



# UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS • HER 103 • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90089-0601 TELEPHONE: (213) 740-8480 FAX: (213) 740-7584

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

**FOR RELEASE:** July 31, 2002

## 2002 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 2	Auburn	5 p.m. (ABC)
Sept. 14	at Colorado	1:30 p.m. (ABC)
Sept. 21	at Kansas State	TBA
Sept. 28	Oregon State	TBA
Oct. 5	at Washington St.	TBA
Oct. 12	California	TBA
Oct. 19	Washington	TBA
Oct. 26	at Oregon	TBA
Nov. 9	at Stanford	4 p.m. (ABC)
Nov. 16	Arizona State	TBA
Nov. 23	at UCLA	TBA
Nov. 30	Notre Dame	5 p.m. (ABC)

## 2001 RESULTS

(6-6 overall, 5-3 for 5<sup>th</sup> place in Pac-10)

21	San Jose State	10
6	Kansas State	10
22	at Oregon	24
16	Stanford	21
24	at Washington	27
48	Arizona State	17
16	at Notre Dame	27
41	at Arizona	34
16	Oregon State (1OT)	13
55	at California	14
27	UCLA	0
6	vs. Utah	10

(Las Vegas Bowl)

## RETURNING STARTERS (14)

### OFFENSE (8)

QB Carson Palmer WR Kareem Kelly  
 TB Sultan McCullough/FB Sunny Byrd\*  
 WR Keary Colbert OT Jacob Rogers  
 OG Zach Wilson OT Eric Torres  
 OG-C Lenny Vandermade/C Norm Katnik\*  
 (Note: Byrd's 2001 starts were at TB)

### DEFENSE (5)

S Troy Polamalu DT-DE Shaun Cody  
 LB Mike Pollard DE Kenechi Udeze  
 LB Matt Grootegoed

## SPECIAL TEAMS (1)

PK David Davis

\*2001 Co-Starters

## OTHERS RETURNING WITH CAREER STARTS

DT Bernard Riley (11) CB Kevin Arbet (4)  
 S DeShaun Hill (8) TB Malaefou MacKenzie (4)  
 CB Darrell Rideaux (6) FB Chad Pierson (1)  
 CB Marcell Allmond (6) WR D. Hale (1)  
 LB Aaron Graham (5) WR Grant Mattos (1)  
 LB Chris Prosser (5) TE Scott Huber (1)

# 2002 USC FOOTBALL NOTES

**PRE-SEASON RANKINGS...**—Here's a look at where the 2002 Trojans are ranked by various pre-season prognosticators:

	National	Pacific-10
Phil Steele's	11 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
Athlon	12 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
College Football News	15 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
The Sporting News	18 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Blue Ribbon	18 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
CBS Sportsline	18 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
FOX Sports	25 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
Lindy's	26 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
Street & Smith's	NR	4 <sup>th</sup>

**...AND PRE-SEASON HONORS**—S **Troy Polamalu** has been named to several pre-season All-American first teams (Playboy, Athlon, Football News, Lindy's, Street & Smith's) and he was named the top candidate for the Thorpe Award by Street & Smith's. DT-DE **Shaun Cody** was a pre-season All-American third teamer by Street & Smith's, while QB **Carson Palmer**, WR **Kareem Kelly** and PK **David Davis** made Street & Smith's pre-season All-American honorable mention. Besides Polamalu, Cody and Davis, two other Trojans have been selected to a pre-season All-Pac-10 first team: OG **Zach Wilson** (Athlon) and OG-C **Lenny Vandermade** (Street & Smith's).

**SCHEDULE**—USC, as usual, is playing one of the nation's most difficult 12-game schedules. Seven opponents played in bowls last season and 5 were ranked in the final AP Top 20 (3 were in the Top 10). The Trojans open up 2002 on Labor Day evening against Auburn; the other non-conference games include early road contests at 2001 No. 9 Colorado and Kansas State and the regular season finale at home with Notre Dame. In Pac-10 games, USC hosts No. 19 Washington, Arizona State, Oregon State and California, and goes to No. 2 Oregon, No. 10 Washington State, No. 16 Stanford and UCLA.

**NEW USC JERSEYS**—*In its first major uniform change in 30 years, USC will wear jerseys in 2002 with a style that harkens back to the heyday era of the 1960s. The new jerseys are similar to those worn by Trojan teams from 1958 to 1969 (when Troy won 2 national titles and played in 5 Rose Bowls under coach John McKay). The jerseys feature a single crescent stripe on each shoulder pad and numbers on the sleeve (all stripes and numbers are sewn in). There also is an interlocking "SC" logo on the bottom of the neckline. Per tradition, there will be no names on the back of the jersey. The last time USC underwent a uniform change of this magnitude was in 1972, when the jerseys worn up until last season (3 stripes on each sleeve) were first introduced. (In 1970 and 1971, USC's jerseys had no markings except for the front and back numeral.)*

## USC INTERVIEW DAY/PRE-SEASON PRACTICE SCHEDULE

- USC Football Interview Day will be at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 11, in the Heritage Hall Lounge at USC. The Trojans will conduct all 3 weeks of their 2002 pre-season practices on the USC campus. Drills begin Aug. 12 and lead up to Troy's Sept. 2 opener against Auburn in the Coliseum.

## QUOTING PETE CARROLL

### THE 2002 TROJANS

“Our goal is to win the Pac-10 championship and win the Rose Bowl. That’s our goal this year and every year. In 2002, we must pick up where we left off last year, continuing to develop a winning attitude and style of play. What’s evident is that we are much further ahead going into this season than we were last year.

“You build championship teams by surrounding yourself with great competitors. Competition will be high for all positions. We’re looking for the young players to compete immediately for playing time and we’re counting on the returning players to battle to hold onto their spots.

“We want to play great defense, be aggressive and efficient on offense and always count on our special teams to be a factor. That’s the classic blueprint of a successful team. Last season, our strengths were on defense and in the kicking game, and we won the turnover battle. If we can do that again and run the football this year, we can be a factor in the Rose Bowl race.”

**RETURNING TROJANS**—The 2002 Trojans feature 14 starters (8 on offense and 5 on defense, plus the placekicker) who are back from last year’s team. In all, 72 squadmen return, including 49 who saw playing time (42 were lettermen and 28 were on the season-ending 2-deep). Some 28 Trojans have started at least once in their career. Joining them are 3 newcomers who enrolled at USC in the spring of 2002 and participated in spring drills, plus 19 new scholarship players (11 were prep and junior college All-Americans in 2001) who begin this fall.

**LAST YEAR**—After USC started slowly at 1-4 in new head coach **Pete Carroll’s** debut season of 2001, he 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. Troy, 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.

