7	0.8
Malepeai, Vavae	12	2	2	1.0	0	6	0.2
Total	13	283	3830	13.5	26	56	294.6
Opponents	13	247	3204	13.0	22	79	246.5

Punt Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Harris, Ajene	12	70	5.8	0	21
Jones, Jack	4	48	12.0	0	21
Pittman, Michael	2	89	44.5	1	72
Vaughns, Tyler	1	9	9.0	0	9
Greene, Jalen	0	11	0.0	1	11
Total	19	227	11.9	2	72
Opponents	18	180	10.0	0	33

Interceptions	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Jones, Jack	4	17	4.2	0	15
Tell, Marvell	3	64	21.3	1	37
Harris, Ajene	3	31	10.3	1	34
Ross, Ykili	2	86	43.0	1	49
Nwosu, Uchenna	1	0	0.0	0	0
Houston, John	1	0	0.0	0	0
Smith, Cameron	1	4	4.0	0	4
Hawkins, Chris	1	7	7.0	0	7
Total	16	209	13.1	3	49
Opponents	12	172	14.3	1	38

Kick Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Jones, Velus	26	682	26.2	0	59
Jones, Jack	3	45	15.0	0	31
Carr, Stephen	3	64	21.3	0	38
Smith, Cameron	1	2	2.0	0	2
Rector, Christian	1	10	10.0	0	10
Harris, Ajene	1	20	20.0	0	20
Total	35	823	23.5	0	59
Opponents	48	1156	24.1	1	100

Fumble Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Houston, John	1	9	9.0	0	9
Nwosu, Uchenna	1	1	1.0	0	1
Total	2	10	5.0	0	9
Opponents	2	18	9.0	1	18





2017 USC Football  
USC Overall Individual Statistics (as of Dec 02, 2017)  
All games



Scoring	td	fg	PAT				dxp	saf	pts
			kick	rush	rcv	pass			
Jones, Ronald	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	114
McGrath, Chase	-	12-16	57-58	-	-	-	-	-	93
Burnett, Deontay	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54
Vaughns, Tyler	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Darnold, Sam	5	-	-	-	-	1-1	-	-	30
Mitchell, Steven	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Carr, Stephen	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Pittman, Michael	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Petite, Tyler	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Falo, Josh	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Ware, Aca'Cedric	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Greene, Jalen	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Tell, Marvell	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Ross, Ykili	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Fink, Matt	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Harris, Ajene	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Krommenhoek, Erik	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Total	59	12-16	57-58	-	1	1-1	-	-	449
Opponents	43	14-22	40-40	0-1	1	1-2	-	-	342

Total Offense	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Darnold, Sam	13	499	100	3787	3887	299.0
Jones, Ronald	12	242	1486	0	1486	123.8
Carr, Stephen	9	63	363	0	363	40.3
Malepeai, Vavae	12	48	259	0	259	21.6
Ware, Aca'Cedric	13	46	238	0	238	18.3
Fink, Matt	3	16	82	43	125	41.7
Jones, Velus	13	5	15	0	15	1.2
Toland, James	9	4	13	0	13	1.4
Mitchell, Steven	11	1	10	0	10	0.9
Jountti, Corbin	8	2	5	0	5	0.6
Greene, Jalen	10	1	4	0	4	0.4
Burnett, Deontay	13	2	-2	0	-2	-0.2
TEAM	12	23	-39	0	-39	-3.2
Total	13	953	2534	3830	6364	489.5
Opponents	13	930	2058	3204	5262	404.8

Field Goals	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
McGrath, Chase	12-16	75.0	0-0	5-6	4-5	2-4	1-1	51	0

FG Sequence	USC	Opponents
Western Michigan	-	38,(43)
Stanford	-	(36)
Texas	46,(31),(43)	(39)
California	(37),(34),(46)	(36),(21),29
Washington State	(20),(29)	(44),(33),(32)
Oregon State	(29)	46,37,(33)
Utah	-	33
Notre Dame	27	-
Arizona State	(51),38,(33)	(39)
Arizona	-	(45),(43)
Colorado	40,(26)	47,39,(39)
UCLA	-	47,(26)
Stanford	(24)	-

Punting	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Budrovich, Reid	49	2083	42.5	63	3	15	19	10	1
TEAM	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	50	2083	41.7	63	3	15	19	10	1
Opponents	64	2682	41.9	60	5	15	22	15	1

Kickoffs	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	retn	net	ydln
McGrath, Chase	55	3400	61.8	18	2			
Budrovich, Reid	16	1022	63.9	8	0			
Brown, Michael	9	582	64.7	3	1			
Total	80	5004	62.5	29	3	24.1	39.0	25
Opponents	66	3879	58.8	25	2	23.5	36.8	28

Numbers in (parentheses) indicate field goal was made.







**2017 USC Football**  
**USC Overall Individual Statistics (as of Dec 02, 2017)**  
**All games**



All Purpose	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
Jones, Ronald	12	1486	187	0	0	0	1673	139.4
Burnett, Deontay	13	-2	975	0	0	0	973	74.8
Jones, Velus	13	15	46	0	682	0	743	57.2
Vaughns, Tyler	13	0	690	9	0	0	699	53.8
Mitchell, Steven	11	10	644	0	0	0	654	59.5
Carr, Stephen	9	363	189	0	64	0	616	68.4
Pittman, Michael	10	0	335	89	0	0	424	42.4
Petite, Tyler	13	0	305	0	0	0	305	23.5
Ware, Aca'Cedri	13	238	62	0	0	0	300	23.1
Malepeai, Vavae	12	259	2	0	0	0	261	21.8
Harris, Ajene	13	0	0	70	20	31	121	9.3
Imatorbhebhe, D	8	0	119	0	0	0	119	14.9
Greene, Jalen	10	4	98	11	0	0	113	11.3
Jones, Jack	13	0	0	48	45	17	110	8.5
Darnold, Sam	13	100	0	0	0	0	100	7.7
Ross, Ykili	13	0	0	0	0	86	86	6.6
Fink, Matt	3	82	0	0	0	0	82	27.3
Falo, Josh	11	0	65	0	0	0	65	5.9
Tell, Marvell	13	0	0	0	0	64	64	4.9
Lewis, Joseph	10	0	39	0	0	0	39	3.9
Sidney, Trevon	8	0	35	0	0	0	35	4.4
Grimes, Randal	3	0	17	0	0	0	17	5.7
Toland, James	9	13	0	0	0	0	13	1.4
Krommenhoek,	13	0	11	0	0	0	11	0.8
Imatorbhebhe, J	5	0	11	0	0	0	11	2.2
Rector, Christian	11	0	0	0	10	0	10	0.9
Hawkins, Chris	13	0	0	0	0	7	7	0.5
Smith, Cameron	13	0	0	0	2	4	6	0.5
Jountti, Corbin	8	5	0	0	0	0	5	0.6
TEAM	12	-39	0	0	0	0	-39	-3.2
Total	13	2534	3830	227	823	209	7623	586.4
Opponents	13	2058	3204	180	1156	172	6770	520.8



**2017 USC Football**  
**USC Game Results (as of Dec 02, 2017)**  
**All games**



Date	Opponent	Score	Overall	Conference	Time	Attend
Sep 02, 2017	WESTERN MICHIGAN	W 49-31	1-0	0-0	3:25	61125
* Sep 09, 2017	#14 STANFORD	W 42-24	2-0	1-0	3:11	77614
Sep 16, 2017	TEXAS	W 27-24	3-0	1-0	4:01	84714
* Sep 23, 2017	at California	W 30-20	4-0	2-0	3:35	46747
* Sep 29, 2017	at #16 Washington State	L 27-30	4-1	2-1	3:46	33773
* Oct 07, 2017	OREGON STATE	W 38-10	5-1	3-1	3:12	60314
* Oct 14, 2017	UTAH	W 28-27	6-1	4-1	3:30	72382
Oct 21, 2017	at #13 Notre Dame	L 14-49	6-2	4-1	3:10	77622
* Oct 28, 2017	at Arizona State	W 48-17	7-2	5-1	3:30	53446
* Nov 04, 2017	#23 ARIZONA	W 49-35	8-2	6-1	3:43	70225
* Nov 11, 2017	at Colorado	W 38-24	9-2	7-1	3:35	49337
* Nov 18, 2017	UCLA	W 28-23	10-2	8-1	3:38	82407
^ Dec 1, 2017	vs #12 Stanford	W 31-28	11-2	8-1	3:33	48031

^ Pac-12 Championship Game | Santa Clara, Calif.





**2017 USC Football**  
**USC Overall Defensive Statistics (as of Dec 02, 2017)**  
**All games**



##	Defensive Leaders	gp	Tackles				Sacks no-yds	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd		
			ua	a	tot	tfl/yds		int-yds	brup	qbh	rcv-yds	ff	kick	saf	
35	Smith, Cameron	13	54	48	102	10.0-29	0.5-6	1-4	3	1	1-0	.	.	.	.
4	Hawkins, Chris	13	48	34	82	6.5-30	3.0-22	1-7	2	1	.	1	.	.	.
7	Tell, Marvell	13	40	39	79	2.5-9	1.0-6	3-64	2	2	.	.	.	.	.
10	Houston, John	12	38	38	76	3.5-19	1.5-12	1-0	3	2	1-9	.	.	.	.
42	Nwosu, Uchenna	13	43	28	71	9.5-40	7.5-36	1-0	13	8	1-1	.	.	.	.
27	Harris, Ajene	13	32	23	55	1.5-5	0.5-0	3-31	6	.	1-0	.	.	.	.
8	Marshall, Iman	10	31	16	47	1.0-2	.	.	10	.	.	.	.	.	.
25	Jones, Jack	13	31	9	40	.	.	4-17	8	.	1-0	1	1	.	.
94	Green, Rasheem	13	18	21	39	11.5-45	9.0-42	.	4	5	.	1	.	.	.
89	Rector, Christian	11	21	14	35	11.0-64	7.5-56	.	.	6	2-0	2	.	.	.
24	Langley, Isaiah	13	25	7	32	.	.	.	6	.	.	.	.	.	.
98	Fatu, Josh	12	15	15	30	8.0-39	6.0-33	.	1	1	.	1	.	.	.
56	Iosefa, Jordan	11	19	10	29	3.0-11	1.0-3	.	2	.	.	1	.	.	.
37	Lopes, Matt	13	20	6	26	1.0-2	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
44	Dorton, Malik	13	11	13	24	3.5-30	2.5-29	.	5	.	.	1	.	.	.
45	Gustin, Porter	4	9	7	16	3.0-12	3.0-12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
13	Jones, Levi	13	9	6	15	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
91	Pili, Brandon	8	3	11	14	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
14	Ross, Ykili	13	7	6	13	1.0-3	.	2-86	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2	Bolden, Bubba	12	7	1	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
41	Falaniko, Juliano	11	4	2	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
93	Jimmons, Liam	9	2	3	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
0F	Pittman, Michael	10	4	1	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
29	Malepeai, Vavae	12	2	2	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
28	Pollard, C.J.	4	2	2	4	1.0-10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2F	Toland, James	9	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
90	Murphy, Connor	13	1	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
73	Jackson, Austin	13	1	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
2E	Jones, Ronald	12	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
4F	Budrovich, Reid	13	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
99	Betiku, Oluwole	9	.	2	2	0.5-0	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
1D	Darnold, Sam	13	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1	Lewis, Joseph	10	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
21	Cook, Jamel	3	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TM	TEAM	12	2	.	2	2.0-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
50	Moore, Grant	4	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
51	Tuipulotu, Marlon	3	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
4G	Peters, Reuben	12	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2D	Russell, Jake	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2A	Vaughns, Tyler	13	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
72	Voorhees, Andrew	12	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
88	Imatorbhebhe, Daniel	8	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
18	Jones, Jalen	4	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
5J	Lobendahn, Toa	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
83	Falo, Josh	11	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
0G	Carr, Stephen	9	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
40	McGrath, Chase	13	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.	.
46	Schmidt, Wyatt	13	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
95	Bigelow, Kenny	6	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total		13	520	376	896	80-355	43-257	16-209	66	28	8-10	8	4	.	.
Opponents		13	562	360	922	59-268	22-170	12-172	37	20	11-18	10	1	.	.





## 2017 USC FOOTBALL GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

(USC game highs in bold face)

Name	W. Mich.	Stanford	Texas	California	Wash. St.	Ore. St.	Utah	No. Dame	Ariz. St.	Arizona	Colorado	UCLA	Stanford	Ohio St.
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**Rushing: TCB-NET-TD**

R. Jones	<b>18-159-3</b>	<b>23-116-2</b>	<b>18-47-0</b>	--	<b>14-128-1</b>	<b>12-79-1</b>	<b>17-111-1</b>	<b>12-32-0</b>	<b>18-216-2</b>	<b>27-194-3</b>	<b>25-142-1</b>	<b>28-122-2</b>	<b>30-140-2</b>
Carr	7-69-2	11- <b>119-0</b>	9-28-0	<b>20-82-1</b>	5-11-0	--	--	--	--	3-10-0	2-7-0	1-2-0	7-42-0
Malepeai	2-14-0	6-49-0	4-8-0	4-17-0	--	8-32-0	4-42-0	4-12-0	11-68-0	--	3-10-0	2-7-0	--
Ware	1-3-0	3-18-0	--	8-20-0	--	6-28-0	2-4-0	3-8-0	6-22-0	14-122-1	--	1-6-0	--
Darnold	5-(-6)-1	2-4-0	6-(-12)-0	2-14-0	9-25-2	4-(-18)-0	6-15-0	9-7-0	4-19-0	5-10-0	3-31-1	5-10-1	4-1-0
Fink	--	--	--	--	--	1-51-1	--	3-17-0	2-13-0	--	--	--	--
V. Jones	1-(-7)-0	--	--	1-3-0	--	1-4-0	1-12-0	--	--	--	1-3-0	--	--
Toland	--	--	--	--	--	3-11-0	--	--	1-4-0	--	--	--	--
Mitchell	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-10-0	--
Jountti	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2-5-0	--	--	--	--
Greene	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11-4-0	--	--
Peters	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-0-0	--	--	--	--
Burnett	--	1-3-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-(-5)-0
Team	--	1-(-2)-0	--	3-(-3)-0	1-(-1)-0	1-(-2)-0	3-(-10)-0	--	1-(-6)-0	3-(-5)-0	3-(-4)-0	3-(-4)-0	1-(-2)-0

**Passing: PA-PC-INT-YDS-TD**

Darnold	33- <b>23-2</b>	26-21-2	49- <b>28-2</b>	38- <b>26-1</b>	29-15-1	35- <b>23-1</b>	50- <b>27-0</b>	28- <b>20-1</b>	35-19-0	26- <b>20-1</b>	34- <b>21-0</b>	28-17-1	24-17-0
	<b>289-0</b>	<b>316-4</b>	<b>397-3</b>	<b>223-2</b>	<b>164-0</b>	<b>316-3</b>	<b>358-3</b>	<b>229-2</b>	<b>266-3</b>	<b>311-2</b>	<b>329-2</b>	<b>264-0</b>	<b>325-2</b>
Fink	--	--	--	--	--	1-1-0	--	8-5-0	--	--	--	--	--
						12-0		31-0					

**Receiving: NO-YDS-TD**

Burnett	<b>7-142-0</b>	<b>9-121-2</b>	<b>8-123-2</b>	<b>9-76-1</b>	<b>6-45-0</b>	2-20-1	<b>8-99-0</b>	<b>8-113-1</b>	4-49-1	2-44-0	<b>6-79-1</b>	<b>4-55-0</b>	1-9-0
Vaughns	1-8-0	--	4-25-0	3-32-0	<b>6-89-0</b>	<b>5-68-1</b>	6-65-0	6-65-0	<b>6-126-2</b>	<b>4-59-1</b>	5-90-0	2-37-0	3-26-1
Mitchell	4-39-0	4-94-2	6-90-0	--	--	4-46-0	5-64-0	7-72-2	--	1-27-1	<b>4-91-0</b>	<b>4-56-0</b>	2-66-0
Petite	3-24-0	3-35-0	2-21-0	4-46-1	--	2-40-0	3-79-2	--	2-42-0	1-5-0	--	1-4-0	1-9-0
Pittman	--	--	--	--	--	2-24-0	1-17-0	--	2-23-0	<b>3-59-0</b>	4-59-1	1-7-0	<b>7-146-1</b>
Carr	3-23-0	1-18-0	3-42-0	6-47-0	--	--	--	--	--	1-10-0	--	2-49-0	--
R. Jones	1-19-0	1-10-0	1-56-1	--	--	2-17-0	1-10-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	3-39-0	1-6-0	1-22-0	1-6-0
Greene	1-11-0	2-22-0	1-23-0	2-12-0	--	--	--	--	--	2-30-0	--	--	--
D. Imatorbhebhe	1-12-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2-25-0	--	2-34-0	1-48-0
Ware	1-4-0	--	--	1-3-0	--	1-37-0	--	1-(-3)-0	1-8-0	1-13-0	--	--	--
V. Jones	--	1-16-0	1-9-0	--	--	1-5-0	1-4-0	1-8-0	--	--	1-4-0	--	--
Falo	--	--	--	--	--	1-30-1	2-20-1	--	--	--	--	--	1-15-0
Lewis	--	--	1-12-0	--	2-21-0	--	--	--	1-6-0	--	--	--	--
Sidney	1-7-0	--	--	--	--	1-23-0	--	--	1-5-0	--	--	--	--
Grimes	--	--	--	--	--	1-12-0	--	1-5-0	--	--	--	--	--
J. Imatorbhebhe	--	--	--	--	1-9-0	1-2-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Krommenhoek	--	--	--	1-7-0	--	1-4-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Malepeai	--	--	1-(-4)-0	--	--	--	--	--	1-6-0	--	--	--	--

**Punting: NO-YDS-LONG**

Budrovich	4-204-59	1-45-45.0	6-277-56	3-127-50	6-259-63	2-78-46	4-170-49	6-258-53	2-96-49	4-171-62	3-134-57	5-167-40	3-97-43
Team	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-0-0	--	--

**Punt Returns: NO-YDS-LONG**

Harris	1-15-15	--	2-0-3	1-13-113	1-0-0	1-(-1)-(-1)	--	--	3-22-21	1-9-9	--	1-17-17	1-(-5)-(-5)
Jac. Jones	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4-48-21	--	--	--	--	--
Pittman	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-17-0	--	1-72*-72	--
Greene	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0-11*-11	--	--	--
Vaughns	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-9-9	--	--

\*Includes 1 touchdown

**Kickoff Returns: NO-YDS-LONG**

V. Jones	2-61-32	--	3-88-37	2-55-29	1-24-24	2-45-23	1-25-25	6-144-38	1-17-17	5-115-29	1-23-23	2-85-59	--
Carr	--	--	--	--	2-52-38	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-12-12	--
Jac. Jones	2-14-14	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-31-31	--	--
Harris	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-20-20	--
Rector	--	--	--	--	--	1-10-10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ca. Smith	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-2-2	--	--	--

**Interceptions: NO-YDS-TD**

Jac. Jones	--	--	1-0-0	2-15-0	--	1-2-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tell	1-37-1	--	1-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-27-0	--
Harris	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-(-4)-0	2-35-1	--	--
Ross	--	--	--	1-49-0	--	--	--	--	1-37-1	--	--	--	--
Hawkins	--	--	--	1-7-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ca. Smith	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-4-0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nwosu	--	--	--	--	1-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Houston	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-0-0	--	--	--



