



# UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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**SPORTS INFORMATION OFFICE**  
**TIM TESSALONE, DIRECTOR**

**FOR RELEASE:** July 30, 2003

### 2003 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Aug. 30	at Auburn	5 p.m. (CBS)
Sept. 6	BYU	5 p.m. (ABC)
Sept. 13	Hawaii	1 p.m. (FSN)
Sept. 27	at California	TBA
Oct. 4	at Arizona State	TBA
Oct. 11	Stanford	7 p.m. (FSN)
Oct. 18	at Notre Dame	1:30 p.m. (NBC)
Oct. 25	at Washington	12:30 p.m. (ABC)
Nov. 1	Washington State	4 p.m. (ABC)
Nov. 15	at Arizona	TBA
Nov. 22	UCLA	TBA
Dec. 6	Oregon State	1:30 p.m. (ABC)

### 2002 RESULTS

(11-2 overall, 7-1 for 1<sup>st</sup> place tie in Pac-10)

24	Auburn	17
40	at Colorado	3
20	at Kansas State	27
22	Oregon State	0
27	at Washington State (1OT)	30
30	California	28
41	Washington	21
44	at Oregon	33
49	at Stanford	17
34	Arizona State	13
52	at UCLA	21
44	Notre Dame	13
38	vs. Iowa	17

(Orange Bowl)

### RETURNING STARTERS (14)

#### OFFENSE (6)

WR Keary Colbert	OT Jacob Rogers
OT Winston Justice	C Norm Katnik
	TE Alex Holmes
	OG Lenny Vandermade*/OT Eric Torres*

#### DEFENSE (6)

LB Matt Grootegoed	DE Kenechi Udeze
DT Mike Patterson	DE Omar Nazel
CB-S Marcell Allmond	LB Melvin Simmons

#### SPECIAL TEAMS (2)

P Tom Malone	PK Ryan Killeen
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\*2002 Co-Starters

### OTHERS RETURNING WITH CAREER STARTS

DT Shaun Cody (14)
CB Kevin Arbet (4)
CB Ronald Nunn (3)
CB William Buchanan (3)
WR Mike Williams (2)
S Jason Leach (2)
FB Brandon Hancock (2)
TE Gregg Guenther Jr. (1)
WR D. Hale (1)

## 2003 USC FOOTBALL NOTES

### PRE-SEASON RANKINGS...

Here's a look at where the 2003 Trojans are ranked by various pre-season prognosticators:

	National	Pacific-10
The Sporting News	6 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
Athlon	6 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
CollegeFootballNews.com	7 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
Lindy's	8 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
Phil Steele	10 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
SI.com	13 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Street & Smith's	15 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>

### ...AND PRE-SEASON HONORS

OT **Jacob Rogers** (Athlon, Street & Smith's) and WR **Mike Williams** (Playboy) have been named to several pre-season All-American first teams. LB **Matt Grootegoed**, DE **Kenechi Udeze**, OG **Lenny Vandermade** and DT **Shaun Cody** were pre-season All-American second teamers by various media outlets, while WR **Keary Colbert** and DT **Mike Patterson** made pre-season All-American honorable mention.

### WATCH LISTS

The following Trojans have made the official "Watch Lists" for national 2003 post-season awards:

OT <b>Jacob Rogers</b>	Outland Trophy (top interior lineman)
OT <b>Jacob Rogers</b>	Lombardi Award (top lineman)
LB <b>Matt Grootegoed</b>	Nagurski Trophy (top defensive player)
LB <b>Matt Grootegoed</b>	Lombardi Award (top lineman)
DE <b>Kenechi Udeze</b>	Nagurski Trophy (top defensive player)
TE <b>Alex Holmes</b>	Mackey Award (top tight end)
C <b>Norm Katnik</b>	Rimington Trophy (top center)
PK <b>Ryan Killeen</b>	Groza Award (top placekicker)

### SCHEDULE

In terms of difficulty, it might be hard to match USC's 2002 schedule, which was ranked by the NCAA, USA Today/Sagarin and BCS as the nation's toughest—it featured 11 bowl-bound team, including 9 ranked by AP (and only 1 with a losing record) at the time of the game. But Troy's 2003 slate might not be far behind. USC—which has 3 byes in 2003—will face 8 teams that played in bowls last season, including 3 ranked in the final AP Top 20. The Trojans open on Aug. 30 at SEC power Auburn, picked by some prognosticators as a national title contender in 2003. Then, after hosting BYU and Hawaii, USC ventures into the always-difficult Pac-10 campaign, with 4 of its next 5 games on the road (including its annual tilt with non-conference rival Notre Dame). The Trojans play at California, Arizona State, Washington and Arizona, and host Stanford, Washington State and crosstown foe UCLA. The Pac-10 finale is a home contest against Oregon State on "Championship Saturday" (Dec. 6, the latest USC regular season game since 1980).

### USC PRE-SEASON PRACTICE SCHEDULE/PLAYER AND COACH INTERVIEW AVAILABILITY

- The Trojans will conduct all 3 weeks of their 2003 pre-season practices on the USC campus. Drills begin Aug. 6 and lead up to Troy's Aug. 30 opener at Auburn. Although there will be no official "Media Day" as in past years, player and coach interviews are available following any of the practices (see practice schedule on page 3). Contact the USC Sports Information Office for more information.

## QUOTING PETE CARROLL

### THE 2003 TROJANS

"It's a long, hard road to play at a top-notch level year in and year out. It feels like we're just getting started. We're building a championship program here and 2002 was just the start. Our goal every year is to win the Pac-10 title and win the Rose Bowl. We have to keep last season in perspective. We have to remember it's just one season. And it was the first very successful season at USC in a while. So, it's too early yet to say USC has arrived.

"With new leadership and new players this year, we need to rediscover our attitude about how to compete. I want this 2003 team to play the best it can play. And that goes back to how hard we work and how we focus and how we compete. We have to find that high level again, and it's not automatic. I won't allow our team to think that we already have it. We have to earn it again. It's real important to put the parts back together with the players we have coming back.

"We want to control the ball on offense and go get it on defense. That has become my fundamental approach to the game. It was the first thing I ever said to our players and we'll continue to try to build on that approach."

### **1969 DÉJÀ VU?**

There are some interesting similarities between the 1969 USC team (which went 10-0-1 and beat Michigan in the Rose Bowl) and the 2003 Trojans. Entering 1969, Troy lost a Heisman Trophy winner who was the first pick in the NFL draft (O.J. Simpson), had a new quarterback with no experience (Jimmy Jones), debuted a new tailback (Clarence Davis), featured a top incoming recruiting class (the 1972 seniors, who ended up helping USC to the national title), had a great defensive line (Wild Bunch I), had an offensive line featuring a returning all-conference tackle who was an All-American candidate and wore No. 77 (Sid Smith), faced a tough non-conference foe in its opener (Nebraska)...and the year prior saw Ohio State win the national title. The 2003 Trojans enter this season having lost a Heisman winner who was the NFL's first draft pick (Carson Palmer), will feature a new quarterback with no experience (Matt Leinart and company), debut a new tailback (Herschel Dennis et al), feature a top incoming recruiting class (ranked No. 1 by some), have a great defensive line (Wild Bunch II), have an offensive line featuring a returning All-Pac-10 tackle who is an All-American candidate and wears No. 77 (Jacob Rogers), meets a challenging non-conference opponent in its opener (Auburn)...and saw Ohio State win last year's national title.

### **RETURNING TROJANS**

USC will call upon starters returning at 14 positions (6 on offense, 6 on defense and both kickers). In all, 77 squadmen return, including 56 who saw playing time in 2003 (49 were lettermen and 26 were on the season-ending 2-deep). Some 22 Trojans have started at least once in their career. Joining them will be 27 new players who comprise what some publications have ranked as the nation's premier recruiting class of 2003. Three high school All-Americans enrolled at USC in the spring of 2003 and participated in spring drills, while the other 24 newcomers (including 17 who were prep and junior college All-Americans in 2002) will begin in the fall.

### **WIN STREAKS**

USC is riding an 8-game winning streak, its longest since capturing 10 in a row in 1988. The Trojans also have captured their last 9 home games (with 2 shutouts in their past 7 home outings). That's USC's longest Coliseum win streak since getting 10 in a row during the 1987 and 1988 seasons. The Trojans went undefeated at home in 2002 (6-0) for the first time since 1987.

### **NEARING 700 WINS**

USC is 5 victories shy of becoming the 10<sup>th</sup> Division I team to collect 700 victories. USC's all-time record is 695-296-54 (70.9%).

