

USC coach is refusing to look past California

By Ed Sherman
Chicago Tribune
LOS ANGELES—Larry Smith saw what happened to his coaching rival and friend, Terry Donahue, last week. Naturally, he wants to try to avoid the same fate this week.

NOTEBOOK

cities even the laid-back natives here.
Smith says he isn't about to look ahead. He hopes he can say the same for his team. USC is a 23-point favorite Saturday, but Cal is 5-3 and coming off a road victory against Arizona.

Everyone around campus is talking about the impending games with UCLA and Notre Dame, but Smith, Southern Cal's coach, is focusing on only one team for now. That's California, which comes into the Coliseum for a date with the No. 2 Trojans Saturday.

"We have to get by this game and our next one [Arizona State], before we can start thinking about our last two games," Smith said. "Look what happened to Terry last week."

Donahue's UCLA team held a No. 1 ranking and its own destiny before it was lost in fewer than 30 minutes. Washington State rallied from a 27-6 deficit in the second half for a shocking 34-30 victory, making the Bruins also-rans in the national title hunt.

The upset propelled Notre Dame to No. 1, but that makes little difference to USC, because it hosts the Irish Nov. 26 in a potential battle for the top spot. Before that contest, the Trojans merely have a Nov. 19 date with UCLA in a rivalry that ex-

to see action against Rice (0-7), which is among the worst teams Notre Dame has played in years.
Gator Bowl officials say they're close to putting together a \$6 million package aimed at luring Notre Dame and undefeated West Virginia to the Jan. 1 game in Jacksonville, Fla.

"We're very bullish on making this thing happen. We've got a few details to work out concerning what we think is the amount of money it will take to put this game together, but we feel that will be accomplished by the middle of next week," Gator Bowl President John Bell said.

Each team has three games left, and the \$3 million offer per team would stand regardless of whether either suffers a loss. The Jan. 2 Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., is also angling to get Notre Dame and West Virginia.

The best and worst games Saturday will be in the Big Eight. Oklahoma travels down the road to Oklahoma State in a game that will help determine the conference champion. Meanwhile, Kansas faces Kansas State, where both teams simply are looking for a victory.

The Oklahoma battle should be an offensive affair. The Sooners are averaging 34 points a game, while Oklahoma State, with star tailback Barry Sanders, is averaging 43.

"We'll have to play well defensively for us to have a chance to win," said Oklahoma State coach Pat Jones, whose team gave up 63 points in a loss to Nebraska. "We've got limitations defensively. I'll put it this way: We're under no illusions about our talent level there."

Football talent won't be prevalent in the Kansas-Kansas State game. Both teams are winless in eight games this year. Fittingly, they played to a 17-17 tie last year.

"Some people would like to bill it as the crummy game of the year," said Kansas coach Glen Mason. "I think that's exactly wrong."

No, Glen, that's exactly right. In other big games, LSU travels to Alabama in a Southeast Conference showdown. Both teams still have their eyes on a Sugar Bowl berth. Georgia and Auburn also are in the hunt for the league title.

Florida State takes on South Carolina in a battle of independent powers. South Carolina put the steroid controversy behind it last week with an impressive victory over North Carolina State. "Their defense is the Chicago Bears of college football," said Florida State coach Bobby Bowden.

Andrew Bagnato contributed to this story.

Horse racing

Dave Surico's Balmoral ratings

For Saturday
First post—10:30 a.m.
Best bet—Easy Goer (12).
L-Treated with Lasix.
B-Treated with Bute.

FIRST—5 1/2 furlongs, 3-yr-olds & up, clm, \$20,000, purse \$10,000.
1 L-Papa Tricks, Holland, 120 Best rush takes it 7-2
2 L-Bat Blivet, Srna, 118 Try and catch me 5-2

SECOND—5 1/2 furlongs, 3-4-yr-olds, mdms., ill-reg., clm, \$5,000, purse \$4,000.
8 L-Joe T. DeSilva, 116 Get by and catch me 2-1
9 L-Curie, Evans, 116 Try and catch me 5-2

THIRD—6 1/2 furlongs, 3-yr-olds & up, clm, \$3,500, purse \$4,000.
1 L-Iron Sway, Sorrows, 122 Can catch 'em, stuck 8-5
2 L-Extract, Pate, 122 Shot, won last week 3-1

FOURTH—5 1/2 furlongs, 3-yr-olds & up, slw., purse \$9,000.
4 Soleri, Guidry, 122 Just missed last 2 5-2
5 L-Quitclaim Deed, 122 Shot, love the stop 4-1

FIFTH—6 furlongs, 2-yr-olds & up, mdms., spl. wts., purse \$8,000.
9 Diamond Fever, Razo, 122 Can win here 2-1
5 Family Recipe, Silva, 122 Gets a big shot 5-2

SIXTH—5 1/2 furlongs, 3-yr-olds & up, clm, \$3,250, purse \$5,500.
1 L-Great Datinin, Pate, 118 Love repeat chances 3-1
2 Bold Try, Sawyer, 118 Forget mile, price shot 8-1

