

Kinmartin: With Bruins hibernating, the rivalry just hasn't been the same

(continued from page 24)

one side, habitually now wading through monotonous college football seasons gingerly, winning of 23 of their last 24 games and quite possibly two national titles in two years.

You have the Bruins on the other, always running hard out of the gate before fumbling, then stumbling into what always seems like a hard drive to finish the season: last year they went to a bowl game called the Silicon Valley Classic, this year it's looking like they'll end up in the Insight Computers Bowl.

Add it all up and the score says it all: 126 for USC, 43 for UCLA, and a big fat ZERO for one of the country's few unrivaled rivalries.

But it's gotten so plain, that on what is normally a tense week on the campus of USC, the biggest suspense has been whether or not Trojan offensive coordinator Norm Chow will be the next head coach of Stanford.

It's gotten so dull, that even Karl Dorrell, the Bruins' off-lifetime coach, tried to pump some spirit into it this week by calling this Saturday's game a "big-ass" one.

It's gotten ridiculous, but who can blame Los Angeles for falling asleep on this once action-packed thriller, which has now gone from Predator to PBS documentary.

Not that the educational value of this lesson should be undermined.

After all, through this bore-fest, we're learning what made this rivalry what it is today: two teams so hungry to keep up with each other in the midst of an all-out arms race, they would elevate their performance to the next level in order to top the other.

Not always, but more often than not over the years, that meant two powerful programs would have to battle to earn their keep in the country's second-largest city.

The Trojans have more than earned theirs with their ascent up the national rankings.

Meanwhile, just as the sign says on the protective box around the Bruin statue on its campus this week, UCLA has gone into hibernation.

USC shouldn't be letting up though, shouldn't be content with 126-43, shouldn't be sensitive to a woeful Westwood or hiding to seek out its rival in hiding.

Maybe that's what it will take to get them to come out and play, meaning a Trojan victory in the game will truly be a real Conquest again.

◆ To comment on this column, e-mail dtrojan@usc.edu or call (213) 740-5670.

USC jumps into the water

The USC men's and women's swim teams head to Texas with NCAA aspirations.

By ASHLEY ZELDIN
Staff Writer

The No. 2 USC men's swimming team kicks off the Texas Invitational meet at the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swim Center at the University of Texas at Austin today, in hopes of qualifying for the NCAA Championships.

"The meet isn't scored so our goal is to go in and qualify as many people as possible for NCAA right now," senior co-captain Paul Fahy said.

Tunisian Olympian Ous Mellouli already qualified for the NCAA Championship in October in the 400-yard IM, and the 500-yard and 1650-yard freestyle events.

USC coach Mark Schubert said that he expects Olympic silver medalist Larsen Jensen to qualify for the 500-yard and 1650-yard freestyle in Austin, as he has currently met the 'B' standard.

"He'll go much faster in this meet," Schubert said. "The purpose of this meet is time standards."

The meet will feature a pool of nine teams, including powerhouse No. 5 Cal, No. 7 Arizona, No. 9 Michigan, and No. 20 Wisconsin.

The Trojans have a strong 200-yard freestyle relay team comprised of Sean Sussex, Richard Gosper, Mihaly Flasky and Mellouli (ranked second behind Arizona), but the

200-yard medley relay team of Sam Masson, Mihaly Flasky, Viktor Bodrogi and Sean Sussex is currently ranked first.

USC beat both Arizona and No. 8 Texas in dual meets earlier this season, however Arizona won three of the four relay races in its dual meet with USC. The Trojans managed to snatch the 200-yard medley relay victory.

"It will be a little bit of a grudge match," Schubert said. "They're feeling like they have a lot to prove in the relays."

Six swimmers have previously qualified for the NCAA Championships and are looking to repeat. Mellouli, Mike Kauffman, Tyler Panos, Viktor Bodrogi and Paul Fahy qualified last year, and Flasky also qualified two years ago.

"It should be a real great experience for our younger guys to go out and race," Fahy said. "For us older guys who've been there, it's just knowing what you have to do."

The USC women's swimming team hopes to stay afloat in a competitive meet at the Texas Invitational in Austin at the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swim Center. The meet starts today and lasts through Saturday.

The Women of Troy will go up against Pacific-10 Conference rivals No. 5 Arizona and No. 8 Cal. Arizona and host Texas, ranked No. 4, are USC's main foes.

"It's not a standard dual meet,

so we aren't swimming for points, but instead swimming to make NCAA time cuts," senior co-captain Jo Fargas said. "We're looking to qualify as many girls as possible at this meet for NCAAs."

The meet will also serve as a rematch for USC versus Arizona and Texas.

"Whereas the men beat Arizona and Texas, the women lost," USC coach Mark Schubert said. "We had some great relay battles, particularly with Texas."

He said relays are some of USC's stronger events.

"We could — if we get all our relays qualified — have as many as 10 girls qualified by this weekend," Schubert said.

Schubert said that he is confident that freshmen Rhi Jeffrey and Emily Goetsch, as well as Olympian Kalyn Keller, the NCAA freestyle mile champion, will qualify this weekend.

"I think Kalyn Keller feels like she has something to prove," Schubert said.

Schubert is also looking to Fargas to make some waves this weekend.

"I believe that Jo Fargas' 'B' standard will be fast enough to qualify for the (NCAA) meet," he said. "She's a very good 200-yard freestyler, and 100-yard and 200-yard backstroke. She probably by the end of the year could break the team record in the 100-yard and 200-yard backstroke."

USC's strong diving team, anchored by bronze medal Olympian Blythe Hartley, will not participate in the meet.

Miscellaneous

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UCLA

USC

An Open Letter to the UCLA and USC Communities:

UCLA and USC have much in common. Both are outstanding research universities that are proud to call Los Angeles home. We also celebrate the rich history of athletic competition between the USC Trojans and the UCLA Bruins. The UCLA-USC football game continues to be one of the greatest traditions in college sports.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few things to ensure that this year's game reflects the best of USC and UCLA spirit. Emotions do run high at this time — on our campuses and at the game itself — but please remember that:

- While you alone are responsible for your actions, you do have the opportunity to set a positive example for others;
- The true meaning of the game comes from athletic achievement on the field AND sportsmanship off the field;
- Show respect for yourself, your team, and your university by demonstrating respect toward all those around you;
- After the game is over, no one is allowed on the field without proper credentials; and
- Most important: Enjoy the game, cheer your hearts out, and have a great time!

Let's make this year's UCLA-USC football game a safe, respectful, and fun experience for everyone.

GO Bruins!

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Albert Camesale
Chancellor
University of California, Los Angeles

Fight on Trojans!

Sincerely,

Steven B. Sample
President
University of Southern California