<i>Name</i>	<i>W. Mich.</i>	<i>Stanford</i>	<i>Texas</i>	<i>California</i>	<i>Wash. St.</i>	<i>Ore. St.</i>	<i>Utah</i>	<i>No. Dame</i>	<i>Ariz. St.</i>	<i>Arizona</i>	<i>Colorado</i>	<i>UCLA</i>	<i>Stanford</i>	<i>Ohio St.</i>
<b>Defensive Statistics: TAC-FOR LOSS-PASS DEF-FUM REC</b>														
Ca. Smith	6-2-0-0	8-0.5-0-0	9-0.5-0-0	12-1.5-0-1	6-1-0-0	5-0.5-0-0	16-0.5-0-0	10-1.5-0-0	7-0-0-0	4-0-0-0	4-0-0-0	8-1-1-0	7-1-2-0	
Hawkins	5-0-0-0	6-0-0-0	5-0-0-0	5-0-2-0	4-0-0-0	7-0-0-0	7-1-0-0	4-1.5-0-0	2-0-0-0	8-1-0-0	5-0-0-0	10-1-0-0	14-2-0-0	
Tell	8-0-1-0	3-0-0-0	4-0-0-0	12-0-0-0	7-0-0-0	10-0.5-1-0	4-0-0-0	5-0-0-0	6-0-0-0	7-0.5-0-0	4-0.5-0-0	6-1-0-0	3-0-0-0	
Houston	6-0-1-0	3-0-0-0	--	6-0-0-0	6-1-0-0	4-0-0-0	6-0-0-0	8-0-0-0	5-0-1-0	10-0.5-0-0	11-2-1-0	7-0-0-1	4-0-0-0	
Nwosu	7-0-1-0	4-1-5-0	9-1-1-0	4-0-1-1	6-0.5-0-0	4-0-0-0	3-0-0-0	2-0-0-0	8-3-1-0	8-2-0-0	5-0-2-0	8-1-2-0	3-1-0-0	
Harris	2-0-0-0	4-1-0-0	8-0-0-1	--	7-0-0-0	4-0-0-0	2-0-1-0	3-0-1-0	3-0-0-0	4-0-1-0	5-0.5-2-0	9-0-0-0	3-0-1-0	
Marshall	6-0-1-0	4-0-3-0	8-1-0-0	3-0-0-0	6-0-1-0	3-0-2-0	3-0-1-0	--	--	--	--	9-0-1-0	5-0-1-0	
Jac. Jones	2-0-1-0	6-0-0-0	5-0-1-0	--	2-0-0-0	3-0-2*-0	7-0-2-0	3-0-1-0	0-0-1-0	5-0-0-1	2-0-1-0	3-0-0-0	2-0-0-0	
Green	9-1-1-0	3-0.5-2-0	3-1-0-0	5-0-0-0	3-1.5-0-0	3-2-0-0	3-0.5-1-0	--	4-3-0-0	2-0-0-0	1-1-0-0	0-0-0-0	3-1-0-0	
Rector	1-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	6-2.5-0-1	2-2-0-0	6-0.5-0-0	7-1-0-1	6-2-0-0	3-2-0-0	--	--	2-1-0-0	1-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	
Langley	--	1-0-0-0	--	2-0-1-0	1-0-1-0	1-0-1-0	--	5-0-0-0	6-0-0-0	5-0-1-0	9-0-0-0	1-0-2-0	1-0-0-0	
Fatu	3-0-0-0	2-2-0-0	4-0.5-0-0	3-1-1-0	6-1.5-0-0	2-0-0-0	7-2-0-0	--	--	--	--	2-1-0-0	1-0-0-0	
Iosefa	4-0-0-0	--	5-0-1-0	--	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	4-0-0-0	8-1-0-0	4-0-0-0	2-2-0-0	1-0-0-0	
Lopes	1-0-0-0	2-0-0-0	--	4-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	--	1-0-0-0	2-0-1-0	2-0-0-0	4-0-0-0	5-1-0-0	3-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	
Dorton	2-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	2-0.5-0-0	1-0-0-0	2-0-0-0	1-0-2-0	3-0.5-0-0	2-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	3-1-0-0	3-0-0-0	2-1-1-0	1-0-0-0	
Gustin	7-1-0-0	4-0-0-0	4-2-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	
L. Jones	1-0-0-0	--	--	2-0-0-0	2-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	3-0-0-0	--	3-0-0-0	--	1-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	
Pili	--	--	--	--	--	3-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	2-0-0-0	3-0-0-0	--	2-0-1*-0	1-0-0-0	2-0-0-0	
Ross	--	1-0-0-0	--	2-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	3-0-0-0	5-1-0-0	--	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	
Bolden	--	--	2-0-0-0	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	3-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	
Falaniko	--	--	--	2-0-0-0	--	2-0-0-0	--	1-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	
Pittman	--	--	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	1-0-1**-0	--	--	--	
Jimmons	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	2-0-0-0	--	--	2-0-0-0	--	--	
Malepeai	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	
Pollard	1-0-0-0	--	--	1-1-0-0	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	
Jackson	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	0-0-1*-0	--	--	
Murphy	--	--	--	--	--	3-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Toland	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	
Tuipulotu	2-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Moore	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	
Team	--	--	1-1-0-0	--	--	1-1-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Cook	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	
Lewis	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Darnold	--	--	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	
Betiku	--	--	1-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Budrovich	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	1-0-0-0	--	
R. Jones	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Schmidt	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	
McGrath	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	0-0-0-1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Bigelow	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Carr	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Falo	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Lobendahn	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
D. Imatorbhebhe	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	
Jal. Jones	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	
Vorhees	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	
Vaughns	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Russell	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	--	
Peters	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-0-0-0	--	--	--	

\*Includes 1 blocked field goal

\*\*Includes 1 blocked punt

## USC TEAM STATISTICS

<i>Name</i>	<i>W. Mich.</i>	<i>Stanford</i>	<i>Texas</i>	<i>California</i>	<i>Wash. St.</i>	<i>Ore. St.</i>	<i>Utah</i>	<i>No. Dame</i>	<i>Ariz. St.</i>	<i>Arizona</i>	<i>Colorado</i>	<i>UCLA</i>	<i>Stanford</i>	<i>Ohio St.</i>
First Downs	25	28	25	22	15	26	30	18	29	30	23	24	22	
Rush	12	14	6	8	6	10	10	5	16	14	9	10	9	
Pass	13	14	19	14	8	15	19	13	10	15	13	13	10	
Penalty	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	1	1	1	3	
Rush Attempts	34	48	37	38	29	37	33	31	46	52	38	41	43	
Yds Gain	262	310	108	151	192	216	193	111	367	349	209	168	192	
Yds Lost	30	3	37	18	29	32	19	35	26	18	16	15	16	
Net Yards	232	307	71	133	163	184	174	76	341	331	193	153	176	
Net Yds Pass	289	316	397	223	164	328	358	260	266	311	329	264	325	
Pass Att	33	26	51	38	29	36	50	36	35	26	34	28	24	
Pass Com	23	21	28	26	15	24	27	25	19	20	21	17	17	
Had Int	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	
Tot Off Plays	67	74	88	76	58	73	83	67	81	78	72	69	67	
Tot Net Yards	521	623	468	356	327	512	532	336	607	642	522	417	501	
Avg/Play	7.8	8.4	5.3	4.7	5.6	7.0	6.4	5.0	7.5	8.2	7.2	6.0	7.5	
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0	0-0	1-1	2-1	4-2	3-3	2-2	1-1	1-0	2-0	0-0	1-1	
Penalties-Yds	9-94	8-90	8-49	5-53	9-80	4-46	3-35	7-40	8-60	14-123	9-79	11-115	9-76	
Punts-Yds	4-204	1-45	6-277	3-127	6-259	2-78	4-170	6-258	2-96	4-171	4-134	5-167	3-76	
Avg/Punt	51.0	45.0	46.2	42.3	43.2	39.0	42.5	43.0	48.0	42.8	33.5	33.4	32.3	
Punt Ret-Yds	1-15	0-0	2-0	1-13	1-0	1-(-1)	0-0	4-48	3-22	2-37	1-9	2-89	1-(-5)	
KO Ret-Yds	4-75	0-0	3-88	2-55	3076	3-55	1-25	6-144	1-17	6-117	2-54	4-117	0-0	
Int-Yards	1-37	0-0	2-0	4-71	1-0	1-2	1-4	0-0	1-37	2-(-4)	2-35	1-27	0-0	
Fum Ret-Yds	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-9	0-0	
Poss Time	25:20	34:25	32:46	31:00	24:33	30:34	27:00	31:36	34:03	33:55	31:30	29:42	31:14	
3rd Down Con	7-11	10-12	6-18	6-15	2-11	6-13	7-14	4-13	7-15	5-12	4-14	2-10	6-13	
4th Down Con	0-0	0-0	0-3	0-2	1-1	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-3	1-2	1-3	1-2	2-2	
Sacks By-Yds	1-3	2-12	5-30	3-20	5-27	2-19	4-16	1-10	6-31	5-36	3-11	4-35	2-7	



## Game-By-Game Starters

Name	W. Mich.	Stanford	Texas	California	Wash. St.	Ore. St.	Utah	No. Dame	Ariz. St.	Arizona	Colorado	UCLA	Stanford	Ohio St.
<b>Offense</b>														
<b>WR</b>	Greene	Greene	Greene	Greene	Greene	Vaughns	Vaughns	Vaughns	Vaughns	Vaughns	Vaughns	Vaughns	Vaughns	Vaughns
<b>LT</b>	Lob'dahn	Lob'dahn	Lob'dahn	Lob'dahn	Johnston	Lob'dahn	Lob'dahn	Lob'dahn	Lob'dahn	Lob'dahn	Lob'dahn	Lob'dahn	Lob'dahn	Lob'dahn
<b>LG</b>	C. Brown	C. Brown	C. Brown	C. Brown	C. Brown	C. Brown	C. Brown	C. Brown	C. Brown	C. Brown	C. Brown	C. Brown	C. Brown	C. Brown
<b>C</b>	Falah	Falah	Falah	Falah	Falah	Falah	Falah	Falah	Falah	Falah	Falah	Falah	Falah	Falah
<b>RG</b>	Tal'm'vao	Tal'm'vao	Tal'm'vao	Tal'm'vao	Tal'm'vao	Vorhees	Vorhees	Vorhees	Vorhees	Vorhees	Vorhees	Vorhees	Vorhees	Vorhees
<b>RT</b>	Edoga	Edoga	Edoga	Edoga	Edoga	Johnston	Johnston	Edoga	Edoga	Edoga	Edoga	Edoga	Edoga	Edoga
<b>TE</b>	Petite	Petite	Petite	Petite	Petite	Petite	Petite	Petite	Petite	Petite	Petite	D. Im'tor'bhe	D. Im'tor'bhe	D. Im'tor'bhe
<b>WR</b>	Mitchell	Mitchell	Mitchell	Burnett	Vaughns	Mitchell	Mitchell	Mitchell	Pittman	Pittman	Pittman	Mitchell	Pittman	Pittman
<b>QB</b>	Darnold	Darnold	Darnold	Darnold	Darnold	Darnold	Darnold	Darnold	Darnold	Darnold	Darnold	Darnold	Darnold	Darnold
<b>FB</b>	Burnett*	Burnett*	Burnett*	K'r'm'ho'k**	Burnett*	Burnett*	Pittman*	Burnett*	Burnett**	Burnett**	Burnett**	Burnett**	Burnett**	Burnett**
<b>TB</b>	R. Jones	R. Jones	R. Jones	Carr	R. Jones	R. Jones	R. Jones	R. Jones	R. Jones	R. Jones	R. Jones	R. Jones	R. Jones	R. Jones

\*USC started 3 wide receivers

\*\*USC started 2 tight ends

**Defense**

<b>OLB</b>	Nwosu	Nwosu	Nwosu	Nwosu	Nwosu	Nwosu	Nwosu	Nwosu	Nwosu	Nwosu	Nwosu	Nwosu	Nwosu	Nwosu
<b>DE</b>	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
<b>NT</b>	Fatu	Tuipulotu	Fatu	Fatu	Fatu	Fatu	Fatu	Pili	Fatu	Fatu	Fatu	Fatu	Fatu	Fatu
<b>DE</b>	Harris^	Fatu	Harris^	Rector	Rector	Rector	Rector	Dorton	Harris^	Harris^	Harris^	Dorton	Dorton	Dorton
<b>OLB</b>	Gustin	Gustin	Murphy	Ross^	Harris^	Harris^	Harris^	Rector	Iosefa	Iosefa	Iosefa	Iosefa	Harris^	Harris^
<b>ILB</b>	Iosefa	Ca. Smith	Ca. Smith	Ca. Smith	Ca. Smith	Ca. Smith	Ca. Smith	Ca. Smith	Ca. Smith	Ca. Smith	Ca. Smith	Ca. Smith	Ca. Smith	Ca. Smith
<b>ILB</b>	Houston	Houston	Iosefa	Houston	Houston	Houston	Ross^^	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston
<b>CB</b>	Marshall	Marshall	Marshall	Marshall	Marshall	Marshall	Marshall	Marshall	Langley	Langley	Langley	Marshall	Marshall	Marshall
<b>SS</b>	Hawkins	Hawkins	Hawkins	Hawkins	Hawkins	Hawkins	Hawkins	Hawkins	Hawkins	Hawkins	Hawkins	Hawkins	Hawkins	Hawkins
<b>FS</b>	Tell	Tell	Tell	Tell	Tell	Tell	Tell	Tell	Tell	Tell	Tell	Tell	Tell	Tell
<b>CB</b>	Jac. Jones	Jac. Jones	Jac. Jones	Jac. Jones	Jac. Jones	Jac. Jones	Jac. Jones	Jac. Jones	Jac. Jones	Jac. Jones	Jac. Jones	Jac. Jones	Jac. Jones	Jac. Jones

^USC started 5 defensive backs

^^USC started 6 defensive backs

## OPPONENT TEAM STATISTICS

Name	W. Mich.	Stanford	Texas	California	Wash. St.	Ore. St.	Utah	No. Dame	Ariz. St.	Arizona	Colorado	UCLA	Stanford	Ohio St.
First Downs	24	16	17	21	23	16	20	23	15	25	23	28	18	
Rush	15	5	3	9	7	8	9	17	5	13	7	10	8	
Pass	5	8	13	10	13	7	8	6	9	8	15	16	7	
Penalty	4	3	1	2	3	1	3	0	1	4	1	2	3	
Rush Attempts	48	26	35	33	30	36	41	47	30	43	34	31	38	
Yds Gain	272	193	109	144	155	147	192	394	119	271	131	125	182	
Yds Lost	9	23	41	31	33	25	23	17	40	37	21	45	31	
Net Yards	263	170	68	113	122	122	169	377	79	234	110	80	151	
Net Yds Pass	94	172	298	303	340	197	267	120	278	146	376	421	192	
Pass Att	23	28	40	52	51	29	28	22	31	31	49	52	22	
Pass Com	12	15	21	22	34	16	17	9	18	14	27	32	10	
Had Int	1	0	2	4	1	1	1	0	1	2	2	1	0	
Tot Off Plays	71	54	75	85	81	65	69	69	61	74	83	83	60	
Tot Net Yards	357	342	366	416	462	319	436	497	357	380	486	501	3443	
Avg/Play	5.0	6.3	4.9	4.9	5.7	4.9	6.3	7.2	5.9	5.1	5.9	6.0	5.7	
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0	3-2	3-2	0-0	2-2	1-0	0-0	1-0	2-1	0-0	1-1	4-0	
Penalties-Yds	6-34	7-35	10-73	6-44	6-59	7-69	6-40	7-51	10-99	3-32	4-45	12-100	7-73	
Punts-Yds	5-220	4-205	7-289	2-87	6-198	3-126	6-281	6-250	8-337	5-146	3-134	4-181	5-228	
Avg/Punt	44.0	51.2	41.3	43.5	33.0	42.0	46.8	41.7	42.1	29.2	44.7	45.2	45.6	
Punt Ret-Yds	1-0	1-9	2-29	1-3	2-(-2)	1-33	1-0	3-34	1-0	3-39	1-33	0-0	1-2	
KO Ret-Yds	4-168	6-128	2-56	4-112	3-60	4-88	2-33	3-53	4-59	4-96	3-66	5-121	4-116	
Int-Yards	2-20	2-32	2-62	1-13	1-0	1-7	0-0	1-14	0-0	1-0	0-0	1-24	0-0	
Fum Ret-Yds	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-0	1-18	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-0	
Poss Time	34:40	25:25	27:14	29:00	35:27	29:26	33:00	28:24	25:57	26:05	28:30	30:18	28:46	
3rd Down Con	5-14	6-12	4-16	6-19	8-18	5-14	4-14	7-13	1-12	5-15	5-17	10-19	6-12	
4th Down Con	0-0	0-1	2-3	4-6	1-1	0-2	2-2	0-0	1-2	1-1	2-5	1-1	0-1	
Sacks By-Yds	2-17	1-1	3-27	1-5	2-21	1-21	0-0	5-28	3-20	1-5	1-8	1-9	1-8	



## 2017 USC FOOTBALL GAME SUMMARIES

**GAME 1 – September 2, Los Angeles Coliseum**  
**USC 49, Western Michigan 31**  
**Att: 61,125**

Western Michigan	7	7	7	10	--	31
USC	7	7	7	28	--	49

TB **Ronald Jones II** ran for 159 yards and 2 touchdowns, freshman TB **Stephen Carr** added a pair of TDs, S **Marvell Tell III** returned a late interception for a score and blind SNP **Jake Olson** snapped on the final PAT as No. 4 USC tallied 28 fourth-quarter points to pull away from Western Michigan in the 2017 season-opener, 49-31, on a hot (98 degrees) afternoon in the Coliseum in front of 61,125 fans and a Pac-12 Network national audience.

The temperature (which rose to 100 degrees mid-game) was the hottest at kickoff of a USC home game since the 1998 Purdue opener hit 99 degrees. It was the teams' first meeting, as well as USC's first-ever game against a current team from the Mid-American Conference. It was USC's 10th consecutive win overall and at home.

With the game tied at 21-21 midway through the final quarter, Carr put USC up on a 1-yard TD run. But WMU CB Darius Phillips returned the ensuing kickoff 100 yards for a score (the first 100-yarder allowed by USC since Arizona State did it in 2010). USC then countered on the next drive as Jones had a 37-yard scoring burst. The Broncos responded with a 43-yard field goal by PK Josh Grant with 4:37 to play to pull within 35-31 before Carr jetted 52 yards for a touchdown on the next possession and then Tell had his game-sealing interception (with Olson coming in to snap the PAT, earning Pac-12 Special Teams Player of the Week).

The game seasawed throughout the first 3 quarters. Jones culminated the game's opening drive with a 16-yard TD run, but WMU tied it midway through the first quarter on RB Jamauri Bogan's 4-yard run. QB Jon Wassink put the Broncos up at the top of the second quarter with his 7-yard TD run. Jones then tied it again late in the half with a 1-yard run. The Broncos used a trick play (a 27-yard throwback pass from WR Keishawn Watson to Wassink) to score on the initial drive of the second half. Then, late in the third quarter, QB **Sam Darnold's** 11-yard scamper knotted the score at 21-21.

Jones averaged 8.8 yards on his 18 carries, Carr had 69 yards on 7 rushes (9.9 average) and also caught 3 passes for another 23 yards (his 2 rushing TDs were the most in an opener by a Trojan true freshman since Charles White had 2 in 1976 versus Missouri). Darnold was 23-of-33 for 289 yards (but he threw 2 picks) and WR **Deontay Burnett** caught 7 passes for 142 yards. DL **Rasheem Green** led USC with 9 tackles, while Tell had 8 (ILB **Cameron Smith** had to sit the first half because of a targeting penalty in the 2017 Rose Bowl, but had 6 tackles, including 2 for losses). P **Reid Budrovich** debuted by averaging 51.0 yards on 4 boots.

USC piled up 521 total yards (232 rushing) while averaging 7.8 yards per play and converted 7-of-11 third downs but had 9 penalties, while 263 of WMU's 357 total yards came on the ground (its 94 passing yards were the fewest by a Trojan foe since Boston College's 54 in 2014). USC's 6 rushing touchdowns were its most since getting 6 against San Jose State in 2009. WMU held the ball for 34:40.

Wassink was 11-of-22 for 67 yards, RB LeVante Bellamy gained 102 yards on 9 tries and Bogan added 77 yards on 15 carries.

It was the smallest home season opener crowd since 2001 (45,568 versus San Jose State) and fewest for any USC home game since 2002 (52,961 versus Washington). Traveler IX made its debut as USC's mascot. The 2017 USC team is Troy's 125th.