**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). After Troy 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 50-year-old Carroll has 27 years of NFL and college experience, including 11 on the college level. He is 6-6 as a college head coach. 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 each as an assistant in charge of the secondary at Arkansas (1977) under Lou Holtz as the Razorbacks won the 1978 Orange Bowl, 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.

## QUOTING PETE CARROLL

### THE OFFENSE

"We need to develop the running game so that it complements our ability to throw the football. Last year, we saw glimpses of how effective our wide-open offensive attack can be. But injuries significantly curtailed our running game and that affected our production. We have a deep group of runners this year and our offensive line is a year more experienced.

"We also have to continue to take care of the football. We did a very good job in that area last year.

"If we can be more proficient running the ball and keep our negative plays to a minimum, then our offense will emerge."

### THE DEFENSE

"Our defense made a lot of progress last year and was one of our strengths. We hope it picks right up from there in 2002. We want to continue to be an aggressive, big play defense that scores points. The returning starters are solid and we'll count on them heavily, particularly our All-American, Troy Polamalu. We lost some starters from last year, but I'm confident that we have experienced, quality players to fill in for them. The key is to find starting cornerbacks.

"Our philosophy on defense is to capture the ball. Turnover ratio is a very important statistic for us and we took a huge jump in the right direction last year. That needs to remain one of the markers of our success."

### THE SPECIAL TEAMS

"We need to continue to build upon the performance of our special teams. That was a focus last year and will remain so in 2002. We need to maintain our effort and results in some areas, like field goal kicking and blocking kicks and punts, and we need to be more productive in our punting, kickoffs and return coverage. Last year, we saw the dramatic effect special teams can have on the outcome of a game. We saw how exhilarating good special teams play can be, but also how devastating it can be if you don't perform.

"David Davis should have another strong year kicking field goals and our new punter will be asked to bring us to a new level there. And I'm very excited about the prospect of having some dangerous return men."

**ALL-AMERICAN TROY**—Senior **Troy Polamalu** (118 tackles, 13 for losses, 1 sack, 6 deflections, 3 interceptions, 2 forced fumbles, 1 fumble recovery and 3 blocked punts in 2001), a 2-year starting strong safety, is a leading candidate for the Thorpe Award in 2002 after last fall becoming USC's first All-American first team safety since Thorpe recipient Mark Carrier in 1989. A 2002 pre-season All-American, he is on the "Watch List" for the 2002 Bronko Nagurski Award. His jersey currently is on display at the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind., in the "Race for the Pantheon" exhibit that highlights the nation's 10 leading candidates for post-season individual honors. He will play in the 2003 East-West Shrine Game. Polamalu, who twice won Pac-10 Player of the Week honors in 2001, made big plays in seemingly every game last season. His 118 tackles topped USC and were tied for second in the Pac-10. His tackle totals were game highs 7 times, including a Las Vegas Bowl record 20 against Utah. He returned 2 of his 3 interceptions for touchdowns, blocked 3 punts and recovered a fumble. In his career, he has run back 3 of his 5 picks for scores and blocked 4 punts.

*"Troy Polamalu is one of the best players I've ever coached," said USC head coach Pete Carroll, who has tutored such star defensive backs as Ronnie Lott, Tim McDonald, Aaron Glenn, Merton Hanks, Eric Davis and Lawyer Milloy. "He is a tremendous football player and it shows in every phase of the game: pass defense, run defense, blitzing and special teams. Pound for pound, he is our strongest player (600 pounds in the squat and 353 pounds in the power clean) and he has been a star in our off-season conditioning program. He is a team player, as shown by his desire and performance on special teams. He is also a humble, dedicated team leader who is respected greatly by his teammates, as evidenced by the rare feat of being voted a team captain as just a junior last year. I can't imagine a better safety in college football in 2002."*

**OFFENSIVE OVERVIEW**—Starters return at 8 positions on offense in 2002: quarterback (**Carson Palmer**), both wide receivers (**Kareem Kelly** and **Keary Colbert**), tailback (co-starters **Sultan McCullough** and **Sunny Byrd**; Byrd will return to fullback in 2002), both tackles (**Jacob Rogers** and **Eric Torres**), a guard (**Zach Wilson**) and center (co-starters **Lenny Vandermade** and **Norm Katnik**). USC's top 2 rushers, passers and receivers statistically from 2001 are back. In 2002, offensive coordinator **Norm Chow's** unit must dramatically increase its offensive production from a year ago. The Trojans ranked in the Pac-10's bottom 4 in every offensive category last fall while averaging just 314.5 yards of total offense and 24.8 points a game. Injuries at the tailback spot left USC's running game anemic; its 87.7 rushing average was 109<sup>th</sup> nationally (out of 115 teams) and Troy's 1,052 total rushing yards was its fewest since records were kept in 1948. However, the Trojans had only 19 turnovers in 2001 (the second fewest in the Pac-10), quite an improvement after having a nation-leading 36 turnovers in 2000. That ball security must continue in 2002.

**PALMER**—Senior quarterback **Carson Palmer** (221-of-377, 58.6%, 2,717 yards, 13 TDs, 12 interceptions in 2001) is one of the nation's marquee signalcallers. His 58.6% completion rate in 2001 topped the Pac-10. A 3-year starter, he is third on USC's career passing (618 completions) and total offense (7,801 yards) lists. By year's end, he should move up to No. 1 in both categories (he needs 59 completions to break Rob Johnson's mark and 840 yards of total offense to eclipse Rodney Peete's standard) and he is on pace to also break Johnson's school career mark for passing yards (he has 7,876 and needs 597). His first pass attempt of 2002 will be the 1,082<sup>nd</sup> of his career, equaling Peete's USC mark. Last fall, his 419 yards of total offense at Oregon was a USC record. He will play in the 2003 East-West Shrine Game.

#### **USC CAREER PASSING LEADERS**

(Based on Number of Completions — Includes bowl games)

		PA	PC	INT	NYG	Pct.	TD
1.	Rob Johnson	1046	676	28	8472	.646	58
2.	Rodney Peete	1081	630	42	8225	.583	54
3.	<b>Carson Palmer</b>	<b>1080</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>7876</b>	<b>.572</b>	<b>39</b>

#### **USC CAREER TOTAL OFFENSE LEADERS**

(Includes bowl games)

		PLAYS	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
1.	Rodney Peete		1371	415	8640
2.	Rob Johnson		1305	-576	7896
3.	<b>Carson Palmer</b>		<b>1285</b>	<b>-75</b>	<b>7876</b>

**OTHER QUARTERBACKS**—Three relatively untested youngsters will battle to back up Carson Palmer at quarterback: sophomore **Matt Cassel** (1-of-2, 50.0%, 5 yards in 2001), who also played some as a tight end-in-motion (1 catch, 12.0 average in 2001) and on special teams (1 tackle in 2001) last season, and redshirt freshmen **Matt Leinart** and **Billy Hart**, who is also a reserve infielder for the Trojan baseball team. Cassel and Leinart emerged from 2002 spring practice as co-No. 2s. Junior **Brandon Hance**, who started Purdue's first 9 games of 2001 and completed 136-of-258 passes (52.7%) for 1,529 yards with 8 TDs (he also ran for 242 yards and 4 scores), enrolls this fall, but he must sit out the 2002 season per the NCAA transfer rule.

