

# USC's Hinds seeks other options

Ashley Zeldin | June 15, 2005

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**Los Angeles, CA (U-WIRE)** -- After much speculation, redshirt freshman quarterback Rocky Hinds was granted his release from the USC football program on June 7 after announcing his intention to leave the program.

"Rocky came to me and said he wants to transfer. He's a great kid and I'm disappointed," USC coach Pete Carroll said in a statement. "I was excited about him, because he had a good chance to compete for the quarterback job here in the future. But he didn't see it that way. He said he wants to go somewhere where he thinks he'll have a better opportunity to play."

A 6-foot-4, 220-pound former high school All-American from St. Bernard High School in Playa del Rey, Calif., Hinds became disenchanted with the program after being listed third on the depth chart behind Heisman winner Matt Leinart and redshirt sophomore John David Booty. He would also have to contend with incoming freshman quarterback Mark Sanchez.

"The numbers were just not in my favor," Hinds told the Los Angeles Times on June 7. "It was a hard decision. USC was always my dream school."

Hinds' next move isn't certain, but he has expressed interest in UNLV, where former USC assistant coach Mike Sanford is head coach.

"A lot of schools are in the mix - it never was just UNLV," Hinds told the Times. "That was just a school I was looking at. I know they have a great offense there that fits me well."

Rebels head coach Mike Sanford refused comment because NCAA rules prohibit him from talking about a potential transfer until UNLV has an official copy of that player's scholarship release.

Redshirt sophomore tailback Chauncey Washington, who is academically ineligible and said he will transfer, is also reportedly considering UNLV, his first choice, and Mississippi.

Sophomore cornerback Eric Wright, who withdrew from USC last week after deciding not to face an impending disciplinary hearing after police found 136 ecstasy pills in his apartment, is considering transferring to Auburn, Miami or Virginia Tech.

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