**SCORING**  
**First Quarter**

**USC -- R. Jones 16-yard run [McGrath kick]**

WMU -- Bogan 4-yard run [Grant kick]

**Second Quarter**

WMU -- Wassink 7-yard run [Grant kick]

**USC -- R. Jones 1-yard run [McGrath kick]**

**Third Quarter**

WMU -- Wassink 27-yard pass from Watson [Grant kick]

**USC -- Darnold 11-yard run [McGrath kick]**

**Fourth Quarter**

**USC -- Carr 1-yard run [McGrath kick]**

WMU -- Phillips 100-yard kickoff return [Grant kick]

**USC -- R. Jones 37-yard run [McGrath kick]**

WMU -- Grant 43-yard field goal

**USC -- Carr 52-yard run [McGrath kick]**

**USC -- Tell 37-yard interception return [McGrath kick]**

USC	STATISTICS	W. MICHIGAN
25	First Downs	24
232	Net Yards Rushing	263
289	Net Yards Passing	94
33	Passes Attempted	23
23	Passes Completed	12
2	Had Intercepted	1
67	Total Plays	71
521	Total Yards	357
4/51.0	Punts/Avg	5/44.0
1/0	Fumbles-Lost	1/0
9/94	Penalties/Yards	6/34
25:20	Time of Possession	34:40

**TOP INDIVIDUALS**

RUSHING – R. Jones (USC) 18-159; Bellamy (WMU) 9-102; Bogan (WMU) 15-77; Carr (USC) 7-69; Franklin (WMU) 12-40; Wassink (WMU) 7-32.

PASSING – Darnold (USC) 23-33-289; Wassink (WMU) 11-22-67; Watson (WMU) 1-1-27.

RECEIVING – Burnett (USC) 7-142; Mitchell (USC) 4-39; Curtis (WMU) 3-30; Petite (USC) 3-24; Carr (USC) 3-23; Ernsberger (WMU) 3-15.

**GAME 2 – September 9, Los Angeles Coliseum**  
**USC 42, Stanford 24**  
**Att: 77,614**

Stanford	7	10	0	7	--	24
USC	14	14	0	14	--	42

No. 6 USC rolled up 623 total yards behind 300-plus passing yards by QB **Sam Darnold** and 100-plus yard rushing outings by TBs **Stephen Carr** and **Ronald Jones II** while limiting No. 14 Stanford to just 342 total yards in the Trojans' 42-24 Pac-12 opening victory in front of 77,614 fans in the Coliseum and a FOX national audience.

It was USC's largest margin of victory over a ranked Cardinal team and its most total yards against Stanford since at least 1972.

Darnold completed a career-best 80.8% of his passes (21-of-26) for 316 yards with 4 TDs and 2 picks to earn Pac-12 Offensive Player of the Week honors, while first-year freshman Carr ran for 119 yards on 11 carries and Jones added 116 yards on 23 rushes and WR **Deontay Burnett** caught 9 passes for 121 yards with 2 TDs (WR **Steven Mitchell Jr.** also caught 2 TDs among his 4 receptions for 94 yards).

USC scored TDs on its first 3 possessions but couldn't shake the Cardinal. Darnold found Mitchell for a 4-yard scoring pass on its initial series to open the game's scoring, but RB Bryce Love jetted 75 yards for a TD on the first scrimmage play of Stanford's ensuing possession. USC answered with Jones' 1-yard TD run near the end of the first quarter. Stanford countered with a 1-yard scoring toss from QB Keller Chryst to TE Dalton Schultz, only to have USC respond on its next possession with Darnold's 22-yard scoring pass to Burnett. Stanford PK Jet Toner hit a 36-yard field goal late in the half, but USC drove right back for another Darnold-to-Burnett touchdown, this one 25 yards with 48 seconds to play to give USC a 28-17 halftime edge.

After a scoreless third quarter, Darnold found Mitchell on an 11-yard scoring strike, only to see the Cardinal respond with Chryst's 3-yard TD toss to WR JJ Arcega-Whiteside with 6:41 to play. But Jones' 23-yard TD scamper on the following drive sealed USC's victory.

USC had 28 first downs, converted 10-of-12 third downs and punted only once while holding the ball for 34:35 (including for 10:42 in the fourth quarter). Stanford had just 16 first downs and converted only 6-of-12 third downs while gaining only 342 yards. Just 25 of Stanford's 170 rushing yards came in the second half. USC's 74 plays were 20 more than Stanford.

ILB **Cameron Smith** led USC with 8 tackles, CB **Jack Jones** and S **Chris Hawkins** each added 6 stops and OLB **Uchenna Nwosu** had 5 deflections (the most by a Trojan since Will Poole's 5 versus Michigan in the 2004 Rose Bowl) to go with his 4 tackles (including a sack).

For Stanford, Chryst was 15-of-28 for 172 yards, Love ran for 160 yards on 17 carries and WR Arcega-Whiteside caught 4 passes for 67 yards.

**SCORING**

**First Quarter**

**USC -- Mitchell 4-yard pass from Darnold [McGrath kick]**

STAN -- Love 75-yard run [Toner kick]

**USC -- R. Jones 1-yard run [McGrath kick]**

**Second Quarter**

STAN -- Schultz 1-yard pass from Chryst [Toner kick]

**USC -- Burnett 22-yard pass from Darnold [McGrath kick]**

STAN -- Toner 36-yard field goal

**USC -- Burnett 25-yard pass from Darnold [McGrath kick]**

**Fourth Quarter**

**USC -- Mitchell 11-yard pass from Darnold [McGrath kick]**

STAN -- Arcega-Whiteside 3-yard pass from Chryst [Toner kick]

**USC -- Jones 23-yard run [McGrath kick]**

USC	STATISTICS	STANFORD
28	First Downs	16
307	Net Yards Rushing	170
316	Net Yards Passing	172
26	Passes Attempted	28
21	Passes Completed	15
2	Had Intercepted	0
74	Total Plays	54
623	Total Yards	342
1/45.0	Punts/Avg	4/51.2
0/0	Fumbles-Lost	1/0
8/90	Penalties/Yards	7/35
34:35	Time of Possession	25:25

**TOP INDIVIDUALS**

RUSHING – Love (STAN) 17-160; Carr (USC) 11-119; R. Jones (USC) 23-116; Malepeai (USC) 6-49.

PASSING – Darnold (USC) 21-26-316; Chryst (STAN) 15-28-172.

RECEIVING – Burnett (USC) 9-121; Mitchell (USC) 4-94; Arcega-Whiteside (STAN) 4-67; Petite (USC) 3-35; Wedington (STAN) 3- 29; Smith (STAN) 2-25; Greene (USC) 2-22; Irwin (STAN) 2-21; Schultz (STAN) 2-7.



## GAME 3 – September 16, Los Angeles Coliseum

USC 27, Texas 24 (2OT)

Att: 84,714

Texas	0	7	3	7	7	--	24
USC	0	14	0	3	10	--	27

True freshman walk-on PK **Chase McGrath** hit the first 2 field goals of his career, the first with no time in regulation to send the game into overtime and the second the game winner in the second overtime to propel No. 4 USC to a dramatic, hard-fought 27-24 victory over Texas before 84,714 fans in the Coliseum and a national FOX audience.

It was Troy's first overtime win since 2001 (and its first overtime game since 2011). It also was USC's 12th consecutive victory and 12th straight home win. And it was the teams' first meeting in the Coliseum in 50 years.

After Texas freshman QB Sam Ehlinger drove the Longhorns 91 yards to a score (a 17-yard pass to WR Amanti Foreman) with 45 seconds to play in the game to give UT its first lead, 17-14, USC QB **Sam Darnold** completed 3 straight passes under duress to take USC 52 yards in the final 39 seconds to set up McGrath's game-tying 31-yard field goal, only the second attempt of his career (he missed a 46-yarder in the second quarter).

In the first overtime, Darnold hit WR **Deontay Burnett** for a 25-yard TD on USC's first play, only to have Ehlinger answer with a 3-yard TD toss to TE Cade Brewer. On UT's possession in the second overtime, DL **Christian Rector** stripped the ball from Ehlinger at the 3-yard line and CB **Ajene Harris** recovered it, setting up McGrath's 24-yard victorious field goal.

USC had 397 total yards, but only 71 rushing, while just 68 of UT's 298 total yards came on the ground. USC had 25 first downs to Texas' 17 and the Trojans held the ball for 32:46 while running 88 plays (UT had 75). But neither team was effective on third downs (USC converted 6-of-18, Texas 4-of-16) and Troy was 0-of-3 on fourth downs. Texas lost 4 turnovers to USC's 2, and the Longhorns were penalized 10 times and gave up 5 sacks.

Neither team could get untracked in the early going, as USC, then Texas and then USC again gave up the ball on failed fourth down tries, then Ehlinger threw a pick only to see USC have to punt after losing 15 yards in penalties before Ehlinger fumbled the ball back to USC (Rector recovered the errant snap) but McGrath then missed his initial field goal.

USC finally got on the board late in the second quarter on Burnett's diving 15-yard TD grab of Darnold's pass. Troy got the ball back with 30 seconds to go in the half, but Darnold's pass went through a receiver's hands and S DeShon Elliott returned it 38 yards for a score. Then with 5 seconds to play, Darnold found TB **Ronald Jones II** wide open in midfield and Jones jetted 56 yards (aided by a crushing block by WR **Steven Mitchell Jr.**) for a TD.

Texas pulled within 14-10 on the second half's opening drive on PK Joshua Rowland's 39-yard field goal, setting up the late game drama.

Darnold was 28-of-49 for 397 yards with the 3 scores, but threw 2 interceptions. Burnett had 8 catches for 123 yards, while Mitchell added 6 for 90 yards. Jones ran for a game-best 47 yards on 18 tries.

ILB Cameron Smith and OLB Uchenna Nwosu each had 9 tackles, while Harris and CB **Iman Marshall** added 8 stops apiece. CB **Jack Jones** and S **Marvell Tell III** each had an interception.

Ehlinger was 21-of-40 for 298 yards with 2 TDs and 2 picks. WR Collin Johnson had 7 receptions for 191 yards.

## SCORING

## Second Quarter

USC -- Burnett 15-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)

TEX -- Elliott 38-yard interception return (Rowland kick)

USC -- R. Jones 56-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)

## Third Quarter

TEX -- Rowland 39-yard field goal

## Fourth Quarter

TEX -- Foreman 17-yard pass from Ehlinger (Rowland kick)

USC -- McGrath 31-yard field goal

## Overtime

USC -- Burnett 25-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)

TEX -- Brewer 3-yard pass from Ehlinger (Rowland kick)

USC -- McGrath 43-yard field goal

USC	STATISTICS	TEXAS
25	First Downs	17
71	Net Yards Rushing	68
397	Net Yards Passing	298
51	Passes Attempted	40
28	Passes Completed	21
2	Had Intercepted	2
88	Total Plays	75
468	Total Yards	366
6/46.2	Punts/Avg	7/41.3
0/0	Fumbles-Lost	3/2
8/49	Penalties/Yards	10/73
32:46	Time of Possession	27:14

## TOP INDIVIDUALS

RUSHING – R. Jones (USC) 18-47; Carr (USC) 9-28; Warren (TEX) 4-15.

PASSING – Darnold (USC) 28-49-397; Ehlinger (TEX) 21-40-298.

RECEIVING – Burnett (USC) 8-123; Johnson (TEX) 7-191; Mitchell (USC) 6-90; Foreman (TEX) 5-38; Vaughns (USC) 4-25; Carr (USC) 3-42.

## GAME 4 – September 23, Berkeley, California

USC 30, California 20

Att: 46,747

USC	3	10	0	17	--	30
California	3	10	0	7	--	20

No. 5 USC forced 6 turnovers and converted them into 17 points en route to a 30-20 road-opening victory at California before 46,747 fans and an ABC national audience.

The win was USC's 13th in a row, its longest streak since 2003-04.

Troy's 6 takeaways were its most since getting 6 versus Colorado in 2012. Four of the takeaways came on consecutive Cal possessions in the fourth quarter to help USC pull away from a 13-13 halftime tie that lingered into the final period.

After USC stopped the Golden Bears on a fourth down try near midfield, the Trojans drove into position for PK **Chase McGrath's** third field goal of the game, a career-long 46-yarder that gave Troy a 16-13 lead 55 seconds into the fourth quarter. Two plays later, DT **Josh Fatu** stripped the ball from Cal QB Ross Bowers and OLB **Uchenna Nwosu** recovered at the Cal 3-yard line, leading to TB **Stephen Carr's** 2-yard TD run to up the lead. Two plays after that, S **Ykili Ross** intercepted Bowers, setting up a Trojan drive that ended with QB **Sam Darnold's** 4-yard scoring pass to WR **Deontay Burnett**. CB **Jack Jones** then had his second pick of the day on Cal's next drive and S **Chris Hawkins** had a theft on the Bears' subsequent possession with less than 6 minutes to play.

Cal opened the game's scoring on a 36-yard field goal by PK Matt Anderson on its first possession. After Jones' interception on Cal's next drive, USC tied it late in the first quarter on McGrath's 37-yard field goal. The Bears answered on their ensuing series with RB Vic Enwere's 1-yard scoring run at the top of the second quarter, but USC responded on the next possession as Darnold hit TE **Tyler Petite** for a 16-yard TD. The teams then exchanged field goals on the final drives of the first half, first McGrath's 40-yarder and then Anderson's 21-yarder at the gun.

Cal scored late in the game against USC's reserves when Bowers hit WR Jordan Veasy for an 8-yard TD.

Cal outgained USC, 416 to 356 yards, and had more plays (85 to 76). Neither team was effective on third downs (USC was 6-of-15 and Cal was 6-of-19), but the Bears converted 4-of-6 fourth downs while USC failed on both of its tries.

Darnold was 26-of-38 for 223 yards, Burnett had a game-high 9 receptions for 76 yards and Carr ran for 82 yards on 20 carries and added 6 catches for 47 yards while becoming the first USC true freshman to start at tailback since Dillon Baxter did so in 2010 against Arizona State.

ILB **Cameron Smith** and S **Marvell Tell** each had a team-best 12 tackles, while Smith also recovered a Bowers fumble forced by DL **Christian Rector**, who had 2 sacks.

For Cal, Bowers was 22-of-50 for 303 yards with the 4 picks and 2 lost fumbles, RB Patrick Laird ran for 82 yards on 15 tries and WRs Kanawai Noa (110 yards) and Vic Wharton III (86 yards) each had 6 catches. LB Devante Downs made 14 tackles.

## SCORING

## First Quarter

CAL -- Anderson 36-yard field goal

USC -- McGrath 37-yard field goal

## Second Quarter

CAL -- Enwere 1-yard run (Anderson kick)

USC -- Petite 16-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)

USC -- McGrath 34-yard field goal

CAL -- Anderson 21-yard field goal

## Fourth Quarter

USC -- McGrath 46-yard field goal

USC -- Carr 2-yard run (McGrath kick)

USC -- Burnett 4-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath)

CAL -- Veasy 8-yard pass from Bowers (Anderson kick)

USC	STATISTICS	CALIFORNIA
22	First Downs	21
133	Net Yards Rushing	113
223	Net Yards Passing	303
38	Passes Attempted	52
26	Passes Completed	22
1	Had Intercepted	4
76	Total Plays	85
356	Total Yards	416
3/42.3	Punts/Avg	2/43.5
1/1	Fumbles-Lost	3/2
5/53	Penalties/Yards	6/44
31:00	Time of Possession	29:00

## TOP INDIVIDUALS

RUSHING – Carr (USC) 29-82; Laird (CAL) 15-82; Enwere (CAL) 8-44; Ware (USC) 8-20.

PASSING – Darnold (USC) 26-38-223; Bowers (CAL) 22-50-303; Wharton (CAL) 0-1-0.

RECEIVING – Burnett (USC) 9-76; Noa (CAL) 6-110; Wharton (CAL) 6-86; Carr (USC) 6-47; Veasy (CAL) 4-56; Petite (USC) 4-46; Vaughns (USC) 3-32; Laird (CAL) 3-4; Duncan (CAL) 2-18; Greene (2-12).

**GAME 5 – September 29, Pullman, Washington**  
**Washington State 30, USC 27**  
**Att: 33,773**

<b>USC</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Washington State</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>30</b>

PK Erik Powell hit a 32-yard field goal with 1:40 to play to give No. 16 Washington State a 30-27 upset win over No. 5 USC on a Friday night in Pullman before a sold-out crowd of 33,773 fans and an ESPN audience.

The loss snapped USC's 13-game winning streak and was Troy's first loss in Pullman since 2002 (by a similar 30-27 score on a Cougar field goal in overtime). It also was WSU's first win over an AP Top 5 team since 2003 (and first in the regular season since 1992), its first win over a Top 5 USC team in 12 tries and its first home win over a ranked opponent after 15 straight losses.

For most of the game, USC played without 3 starting offensive linemen and 2 starting wideouts because of injuries.

WSU dominated the statistics, getting more total yards (462-327), plays (81-58), first downs (23-15) and possession time (35:27-24:33). It was USC's fewest plays since getting 51 versus California in 2013. USC converted just 2-of-11 third downs.

The game was tied at 17-17 at halftime. Both teams scored on their initial drives of the game, with Powell getting a 44-yard field goal and then QB **Sam Darnold** running for a 4-yard touchdown. USC's next 2 series got into WSU territory but stalled.

Early in the second quarter, WSU QB Luke Falk hit WR Tavares Martin Jr. for a 28-yard TD to cap an 89-yard drive. But USC regained the lead several minutes later when TB **Ronald Jones II** burst 89 yards for a score, the longest rush by a Trojan since LaVale Woods' school-record 96-yarder in 1996 against Oregon State. On the ensuing possession, OLB **Uchenna Nwosu** picked off Falk at the WSU 3-yard line but the Trojans couldn't get the ball in the end zone and had to settle for a 20-yard field goal by PK **Chase McGrath**. WSU then drove 94 yards late in the half, with RB Jamal Morrow tying the score on a 1-yard run.

Powell hit a 33-yard field goal on WSU's first drive of the second half. USC knotted the score late in the third quarter on McGrath's 29-yard field goal (Troy took possession at WSU's 27 after a short Cougar punt, but the drive stalled).

The fourth quarter saw scores on the first 3 series, with Morrow taking a short Falk toss 23 yards for a TD only to have USC respond with Darnold's 2-yard scoring run. WSU then drove down the field to set up Powell's late game-winner. Any chance of a USC comeback was quashed when Darnold was stripped of the ball deep in USC territory.

Jones ran for a game-best 128 yards on 14 carries, Darnold was 15-of-29 for 164 yards with a pick and WRs **Tyler Vaughns** (89 yards) and **Deontay Burnett** (45 yards) each had a game-high 6 catches. It was the first time since the 1982 Arizona State game that the Trojans had neither a running back nor tight end catch a pass in a game. S **Marvell Tell** and CB **Ajene Harris** both made 7 tackles. USC sacked Falk 5 times.

Falk hit 34-of-51 throws for 340 yards en route to setting the Pac-12 career completion record. Morrow had 91 yards on 6 rushes and 47 yards on 5 receptions, while Martin had 6 grabs for 55 yards.

**SCORING**  
**First Quarter**

WSU -- Powell 44-yard field goal

**USC -- Darnold 4-yard run (McGrath kick)**

**Second Quarter**

WSU -- Martin 28-yard pass from Falk (Powell kick)

**USC -- R. Jones 86-yard run (McGrath kick)**

WSU -- Morrow 1-yard run (Powell kick)

**Third Quarter**

WSU -- Powell 33-yard field goal

**USC -- McGrath 29-yard field goal**

**Fourth Quarter**

WSU -- Morrow 23-yard pass from Falk (Powell kick)

**USC -- Darnold 2-yard run (McGrath kick)**

WSU -- Powell 32-yard field goal

<b>USC</b>	<b>STATISTICS</b>	<b>WASHINGTON ST.</b>
15	First Downs	23
163	Net Yards Rushing	122
164	Net Yards Passing	340
29	Passes Attempted	51
15	Passes Completed	34
1	Had Intercepted	1
58	Total Plays	81
327	Total Yards	462
6/43.2	Punts/Avg	6/33.0
2/1	Fumbles-Lost	0/0
9/80	Penalties/Yards	6/59
24:33	Time of Possession	35:27

**TOP INDIVIDUALS**

RUSHING – R. Jones (USC) 14-128; Morrow (WSU) 6-91; Williams (WSU) 10-34; Darnold (SC) 9-25.

