

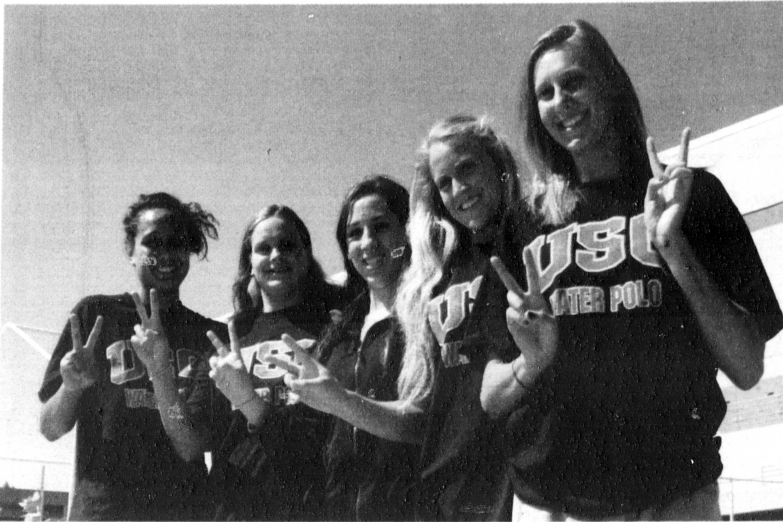
# SPORTS



**« AWARD TIME**  
ERIKA FIGGE IS ONE OF SIX PLAYERS FOR THE WOMEN OF TROY TO MAKE THE ALL-MOUNTAIN PACIFIC SPORTS FEDERATION TEAM THIS SEASON

**3 DOWN, 1 TO GO »**

THE MEN'S GOLF TEAM HAS JUMPED OUT TO A 23-STROKE LEAD AT THE PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIPS AFTER THREE ROUNDS



**Freshman phenoms** | (From left to right) Tumua Aanae, Alexandra Kiss, Mary Cousineau, Kally Lucas and Forel Davies are all freshmen who have made significant contributions to the No. 3 USC women's water polo team.



*Mystique makes it fun to be a Trojan*

I was wasting time on YouTube when I stumbled across one of my favorite nonsensical quotes of the year. You need to watch it to get the full effect, but I want to publish this ridiculous quote from Florida forward Joakim Noah anyway. "We gonna do it big." Noah ranted into a camera moments after Florida won its second straight basketball national championship, as CBS announcer Jim Nantz listened with a puzzled look and microphone in hand. "All day, all night. You guys have no idea what I'm talking about when I'm saying that, but my boys know. The Gator boys know what I'm talking about." It's not a thought-provoking speech. It's actually mind numbing. But for some reason, the video made me wonder how big Florida actually would do it? Of course, Gator boys everywhere should thoroughly enjoy their conquest of the college sporting world, sandwiching a football national championship between their two basketball titles. That is an accomplishment that will always be revered.

## USC's FAB FIVE

Four of USC's freshmen have been threats on offense while the fifth has been the second-best goalie in the MPSF.

By **ASHLEY ZELDIN**  
Daily Trojan

Five new Women of Troy may be freshmen, but they've already gotten their feet wet. Goalie Tumua Aanae, drivers Mary Cousineau, Alexandra Kiss and Kally Lucas and utility Forel Davies are the fabulous five who have made an instant impact for the No. 3 USC women's water polo team.

The four freshman attackers have combined for 63 goals. In water polo, it isn't uncommon for freshman to have such an influence.

"We knew we'd get to play if we

worked hard," Lucas said. "The competition is equal for all (players)," Cousineau said. Jana Wenger, a senior driver, agrees. "They have an equal fight for position," she said. "The competition for playing time, however, is friendly. "We bring out the best of each other," Davies said. "If one's working hard, the rest of us are working just as hard." "All of us are talented, and we rub off on each other," Lucas added. "The older girls offer advice on how to improve our game."

