

USC women to play under new conditions on Friday

Ashley Zeldin | October 14, 2004

LOS ANGELES (U-WIRE) -- The USC women's soccer team will play under Friday night lights this weekend when they travel to Washington to take on No. 7 Washington and unranked Washington State.

"I haven't played a night game since high school, so I'm very excited for it," junior forward/defender Jocelyn Leche said.

"This is the first night game we're participating in this season," USC coach Jim Millinder said.

To prepare, the Women of Troy (8-3-1, 2-0 Pacific-10) substituted a night practice for a normal afternoon practice.

"It's good to get some training under the lights," Millinder said.

"It was just different because it's not as hot," Leche said. "You can move around quicker, the speed of play is faster."

Potential cold weather conditions in Washington might also pose a challenge for the Women of Troy, who hosted the Huskies (9-2-1, 0-1-1) and Cougars (5-5-2, 0-2) last year.

Redshirt freshman Veronica Simonton will again start in goal this weekend.

"We're going to do what's been working for us," Millinder said. "She's been playing very well."

Simonton has posted a 6-0-1 record so far with a 0.52 goals-against average.

The Women of Troy look to extend their five-game winning streak coming into their second week of Pac-10 play. This is the team's longest streak since 2000, when USC recorded five straight wins to open the season.

"I think everybody understands where we are right now," Millinder said.

"Everybody's training real hard."

No. 7 Washington is USC's first ranked opponent in the Pac-10. Both USC and Washington State are unranked.

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