**TAILBACKS**—Last year demonstrated why it is critical to have depth in the tailback corps. Injuries decimated USC's runners in 2001 and by midseason a fullback was starting at tailback. It's no wonder the Trojans averaged just 87.7 rushing yards a game last fall. USC is 5-deep at tailback in 2002, including 3 experienced seniors. Speedy senior **Sultan McCullough** (115 carries, 410 yards, 3.6 average, 5 TDs in 2002, plus 6 receptions 16.7 average, 1 TD) returns after starting Troy's first 6 games of 2001. But he was sidelined the rest of the year with a strained abdominal muscle that required surgery. He ran for 1,163 yards in 2000 and is 14<sup>th</sup> on USC's prestigious career rushing ladder (1,986 yards). He has rushed for 100 yards 9 times in his career. The 1999 Pac-10 100-meter champion, he is the fastest player ever to wear a Trojan football uniform (10.17). Senior **Malaefou MacKenzie**, who has 765 rushing yards and 37 receptions in his Trojan career (he has started 4 times), is petitioning the NCAA for a sixth year of eligibility in 2002. He was expected to team with McCullough to give Troy a 1-2 punch at the tailback position in 2001. But he left school at midseason last fall without seeing any action and returned home to Western Samoa (he missed 4 early games with a knee sprain and a fifth to attend his father's funeral). Senior **Justin Fargas**, who was impressive while serving as USC's scout team tailback in 2001 and had an eye-opening performance in 2002 spring drills (139 and 111 rushing yards in 2 intrasquad scrimmages), will look to make a sudden impact this season. He enters fall camp as the starter. He sat out the 2001 campaign after transferring from Michigan, where he had 362 rushing yards in an injury-plagued career. Sophomore **Darryl Poston** (8 carries, 16 yards, 2.0 average, 1 TD in 2001, plus 1 catch, 10.0 average) showed flashes last fall, but was bothered by a mid-year knee sprain. He, too, looked good in 2002 spring practice. Prep All-American **Hershel Dennis** (Poly High in Long Beach, Calif.) joins the tailback fray in the fall as a freshman.

**USC CAREER RUSHING LEADERS**  
(Includes bowl games)

		TCB	NYG	AVG.
1.	Charles White	1147	6245	5.44
2.	Marcus Allen	932	4810	5.16
3.	Anthony Davis	784	3724	4.75
4.	Ricky Bell	710	3689	5.20
5.	O.J. Simpson	674	3423	5.08
6.	Mike Garrett	612	3221	5.27
7.	Fred Crutcher	670	2815	4.20
8.	Chad Morton	517	2511	4.86
9.	Ricky Ervins	488	2337	4.79
10.	Clarence Davis	511	2323	4.54
11.	Delon Washington	498	2093	4.20
12.	Orv Mohler	359	2025	5.63
13.	Shawn Walters	425	2019	4.75
14.	<b>Sultan McCullough</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>4.60</b>

**SENIOR TAILBACK TRIO**

*Few teams in the country can boast of having a trio of senior tailbacks of USC's quality. The combined career stats of **Sultan McCullough**, **Malaefou MacKenzie** and **Justin Fargas**: 696 carries, 3,113 yards, 4.5 average per carry, 20 TDs, 21 starts, 11 100-yard games...oh, and seven surgeries!*

**FULLBACKS**—Senior **Sunny Byrd** (123 carries, 336 yards, 2.7 average, 4 TDs in 2001, plus 11 catches, 7.4 average and 5 tackles) enjoyed folk hero status last fall when he took over for McCullough at tailback and provided some hard-nosed running. He had never touched the ball at USC before then, but he started USC's last 6 contests and led the Trojans in rushing 5 times (he had at least 20 carries in 6 outings). He'll return to fullback in 2002 and will compete with another senior, **Chad Pierson** (4 carries, 11 yards, 2.8 average in 2001, plus 3 catches, 20.3 average, 1 TD), for the starting job. Pierson, who started once in 2000 and proved to be just as effective a runner and receiver as a blocker, missed the first half of 2001 with a back injury. Also in the mix at fullback to replace Charlie Landrigan, a 3-year starter known for his leadership, rugged blocking and good hands (49 career receptions), are redshirt freshman **David Kirtman** and freshman **Brandon Hancock**, who enrolled at USC this past spring after earning prep All-American honors at Clovis West High in Fresno, Calif.

**KELLY**—Swift senior **Kareem Kelly** (49 catches, 16.3 average, 3 TDs in 2001, plus 6 carries, 38 yards, 6.3 average), a starter the past 3 years, is fifth on Troy's career pass catching list (158 receptions). He is within range of Johnnie Morton's school records for receptions (201) and receiving yards (3,201; he has 2,499). He has a catch in all 35 games he has played as a Trojan, 2 short of tying John Jackson's USC mark. He has had 100-yard receiving games 9 times in his career. He also sprints and runs relays for the USC track team.

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

		NO.	YDS	AVG.	TD
1.	Johnnie Morton	201	3201	15.93	23
2.	Keyshawn Johnson	168	2796	16.64	16
3.	John Jackson	163	2379	14.60	17
4.	R. Jay Soward	161	2672	16.60	23
5.	<b>Kareem Kelly</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>2499</b>	<b>15.82</b>	<b>11</b>

**OTHER WIDE RECEIVERS**—Like last year, USC's wide receivers are a deep and talented group with starters returning at both spots. Besides Kareem Kelly, junior **Keary Colbert** (34 catches, 13.0 average, 2 TDs in 2001, plus 1 carry, 9 yards, 9.0 average) returns at the other wideout spot. The consistent 2-year starter has 67 career grabs. Two other Trojans started a game last fall: senior **Grant Mattos** (10 catches, 10.4 average in 2001), who missed part of 2001 with a knee sprain, and junior **D. Hale** (7 catches, 15.1 average in 2001, plus 2 carries, 14 yards, 7.0 average), a one-time walk-on who earned a scholarship this past spring. Another junior, **Sandy Fletcher** (2 catches, 5.5 average in 2001), also saw time in 2001. Also looking to break into the rotation are redshirt freshmen **William Buchanon** and **Frank Candela**, junior **Jason Mitchell**, a 2001 junior college All-American at Los Angeles (Calif.) Harbor Junior College who enrolled at USC this past spring, and redshirt freshman walk-on **Greig Carlson**. Freshmen coming aboard this fall are prep All-Americans **Mike Williams** (Plant High in Tampa, Fla.) and **Chris McFoy** (Chino High in Chino, Calif.).

