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Sports Council**

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EMBARGO UNTIL 9:30 P.M. SUNDAY, DEC. 11

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USC's Orange Bowl Triumph Named Greatest Sports Moment of 2005

CENTURY CITY, Calif. (December 11, 2005) – The USC football team's crushing win over Oklahoma in the 2005 FedEx Orange Bowl game was named Southern California's top sports moment of the year at the Greatest Moments in Sports Awards, presented by the Los Angeles Sports Council.

Behind Matt Leinart's five touchdown passes, the Trojans' 55-19 shellacking of the second-ranked Sooners in the BCS title game played in Miami on January 4 earned the school a second consecutive national championship.

USC's spectacular achievement was recognized at a star-studded awards presentation held tonight at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel in Century City and televised live by KCAL-9. The show was emceed by Hall of Fame announcer and "TV Voice of the L.A. Kings," Bob Miller.

In other award presentations, USC quarterback **Matt Leinart** was selected as "Sportsman of the Year" and the beach volleyball team of **Misty May-Treanor** and **Kerri Walsh** were named "Sportswomen of the Year." **Arte Moreno**, owner of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, was chosen "Sports Executive of the Year."

During the awards gala the Top 10 moments of 2005 were announced in ranked order. They are:

- 1. USC wins the BCS title game** (January 4): Trojans rout No. 2 Oklahoma 55-19 in FedEx Orange Bowl game for second straight national championship.
- 2. Reggie Bush wins the Heisman Trophy** (December 10): USC tailback becomes 7th Trojan and second in a row to win the Heisman.
- 3. Bartolo Colon wins the Cy Young award** (November 8): Colon compiled a record of 21-8 with a 3.48 ERA in 33 starts becoming the first Angel pitcher in 41 years to win the prestigious award.
- 4. Tiger Woods wins the Masters** (April 10): 4th career triumph at Augusta for Southern California native, winning on first hole of a sudden-death playoff.
- 5. USC defeats Notre Dame, 34-31** (October 15): Matt Leinart scores from 1-yard line with :03 remaining as Trojans win a thriller.

6. **Giacomo wins the Kentucky Derby** (May 7): 50-1 longshot pulls off huge upset in 131st Derby for owners Jerome & Ann Moss of Los Angeles.
7. **Angels defeat Yankees in the Division Series** (October 10): Angels win series 3 games to 2 to advance to A.L. Championship Series.
8. **UCLA rallies late to beat Stanford** (October 29): Bruins overcome 24-3 deficit in final eight minutes to win in overtime, 30-27.
9. **Galaxy wins the MLS Cup** (November 13): 1-0 victory against New England Revolution in extra time gives Galaxy a second MLS Cup title.
10. **Justin Gatlin wins double gold in the sprints** (June 24-26): Olympic sprint champion won both the 100m and 200m, the first such double in 20 years, at the 2005 USA Track & Field National Championships at the Home Depot Center.

Sportsman of the Year honoree Leinart passed on the NFL to return to USC for his senior season and helped lead the Trojans to a second consecutive undefeated season and a berth in next month's national title game.

Southern Californians May-Treanor and Walsh have formed one of the most successful women's beach volleyball teams ever, winning 10 times in 13 events on the AVP Tour in '05 and taking the gold medal at the 2005 FIVB World Championships in Berlin.

Moreno was recognized for his baseball team's success both on and off the field. His marketing acumen helped the Angels draw a franchise record 3.4 million fans to Angel Stadium last season, plus the team won the American League Western Division title and defeated the Yankees in the Division Series.

Eighteen other awards also were presented to each of the major local teams and universities – plus auto racing, golf, horse racing and tennis – recognizing their greatest moment of the year. Those winners were determined by on-line fan balloting conducted by the L.A. Sports Council on its website, www.lasports.org. Voting took place from Nov. 15 thru Dec. 5 and approximately 10,000 ballots were cast.

Separately, a blue-ribbon media panel chose the overall Top 10 moments and ranked them in order of importance. The panel also selected the Sportsman, Sportswoman, and Sports Executive of the Year. The panel was comprised of representatives from the local print and electronic media and was chaired by noted local sports historian Rich Perelman.

For the purposes of these awards, the concept of a “moment” is loosely defined. It can be a specific instant in time, an individual or team milestone, an upset victory, a remarkable game, a special event or a career achievement. The moment also must have taken place in the Los Angeles/Orange County area or must have involved a local athlete or team.