### **25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF LAST NATIONAL TITLE**

The 2003 season marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of USC's last national football championship. The 1978 Trojans, coached by John Robinson and led by such players as TB Charles White, QB Paul McDonald, OT Pat Howell, OG Brad Budde, OT Anthony Munoz, S Ronnie Lott, S Dennis Smith and LB Riki Gray, went 12-1 and beat Michigan in the Rose Bowl. Troy took the top spot in the UPI (coaches) poll, but finished second in the AP (writers) poll to Alabama despite beating the Crimson Tide earlier in the season. It was USC's eighth national championship.

### **LAST YEAR**

Head coach **Pete Carroll** directed the 2002 Trojans to an 11-2 record, a No. 4 final ranking, a share of the Pac-10 championship (going 7-1), decisive wins over traditional rivals UCLA and Notre Dame and an impressive victory in the BCS' Orange Bowl...all while playing what was ranked as the nation's toughest schedule. Indeed, 2002 was a season of superlatives for Troy, which accomplished all this despite having several key starters miss significant parts of the season because of injuries. It was USC's most wins since 1979, its highest final ranking since 1979 and its most points (465) and touchdowns (60) since 1972. It was the first time since 1981 that USC beat the Bruins and Irish in the same season (and the first time in back-to-back games since 1978). The Trojans finished in the nation's Top 20 in nearly every team statistical category, and led the Pac-10 in total offense and defense and in scoring offense and defense. USC produced 2 All-American first teamers, including its first Heisman Trophy winner since 1981, and a pair of Freshman All-American first teamers. USC enters 2003 riding an 8-game winning streak (and a 9-game home winning streak).

### **GONE FROM 2002**

It will be difficult in 2003 to offset the loss of such offensive stars as Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Carson Palmer, the Pac-10's career passing and total offense leader who set 33 Pac-10 and USC records, tailbacks Justin Fargas (who ran for 715 yards while starting 5 times in 2002), Sultan McCullough (USC's No. 8 career rusher with 2,800 yards, including a team-high 814 in 2002 while starting 5 games) and Malaefou MacKenzie (who ran for 939 yards and caught 76 passes in his career, and who started the last 7 games of 2002 at fullback), wide receiver Kareem Kelly (USC's career reception leader with 204 and the NCAA recordholder for consecutive games with a catch at 47), and 4-year starting offensive guard Zach Wilson. USC also lost some key starters on defense: 2-time All-American strong safety Troy Polamalu, the 2002 Thorpe Award finalist who was a 3-year starter with 278 tackles, 6 interceptions (3 for TDs) and 4 blocked kicks in his career, 2-year starting middle linebacker Mike Pollard (49 tackles in 2002), free safety DeShaun Hill (54 tackles and a team-best 8 deflections in 2002), cornerback Darrell Rideaux (46 tackles, 7 deflections, 2 interceptions in 2002) and tackle Bernard Riley, who had 19 career starts, including the last 7 games of 2002.

### **TRAGEDY**

Incoming scholarship freshman linebacker **Drean Rucker**, a 2002 prep All-American from Canyon Springs High in Moreno Valley (Calif.), drowned in the ocean off of Huntington Beach (Calif.) on July 21, just 2 weeks before he was to report to USC for fall practice. He was 18. His body was found on July 26. "This is an extraordinary tragedy for Drean's family and for the Trojan Family," said USC head coach **Pete Carroll**. "Drean was a wonderful young man with a great spirit. He would light up a room with his smile. He was a highly-competitive and talented football player who was going to make an impact at USC on and off the field. It's just a terrible loss. The hearts and prayers of the Trojan Family go out to his family."

## QUOTING PETE CARROLL

### THE OFFENSE

**“It was fun to watch last year’s offense. We were balanced and could put up points often and from anywhere. But we won’t have the luxury anymore of being able to rely on such great players as Carson Palmer, Justin Fargas, Malaefou MacKenzie, Sultan McCullough, Kareem Kelly and Zach Wilson. So we’ll have to adapt.**

**“Offensively, we should be very strong up front and at wide receiver this season. But we have some holes to fill in the backfield and we’ll have to call upon some younger, relatively-untested players. I expect great competition for these spots.”**

### THE DEFENSE

**“Last year’s defense played almost exactly how I hoped it would. We dominated at times and were opportunistic. Although we lost some talented players who will be difficult to replace—guys like Troy Polamalu, Mike Pollard, Darrell Rideaux, DeShaun Hill and Bernard Riley—many of the ingredients from that unit are back in 2003.**

**“We should be very, very good up front on defense and on the edges this year. But we must come up with a middle linebacker and the secondary needs to solidify. We’ll have a lot of players competing hard to get into the rotation.”**

### THE SPECIAL TEAMS

**“We need our special teams to be a factor in every phase. We’re not there yet, especially in the return game. We’ll open up the competition to find the best performers we can in those areas. We’ll work hard to excel in this very important part of the program.**

**“But in Tom Malone, I believe we have one of the country’s top young punters. He is poised, has a strong leg and gets good hang time. And Ryan Killeen stepped in early last year and answered nearly every challenge.”**

### USC PRE-SEASON PRACTICE SCHEDULE

**Aug. 6-7-8-9**—veterans practice at 8:45 a.m., freshmen at 3 p.m.

**Aug. 10**—full team practice at 2:45 p.m. (first day in full pads)

**Aug. 11-13-15-19-23**—full team two-a-day practices at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

**Aug. 12-14-16-18-20-21**—full team once-a-day practices at 3 p.m.

**Aug. 17**—full team two-a-day practices at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**Aug. 22-25**—no practice

**Aug. 24-26-27-28**—full team once-a-day week-of-game practice (time TBA on Aug. 24, at 4 p.m. on Aug. 26-27, and morning TBA on Aug. 28 before flying to Auburn that day)

Note: Schedule subject to change. Practices generally run 2 to 2 1/2 hours.

## PETE CARROLL

**Pete Carroll** brought big doses of experience, enthusiasm and leadership in his quest to revive the USC football program when he was named the Trojans’ head football coach on Dec. 15, 2000 (he signed a 5-year contract). In 2002, just his second season at USC, his Trojans thrived despite playing what was ranked by the NCAA, Sagarin and the BCS as the nation’s most difficult schedule (facing 9 AP-ranked teams and 11 bowl squads). USC—which beat Iowa in the Orange Bowl—posted an 11-2 overall record and a No. 4 ranking in the final polls, and won the Pac-10 championship while going 7-1. The Trojans also won their last 9 home games. It was USC’s first 11-win season since 1979 and its highest ranking since 1988. Troy won its final 8 games (scoring at least 30 points in each), including blowouts of traditional rivals UCLA and Notre Dame (the first time USC beat both in the same season since 1981 and the first time in back-to-back games since 1978). USC led the Pac-10 in total offense (449.3) and total defense (284.9), as well as scoring offense (35.8) and scoring defense (18.5), and was in the NCAA’s Top 25 in nearly every team statistical category on both sides of the ball. Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Carson Palmer and safety Troy Polamalu were first team All-Americans. Carroll was 1 of 8 finalists for the 2002 Paul “Bear” Bryant Coach of the Year Award and was 1 of 4 runners-up for the 2002 American Football Monthly Schutt Sports Division I-A Coach of the Year Award. After USC started off his opening 2001 season slowly at 1-4, Carroll stayed the course and got his troops to rally by winning 5 of their last 7 games (including the final 4 regular season contests) to finish at 6-6 overall. USC, which won its last 5 Pac-10 games after beginning league play at 0-3, placed fifth in the conference at 5-3 and earned a berth into the Sega Sports Las Vegas Bowl. Putting an exclamation point on the regular season was a 27-0 blanking of No. 20 UCLA, USC’s first shutout in the crosstown rivalry since 1947 and the series’ biggest margin of victory since 1979. The 51-year-old Carroll has 28 years of NFL and college experience, including 12 on the college level. He is 17-8 as a college head coach (all at USC); his losses were by a total of 39 points (4.9 average) and only 1 was by more than a touchdown (it was by 11 points). After starting off his Trojan career 2-5, he has gone 15-3. He is 7-0 in November. He was the head coach of the NFL’s New England Patriots for 3 seasons (1997-99) and New York Jets for 1 year (1994). He guided the Patriots into the playoffs in his first 2 seasons, winning the AFC Eastern Division title at 10-6 in 1997 and advancing to the second round of the playoffs, then posting a 9-7 regular season mark in 1998. His overall record in New England was 27-21 in the regular season (including 8-8 in 1999) and 1-2 in the playoffs. He owns the franchise’s second-best winning percentage (54.9%). After serving as the Jets’ defensive coordinator for 4 seasons (1990-93), he became the team’s head coach the following season. His 1994 Jets went 6-10. Only 3 other Jets head coaches won more games in their rookie campaign. He spent the next 2 years (1995-96) as the defensive coordinator with the San Francisco 49ers, who won the NFC Western Division title both seasons. The 49ers were 11-5 in the 1995 regular season when they had the NFL’s top-ranked defense and then went 12-4 in 1996. Carroll began his coaching career at the college level, serving as a graduate assistant at his alma mater, Pacific, for 3 years (1974-76), working with the wide receivers and secondary. He then spent a season as a graduate assistant working with the secondary at Arkansas (1977) under Lou Holtz as the Razorbacks won the 1978 Orange Bowl, and then a season each as an assistant in charge of the secondary at Iowa State (1978) under Earle Bruce (the Cyclones played in the 1978 Hall of Fame Bowl) and at Ohio State (1979) under Bruce. That Buckeye squad lost to USC in the 1980 Rose Bowl. He next spent 3 seasons (1980-82) as the defensive coordinator and secondary coach at North Carolina State, then returned to Pacific in 1983 as the assistant head coach and offensive coordinator. He entered the NFL in 1984 as the defensive backs coach of the Buffalo Bills, then held a similar position with the Minnesota Vikings for 5 seasons (1985-89). The Vikings advanced to the playoffs his last 3 years there, getting to the NFC Championship game in 1987. The 1988 team was 11-5 in the regular season and the 1989 squad won the NFC Central Division crown with a 10-6 mark. His secondary averaged 25 interceptions a season and led the NFL in passing defense in 1989. Carroll spent the 2000 season as a consultant for pro and college teams, doing charitable work for the NFL and writing a column about pro football for CNN.com. Carroll was a 2-time (1971-72) All-Pacific Coast Conference free safety at Pacific and earned his bachelor’s degree in 1973 in business administration. He received his secondary teaching credential and a master’s degree in physical education from Pacific in 1976. He was a 3-sport (football, basketball and baseball) standout at Redwood High in Larkspur, Calif., earning the school’s Athlete of the Year award as a senior. He played quarterback, wide receiver and defensive back. He then played football at Marin Junior College in Kentfield, Calif., in 1970. He was born on Sept. 15, 1951 in San Francisco. He and his wife, Glenna, who played volleyball at Pacific, have 3 children: sons Brennan, 22, who played tight end at Pittsburgh (he previously played at Delaware) and is now an assistant at USC, and Nathan, 14, and daughter Jaime, 19, a junior at USC who played on the Women of Troy’s highly-ranked volleyball team which competed in the 2000 NCAA Final Four. His late father-in-law, Dean Goranson, received his master’s degree from USC.

