



Henry Hsu | Daily Trojan

Ready. Redshirt freshman goalie Veronica Simonton has allowed just two goals in her three starts this season.

FOOT NOTES

Casas to miss about a month

Senior midfielder expected to miss four weeks with torn lateral meniscus.

By ASHLEY ZELDIN
Staff Writer

Senior midfielder Ashley Casas will undergo surgery Thursday to repair a torn lateral meniscus in her right knee. She will be out for about four weeks.

"She's a very good player, the others will have to step up," USC coach Jim Millinder said. "Ashley is Ashley. She never stops running. She's a big part of our team."

Sophomore Jocelyn Hein will be filling in for Casas for the time being.

"She started the other day (at San Diego)," Millinder said. "I

thought (she) had a good game. She's in our regular rotation at midfield."

Millinder will not redshirt defender Katie Kirst due to the loss of Hillary Schwarzbach on defense.

"My intent was to redshirt her to give her a year of development, but since Hillary tore her ACL, (Kirst) will be playing a lot this season for us," Millinder said. "She needs to understand the game a little bit better, but she's doing an awesome job. She's a beautiful athlete."

Freshman goalkeeper Veronica Simonton has yet to lose, having picked up a 2-0-1 record in three starts.

"She's got a lot of ability, she's playing with a lot of confidence, and giving us a lot of support in the back," Millinder said. "So far she's playing very, very well."

Simonton has a 0.54 goals-against average heading into the weekend.

The Women of Troy will travel to Saint Mary's in Moraga, Calif. and UC Irvine on Friday and Sunday, respectively, before kicking off Pacific-10 Conference play at home against Oregon and Oregon State next weekend.

St. Mary's will be the second consecutive West Coast Conference opponent for USC.

So far this season, the Gaels hold a 7-2 record.

Weekender: Students attending event for more than game

| continued from page 16 |

"We ask that the students be on good behavior and show Trojan sportsmanship," director of recreational sports Don Ludwig said. "Have a good time and a great weekend, but you are representing your family, your school, yourselves and your team."

School officials are also trying to encourage students to attend the game and the USC football spirit rally.

It is a USC tradition every year and will be held at 7 p.m. in Union Square on Friday. Included will be the marching band, song leaders and yell leaders.

"That's kind of weird," said William Hoar, a sophomore majoring in English referring to the lack of attendance at the Stanford game. "That's not very fight-on-Trojan-spirit now is it?"

Despite how many students do not attend the game, others have different priorities on their mind.

"My roommate is in a frat and their fellow chapter of Pi Kap apparently stole a bell from them, some kind of crazy liberty bell and they have it on their lawn for years now and every pledge class goes up there every Weekender and tried to steal it back," said Trevor Davis, a sophomore majoring in theatre. "Last time they went there they had this huge F-150 and they tied a rope to the bell, but the whole back of the truck came off. It is this crazy tradition that they do."

While students go up to the Weekender with different priorities in mind, almost all agree that they are there to support the team even if they do not attend the game.

"It is fun to cheer on the team and support them even if they aren't at the game," Abel said.

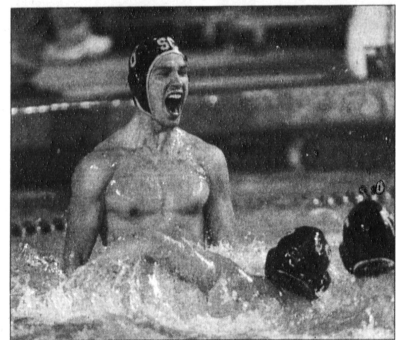


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MVP. Two-meter defender Juraj Zatovic had 12 goals in his last four matches.

Bartlett: USC likely to ride momentum into Stanford

| continued from page 16 |

to sweep Stanford. The two teams met on four different occasions and not once did the Cardinal leave the pool with a win.

This is not to say that USC won all of the matches hands down. That is so far from the truth that it is bordering on Greek, or Trojan for that matter, myth. The Trojans won half of their matches in overtime and never by more than two.

Stanford has a lot to offer the match on Saturday. Tony Azevedo, back from the Olympics, is still a threat to the Trojans. The man is a machine in the pool and manages to swim his way out of the tightest positions imaginable. Fortunately, last season, the human wall otherwise known as goalie Bozidar Damjanovic didn't let Azevedo score as much as he might have intended.

But USC did kick Stanford where it hurt. Out of the four victories in 2003, one was the So-Cal tournament a good place to judge teams for the rest of the season. Another was in conference play — it was close but good.

Third, at the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation championships, ouch that hurts. And finally, USC had the victory of victories in double overtime at NCAA finals. So close, Stanford, but really, you couldn't keep up.

As usual, both teams started out on top of the rest this season. There isn't very much competition in this sport outside of California, but let's face it — it's all about the Trojans in the south and the Cardinal in the north. Heading into the So-Cal Tournament this weekend, the teams were ranked at No. 1 and No. 2. Shocking, really, it is.

And in a repeat last season, USC did it again. It owned the 2004 tournament. The Trojans won with

a two-point victory, as usual, 8-6.

Fortunately, there's a little confidence before the big trip to play in Stanford's pond this weekend. Because it is true, there is some home pool advantage. It must help USC to have its very own cheering section of ex-players, complete with a Porsche flag. I only wish I could understand the songs they sing.

So USC is off to a great start, already taking down good teams and starting the show that the Trojans rule the pool. Juraj Zatovic is off to his usual start, scoring four of the Trojans' eight goals against the Cardinal. But newcomers are filling the big shoes left behind. Goalie Don Ricci marked 12 saves in the book, a number reminiscent of Damjanovic. I know it isn't always safe to brag, but it looks OK to me.

Maybe I should retract previous statements in an earlier column. Maybe these guys are set up for a big win.

Then again, there is 2002 weekender to factor in. USC did lose the match before the football game. But is it really necessary to compare two teams that are so different? It really isn't right to compare 2002's team with the national champions.

So off to Stanford we go. There aren't many things that show collegiate water polo at its best like the USC vs. Stanford match. So much talent in one small body of water is difficult to ignore. This match will be great, whatever the outcome.

USC and Stanford will wrestle with the rankings for the remainder of the season.

Really, even after Saturday's match it will be impossible to predict the end of the season. But hopefully, the Trojans will just kick the Cardinal when they're down.

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**USC students, alumni, staff, faculty, and parents!
Show your USC spirit.**

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USC Song Leaders, USC Yell Leaders,
and guest speakers....**

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