

USC TROJANS



DE Leonard Williams

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2013

QUARTERBACKS - In '11 Matt Barkley (PS#5) entered his 3rd yr as the st'r and threw for 3,528 (69%, 39-7) setting schl records for comp % and td's. Barkley held a press conf in Dec and announced his return and fans rejoiced. In '11 none of the bkps att'd a pass. LY Barkley came in as the frontrunner for the Heisman but did not have the type of yr everyone expected. He threw for 3,273 (63.6%, 36-15) before being inj'd vs UCLA. Barkley set P12 rec's vs Colo with a 319.16 pass eff (Drew Olson '03) and 95% comp (Rick Neuheisel '83 in 20 att's). Max Wittek ply'd in 8 and got the st vs #1 ranked ND delivering a decent gm but struggled in the wind vs GT (bowl). He threw for 388 (52.2%, 3-5) and is more mobile than the usual USC QB's. PS#9 Cody Kessler got in 10 gm (2-2) and added to the mix is PS#1 true frosh Max Browne (IFS). Kessler was the most impressive in spring but does not have the size or arm strength of the other two. Despite the loss of a 4Y st'r (#4DC PHI), I don't think the numbers will drop too much from 2012.

RUNNING BACKS - USC is known for its fine TB tradition. In '11 Curtis McNeal (PS#34) became the 27th 1,000 yd rusher here with 1,005 (6.9). Depth at RB was one of their prime concerns in the spg of '12 so they moved Tre Madden (PS#20) over from LB (1 st, 15 tk1 '11) and he was impressive before a knee inj (OFY). USC got a gift over the summer when, due to the Penn St penalties, Silas Redd (PS#10, 1241, 5.1 '11) trans and was able to play immediately. Redd topped 100 three times in the first 6 and was on pace for 1,000 (570) before being banged up and finishing with 905 (5.4). McNeal had 163 vs ASi and 161 vs UCLA when Redd was inj'd and finished #2 with 701 (6.0). Soph DJ Morgan (PS#6) was #3 with 201 (4.9). Both McNeal and Redd topped 100 vs Cal, the first USC duo to accomplish that s'08. TY they lose McNeal but also in the mix are Justin Davis (PS#13, IFS), Ty Isaac (PS#4) and Madden (nearly 100%). Not listed below are LB Simone Vehikite (5'11" 225 Sr, PS#148) who moved to FB and PS#44 Javorius Allen (6'11" 210 So, 3 gm LY). I look for USC to have its 28th 1,000 yd rusher.

RECEIVERS - In '10 the Trojans had to replace their top two rec's (#3DC WR, #6DC TE). True frosh Robert Woods (PS#2) led with 792 (12.2) while TE Rhett Ellison was #5 (239, 11.4). In '11 Woods was not 100% but still led with 1,292 (11.6) and might have won the Biletnikoff (finalist) had he stayed healthy. The story, however, was true frosh Marqise Lee (PS#10) who emerged with 1,143 (15.7). RfR TE Randall Telfer (PS#7) was #3 (273, 10.5). All 3 ret'd LY and the Trojans had arguably the best rec corps in football. Lee was often mentioned in Heisman talk and easily won the Biletnikoff, finishing with 1,721 (14.6)

and 14 td. Woods had 846 (11.1) and 11 td. Soph TE Xavier Grumble (PS#1) had 316 (10.9) while Telfer dropped to 100 (8.3). The #3 WR was true frosh Nelson Agholor (PS#3) who did not have the same frosh impact as Lee and Woods (340, 17.9). Grumble was OFS (freak weight room inj), but they are hopeful for his return in Aug. Even with Woods (all-time USC car reception leader w/252) leaving early for the NFL (#2DC BUF) and George Farmer (PS#1) being OFY (tore ACL in April), this remains one of the top rec corps in the country.

OFFENSIVE LINE - In '11 this unit had to replace 3 st'rs (#1DC) and had just 27 car sts ret (#111 FBS). Marcus Martin (PS#63) became the Trojans first true frosh to start at OG s'04 (10 st) with the other 4 OL's all starting 12. USC's numbers dropped to 163 ypg (5.0) but they all'd just 8 sks (1.8%). LY they had to replace 1st Tm P12 LT Matt Kalil (2Y st'r) who became USC's 22nd OL drafted in the 1st Rnd but had the other 4 st'rs back (60 car st). New LT soph Aundrey Walker was the team's most penalized player and after a neck inj cost him a st in Wk 8, Max Tuerk became the first ever true frosh to start at LT for USC. Surprisingly USC's numbers again slipped to 151 ypg (5.0) while the sks rose to 17 (3.7%). TY they lose 1st Tm P12 C Khaled Holmes (12 st, 3Y st'r, #4DC IND), G Abe Markowitz (2 st) and bkp Jeremy Galten (11 gm). Everyone else is back (85 car st) incl 1st Tm Fr AA Tuerk plus they add in PS#5 and PS#6 OL's from LY's recruiting class. This should be one of the best O-line's in the country.