## OFFENSIVE OVERVIEW

Starters return at 6 positions on offense in 2003: wide receiver (**Keary Colbert**), tight end (**Alex Holmes**), both tackles (**Jacob Rogers** and **Winston Justice**), guard (co-starters **Lenny Vandermade** and **Eric Torres**, with Torres having started at every line position but center in 2003) and center (**Norm Katnik**). USC's top 2 receivers and its third-leading rusher are back. The offense, directed by coordinator **Norm Chow**, will attempt to replicate the success of last season's unit, which finished sixth nationally in passing efficiency (149.2, first in Pac-10), eighth in passing offense (306.8, second in Pac-10), eighth in total offense (449.2, first in Pac-10) and ninth in scoring offense (35.8, first in Pac-10). The Trojans scored 30 points in their last 8 games (a USC first) and tallied 40 points 6 times last fall (the most since 1972). USC had 400-plus yards of total offense in each of its last 9 games. And Troy held the ball more than 8 minutes longer per game than its opponents.

## QUARTERBACKS

USC's No. 1 concern in 2003 will be finding a replacement for quarterback Carson Palmer, the 2002 Heisman Trophy winner whose Pac-10 record 11,818 career passing yards and 11,621 yards of total offense were among the 33 Pac-10 and USC marks he set. The All-American first teamer completed 63.2% of his passes (309-of-489) in 2002 for 3,942 yards, 33 TDs and just 10 interceptions. Four players got a shot at the job in 2003 spring practice: juniors **Matt Cassel** (3-of-4, 75.0%, 27 yds in 2002), Palmer's backup the past 2 seasons who has thrown just 6 passes in his career, and **Brandon Hance**, who sat out last season after transferring from Purdue (he started 9 games there in 2001) and saw limited reps in practice after having surgery on his throwing shoulder, and sophomores **Matt Leinart** and **Billy Hart**, neither of whom has thrown a pass at USC while seeing brief action (Hart also plays on the Trojan baseball team). The competition remained nearly even throughout the spring, with the left-handed Leinart emerging with an ever-so-slight edge...but the battle will continue in the fall. And don't count out heralded freshman **John David Booty** (Evangel Christian Academy in Shreveport, La.), believed to be the first football player to graduate a full year early from high school and enroll at a major Division I-A university.

## TAILBACKS

Last year, USC relied on 3 effective senior tailbacks to carry the load: Justin Fargas (who started 5 late-season games and rushed for 715 yards and 7 TDs), Sultan McCullough (a 5-game starter who led the Trojans with 814 yards and 8 TDs, and finished eighth on the school's career rushing list with 2,800 yards) and Malaefou MacKenzie (a 3-game starter at tailback and 7-game starter at fullback who ran for 939 yards and caught 76 passes in his career). In 2003, the only experienced tailback is promising sophomore **Hershel Dennis** (49 tcb, 198 yds, 4.0 avg, 1 TD in 2002, plus 4 rec, 23 yds, 5.8 avg and 9 KOR, 151 yds, 16.8 avg). He was USC's No. 3-leading rusher and its top kickoff returner. Walk-on sophomore **Andre Woodert**, a converted safety, is also available. Joining them this fall as freshmen are a terrific trio of prep All-Americans: **Reggie Bush** (Helix High in La Mesa, Calif.), **Chauncey Washington** (South Torrance High in Torrance, Calif.) and **LenDale White** (Chatfield High in Littleton, Colo.).

## FULLBACKS

With Malaefou MacKenzie gone, a new fullback must emerge. Sophomore **Brandon Hancock** (3 tcb, 8 yds, 2.7 avg in 2002, plus 2 rec, 15 yds, 7.5 avg and 4 tac, 1 FR), who started twice last fall, is the leading candidate. Other possibilities are junior **Lee Webb** (3 tac in 2002), who also has played linebacker at USC, and sophomore **David Kirtman** (2 tac, 1 FF in 2002). Walk-on redshirt freshmen **Mike Brittingham**, a converted safety, and **Morgan Craig**, a one-time quarterback, also are in the mix.

## COLBERT AND WILLIAMS

Even though USC career reception leader Kareem Kelly—he had 204 catches, including 46 last fall, and set an NCAA record by catching a pass in 47 consecutive games—is gone, the Trojans are in good shape in the wide receivers corps as a pair of 1,000-yard receivers (a first at Troy) are back. Both are playmakers who could win 2003 post-season honors and they form the top receiving duo in the country. Underrated, yet consistent, senior **Keary Colbert** (71 rec, 1,029 yds, 14.5 avg, 5 TD in 2002, plus 2 tcb, 36 yds, 18.0 avg, 1 TD) will start for his fourth season. He is sixth on USC's career receptions ladder with 138 grabs and a repeat of last season's 71-catch output will push him past Kelly as the school's all-time leading pass catcher. Even if Colbert breaks Kelly's mark, Keyshawn-esque sophomore **Mike Williams** (81 rec, 1,265 yds, 15.6 avg, 14 TD) is poised to shatter the standard before his career concludes. The 2003 pre-season All-American won Freshman All-American first team status last fall and was the Pac-10 Freshman of the Year when he set NCAA frosh records for receiving yards and receiving touchdowns and the Pac-10 frosh mark for receptions. He was 16<sup>th</sup> nationally in receiving yards (97.3) and 20<sup>th</sup> in receptions (6.2) while starting twice. He caught a TD pass in 7 consecutive games (including 3 against Washington to tie a USC game record) and his 14 TD catches not only were the second most in the nation, but tied the USC season mark. He had 5 100-yard receiving games, including 4 in a row. He caught 13 passes at Oregon, a USC frosh record.