**TIGHT ENDS**—For the second consecutive year, USC will start a new tight end, this time in place of Kori Dickerson, the one-time linebacker who had 25 catches and 2 scores last fall. Junior **Alex Holmes** (22 receptions, 7.5 average, 2 TDs in 2001) is the most experienced tight end on the roster, as he has seen significant action the past 2 seasons as the backup. He has 29 career catches with 2 touchdowns. Also available are seniors **Doyal Butler** and **Scott Huber**, who played some at fullback in 2001, and sophomore **Gregg Guenther Jr.**, who at 6-8 also was a reserve center on the 2002 Trojan men's basketball team that advanced to the NCAA tourney, but their combined career action is minimal. Prep All-American **Dominique Byrd** (The Breck School in Minneapolis, Minn.) enrolls this fall as a freshman.

**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN**—USC's offensive line from a year ago—save for 2-year starting guard-tackle Faaesea Mailo—comes back. But this group needs to improve its performance if the Trojan offense is to click. Senior guard **Zach Wilson** has started the past 3 years on the right side and has been solid. Junior tackles **Jacob Rogers** (left side) and **Eric Torres** (right side) started for the first time in 2001 and did commendable jobs. Steady junior **Lenny Vandermade** has started at center the past 2 years, but was moved to left guard in 2002 spring practice and will start there in 2002 (he started 5 times there in 2000). And junior **Norm Katnik**, the line's utility man after having started at all 3 positions in 2001 (5 times at guard, 4 at center and once at tackle), will handle the starting center job in 2002. Angling for backup duty are senior **Phillip Eaves**, juniors **Nate Steinbacher** and walk-on **Justin Brown** at tackle, sophomores **Joe McGuire** (he likely will miss 2002 with a shoulder injury) and **Travis Watkins** at guard and senior **Derek Graf**, and junior walk-on **Joe Boskovich** (also the short snapper) at center. None of these players has seen appreciable action yet. Freshmen help arrives this fall with a quartet of prep All-Americans—tackles **Winston Justice** (Poly High in Long Beach, Calif.) and **Kyle Williams** (Highland Park High in Dallas, Tex.), guard **Fred Matua** (Banning High in Wilmington, Calif.), who can also play defensive tackle, and center-guard **Chris Doyle** (Mater Dei High in Santa Ana, Calif.)—plus guard **Kurt Katnik** (Foothill High in Santa Ana, Calif.), Norm's younger brother.

**DEFENSIVE OVERVIEW**—Five defensive starters return from 2001: All-American safety **Troy Polamalu**, tackle-end **Shaun Cody**, end **Kenechi Udeze** and linebackers **Mike Pollard** and **Matt Grootegoed**. Seven others who have started games in the past also are back in tackle **Bernard Riley**, safety **DeShaun Hill**, cornerbacks **Darrell Rideaux**, **Kevin Arbet** and converted wide receiver **Marcell Allmond**, and linebackers **Aaron Graham** and **Chris Prosser**. USC's top 2 tacklers and its co-interception leaders from 2001 return. The Trojans last fall led the Pac-10 in scoring defense (17.3, 11<sup>th</sup> nationally) and were second in pass defense (179.2, 16<sup>th</sup> nationally) and total defense (330.8), all significant improvements from 2000. But opponents averaged 155.2 rushing yards a game, nearly 30 more yards an outing than 2000 despite USC's Pac-10 co-high 37 sacks. However, Troy had a stunning reversal in its turnover margin in 2001, tying for fifth nationally at +1.3. USC had 35 takeaways last year after getting only 17 in 2000. The Trojans intercepted 20 passes (they had just 7 in 2000), recovered 15 fumbles and scored 8 touchdowns on defense last fall. That trend needs to remain a focus.

**DEFENSIVE LINEMEN**—Although half of last year's 4-man defensive front—2-year starting end **Lonnie Ford** (81 tackles, 30 for a loss, 16 sacks in his career) and 3-year starting tackle **Ryan Nielsen** (107 career tackles)—is gone, USC is still in good shape here in 2002. Two of the nation's top young defensive linemen return as sophomore starters: tackle-end **Shaun Cody** (39 tackles, 7 for losses, 5 sacks, 1 fumble recovery in 2001), who was a Freshman All-American first team pick last season, and end **Kenechi Udeze** (35 tackles, 9 for losses, 4 sacks, 1 fumble recovery, 3 forced fumbles, 1 deflection in 2001), a Freshman All-American second teamer last year. Both are destined for big things at USC. Senior tackle **Bernard Riley** (26 tackles, 5 for losses, 1 sack, 1 fumble recovery, 1 deflection, 1 interception in 2001), who started Troy's first 5 games of 2001 before injuring his knee (he also started in 2000), also is back. Senior **Anthony Daye**, who can also play end, and sophomores **Mike Patterson** (9 tackles, 5 for losses, 3 sacks, 2 forced fumbles, 2 fumble recoveries in 2001) and walk-on **Spencer Torgan**, a converted offensive guard, also are available at tackle. The other end spot could be manned by junior **Omar Nazel** (15 tackles, 4 for losses, 3 sacks, 1 deflection, 1 interception in 2001), sophomore **A.J. Single**, a converted center, redshirt freshman **Austin Jackson**, a converted linebacker, or walk-on sophomore **Jay Bottom**...or by a newcomer. Joining USC this fall will be a pair of junior college All-Americans—ends **Daniel Urquhart** of Los Angeles (Calif.) Southwest Junior College, who will be a junior, and **Van Brown** of Pasadena (Calif.) City College, who will be a sophomore—plus freshman end **LaJuan Ramsey** (Dominguez High in Compton, Calif.).