The Greatest Moment of the Year in each of the following categories as determined by fan voting:

ANGELS

Angels Defeat Yankees in Division Series – At Angel Stadium in a decisive game five, the Angels defeated the New York Yankees 5-3 behind the superb relief pitching of Ervin Santana, advancing to their fifth ALCS in club history (October 10).

AUTO RACING

Legge Becomes First Woman to Win in North America – Katherine Legge won the Toyota Atlantic Series season-opener at Long Beach to become the first woman to win an open-wheel race in North America (April 10).

AVENGERS

Avengers Win Division Title – The Avengers clinched their first Western Division championship by beating Las Vegas 63-60 at Staples Center (May 14).

CHIVAS USA

Opening Day – Chivas USA's first game ever is played in front of more than 18,000 at the Home Depot Center (April 2).

CLIPPERS

Clippers Rally to Win and Earn Season Split With Lakers – As the visiting team at Staples Center, the Clippers overcame a 10-point deficit to beat the Lakers 110-101 and earned their first season split in eight years (March 8).

DODGERS

Kent Collects 2,000th Hit – Jeff Kent stroked an RBI single off Roger Clemens for the 2,000th hit of his career, at Houston (July 8).

GALAXY

Galaxy Win MLS Cup – On an overtime goal by Guillermo Ramirez, the Galaxy completed a remarkable playoff run by defeating the New England Revolution 1-0 to claim their second MLS Cup championship, at Frisco, Texas (November 13).

GOLF

Woods Takes Masters Title – Native Southern Californian Tiger Woods captured his fourth “green jacket” by winning on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff at the 2005 Masters Championship at Augusta National Golf Club (April 10).

HORSE RACING

Santa Anita Derby Field Takes Kentucky Derby Honors – Four of the top six finishers at this year's Santa Anita Derby – Giacomo, Don't Get Mad, Buzzards Bay, and Wilko – also placed in the top 6 in the Kentucky Derby (April 9).

KINGS

Norstrom Sets Record For Games Played – Team captain Mattias Norstrom played his 663rd game as a King, breaking the previous franchise mark for a defenseman, held by Rob Blake (November 26).

LAKERS

Phil Jackson Returns – The Lakers announced the return of legendary coach Phil Jackson for the 2005-06 season (June 14).

MIGHTY DUCKS

Team Gets New Local Ownership – Orange County philanthropists Henry and Susan Samuelli officially purchased the team from The Walt Disney Company and hired a new executive staff, including general manager Brian Burke (June 20).

OLYMPIC SPORTS

Team USA Wins First-Ever Badminton Gold – At the 2005 World Badminton Championships, the American team of Tony Gunawan and Howard Bach won a surprise gold medal in men's doubles, the first-ever won by the U.S. in world championship or Olympic badminton competition, at the Arrowhead Pond (August 21).

SPARKS

Leslie Dunks at the All-Star Game – Lisa Leslie made history when she became the first athlete ever to dunk at the WNBA All-Star Game at Connecticut's Mohegan Sun Arena (July 9).

TENNIS

Agassi Wins Mercedes-Benz Title – Andre Agassi captured his 60th career title and record fourth Mercedes-Benz Cup singles title during the annual tennis event at UCLA (July 31).

UCLA

Bruins Rally Late to Beat Stanford – UCLA rallied from a 24-3 deficit with eight minutes remaining to defeat the Stanford Cardinal, 30-27 in overtime, their fourth double-digit fourth-quarter comeback in the previous five weeks, and perhaps the greatest comeback in school history, at Palo Alto (October 29).

USC

Leinart Touchdown Beats Irish – Matt Leinart plunged across the goal line to secure a last-second come-from-behind 34-31 win at ninth-ranked Notre Dame (October 15).

OTHER DIVISION ONE SCHOOLS

Pepperdine Wins NCAA Men's Volleyball Championship – The Waves defeated UCLA at Pauley Pavilion in a five-game championship match, capping a 25-2 season and capturing their fifth national volleyball title (May 7).

The Greatest Moments event is a fundraiser for the non-profit Sports Council, which will utilize the proceeds to further its mission of promoting economic development through sports in Southern California. For further information, please visit the Sports Council website at www.lasports.org.

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