### USC CAREER PASS CATCHING LEADERS (Includes bowl games)

	NO.	YDS	AVG.	TD
1. Kareem Kelly	204	3104	15.2	15
2. Johnnie Morton	201	3201	15.9	23
3. Keyshawn Johnson	168	2796	16.6	16
4. John Jackson	163	2379	14.6	17
5. R. Jay Soward	161	2672	16.6	23
6. Keary Colbert	138	1951	14.1	10
19. Mike Williams	81	1265	13.9	14

## OTHER WIDE RECEIVERS

Dependable backup receivers need to emerge behind Keary Colbert and Mike Williams. But no other wide receiver on the roster caught a ball last year. The cast includes seniors **D. Hale**, a walk-on-turned-scholarship winner who has started once in his career (he caught 7 passes in 2001), and **Sandy Fletcher** (2 tac in 2002), junior **Jason Mitchell** (3 KOR, 35 yds, 11.7 avg in 2002), sophomores **Greig Carlson** (27 PR, 177 yds, 6.6 avg in 2002) and converted cornerback **Justin Wyatt** (10 tac, 1 dfl, 2 FR in 2002, plus 1 PR, 16 yds, 16.0 avg), and sure-handed redshirt freshman **Chris McFoy**. Hale missed the first half of 2002 with a fractured ankle, Fletcher was bothered midseason by an ankle sprain and Mitchell had an early-season back injury that allowed him to redshirt. Carlson, a former walk-on who earned a scholarship this spring, was USC's top punt returner in 2002. Wyatt was the surprise of 2003 spring drills after his switch to offense and also could be a factor returning punts and kicks. Two walk-ons also figure in: junior **Steve Levario Jr.** and redshirt freshman **John Zilka**. To that end, a pair of the nation's most highly sought-after high school pass catchers enroll at USC this fall as freshmen: prep All-Americans **Whitney Lewis** (St. Bonaventure High in Ventura, Calif.) and **Steve Smith** (Taft High in Woodland Hills, Calif.).

## TIGHT ENDS

USC is well-stocked at tight end, with a returning starter and a pair of experienced backups. Senior **Alex Holmes** (29 rec, 320 yds, 11.0 avg, 2 TD in 2002, plus 5 tac, 1 FF), who has caught 58 passes in his career, is back as the starter. His 29 clutches last year were the most by a Trojan tight end since 1993. He is equally adept blocking and receiving. Behind him are junior **Gregg Guenther Jr.** (7 rec, 39 yds, 5.6 avg, 1 TD in 2002), who started once last fall, and sophomore **Dominique Byrd** (1 rec, 10 yds, 10.0 avg in 2002, plus 2 tac). Guenther, USC's tallest player at 6-8, also stars on the Trojan men's basketball squad. Walk-ons **Owen Hanson**, a junior who is also on the Trojan men's volleyball team, and redshirt freshman **Nick Vanderboom**, a converted quarterback, add depth.

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The 2003 version of USC's offensive line might be Troy's best in years. Players return at 4 positions—only 4-year starting right guard Zach Wilson is gone—and there are some big-potential younger players angling for time. Both tackles return and they're good ones: senior **Jacob Rogers**, a 2-year starter who earned All-Pac-10 first team laurels in 2002, and sophomore **Winston Justice**, a 2002 Freshman All-American first teamer. Both are in line for 2003 post-season honors. They make up the nation's best bookend tackles. Senior **Lenny Vandermade**, a 3-year starter, returns at left guard (he also has started at center in his career) and should be recovered from a torn biceps which sidelined him for the last 4 outings of 2002 (he might be limited during spring practice). His fill-in is also back, senior **Eric Torres**, who started 7 times in 2002 at every line spot except center (Torres started all of 2001 at right tackle). He broke his left ankle in the Orange Bowl and missed spring drills. And reliable center **Norm Katnik**, another 2-year starter, returns. He also has started at guard and tackle in his USC tenure. Returning squadmen looking to work into the rotation are senior tackle **Nate Steinbacher**, who worked some at defensive tackle last fall, junior guard **Travis Watkins** and redshirt freshmen **Fred Matua**, a guard who was set to start the 2002 opener before a knee sprain sidelined him (he has the inside track for Wilson's right guard spot in 2003), center **Kurt Katnik** (Norm's younger brother) and guard **Kyle Williams**, plus walk-on redshirt freshman guard **John Lanza**. Coming aboard this fall are tackle **John Drake** (Long Beach City College in Long Beach, Calif.), a junior college transfer who is a junior, plus 4 freshmen: a trio of prep All-Americans in **Sam Baker** (Tustin High in Tustin, Calif.) and **Drew Radovich** (Mission Viejo High in Mission Viejo, Calif.) at guard and **Ryan Kalil** (Servite High in Anaheim, Calif.) at center, as well as tackle **Travis Draper** (Paso Robles High in Paso Robles, Calif.).

## DEFENSIVE OVERVIEW

Six defensive starters return from 2002: linebackers **Matt Grootegoed** and **Melvin Simmons**, ends **Kenechi Udeze** and **Omar Nazel**, tackle **Mike Patterson** and cornerback **Marcell Allmond**. Others back with starting experience are tackle **Shaun Cody**, who started for his second year in 2002 before tearing a knee ligament midseason, as well as three cornerbacks—**Kevin Arbet**, **Ronald Nunn** and **William Buchanon**—and safety **Jason Leach**. The top 2 tacklers, plus the leaders in interceptions, tackles for loss, sacks, fumble recoveries and forced fumbles, return from 2002's dominant defense that was sixth nationally in rushing defense (83.2, first in Pac-10), sixth in total defense (284.9, first in Pac-10), fifth in turnover margin (+1.4, second in Pac-10), 17<sup>th</sup> in scoring defense (18.5, first in Pac-10) and 19<sup>th</sup> in pass efficiency defense (102.5, second in Pac-10). Last year, USC held 9 teams under 100 yards rushing (including 7 times in a row) and no runner eclipsed the 100-yard rushing barrier. The Trojans allowed foes to convert just 27.6% of third downs. USC's +1.33 turnover margin the past 2 regular seasons is the best in the nation during that span (Troy has 71 takeaways while giving the ball away only 37 times the past 2 years).

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Simply put, USC's defensive line is the best in the nation. Nicknamed "The Wild Bunch II" in honor of USC's famous 1969 defensive front, 4 key veterans—each could win 2003 post-season honors—return from a unit that was sixth in the country last fall versus the rush (allowing just 83.2 yards per game) and let only 4 of 13 offenses run for more than 100 yards (no individual ever rushed for 100 yards). More than half of USC's 43 sacks last season were by defensive linemen. Both ends return: senior **Omar Nazel** (38 tac, 10.5 for loss, 6.5 sac, 7 dfl, 1 int, 1 FF in 2002) and junior **Kenechi Udeze** (44 tac, 16 for loss, 7.5 sack, 6 FF, 1 FR, 1 int, 1 dfl, 1 BLK in 2002). Udeze, a 2-year starter, set a USC record with his Pac-10 leading 6 forced fumbles. Also back is junior **Mike Patterson** (37 tac, 11.5 for loss, 5.5 sack, 4 FR, 1 dfl in 2002), who started 10 times at nose tackle and 3 at defensive tackle last fall. His 4 fumble recoveries topped the Pac-10. Look for him at nose tackle in 2002. Although tackle Bernard Riley—he had 19 career starts, including the last 7 games of 2002, when he posted 25 tackles—is gone, a

familiar face will re-assume that defensive tackle spot. Junior **Shaun Cody** (20 tac, 1 for loss, 1 dfl, 1 FR, 1 BLK in 2002), a 2001 Freshman All-American first teamer, started the first 6 games of 2002 before tearing knee ligaments. He missed spring drills, but should be ready to go this fall. Among the returning squadmen pushing for time at end are junior **Van Brown** (4 tac, 1.5 sack in 2002) and sophomore converted linebacker **Frostee Rucker** (he sat out last year after transferring from Colorado State) and, at tackle, soph **LaJuan Ramsey** (1 tac, 1 FR in 2002) and redshirt freshman **Travis Tofi**. Then there's junior walk-ons **Jay Bottom** at end and **Spencer Torgan** (2 tac, 1 sack in 2002) at tackle. Seven new players enroll at USC this fall as freshmen. The ends are prep All-Americans **Chris Barrett** (Tustin High in Tustin, Calif.), **Lawrence Jackson** (Inglewood High in Inglewood, Calif.) and **Alex Morrow** (Rancho Cotate High in Rohnert Park, Calif.), plus **Matt Spanos** (Corona High in Corona, Calif.). The tackles are prep All-American **Sedrick Ellis** (Chino High in Chino, Calif.), plus **Fili Moala** (Western High in Anaheim, Calif.) and **Ryan Watson** (John Curtis High in River Ridge, La.).