**LINEBACKERS**—The linebacking corps, an area of concern last year because of 3 new starters, has become a position of strength for USC in 2002. Two starters return from 2001: reliable senior **Mike Pollard** (81 tackles, 8 for losses, 7 deflections, 1 fumble recovery, 2 forced fumbles in 2001) in the middle and versatile sophomore **Matt Grootegoed** (32 tackles, 8 for losses, 1 sack, 1 fumble recovery, 2 deflections in 2001) on the strong side. Pollard was second on the Trojans in tackles and first in deflections last fall. Grootegoed broke his leg near the end of last season. Junior **Melvin Simmons** sat out last season after transferring from Washington State, where he was a starter in 2000, but he has emerged as the likely weakside replacement for Strong, who had 82 tackles and 2 interceptions in his career (he also was a safety, tailback and returner at USC). There is plenty of quality depth behind these linebackers. Senior **Aaron Graham** (11 tackles, 1 for a loss, 1 sack in 2001) has started 5 times in the middle in his career, but will work on the weak side in 2002. Junior **Chris Prosser** (20 tackles, 4 for losses, 2 sacks, 1 deflection in 2001) has 5 career starts (including 3 last year) on the strong side. Sophomores **Lee Webb** (8 tackles, 1 forced fumble in 2001) in the middle and **Bobby Otani** (1 tackle in 2001) on the weak side saw measurable action last fall, although Otani suffered a midseason knee injury. Also available are junior **Matt Hayward** (1 tackle in 2001), who is the long snapper, junior walk-on **Alex Bottom**, who doubles as a backup snapper, and redshirt freshman **Collin Ashton**. Two prep All-Americans—**Oscar Lua** (Indio High in Indio, Calif.) and **Dallas Sartz** (Granite Bay High in Granite Bay, Calif.)—will join this group this fall as freshmen (Sartz also can play safety).

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—At first glance, the secondary appears to be an area of worry for USC in 2002, considering that 3 top-quality starters have departed. Gone are 4-year starting safety-cornerback **Antuan Simmons** (208 tackles, 9 interceptions, 6 blocked kicks in his career), who beat a life-threatening illness in 2000 and had an impressive 2001 season (he'll long be remembered for his amazing between-the-legs interception for a TD versus UCLA), and cornerbacks **Kris Richard** (125 tackles, 8 picks as a 3-year starter) and **Chris Cash** (86 tackles, 4 interceptions as a 2-year starter), both who were NFL draft picks. But things are not as dire as they appear, especially not when the Trojans return perhaps the nation's best safety in previously-mentioned senior All-American strong safety **Troy Polamalu**. Add a collection of experienced players alongside **Polamalu** and, if the cornerback positions are solidified, USC's secondary could be as effective as it was last season (defensive backs accounted for 15 of the Trojans' 20 interceptions and 6 of the defense's 8 touchdowns; USC was 16<sup>th</sup> nationally in pass defense). The new cornerbacks will be chosen from among a pair of seniors who have started in the past—4-time starter **Kevin Arbet** (25 tackles, 3 for losses, 2 sacks, 6 deflections, 3 interceptions, 1 fumble recovery in 2001), who won All-Pac-10 first team laurels last year as a special teams player and who returned 1 of his 3 picks for a TD, and 6-time starter **Darrell Rideaux** (8 tackles in 2001)—plus junior **Marcell Allmond**, a converted wide receiver who redshirted last fall while suspended from USC for a student conduct violation (he has 30 career catches while starting 6 times on offense, but he last played defense as a 1998 high school senior), senior **Miguel Fletcher**, senior walk-on **Marcus Johnson**, soph walk-ons **Justin Tolliver** (1 tackle, 1 interception in 2001), **Forrest Mozart** (1 tackle in 2001), another converted wide receiver, and **Chris Bocage**, and redshirt freshman walk-on **Alex Gomez**. Rideaux (sprints, relays), Allmond (hurdles) and Tolliver (sprints) also compete for the USC track team. Senior **DeShaun Hill** (42 tackles, 1 for a loss, 1 deflection, 2 interceptions, 1 fumble recovery, 1 forced fumble in 2001) has the inside track on the starting free safety job, as he has started 8 games in his career. Other safeties include sophomore **Jason Leach** (8 tackles, 1 deflection in 2001), redshirt freshman **John Walker**, and a trio of walk-ons in sophomores **Matt Lemos** and **Kyle Matthews** and redshirt frosh **Andre Woodert**, a converted wide receiver. This fall, look for junior college All-American **Ronald Nunn** of San Francisco (Calif.) City College, who will be a junior, and prep All-American **Justin Wyatt** (Dominguez High in Compton, Calif.), who will be a freshman, to compete at cornerback, and incoming freshman **Mike Ross** (St. Petersburg Catholic High in St. Petersburg, Fla.) to battle at safety (incoming freshman linebacker **Dallas Sartz** also might work at safety).

**SPECIAL TEAMS OVERVIEW**—USC's placekicker (**David Davis**), short snapper (**Joe Boskovich**), long snapper (**Matt Hayward**) and top punt returner (**Kevin Arbet**) and kickoff returner (**Darrell Rideaux**) from 2001 are back. But the punter, holder and kickoff man will be new in 2002. Last year, USC's special teams were markedly improved over 2000. The Trojans were particularly effective in field goal accuracy (83.3%, tops in the Pac-10), blocking kicks and punts (5) and kickoff return coverage (20.2-yard average). But they were average in other areas (8.4-yard average on punt returns and 18.9-yard average on kickoff returns, with no scoring runbacks) and inadequate in others, including punting (39.0-yard average) and kicking off (only 1 touchback on 62 kickoffs). So, there is room for improvement in the special teams.

**SPECIALISTS**—Senior **David Davis** (15-of-18 field goals, 31-of-34 PATs in 2001) had an impressive showing in 2001 after transferring from a junior college. The lefty was the Pac-10's most accurate field goal kicker last fall (83.3%) and was tied for 18<sup>th</sup> nationally in field goals (1.3). He hit 12 field goals in a row at one point. He even ran for a short TD on a fake field goal. He is on the 2002 Lou Groza Award "Watch List." However, a new kickoff man must be found for David Newbury, who compensated for a lack of leg strength by pooching his kickoffs (which resulted in 14 fair catches). Those short kickoffs accounted for USC's creditable kickoff coverage average of 20.2 yards in 2001 (second best in the Pac-10), although only 1 of Newbury's 62 kickoffs was a touchback and just 7 pinned opponents inside the 20-yard line. Sophomore **Ryan Killeen**, a transfer from Mt. San Antonio Junior College in Walnut, Calif., could get the job. USC's punter the past 4 seasons—Mike MacGillivray, who set school career records for punts (298) and punt yardage (11,700) while owning a 39.3-yard average—has graduated. The Trojans are hoping his replacement will be more consistent. Although a pair of untested walk-ons—junior **Tommy Huff** and redshirt freshman **Zach Sherwood**—are back, the new punter will be freshman **Tom Malone**, who enrolled at USC this past spring after earning prep All-American honors at Temescal Canyon High in Lake Elsinore, Calif. He showed a strong leg in 2002 spring practice. Both of USC's snappers—junior center **Joe Boskovich**, who hikes on placekicks, and junior linebacker **Matt Hayward**, who snaps on punts—are back after doing flawless work last fall. Also available is walk-on junior linebacker **Alex Bottom**. A new holder must be found now that MacGillivray, who handled the job last year, is gone. Among the untested candidates are Malone, redshirt freshman quarterback **Matt Leinart** and junior cornerback **Marcell Allmond**. USC's top punt returner—senior cornerback **Kevin Arbet** (25 punt returns, 9.0 average in 2001, plus 3 kickoff returns, 17.7 average)—and kickoff returner—senior cornerback **Darrell Rideaux** (19 kickoff returns, 19.1 average in 2001)—from last year are back. Others who might figure in the return game are senior wide receiver **Kareem Kelly** (8 punt returns, 6.4 average in 2001), redshirt freshman wide receiver **Frank Candela**, junior wide receivers **D. Hale** and **Jason Mitchell**, sophomore tailback **Darryl Poston**, and a pair of incoming freshmen in tailback **Hershel Dennis** and cornerback **Justin Wyatt**.