PASSING – Falk (WSU) 34-51-340; Darnold (USC) 15-29-164.

RECEIVING – Vaughns (USC) 6-89; Martin (WSU) 6-55; Burnett (USC) 6-45; Johnson-Mack (WSU) 6-24; Morrow (WSU) 5-47; Sweet (WSU) 5-42; Bell (WSU) 3-101; Calvin (WSU) 3-35; Williams (WSU) 3-24; Lewis (USC) 2-21; Wicks (WSU) 2-6.

**GAME 6 – October 7, Los Angeles Coliseum**  
**USC 38, Oregon State 10**  
**Att: 60,314**

<b>Oregon State</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>USC</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>38</b>

QB **Sam Darnold** threw 3 touchdown passes and the Trojan defense was staunch all day as No. 14 USC posted an easy 38-10 victory over Oregon State on a hot afternoon (96 degrees) in front of 60,314 fans in the Coliseum and a Pac-12 Network audience.

It was USC's 24th consecutive victory over Oregon State in the Coliseum, as well as Troy's 13th straight home win over any opponent.

USC piled up 512 yards of total offense (averaging 7.0 per play) and 26 first downs while limiting the Beavers to 319 total yards and 16 first downs (OSU converted just 5-of-14 third downs and 0-of-2 fourth downs).

USC scored on its first 2 possessions of the game, as WR **Tyler Vaughns** caught his first career TD on a 37-yard Darnold strike and then TB **Ronald Jones II** ran 4 yards for a score 3 plays after CB **Jack Jones'** interception.

After Oregon State got on the board early in the second quarter on PK Jordan Choukair's 33-yard field goal, the Trojans responded on Darnold's 16-yard TD pass to WR **Deontay Burnett** for a 21-3 halftime lead.

USC scored on its initial possession of the second half when TE **Josh Falo's** first career reception was a 30-yard TD from Darnold. Oregon State got in the end zone at the top of the fourth quarter on RB Artavis Pierce's 6-yard TD run, but Troy countered on its next 2 drives, first a 29-yard field goal by PK **Chase McGrath** and then a 51-yard TD burst by backup QB **Matt Fink** on his first career rush (it was the longest rush by a USC quarterback since Carson Palmer's 54-yarder against California in 2001). Blind SNP **Jake Olson** snapped the ensuing PAT after Fink's TD.

The Beavers couldn't convert several scoring opportunities, including missing back-to-back field goal tries in the first quarter (the first was blocked by Jack Jones and DT **Kenny Bigelow Jr.** and the second missed wide left) and losing a third quarter fumble on USC's 6-yard line that was recovered by DL **Christian Rector**.

Darnold was 23-of-35 passing (but threw an interception and lost a fumble), Ronald Jones ran for a game-high 79 yards on 12 carries and Vaughns caught 5 passes for 68 yards. Thirteen Trojan receivers caught passes.

S **Marvell Tell III** had a game-best 10 tackles, while Rector and S **Chris Hawkins** each added 7 stops.

For OSU, QB Darell Garretson was 16-of-29 for 197 yards, Pierce ran for 60 yards on 12 tries and WR Seth Collins had 5 grabs for 91 yards.

It was USC's lowest home attendance since 52,961 versus Washington in 2002.

**SCORING**

**First Quarter**

**USC -- Vaughns 37-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)**

**USC -- R. Jones 4-yard run (McGrath kick)**

**Second Quarter**

OSU -- Choukair 33-yard field goal

**USC -- Burnett 16-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)**

**Third Quarter**

**USC -- Falo 30-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)**

**Fourth Quarter**

OSU -- Pierce 6-yard run (Choukair kick)

**USC -- McGrath 29-yard field goal**

**USC -- Fink 51-yard run (McGrath kick)**

<b>USC</b>	<b>STATISTICS</b>	<b>OREGON STATE</b>
26	First Downs	16
184	Net Yards Rushing	122
328	Net Yards Passing	197
36	Passes Attempted	29
24	Passes Completed	16
1	Had Intercepted	1
73	Total Plays	65
512	Total Yards	319
2/39.0	Punts/Avg	3/42.0
4/2	Fumbles-Lost	2/2
4/46	Penalties/Yards	7/69
30:34	Time of Possession	29:26

**TOP INDIVIDUALS**

RUSHING – R. Jones (USC) 12-79; Pierce (OSU) 12-60; Fink (USC) 2-52; Malepeai (USC) 8-32; Ware (USC) 6-28; Tyner (OSU) 7-23; Collins (OSU) 4-23.

PASSING – Darnold (23-35-316; Garretson (OSU) 1-29-1; Fink (USC) 1-1-12.

RECEIVING – Collins (OSU) 5-91; Vaughns (USC) 5-68; Mitchell (USC) 4-26; Togiai (OSU) 4-21; Petite (USC) 2-40; Hawkins (OSU) 2-39; Pittman (USC) 2-24; Hodgins (OSU) 2-27; Burnett (USC) 2-20; R. Jones (USC) 2-17.



**GAME 7 – October 14, Los Angeles Coliseum**

**USC 28, Utah 27**

**Att: 72,382**

Utah	7	14	0	6	--	27
USC	7	0	7	14	--	28

No. 13 USC strung together 3 long scoring drives to overcome a 14-point halftime deficit, then stopped a Ute 2-point conversion in the final minute to hold on for a 28-27 comeback victory over Utah before 72,382 fans in the Coliseum and a national ABC audience.

It was the largest halftime deficit that USC has overcome since coming back from 18 down at the half in 2005 against Arizona State. It was USC's first 1-point win since the 2010 Arizona State game. It was USC's 14th consecutive home victory. It was USC's eighth straight home win versus Utah (last losing at home in 1916).

Trailing 21-7 at halftime, USC drove a season-long 98 yards late in the third quarter for a touchdown (a 17-yard pass from QB **Sam Darnold** to TE **Tyler Petite**, their second scoring connection of the game). Then, early in the fourth quarter, USC went 88 yards, capped by Darnold's 1-yard TD toss to TE **Josh Falo** to tie the score. Troy then drove 93 yards on its next possession, with TB **Ronald Jones II** somersaulting into the end zone for an 11-yard score with less than 5 minutes to play to give USC the lead. Utah responded by going 75 yards, scoring on a 1-yard rush by QB Troy Williams with 42 seconds to go, but Williams' scramble on the 2-point conversion attempt was stopped short of the goal line by CB **Ajene Harris**.

Utah opened the game's scoring when S Marquise Blair took a Darnold fumble 18 yards for a touchdown midway through the first quarter. But USC answered quickly with Darnold's 52-yard aerial to Petite. Utah then used some trickery as WR Demari Simpkins caught a lateral and then fired a 5-yard TD pass to Williams early in the second quarter. Late in the half, after the Utes recovered a third Darnold lost fumble, Williams threw a 33-yard TD strike to Simpkins.

USC piled up 532 total yards (358 passing) and 30 first downs while holding the ball just 27:00 against a Utah defense that was allowing only 314.0 total yards and 18.4 points. The Trojans converted 7-of-14 third downs (6-of-9 in the second half).

Utah had 436 total yards and 20 first downs, but converted just 4-of-14 third downs (1-of-7 in the second half). The Utes managed only 165 total yards in the second half when they converted only 1-of-7 third downs.

Darnold was 27-of-50 for 358 yards and the 3 TDs. Jones ran for 111 yards on 17 carries. WR **Deontay Burnett** had 8 catches for 99 yards, WR **Tyler Vaughns** added 6 grabs for 65 yards and WR **Steven Mitchell Jr.** had 5 catches for 64 yards.

ILB **Cameron Smith** had a game-best and career-high 16 tackles and a point-blank interception (his fourth career pick, all versus Utah), while DE **Christian Rector** had 2 of USC's 4 sacks.

For Utah, Williams was 16-of-27 for 262 yards, RB Zack Moss rushed for a career-high 141 yards on 20 carries and Simpkins had 4 receptions for 58 yards.

**SCORING**  
**First Quarter**

UTAH -- Blair 18-yard fumble return (Gay kick)  
USC -- **Petite 52-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)**

**Second Quarter**

UTAH -- Williams 5-yard pass from Simpkins (Gay kick)  
UTAH -- Simpkins 33-yard pass from Williams (Gay kick)

**Third Quarter**

USC -- **Petite 17-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)**

**Fourth Quarter**

USC -- **Falo 1-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)**  
USC -- **R. Jones 11-yard run (McGrath kick)**  
UTAH -- Williams 1-yard run (Williams run failed)

USC	STATISTICS	UTAH
30	First Downs	20
174	Net Yards Rushing	169
358	Net Yards Passing	267
50	Passes Attempted	28
27	Passes Completed	17
0	Had Intercepted	1
83	Total Plays	69
532	Total Yards	436
4/42.5	Punts/Avg	6/46.8
3/3	Fumbles-Lost	1/0
3/35	Penalties/Yards	6/40
27:00	Time of Possession	33:00

**TOP INDIVIDUALS**

RUSHING – Moss (UTAH) 20-141; R. Jones (USC) 17-111; Malepeai (USC) 4-42; Henry-Cole (UTAH) 6-23; Darnold (USC) 6-15; Williams (UTAH) 14-8.

PASSING – Darnold (USC) 27-50-358; Williams (UTAH) 16-27-267; Simpkins (UTAH) 1-1-5.

RECEIVING – Burnett (USC) 8-99; Vaughns (USC) 6-65; Mitchell (USC) 5-64; Simpkins (UTAH) 4-58; Petite (USC) 3-79; Moss (UTAH) 3-26; Singleton (UTAH) 2-55; Wilson (UTAH) 2-51; Falo (USC) 2-20; Carrington (UTAH) 2-9.

**GAME 8 – October 21, South Bend, Indiana**

**Notre Dame 49, USC 14**

**Att: 77,622**

USC	0	0	14	0	--	14
Notre Dame	14	14	14	7	--	49

Jumping out to a 28-point halftime lead, No. 13 Notre Dame--behind RB Josh Adams' 191 rushing yards with 3 touchdowns and QB Brandon Wimbush's 106 rushing yards with 2 scores along with 2 passing TDs--easily defeated No. 11 USC, 49-14, under the lights in South Bend in front of a sold-out crowd of 77,622 and an NBC audience.

It was the most points by the Irish against USC since also getting 49 in 1977, as well as their second largest victory margin over the Trojans since 1966 (51-0).

Notre Dame ran for 377 yards, the most allowed by USC since Boston College had 452 in 2014. USC had 336 total yards, but only 76 rushing. ND posted 5 sacks. Troy converted just 4-of-13 third downs.

The Irish jumped out to a 28-0 halftime lead, turning USC's 3 first-half turnovers into touchdowns. It was ND's second largest halftime lead in the series behind a 31-0 edge in 1966. The last time USC was shut out in the first half by an opponent was in 2010 by Oregon State. It was USC's largest halftime deficit since being down 35-0 at Penn State in 1994 and the most points Troy has surrendered in the first half since Oregon had 31 in 2015. Notre Dame had 262 total yards and 15 first downs on 46 plays at intermission, while USC had just 103 yards and 6 first downs on 28 plays (including minus 4 yards rushing).

Three plays after the Irish recovered a fumble on USC's first offensive play of the game, Wimbush threw a 26-yard TD to WR Equanimeous St. Brown. ND marched 79 yards on its next possession, capped by Wimbush's 23-yard scoring pass to WR Kevin Stepherson. USC got to the ND 3 early in the second quarter but came away empty, missing a short field goal. Then, midway through the second quarter, Notre Dame recovered a fumbled punt deep in USC territory and soon after Adams scored on a 3-yard run. QB **Sam Darnold** threw an interception on USC's subsequent possession and ND took advantage as Wimbush ran 7 yards for a score late in the half.

USC scored on the initial series of the second half, with Darnold hitting WR **Steven Mitchell Jr.** for a 5-yard score. But the Irish countered on their next drive, as Wimbush ran 7 yards for a TD. USC answered right back, with Darnold throwing a 16-yard scoring pass to WR **Deontay Burnett**, but ND responded as Adams raced 84 yards on the Irish's first play of the ensuing drive (the longest run by a Trojan opponent since Arizona State's J.R. Redmond had an 89-yarder in 1998). Notre Dame finished the scoring on its next series on Adams' 14-yard TD run.

Adams' rushing yardage came on 19 carries for a 10.1 average, while Wimbush's rush total was on 14 attempts (he also completed 9-of-19 passes for 120 yards).

Darnold was 20-of-28 for 229 passing yards, with Burnett catching 8 passes for 113 yards, Mitchell grabbing 7 for 71 yards and WR **Tyler Vaughns** getting 6 receptions for 65 yards. TB **Ronald Jones II** was held to 32 yards on 12 rushes.

ILB **Cameron Smith** led USC with 10 tackles.

**SCORING**  
**First Quarter**

ND -- St. Brown 26-yard pass from Wimbush (Yoon kick)  
ND -- Stepherson 23-yard pass from Wimbush (Yoon kick)

**Second Quarter**

ND -- Adams 3-yard run (Yoon kick)  
ND -- Wimbush 4-yard run (Yoon kick)

**Third Quarter**

USC -- **Mitchell 5-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)**  
ND -- Wimbush 7-yard run (Yoon kick)  
USC -- **Burnett 16-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)**  
ND -- Adams 84-yard run (Yoon kick)

**Fourth Quarter**

ND -- Adams 14-yard run (Yoon kick)

USC	STATISTICS	NOTRE DAME
18	First Downs	23
76	Net Yards Rushing	377
260	Net Yards Passing	120
36	Passes Attempted	22
25	Passes Completed	9
1	Had Intercepted	0
67	Total Plays	69
336	Total Yards	497
6/43.0	Punts/Avg	6/41.7
2/2	Fumbles-Lost	0/0
7/40	Penalties/Yards	7/51
31:36	Time of Possession	28:24

**TOP INDIVIDUALS**

RUSHING – Adams (ND) 19-191; Wimbush (ND) 14-106; Jones (ND) 5-37; R. Jones (USC) 12-32.

PASSING – Darnold (USC) 20-28-229; Wimbush (ND) 9-19-120; Fink (USC) 5-8-31; Book (ND) 0-2-0.

RECEIVING – Burnett (USC) 8-113; Mitchell (USC) 7-61; Vaughns (USC) 6-65; Stepherson (ND) 3-58; St. Brown (ND) 3-29.





**GAME 9 – October 28, Tempe, Arizona  
USC 48, Arizona State 17  
Att: 53,446**

<b>USC</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Arizona State</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>17</b>

TB **Ronald Jones II** ran for 216 yards with 2 long touchdowns, QB **Sam Darnold** threw 3 TD passes, including a pair to WR **Tyler Vaughns**, and the Trojan defense allowed just 79 rushing yards while posting 6 sacks as No. 21 USC rolled to a 48-17 bounceback victory at Arizona State on a warm Tempe evening in front of 53,446 fans and an ESPN audience.

USC played one of its most complete games of the season as it piled up 607 total yards, including 367 on the ground, and 29 first downs while limiting the Sun Devils to just 357 total yards, 15 first downs and 1-of-12 third down conversions. Troy had more plays (81 to 61) while holding the ball for 34:03.

The Trojans got off to a quick start, as Darnold hit WR **Deontay Burnett** on a 32-yard scoring pass on the game's opening series. After ASU PK Brandon Ruiz made a 39-yard field goal midway through the first quarter, USC scored the next 24 points. First, Darnold hit Vaughns for a 42-yard TD late in the first quarter, then Jones jetted 67 yards for a score at the top of the second quarter. It was Darnold to Vaughns again in the middle of the second quarter, this time for a 19-yard TD, before PK **Chase McGrath** nailed a career-long 51-yard field goal late in the half to give USC a 31-3 edge. However, ASU scored a touchdown at the halftime gun on QB Manny Wilkins' 47-yard Hail Mary pass to WR Kyle Williams on a play that initially was ruled short of the goal line but was overturned after a lengthy replay (both teams were called back from their locker rooms for the PAT).

After Wilkins scored on a 1-yard run on the opening drive of the second half, USC responded 3 plays later on Jones' 64-yard scoring burst. The Trojans would add a 33-yard McGrath field goal early in the final quarter and a 37-yard scoring interception return by S **Ykili Ross** late in the game.

Jones' 216 yards came on just 18 carries for a 12.0 average per rush. He was the first Trojan to have a pair of 60-plus yard runs in a game since Reggie Bush did so versus UCLA in 2004 (81- and 65-yard TDs). Darnold hit 19-of-35 passes for 266 yards and Vaughns had 6 catches for 126 yards. TB **Vavae Malapeai** added 68 yards on 11 carries.

OLB **Uchenna Nwosu** led USC with 8 tackles (3 were sacks on successive fourth quarter plays) and he had a deflection, while ILB **Cameron Smith** added 7 tackles. Three of DL **Rasheem Green's** 4 tackles were sacks. The last time USC had a pair of players with at least 3 sacks in a game was in the 1992 Arizona State game (Willie McGinest and David Webb had 3 each).

Wilkins completed 17-of-29 passes for 259 yards for ASU, including 7 to Williams for 121 yards. RB Demario Richard ran for 70 yards on 15 tries. LB Christian Sam had 15 tackles, with 2 sacks.

**SCORING  
First Quarter**

**USC -- Burnett 32-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)**

**ASU -- Ruiz 39-yard field goal**

**USC -- Vaughns 42-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)**

**Second Quarter**

**USC -- R. Jones 67-yard run (McGrath kick)**

**USC -- Vaughns 19-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)**

**USC -- McGrath 51-yard field goal**

**ASU -- Williams 47-yard pass from Wilkins (Ruiz kick)**

**Third Quarter**

**ASU -- Wilkins 1-yard run (Ruiz kick)**

**USC -- R. Jones 64-yard run (McGrath kick)**

**Fourth Quarter**

**USC -- McGrath 33-yard field goal**

**USC -- Ross 37-yard interception return (McGrath kick)**

<b>USC</b>	<b>STATISTICS</b>	<b>ARIZONA STATE</b>
29	First Downs	15
341	Net Yards Rushing	79
266	Net Yards Passing	278
35	Passes Attempted	31
19	Passes Completed	18
0	Had Intercepted	1
81	Total Plays	61
607	Total Yards	357
2/48.0	Punts/Avg	8/42.1
1/1	Fumbles-Lost	1/0
8/60	Penalties/Yards	10/99
34:03	Time of Possession	25:57

**TOP INDIVIDUALS**

**RUSHING** – R. Jones (USC) 18-216; Richard (ASU) 15-70; Malepeai (USC) 11-68; Ware (USC) 6-22.

**PASSING** – Darnold (USC) 19-35-0; Wilkins (ASU) 17-29-259; Barnett (ASU) 1-2-19.

**RECEIVING** – Williams (ASU) 7-121; Vaughns (USC) 6-126; Burnett (USC) 4-49; Harry (ASU) 3-86; Petite (USC) 2-42; Pittman (USC) 2-23; Humphrey (ASU) 2-18; Newsome (ASU) 2-10.

**GAME 10 – November 4, Los Angeles Coliseum  
USC 49, Arizona 35  
Att: 70,225**

<b>Arizona</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>USC</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>49</b>

TB **Ronald Jones II** ran for 194 yards and 3 short TDs, including a pair late in the game after No. 23 Arizona rallied from a 22-point third quarter deficit to tie the score, to help No. 17 USC overcome the Wildcats, 49-35, in front of a Homecoming crowd of 70,225 fans under the lights in the Coliseum and an ESPN audience.

The victory, USC's 15th consecutive at home and fifth straight versus UA, put the Trojans in the driver's seat in the chase for the Pac-12 South Division championship.