## LINEBACKERS

USC is solid at the outside linebacker spots, as junior **Matt Grootegoed** (81 tac, 16.5 for loss, 8 sack, 1 int, 4 dfl, 1 FR, 3 FF in 2002) returns on the strong side and senior **Melvin Simmons** (71 tac, 6.5 for loss, 2.5 sack, 2 int, 5 dfl, 1 FR in 2002) is back on the weak side. Grootegoed, a 2-year starter and 2003 post-season honors candidate who has a knack for always being around the ball, won All-Pac-10 first team honors in 2002 when he led the Trojans in tackles, tackles for a loss and sacks. Simmons was USC's No. 2 tackler last fall. But a new middle linebacker must be found now that Mike Pollard—a 2-year starter who had 49 stops last year—has departed. Among the possibilities are sophomores **Oscar Lua** (13 tac, 1 sack, 1 FR, 1 FF in 2002), who tore knee ligaments prior to the Orange Bowl and missed spring practice, and **Lofa Tatupu**, who sat out last season after transferring from Maine, where he started in 2001 (he is the son of ex-USC and NFL fullback Mosi Tatupu). Other linebackers from last year's roster looking to get in the mix are juniors **Bobby Otani** (10 tac in 2002) and converted defensive end **Daniel Urquhart** and sophomore **Dallas Sartz** (8 tac, 1 for loss, 1 int, 1 dfl in 2002), plus a pair of walk-ons in sophomore **Collin Ashton** (3 tac in 2002) and redshirt freshman **Matt Newhouse**. Prep All-American **Thomas Williams** (Vacaville High in Vacaville, Calif.), along with **Johnathan Turner** (Corona High in Corona, Calif.), join the linebacking corps this fall as freshmen.

## DEFENSIVE BACKS

While the biggest holes to fill on USC's defense are in the secondary, the situation isn't as dire as it might appear. Granted, the Trojans lost 3 quality starters in 2-time All-American strong safety Troy Polamalu (the 2002 Thorpe Award finalist was a 3-year starter who amassed 278 tackles and 6 interceptions in his career), free safety DeShaun Hill (he had 54 stops and a team-best 8 deflections last season) and cornerback Darrell Rideaux (he notched 46 tackles, 7 pass break-ups and 2 picks in 2002). Most critically, the void left from the loss of Polamalu's leadership cannot be discounted. Only senior cornerback **Marcell Allmond** (34 tac, 1 int, 6 dfl in 2002, plus 5 KOR, 99 yds, 19.8 avg) returns as a starter...and the Trojans went 7-0 once he entered the lineup the second half of 2002. The one-time starting wide receiver also is a top-flight hurdler on USC's track squad. There are plenty of experienced options to fill the 3 open spots. In fact, 3 players have starting experience at cornerback: senior **Kevin Arbet**, who missed all of last season with a broken foot, junior **Ronald Nunn** (3 tac in 2002) and sophomore **William Buchanon** (19 tac, 1 for loss, 6 dfl in 2002). Arbet—who appears to have won the starting job for 2003—started 4 times in 2000 and was an All-Pac-10 first teamer as a special teams player in 2001. Nunn started USC's first 3 contests in 2002 before tearing knee ligaments (he missed most of 2003 spring drills) and then Buchanon started the next 3 games (after converting from wide receiver) before giving way to Allmond. And junior **Jason Leach** (30 tac, 1 for loss, 4 int, 3 dfl, 1 FR, 1 FF in 2002) started twice at strong safety last fall for an injured Polamalu, including in the Orange Bowl. He led

Troy in interceptions in 2002. He has moved to free safety and should start there. Other cornerbacks back from last year's group are sophomore **John Walker** (2 tac in 2002, plus 1 PR, 4 yds, 4.0 avg) and a pair of walk-ons: sophomore **Alex Gomez** and redshirt freshman **Kirk Shepherd**. Identical twin freshmen cornerbacks **Brandon Ting** and **Ryan Ting**, who were 2002 prep All-Americans, graduated a semester early from James Logan High in Union City, Calif. and enrolled at USC this past spring. Keep an eye on freshman safety **Darnell Bing**, who originally signed with USC last year after a prep All-American career at Long Beach (Calif.) Poly High but did not qualify for admission then. He enrolled at Troy this past spring and appears to have locked down the strong safety job. Battling for action at safety from last year's squad are sophomore **Mike Ross** (8 tac in 2002, plus 1 TD on a blocked punt recovery), plus 5 walk-ons in seniors **Greg Farr** and top special teams player **Forrest Mozart** (2 tac, 1 BLK in 2002, plus 1 PR, 23 yds, 23.0 avg) and juniors **Chris Bocage**, **Matt Lemos** and **Kyle Matthews** (1 tac in 2002). This fall, joining the fray are junior college transfer **Will Poole** (Ventura Junior College in Ventura, Calif.), a senior safety who started at Boston College in 2000 before earning J.C. All-American laurels last fall, and 3 incoming freshmen who were prep All-Americans: cornerback **Desmond Reed** (Temple City High in Temple City, Calif.), safety **Terrell Thomas** (Rancho Cucamonga High in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.) and cornerback **Eric Wright** (Riordan High in San Francisco, Calif.).

### SPECIAL TEAMS OVERVIEW

All of USC's specialists from 2002 return: the punter (**Tom Malone**), placekicker (**Ryan Killeen**), short snapper (**Joe Boskovich**), long snapper (**Matt Hayward**) and holder (**Tom Malone**), plus the top punt returner (**Greig Carlson**) and kickoff returner (**Hershel Dennis**). But there is still cause for concern in the performance of the special teams, which were an adventure at times in 2002. While Malone and Killeen were effective, USC was last in the Pac-10 in punt returns (7.2) and kickoff returns (17.5), and ninth in kickoff return coverage (24.1). Plus, the Trojans had 8 kicks blocked (3 punts, 3 PATs and 2 field goals), with one returned for a TD and another for a defensive PAT. And Troy gave up a 100-yard scoring kickoff return.

### SPECIALISTS

Sophomore **Tom Malone** (42.1 avg in 2002) has proven to be one of the nation's top young punters. He earned Freshman All-American second team notice last fall. Nearly half of his 62 punts pinned opponents within the 20-yard line and 12 traveled at least 50 yards (including a 72-yarder). He is backed by a pair of walk-ons, senior **Tommy Huff** and sophomore **Zach Sherwood**. Junior **Ryan Killeen** (16-of-23 FG, 47-of-49 PAT in 2002, plus 2 tac), who was only supposed to handle the kickoff duty last year, took over the placekicking job during the third game of 2002 and was impressive. His 16 field goals were 3 shy of the USC season record, he hit his last 30 PATs (and missed just 2 out of 49 all year), he led Troy in scoring (95 points) and 27 of his 89 kickoffs were touchbacks. In an emergency, soph punter **Tom Malone** could kick, as could walk-on redshirt freshman **John-Luke Del Fante**. Both of USC's snappers—seniors **Joe Boskovich** (placekicks) and **Matt Hayward** (punts)—are back. It's the fourth season in that role for Boskovich, a one-time walk-on who earned a scholarship this spring, and the third year for Hayward. Both have been near flawless in their careers. Sophomore punter **Tom Malone** returns as the holder on all placekicks, with soph quarterback **Matt Leinart** and junior quarterback **Matt Cassel** possible backups. USC's top punt returner—sophomore wide receiver **Greig Carlson** (27 PR, 177 yds, 6.6 avg in 2002)—and kickoff returner—soph tailback **Hershel Dennis** (9 KOR, 151 yds, 16.8 avg in 2002)—from last season are back. Other potential returners include senior cornerbacks **Kevin Arbet**, who led USC in punt returns in 2001 (25 PR, 225 yds, 9.0 avg, plus 3 KOR, 53 yds, 17.7 avg), and **Marcell Allmond** (5 KOR, 99 yds, 19.8 avg in 2002), sophomore cornerback **Justin Wyatt** (1 PR, 16 yds, 16.0 avg in 2002), or any of several freshman, including safety **Darnell Bing**, wide receivers **Whitney Lewis** and **Steve Smith**, tailback **Reggie Bush**, and cornerbacks **Desmond Reed** and **Eric Wright**.

### STATS OF NOTE

\*\*\*Defensively in 2002, USC was sixth nationally in rushing defense (83.2, first in Pac-10), sixth in total defense (284.9, first in Pac-10), fifth in turnover margin (+1.4, second in Pac-10), 17<sup>th</sup> in scoring defense (18.5, first in Pac-10) and 19<sup>th</sup> in pass efficiency defense (102.5, second in Pac-10).

\*\*\*On offense in 2002, USC was sixth nationally in passing efficiency (149.2, first in Pac-10), eighth in passing offense (306.8, second in Pac-10), eighth in total offense (449.2, first in Pac-10) and ninth in scoring offense (35.8, first in Pac-10).

