

College Football

Trojans pull down nation’s top class

By JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

PHOENIX — UCLA had gotten the better of Southern California in recruiting battles the past few years, in part because of the sanctions saddling the Trojans. Now that the sanctions are gone, the Trojans not only reign in Southern California, they have the best recruiting class in the country. Coach Steve Sarkisian made the most of his first full recruiting class at USC, sign-

ing a 24-player class that was ranked No. 1 in the country by both Rivals and Scout.com. “I know I made the statement at the end of last season that I really believe our future is ridiculously bright, and I’m not backing off that,” Sarkisian said on Wednesday, national signing day. “We signed a great class. A lot of these guys are going to contribute immediately for us and have an immediate impact on our success.” The Trojans had been the recruiting kings under Pete

Carroll and were still strong under Lane Kiffin, finishing tops in the nation from 2004-06 and again in 2010. The Trojans had fallen on tough recruiting times — at least by their standards — in the wake of the Reggie Bush scandal that led to a decrease in scholarships and a two-year postseason ban. USC still managed to pull in some top recruits — Sarkisian’s first was ranked among the top 10 — but the overall depth of the classes was lacking.

That changed with this year’s tops-in-the-nation class. Headed by Iman Marshall, the nation’s top-rated cornerback out of La Jolla, California, USC reeled in a slew of five- and four-star prospects to knock perennial recruiting power Alabama off the top spot. That helped the Trojans move ahead of UCLA in the battle for Los Angeles, but the Bruins didn’t fare too bad themselves. UCLA was rated No. 4 by Scout and 13th by Rivals.

DUCKS: Adams not bound by signing day rules

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a four-star recruit out of Servite High School in Southern California, where he passed for 1,797 yards and 12 touchdowns, and ran for 815 yards and 13 scores his senior year. Often compared to Dennis Dixon, he has only played at QB for two years and is a likely redshirt in the upcoming season. Oregon is looking at its options at quarterback following the early departure of Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota, who set a Pac-12 record for total touchdowns this past season with 58, including 42 via pass, 15 on the run and one touchdown catch. He also set the conference mark for career touchdowns with 136. Mariota declared his el-

Quick hits

Top 25 Class: Yes
Best in class: Canton Kaumatule, DE, Hawaii.
Best of the rest: Travis Waller, QB, Anaheim, California
Late addition: Jonah Moi, LB, Riverside City College, originally committed to Washington State but flipped Tuesday night
One that got away: Ra-sheem Green, DT, Gardena, California, signed with USC

igibility for the NFL draft shortly after the Ducks fell to Ohio State in the first College Football Playoff championship game. Oregon finished the season ranked No. 2. Mariota’s heir apparent right now is Jeff Lockie, the

backup last season who attempted 27 passes, completing 21 for 207 yards and a touchdown. But many fans were looking at FCS All-America Adams, who will graduate from Eastern Washington in June. NCAA rules allow a player who has completed his degree to transfer to another school without sitting out a season. The Eagles must sign off on the deal. Adams visited the Ducks for three days over this past weekend, but so far has been mum about his choice — whether to stick with the Eagles for another season or join the Ducks. He was not bound by signing day rules, so there was no telling when he might make a decision. The Ducks also brought

aboard five-star defensive end Canton Kaumatule, a 6-foot-2, 280-pounder from Hawaii who went to Punahou School, same as Oregon senior defensive end DeForest Buckner. Like Waller, Kaumatule made his decision early and is already on campus. Oregon scored three of the top all-purpose backs in the country, Taj Griffin (5-foot-10, 175 pounds) of Powder Springs, Georgia, Malik Lovette (5-11, 180) of Redlands, California, and Kirk Merritt (5-11, 206) of Destrehan, Louisiana. Four-star recruits included cornerback Ugo Amadi (5-9, 182) from Nashville, guard Zack Okun (6-3, 327) from Newburg, California, and wide receiver Alex Ofodile (6-2, 185) from Missouri.

BEAVERS: South Florida yields several recruits

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and just 2-7 in the conference last season. The key for recruiting, as it turned out, was finishing strong. The Beavers scored several of their prospects Wednesday from recent visits — and even stole away a few from other schools. “When you’re late in the process, it goes right down to the wire,” Andersen told reporters on national signing day Wednesday. Among Andersen’s recruits was Christian Folau, a 6-foot-1, 245-pound linebacker from Salt Lake City. The one-time Stanford commit was down to Oregon State and Utah but visited Corvallis over the weekend and announced his decision

via Twitter. Anderson, who was once head coach at Utah State, got several recruits from that state, including 6-foot-2, 220-pound linebacker Thor Katou, who originally committed to Utah, but called Utes coach Kyle Whittingham over the weekend to tell him he had switched to the Beavers. Oregon State this weekend also landed three-star running back Deltron Sands, a 5-foot-9, 177-pounder from Florida’s St. Thomas Aquinas High School who had offers from Syracuse and Wake Forest. Sands joins a group of South Florida recruits, including cornerback Jay Irvine and offensive tackle Miki Fifita. Andersen also brought in