**GONE FROM 2001**—USC's offensive losses include 3-year starting fullback Charlie Landrigan, a good blocker and receiver, linebacker-turned-tight end Kori Dickerson and 2-year starting guard-tackle Faasea Mailo. The defensive starters gone are 4-year starting safety-cornerback Antuan Simmons, who overcame a life-threatening illness in 2000 to star in 2001, NFL drafted cornerbacks Kris Richard (a 3-year starter) and Chris Cash (a 2-year starter), 2-year starting end Lonnie Ford, 3-year starting tackle Ryan Nielsen and linebacker Frank Strong, who also was used at safety, tailback and as a returner at Troy. And 4-year starting punter Mike MacGillivray, who owns USC records for career punts and punt yardage, must be replaced.

#### STATS OF NOTE, THE GOOD...

\*\*\*After suffering 5 close losses in 2001 (by a combined 29 points), perhaps the tide turned for USC. Its next 2 game were nailed wins, as Troy beat Arizona, 41-34, when CB Kris Richard returned an interception 58-yards for a TD with 1:50 to play and then defeated Oregon State in overtime, 16-13, on QB **Carson Palmer's** 4-yard run.

\*\*\*USC had 35 takeaways in 2001 (tied for 10<sup>th</sup> most nationally) after getting only 17 all of 2000.

\*\*\*The Trojans had 20 interceptions in 2001 (second most in the Pac-10 and tied for seventh nationally) after getting only 7 all of 2000.

\*\*\*USC's 15 fumble recoveries in 2001 tied for the Pac-10 lead (and tied for 16<sup>th</sup> nationally), while Troy's 7 lost fumbles was second fewest in the league (tied for 19<sup>th</sup> fewest in the nation).

\*\*\*USC turned the ball over just 19 times in 2001 (second fewest in the Pac-10) after having a nation-leading 36 turnovers in 2000.

\*\*\*USC tied for fifth nationally in turnover margin in 2001 (+1.3, tied for first in Pac-10).

\*\*\*After being penalized 113 times for 977 yards in 2000, USC was flagged only 80 times for 674 yards in 2001 (its 57.0-yard average was second fewest in the Pac-10).

\*\*\*In USC's 4-game winning streak to end the 2001 regular season, the Trojans outscored their opponents 139-61 (an average of 35-15); Troy's defense scored 5 TDs, intercepted 11 passes and posted 23 sacks in that span.

\*\*\*USC outpointed opponents in the second quarter by nearly double in 2001, 103-54.

\*\*\*The 207 points allowed by USC in 2001 was its fewest since the 1989 team gave up 132.

\*\*\*USC allowed opponents to convert just 1-of-11 fourth downs in 2001 (fewest allowed in the Pac-10), while Troy's fourth down conversion rate of 69.2% (9-of-13) topped in the Pac-10.

\*\*\*USC's defense had 37 sacks in 2001 (tied for first in the Pac-10 and tied for ninth in the nation)

\*\*\*USC allowed opponents just 20.2 yards on kickoff returns in 2001 (second in the Pac-10).

\*\*\*USC topped the Pac-10 in scoring defense (17.3, 11<sup>th</sup> nationally) and field goal percentage (83.3%), was second in pass defense (175.6, 16<sup>th</sup> nationally) and was third in pass efficiency defense (106.0, 22<sup>nd</sup> nationally) in 2001.

\*\*\*USC was second in the Pac-10 in total defense (330.8) in 2001.

\*\*\*USC allowed the fewest total touchdowns (24, tied for eighth fewest nationally), TD passes (11, tied for 15<sup>th</sup> fewest nationally), rushing TDs (11, tied for 13<sup>th</sup> fewest nationally) and plays (821, 18<sup>th</sup> fewest nationally) in the Pac-10 in 2001.

\*\*\*USC's passing offense led the Pac-10 in completion percentage (58.6%) in 2001.

#### STATS OF NOTE, THE BAD...

\*\*\*USC might have been the unluckiest team in America in 2001, as its 6 losses were by a combined 29 points (4.8 average). Five of the defeats were by 5 points or less (2, 3, 4, 4 and 5 points) and the sixth was by 11 points. Troy never had a season in which it lost 4 or more games by 5 points or less. Two of the losses came when foes kicked field goals in the final 12 seconds, including once at the gun, the first time the Trojans lost twice in a season in the final 12 seconds. Three of the losses were to teams ranked in the Top 12 at the time of the game and 5 of the teams that beat USC were ranked in the AP Top 25 at some point this season.

\*\*\*Opponents scored first in 9 games in 2001 (all but San Jose State, Oregon State and UCLA).

\*\*\*USC's 185 first downs in 2001 were the fewest in the Pac-10.

\*\*\*USC held the ball an average of 2:29 less a game than its opponents in 2001 (the Oregon, Arizona State, California and UCLA games were the only ones in which Troy held the ball for at least 30 minutes).

\*\*\*QB **Carson Palmer** was sacked 36 times in 2001 (only 1 Pac-10 team allowed more).

\*\*\*USC was last in the Pac-10 in total offense (314.5) in 2001.

\*\*\*USC had less than 300 yards in total offense in 7 games in 2001 (Kansas State, Stanford, Washington, Notre Dame, Oregon State, UCLA and Utah), including 6 of the last 9.

\*\*\*USC rushed for 100 yards or less 8 times in 2001 (Kansas State, Oregon, Stanford, Notre Dame, Arizona, Oregon State, UCLA and Utah), including 5 of the last 6 games.

\*\*\*USC averaged just 87.7 rushing yards per game in 2001 (last in the Pac-10 and 109<sup>th</sup> out of 115 teams nationally) and its 1,052 rushing yards were its fewest ever since records were kept in 1948.

\*\*\*QB **Carson Palmer's** 54-yard run against UCLA was the longest of 2001 by a Trojan (it was the first time since Rodney Peete in 1986 that a quarterback had Troy's longest rush), however he fumbled away the ball at the end of the run.

