

USC TROJANS

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2009

QUARTERBACKS - Carson Palmer and Matt Leinart both won Heisman Trophies this decade from this position. In 2006 John David Booty (PS#1) who was Leinart's backup (10 gm '05) battled rFr Mark Sanchez (PS#2) who was '05's scout team Off MVP. Booty threw for 3,347 (61.7%) with a 29-9 ratio. In '07 Booty suffered a broken finger on his throwing hand and Sanchez started 3. Booty threw for 2,361 (63.2%) with a 23-10 ratio and was 9-0 vs Top 25 teams in his career. Sanchez threw for 695 (60.5%) with a 7-5 ratio. Last year Sanchez battled Aaron Corp (PS#9) and Ark transfer Mitch Mustain (PS#1). Mustain was 8-0 as a starter for the Hogs in '06 throwing for 894 (52.3%) with a 10-9 ratio. The Trojans' 238 ypg passing in '07 was their lowest since Carroll's first season in 2001 (227) and I said even with the loss of Booty they could improve. Sanchez threw for 3,207 (65.8%) with a 34-10 ratio (#1 P10 pass eff). In the bowl Sanchez passed for 413 and 4 TD's (only 3rd player to pass for 400+ in Rose Bowl). His backup switched during the year and at one point was WR/QB Garrett Green (PS#42). Mustain played in 8 (157 yds) while Corp played in 5 (14 yds) and took the #2 spot for the bowl. Not listed in the PSL below are John Manooogian (6'1" 200 rFr) and Chris McCaffery (6'3" 210 So). With Sanchez leaving early for the NFL (#1 DC NYJ), this is the most inexperienced group has been in years and true frosh Matt Barkley (PS#5) could win the job. This is the first time Carroll has had to replace his QB in B2B seasons.

RUNNING BACKS - This is a school known for its RB's with five Heisman Trophy winners in Mike Garrett, OJ Simpson, Charles White, Marcus Allen and Reggie Bush. In '06 they had to replace a tremendous set of RB's in Bush and powerful LenDale White who combined for 3,042 (7.7) with 40 rush TD's (697 yd rec). Chauncey Washington (PS#12) led in '06 with 744 (4.7). CJ Gable (PS#9) had 434 (3.9) and FB Allen Bradford (5'11" 225 Jr PS#3LB) added 42 (3.2). Carroll, who only recruits players that are not afraid of competition, came into Aug '07 with an amazing 11 VHT RB's. Stafon Johnson (PS#3) rushed for 144 vs Neb and 122 vs UW. He suffered a foot injury vs UW and was not 100% afterwards but still finished #2 (673, 6.9). Washington only topped 100 yds twice but led with 969 (5.0). The Trojans possessed outstanding FB's in Stanley Havili (134, 6.4) and Bradford (47 tkl yd). Last year the only loss was Washington (#7 DC) and they used a TB-by-committee approach. Bradford (inj) RS. Johnson led with 705 (5.1) while Joe McKnight, who missed two had 659 (7.4) and Gable added 617 (5.8). Marc Tyler (6'0" 220 So, PS#1) had 198 (5.5). FB Havili added 71 (5.5) with 324 yds rec. The only loss this year is Broderick Green (PS#9, transfer). Not listed below is Curtis McNeal (5'8" 180 rFr, PS#34). This is a ridiculously deep RB corps again and could even top last year's production (195 ypc, 5.0 ypc).

RECEIVERS - In 2007 they had to replace a pair of #2DC's. TE Fred Davis won the Mackey Award and led with 881 (14.2). Patrick Turner was the top WR with 569 (11.9) and Vidal Hazelton (PS#6) added 540 (10.8). Last year they only had to replace Davis but Hazelton was limited with injuries (8 gm). Arkansas transfer Damian Williams (PS#11) had 5 starts for the Hogs as a true frosh with 235 (12.5). He became the featured WR here last year with 869 (15.0) and in the bowl had a career high 10-162. Turner improved to 741 (15.1) and soph Ronald Johnson (PS#14DB) added 570 (17.3). TE Anthony McCoy (PS#15) had 256 (11.6). This year they lose Turner (13 st, #3DC MIA), TE Jimmy Miller (1 rec) and Hazelton transferred. Not listed below are TE Michael Reardon (6'5" 275 So, PS#30DL) and WR's Spencer Vignore (6'4" 220 Jr), Jordan Cameron (6'5" 220 Jr), Robbie Boyer (6'0" 175 rFr, PS#132), Drew Nesser (6'0" 190 So), Preston Cavnigan (6'0" 185 Jr), Scott Stephens (6'1" 180 Jr), Duron Sylvester (6'3" 210 Jr) and Sean Calcagni (6'0" 190 Jr). This group is a little more experienced than 2008.