For four of the freshmen — Lucas, Davies, Kiss and Cousineau — USC was their top choice. "I really liked the school and the team, and my whole family went to USC," Lucas said. "It was a no-brainer." Lucas has 13 goals this season, with three multiple-goal outbursts in nine games, including a hat trick at Hawaii after registering a pair of goals against UC Irvine. "It's a great school and water polo program, and you're going to be working with extremely successful people in the pool and at school," Davies added. Davies, an Mountain Pacific Sports Federation All-Freshman, has 14 goals and has established herself in opening sprints, splitting opportunities with senior utility

Erika Figge. Aanae, however, who has seen action in 13 games — racking up 64 saves (4.92 per game) while allowing just 48 goals for a 3.69 goals against average, No. 2 in the MPSF — wasn't entirely convinced at first. "I wasn't sure if I really wanted to come here with my sister (sophomore driver Jordan Aanae) being here, so I looked at other schools," she said. "But when I came on my recruiting trip during my senior season, I really liked the team. There was a good chemistry, and I liked (USC coach Jordan Vavic) and (USC assistant coach Marko Pintaric)." Still, it was a certain je ne sais quoi that drew Aanae to USC. "I always heard that when you're at the right university, you get a

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## USC's slump continues against Titans

The Trojans have now lost eight of their last 10 after falling to Cal State Fullerton.

By **ALEX LEBOW**  
Daily Trojan

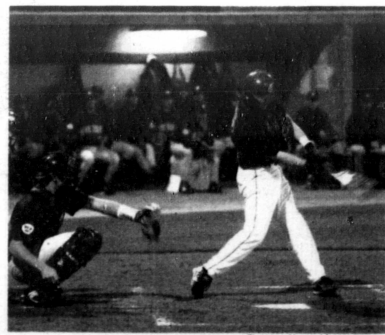
Freshman shortstop Grant Green tripled to break the Trojan record for triples in a single season, but it was not enough to help the USC baseball team, which fell 3-1 to No. 17 Cal State Fullerton on Tuesday.

By scoring one run in the ninth, however, the Trojans snapped a scoreless streak at 20.

For the second time this season, the Titans (27-12) defeated

the Trojans. In the bottom half of the ninth, Lucas Duda stood on third and Will Rice stood on second when shortstop Hector Estrella grounded to the second for the final out of the game. The Trojans add another loss to a second half skid that leaves them with 21 wins and 21 losses. They fall to an even .500 winning percentage for the first time this season since losing to Long Beach State in the fourth game of the season. Despite winning twice last weekend in Seattle, the Trojans have dropped eight of their last 10. Although Trojan starter Tommy

Milone (2-5) picked up the loss, he logged one of his better outings of the season. The sophomore struck out seven, surrendering three runs in 6 2/3 innings of work. Titans' first baseman Matt Wallach connected with his third home run of the season in the second. Then Milone escaped from the fourth inning with only two runs. Freshman Robert Stock held the Titans scoreless through 2 1/3 innings. Of the seven Trojan hits, two were for extra bases. Matt Cusick registered three hits in four at-bats, including a double in the third.



**Tough break** | Catcher Johnny Bowden, pictured against UC Riverside, went 0-for-2 in the Trojans' 3-1 loss to Cal State Fullerton.

## Men's golf closes in on Pac-10 title

By **MERISA JENSEN**  
Daily Trojan

The No. 5 USC men's golf team pulled 23 strokes ahead in the Pacific-10 Conference Championships Tuesday after three out of four rounds of play in Eugene, Ore.

USC notched the lowest score for the second straight round, shooting a 15-under 345, and now holds a 54-hole total of 35-under par.

The Trojans are 23 strokes ahead

of No. 8 UCLA and 31 strokes ahead of No. 18 Arizona State.

The Trojans also have all six players in the top 22 spots, with freshman Jamie Lovemark leading the way as the individual leader.

Lovemark finished the day with a 5-under 67 to put him at 14-under for the tournament (69-66-67). He has at least one birdie on 11 of the 18 holes and has yet to post any score worse than par. Lovemark holds a five-stroke lead over Arizona State's Niklas Lemke and

UCLA's Daniel Im (197).

"It's been a good run," Lovemark said. "I know that everyone says it, but I just have to take it one shot at a time and not try to look ahead to the next hole. As long as I play how I know I can, I will win."

Seven strokes behind Lovemark is senior Joshua Wooding, who tied his second-lowest collegiate round ever with a 6-under 66, which included six birdies on the day. Wooding currently holds a 7-under 209 in the first three rounds.

## MERFELD: USC wins with both style and substance

(continued from page 20)

I'm not trying to take that away from them. But do they do it big at a national championship level as well?

My limited understanding of doing it big from hip-hop lyrics tells me that the Gators — or any other school for that matter — haven't come close to the Trojans the last four years.

That unofficial title is what I will miss the most about this school.