USC held Arizona's potent offense, which was averaging 522.9 total yards (338.6 rushing), well under its averages. UA had just 94 yards on 35 first half plays, but the Wildcats--behind the play of QB Khalil Tate--came alive after the intermission.

After USC forged a 28-6 lead midway through the third period on Jones' 5-yard scoring run, the Wildcats scored 29 of the next 36 points to knot the game at 35-35 midway through the fourth quarter. On successive possessions, Tate ran 32 yards for a TD, then he threw a 30-yard scoring pass to WR Shun Brown late in the third quarter, then Tate hit RB J.J. Taylor for a 16-yard TD just 4 plays after USC had countered with TB **Aca'Cedric Ware's** career-long 42-yard TD burst early in the final period and finally RB Zach Green ran 3 yards for a score (Tate threw a 2-point conversion pass to WR Tony Ellison). But USC answered with a pair of 1-yard TD runs by Jones on its next 2 series, the second coming after CB **Ajene Harris'** interception. ILB **John Houston Jr.** sealed the win with a pick on Arizona's final drive.

USC got on the board first when WR **Michael Pittman Jr.** blocked a punt and WR **Jalen Greene** ran it 11 yards for a TD midway through the first quarter (it was the Trojans' first blocked punt for a TD since the 2012 California game). UA's only first half points came on second quarter field goals by PK Lucas Havrisik (45 and 43 yards) that sandwiched a pair of TD passes by QB **Sam Darnold** on successive drives, the first 22 yards to WR **Tyler Vaughns** and the next to WR **Steven Mitchell Jr.** for 27 yards.

USC rolled up 642 total yards (331 on the ground), its most since getting 737 yards versus Idaho in 2015, and averaged 8.2 yards on its 78 plays. Troy had 30 first downs, but was penalized 14 times for 123 yards (its most flags since getting 14 against California in 2014). Arizona finished with 380 total yards (234 rushing). The Trojan defense posted 5 sacks (doubling the Wildcats' 2017 total, allowed only 5-of-15 third down conversions and recovered a fumble at the USC 4-yard line on UA's first drive of the second half).

Darnold completed 20-of-26 passes for 311 yards, with Vaughns catching 4 for 59 yards and Pittman 3 for 59 yards. Ware had 122 yards on 14 carries. Jones became the first Trojan since LenDale White in 2004 and 2005 to have back-to-back 1,000-yard rushing seasons.

Houston led USC with 10 tackles, while ILB **Jordan Iosefa**, S **Chris Hawkins** and OLB **Uchenna Nwosu** each made 8 stops (Iosefa also caused the fumble).

For Arizona, Tate ran for 161 yards on 26 tries and threw for 146 yards on 14-of-31 passing. Brown caught 8 passes for 78 yards.

**SCORING  
First Quarter**

**USC -- Greene 11-yard return of blocked punt (McGrath kick)**

**Second Quarter**

**ARIZ -- Havrisik 45-yard field goal**

**USC -- Vaughns 22-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)**

**USC -- Mitchell 27-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)**

**ARIZ -- Havrisik 43-yard field goal**

**Third Quarter**

**USC -- R. Jones 5-yard run (McGrath kick)**

**ARIZ -- Tate 32-yard run (Pollack kick)**

**ARIZ -- Brown 30-yard pass from Tate (Pollack kick)**

**Fourth Quarter**

**USC -- Ware 42-yard run (McGrath kick)**

**ARIZ -- Taylor 16-yard pass from Tate (Pollack kick)**

**ARIZ -- Green 3-yard run (Ellison pass from Tate)**

**USC -- Jones 1-yard run (McGrath kick)**

**USC -- Jones 1-yard run (McGrath kick)**

<b>USC</b>	<b>STATISTICS</b>	<b>ARIZONA</b>
30	First Downs	25
331	Net Yards Rushing	234
311	Net Yards Passing	146
26	Passes Attempted	31
20	Passes Completed	14
1	Had Intercepted	2
78	Total Plays	74
642	Total Yards	380
4/42.8	Punts/Avg	5/29.2
1/0	Fumbles-Lost	2/1
14/123	Penalties/Yards	3/32
33:55	Time of Possession	26:05

**TOP INDIVIDUALS**

**RUSHING** – R. Jones (USC) 27-194; Tate (ARIZ) 26-161; Ware (USC) 14-122, Taylor (ARIZ) 12-51.

**PASSING** – Darnold (USC) 20-26-311; Tate (ARIZ) 14-31-146.

**RECEIVING** – Brown (ARIZ) 8-78; Vaughns (USC) 4-59; Pittman (USC) 3-59; R. Jones (USC) 3-39; Ellison (ARIZ) 3-36; Burnett (USC) 2-44; Greene (USC) 2-30; D. Imatorbhebhe (USC) 2-25.





**GAME 11 – November 11, Boulder, Colorado**

**USC 38, Colorado 24**

**Att: 49,337**

USC	0	20	10	8	--	38
Colorado	0	0	14	10	--	24

QB **Sam Darnold** threw 2 touchdown passes and ran for another and CB **Ajene Harris** returned 1 of his 2 interceptions for a TD as No. 15 USC clinched a berth in the Pac-12 Football Championship Game by holding off Colorado's second-half rally en route to a 38-24 win at Boulder in front of 49,337 fans and a FOX audience.

It kept USC undefeated in its 12 meetings with Colorado.

USC held a 27-0 lead midway through the third quarter before the Buffs came alive. After a scoreless first quarter, Darnold hit WRs **Michael Pittman** (10 yards) and **Deontay Burnett** (18 yards) for scores on successive possessions in the second quarter. Then late in the half, Harris ran back an interception 34 yards for a TD.

After USC blocked its second field goal of the game on CU's opening drive of the second half (by OT **Austin Jackson** after DT **Brandon Pili** tipped one in the second quarter, the first time since the 2011 Colorado game that Troy blocked 2 field goals in a contest), Darnold scrambled for a 24-yard TD. Colorado then scored on its next 4 possessions: WR Juwann Winfree caught a 79-yard scoring bomb from QB Steven Montez, then TB Phillip Lindsay ran for a 1-yard TD 3 plays after the Buffaloes blocked a USC punt. USC PK **Chase McGrath** nailed a 26-yard field goal late in the third quarter, but Colorado answered with PK James Stefanou's 39-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter. USC countered with TB **Ronald Jones II's** 22-yard cutback scoring run, but Montez and Winfree hooked up for a 57-yard TD soon after.

Darnold was 21-of-34 passing for 329 yards, Jones ran for 142 yards on 25 carries (to move into sixth place on USC's career rushing chart), Burnett had 6 catches for 79 yards, WR **Tyler Vaughns** had 5 grabs for 90 yards and WR **Steven Mitchell Jr.** had 4 receptions for 91 yards. ILB **John Houston Jr.** had a game-high 11 tackles (2 for losses) plus a deflection, while CB **Isaiah Langley** added 9 stops.

Montez hit 27-of-49 passes for 376 yards, including 10 throws to WR Bryce Bobo for 113 yards and 5 to Winfree for 163 yards, while Lindsay rushed for 68 yards on 20 attempts.

USC had 522 total yards to CU's 486 (the Buffs had only 152 total yards at halftime).

**SCORING**

**Second Quarter**

USC -- Pittman 10-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)

USC -- Burnett 18-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)

USC -- Harris 34-yard interception return (McGrath kick missed)

**Third Quarter**

USC -- Darnold 24-yard run (McGrath kick)

COLO -- Winfree 79-yard pass from Montez (Steanou kick)

COLO -- Lindsay 1-yard run (Stefanou kick)

USC -- McGrath 26-yard field goal

**Fourth Quarter**

COLO -- Stefanou 39-yard field goal

USC -- R. Jones 22-yard run (Krommenhoek pass from Darnold)

COLO -- Winfree 57-yard pass from Montez (Stefanou kick)

USC	STATISTICS	COLORADO
23	First Downs	23
193	Net Yards Rushing	110
329	Net Yards Passing	376
x34	Passes Attempted	49
21	Passes Completed	27
0	Had Intercepted	2
72	Total Plays	83
522	Total Yards	486
4/33.5	Punts/Avg	3/44.7
2/0	Fumbles-Lost	0/0
9/79	Penalties/Yards	4/45
31:30	Time of Possession	28:30

**TOP INDIVIDUALS**

RUSHING – R. Jones (USC) 25-142; Lindsay (COLO) 20-68; Montez (COLO) 12-40; Darnold (USC) 3-31.

PASSING – Montez (COLO) 27-49-376; Darnold (USC) 21-34-329.

RECEIVING – Bobo (COLO) 10-113; Burnett (USC) 6-79; Winfree (COLO) 5-163; Vaughns (USC) 5-90; Ross (COLO) 5-40; Mitchell (USC) 4-91; Pittman (USC) 4-59; MacIntyre (COLO) 3-33.

**GAME 12 – November 18, Los Angeles Coliseum**

**USC 28, UCLA 23**

**Att: 82,407**

UCLA	7	0	7	9	--	23
USC	14	0	7	7	--	28

TB **Ronald Jones II** ran for 122 yards with 2 short TDs, QB **Sam Darnold** ran for another score while throwing for 264 yards, the Trojans used a trick play to score on a punt return and Troy's defense withstood Bruin QB Josh Rosen's 421-yard passing outing by getting 2 takeaways and 4 sacks as No. 12 USC held off crosstown rival UCLA, 28-23, on Senior Day in front of 82,407 fans and an ABC audience.

It was USC's third straight win over UCLA, which fired head coach Jim Mora the next day. It also gave USC another 10-win season. UCLA's 23 points tied its second-lowest output of 2017.

USC began the scoring on a successful misdirection punt return. USC PR **Ajene Harris** and the Trojan punt return team ran towards the Bruins' sideline as if to field UCLA's punt midway through the opening quarter. But USC gunner blocker **Michael Pittman Jr.** sprinted back to the USC sideline as the ball was snapped and fielded the punt, which actually went that direction. Pittman raced 72 yards untouched along the Trojan sideline for a touchdown.

The teams then traded touchdowns on the ensuing series. First, Rosen drove UCLA 80 yards, culminating with his 11-yard TD pass to WR Jordan Lasley, the first of Lasley's 3 TD catches. But USC answered as Jones scored on a 2-yard run.

The second quarter was scoreless as UCLA missed a field goal and lost a fumble in the red zone, while Darnold threw a pick and had the half run out on his scramble to the UCLA 5-yard line.

S **Marvell Tell III** picked off Rosen in the end zone after the Bruins got into the red zone on the opening drive of the second half. Late in the third quarter, Darnold scored on a 1-yard run only to see Rosen and Lasley connect for another TD (9 yards) on the following possession.

UCLA pulled within 21-17 early in the fourth quarter on PK JJ Molson's 26-yard field goal after its drive stalled in the red zone. But USC countered on its ensuing possession as Jones had another 2-yard TD run to cap a 90-yard drive. The Bruins, however, responded on their next drive, as Rosen hit Lasley for a 27-yard TD with 2:43 to play, but USC recovered the onside kick and ran out the clock.

UCLA outgained USC, 501 yards on 83 plays to 417 on 69 plays. UCLA, which ran for just 80 yards, was penalized 12 times and USC had 11 penalties. The Trojans converted just 2-of-10 third downs.

Darnold completed 17-of-28 passes, Jones had a career-high 28 carries and WRs **Steven Mitchell Jr.** (56 yards) and **Deontay Burnett** (55 yards) each had 4 receptions. S **Chris Hawkins** had a game-high 10 tackles, while Harris and CB **Iman Marshall** each added 9 stops.

For UCLA, Rosen was 32-of-52 passing, Lasley caught 10 balls for 204 yards, WR Theo Howard added 11 catches for 81 yards and TE Austin Roberts had 6 grabs for 70 yards. RB Soso Jamabo had 62 yards on 9 carries and RB Bolu Olorunfunmi added 56 yards on 13 rushes.

**SCORING**

**First Quarter**

USC -- Pittman 72-yard punt return (McGrath kick)

UCLA -- Lasley 11-yard pass from Rosen (Molson kick)

USC -- R. Jones 2-yard run (McGrath kick)

**Third Quarter**

USC -- Darnold 1-yard run (McGrath kick)

UCLA -- Lasley 9-yard pass from Rosen (Molson kick)

**Fourth Quarter**

UCLA -- Molson 26-yard field goal

USC -- R. Jones 2-yard run (McGrath kick)

UCLA -- Lasley 27-yard pass from Rosen (Rosen pass failed)

USC	STATISTICS	UCLA
24	First Downs	28
153	Net Yards Rushing	80
264	Net Yards Passing	421
28	Passes Attempted	52
17	Passes Completed	32
1	Had Intercepted	1
69	Total Plays	83
417	Total Yards	501
5/33.4	Punts/Avg	4/45.2
0/0	Fumbles-Lost	1/1
11/115	Penalties/Yards	12/100
29:42	Time of Possession	30:18

**TOP INDIVIDUALS**

RUSHING – R. Jones (USC) 28-122; Jamabo (UCLA) 9-62; Olorunfunmi (UCLA) 13-56.

PASSING – Rosen (UCLA) 32-52-421; Darnold (USC) 17-28-264.

RECEIVING – Howard (UCLA) 11-81; Lasley (UCLA) 10-204; Roberts (UCLA) 6-70; Mitchell (USC) 4-56; Burnett (USC) 4-55; Carr (USC) 2-49; Jamabo (UCLA) 2-41; Vaughns (USC) 2-37; D. Imatorbhebhe (USC) 2-34.



**GAME 13 – December 1, Santa Clara, California**  
**Pac-12 Championship Game**  
**USC 31, Stanford 28**  
**Att: 48,031**

<b>Stanford</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>USC</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>31</b>

QB **Sam Darnold** threw 2 touchdown passes, TB **Ronald Jones II** ran for a pair of short TDs and the Trojan defense made a huge goal line stand in the fourth quarter to spark a 99-yard scoring drive that provided the decisive points in No. 11 USC's 31-28 victory over No. 14 Stanford in the Pac-12 Championship Game in front of 48,031 fans in Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara and a national ESPN audience.

The win, the first time for a South Division team in the game's 7-year history, gave USC's its first Pac-12 title since 2008 and its first 11-win season since then. It also gave USC, which was coming off a bye after playing 12 regular season games without one, a season sweep over the Cardinal, which it had defeated in September.

USC entered the fourth quarter with a 24-21 lead, but the Cardinal drove to the Trojan 3-yard line on their first possession. Four plays and 2 penalties later, Stanford went for it on fourth-and-goal from the 1, but OLB **Uchenna Nwosu** swept in to stop Cardinal RB Cameron Scarlett short of the goal line. The Trojans took over with 8 minutes to play and drove 99 yards--aided by a 54-yard reception by WR **Michael Pittman Jr.** from Darnold, who had barely eluded a sack in the end zone--with Jones scoring on an 8-yard run with 4:22 to go.

But Stanford responded with a 90-yard scoring drive, with QB K.J. Costello hitting TE Kaden Smith on a 28-yard TD toss with 2:09 to play. However, Stanford's ensuing onside kick went out of bounds and USC ran out the clock for the win.

USC got on the board first on a 7-yard Darnold TD pass to Pittman late in the first quarter. Stanford answered on its following possession with RB Bryce Love's 9-yard scoring run at the top of the second quarter, only to see USC answer back on the next series with PK **Chase McGrath's** 24-yard field goal. USC extended its lead the next time it had the ball, driving 97 yards as Darnold hit WR Tyler Vaughns on a 19-yard TD aerial. Stanford closed the gap to 17-14 with 34 seconds left in the half on Scarlett's 1-yard TD run.

The Trojans had outgained Stanford at halftime, 265 yards to 140, while holding the ball for 17:19.

USC rebuilt a 10-point edge midway through the third quarter on Jones' 1-yard TD run, but the Cardinal responded on the next series as Costello connected with Smith for an 11-yard touchdown, setting up the fourth quarter drama.

USC had 501 total yards in the game to Stanford's 343. Darnold (named the game's MVP) was 17-of-24 for 325 yards, Jones ran for 140 yards on a career-high 30 carries and Pittman had career highs for catches (7) and receiving yards (a Pac-12 Championship Game record 146). S **Chris Hawkins** had a personal-best 14 tackles, while ILB **Cameron Smith** added 7 stops.

For Stanford, Love ran for 125 yards on 22 attempts, Costello was 10-of-22 for 192 yards and Smith had 4 grabs for 80 yards.

**SCORING**

**First Quarter**

**USC -- Pittman 7-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)**

**Second Quarter**

**STAN -- Love 9-yard run (Toner kick)**

**USC -- McGrath 24-yard field goal**

**USC -- Vaughns 19-yard pass from Darnold (McGrath kick)**

**STAN -- Scarlett 1-yard run (Toner kick)**

**Third Quarter**

**USC -- R. Jones 1-yard run (McGrath kick)**

**STAN -- Smith 11-yard pass from Costello (Toner kick)**

**Fourth Quarter**

**USC -- R. Jones 8-yard run (McGrath kick)**

**STAN -- Smith 28-yard pass from Costello (Toner kick)**

<b>USC</b>	<b>STATISTICS</b>	<b>STANFORD</b>
22	First Downs	18
176	Net Yards Rushing	151
325	Net Yards Passing	192
24	Passes Attempted	22
17	Passes Completed	10
0	Had Intercepted	0
67	Total Plays	60
501	Total Yards	343
3/32.3	Punts/Avg	5/45.6
1/1	Fumbles-Lost	4/0
9/76	Penalties/Yards	7/73
31:14	Time of Possession	28:46

**TOP INDIVIDUALS**

**RUSHING** – R. Jones (USC) 30-140; Love (STAN) 22-125; Carr (USC) 7-42; Scarlett (STAN) 7-21.

**PASSING** – Darnold (USC) 17-24-325; Costello (STAN) 10-22-192.

**RECEIVING** – Pittman (USC) 7-146; Smith (STAN) 4-80; Vaughns (USC) 3-26; Arcega-Whiteside (STAN) 2-87; Mitchell (USC) 2-66; Wedington (STAN) 2-9.



## TROJANS IN THE NEWS

## The House That Built Sam Darnold

By: Lee Jenkins, Sports Illustrated, August 7, 2017

All that's left is the white antique stove in the kitchen, where Sam Darnold builds tuna rolls from baggies of fresh-caught bluefin. Twenty-four years ago, the house was one story and the ceiling was streaked dark yellow. The backyard was dotted with patches of dead grass, and the garage was filled with motorcycle frames hastily left behind. Neighbors assumed the place was a crystal-meth lab, and that's what they told the young couple who pedaled up on mountain bikes in the winter of 1993, their weekend ride through Capistrano Beach halted by the sight of a FOR SALE sign. "This is a dump," Mike Darnold told his fiancée, Chris Hammer, which meant it was perfect.

Mike was a medical gas plumber in Orange County who serviced hospitals throughout Southern California. Chris was an aspiring P.E. teacher in San Clemente who waited tables at Corky's. They couldn't afford to be picky. They walked gingerly up dilapidated steps to the roof of the garage, which a boy was using as his personal roller blade park. Mike gazed west, over Interstate 5 a block and a half away, through palm trees that framed the coastline like goalposts. He could see, just barely, a sliver of the Pacific Ocean. "We can do this," he told Chris.

Instead of a wedding at the Marriott in Dana Point, they threw a modest reception at Chris's family home in Long Beach followed by a two-night honeymoon at the Blue Lantern Inn, using the money they saved for a down payment. Mike scrubbed every inch of the ceiling, trashed every stitch of the carpet. He chopped down overgrown fruit trees, ripped out doors, tossed blinds and shelves. He painted walls and laid tile. In May 1994, Chris gave birth to their first child, a girl named Franki, and three years later, a doughy redheaded boy named Sam. Through elementary school, the siblings shared a tiny first-floor bedroom until Mike designed a second story with peekaboo views all the way to Catalina Island. Growing up, Franki used to pause a tear-jerking Home Depot commercial at the scene in which two newlyweds brush their teeth with bottled water. "That was you," she'd say, and her dad would tell the story all over again about the drug den that became a dream house.