OFFENSIVE LINE - In 2005, former Oregon HC Mike Bellotti said the Trojans had as good an O-line as he'd ever seen and they averaged 6'5" 312 with 4 ret starters plus a '03 starter. The unit paved the way for 6.4 ypc rushing (3.5% sk). In '06 they had to replace 3 starters (all NFL DC's). The rushing productivity slipped even more than expected (4.0 ypc). In '07 they had to replace two starters and the unit was hit hard by injuries. The unit still paved the way for 197 ypg rush (5.0) with just 17 sacks (3.7%). Last year they lost their 20th 1st round OL DC since 1968 in LT Sam Baker and had just one starter returning but did have 5 back with starting experience. Surprisingly the inexperienced O-line matched '07's numbers with 195 ypg (5.0) with 18 sks allowed. This year they have the most experienced unit of the Carroll era with the entire 2nd deep back. Not listed below are Abe Markowitz (6'2" 280 rFr) and Chris Pousson (6'4" 240 So). Surprisingly (tongue in cheek) they actually have players that are not VHT's in the 2nd deep (8 out of 10 are!). This could be the top OL in the country.

DEFENSIVE LINE - The Trojans' defense allowed just 1.8 ypc rush in '03 and 2.6 (50 sacks) in '04 with their "Wild Bunch II" D-line. In '05 they had to replace the first pair of DL AA's (#1, #2 DC's) since 1969. They allowed 3.8 ypc rushing, their worst total since 2001. In '06 they had to replace two starters (#3, #6 DC's) but improved to 3.0 ypc rush (35 sk). In '07 they ret'd their top 2 in DT Sedrick Ellis (1st Tm Pac-10) and DE Lawrence Jackson (3rd Tm AA in '05) and one other starter. As expected, the ypc decreased to 2.5 while the sacks increased to 45. Last year they had to replace a pair of #1 DC's who combined for 19 sacks. With an exceptional LB corps behind them, the rush D was sound (87 ypg, 2.7) but the sacks did decrease to 29. This year they lose 3rd Tm AA DT Fili Moala (13 st, 10 tkl, #2DC IND), 2nd Tm Pac-10 DE Clay Matthews (10 st, 56 tkl, 4.5 sk, #1DC GB), DE Kyle Moore (13 st, 30 tkl, 5 sk, #4DC TB) and Gerald Washington (3 tkl). Everson Griffen was a 1st Tm Frosh AA in '07 and Carroll adds a 330 lb JUOCO in Hebron Fangupo plus four VHT frosh (2 true, 2 RS). This unit has a lot of talent but is the least experienced DL they've had in years.

LINEBACKERS - Last year the Trojans led the NCAA in ppg allowed (9.0) and a big reason for that was that they had the best set of LB's in the country. Last year's unit did have to replace #1 and #5 DC's but Rey Mauluga won the Bednarik Award and Brian Cushing was 1st Tm AA while Kaluka Maiava was 2nd Tm Pac-10 and the bowl's def MVP. This year Mauluga (12 st, #2DC CIN), Cushing (13 st, #1DC HOU) and Maiava (13 st, #4DC CLE) leave for the NFL. There are 8 VHT's in the 3 deep and while this is a quality unit, it is the least experienced. DC Seto says this year's LB corps is faster than the '08 version.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - Under Pete Carroll, the Trojans have finished #16, #12, #7, #1, #9, #10, #6 and #1 in my pass D rankings. In 2007 they had all 4 starters back. Last year they only had to replace one starter. They yielded 134 ypg (52.1%) with a tremendous 6-19 ratio to grab the #1 spot. Starting SS Kevin Ellison missed 5 in inj. Then-DC Nick Holt left they had 4 starting CB's in Cary Harris, Josh Pinkard, Kevin Thomas and Shareece Wright. This year they lose SS Ellison (8 st, 47 tkl, 1 int, 7 tfl, 1st Tm P10,

#6DC SD) and CB Harris (HM P10, 38 tkl, 3 int, #6DC BUF) but return six of the top 8 and add 5 VHT true frosh. Not listed in the PSL are Daniel Harper (5'11" 185 So), Justin Hart (6'0" 175 Sr) and Omar Crittenden (6'0" 180 Jr). Amazingly Taylor Mays (PS#1), who is 6'3" 230 with 4.25 speed and would have been a high 1st round DC, opted to return. While the Trojans can't get any better than #1, they have a great shot at defending their pass D title.

