

Courtesy USC Media Services

Junior quarterback Carson Palmer, last year's Pac-10 leader in completions, and the rest of the USC Trojans look forward to coming to Autzen Stadium in attempt to end Oregon's 22-game home winning streak.

## **USC** side

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reem Kelly, further spreading the Oregon defense.

"[Palmer] is really a fine player, and [McCullough] is too," Carroll said. "Both of these guys are frontline players and can make plays for us. Sultan is an inside-outside runner and can catch the football. Palmer can do a lot of stuff. He can throw on the move, throw out of the pocket and he can also run. We need these guys right now."

While the USC offense is like a sleeping giant — it has potential, but has yet to wake — the defense seems to be at the top of its game. Carroll singled out junior safety Troy Polamalu as being key to the team's defense, but overall, it is a solid group.

"On defense, we have a bunch of guys who play hard. Our secondary is pretty solid - the corners play good coverage and our safeties are aggressive," Carroll said.

For Oregon head coach Mike Bel-

were respectable, but didn't think

top-25 team, especially traditional

lation, I - a little irate that my

Autzen Stadium thinking the

The Ducks had no hope, I

thought. Starting running back

Reuben Droughns was knocked

out of the game and into a hospi-

tal bed with separated ribs, and

backup tailback Herman Ho-

ed NFL player, had his night -

Ching was on crutches with an

ankle injury. To top if off, place-

and career - cut short when he

suffered a torn knee ligament

kicker Nathan Villegas, a project-

much of the team's chances against a

So, with 2:16 remaining in regu-

dad, my younger brother and I had

been standing in the overflow sec-

tion most of the game - departed

Quackers were going to lose 23-20.

Jude

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powerhouse USC.

lotti, the Trojans are not just a blip on the radar - they are a fullfledged opponent capable of coming into Autzen Stadium and putting the Ducks on their heels.

Two years ago, the Ducks narrowly defeated the Trojans 33-30 in three overtimes, and last season's game, a 28-17 Oregon win, was much closer than the score indicates

"To me, the scary thing about playing SC, they're a team with a two-week bye, like we had," Bellotti said. "With a new coaching staff, it takes a while to get everybody on the same page and if and when they do, watch out."

## Trojans deal with the national tragedy

Although the Trojans were not slated to play last week, the team has still dealt with the attacks that struck New York, Washington, D.C., and the rest of America.

"This is challenging times for everyone," Carroll said. "It's dividing your focus for other reasons. It seems

while celebrating, with Harring-

with 30 seconds left in regulation

against the Ducks to pull out a vic-

tory, my freshman mind insisted.

There was just too much stacked

Eventually, as I learned in disbe-

lief while walking back to campus,

It was the Ducks' 11th consec-

beg, demand you not to miss win

"I took it personally when I saw

fans leaving," Oregon quarterback

If I could, I would apologize to

Mr. Feeley, now a backup with the

Philadelphia Eagles. I would tell

freshman, too worried about get-

ting back across the bridge before

him I was just an unknowing

A.J. Feeley said after the roller-

utive win at Autzen. I implore,

third-string placekicker Josh

Ducks in the third overtime.

Frankel won the game for the

ton, his game-tying field goal

(as I would later find out).

Boy, was I an idiot.

No. 23. Please.

coaster ride.

like it's been forever since we've played. If you can remember how long last Tuesday and Wednesday seemed, those days felt like weeks.'

Although the men of Troy were fortunate not to have any players directly touched by the tragedy, USC players took the news hard.

"We took the day off and didn't work," Carroll said. "We put [the players] on their own to kind of digest what happened. I think everyone wanted to know what was going on and we had to respect the situation and then treat it where we don't forget about it.'

While Carroll was not directly affected in the events that unfolded on Sept. 11, it hit home a little closer for him. He often took the same flight that crashed into one of the World Trade Center towers -American Airlines Flight 11, Boston to Los Angeles. He also spent three seasons with the New England Patriots, who are a hop, skip and a jump away from Boston, and five seasons with the New York Jets.

everyone else. Don't just wish you could've seen the magic unfold Saturday. Don't regret. Just go - and stay.

I just hope I have reached you

Just attend the game, the whole game. Have faith in the Mighty Ducks. And be patient.

Then get pumped when Harrington, in his dramatic style, hits Justin Peelle across the middle on a critical fourth-and-12. And when Jason Willis makes a diving catch, when Maurice Morris picks up another first down and, most importantly, when Jared Siegel kicks the game-winner.

I may not know exactly how the game will play out, but I do know it would've been nice to catch the end of my first Oregon game.

Don't make the same mistake.

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## Wisconsin-Penn St. set to renew rivalry

(U-WIRE) MADISON, Wis. -The last time Wisconsin went head-to-head on the gridiron with Penn State, a trip to the Rose Bowl was on the line for the Badgers. On this date in history, Nov. 21, 1998, the Badgers were victorious at Camp Randall with a score of 24-3.

Wisconsin then went on to win its second Rose Bowl under coach Barry Alvarez.

That was the last matchup between the two teams. Due to discrepancies in the Big Ten schedule, the two schools, both Big Ten powers in the 1990s, have not played for the past two seasons. While a trip to the Rose Bowl is not on the line for the Badgers, as was the case in 1998, a chance to open conference play with a win and even their record at 2-2 is at stake.

Meanwhile, Penn State is looking for its first win of the season, a win that will give head coach Joe Paterno his 324th career victory, tying him with Bear Bryant as the NCAA Division I-A's all-time winningest coach.

Though this series has become a solid Big Ten rivalry, the Badgers have only played the Nittany Lions six times in their history, since Penn State didn't join the Big Ten until 1993. The Badgers hold the lead in the all-time series, with a record of 4-2.

While Wisconsin has become

familiar with the players and the system used in the last two years by other Big Ten schools, they are unfamiliar with the current system Penn State runs.

"We've never played there, at least since I've been here, and this is my fourth year, so this is the first time for pretty much everyone on the team," Wisconsin defensive lineman Ben Herbert said.

In 36 years, Paterno has kept his philosophy largely the same. There's not a lot of difference between the way Penn State plays now and the way they've played in the past against the Badgers, Wisconsin offensive coordinator Brian White said.

"Well, they have the same > head coach, the same philosophy," White said. "Structurally on defense, they're pretty similar to when we've played them in the past.'

Wisconsin and Penn State were arguably the two most successful Big Ten teams in the 1990s. The Nittany Lions had the best Big Ten record in that span, while the Badgers captured three Rose Bowl titles, the most by any Big Ten team in the decade.

The history books show that this will only be their seventh battle, but this rivalry feels like an old-school Big Ten fight to many. As far as these two teams are concerned, this rivalry has gone back for as long as they can remember.