Quick hits

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Best of the rest: Deltron Sands, RB, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.
Late addition: Jay Irvine, CB, Jacksonville, Florida.
One that got away: Keivonnis Davis, DE, committed to Oregon State but chose Florida.

defensive tackle Elu Aydon, a 6-foot-3, 310-pounder from American Samoa, who he recruited while at Wisconsin. A few Riley recruits decided to stay with the Beavers, including Omar Hicks-Onu, a 6-1, 172-pound defensive back from Carrollton, Texas,

and punter Nick Porebski, an Australian who played at Snow College in Utah. The Beavers lured home-state prospect Blake Brandel, a 6-7, 270-pound offensive tackle who played at Portland’s Central Catholic. The Beavers earlier announced that offensive lineman Brayden Kearsley, who played two seasons at BYU, had transferred to Oregon State. But under NCAA rules, he must sit out a year. As for replacing Mannion, already waiting in the wings is Luke Del Rio, son of former NFL linebacker and current Oakland Raiders coach Jack Del Rio. Oregon State could try to capitalize on Del Rio’s mobility by introducing more spread offense elements.

BUCKAROOS: Freak injuries help bring team closer

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to go wrestle (Thursday). It’s not most likely something that we’re not going to win, but our kids need to go compete and get ready for the end of the year. It’s really hard to win when we’re going to forfeit four weights (Thursday).” Holcomb and fellow seniors Ryan Skeen and Terrel Platt competed for the final time at Warberg Court. A fourth senior — Joey Bliss — was unable to compete due to a knee injury but took part in senior festivities. Without a single wrestler available below 126 pounds, Pendleton took an 18-0 deficit into the first bout of the night. That match pitted Holcomb against Baker’s Logan Valentine at 126 pounds. Holcomb overwhelmed Valentine, gaining the fall 1:12 into the first round. The pin would be the first of three by Buckaroo wrestlers. Skeen and Platt won on what would end up being back-to-back matches at 152 and 170. Skeen battled the Bulldogs Dillon Feldmeier for three rounds before coming away with a 6-3 win. Platt and Peter Baker jostled for the upperhand for three rounds until Platt finally put Baker down for good with a fall in the dual’s final minute. The seniors according to Phillips wrestled liked seniors on Senior Day. “They did a great job tonight,” he said. “I was really proud of our seniors.” Morgan Holcomb also won by fall, taking Sean Stanford down in similar fashion to his brother in the opening round of the 145-pound class. Brendon Badola scored 15 points to dispatch of Baker’s Nick Blair by technical fall in the



TOP: Pendleton’s Ryan Skeen prevailed over Baker’s Dillon Feldmeier in the 152-pound weight class on Wednesday in Pendleton. LEFT: Pendleton’s Brendon Badola overpowers Baker’s Nick Blair in the 132 weight class on Wednesday.

Staff photos by Kathy Aney

other Pendleton victory. Phillips had high hopes for each of the sidelined wrestlers. Bliss, JD Peters, and Dalton Cortazar he believed each were capable of qualifying for the state meet. The rash of injuries is unlike anything the veteran head man has seen. “It’s the weirdest thing in the world. I’ve never had two major injuries in one year, let alone six,” he said. All of the six injuries came during competition. Phillips hopes the inju-

ry-plagued January provides some silver lining. “If nothing else it’s brought them closer together,” he said. “They are really bonded together now. You’re not going to come in between these guys. “It is what it is and we’re going to get through it — and we’re going to do it with a smile on our face most of the time.” Tonight’s dual with Hermiston is the final dual of the season. Pendleton heads to Hood River to com-

pete in the District 4 meet Feb. 13-14.

PENDLETON 49, BAKER 36
106 — D. Dollahide (Baker) win by forfeit.
113 — J. Hays (Baker) win by forfeit.
120 — J. Ahhee (Baker) win by forfeit.
126 — T. Holcomb (Pen) def. L. Valentine (Baker) pf. 1:12.
132 — B. Badola (Pen) def. N. Blair (Baker) tf. 15:1.
138 — M. Vela (Baker) def. S. Chambers (Pen) pf. 4:56.
145 — M. Holcomb (Pen) def. S. Stanford (Bake) pf. 1:24.
152 — R. Skeen (Pen) def. D. Feldmeier (Baker) dec. 6-3.
160 — M. Bliss (Pen) win by forfeit.
170 — T. Platt (Pen) def. P. Baker (Baker) pf. 5:17.
182 — S. Bliss (Pen) win by forfeit.
195 — M. Taylor (Pen) win by forfeit.
220 — Double forfeit.
285 — W. Goodwin (Baker) def. J. Priestler (Pen) pf. 1:27.