SPECIAL TEAMS - USC finished #35, #15, #87 and #36 in my ST rankings from '03-'06. In '07 they surprisingly dropped to a Carroll era low of #101. Last year they had all of their key players back including K David Buehler (16-19 FG '07). I called for the unit to have a large improvement and they moved up to #50. Buehler hit 9 of 13 FG's (long 43). Stafon Johnson was the top PR (9.2) and Ronald Johnson was a dangerous KR (27.1). Buehler had an amazing 48 TB on 88 KO which was #1 in the NCAA. This year they lose Buehler (#5DC DAL) and P Greg Woitnick (33.0 net). As long as Carroll finds a capable P I look for the Trojans to improve in the rankings again. Carroll hired Brian Schneider as ST coach this year, the first full-time ST coord at USC since 2001.

COACHES - Pete Carroll had been the HC of the NYJ and New England Patriots. When he was hired, not too many Trojan fans were happy. When he opened up 2-5, the Trojan faithful began to countdown the days until his departure. Since then, USC has gone 86-10 with two National Titles. According to an article in the LA Times Pete Carroll is the highest paid private university employee in the United States earning \$4.4mil per year. Carroll had coached the D himself, but in '06 he gave those duties to Nick Holt who was the Idaho HC and had been the LB coach here from '01-'03. Holt has moved on to Washington so the new DC is Rocky Seto, a former USC LB who is in his 11th year on the staff (7th as a full-time assistant). Steve Sarkisian became the 3rd OC in 3 years in '07 but also leaves accepting the HC job at Washington. John Morton (OAK '97-'04, NO '06) has been the passing game coord here since '07 and was elevated to OC TY.



FS Taylor Mays

PHIL'S FORECAST

Pete Carroll inherited a team that had only topped 6 wins in a season once ('98) in the five years prior to his arrival. Carroll has since returned the Trojans to glory. They are the only team in the country to finish in the Top 5 in each of the last 7 years! In 2007 Carroll called the defense, which had 10 starters back, the fastest D he had ever coached. The veteran squad was the consensus preseason #1. The Trojans were an injury plagued team and suffered perhaps the biggest upset in NCAA history when they were stunned by Stanford ending a 35 game home win streak. After losing to #5 Oregon on the road, the Trojans dropped to #13 at 6-2 but were still arguably the best team in the country the final four games and thrashed #13 Illinois in the Rose Bowl, 49-17. In 2008 the Trojans had just 11 returning starters and had most of their tough Pac-10 games at home so they were the odds-on favorite for the Pac-10 Title again. USC had the most impressive ypg in Pac-10 ypg (+232.7) since 2005 (Bush, Leinart, White +274.5). In Wk 2 they faced #5 Ohio St. They did catch OSU without RB Beanie Wells and rolled 35-0. USC was stunned by Oreg St in their next game (trailed 21-0) on a Thursday night. The rest of the season USC was pretty much dominant as in their final 8 regular season games they won by an avg of 43-7!!! In the Rose Bowl vs #6 Penn St, one of the best teams in the country, they jumped out to 31-7 lead in their 38-24 win. Their 24 Rose Bowl wins are more than any other team has accomplished in any other bowl. It could easily be argued that the Trojans were once again the top team in the country. This year they have just 12 returning starters and while they lose 45 pts in the Draft (pg 308), it's actually less than they lost in 2008! The D allowed just 9.0 ppg, #1 in the NCAA and the top mark here S/67. They have just 3 starters back on D and are much less experienced. The Trojans will be going for their record 8th straight Pac-10 Title. Even though the Trojans play 4 potentially ranked teams on the road (Ohio St, Cal, ND, Oreg), 7 of my 9 sets of power ratings call for an unbeaten season.