\*\*\*USC—in the Top 10 nationally in both total offense and total defense in 2002—finished first in the Pac-10 in both categories for the seventh time in its history (the others were 1962-63-72-76-77-89).

\*\*\*USC also in 2002 finished first in the Pac-10 in both scoring offense and scoring defense for the sixth time in its history (the others were 1962-65-67-72-74).

\*\*\*USC had a balanced attack, with 515 rushing attempts and 494 passing attempts in 2002.

\*\*\*USC had 400-plus yards of total offense in each of its last 9 games in 2002 (and 10 times overall this season), the most consecutive in a season since 9 in a row in 1989.

\*\*\*USC's 33 TD passes were the fourth most in the nation in 2002.

\*\*\*USC allowed opponents to convert just 27.6% of third downs (second in the Pac-10) in 2002.

\*\*\*USC averaged 34:11 time of possession (tops in the Pac-10) in 2002 and won the possession battle in 11 games (all but Kansas State and Stanford).

\*\*\*USC completed 63.4% of its passes in 2002 (tops in the Pac-10).

\*\*\*In the red zone, USC scored 58-of-70 times (82.9%) in 2002.

\*\*\*USC was last in the Pac-10 in punt returns (7.2) and kickoff returns (17.5) in 2002—the Trojans returned 10 less kickoffs than any other team—and ninth in kickoff return coverage (24.1).

\*\*\*In first halves in 2002, USC allowed 54 total yards to Colorado, 118 to Kansas State, 98 to Oregon State and 94 to Notre Dame.

\*\*\*In second halves in 2002, USC allowed 35 total yards to Auburn, 7 to Colorado, 33 to Oregon State, 107 to California, 86 to Stanford, 107 to Arizona State and 15 to Notre Dame.

\*\*\*USC held 9 opponents under 100 yards rushing in 2002, including 7 in a row.

\*\*\*No opposing runner rushed for 100 yards against USC in 2002 (there have been only 3 other seasons—1963-72-82—when the Trojans went an entire season without allowing a runner to hit 100 yards).

\*\*\*USC had at least 20 first downs in all but 2 games (Kansas State and Washington) in 2002, including 31 versus both Oregon and Notre Dame, 30 against Iowa and 28 against both Washington State and California (the Trojans had at least 20 first downs only once in 2001).

\*\*\*USC had 8 kicks blocked (punts, field goals, PATs) in 2002.

\*\*\*USC came out of halftime strong in 2002, with a 115-20 scoring margin in the third quarter.

\*\*\*USC finished its halves well in 2002, outscoring opponents 100-56 in the second quarter and 146-84 in the fourth quarter.

\*\*\*USC also had dominant second halves in 2002, outscoring foes 261-107.

\*\*\*USC scored 40-plus points in 3 consecutive games (Washington, Oregon, Stanford) in 2002. That was the first time Troy did that since the final game of 1994 and the first 2 games of 1995 (it was also the first time it happened in the same season since 1972). On the year, the Trojans had 40-plus games 6 times, the most since getting 7 in 1972.

\*\*\*USC scored at least 30 points in its last 8 games in 2002 (all victories), the first time in USC history that happened. On the year, the Trojans scored 30 points 9 times, the most since getting 10 in 1972. USC's 465 total points and 60 TDs in 2002 were the most since the 1972 club had 467 and 65.

\*\*\*USC had a +17.3 scoring margin in 2002 (35.8 to 18.5) in 2002, but in its last 8 games (all victories) Troy averaged 41.5 points to the opponents' 20.4 (+21.1).

\*\*\*USC had a knack for scoring a string of unanswered points in 2002. The Trojans scored 34 unanswered points versus Notre Dame, 31 and 21 at UCLA, 31 against Iowa, 30 at Oregon, 28 at Stanford, 27 against California and Washington, 22 versus Oregon State and 20 (twice) at Colorado.

\*\*\*In 2002, USC beat UCLA and Notre Dame in the same season for the first time since 1981 (and for the first time in consecutive games since 1978).

\*\*\*USC captured a share of the Pac-10 title in 2002 (the Trojans now have won or split 32 conference championships).

\*\*\*USC's 11-2 record was its first 11-win season and its best overall season since the 1979 squad finished 11-0-1.

\*\*\*USC's No. 4 AP ranking in 2002 was its highest since the 1988 team reached No. 2 late in that season. That also was USC's best final ranking since the 1979 team finished at No. 2. It also was the first season since 1995 that USC was ranked in the AP poll each week (incidentally, Troy was never ranked in 2001).

\*\*\*USC's home attendance average of 66,853 (in 6 games) in 2002 was its highest since 1990.

## TAKEAWAYS

USC has been effective in the takeaway department during head coach **Pete Carroll's** 2 seasons. USC's +1.33 turnover margin over the past 2 regular seasons was the best in the nation and its +69 takeaways during that span was third most (slightly behind Virginia Tech's 71 and Tulane's 70). In 2002, the Trojans had 36 takeaways (19 fumbles and 17 interceptions) and ranked fifth nationally in turnover margin (+1.4). In 2001 (including the bowl), Troy had 35 takeaways (20 picks, 15 fumbles) and ranked fifth in the nation in turnover margin at +1.3. USC's ball security was impressive, too, the past 2 seasons: only 19 turnovers in 2001 and just 18 in 2002.

## ASSISTANT COACHES

USC's assistant coaching staff stayed relatively intact from 2002, with some slight positional changes. **Tim Davis**, who last year handled the offensive guards and centers, now takes over the entire line. **Rocky Seto**, a Trojan graduate assistant last fall, is now a full-time coach in charge of the safeties. **Ed Orgeron**, USC's defensive line coach and recruiting coordinator, this year adds the title of assistant head coach. **Dennis Slutak** is the only newcomer on the staff; the one-time Florida State punter and North Carolina State graduate assistant will be a graduate assistant working with the special teams.

## RANDOM NOTES

\*\*\*OT **Jacob Rogers** and WR **Keary Colbert** already have been invited to play in 79<sup>th</sup> annual East-West Shrine Game at Pacific Bell Park in San Francisco on Jan. 10, 2004.

\*\*\*QB **John David Booty**, who will enroll at USC this fall, is believed to be the first football player to graduate a full year early from high school and enroll at a major Division I-A university.

\*\*\*USC has 5 players who graduated a semester early from high school and enrolled at USC in the spring. Starting OT **Jacob Rogers** did so in the spring of 1999, while starting P **Tom Malone** and likely starting FB **Brandon Hancock** came to USC in the spring of 2002. Identical twin reserve CBs **Brandon and Ryan Ting** did so this past spring.

\*\*\*USC has retired the jersey numbers of its 5 Heisman Trophy winners. However, S **Darnell Bing** received permission from USC athletic director Mike Garrett (Troy's 1965 Heisman-winning tailback) to wear Garrett's retired No. 20 jersey.

\*\*\*Former USC All-American safety **Ronnie Lott** will be enshrined into the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind., this Aug. 7-9, while the late USC 2-time All-American tailback **Ricky Bell** will be inducted into the Hall at a Dec. 9 dinner in New York (he'll be enshrined in August of 2004). Lott, a 1980 All-American, had 250 tackles and 14 interceptions at USC before a 15-year NFL career that saw him land in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Bell, who earned All-American honors in 1975 and 1976 (he was the Heisman Trophy runner-up in 1976), ran for 3,689 yards at Troy and then was the No. 1 pick of the 1977 NFL draft (he played 6 years in the NFL) before dying in 1984 of heart disease. USC has 25 former players, 2 ex-head coaches, 4 one-time assistant coaches and a former athletic director in the College Football Hall of Fame.

\*\*\*Tailback **Marcus Allen**, USC's 1981 Heisman Trophy winner, will be enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, this Aug. 3. A 1981 All-American, he was the first collegian to rush for more than 2,000 yards (he had 2,427 yards in 1981) and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2000. He played 16 years in the NFL with the Raiders (1982-92) and Chiefs (1993-97). USC has 10 former players and 3 ex-assistant coaches in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

\*\*\*QB **Brandon Hance**, who was hospitalized briefly this past summer with a viral form of spinal meningitis, has recorded a public service announcement for the Meningitis Foundation of America. As part of the MFA's Meningitis Awareness and Prevention month in August, Hance's 30-second radio message is geared toward college students.

\*\*\*Strength and conditioning coach **Chris Carlisle** has beaten cancer. He learned he had Hodgkin's Disease in December of 2000, began radiation treatments in Tennessee (where he was still the Volunteers' associate strength and conditioning coach), was hired by USC in February of 2001, kept his illness a secret except to Trojan head coach Pete Carroll, continued treatments in Tennessee and at USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and Hospital, then doctors told him in the summer of 2001 that the cancer was in remission. He informed the USC players of his ordeal at the start of fall 2001 camp.