DEFENSIVE LINE - After all'g less than 100 ypg on the ground for 3 consec ssns ('06-'08), the Trojans dropped in each of the next 2Y incl a mark of 140 ypg in '10 with their 4.4 ypg being their worst mark s'91. In '11 they had to replace 2 st'rs but improved to 111 ypg (3.6, 31 sk). LY they had to replace 1st Tm P12 DE Nick Perry (#1DC, 9.5 sk), a NT (12 st), a DT (10 st) then lost DE Devon Kennard (5 st, 29 tk1, 2 sk) over the summer to inj. It was USC's most inexp'd unit on the entire team. Morgan Breslin was the first JC DL to start an opener for USC s/Marcus Bonds in '94 while true frosh Leonard Williams (PS#17) earned P12 Fr DPOY. Despite those 2 additions, USC slipped to 167 ypg rush (highest s'96, 4.1) but recorded 45 sk. The great news TY is the only loss is DE Wes Horton (10 st, 43 tk1, 5.5 sk). Breslin and Kennard (now healthy) are now OLB's. This looks like USC's best D-line s'08 with a new DC and a 5 man front.

LINEBACKERS - In '11 USC had to replace 2 st'rs (#2, #6 tk1/rs) incl a #7DC and moved Kennard (8 st, 72 tk1 '10) to DE. RfR Dion Bailey (PS#26) had 14 tkls vs AZ, the most by a frosh here s/Chris Claiborne in '96. USC st'd 3 frosh at LB for the final 4 but improved to 23.6 ppg. Two of those true frosh tied as the #1 tk1/rs and USC had 7 VHT's only having to replace a MLB (8 st, lost job) and 3 others who comb for 71 tkls. LY their 3 VHT soph st'rs were #2, #3 and #4 in tkls incl 3rd Tm P12 Hayes Pullard (107 tk1, 8 tfl). TY they only lose Tony Burnett (28 tk1) but add in Scott Starr (PS#11) who would have played more (3 gm, RS) if not for a neck injury LY as well as rFr PS#3 Jabari Ruffin and TY's true frosh. Kennard ret's healthy and switches back to OLB but Bailey slides to SS. This unit has good depth, should be one of the better LB corps in the country and should make great strides over LY's 24.3 ppg all'd.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - Under Pete Carroll, the Trojans finished #16, #12, #7, #1, #9, #10, #6, #1 & #14 in my PDR from '01-'09. In '10 the unit lost all 4 st'rs (#2, #3DC) and they ret just 4 car sts. USC had its lowest finish in my PDR since I began keeping track in '94 at #61 (60%, 30-15). In '11 they had 7 of the top 8 back (lost #3DC). One CB spot used 3 diff st'rs (inj) and USC only moved up to #57 (64%, 17-9). LY they had the top 9 DB tk1/rs back plus added in a PS-#7 Florida transfer and a PS#3JC. They only moved up to #46 (60.4%, 20-19). TY the losses are heavy. Gone are 2x 1st Tm P12 FSTJ McDonald

(13 st, #1 tk1/r, 3 pbu, #3DC STL), 2nd Tm P12 CB Nickell Robey (13 st, #7 tk1/r, 1 int, 4 pbu, left early undrafted), SS Jawanza Starling (13 st, #9 tk1/r, 3 int, 4 pbu) and Drew McAllister (19 tk1). They do have 4 of the top 8 back and while a lot less exp'd, with a super def front 7 and a new DC, it wouldn't surprise me if they moved up in the PDR.

SPECIAL TEAMS - John Baxter took over as ST cch in '10 after his '09 Fresno unit finished #20. In his first 2Y USC was #23 and #29. Andre Heidari (PS#2) hit 15-17 (L50) in '11 but was inj'd in the opener LY but ret'd and hit 10-16 (L41). Vs Syr and Stan, walk-on Alex Wood handled the xp's. Heidari had 13 TB on 40 KO while Craig McMahon had 17 on 37. Kyle Negrete avg'd 42.7 and after a 3-4 net in '11, he improved to 38.6. Marqise Lee was one of the NCAA's most dynamic KR's (856, 28.5) although USC totalled just 158 on PR's. TY they lose Negrete and the top 2 PR but should again be in the Top 20 (#18 LY).

