

City Hall Honors Three Champion USC Teams

As Associate Band Director Tony Fox led members of the world famous Trojan Marching Band with its performances of "Fight On" and "Tribute to Troy," family members and fans gathered at the first-ever ceremony on the First Street steps of City Hall to pay tribute to three University of Southern California championship sports teams Jan. 21. This is a rare honor for USC as the university places its mark in its history to win three championships in the same fall season.

Those in attendance included USC president Steven B. Sample, Athletic Director Mike Garrett, the three head coaches, and several city council members. Councilman Tom LaBonge shared inspiring commentary for the student athletes.

Mayor Hahn was scheduled to attend but was called away at the last minute to attend to an

urgent police matter. Nonetheless, Renata Simril, the Los Angeles deputy mayor for economic development, presented the mayor's public statement to USC president Steven Sample.

"As the highest-ranking Trojan in the mayor's office, it gives me the distinct honor and privilege of honoring the University of Southern California and proclaiming today, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2004, as USC Trojans Day," remarks the deputy mayor.

The 2003 football, women's volleyball, and men's water polo teams were honored Jan. 21 by the city of Los Angeles. The ceremony began promptly at 10 a.m., headed by City council member Bernard Parks.

"USC Trojans are the cornerstone of our community, and what we are here to do today is to show America that you win championships in the pool, on the court or on the field, not in the computer," Parks said, making a good-natured swipe at football's BSC rankings controversy.

A convoy through the streets of Los Angeles unveiled the rest of the day's activities. Following the City Hall ceremony, the three USC teams crammed onto four open-air double-decker buses and began the parade-like drive back to campus.

USC supporters and interested spectators alike cheered the convoy as it headed down Figueroa Street before turning onto the University Park campus to ignite the mid-day rally where a crowd of nearly 3,000 fans greeted them.



The throngs celebrating USC Day at City Hall. From left: Deputy Mayor Renata Simril, Councilwoman Jan Perry, Councilman Tom LaBonge, Councilman Bernard Parks (at podium), USC president Steven B. Sample, USC Athletic Director Mike Garret, and USC Head Football Coach Pete Carroll.

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