\*\*\*A new tradition at Troy's home games (started in 2001) sees the USC team buses unload the Trojan players amid the tailgaters in front of the Coliseum peristyle about 2 hours before kickoff. The players walk through the crowd into the Coliseum before going to dress in the locker room.

\*\*\*USC's oldest living football letterman is 103-year-old **James Pursell**. He lettered in 1921-22-23 as a 156-pound guard and was a member of USC's first Rose Bowl team.

\*\*\*Two Trojans—TE **Gregg Guenther Jr.** and WR **Sandy Fletcher**—have played on the USC basketball team. Guenther started 9 times at center in 2003, averaging 6.2 points and 5.0 rebounds in 19 games (he had 4 double-doubles and his free throws with 3.9 seconds to play won the Arizona State game). He also saw action in 9 games (starting 3) in 2002. Fletcher played in 4 games as a point guard in 2000. And, as a youngster, LB **Collin Ashton** was a ballboy for several years for the USC men's basketball team.

\*\*\*Several other Trojans have participated in other sports at Troy. QB **Billy Hart** was on the USC baseball team in 2002 and 2003. He started 22 times in right field in 2003, hitting .238 in 42 games with 20 hits, 14 runs, 1 home run and 4 RBI (he redshirted in 2002). CB **Marcell Allmond** was a hurdler and decathlete on the Trojan track team the past 4 springs (2000-2003). With a 13.54 lifetime best in the high hurdles, he was second in the high hurdles at the 2000 Pac-10 meet (he tied for seventh at the 2002 Pac-10s) and was seventh in the 2000 Pac-10 decathlon. OG **Travis Watkins** and OT **Nate Steinbacher** also were shot putters for the 2001 Trojan track squad (Steinbacher competed in 2 meets, while Watkins redshirted). Walk-on TE **Owen Hanson** was a reserve on the USC men's volleyball team the past 3 seasons (2001-03), seeing action in 1 match in 2003.

\*\*\*Who's the fastest among the 2003 Trojans? It might be TB **Reggie Bush**, with bests of 10.42 in the 100 meters and 21.06 in the 200. He placed third in the 100 in the 2002 California state meet.

\*\*\*QB **Matt Cassel** played on the Northridge (Calif.) team that was a finalist at the 1994 Little League World Series, while LB **Bobby Otani** was a national champion in judo.

\*\*\*Two Trojans have Hollywood connections. As a youngster, CB **John Walker** was a television actor who appeared in such shows as "E.R." and "7<sup>th</sup> Heaven" (in fact, he didn't play football until his sophomore year of high school because a clause in his acting contract prevented him from doing anything that could affect his appearance). USC linebackers coach **Nick Holt** is the grandson of Clarence "Buster" Crabbe, USC's first All-American swimmer (1931) who was a 1931 NCAA freestyle titlist and 1932 Olympic gold medalist before starring in Hollywood as Tarzan, Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers.

\*\*\*Two Trojans have fathers who played on national championship USC football squads: S **Kyle Matthews** (father, 1977 All-American Clay, was on the 1974 team) and LB **Lofa Tatupu** (father, Mosi, was on the 1974 team).

\*\*\*Several other Trojans have relatives with USC football connections. FB-QB **Morgan Craig** is the grandson of ex-USC 1939 All-American QB Grenville "Grenny" Lansdell. CB **Kevin Arbet** is the stepson of ex-Trojan (1980-82) Jeff Simmons. One Trojan has a cousin who played at USC—SNP **Joe Boskovich** (Martin Boskovich, 1993)—and four have uncles who were Trojan footballers: C **Norm Katnik**/C **Kurt Katnik** (John Katnik, 1986-87), OG **Fred Matua** (Titus Tuiasosopo, 1990-92) and S **Kyle Matthews** (Bruce Matthews, 1980-82, 1982 All-American).

\*\*\*Speaking of genes: CB **Kevin Arbet's** cousin, Lamarr Arbet, was a defensive lineman at San Jose State and his uncle, Darren Arbet, is the head coach of the San Jose SaberCats of the Arena Football League. OG **Sam Baker's** father, David, is the commissioner of the Arena Football League and formerly played basketball at UC Irvine and then professionally in Europe, while his brother, Ben, was an offensive lineman at Duke. QB **John David Booty's** father, Johnny, played quarterback at Arkansas, Louisiana Tech and Mississippi State, while his brother, Josh, played quarterback at LSU for 2 seasons (1999-2000) following a 5-year (1994-98) baseball career as an infielder in the Florida Marlins organization (he currently is playing with the NFL's Cleveland Browns) and another brother, Abram, was a wide receiver at LSU (1997-99) and Valdosta State (2001). DE **Van Brown's** brother, Chad, is an All-Pro linebacker who has played with the Pittsburgh Steelers (1993-96) and Seattle Seahawks (1997-2001) after starting 4 seasons at Colorado (1989-92). CB **William Buchanon** is the son of ex-NFL star Willie Buchanon, a 1971 All-American cornerback at San Diego State who was a 3-time Pro Bowler during his 11-year (1972-82) NFL career with the Green Bay Packers and San Diego Chargers. QB **Matt Cassel's** older brother, Jack, is a pitcher in the San Diego Padres organization, while his younger brother, Justin, is a freshman on UC Irvine's baseball team. WR **Keary Colbert's** cousin is ex-Arizona State DT Tommie Townsend (1999-2001). TB **Hershel Dennis'** father, Hershel Sr., played tailback at North Carolina A&T. LB **Matt Grootegoed's** brother, John, was an offensive guard at San Jose State in 1994 and 1995. WR **D. Hale's** brother, Damon Boddie, played tailback at Montana in the mid-1990s. TE **Alex Holmes'** father, Mike, lettered at defensive end at Michigan in 1974 and 1975. DE **Lawrence Jackson's** brother, Keith, is a redshirt freshman offensive tackle at Arizona. C **Ryan Kalil's** father, Frank, was a center at Arizona (1980-82) and with the USFL's Arizona Wranglers (1983) and Houston Gamblers (1984). C **Norm Katnik's** and C **Kurt Katnik's** father, Norman, was a 2-year starting center at Arizona (1978-79). FB **David Kirtman's** father, Louis, ran track at California and his uncle, Nate Kirtman, played football at Stanford in 1967. S **Jason Leach's** cousin is former Arizona State S Alfred Williams (1999-2002). OG **Fred Matua's** uncle, Navy Tuiasosopo, played offensive line at Utah State and later with the Los Angeles Rams and a distant cousin, Manu Tuiasosopo, was a 3-time All-Conference defensive lineman at UCLA (1976-78) who then played with the Seattle Seahawks and San Francisco 49ers. WR **Jason Mitchell's** cousin, Christian Radley, was a coxswain on the USC women's rowing team in 2002. DT **Fili Moala's** cousin is Oregon sophomore defensive lineman Haloti Ngata. OG **Drew Radovich's** father, Mark, was a linebacker at Arizona State (1974-76). LB **Dallas Sartz's** father, Jeff, played safety at Oregon State and his grandfather, also named Dallas, was a Golden Gloves boxer at Washington State and a professional hydroplane racer. DT **Travis Tofi's** cousin, Suaese "Pooch" Taase, played football at Louisiana Tech. Twin CBs **Brandon and Ryan Ting's** brother, Rich, was a quarterback at Yale (1998-2001). OG **Travis Watkins'** brother, Todd, was a wide receiver on the 2001 Norfolk State football team, while his father, Don, was a lineman at Pasadena City College and his uncle,

Tom Watkins, played 8 seasons in the NFL in the 1960s with the Cleveland Browns, Detroit Lions and Los Angeles Rams. DT **Ryan Watson's** cousin is former Georgia Tech (1999-2002) wide receiver Kerry Watkins. TB **LenDale White** is related to former Pitt (2000-01) wide receiver Darcey Levy and ex-Wyoming (1998-2002) linebacker Herman White. OT **Kyle Williams'** father, Scott, played college basketball, while an uncle, Eric Williams, was a defensive lineman with the Detroit Lions (1984-89) and Washington Redskins (1990-93, including on the 1991 Super Bowl champs) after earning 1983 All-Pac-10 first team honors in his 3 years (1981-83) at Washington State; his grandfather, Roy Williams, played for the Detroit Lions and San Francisco 49ers, another uncle played professional basketball in Europe, while his other grandfather played 3 sports at Lehigh in the 1960s. DB coach **Greg Burns'** brother, Dexter, was a defensive back at San Jose State in the mid-1990s. Head coach **Pete Carroll's** wife, Glenna, played volleyball at Pacific, while his son, Brennan, was a tight end at Delaware and Pitt (he currently is a graduate assistant football coach at USC) and his daughter, Jaime, played on the 2000 USC women's volleyball team. LB coach **Nick Holt's** wife, Julie, was the head women's basketball at Nevada Reno, Pacific, Gonzaga and Idaho (she currently is the head coach at Los Angeles Harbor Junior College). WR coach **Lane Kiffin's** father, Monte, is the defensive coordinator of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (he is a longtime NFL and collegiate assistant coach who also served as North Carolina State's head coach in the early 1980s), while his brother, Chris, is a junior defensive lineman at Colorado State. Safeties coach **Rocky Seto's** wife, Sharla, played soccer at USC. OFF/TE coach **Brennan Carroll** is the son of USC head coach Pete Carroll.