COACHES - Lane Kiffin was an asst at USC under Pete Carroll for 6Y (OC L'2) before becoming the youngest HC (31) in modern NFL hist in '07. He was fired by OAK after 20 gms then was the HC at Tenn in '09 (7-6) before taking over here in '10. Clay Helton is the OC (3Y QB cch here) but Kiffin still may call his own plays. The new DC is Clancy Pendergast, who will be the DC at Cal the L3Y.

ALSO ON ROSTER: TB Taylor Ross 5'10" 190 So WR Cody Skene 5'8" 160 Sr
TB Alec Jaffe 5'11" 190 Jr WR Christian Tober 5'9" 175 So
TB John Akiba 5'9" 185 Sr LB Nick Schlossberg 6'2" 215 rfr

PHIL'S FORECAST

Under Pete Carroll USC became the only tm to finish in the AP Top 4 in each yr from '02-'08. They won a National Title in '04 and nearly again in '05. USC "plummeted" to 9-4 in '09 (5-4 P10, -19.4 ypg, 4th worst). This came just one year after they were +233 ypg. USC was my favorite to win the P10 in '10 before being hit hard over the summer by NCAA probation incl a post season ban for '10 and '11. They were so thin that they cut back on contact in Aug. It seemed to hurt their D, especially early. The Trojans' 5 losses were their most s'01 (3rd in the P10, 5-4, +46 ypg). In '11 USC had just 12 schlp Sr's (12 ret sts). I picked them to win the P12 South even though they were ineligible for the Title game. The Trojans finished 2 full games ahead of UCLA. It's amazing how perceptions change. At midseason USC was unranked. At that point it would have been far fetched to think of USC as a Top 10 team for '12 but they beat a banged up Col by 25, UW by 23 and then as a 15 pt dog upset Oregon on the road. UCLA was looking ahead to the P12 Title Game and USC clubbed them 50-0. LY USC had 15 ret sts and due to their impressive finish, vaulted to #1 in the AP poll in Aug, despite the fact that they had benefitted from 3 net close wins and still had schlp limitations. USC blew out Haw in the opener and struggled with Syr 42-29. They were then manhandled by Stan (outgained 417-280). USC got expected wins in the next 4 then led Ariz 28-13 but lost by 3. They blew some early opportunities and had 3 TO's and would lose to Oreg 62-51. They drew some boos from the home crowd when it was 14-14 vs Ariz ST but they won by 21. In the P12 South Title game, UCLA won 38-28 knocking the preseason #1 team out of the AP poll while also knocking QB Barkley OFY. With Wittek at the helm, USC was stopped on 4 tries from the ND1 and lost by 9. Then in the cold, windy Sun Bowl slide to ground oriented GT 21-7. USC became the first press AP #1 tm to finish NR s'64 (Miss) and the first ever to lose 6 gms. USC also failed to beat a ranked tm for the first time s'97. TY things are pointing upward as they are +2.0 in my Stock Market Indicator, had 2 net close losses and -4 net upsets plus have 15 ret sts. For the first time s'04, USC avoids Oregon although they do play Stanford. They are actually deeper at almost every position, making them better equipped to absorb inj's (unlike LY). Despite their 5-4 P12 record they were +69.7 ypg in control play (4th best). USC goes from a disappointing team to a Surprise Team (pg 19).

