

DEFENSE

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get guys like Nate coming over here."

What's the biggest change for LiaBraaten, aside from physically moving to the other side of the ball?

"Just the mentality," he said. "On offense, you have a place to be and you have to execute that with precision every time. On defense, it gives you more of a chance to let loose out there."

Injury update, anyone?

Enoka Lucas suffered a high ankle sprain during Oregon's scrimmage, Bellotti said. He is day-to-day, as is fellow offensive lineman Shawn Flanagan.

The Ducks received the services of wide receiver Demetrius Williams at Tuesday's practice. He missed the scrimmage after suffering a concussion during the April 6 practice.

Also, corner-back Marc Walker, who strained a hamstring before spring practice started, got back on the field Tuesday.

"It'll be interesting to get him out there and see what he can do," Bellotti said. "We need to force that issue. Hopefully he's healthy enough to take a lot of reps and we can get him an opportunity."

To think, Washington would have been eligible

The Pacific-10 Conference is about to add a seventh bowl to its postseason lineup.

The conference is close to an agreement with the Silicon Valley Football Classic, located in San Jose, Calif. The game would be the seventh-seeded team for the league, immediately following the Emerald Bowl. The bowl was formerly known as the Diamond Walnut Bowl, and it is located in San Francisco.

The caveat: The Silicon Valley Classic hasn't exactly cemented itself a solid foundation.

Played in tiny Spartan Stadium, which seats 30,456 and is home to

San Jose State, the bowl game has never established a major sponsor, which is usually necessary for postseason games. It has been on the potential chopping block each season before squeaking through with enough financial backing to play the game.

Also, with 11 games on the docket for each Pac-10 team this season — down from 12 a year ago — teams must have winning records to become bowl eligible. The conference has sent seven teams to the postseason just once in its history — in 2002.

Isn't that illegal in a rivalry?

All Southern California's Pete Carroll did last season was win a share of the national championship.

The fourth-year head coach brought the Trojans their first postseason No. 1 ranking since 1972. It was the team's second straight top-10 finish, which hasn't happened since 1988-89.

So what does he do now?

Well, living in Los Angeles and all, he heads straight to the dean of the area's coaches: John Wooden.

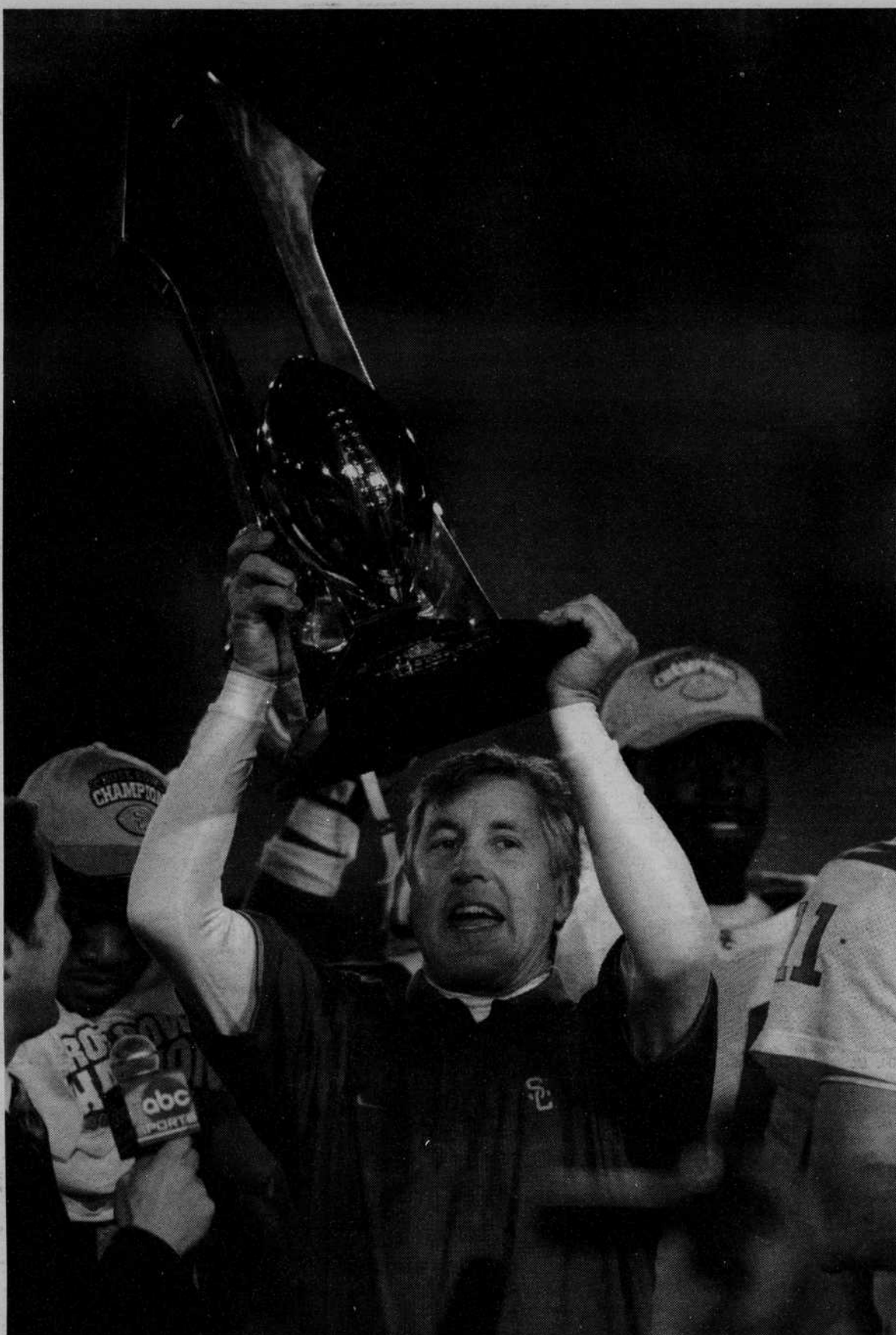
According to the Daily Trojan, Carroll met the former UCLA basketball coach at a USC journalism class last week.

Wooden went as far as to compare Carroll's surge with the Trojans — a record of 29-9 in three seasons with USC — with his 10 national championships.

"It's a tremendous compliment," Carroll said. "The year that I was off in New England there was a friend of mine that gave me coach Wooden's 'Blue Book' ... I was reading the book and I came to the point where it said in his 17th year he won his first national championship. ... But then he won 10 out of the next 11 and seven straight.

"I had to close the book and try to ingest that thought because what hit me was once he got there he knew exactly what he wanted to do and how he wanted his program run."

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.



Julian H. Gonzalez/Detroit Free Press

Southern California head coach Pete Carroll, seen here holding the Rose Bowl trophy after the Trojans' victory over Michigan in January, recently met famed UCLA basketball head coach John Wooden. Wooden complimented Carroll on his work with USC.

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