It has been fun to finally be able to root for the Yankees. It's stress free. It's cool to be the center of attention and brag about it without any fear of repercussions because more than 100 dudes on the football team have your back every Saturday.

I've enjoyed my time as a Spoiled Child.

USC not only laps the field in style points, but it does so while riding on 24-inch rims and spinners.

The Trojans chose style and substance.

Yes, the sidelines to football games are always littered with Hollywood celebrities. So are the practices. But there is a reason the fickle fair-weather Los Angeles fans are flocking to USC.

Even the basketball team is reaching that kind of elevated prominence at the Galen Center. Sure, Pete Carroll and the football team have been spotted there, but so has Denzel Washington, a regular at Los Angeles Laker games, not to mention scouts from his favorite team, as well as many others in the NBA.

USC has turned into an athletic Hollywood. Just about the only difference is the cement

around here dried before stars could stick their hands in it.

The Trojans have become sexy. They are a rare combination: fun enough for the casual fan and good enough for the purists.

Big Balls Pete and the football team play by Madden video game rules. They never punt. They pass with the lead. They run up the score with such little effort their jerseys look like they should still have tags on them.

The touchdowns are punctuated by somersaults, chest bumps and even laterals to Snoopy Dogg.

There will be more passes from another rapper in the near future when Percy Romeo Miller, Jr. — formerly known as Lil' Romeo — graduates from Beverly Hills High School and joins the basketball team as a point guard in 2008.

Only at USC.

Before Lil' Romeo gets here, USC will build on its Sweet 16 season with the addition of O.J. Mayo — a guy who gets more airtime on ESPN than hockey.

But then again, USC and its club hockey team goalie made the news lately, even though it was infamously.

"Mickey Meyer rode his stick like a horse, dropped his bulky pants, mooned the crowd and slapped his buttocks during a game against BYU," the Associated Press reported earlier this year.

I'd rather laugh at than denounce that incident.

Either way, this kind of stuff only happens at USC.

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## POLO: Top recruits chose USC over Stanford

(continued from page 20)

feeling that you're meant to go. I got the feeling (at USC)," Anae said. "It all came together on my tour. I looked around at everyone walking on campus and was like, 'I'm coming here.'"

Not to mention USC has a nationally renowned program in her desired major, said Anae, a broadcast journalism major.

"I think I had the same experience as Tumua," Davies said. "When I came here and stepped on the campus and was walking around, I realized I could totally see myself here. I didn't see myself (at UCLA) and happy. Here I knew I was going to be happy."

These Women of Troy were recruited by powerhouses No. 1 Stanford, No. 2 UCLA and other universities with stellar programs.

Cousineau, however, had a tough break when she came to USC, sustaining an injury that prevented her from playing right away.

"It was hard because I had expected to play but I got hurt and my plans were sidetracked," Cousineau said.

A redshirt freshman, she has

scored three goals in three games after recovering from a wrist injury that forced her out of the pool last year.

Kiss, one of USC's two international players (she hails from Hungary), has had a breakout season, scoring 33 goals in 17 games — which included 11 multiple-goal performances — for which she was also named to the MPSF All-Freshman team.

She said adjusting to life at USC has been tricky for the freshmen away from home.

Maybe not for Anae and Lucas, who grew up playing together — and against each other — in Newport Beach.

Kiss added, however, that getting to know her fellow freshmen has made her transition easier.

"I remember (when we were) trying to help (Kiss) move in," Anae said. "We were in a hyper mood and we were talking really fast and she thought we were so weird. We took over her room."

"I was trying to decorate it and she was like, 'Just leave it,'" Davies recalled.

"Then we took her to Del Taco."

Lucas said.

"And she hates Mexican food," Davies added.

The teammates' tight bond has made their freshman year easier, Lucas said of the team's closeness.

Going from high school stars to starting at the bottom has been a welcomed challenge for the five.

"Our role on the team changes, going from a senior helping freshmen and leading the team to being those freshmen again and having to learn," Anae said of her role as a backup to redshirt sophomore goalie Whitney Morgan. "It's new, fresh, exciting."

"We have a lot more to learn coming from high school to college," Lucas said. "It's fun having other people help you along the way."

The freshmen have already come a long way.

"The seniors this year taught us how to be leaders," Cousineau said of seniors Figue, Wenger, utility Britany Hayes, drivers Patty Cardenas and Melissa Madrid and two-meter Marina Mayer.

"We have a long way to go, we'll be able to be like them," Anae said.

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