\*\*\*TB **Sultan McCullough's** 410 rushing yards was the lowest total to lead USC since Hal Tobin's 318 yards in 1960.

## RANDOM NOTES

\*\*\*S **Troy Polamalu** and QB **Carson Palmer** already have accepted invitations to play in the 78<sup>th</sup> annual East-West Shrine Game at Pacific Bell Park in San Francisco on Jan. 11, 2003.

\*\*\*S **Troy Polamalu's jersey currently is on display** at the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind., in the "Race for the Pantheon" exhibit that highlights the nation's 10 leading candidates for post-season individual honors.

\*\*\*USC has 3 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 P **Tom Malone** (expected to be the starter) and FB **Brandon Hancock** came to USC this past spring.

\*\*\*Former USC All-American back **Jon Arnett** is being enshrined into the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind., this Aug. 9-10, while ex-USC All-American safety **Ronnie Lott** will be inducted into the Hall at a Dec. 10 dinner in New York (he'll be enshrined in August of 2003). Arnett was a 1955 All-American who rushed for 1,898 career yards at Troy and then played 10 years in the NFL with the Rams and Bears. 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.

\*\*\*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-and-20-minutes 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 102-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. Then there's 100-year old **Hobbs Adams**, a 1923-24-25 letterman as a 170-pound end (he captained the 1925 squad, also played baseball and track, then was a Trojan assistant from 1935 to 1939; his granddaughter, Tracy Lindquist, is a senior setter on the 2001 USC women's volleyball team).

\*\*\*USC's football team can field a pretty imposing track and field squad...and, in fact, Trojan track coach Ron Allice benefits from a number of footballers (many helped Troy win the 2000 Pac-10 meet). TB **Sultan McCullough** is the fastest Trojan football player ever, having run a 10.17 in the 100 (fifth fastest of any USC trackster in history!). He was the Pac-10 100 champ in 1999. WR **Kareem Kelly**, who owns the world junior record in the indoor 50, has clocked 10.28 in the 100 and anchored USC's sprint relay squad which finished fifth at this year's NCAA meet. CB **Darrell Rideaux** has gone 10.27 and ran leadoff on the 2002 sprint relay team. CB **Marcell Allmond** is a 13.54 high hurdler (he was a 2-time California state prep champ) and national Junior Olympic record-setting decathlete. CB **Miguel Fletcher** has run 10.31 and TB **Justin Fargas** is a 10.47 guy. Fargas (1997), Rideaux (1998) and Kelly (1999) all won the California state high school 100.

\*\*\*LB **Chris Prosser** is allergic to grass, which causes his skin to get rashes when he plays football.

\*\*\*OT **Phillip Eaves** spent part of 1997 in the Army at Fort Jackson, S.C.

\*\*\*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.

\*\*\*As a youngster, LB **Collin Ashton** was a ballboy for several years for the USC men's basketball team.

\*\*\*USC has a 24-year-old freshman in WR **Frank Candela**. The one-time Boston prep football sensation spent the past 4 seasons playing minor league baseball in the Brewers organization, but wanted to give football another try. Known for his speed and quickness, the 5-8, 175-pounder is nicknamed The Flash. He was born in Boston, but soon after moved with his family to the Italian island of Sicily, where he lived for 7 years before coming back to Boston (his parents returned to live in Sicily when he was 14 and Candela remained in Boston with an older brother).

\*\*\*Four Trojans have Hollywood connections. As a youngster, USC S **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). TB **Justin Fargas** is the son of actor Antonio Fargas, who has appeared in television (including as Huggy Bear on "Starsky and Hutch") and film ("Shaft," "Pretty Baby," "The Gambler" and "Car Wash," among others). C **Derek Graf's** father, Allan, is a stuntman, stunt coordinator and second unit director who has been involved in many noted Hollywood films, "On Any Given Sunday" and "The Replacements." 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.

\*\*\*Four Trojans have fathers who played on national championship USC football squads: C **Derek Graf** (father, Allan, was on the 1972 team), DE **Austin Jackson** (father, Melvin, was on the 1974 squad), S **Kyle Matthews** (father, 1977 All-American Clay, was on the 1974 team) and CB **Justin Tolliver** (father, Kevin Williams, was on the 1978 team). Matthews' uncle, Bruce, was a 1982 All-American offensive guard at USC. Several other Trojans have relatives with USC football connections. CB **Kevin Arbet** is the stepson of ex-Trojan (1980-82) Jeff Simmons. Two Trojans have cousins who played at USC—WR **Kareem Kelly** (Rashard Cook, 1995-98) and TE-SNP **Joe Boskovich** (Martin Boskovich, 1993)—and four have uncles who were Trojan footballers: S **Troy Polamalu** (Kennedy Pola, 1982-85, now USC's running backs coach and special teams coordinator), C **Norm Katnik**/OG **Kurt Katnik** (John Katnik, 1986-87) and OG-DT **Fred Matua** (Titus Tuiasosopo, 1990-92).

\*\*\*Speaking of genes: CB **Kevin Arbet's** cousin, Lamarr Arbet, is a sophomore 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. 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). WR **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. WR **Keary Colbert's** cousin is ex-Arizona State DT Tommie Townsend (1999-2001). TB **Hershel Dennis's** father, Hershel Sr., played tailback at North Carolina A&T. CB **Miguel Fletcher's** father, Ned, was on the football and track teams at Cal State Northridge. 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's** father, Mike, lettered at defensive end at Michigan in 1974 and 1975. C **Norm Katnik's** and OG **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. WR **Grant Mattos's** sister, Adrienne, was an All-American swimmer at California. OG-DT **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. TB **Sultan McCullough's** brother, Saladin, was a tailback at Oregon in 1996 and 1997 who has played in the XFL and NFL, while his late father, Bruce, ran track at San Jose State in the 1960s and his mother, Mabel, played basketball on the 1959 Arkansas high school championship team. WR **Jason Mitchell's** cousin, Christian Radley, is a junior coxswain on the USC women's rowing team. QB **Carson Palmer's** brother, Jordan, is a freshman quarterback at UTEP. S **Troy Polamalu's** brother, Kaio Aumua, played football at UTEP; an uncle, Al Pola, played football at Penn State; a cousin, Nicky Sualua, was a running back with the Cincinnati Bengals and the Dallas Cowboys who attended Ohio State, another cousin, Leie Sualua, was a defensive lineman at Oregon, and another cousin, Joe Polamalu, played for Oregon State in 1987 and 1988. DT **Bernard Riley's** father, Bernard Sr., was a starting offensive guard at Oregon in 1975. DE-DT **A.J. Single's** father, Doug, played at Stanford, then was the Cardinal's offensive line coach before serving as athletic director at Northwestern and SMU. OG **Travis Watkins's** brother, Todd, is a redshirt freshman wide receiver on the 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. OT **Kyle Williams's** 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's** brother, Dexter, was a defensive back at San Jose State in the mid-1990s. LB coach **Nick Holt's** wife, Julie, was the head women's basketball at Nevada Reno, Pacific, Gonzaga and Idaho (she currently is 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). OT/TE coach **Keith Uperesa's** brother, Kevin, played football at California in 1977 and 1978, while his nephew Dane, is a freshman offensive lineman at Hawaii. OFF/SPT coach **Brennan Carroll** is the son of USC head coach Pete Carroll.