EIGHTH—6 1/2 furlongs, 3-yr-olds & up, purse \$10,000 grade 1 Sprint.
1 Mawstuff, Perrat, 126 Best pulls the upset 12-1
2 Ruhmann, Stevens, 124 Shot, sharp rusher 15-1

BEST BET IN CAPS
Dave Surico John Brokopp Neil Milbert Balmoral Bill Consensus
1 Papa Tricks Acute Command Bradie Boy Best Believe Best Believe

2 Joe T. Clurie Joe T. Clurie Joe T. Clurie Joe T. Clurie
3 Iron Sway Iron Sway Iron Sway Pop Jet Iron Sway

4 Soleri Wolf Ticket Soleri Wolf Ticket Soleri Wolf Ticket Soleri Wolf Ticket
5 Diamond Fever A Gold Buck Family Recipe Family Recipe Family Recipe

6 Great Destination Bold Try Sa Got Dirty Red Bold Try, Sa Got Dirty Red
7 Killyburg Thunder Queen Wish Giver Thunder Queen Thunder Queen

8 Mawstuff Mining Precisionist Mining Precisionist Mining Precisionist
9 Open Mind Eloquent Minister Some Romance Some Romance Some Romance

10 Prsnl Ensgn Goodbye Halo Goodbye Halo Goodbye Halo Goodbye Halo
11 Warning Miesque Miesque Miesque Miesque Miesque

12 EASY GOER EASY GOER EASY GOER EASY GOER EASY GOER
13 Indian Skimmer Gret Cmnmctr Indian Skimmer Indian Skimmer Indian Skimmer

14 Waquoit Forty Niner Waquoit Forty Niner Waquoit Forty Niner Waquoit Forty Niner

10 BL-Sylvn Exprs, Dhsye, 126 Forget last, flies late 20-1
5 B-Once Wild, Day, 124 May rate, sore foot 8-1

NINTH—1 1/8 mile, 2-yr-old fillies, purse \$1,000,000 grade 1 Juvenile Fillies.
8 B-Open Mind, Cordero, 119 Can run 'em down 1-2

TENTH—1 1/8 mile, 3-yr-old & up 1 & m, purse \$1,000,000 grade 1 Distat.
6 Prsnl Ensgn, Rmro, 123 Class can do 4-5

ELEVENTH—1 mile (tur), 3-yr-olds & up, purse \$1,000,000 grade 1 B.C. Mile.
11 Warning, Eddy, 123 Brits rave about him 2-1

THIRTEENTH—1 1/2 mile (tur), 3-yr-olds & up, purse \$2,000,000 grade 1 B.C. Turf.
8 Indian Skimmer, Rbbs, 123 Soft turf her cup of tea 5-2

FOURTEENTH—1 1/4 mile, 3-yr-olds & up, purse \$3,000,000 grade 1 Classic.
1 B-Waquoit, Santos, 126 Try and catch me 3-1

FIFTEENTH—1 1/4 mile, 3-yr-olds & up, purse \$3,000,000 grade 1 Classic.
1 B-Waquoit, Santos, 126 Try and catch me 3-1

Sax, Marshall fail to sign
NEW YORK—Second baseman Steve Sax and outfielder Mike Marshall of the Los Angeles Dodgers, who had previously filed for free agency, failed in their attempts to negotiate three-year guaranteed deals Friday and will talk with other teams.

Reliever Steve Bedrosian, the 1987 National League Cy Young Award winner, has agreed to a three-year contract for \$4.35 million with the Philadelphia Phillies instead of filing for free agency.

Jim Courier saved two match points in the third-set tiebreaker and went on to beat Paolo Cane 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 to advance to the semifinals of the Stockholm Open.

Russ Cochran shot another 7-under-par 65 for a two-stroke lead after two rounds of the Tucson Open.

Aqueduct stewards have levied a \$500 fine against jockey William Fox for fighting with Chris Antley, another rider, after Thursday's second race.

Danny Sullivan won the provisional pole for Sunday's Nissan Indy Challenge in Miami.

Geoff Bodine won the pole for Sunday's Checker 500 NASCAR Winston Cup race in Phoenix.

Indiana football coach Bill Mallory has received a five-year contract extension through June, 1997.

Junior forward Tony Jackson is leaving Notre Dame's basketball program and will transfer to another school at the end of the semester.

Anthony Palumbo scored with 1:20 left on a power play to give Lake Superior State (2-4-1, 2-4-1) a 3-3 tie with Illinois-Chicago (3-2-2, 3-2-2) in a Central Collegiate Hockey Association game in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Thomas Hearn (46-3) won a record fifth world title Friday in Las Vegas, beating James Kinchen (45-5) on a 12-round split decision for the newly created World Boxing Organization's super-middleweight title.

The Green Bay Packers have waived defensive back Mossy Cade, clearing his way to play for another National Football League team next season.

BASEBALL

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