\*\*\*How about these names: LB **Frostee Rucker**. Walk-on S **Forrest Mozart**. DE **Kenechi Udeze** (he goes by BKU, as in Big Kenechi Udeze; he's 6-4 and 280). LB **Lofa Tatupu**. DE **Travis Tofi**. DT **Fili Moala**. WR **D. Hale** (it's for Donald, but he goes by D.; he says only his mother calls him Donald). Then, there's S **Darnell Bing** and the **Ting twins** (Brandon and Ryan).

#### IN THE NFL

USC is always well-represented in the NFL. At the start of training camp this summer, there were 39 ex-Trojans on NFL rosters. Last year, there were 29 Trojans on opening day NFL rosters, including players such as LBs Junior Seau and Chris Claiborne, OL Tony Boselli, DL Willie McGinest, WRs Keyshawn Johnson, Johnnie Morton and Curtis Conway, QB Rob Johnson and DBs Jason Sehorn, Sammy Knight, Rashard Cook and Daylon McCutcheon. Six NFL head coaches have USC ties (either as former players or assistants): New York Giants' Jim Fassel, Tennessee's Jeff Fisher, Seattle's Mike Holmgren, San Francisco's Steve Mariucci, Miami's Dave Wannstedt and Jacksonville's Jack Del Rio. Eight current USC players have relatives with NFL playing backgrounds: QB **John David Booty** (brother, Josh Booty), DE **Van Brown** (brother, Chad Brown), CB **William Buchanon** (father, Willie Buchanon), OG **Fred Matua** (cousin, Manu Tuiasosopo), S **Kyle Matthews** (grandfather, Clay Sr.; father, Clay Matthews; uncle, Bruce Matthews), LB **Lofa Tatupu** (father, Mosi Tatupu), OG **Travis Watkins** (uncle, Tom Watkins) and OT **Kyle Williams** (uncle, Eric Williams; grandfather, Roy Williams). And C **Ryan Kalil's** father, Frank, played in the USFL. Additionally, head coach **Pete Carroll** was an NFL head coach and assistant coach, and assistant **Lane Kiffin** was an NFL assistant. Three assistant coaches played professionally: **Norm Chow**, **Steve Sarkisian** and **Tim Davis** in the CFL (Davis also played in the USFL).

#### ON TV

USC is one of America's most televised teams. The Trojans have appeared on live national, regional or local telecasts 308 times, including 174 of the past 176 games. In fact, USC had an amazing streak of 111 consecutive games on some form of live television from 1988 to 1997 (snapped against Oregon State) and another streak of 48 in a row from 1997 to 2001 (broken against California).

## USC IS THE PLACE TO BE

Based on several national accolades it has received in recent years, USC can stake its claim as one of the nation's premier schools. USC was named the "**College of the Year**" by the 2000 edition of the Time/Princeton Review College Guide because of the remarkable bonds it has forged with the local community. The editors said USC has one of the most ambitious social-outreach programs of any university in the nation and cited the school's model of service learning (applying academic theory to real-life situations through public service). They also pointed out that USC's undergraduate applications have nearly doubled over the last few years and it is enrolling the most academically accomplished freshman classes in its history. Troy also was selected as one of America's nine "**hottest schools**" by the 2001 edition of the Newsweek/Kaplan College Guide because it lives up to its reputation as a top-notch institution of higher education. Students quoted in the guide said that what attracted them to the university was Los Angeles' ethnic diversity, the offer of scholarships, the small classroom sizes and USC's standing in academe. Also in 2001, the Association of American Colleges and Universities picked USC as one of 16 "**Leadership Institutions**" for providing stimulating educational experiences both inside and outside of the classroom. USC was cited for emphasizing a campus culture featuring new learning techniques, curriculum and organizational structure and for demonstrating a strong commitment to liberal arts education relevant to the contemporary world. The organization said USC not only linked liberal arts and pre-professional study, but offered students the opportunity to learn by doing through off-campus work in community projects and internships. Also, USC was lauded for stressing critical thinking, effective communication and contributing to a diverse society.

## ACADEMICS

Two of USC's most recent graduation rates for football were the highest in USC history. The 2001 official NCAA graduation rate for Trojan football players was 82%, an all-time high (topping the previous USC high of 80% in 2000). That rate compared to 73% for the general USC student body...and it was about 30 percentage points higher than the national football average for Division I schools. Among the top scholars on the 2003 Trojan squad are: CB **Brandon Ting** (4.00 GPA), CB **Ryan Ting** (4.00), FB **Brandon Hancock** (3.82, business major), WR **John Zilka** (3.48), TB-S **Andre Woodert** (3.37, kinesiology), TE **Nick Vanderboom** (3.32, business), QB **Matt Cassel** (3.28, communication), QB **Billy Hart** (3.22, business), QB **Brandon Hance** (3.09, music industry), FB **Mike Brittingham** (3.01), SNP **Matt Hayward** (2.93, business), DT **Spencer Torgan** (2.89, business), OT **Winston Justice** (2.78) and WR **Chris McFoy** (2.75). Hayward and LB **Melvin Simmons** were 2002 Pac-10 All-Academic second team picks. In its history, USC football has produced 22 Academic All-American first teamers (tops in the Pac-10 and sixth in the nation), 20 NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship winners, 12 National Football Foundation Scholar-Athletes, 4 NCAA Today's Top Six winners, 1 Rhodes Scholar and 1 Academic All-American Hall of Famer.

## CLOSING QUOTES

DT-DE **Shaun Cody**, on his "SC" tattoo: "**When I signed my letter of intent, I got the tattoo. I had thought about it for a while. I thought about the double meaning, how 'SC' also can mean Shaun Cody and all that. But the tattoo also looks like the school logo, so that kind of gives away the true meaning.**"

LB **Matt Grootegoed**, on his low-key approach: "**I'm not a flashy guy. I just do my job. If I do something good, that's what I'm supposed to do. You won't see me doing a little dance or high-stepping. I would probably fall over.**"

P **Tom Malone**, on becoming a punter: "**I was a wide receiver as a freshman in high school. One day, after I dropped a pass in practice, in frustration I picked up the ball and kicked it as hard as I could. The ball sailed high and kept going and going. The coaches saw that and made me the punter.**"

OT **Jacob Rogers**, on being a reserve punter in 1999: "**I kind of miss punting. Every once in a while, I mess around with it. It's something that's hard to do after putting on all the weight that I have. My first spring here I was able to punt pretty well. Then I put on 30 pounds and it just wasn't the same.**"

CB **Brandon Ting**, on graduating high school a semester early (with his brother) and enrolling at USC: "**At first the transition was weird because we didn't know what it was like to live in a new setting and things were coming at us so fast. But we got comfortable once we got in the system and knew what was expected of us. My brother thought it was like being away at camp and he thought the following week we would be going home.**"

OT **Eric Torres**, on why he took a ballet class: "**Ballet helps your flexibility and coordination. It did wonders for me. But it was hard. Sometimes I didn't want to go. I sort of dreaded it because my feet were sore. I eventually believed in what I was taught and saw that I could transfer what I learned to what I could do in the weight room, and that's get lower and bend my knees. It allowed me to be a better football player and lift weights with better technique. But a big dude in a ballet class looks funny. It was serious, but at the same time I was having fun.**"

DE **Kenechi Udeze**, on weighing 355 pounds in high school: "**It was hard to do things at that weight. It was hard to tie my shoes. It wasn't until my high school coach said that schools wouldn't recruit me because of it that I started to do something about it. Basically, what I did was I stopped eating a lot of carbohydrates and stopped drinking soda. I exercised a lot and lifted weights. A lot of it took care of itself. I also didn't eat past 9 p.m. That's when I used to call Pizza Hut and say, 'Can I get two large pizzas?' I lost 25 pounds in the first month of my diet.**"