Mike and Chris raised their kids in the water two miles away—"The beach," Chris says, "is everything"—but when Sam started swimming lessons at three, his mom noticed that he kept paddling in circles. Such was the preternatural strength of his right arm.

Sam learned to throw not at a skills camp but at a surf break. He'd charge down the steep wooden stairs at the San Clemente cliffs to Lasuens Beach, known as Lost Winds because it's easier to pronounce. Anyone who rode the Metrolink from Los Angeles to San Diego over the past decade might have spotted Sam along the shore: slathered in sunscreen to protect his alabaster skin, waves up to his waist, hurling footballs over five-foot swells. Friends fought to find the pigskin in the whitewash, scoring a point for each recovery. The group would bodysurf until dark and then grab dinner at Pedro's Tacos, one of a hundred low-slung storefronts on San Clemente's vintage main drag, where all the patrons seemed to recognize the ringleader. Back then, Sam Darnold was the perennial champion of the Triton Toss, a distance-plus-accuracy throwing competition held at halftime of a high school game. Today he is the USC quarterback and the Rose Bowl king, the Heisman Trophy favorite and quite possibly the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft.

"Don't go be a big shot," his grandfather used to say, and coming from Dick Hammer those words carried weight. Strangers knew Dick as a USC basketball star (1951 to '54), Olympic volleyball player (1964) and part-time actor who graced billboards as the Marlboro Man. But friends knew him as a firefighter and special-ed teacher at Nightingale Elementary School in Long Beach, jobs that suited him because he could pull people from cars and lift children from wheelchairs. His home was open to visitors, but only if they first picked up 10 pieces of trash at El Dorado Park across the street.

Dick was the one Mike and Chris called in late 1993—"I can give you a blowout of a wedding," he said, "or help with this down payment"—and after he died six years later, relatives wondered if he also bequeathed his physical gifts to his precocious grandson. Sam played basketball with his black Lab in the backyard, mud football at Sunset Park, Wiffle ball in Nick Crankshaw's cul-de-sac. Franki was a volleyball star, and when she entered a mixed doubles tournament in Hermosa Beach one summer, she brought Sam because she couldn't find another partner. "He's just learning," she informed their opponent before the match. His opening serve was the first of many aces. "They thought I was hustling them," Franki says. "I had to tell them, 'I'm sorry, my brother is a weirdo.'"

Among blue-chip quarterbacks, Sam was extraordinary for other reasons. As a sophomore at San Clemente High, he played linebacker and wide receiver, and he was as unfamiliar with recruiting rankings as with hieroglyphics. When he was invited to join a 7-on-7 club team, he called it "fake football," and when dads from a private school approached him about transferring at a basketball game, he told them, "I play with my buddies." Not until his junior year did he have a personal quarterback coach, Bob Bosanko, who charged him only \$50 a session. Sam mulled scholarship offers from Duke, Northwestern and Utah, amusing to anybody back home. "I never even went up to Laguna," he says about a coastal town not even 20 miles north. In fairness, when Franki played volleyball at Rhode Island, Sam did take a cross-country flight to visit her, reporting that the landscape reminded him of the set of a horror movie. "If there were a University of San Clemente," Franki says, "that's where he'd have gone."

He settled for another USC, but unlike every other recent Trojans quarterback, he declined to enroll early and skip the second semester of his senior year of high school. Sure, he had to compete with another five-star passer in his class, but he'd already lost one hoops season, by breaking his hand in a brawl with a locker after a last-minute collapse. A sweet-shooting wing with range to 25 feet, he couldn't stand to sacrifice another season. "This is different," said USC head coach Clay Helton, then the offensive coordinator, when Sam called to share his plan. "This is cool."

On a sun-soaked afternoon in late July at Heritage Hall, Sam Darnold is wearing his San Clemente High basketball shirt and riding a homemade skateboard carved by San Clemente High student Trey Russell. Trey's older brother is USC receiver Jake Russell, Sam's roommate, fraternity brother and best friend. Today, though, someone has come between them, and his name is Tito. Technically, Jake is not to blame for Tito's presence. Linebacker Cameron Smith, who shares the off-campus duplex with Sam, Jake and tight end Tyler Petite, decided they needed to have a kitten. When Smith went to a local shelter and adopted the kitty, black with a white face and white paws, Sam was at the Manning Passing Academy in Louisiana. He returned to Los Angeles and discovered the new roomie purring on his bed. "Sam told me he was allergic," Smith says. "But I think he really believed the cat would be a distraction, so we took it back."

Think what poor Tito will miss this fall: a Heisman Trophy campaign for Sam, a Butkus Award drive for Smith, the Sept. 16 game against Texas—the first meeting with the Longhorns since they beat the Trojans for the 2006 national championship. "I was super bummed," says Sam, who was eight when Vince Young crossed the pylon at the Rose Bowl. "Super" is his adjective of choice. His parents are "super chill," his mom is "super emotional" and Petite's family is "super nice" for letting the roommates use their beach house in the South Bay to barbecue and play spike-ball.

Life in the duplex can also be "super hectic," with Smith finding photoshopped pictures on Instagram of Darnold in a 49ers jersey, a sign of draft hype to come. "That would be pretty cool," says Smith, a Niners fan. It was less than two years ago that Smith wanted nothing to do with Darnold. The surfer kid (who doesn't actually surf) arrived in the summer of 2015, trailed by a notorious Twitter account rife with arrogant posts about NFL aspirations and vulgar cracks about SC women. "This," Smith thought, "is a terrible person." A couple of weeks into fall camp, the Trojans were eating in the players' lounge when Darnold lamented the proliferation of social media fakes. "Wait," Smith piped up, "your account isn't real?" Darnold, who scrawled a list of life goals in ninth grade that included "Be remembered as the nice one," was mortified.

Few college quarterbacks get mistaken for middle linebackers, but strangers occasionally see Darnold and Smith engaged in one of their standard debates—"Who wins a fight between a lion and a grizzly bear?"—and ask if they're twins. Darnold hasn't blitzed anybody since his sophomore year at San Clemente, when he replaced an injured QB and lofted a game-tying 40-yard fade down the sideline. But he stands 6' 4", 225 pounds, and teammates appreciate that he neither looks nor acts like a test-tube signal-caller. Southern California produced two far more prominent passers in the year Darnold graduated from high school: Josh Rosen, who went to UCLA, and Ricky Town, who signed with USC. It is unusual for highly rated quarterbacks to choose the same college, but Darnold was either unfamiliar with protocol or undaunted by it. He followed Town to Troy.

"Best kid plays, right?" he asked Helton, who assured him that snaps would not be predetermined by private coaches or recruiting stars. By the time Darnold finished his first camp, Town was in the process of transferring to Arkansas, and Trojans safety Su'a Cravens, now a member of the Redskins, was offering encouragement rarely afforded a scout-teamer. "Dude, you keep it up," Cravens told Darnold during practice. "You'll be all right." The freshman called home to parrot the exchange.

Darnold redshirted in 2015 and expected to sit behind junior Max Browne in '16. That spring he took a class called Sports, Business, Media, taught by professor Jeff Fellenzer, who invited agent Scott Boras to speak. The class runs from 6 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, and when it ended, about 75 students lined up to meet Boras. Darnold was last. A sports nut who devours Colin Cowherd's radio show and Joe Rogan's podcast, Darnold could have quizzed the hardball agent on arbitration-eligible Dodgers, but what he wanted was advice. Introducing himself as "a backup quarterback," he asked how Boras would advise a client stuck on the bench.

"Backup?" Boras remembers saying. "You may be unproven. You may be untested. But your status is never permanent. You're no backup, and you can't label yourself that way." Boras does not represent football players, but he understands athletes, and for the next 45 minutes he sat with Darnold inside Annenberg Auditorium, explaining the importance of thinking, preparing and identifying as a starter. When they parted, near midnight, Boras left Darnold with a prediction: "Your time is coming."

The only college game Sam Darnold lost was his first one, late last September at Utah, and afterward he called the guy whose jersey he used to wear. "Don't do anything crazy," Matt Leinart said. "Be yourself." Darnold is not prone to panic. He feels most relaxed outside the refuge of the pocket, relying on what he calls his peripherals, firing to a flash of cardinal from an assortment of arm angles. Coaches speculate that winters on the basketball court sharpened his vision and summers on the baseball diamond varied his delivery. Darnold disdains the specialization of youth sports. The son of a volleyball player at Long Beach City College and an offensive lineman at Redlands, he fashions himself a natural athlete, not a born quarterback. He just happened to wind up under center. And while he welcomes the significance of the position, he dismisses the stress surrounding it.



"You look at USC QBs before him, you see guys who were dead serious, every drive of the utmost importance," says Browne, now at Pitt. "Sam's out there flying the ball around like he's back in recess at elementary school, playing catch with his friends."

Browne and Darnold competed furiously for the Trojans' starting job, yet when Browne bought a Razor scooter with oversized tires to get around campus, Darnold called Walmart and ordered another for himself. He defuses awkward situations with disarming gestures. His high school basketball coach, Marc Popovich, used to call timeout before late-game free throws so he could tell the shooter a cheesy joke. [Sample: "What do you call a doctor who flunked out of med school? A dentist."] In Sam's senior season, teammate Scott Herrod was fouled late in a game against Tustin, but Popovich was out of timeouts. He couldn't tell his joke. Sam walked over to Herrod. "Don't worry," he said, "only the season on the line." Herrod stopped laughing in time to sink the free throws.

Darnold wonders, now that he is a redshirt sophomore, if he must expand his laid-back leadership repertoire to include sweeping speeches and dramatic chair-tosses. He hopes not. He is reading a book called *Extreme Ownership*, written by a pair of Navy SEALs who led a unit in Iraq. "You hear about all these huge CEOs who are the first guys to blame somebody else," Darnold says. "If you start taking ownership and taking blame, that's how you get people on your side. You have to give them a reason why. I can't tell a receiver, *Hey, you ran the wrong route!* I've got to be like, *Dude, if you don't run the right route, then you're not going to catch the ball and you're not going to score. And I need to be able to trust you.*" Asked what time he might crack next, Darnold demurs. "I don't want to broaden myself *too* much."

He spends free time with private quarterback guru Jordan Palmer, tightening a throwing motion that resembles Clayton Kershaw as much as Aaron Rodgers. "When you're teaching a Little Leaguer how to pitch, you tell him to set the ball on the table behind him, so he gets a bigger arc," Bosanko says. "That's not ideal for a quarterback. You want to be more compact or your release can become too slow. But Sam gets away with stuff that isn't necessarily mechanically sound. It's because he is a freak, but also because he never developed all these robotic habits when he was eight, so he doesn't think too much about his arm slot and his delivery. He just anticipates where a guy will be and puts it there. That's a quality you can't teach. That's feel."

The first time Helton watched Sam play in person, as a senior at San Clemente, the coach expected the recruit to be nervous. It was Sam's first game in nearly a year, after breaking his foot early in his junior season, an injury that prevented him from flooding college coaches with tape. He knew Helton was in the stands, eyeing him. Sam started 13 for 13 with five touchdowns, shedding linebackers like ankle-slapping surf. "Imagine," Helton says, "if he ever really focused on this sport?"

Brent Pry witnessed the result on Jan. 2. Pry is the defensive coordinator at Penn State, which was pured by Darnold in the Rose Bowl for five touchdowns, 52 points and 453 yards. "I really felt like we didn't see it coming," Pry says. "We watched so much film and we knew he was athletic, but it wasn't the same as being out there on the field with him. When that kid got going it was like, *Who the hell is this?* Rushing four is not enough for a guy like that. He just kind of jimmy-jammed through and kept the play alive and found a seam."

Penn State only rushed three with 1:27 left, leading by a touchdown, and USC receiver Deontay Burnett broke off his flat route. Super chill, Darnold waited out Burnett, who regrouped and dashed to the post. Darnold found him at the goal line, over two Nittany Lions and in front of a third. "That spiral," Darnold says, "felt like it was in slow motion." He celebrated with a 70-mile drive south down I-5, to the beige two-story traditional with the black Toyota Highlander in front, DARNMOM on the license plate. *Don't go be a big shot.* He walked in the front door at 11 p.m., his parents on the couch, replay on the TV. "Don't you dare wash this," he cooed, flipping Darn Mom a grass-stained jersey.

Darnold's high school coach, Jaime Ortiz, sent him a text message that night: "Your life has forever changed." The next day, he was mobbed at a Buffalo Wild Wings and at a Concordia University volleyball match. He confined himself to the house for most of the remainder of winter break. Not that staying home—and munching bluefin caught by Sean Donnelly, a San Clemente quarterback turned fisherman—is any punishment. "I don't come back as much as I used to, and hopefully one day I won't need it," Darnold says. "But for now I still do." His mother remains a P.E. teacher at Shorecliffs Middle School. His father oversees the plumbing at UC Irvine Medical Center and Children's Hospital of Orange County, occasionally working successive shifts from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m., then 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. As property values in SoCal beach communities continue to spike, Sam begs his parents not to sell.

"People always ask, 'When your brother makes it, will he buy them a house?'" Franki says. "And I tell them, 'No, but he'll probably buy their house.'"

#### **What, Me Worry?** **By Molly Knight, ESPN Magazine Cover Story, August, 21, 2017**

Sam Darnold is gone. It is 2002, and one moment the 5-year-old is splashing in the water on his boogie board, and then he isn't. His mother, Chris, and his 8-year-old sister, Franki, are enjoying a sun-kissed summer day at their favorite spot, Linda Lane, near their home in Capistrano Beach, California, and they don't notice Sam paddling out into the ocean on his own or the rip current that sneaks up and pulls him some 200 yards out into the Pacific. The waves swell to 6 feet, and Chris realizes Sam has been drawn out to sea with no reasonable way to safety. She sprints to the nearest tower and pleads with a lifeguard to dive in after her son, pointing to a speck on the water. "He looks huge for his age, but he's only 5!" she screams.

The lifeguard tries to calm her while he assesses a set of waves and the mess the boy has gotten himself into. "Let's just wait and see if he can catch one of those and ride it in," he says. Each second feels like 60. But soon, a giant wave forms behind the little redhead on the bright yellow boogie board. Mom holds her breath as it crests. He catches it and bounces along the whitecaps all the way onto shore. His panicked mother runs to him in tears. Her boy stands and looks at her, then heads back into the water with a devilish grin on his face.

THOUGH HE IS still not yet old enough to legally drink a beer, Sam Darnold's legend already burns bright, even by Hollywood standards. As a redshirt freshman last season, Darnold took over as USC's starting quarterback and rallied a reeling 1-3 team to nine straight wins, including a Rose Bowl victory. Now the Trojans faithful look to him to lead the team to its first national title in 13 years, a saga that just might include his hoisting the Heisman Trophy and sitting alone atop every NFL team's draft board come April.

"He's the best college quarterback I've seen at anticipating since Andrew Luck," says Stanford's David Shaw, who coached Luck in college and isn't prone to hyperbole. "When you evaluate quarterbacks who can play at the next level, you're looking for guys who can see a play before it happens and get the ball out of their hands quick. He's the best I've seen in years."

Between now and the draft, stories will be told about Darnold's future as a franchise-saving quarterback. Jets and Browns fans will stay up past their bedtimes to watch him torch defenses on the West Coast. We'll all marvel at his ability to keep a play alive when everything goes sideways, and scouts will shake their heads in disbelief when his most accurate throws come off his back foot while he scrambles for his life. If the hype that surrounds his playmaking ability translates into a decade-plus NFL career, his smile that never needed braces will grace countless magazine covers and ad campaigns.

So remember Darnold in this moment, on a sweltering afternoon in mid-July, when he ambles downstairs to the basement of the John McKay Center on USC's campus in full uniform, notices half a dozen crew members setting up a fluorescent tunnel for him to run through for the photos accompanying this article, stops dead in his cleats and asks a USC PR person: "This isn't for me, is it?" As he stands under the hot lights flipping a football back and forth between his fingers for the photographer (*Helmet on! Helmet off! Now throw off of one foot! Now act like you're being chased! Smile! Don't smile!*), one of his favorite receivers walks up and takes in the spectacle. "Sam deserves all of this," Deontay Burnett says. "He's just a good person."

For the circus that surrounds USC football, this is no small detail. The subtext of all the Darnold stories told this year will be whether a quiet, serious kid whose plumber father drives the same pickup truck he's had since before his son was born and whose mother teaches PE at the middle school he attended is the right man to lead USC back to the pinnacle of college football after the train wreck of the past eight years: five head coaches, three athletic directors, dozens of scholarship losses, a postseason ban, one coach fired on a tarmac and another fired on his way to rehab.

The truth is, it's impossible to tell Sam Darnold's story without beginning in the water. Though he left Capistrano Beach two summers ago for Los Angeles, some 60 miles north, the calmness he picked up on the sand remains, like the freckles on the bridge of his nose.

Consider the play Darnold deems the best of his life so far: In the first quarter of USC's game against crosstown rival UCLA last season, the Trojans and Bruins are tied at 7, and USC faces a third-and-9 from its own 32. Darnold drops back to pass, and the pocket around him collapses, with three linemen in powder blue jerseys closing in. Somehow, he ducks out of the tangle of human limbs and sprints to his left, with Takk McKinley, a future first-round pick, on his heels. As Darnold plants his back foot and hurls the football downfield, McKinley knocks him to the ground. The ball floats into the hands of Burnett for 12 yards and a first down.

Darnold practices throws like that on the beach in the offseason: The uneven sand keeps him off balance and offers a forgiving surface to fall on. He attributes his ability to stay composed when 300-pound men are chasing him to growing up a few football fields from the ocean. The water has a way of teaching you that panicking when large waves crash down on your face could spell your doom. The secret lies in figuring out how to improvise when you've got water up your nose.

DARNOLD WASN'T MUCH of a talker growing up, so when he was 3, Chris took him to be evaluated by a teacher. The woman told Chris her boy was perfect; he was just quiet because his sister, Franki, did all the talking for him. As an adult, he remains an introvert, which is a noted bonus for any hotshot USC quarterback with permanent access to a table at Delilah or Catch or any place staked out by TMZ. The chances he will end up on Snapchat in a hot tub with a Kardashian are next to nil.

The week before the photo shoot, I meet Darnold for bottled water and a chat outside USC's Heritage Hall, the building that houses the athletic department and serves as a museum for the six Heismans and 11 national championships won at the school. He offers me a gentle warning. "It takes me awhile to warm up to people sometimes," he says. "A lot of people in the media get bored interviewing me, but I'm fine with that. I'd rather be that guy than the guy who's kind of a loudmouth and doesn't know when to shut up."

USC linebacker Cameron Smith finds his roommate's quiet intensity unintentionally hilarious. "He's the most competitive person I know. We'll play beach volleyball, and he's like sweating, diving, sand all over him," Smith says.

Volleyball runs in the family; Franki played at Rhode Island. A few years ago, while she was home for the summer, she entered a coed tournament in Manhattan Beach. When her regular partner bailed, Franki recruited her 16-year-old brother. She asked the tournament director to cut them some slack since Sam had never played competitively. But when Sam served ace after ace, the director became furious and called every minor transgression, assuming Franki had sandbagged him. Team Darnold still made the tournament playoffs.



That innate athletic ability goes back generations. Chris' father, Dick Hammer, played for the USC basketball team in the 1950s and played volleyball for the U.S. Olympic team in 1964. A firefighter, Hammer supplemented his income with acting work. [He became one of the original Marlboro men.] "He never thought of himself as a big shot, and my son never has either," Chris says. Hammer passed away when Darnold was 2, but it didn't take long for his parents to see that their son was just like his grandfather, a man of few words who excelled at every sport he tried. Whenever young Sam made a great play on the court or on the field, his parents would joke that it's "the DNA."

His competitiveness seemed hardwired too. When Darnold was 5, his father, Mike, signed him up to play basketball at the Dana Point Community Center. It was a disaster. No other kids on his Warriors team seemed to understand the rules. "When a kid from the other team would mess up and break a rule," Mike says, "Sam would stop and go out of bounds and ask for the ball, then throw up his hands in disgust when the referees let the kids play on." After that first game, Sam sulked the whole ride home in Mike's truck.