OFFENSE 2009 PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP DEFENSE

QB 15 Aaron Corp So. 6-4 195 **PS#9.** 5 gm rFr. 7 Matt Barkley (6'3" 220 Fr) **PS#5.** IFS. Mitch Mustain (6'3" 210 Jr) **PS#1.** 157 (69%) here LY. Garrett Green (6'2" 210 Sr) **PS#42.**
RB 13 STAFON JOHNSON SR. 5-11 215 **PS#3.** 690 (6.8), 14 gm '06-'07. 1st. 705 (5.1) LY. 2 CJ Gable (6'0" 200 Jr) **PS#9.** 577 (4.7) 2Y. 12 st, 617 (5.8) LY. 4 Joe McKnight (6'0" 200 Jr) **PS#3DB.**
FB 31 STANLEY HAVILI JR. 6-0 225 **PS#39RB.** 13 st, 134 (6.4) Fr. 11 st, 71 (5.5) LY.
 10 DJ Shoemate (6'0" 220 So) **PS#5WR.** 9 gm true. Adam Goodman (6'1" 240 Sr) 13 gm LY.
WR 8 RONALD JOHNSON JR. 6-1 185 **PS#14DB.** 1 st, 110 (15.7) true. 2 st, 13 gm, 57 (17.3) LY. 9 David Ausberry (6'4" 235 Jr) **PS#2.** 325 (10.2) 2Y. Brandon Carswell (6'1" 185 So) **PS#56.**
WR 18 DAMIAN WILLIAMS JR. 6-1 190 **PS#11.** Ark trans. RS '07. 9 st, 869 (15.0), 2nd Tm P10 LY. 19 Bruce Butler (6'3" 215 Fr) **PS#17.** Trawon Patterson (5'10" 175 Jr) **PS#58.** 88 (12.6) 3Y.
TE 86 ANTHONY MCCOY SR. 6-5 255 **PS#15.** 17 gm, 2 rec 2Y. 13 st, 256 (11.6), HM P10 LY.
98 Blake Ayles (6'5" 255 So) PS#1. 41 (6.8) true. Rhett Ellison (6'5" 250 So) **PS#42.** 2 st, 58 (14.5) Fr.
C 61 KRISTOFER O'DOWD JR. 6-5 300 **PS#6.** 3 st, 7 gm true. 13 st, 1st Tm P10 LY. John Martinez is **PS#12.** 64 Garrett Nolan (6'4" 280 Sr) 3 gm LY. LS Cooper Stephenson (6'3" 215 Jr).
RG 56 ALEX PARSONS SR. 6-4 300 **PS#8BDL.** 13 gm true. 13 gm '07. L10 st@RG, 13 gm LY. 74 Zach Heberer (6'5" 300 Jr) **PS#71.** 5 st@RG, 13 gm true. Martin Coleman (6'5" 315 So) **PS#9.**
LG 53 JEFF BYERS SR. 6-4 285 **PS#1.** 4 st true. 13 st '07. 13 st@LG. 3rd Tm AA LY. 78 Khaled Holmes (6'4" 305 rFr) **PS#14.** 77 Thomas Herring (6'6" 330 Sr) **PS#5DL.** 18 gm 3Y.
RT 68 BUTCH LEWIS JR. 6-5 300 **PS#20.** 3 st@LT, 10 gm Fr. 7 st@RT, 12 gm LY.
LT 76 Nick Howell (6'5" 280 Sr) PS#72. 14 gm 2Y. 6 st@RT, 12 gm LY. Matt Kalil (6'6" 290 Fr) **PS#7.**
LT 71 CHARLES BROWN SR. 6-6 295 **PS#17TE.** 13 gm Fr. 1 st@RT, 9 gm '07. 13 st@LT. HM P10 LY. 70 Tyrone Smith (6'6" 270 So) **PS#5.** 10 gm true. 73 Steve Gatena (6'5" 290 Sr) 2 gm LY.
K 38 Jordan Congdon Sr. 5-9 175 **PS#1.** 24-30 FG, L/41 2Y at Neb. Trans '07, RS here. DNP LY. 30 Joe Houston (5'8" 170 Jr) **PS#143JC.** RS here '07. DNP LY. Jacob Harfman **PS#36JC.**