OFFENSE	JERSEY # IN MAROON	2013 PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP	JERSEY # IN MAROON	DEFENSE
QB 13 Max Wittek So.	6-4 235	PS#8. L/2 st, 8 gm, 388 (52%, 3-5) rFr. 6 Cody Kessler (6'1" 215 So) PS#9. 10 gm, 2 att rFr. 4 Max Browne (6'5" 215 Fr) PS#1. IFS. 16 Conner Sullivan (6'1" 180 rFr). OFS '13.		OLB 91 MORGAN BRESLIN SR. 6-2 250 PS#21JC. 13 st, 62 tk1, 13 sk (t-#2 P12), 6.5 tfl, 2nd Tm P12 LY. 81 Kevin Greene (6'4" 255 Sr) PS#111. 28 gm, 8 tk1, 2 sk 3Y. Quinton Powell (6'2" 220 Fr) PS#23. 102 tk1, 32 tfl as Sr in HS.
TB 25 SILAS REDD SR.	5-10 200	PS#10. 437 (5.7) true. 1241 (5.1) 11 st, 2nd Tm B10 '11 Penn St. 6 st, 12 gm, 905 (5.4) LY. Justin Davis PS#13. IFS. Tre Madden (6'1" 220 So) PS#20. DJ Morgan (5'10" 190 Jr) PS#6. 364 (4.2) 2Y.		DE 94 LEONARD WILLIAMS SO. 6-5 270 PS#17. 9 st, 64 tk1, 8 sk, 5.5 tfl, P12 Fr DOPY true. 58 JR Tavai (6'2" 265 Jr) PS#218a. 7 gm, 4 tkl true. 3 st, 10 gm (inj), 17 tk1, 2.5 tfl LY. Michael Arakelian (6'1" 210 Sr) D-III trans. 6 gm ST LY.
TE 86 XAVIER GRIMBLE JR.	6-5 255	PS#1. 7 st, 12 gm, 144 (9.6) rFr. 9 st, 316 (10.9) LY. HM P12 FB 31 Soma Vainuku (6'0" 250 So) PS#79. 4 st, 26 (3.7), 50 rec (6.2) rFr. 38 Jahleel Pinner (5'11" 225 So) PS#62. 1 st, 13 gm true.		DT 99 Antwaun Woods So. 6-1 315 PS#26. 4 st, 13 gm, 16 tk1, 3 sk rFr. 98 Cody Temple (6'3" 285 So) PS#130. DNP (inj) rFr. 95 Kenny Bigelow PS#4. IFS. 20 sk, All-American as Jr in HS. 62 Yonatan Avner (6'0" 295 Jr).
WR 9 MARQISE LEE JR.	6-0 195	PS#10. 8 st, 12 gm, 1143 (15.7), P12 co-Fr OPOY. 1st Tm Fr AA true.		DE 90 GEORGE UKO JR. 6-3 285 PS#11. 2 st, 12 gm, 18 tk1 rFr. 13 st, 31 tk1, 5 sk, 4 tfl, HM P12 LY. 93 Greg Townsend (6'3" 260 So) PS#8. 10 gm, 15 tk1 rFr. 45 Charles Burks (6'0" 230 So) PS#65. 4 gm rFr. 79 Jeff Miller (6'2" 225 So).
ST 1721 (14.6), Biletnikoff winner LY. 80	DeVon Flournoy (6'0" 185 Sr) PS#27. 4 gm true. 10 st, 14 gm, 21 (21.0) LY.			OLB 42 Devon Kennard Sr. 6-3 260 PS#10. 5 st, 34 tk1, 17 tfl true. 84 Darreus Rogers PS#22. IFS. (inj) LY. 40 Jabari Ruffin (6'4" 230 rFr) PS#3. Scout Tm DPOY. Marquis Simmons (6'1" 220 Sr) PS#8. 17 gm, 11 tk1, 3Y.
WR 15 Nelson Agholor So.	6-1 185	PS#3. 3 st, 13 gm, 340 (17.9) true.		ILB 120 HAYES PULLARD JR. 6-1 235 PS#18. 12 st, 81 tk1, 4 sk, 2nd Tm Fr AA rFr. 9 st, 10 tk1, 17 tk1, HM P12 LY. Scott Starr (6'3" 225 rFr) PS#11. 3 gm, 2 tk1, MedRS LY. Michael Hutchings PS#14. Julian Coleman (6'2" 240 Sr) JC.
53 Victor Blackwell (6'1" 190 So) PS#11. 5 gm rFr. Robby Kolanz (5'11" 175 rFr). George Katrib (6'1" 180 So) 3 gm ST true.	6-4 255	PS#12. 3 gm rFr. 12 st RG '11. 13 st RG, HM P12 LY. 68 Jordan Simmons (6'5" 335 rFr) PS#5. Scout Tm OPOY LY. 67 David Garness (6'5" 295 Sr) PS#30JC. LY. '11. OFY (inj) LY.		WLB 55 LAMAR DAWSON JR. 6-2 235 PS#16. 1 st, 40 tk1, 3 tfl rFr. Will Andrew (6'2" 235 Jr). 9 gm, 7 tk1, 2Y. 13 gm, 7 tk1 LY. Kyle Yatabe (6'0" 215 Sr).