At San Clemente High, he moved from receiver and linebacker to starting quarterback his junior year but suffered a foot fracture that wiped out most of his season and, with it, his best chance to impress college scouts. So after his foot healed, Darnold suited up for the Tritons' varsity basketball team and was named the Sea View League MVP.

His football coach, Jaime Ortiz, didn't have much film of Darnold at quarterback, but he sent out tape of him playing basketball to recruiters. Clay Helton, USC's quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator at the time, was intrigued by Darnold's vision on the court but wasn't sure he had a spot for him at USC, which already had future NFL QB Cody Kessler locked in as its starter and blue chips Max Browne and Ricky Town ready to back him up. Any doubts were erased when Darnold showed up at a USC summer camp after starring all spring in football clinics. With all of five high school starts at quarterback under his belt, he wowed his way to a scholarship.

DARNOLD COMMITTED TO a USC program in disarray. After Pete Carroll left for the Seattle Seahawks following the 2009 season, USC floundered trying to recapture his two-title magic, nostalgia serving as the gateway drug to amnesia. Yet Darnold wasn't deterred by the NCAA sanctions heaped on USC from the Reggie Bush years, or the midseason firing of Lane Kiffin the year before, or the open secret that the coach at the time, Steve Sarkisian, was struggling with what would turn out to be an alcohol addiction. Darnold had grown up in a USC household, going to games and watching Bush and Matt Leinart. Besides, he had bonded with the buttoned-down Helton, who had looked him in the eye and said the starting quarterback job would be earned by the best player.

Just weeks after Darnold arrived on campus, Sarkisian showed up drunk to a booster event and delivered a profanity-laced speech. A few weeks later, he boarded a plane for rehab in Utah and was fired before he landed. When asked about the upheaval of his redshirt season, Darnold shakes his head and sighs. "It was crazy," he says. "What was even crazier is there were guys on the team who had dealt with it before with Kiffin. I was like, 'Whoa, this is insane.' And there were seniors who were like, 'Eh, no big deal, it happens.'"

Helton took over as interim head coach, and the team went 5-4 the rest of the way. His interim label was removed after USC rolled past UCLA 40-21 in the penultimate game of the regular season. The move gave a group of 18- to 21-year-olds what they needed most: stability.

As a redshirt freshman in September 2016, Darnold watched from the bench as USC swaggered onto the field against Alabama, took a 3-0 lead, then gave up 38 unanswered points. That 52-6 shellacking was the worst season-opening loss in USC history.

Darnold came off the bench and threw two touchdown passes against Utah State the next week. In the third game of the season, at Stanford, the Trojans were sputtering, trailing 27-10 late in the fourth quarter. Helton sent Darnold onto the field, and Burnett ran a double move with a linebacker tight on his hip. Darnold slid up the pocket, stepped over a defender and threw for a 28-yard gain. "As soon as I stuck my foot in the ground and looked up for the ball, it was just right in my hand," Burnett says. Neither team scored the rest of the way. USC dropped to 1-2. On Sunday, Helton told Darnold he was starting the next week, at Utah.

His first start was a heartbreaker, as the Utes scored with 16 seconds left to win 31-27. Darnold rushed for a TD but threw for none. Leinart reached out to him afterward. "I asked him for tips on how to step in as a redshirt freshman and lead a group of seniors who are kind of lost," Darnold says. "USC hadn't been 1-3 in forever, and the team maybe had negative thoughts in their head. I know I did." Leinart encouraged him to stay calm, remain levelheaded. As Darnold recalls, "He basically said to continue being myself because, in my darkest moments, that's who everybody's gonna see." Darnold and a few teammates called a players-only meeting after that game. "I told them, 'Hey, we can't quit now.'"

Darnold's teammates credit his ability to let go of the past as key to their success. "He's always optimistic about everything," Burnett says. "I think of his mindset as the 'next play' mentality. Like, 'Let's go out there, let's get 'em, this is the drive.'"

USC ripped off nine straight wins to finish the season, capped with a thrilling comeback over No. 5 Penn State at the Rose Bowl, where Darnold threw for 453 yards and five touchdowns. With 1:27 left and the Trojans on the Nittany Lions' 27-yard line, Darnold dropped back and threw a perfect ball between two defenders in a spot where only Burnett could catch it for the tying touchdown. "The only way I can describe it is, I felt the grass in front of me and so did Deontay," he told reporters. The Trojans won on a field goal.

Darnold is feeling a lot of things heading into his third fall at USC, but pressure doesn't seem to be one of them. He insists his heart was pounding against his pads during that final minute of the Rose Bowl. But that heart grew into itself in Capistrano Beach, so maybe it pounds a little slower than most.

THE PAC-12 MEDIA DAY in late July is at the Hollywood and Highland retail center, situated amid the flood of tourists on the Walk of Fame. Each team brings its head coach, an offensive player and a defensive player to be interviewed. The Trojans choose Smith and his roommate, Darnold, who is dressed like a corporate intern in a gray USC polo shirt, khaki pants and the kind of brown shoes a young man might wear to church. During Darnold's Q&A session, his pant leg creeps up to reveal black-and-white Vans socks covered in skateboards.

At lunch, each team delegation sits outside at a picnic table with 10 chairs, and reporters are encouraged to join them. Nylon umbrellas brought in for shade instead trap the stifling heat. Many teams have open seats at their tables; at USC's, 30 reporters jostle for seven seats, eager for Darnold's sound bites about his expectations for this season. In the rare moments when the scrum turns its focus to Smith or Helton, the usually unflappable Darnold alternates between rubbing his eyes and biting his nails. This is the hardest part of being USC's starting quarterback. Leading a game-tying drive in the final two minutes of the Rose Bowl as a redshirt freshman isn't as challenging for an introvert as talking to strangers in the middle of a mall. But he's getting used to it.

The pressure won't lessen if the year goes as expected and he decides to leave for the NFL. But he won't make that decision until spring. He knows that if he goes, this is his only shot to bring the Trojans back to glory.

When I asked him about that time he almost drowned when he was 5, he remembers the story a little different than his mother, insisting he was petrified. The waves were really big, and he was just a little kid. But he accepted that he was stuck in the situation until he could find an opening to scramble out of it. "When the next wave came, I was like, 'OK,'" he says. "This is my opportunity."

#### **Doubters and Would-Be Tacklers: Beware of Ronald Jones, USC's 'Texas Tesla'** **By: Mirin Fader, Bleacher Report, November 29, 2017**

USC has the ball, 1st-and-goal at the 2-yard line with fewer than six minutes to go against UCLA. Quarterback Josh Rosen and the Bruins have cut the lead to 21-17.

Sam Darnold hands the ball off to Ronald Jones II, the Trojans' 6-foot, 200-pound tailback, who clutches the ball tight, ducks his head down and pummels his way through much bigger linemen.

Even as one would-be tackler grabs him at the knees, Jones grinds his way out of the pile and into the end zone for his second touchdown and what turns out to be the winning score. He finished with 122 rushing yards on 28 carries in the Trojans' [10-2] 28-23 victory.

"You can't just hit him or knock him down, because he'll just bounce up and go through you," said Colorado head coach Mike MacIntyre, whose team fell victim to a 25-yard Jones burst the previous week. On the play, Jones escaped not one, not two, but *three* defenders and even carried one on his back for five yards before shedding him for another 15, as if to scream, "WEIGHT ROOM!"

So who is Rojo, the tackle-breaking back from McKinney, Texas, who is suddenly rising on NFL draft boards, and whose 16 touchdowns rank seventh nationally and tie for first in the Pac-12? A player who has so much North-South explosion, bringing him to top speed after his first cut, that his teammates call him the Texas Tesla?

"A nightmare for defensive coordinators to prepare for," Texas coach Tom Herman said. "A special player who is right up there with the best running backs in the nation."

"He's got horse legs," said Stephen Carr, another Trojans back. "It's going to take a couple of body shots to take him down."

"He's got great potential," said an NFC scout. "He's what you want: dynamic."

"Once he sees a hole and he hits it," teammate Aca'Cedric Ware said, "there's no catching him."

Jones is averaging 122.4 rushing yards per game. After an offseason in which he added 10 pounds, the junior has jumped to No. 6 in USC all-time rushing yards. He's surpassed Reggie Bush, LenDale White and Mike Garrett and needs just nine yards to pass O.J. Simpson.

"Coming out of high school, they said I was too small," Jones said. "They said I wouldn't be able to run between the tackles. I just kept that in the back of my mind. I'm just out here to prove people wrong."

**JONES DOESN'T SEEM LIKE** the type to cut your heart out, but he did it against Washington State with a vicious 86-yard TD run.

He pauses mid-interview to smile and wave to a group of parents: "Hello, how are you doing?" He answers questions: "Yes, sir" or "Yes, ma'am." He collects food items and gives them to the homeless he sees around campus. Just once in his academic life has he found himself in trouble at school [one morning he forgot his belt and his pants sagged].

He felt lost last season after he decided to cut his customary dreadlocks (they were back this season before a Thanksgiving break trim). He had everyone howling at last year's team New Year's party, when he imitated former running backs coach Tommie Robinson on stage (Jones acted out Robinson barking out drills, saying he 'would make a man out of them.') He calls his mother by her first name, Jackie, when he senses she needs a pick-me-up.

But don't be fooled: Jones is as hard-nosed as they come. His father, Ronald Sr., a 27-year Army veteran who served as a drill sergeant and a logistics specialist, instilled discipline. Ronald Sr. would inspect his son's room, mandating he organize the shirts in his closet by color, and he would set up a homework schedule and chore list. He taught his son to mow the lawn and to respect all men but fear none.

Ronald Sr. was the one who handed Jones a football at age six. He adjusted Jones' shoulder pads. He started Jones' epic Super Bowl patch collection. He gave him pointers while the two watched every Cowboys game on the couch—a velvet red piece with black leather accents in the living room upstairs.



He took seven-year-old Ronald Jr. to his first Cowboys game against Washington. The family went down to the railings as Ronald Sr. hollered at Eddie George and Julius Jones to come over. It was Thanksgiving Day, but it felt like Christmas. Little Ronald grinned and waved, but he was too excited and too shy to say anything, so he hid behind his father. It was the sweetest moment of his young life.

During Ronald Jr.'s sophomore year of high school, Ronald Sr. died of a heart attack.

Jones wasn't sure how to press on. He stayed away from McKinney North High, and from the turf, for two weeks, hardly leaving his room. Coco, his Yorkshire Terrier, also died that year. His sister Montinique had never seen her brother cry as a teenager until their father's funeral.

"It hurt me more to see Ronald hurt than it hurt to lose my dad," she said. "It was tough on all of us, but it was really tough on Ronald."

When Jones found himself struggling to find his footing his first two years USC, stuck behind a deep, veteran running backs group that included Justin Davis, he remembered his father. He knew he had to keep grinding.

"He told me to never give up on myself," Jones said.

**"WHERE ARE YOU GOING** to go?" Mike Fecci, Jones' coach at McKinney North, asked him the morning of the Under Armour All-America Game in their hotel lobby in Orlando, Florida. Jones, a senior, was to announce his college decision later that day.

"I'm going to SC," Jones said.

Fecci laughed. He'd seen Jones explode up the field since his days at Dowell Middle School, back when he looked like an alien—all arms and legs. Jones' speed and skills weren't the issue.

"You're going to a place where you're going to have a few backs," Fecci said.

"You know that, right?"

"Yes sir, I do," Jones said. "But it's the best place for me."

Jones wanted to be tested, and he would be. At first, he trailed behind Davis and Tre Madden. He respected them, he learned from them and he sought to outwork them.

"I think it was just him knowing his role," Montinique said. "Like, 'This is where I gotta start. I gotta start my way at the bottom and make my way to the top.'"

He was electric at times, setting the USC freshman rushing record (987 yards) while adding eight touchdowns (nine total). But he was homesick and wanted to transfer to a school closer to home.

"Nope," Jackie told her son. "You're going to stick it out." Whatever Jackie says, goes. Back when her son was McKinney's "big man on campus," not to mention one of the nation's top prospects, she didn't let him drive his 2013 Dodge Challenger to school, about three miles away, for a whole week. He was grounded for teasing his little sister, Shauna.

He had to find a means to get to school then (the school bus). And he'd have to find a way to make USC work now. "You're meant to be there," Jackie said. "Stay focused. Do the work. Stay put."

Jones struggled early in his sophomore campaign but gained momentum toward the second half of the season and finished with 1,082 yards rushing and 12 touchdowns (13 total). But he wasn't satisfied. "He felt like he was in a sophomore slump," Jackie said.

He'd have to break through. Again.

Few expected Jones to be a football player in the first place. He was supposed to be a track star, taking after his grandfather, Charles Dockery, who ran track for Texas Southern University from 1963-64.

Jones excelled as a 100-meter sprinter from age five throughout high school. He even competed in a few meets at USC as a freshman before dropping the sport.

"He had this ability to not just maneuver and find an open space, but he was able to pull away from people," McKinney North track coach Melvin Crosby said. "The kid had something a little different than everybody else."

When he began playing Pop Warner football, Jones was so much smaller than the other kids that he was an afterthought—a bench-warmer. That burned him.

"Don't worry," Jackie told Jones. "You'll play."

In his first year at McKinney, he played on the freshman team. The second, he played behind two older backs, Trey Smith and Justin Jones, on varsity. Then, his father died, which set him back.

He finally got his shot when he returned to action, as Smith was sidelined with a broken collarbone. Jones exploded for 205 yards on 12 carries and four TDs against Denison High in the final game of the season. He didn't even start.

"He doesn't crave the limelight," Fecci said. "He was never one to say, 'Hey, look at me, look at what I'm doing.' He's business oriented. Very quiet. A methodical player. But when he gets the ball in his hands, he becomes the most confident guy in the world."

Jones also waited his turn at USC. He labored at his weaknesses this offseason: catching and pass protection. He bulked up in the weight room.

It's paid dividends this season, most notably against Arizona State, when Jones had a season-high 216 rushing yards.

"He's more decisive running through holes, and I think that has to do with the reads we've put in place," said USC running backs coach Deland McCullough. "He can play a lot faster because he's not filling holes as he goes."

Jones still isn't satisfied. "I'm still trying to get bigger," he said. "No one's ever a finished product. I'm going to keep grinding."

He looks to a tattoo on his right bicep for motivation. It's an image of his father, whose face is surrounded by clouds. Before every game, Jones runs with his teammates to the back of the end zone. He says a prayer to his father, asking for protection, victory and to honor his name. On Veterans Day this year, after scoring against Colorado, Jones pointed toward the sky and gave a military salute to honor Ronald Sr.

Montinique smiles when watching her brother stand on the sideline, a spitting image of their father: same bulging calf muscles, same hips slightly poked to the side, same chiseled arms. No one says he looks too small anymore.

## Where does RB Ronald Jones rank among USC's greats? You might be surprised By: Joey Kaufman, Orange County Register, November 29, 2017

Anthony Davis sat at the Tavern + Bowl, a sports bar in Costa Mesa, watching USC's victory over Arizona earlier this month, when a few fans peppered him with the same question.

It was midway through the first quarter, and running back Ronald Jones had just run 98 yards into the end zone. Although the touchdown was called back because of a holding penalty, they were struck by his speed. Jones shed a tackler, raced toward the sideline and was at one point chased by as many as six tacklers. None caught him.

On the next play, Aca'Cedric Ware rotated in, Jones retreated to the sideline for a spell, and the swap left onlookers puzzled.

"How come they don't keep giving him the ball?" they asked Davis.

He didn't know.

But the exchange was thought-provoking. Davis wondered how many more yards Jones could have amassed throughout his career had he been given more carries.

When Davis was a tailback for the Trojans in the 1970s, he carried the ball 22 times per game, the focal point in John McKay's I-formation. It was an average of eight carries more per game than Jones.

"He should've already passed me," Davis laughed.

Jones still might.

With two games left this season, including Friday's Pac-12 Conference championship game against Stanford, Jones (3,415 career rushing yards) is positioned to climb several more spots in the school record books.

Jones needs 8 yards to catch O.J. Simpson for No. 5 on USC's all-time rushing list, 274 to catch Ricky Bell and 309 to catch Davis.

This could be Jones' final college season. As a junior, he is eligible to enter the NFL Draft, though he said he has not made that decision. Regardless of when he begins his pro career, he still could land as high as No. 3 by averaging at least 155 rushing yards over his next two games.

Other former Trojans marveled at how Jones will ultimately leave as among the school's most productive running backs despite fewer carries than most of his predecessors, a product of the proliferation of wide-open spread offenses in college football and the predominance of the passing game. The sport has changed in the past decade. For most of his first two seasons, Jones also split carries with Justin Davis.

"The one thing is they pass a lot," said Mike Garrett, USC's first Heisman Trophy winner in 1965, "so for him to gain the yards that he has must mean a lot."

Among the others in the top 10 of the career rushing list, seven finished with more career carries than Jones' current total, some by a considerable margin.

As Jones has climbed the charts during USC's four-game winning streak to end the regular season, it has coincided with his most prolific stretch, rushing for 674 yards and eight touchdowns.

In the victory over Colorado earlier this month, when he compiled 142 yards on the ground, he passed Reggie Bush, LenDale White and Garrett, positioning himself at No. 6.

"Numbers are deceiving sometimes," said White, who shared a backfield with Bush from 2003-05, "but Ronald Jones is definitely a top-10 USC running back to ever play there."

In interviews over the past week, four of USC's former top tailbacks believed Jones belonged in their company.

"Reggie Bush was special," said Ricky Ervins, who in 1989 was the last USC player to lead the conference in rushing. "That's special. The things that he did from day one until he left was special. Ronald Jones is up there, not quite a Reggie Bush, but he's not far from him."

As with Bush, who was Jones' childhood hero, his speed was often discussed. Both could break away. Against Arizona State last month, Jones had touchdown runs of 67 yards and 64 yards, making him the first USC player with two runs of 60 yards or more in a game since Bush.

"He has the ability to hit a home run (darn) near every time he touches the ball," White said.

Ervins pointed to his track times. Jones was clocked at 10.37 seconds in the 100 meters in high school.

Garrett believes only Simpson and Charles White, who won USC's third Heisman Trophy in 1979 and sits No. 1 on the career rushing list with 6,245 yards, were faster on a football field than Jones.

As Jones has rushed for a career-best 1,346 yards this season, he has evolved as a running back in a variety of ways.

Some noticed he has been less hesitant to run between the tackles, better able to absorb hits. According to data provided by Pro Football Focus, Jones' inside zone runs are up 20 percent from last season.

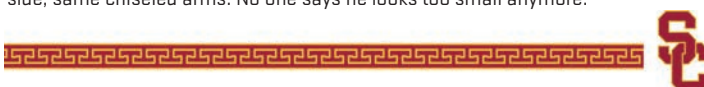
Jones has also been more durable, a complement to his speed.

"It's just maturity," Ervins said. "As you get older, you get stronger, not just physically, but mentally. You got to realize in the fourth quarter, as the game wanes, your mind's gotta be stronger to know, 'I gotta carry this load, I gotta carry this team.'"

He has shouldered more carries during USC's winning streak, averaging 24.5 per game, including a career-high 28 against UCLA. And throughout this season, he has often been most effective in the final minutes, averaging 7 yards per carry in the fourth quarter, better than any of the previous three.

"You get more in a rhythm and you start reading people, and you become more of a unit between the offensive line and the running back," Garrett said.

The past month has given many of the former Trojans running backs a better sense of Jones' ceiling, more often a leading man in the Trojans' offense, a role that could have been established sooner.



White, who corresponds with about 40 of his former teammates in a group texting thread, said they have at times wondered why Jones didn't receive more carries. He has averaged 14 over his career.

"He'll probably take this the wrong way," White said, "but maybe he was cheated a little bit because maybe if he had gotten the ball more he would've made a bigger impact or impression. I know that's crazy to be said, because he's about to surpass O.J. and a bunch of these numbers. But he probably could've rushed for 2,000 yards (in a season) easy had he gotten more opportunities."

Added Davis, "What he's done with what he's been able to work with, I think that's phenomenal, for him to be going up the chart like that."