AP Photo/Brian Snyder, Pool

Ursula Ward, mother of Odin Lloyd, wipes her eyes after looking at a photograph from the medical examiner’s office of her dead son during the murder trial of former NFL football player Aaron Hernandez at Bristol County Superior Court in Fall River, Mass., Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2015. Hernandez is accused of the June 2013 killing of Lloyd.

Judge tells victim’s mom not to cry in Hernandez testimony

By MICHELLE R. SMITH
Associated Press

FALL RIVER, Mass. — The judge overseeing the murder trial of ex-NFL star Aaron Hernandez warned the victim’s mother to not cry on the stand in front of jurors Wednesday, a reference to the two previous days she left the courtroom in tears when seeing photos of her son’s body. “I understand this is very emotional for you,” the judge told Ursula Ward, the mother of Odin Lloyd who was set to testify for the first time. With the jury out of the room, Superior Court Judge Susan Garsh instructed her to “retain control of your emotions.”

Ward did not cry and instead remained stoic as the jury returned and a prosecutor showed her an autopsy photo, then another photo of a smiling Lloyd wearing the same clothes he had on when he was found dead: a plaid shirt and a Red Sox cap. Hernandez, a former New England Patriots player, is accused in the 2013 killing of Lloyd, a 27-year-old semipro football player who was dating his fiancée’s sister. Hernandez, 25, had a \$40 million contract with the Patriots when he was arrested. Also testifying Wednesday for the third day was Lloyd’s girlfriend, Sheneah Jenkins. She said Hernandez and Lloyd often smoked marijuana together and hung out during family gatherings but had only the beginnings of a friendship and were not very close. That contradicts what Hernandez’s lawyers have said about the two being friends and Hernandez hav-

ing no reason to kill him. Wednesday was the first day of Jenkins’ testimony that her sister, Shayanna, attended. The two sit on opposite sides of the courtroom: Sheneah with Lloyd’s family behind prosecutors and Shayanna with Hernandez’s family behind the defense table. Shayanna Jenkins appeared to pay close attention, taking notes as her younger sister spoke and sharing them with one of Hernandez’s lawyers during a break. Prosecutors also showed video surveillance from inside Hernandez’s home the morning after Lloyd was killed and a few hours after Sheneah Jenkins learned from police that Lloyd was dead. In the video, Sheneah Jenkins is seen driving up to the home, getting out of a car with her uncle and going inside the house. Shayanna Jenkins is then seen coming up to her sister and giving her a long hug. As she watched the video, Shayanna Jenkins put her hand on her head and wiped tears away. The video also shows Shayanna Jenkins carrying what her sister has said was a trash bag toward the basement. Shayanna Jenkins has been charged with perjury and accused of lying to a grand jury, including when she said she couldn’t remember what she did with a box prosecutors believe she disposed of after getting a coded message from Hernandez. She has pleaded not guilty. It’s possible Shayanna Jenkins will be called as a witness in the Hernandez case.

OREGON: Huskies shoot 57 percent in loss

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2-pointer to put the Ducks up 72-70 with 2:18 left. Young, who also made the go-ahead shot in last week’s 68-67 overtime win at Arizona State, joins Stanford’s Chasson Randle as one of five active players in the 2,000-point club. “It is a big achievement,” Oregon coach Dana Altman said. “You look back in college basketball, and there are not a lot of guys who have scored 2,000 points. ... I’ve only had one other guy, Rodney Buford, who had 2,200 (Buford actually scored 2,116), and I think he gave up 2,300.” Cook added 16 points for the Ducks. Nigel Williams-Goss led the Huskies with 19 points and six assists. Two 3-pointers by Young, who played all 40 minutes, helped stake the Ducks to an early 8-4 lead. Williams-Goss’ drive and layin completed a 15-4 run for Washington, putting the Huskies up 19-12 with 11:45 remaining in the half. The Ducks answered with a 7-0 run of their own to tie it at 19. A Young 3 followed by a pair of free throws from Dillon Brooks gave Oregon a 31-25 advantage. Behind 15 first-half points from Young, the Ducks led 42-37 at the

break. But Washington came out of the locker room on fire. Donaven Dorsey’s 3 in front of head coach Lorenzo Romar made it 44-42 Huskies, and Andrew Andrews knocked down 1 of 2 at the line to extend it to 45-42. A bucket from Brooks pulled the Ducks even at 50-all, but Washington got the lead right back on an old-fashioned 3-point play by Williams-Goss with 11:54 to play. Oregon took its first lead of the second half at 58-57 on a Young 3. Young hit two free throws to put the Ducks on top 66-64 with 6:36 remaining, and Brooks’ offensive board and putback made it 68-64. Refusing to go away, Washington tied it again at 70 with 3:13 left on free throws from Andrews. Altman called timeout with 42.5 to go at 74-all, and Young won it with his floater. In the loss, Washington shot 57 percent from the field (30 for 53) and had 46 points in the paint. “We’ve just got to guard better,” Altman said. “I think it’s really obvious to everybody. If you look at our seven losses, they’ve all been on the defensive-related.”