DE 93 Everson Griffen Jr. 6-3 265 **PS#1.** 2st, 13 gm, 21 tkl, 5.5 sk true. 3st, 12 gm, 18 tkl, 6 tfl LY. 97 Malik Jackson (6'5" 230 So) **PS#54.** 4 tkl, 2 sk true. Devon Kennard is **PS#10.**
NT 44 CHRISTIAN TUPOU JR. 6-2 280 **PS#49.** 3 gm true. 10 st, 12 tkl, 3 tfl LY. Hebron Fangupo (6'2" 330 Jr) **PS#5JC.** 91 Jurrell Casey (6'1" 280 So) **PS#28.** 12 tkl, 2 tfl, 12 gm true.
DT 99 Averell Spicer Sr. 6-2 295 **PS#15.** 20 tkl, 5 tfl, 3 st 3Y. 94 Armond Armstead (6'5" 290 So) **PS#19.** 10 tkl, 3 tfl true. 60 Derek Simmons (6'4" 285 Jr) **PS#60.** Move from OL.
DE 20 Nick Perry Fr. 6-3 240 **PS#7.** 4.5 spd. 96 Wes Horton (6'5" 245 Fr) **PS#8.** James Boyd (6'5" 230 Fr) **PS#8.** 98 DaJohn Harris (6'4" 285 So) **PS#5TE.** 1 tkl Fr.
WLB 6 Malcolm Smith Jr. 6-1 225 **PS#12RB.** 6 tkl true. 18 tkl LY. Marquis Simmons **PS#8.** Jarvis Jones **PS#23DL.** Nick Garratt (6'1" 235 Sr) 6 tkl 3Y. 46 Ross Cumming (6'1" 220 So), 3 tkl true.
MLB 54 Chris Gallop Sr. 6-2 255 **PS#2.** 8 tkl but RS '07. 12 tkl, 2 tfl, 10 gm (inj) LY. Luthur Brown (6'2" 235 Sr) **PS#6.** 30 tkl 2Y. Inj LY. Uona Kaveinga (6'1" 235 So) **PS#36DL.** 3 tkl true.
SLB 17 Michael Morgan Jr. 6-4 220 **PS#12.** 9 tkl rFr. 1 st, 24 tkl, 5 tfl LY. 37 Jordan Campbell (5'11" 230 So) **PS#93.** 7 tkl, 12 gm rFr. Frankie Telfort is **PS#18.** Dan Deakas (5'10" 210 Jr) 7 gm 2Y.
CB 36 JOSH PINKARD SR. 6-2 210 **PS#60.** 7 tkl, 3 pd tkl, 9 pd 2Y. Inj '06/'07. 11 st, 39 tkl, 4 pd, HM P10 LY. 1 TJ Bryant (6'1" 190 So) **PS#12.** 7 tkl, 3 pd true. Brian Baucham (5'11" 190 Fr).
CB 24 Shareece Wright Jr. 6-0 180 **PS#56.** 44 tkl 2Y. 2 gm LY. RS. 15 Kevin Thomas (6'1" 185 Sr) **PS#23.** 17 tkl 2Y. RS '07. 2 st, 15 tkl, 10 pd LY. Marshall Jones (6'0" 185 Jr) **PS#10.** 6 tkl 2Y.
SS 26 Will Harris Sr. 6-1 200 **PS#21.** 1 tkl true. RS '06. 5 tkl '07. 5 st, 38 tkl, 5 pd LY. 23 Shane Horton (6'1" 210 So) UNLV trans. TJ McDonald is **PS#12.** Ryan McMahon (6'0" 200 So).
FS 2 TAYLOR MAYS SR. 6-3 230 **PS#1.** 62 tkl true. 65 tkl, 7 pd, HM P10 '07. 13 st, 53 tkl, 9 pbu, 1st Tm AA LY. 19 Drew McAllister (6'1" 200 So). 16 tkl, 3 int true. Patrick Hall **PS#3.**
P NA Jacob Harfman Jr. 5-11 200 **PS#36JC.** Averaged 40.0 yds per punt at JUOCO LY with 27 TB's on KO's. 25 Billy O'Malley (6'1" 195 Jr). Backup P 2Y. 3 punts 39.0 avg LY.

TOP NEWCOMERS FOR 2009

DB Patrick Hall 6-1 185 PS#3
OL Kevin Graf 6-6 315 PS#9
DL James Boyd 6-5 230 PS#8
QB Matt Barkley 6-3 220 PS#5
DL Devon Kennard 6-3 255 PS#10
DL Hebron Fangupo 6-2 330 PS#5JC
DB TJ McDonald 6-2 205 PS#12
OL John Martinez 6-3 275 PS#12
LB Jarvis Jones 6-3 225 PS#23DL
LB Marquis Simmons 6-1 235 PS#8
DB Byron Moore 6-1 205 PS#24
P/K Jacob Harfman 5-11 200 PS#36JC
LB Frankie Telfort 6-0 205 PS#18
WR De Van Flournoy 6-0 180 PS#27
DB Jawanza Starling 6-1 190 PS#40
DB Torin Harris 6-1 175 PS#55
DL Kevin Greene 6-3 235 PS#11
RB Simone Vekitike 6-0 245 PS#148