\*\*\*How about these names: FB **Sunny Byrd**. Walk-on CB **Forrest Mozart**. DE **Kenechi Udeze** (he goes by BKU, as in Big Kenechi Udeze; he's 6-4 and 280). WR **D. Hale** (it's for Donald, but he goes by D.; he says only his mother calls him Donald).

**NEW ASSISTANT COACHES**—There are two new full-time assistant coaches in 2002: **Greg Burns**, who handles the secondary, and **Tim Davis**, who is in charge of the offensive line (guards and centers). Burns, a one-time Washington State defensive back spent the past 4 years at Louisville after a year at Idaho. Davis was at Wisconsin the last 5 years after a 7-year stint at Utah. Also, **Brennan Carroll** (head coach Pete Carroll's son who was a tight end at Pittsburgh the last 3 years, joins the staff as a graduate assistant working with the offense and special teams. Several returning assistant coaches have different responsibilities in 2002. **Steve Sarkisian**, who was the offensive graduate assistant in 2001, now works fulltime as the quarterbacks coach. **Kennedy Pola**, last year's special teams coordinator, adds the duty of running backs coach. **Lane Kiffin** switches from tight ends to wide receivers coach. **Keith Uperesa**, last year's offensive line coach, now is in charge of offensive tackles and tight ends. And offensive coordinator **Norm Chow**, who also was USC's quarterbacks coach in 2001, will just handle the coordinator duties in 2002.

**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 26 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. Five 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 and Miami's Dave Wannstedt. Eleven current USC players have relatives with NFL playing backgrounds: DE **Van Brown** (brother, Chad Brown), WR **William Buchanon** (father, Willie Buchanon), DE **Austin Jackson** (father, Melvin Jackson), WR **Kareem Kelly** (cousin, Rashard Cook), OG-DT **Fred Matua** (cousin, Manu Tuiasosopo), S **Kyle Matthews** (grandfather, Clay Sr.; father, Clay Matthews; uncle, Bruce Matthews), TB **Sultan McCullough** (brother, Saladin McCullough), S **Troy Polamalu** (cousin, Nicky Sualua), CB **Justin Tolliver** (father, Kevin Williams), OG **Travis Watkins** (uncle, Tom Watkins) and OT **Kyle Williams** (uncle, Eric Williams; grandfather, Roy Williams). Additionally, head coach **Pete Carroll** was an NFL head coach and assistant coach, and assistant **Lane Kiffin** was an NFL assistant. For assistant coaches played professionally: **Keith Uperesa** in the NFL, **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 295 times, including 161 of the past 163 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 recently, 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 2002 Trojan squad are: FB **Brandon Hancock** (team-high 3.81 GPA, business), S **Andre Woodert** (3.43), QB **Billy Hart** (3.35, business), LB-SNP **Matt Hayward** (3.29, business), QB **Matt Cassel** (3.23, communication), P **Tom Malone** (3.2, kinesiology), DT **Spencer Torgan** (3.04, business), LB **Melvin Simmons** (3.01, social sciences/history), TE **Scott Huber** (2.97, communication), FB **David Kirtman** (2.92, business), C-SNP **Joe Boskovich** (2.87, business), OT **Justin Brown** (2.82, business) and DE **Jay Bottom** (2.78). Huber was a 1999 and 2000 Pac-10 All-Academic honorable mention choice. 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

FB **Sunny Byrd**, on his first name: "**My parents are hippies. My younger sister is named Coral, my brother is Jade and my older sister is Niaja. My parents? They're Pat and Lisa!**"

WR **Frank Candela**, on how he ended up at USC: "**I was unfulfilled by baseball. I wanted to give football another shot. So I sent letters to a variety of Division I coaches in December of 2000. I was hoping and praying. USC called and asked me to send a tape. I sent it. I guess Coach Carroll got it as he was going out Christmas shopping. He took it with him, popped it into a VCR at a Best Buy and he liked what he saw. He called me on my cell phone and said, 'Listen, Frankie. I'm at Best Buy right now. I just watched your film and I wanted to ask you, do you want to be a Trojan?' I heard shoppers in the background cheering the tape. I told him, 'You've got my 100 percent commitment!'"**

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."**

TB **Malaefou MacKenzie**, on rugby versus football: "**I never knew what football was until I came to the United States. I used to think it was a wussy sport, compared to rugby. I'd tease my brother when he had it on TV. But I found out football is not a wussy sport. Both are physical, but I think rugby is more physical because there are no pads. But in football, people are bigger and stronger."**

TB **Sultan McCullough**, on fellow TB Justin Fargas: "**He's my boy. He should have been here from the start. I always tell him that. We need him now. We make a great 1-2 punch. It's his turn to shine. He's like a power back. It's funny, but in high school I hated his guts. I was a running back. He was a running back. In high school, you wanted to be the best. I wanted him bad, whether it was in football or track."**

TB **Sultan McCullough**, on football versus track: "**It's not my fault that I'm fast. People think I'm a track guy playing football. I want to get that off people's minds. I'm a football player who also runs track."**

TB **Sultan McCullough**, on his first name: "**Growing up, I didn't know what my name meant. I asked my mom and she told me it meant 'King.' I thought I was kind of special. I thought I couldn't die. I thought I could endure pain. Then I got beat up a few times and found out that wasn't true."**

QB **Carson Palmer**, on offensive coordinator Norm Chow: "**He's old-school. When I say he's old-school, I mean he dresses old-school, too! His shorts are up over his belly button and his shirt is tucked into his shorts."**

QB **Carson Palmer**, on his hype: "**A lot of that stuff about me is false—the Golden Boy, Gold Arm, all that crap. It's just the media talking. I think I know who I am. I really don't pay attention to what all those other people are saying. I haven't done anything yet. I haven't won any big games. I don't even think I've played well. There are a lot of people on magazine covers, so it really doesn't mean a whole lot. What matters is who's on the magazine covers at the end of the season."**

S **Troy Polamalu**, on his uncle, USC assistant coach Kennedy Pola: "**There's absolutely nothing I don't like about having him on the coaching staff. He helps me out so much, just being there to talk to him. I'd hate to see what it would be like without him. Plus, I can hit him up for money whenever I need it! Just kidding."**

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."**

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."**