DE 82 RANDALL TELFER JR.	6-4 255	PS#7. 5 st, 12 gm, 273 (10.5), 2nd Tm Fr AA rFr. 9 sts, 100 (8.3) LY.		CB 4 TORIN HARRIS SR. 6-0 190 PS#55. 10 gm, 13 tk1 rFr. 4 st (OFY), 17 tk1 '11. 5 st, 10 gm (inj), 30 tk1, 6 pbu LY. 23 Kevon Seymour (6'0" 170 So) PS#16. 1 st, 5 tk1 true. 14 Ryan Henderson (5'10" 170 So) PS#127. 3 gm, 5 tk1 rFr.
88 Jalen Cope-Fitzpatrick (6'5" 245 So) PS#3. 11 gm true. 41 JT Kerr (6'4" 230 Sr) PS#59. No action rFr Neb. Trans LY.	6-3 325	PS#63. 10 st LG, 2nd Tm Fr AA true. 10 st LG LY. 69 Cyrus Hobbs (6'3" 285 So) PS#10. 1 st C, 7 gm rFr. Khalil Rodgers PS#20. LS Peter McBride (6'1" 220 So) PS#201. 13 gm rFr.		CB 16 Anthony Brown Jr. 5-9 180 PS#70. 2 st, 4 gm (inj) rFr. 2 st, 12 gm, 18 tk1 LY. 29 Chris Hawkins PS#16. IFS. '17 Devian Shelton (6'2" 185 rFr) PS#92. Ryan Dillard (5'10" 185 So) 10 gm ST true. Rob Dooley (6'1" 190 rFr).
C 66 MARCUS MARTIN JR.	6-2 305	PS#12. 3 gm rFr. 12 st RG '11. 13 st RG, HM P12 LY. 68 Jordan Simmons (6'5" 335 rFr) PS#5. Scout Tm OPOY LY. 67 David Garness (6'5" 295 Sr) PS#30JC. LY. '11. OFY (inj) LY.		0-210 PS#26. 11 st, 81 tk1, 2 sk P12 Fr DPOY rFr. 13 st, 80 tk1, 8 tfl, 4 int, HM P12 LY. From LB spg. 31 Su'a Cravens PS#22. IFS. 26 Josh Shaw (6'1" 190 Jr) PS#7. 1 st, 22 tk1 rFr. 7 st, 30 tk1, 8 pd LY.
LG 75 Max Tuerk So.	6-6 285	PS#11. 6 st (5LT, 1LG), 13 gm, 1st true to ever stat LT for USC. 63 Giovanni Di Poalo (6'4" 280 Jr) PS#32. OFY (inj) rFr. 2 gm LY. Could end up at C. 65 Erick Jespen (6'2" 285 So) W/O. 1 gm ST rFr.		6-2 185 PS#66. IFS. 24 Demetrius Wright (6'1" 195 Sr) PS#25. 35 gm, 28 tk1, 3Y.
RT 77 KEVIN GRAF SR.	6-6 300	PS#9. 4 gm bkp OT rFr. 12 st RT '11. 13 st RT LY. 72 Chad Wheeler (6'7" 270 rFr) PS#95. Battled inj LY. 73 Zach Banner (6'9" 335 rFr) PS#6. Also on USC basketball tm in '12.		27 Gerald Bowman (6'1" 215 Sr) PS#3JC. 13 gm, 11 tk1, 1 int LY. 41 John Auran (5'10" 195 Sr). Elijah Steen (6'1" 205 rFr).
LT 70 AUNDREY WALKER JR.	6-6 300	PS#17. 11 gm bkp OT true. 8 st LT, 12 gm (inj) LY. Nico Falah (6'6" 285 Fr) PS#23. League co-OMVP as Sr in HS. 76 Nathan Guertler (6'5" 270 Jr) 4 gm bkp OT rFr. 12 gm bkp OT LY.		P 35 Kris Albarado So. 5-10 200 PS#11. No gm action rFr. 48 Joseph Krassenstein (6'3" 210 So). Walked onto team in spg '13. 46 Craig McMahon (6'1" 195 Sr) PS#68. 1 gm, 2 KO a rFr. 8 gm, 37 KO, 17 TB LY.
K 48 ANDRE HEIDARI JR.	5-10 200	PS#2. 15-17 tg, L/50, 50-50 PAT, 76 KO, 10 TB, 12 gm, 1st Tm Fr AA, 1st Tm P12 true. 10-16 tg, L/41, 39-41 PAT, 40 KO, 13 TB LY. 39 Alex Wood (5'10" 175 So) 2 gm, 8-8 PAT true.		