Jones, as often, has been quick.

## Renaissance Man

By: Katie Ryan, USC Football Game Program, November 4, 2017

He has a fascination with the art of winemaking. He aspires to attend firefighting school with the hope of saving lives and giving back to his community. He also has the ability to make 16 tackles in one football game. Is he the most interesting man in the world?

He may be, but around USC, he is simply known as Cameron Smith. The 6-foot-2, 250-pound junior middle linebacker has collected 223 tackles, 14.5 for loss, four interceptions and a touchdown throughout his almost three-year career as a starter. Smith, who attended Granite Bay High and is from Roseville, Calif., may shine brightest under the Coliseum lights, he has a wide variety of interests that extend beyond the football field.

Smith won't turn 21 until March of 2018, but he already has a unique passion for winemaking.

"Last winter, I started noticing different wine glasses and wondering more about wine itself," he said. "I always wanted to be able to sit at a table with people and intelligently pick out a bottle. I wanted to have knowledge about different wines or a specific winery and be able to share it with other people."

Smith's curiosity piqued when he discovered an opportunity to learn more about his growing interest. During the summer of 2017, he was able to intern at the Melville Winery in Lompoc, Calif., under the tutelage of head winemaker, Chad Melville.

"It was one of the greatest experiences I've ever had," Smith said. "I've never had the time to work before because of football, and Chad was such an incredible first boss. I learned so much about myself and I really grew as a person. It was a blast."

Throughout the internship, Smith was able to observe and participate in the different facets of the winemaking industry including viticulture (grape growing), enology (the science of winemaking) and the wine business.

"If I could do anything, I would want to own my own vineyard," he said. "The farming part of it is what is really interesting to me. The cellar work is fascinating too. Being in a cellar is something most people do not get to experience. It takes three years to grow grapes to make a bottle of wine. To see all of the hard work come together in a finished product is so cool. There's so much time and effort that goes into the process."

In the future, Smith would like to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to study the university's renowned wine and viticulture masters program.

In every aspect of his life, Smith wants to be the best. Although he does not want to pursue a career in wine service, Smith would like to become a sommelier to have the most extensive knowledge in all aspects of wine.

"I would like to take the beginner sommelier test for another notch in my belt," said Smith. "Maybe if I had enough time and had the opportunity, I could pass the master sommelier test. I don't want to do it as a job, but just to say I know everything about wine would be pretty cool."

Smith's sophisticated interest in winemaking juxtaposes intriguingly with a newfound passion of his: firefighting.

"I want to start going to fire school in the off-seasons to get my certifications done wherever I end up playing football," he said. "I think it's become a passion for me and a real fascination. It's almost like an obsession."

Through firefighting, USC's football captain believes that he can still be a member of a team, even when his football career comes to a close.

"I would love to be the captain of a firehouse," said Smith. "In a firehouse, you still get that camaraderie and that brotherhood. You still get that adrenaline like in football. I feel like I could never just sit at a desk in a suit because I would miss so much of what football has brought me."

"Firefighting makes sense as a next chapter for me. I think it's where I'm supposed to be: saving people's lives and helping out the community. It's something that excites me."

Smith has many aspirations and dreams, but there is one goal that he has been in pursuit of for years: becoming a professional football player.

"I grew up a 49ers fan," he said. "My friends from home and I talk about how it's fun to hope that someday I might play for them or against them. We talk about how cool it would be."

Smith has always believed this dream was possible, but he has never become complacent.

"You have to believe you're good enough or I don't think you're going to make it," said Smith. "You have to be confident in yourself. However, I think it's important to be humble. There's always someone that is going to be better than you. That drives me."

"I hate the feeling of someone being better than me. I feel like I always have to push myself and make every play because there's someone out there who's trying to do the same thing. I always want to be striving to get better, and I think that's what eventually will push me to where I want to be."

Smith led USC with 83 tackles as a sophomore and is well on his way to doing it again as a junior with a team-best 72 stops as a junior. As a veteran and team captain, Smith leads the younger group of Trojans by being a great role model.

"I try to do the right things so they see me do it and want to do it too," he said. "I always want the young guys to be the best they can possibly be, and I'll do anything I can to help them get there. Currently, I think I have a really good grasp of the defense. If someone has a question for me, I can help."

"Last year, I had Mike Hutchings there for me. I saw him talk to other guys and help them with the defense. I've taken pieces from leaders that I've seen and tried to emulate them. I want to be a leader to the younger guys just as people like Mike were leaders for me."

He reminds his young teammates to embrace the moment, because their college football experience goes by quicker than expected.

"I remember (former USC linebacker) Quinton Powell saying, 'Don't blink. It's going to go by really fast.' I thought, 'There's no way. This is going to be so slow.' Now I'm the guy telling freshman Jack Sears, 'Dude, don't blink. It's going to go by really fast.'"

Through playing the sport he loves, Smith will be checking off another dream from his bucket list this spring: graduating from the University of Southern California with a degree in communication.

"Graduating in three years was important to me and something I wanted to achieve," he said. "I wouldn't have been able to do this without football. Just being able to say you graduated from USC is above anything else. It opens so many doors."

It appears Smith will have plenty of doors to choose from. Whether he's playing football on Sundays, or saving someone from a burning building, or savoring a reserve wine from his vineyard, there is no doubt that Smith's life will continue to remain interesting.

## USC's Uchenna Nwosu turns life and career around under Helton

By: Ryan Kartje, Orange County Register, November 9, 2017

Uchenna Nwosu stared wistfully out the window of an Amtrak train bound for Los Angeles, as the landscape blurred helplessly past. He'd never felt so alone. It was December 2014, and the 17-year-old USC linebacker couldn't help but wonder if he'd squandered his football career before it even started.

Hours earlier, Nwosu was with his teammates in San Diego, preparing for the Holiday Bowl. It had been a disheartening first season, and he questioned whether things would get better. Backing up Su'a Cravens, Nwosu barely played as a freshman. When he did see the field, his temper often got the best of him.

And in San Diego, those frustrations finally reached a boiling point. An argument with a teammate escalated into a physical confrontation. Coaches got wind of the incident and sent him home.

Nwosu, by his own description, had always been a hot-head. In school, he misbehaved, routinely landing himself in detention. His parents once took him to a doctor, worried he might need medication to tamp down his energy.

"I was on a path of destruction," he remembers.

But no punishment scared him quite like that painful train ride home from San Diego. As USC outdueled Nebraska in a thrilling Holiday Bowl days later, he couldn't bear to watch. The next semester, as his future hung in the balance, he didn't enroll in classes.

Three years later, as Nwosu has emerged as a pass-swatting, edge-rushing, nightmare-inducing force on USC's defense, the linebacker looks back on that freshman mistake with a different perspective. That train ride, he describes, was "a turning point". Not just in his football career. But in his life.

"It made me grow up," Nwosu says.

Ask anyone — parents, coaches, teammates — and they'll agree: This Nwosu is entirely different from the fiery freshman with the hairpin trigger.

He is unflinchingly respectful. He has an interest in politics, something he never would've bothered with as a reckless 17-year-old.

On the football field, he has developed into one of the Pac-12's most complete linebackers, racking up four sacks in his past two games and swatting passes at a clip comparable to the collegiate production of Khalil Mack, Myles Jack and Ryan Shazier — all now top-flight NFL linebackers.

"Uchenna has changed mentally, physically, everything," senior safety Chris Hawkins says.

"He really came alive," his father, Henry Nwosu, adds.

From his father's perspective, it was Clay Helton who inspired such a seismic shift. Shortly after Helton took over as coach, in the fall of 2015, he took Nwosu aside. He saw a player who, as he remembers, needed "some tender loving care and brutal honesty."

"He just said that I was a great player," Nwosu recalls. "He knew I was emotional. He told me if I could learn how to control my emotions, I could go a long way."

The simple gesture meant everything to Nwosu. He finally felt embraced. In Helton, the temperamental linebacker found an ideal example to follow. USC's new coach, he noticed, never let his emotions get the best of him.

To Henry, the change in his son after Helton's hiring seemed almost instantaneous.

"It was like day and night," he said. "All of a sudden, it was a different son."

His evolution on the field, from lightly recruited safety at Narbonne High, to likely All-Pac-12 linebacker, has also been evident. As USC rocketed to the Rose Bowl during his junior season, Nwosu went from special teams contributor to key defensive cog as a junior, racking up 7.5 tackles for loss and three sacks, usually to little fanfare.

This season, as USC sits at 11th in the most recent College Football Playoff rankings, Nwosu has truly come into his own, on and off the field. His last two games, especially, have draft prognosticators buzzing. Some wonder if his NFL stock could soar all the way into the first round.

Recently, when the topic came up at home, Nwosu told his father confidently that he would be a first-round pick. When asked about his NFL future by a reporter, though, Nwosu plays coy. He admits he's considered it. He won't go any further than that.



Perhaps his response is a sign of how far he's come under Helton's tutelage. Henry certainly thinks so. On a recent trip to Berkeley, Henry felt compelled to approach Helton and thank him personally for all that he's done for his son.

"I was really, really touched how [Helton] rallied around the boy," Henry says. "He helped him become a man."

In the process, Helton, too, followed through on a promise he made.

"When he was a young man, I told him," Helton recalls, "that, one day, he was going to be a captain of this football team."

Nwosu couldn't see then the path that would lead him to this point in the final weeks of his final season at USC, where he's now captain of a team likely bound for the Pac-12 championship. The journey, he admits, hasn't always been smooth.

But three years after that long, lonely train ride, with his life now on track for much more than he once envisioned, Uchenna Nwosu looks back on that dark time fondly. Without being sent home that day, he's not sure where he would be.

"It made me grow up and become who I am today," Nwosu says.

"And now, everything is going in the right direction."

## In Good Hands

By: Katie Ryan, USC Football Game Program, September 9, 2017

You may not recognize him as he walks past you on campus. You may not notice him as he stands in front of you in line at Little Galen to get lunch. You may even sit next to him in a class at the Annenberg School and not realize who he is. But when you look at his backpack and see the "#80" football tag, you'd realize that you were in the presence of a Rose Bowl legend.

Last January, junior wide receiver Deontay Burnett tied Michigan's Braylon Edwards' 2005 record for the most touchdown receptions in a Rose Bowl game with three unforgettable catches against Penn State, including the extraordinary final touchdown catch from quarterback Sam Darnold.

Although Burnett, a communications major, has left his mark in the Trojan football history books, life hasn't changed dramatically for him since that game.

"Life didn't change for me at all," Burnett said. "Everything is still the same. I don't get recognized on campus. And that's fine."

Burnett would never be described as flashy or boisterous, typical adjectives that depict recent Trojan wideouts like JuJu Smith-Schuster and Marqise Lee. While some players have an outgoing personality, Burnett's quiet humility is something that makes him stand out.

"He's a silent assassin," said offensive coordinator Tee Martin. "He's quiet. He sits in meetings and doesn't ask a lot of questions, but he always has an intense, focused look on his face at all times. Then when he goes out and plays, you look at his body and you don't expect him to play as big as he plays."

The fact that Burnett, all 6-feet, 170 pounds of him, starred in a game that is described as one of the most iconic college football games of all time fits well into his storybook tale.

USC is a special university that is respected and admired throughout the world. You feel it when you walk on campus. You see it when the Trojan football players march to practice through Goux's Gate. The energy on Howard Jones practice field is palpable. That was where Burnett first fell in love with the Trojans.

"When I was young, I came to a USC practice and I got to meet Joe McKnight," said Burnett of the late Trojan tailback who led Troy in rushing in 2009 before going onto the NFL. "I really looked up to him, and having the chance to meet him meant everything to me. He actually gave me some gloves, and I still have them."

From then on, USC was his dream school. Burnett knew that his hard work and strong faith would make anything possible.

"I believe in Christ. He gives me confidence each and every day," he said. "I trust Him and know that everything is going to work out because He planned everything before I was even born."

That plan continued to reveal itself to Burnett as he continued on with his football journey. At Serra High School in Gardena, Calif., a hotbed for collegiate and NFL talent, he began his prep career as a quarterback behind current Trojan receiver, Jalen Greene, himself a former QB. Once his junior year arrived, he realized he would get more playing time as a pass catcher.

"I really settled in at receiver that year, and then during my senior season I got a chance to catch a lot of balls and show the world what I could do," he said. "I received some offers, and I eventually committed to Washington State."

Even though he was preparing to become a Cougar, the future had some surprises in store for Burnett. Martin, then USC's wide receivers coach, went to Serra one day to watch recruit Adoree' Jackson.

"I asked Adoree' which receiver in the city gave him the most issues," said Martin. "I expected him to name a player that he played against from another school. He said, 'Honestly Coach, Deontay.'"

"I responded, 'Deontay Burnett?'"

"So the next time I went out to practice, I really started focusing on Deontay. I could see why he gave Adoree' trouble as a defensive back. He was so smooth in transition, he catches everything and his speed is deceptive."

Said Burnett: "Adoree' and I had a contest to see who could get the most one-handed catches. I believe that Coach Tee saw that and he was surprised at what he saw. I guess that's where it all began. That day, right there."

When asked who won the one-handed catching contest, Burnett laughs bashfully and admits, "Uhhhh, I did. I caught 20 straight."

"I always record things when I go recruit," said Martin. "I brought that tape back to the staff and everyone was like, 'Wow, this guy has great hands.' And it's still true today. He has some of the best hands around."

National Signing Day had arrived, and with no offer from the Trojans, Burnett was still set on faxing his national letter of intent to Washington State. The phone rang and Tee Martin's name showed on the caller ID. USC was formally offering him the opportunity to be a member of the Trojan football team.

"It was crazy," Burnett said with a laugh. "I already had my mind made up. I thought recruiting was over with. To get that call from Coach Tee and the USC coaching staff changed my perspective of where I wanted to go immediately. I talked to my parents about it, and we all came up with the decision that it was best to go to USC."

That decision has resulted in 73 receptions for 925 yards and seven touchdowns in his career, including a breakout Rose Bowl game with 13 receptions for 164 yards and three touchdowns.

His epic performance resulted in Burnett being named to the 2016 AP All-Bowl Team first team, ESPN All-Bowl Team first team and the ESPN Pac-12 All-Bowl Team first team. The current headlines describe Burnett as the Trojan receiver to watch this season and a necessary weapon for quarterback Sam Darnold.

It's remarkable how this young man went from idolizing Trojan football players to becoming the player that current young athletes look up to.

"As a kid I always looked up to college players and the professional players," he said. "Now that I'm here at USC, when I see a child at practice or on campus, it warms my heart because I know that they look up to us and if we give back to them, it just makes their day. It makes my day as well because I remember I was in their same position."

Burnett's quiet personality suits him. He's not the type to get hyped up and jump around to energize the team. He prefers to keep to himself and even listens to a unique genre of music to mentally prepare for a game.

"I am a mellow guy," he said. "I'm not into getting rowdy. I'm quiet and keep to myself. Before games I'll listen to something mellow. Then I listen to gospel, and then I listen to the latest trend of music."

During a team photo shoot this summer, each player had the opportunity to request their favorite song to play while they were photographed. Most of the requests were Top 40-type hits. When it was Burnett's turn, he quietly asked to have the gospel song "The Presence of the Lord" play while he took pictures.

"I listen to that song a lot. It gives me energy and it gets me going. Just to feel the presence of God is special."

Burnett is the prime example of Coach Helton's mantra "Faith, Family, Football". In addition to being a man of faith, he is a young man who loves his family immensely.

"My family is a big support system for me," Burnett said, his face lighting up as he talks about them. "They come to every game and it's great knowing that my family is here supporting me. I also go home every Thursday before the games. My mom loves to cook so I get to go home and eat the home cooked meal before the game. It's good to get home and relax before I get locked in."

When Burnett is not in season, he spends weekends with his family bowling or roller-skating.

"I do that every weekend in the off season," he said. "It's fun and it's something we've been doing since I was about seven years old."

Faith, family and it all comes back to football. Keep an eye out for Burnett in the end zone this season. While the Coliseum may explode into a roar of cheers for him, Burnett will keep his head down, quietly return to the sideline and silently reflect upon his dream that turned into a reality. And that dream is still alive.

"Always believe in what God has planned for you," he said. "As long as we have faith and keep striving to be the best, I feel that anything is possible for us. We have huge goals as a team of where we want to be, and we want to keep playing until January."

Maybe then Deontay will finally be recognized on campus.

## How USC's Nico Falah turned risk into reward

By: Mark Whicker, Daily News, August 15, 2017

They were on a three-game losing streak when Nico Falah's Signing Day came around.

They had just been shredded by Georgia Tech in the Sun Bowl, and by the media covering it. They had lost their five-game winning streak over UCLA, which had the new coach and the style and the promise.

Falah's dad had gone to UCLA. Now Oregon, coolest of the cool and the Pac-12's resident bigfoot, was calling.

USC was selling memories and faith. Those usually go through one earphone and out the other.

The big day came and the fax machine beckoned and the St. John Bosco standout did what he'd promised. He signed with USC.

"I like being home, like being able to go home every Sunday when it's possible," Falah said the other day. "I always wanted to come here, and I liked the football aspect, too."

He signed in 2013. The football aspect wasn't going so well. Almost four years later, Falah and the rest of the Trojans were chasing down Matt Boermeester in the electric darkness of the Rose Bowl.

For the first time since the Pete Carroll era, they had built a monument to themselves, won the highest-scoring game in Rose Bowl history with the best victorious comeback in Rose Bowl history, and beaten Penn State 52-49 on Boermeester's kick.

And now maybe the Trojans can do something that doesn't begin with "For the first time since Pete Carroll..." They can find their own reference point.

"Last year was like the cherry on top," Falah said. "But we have a lot more to do."

Falah is the Trojans' center, except when he's a right tackle. He and Toa Lobendahn have switched places and may do so again. They and guard Viane Talamaivo return as starters, with a Heisman Trophy favorite behind them.

That is not pressure. Playing through daily drama is pressure.

"My whole career in general, I think I've seen it all," Falah said. "I've had five different offensive line coaches."





Lots of players have had three different head coaches. Few have seen two of them fired in midseason. It's 2 a.m. Do you know where your coach is? For ex-athletic director Pat Haden, that was a significant reason to hire Clay Helton.

Since then Helton has coached 22 games without a non-football-related disruption. It's always easier when you hire grown-ups.

Helton brought Neil Callaway, who turns 62 this season and is disinterested in bridging generation gaps with his offensive linemen.

"'Gruff' would be a good word," Falah said, with a smile. "He's old school, tough. He's the reason we've become a physical offensive line again, along with the big dudes we had last year.

"We weren't running a physical offensive system before. Schemes change, but a lineman, he's got his hand in the dirt, he wants to be tough. Until last year we never were clicking as a group."

The group is bigger and more competitive because USC is finally a team in full. But you need greatness to reach a College Football Playoff, and the Trojans lost Adoree' Jackson and JuJu Smith-Schuster. They, too, put their chips on USC during dubious times. What they did can't be taught or replaced.

Falah, who at 6-foot-4 is far taller than anyone else in his family, began with basketball at Bosco.

Joe Griffin, the freshman football coach, saw him one day and said enough of that.

"You could tell he was a great athlete," Griffin said. "He had really good feet. More than that, he's as humble and hard-working a kid as you can have. He and some others were part of the wave that made us the program we are today."

Falah's contribution to USC lore came as a redshirt sophomore in 2015. Lobendahn and Max Tuerk were already hurt. Khaliel Rodgers was playing center out of necessity. Then he went down. The opponent was UCLA, in the Coliseum. Even fourth-string centers get scrutinized.

"Somebody said, 'Run in, you're in,'" Falah said. "I saw Khaliel limping off the field. I was playing center against a guy (Kenny Clark) who would be a first-round draft pick. Looking back, I still don't know how I did that."

Falah held his own and the Trojans beat UCLA, 40-21. It put them in the Pac-12 championship game, which they lost, and then USC lost the Holiday Bowl. If they don't beat UCLA, Helton probably isn't their coach today.

Then Falah filled in for Lobendahn last season. "That's when I finally started to enjoy it," he said.

Time never flies until you start having fun.

