



**Los Angeles
Sports Council**

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Dear Media Member:

The Los Angeles Sports Council today released its annual year-end list of the area's top 10 sports moments for 2003. To qualify, events must have taken place in the Greater Los Angeles/Orange County area or had to involve a person or team from the area. Each moment occurred during the 2003 calendar year.

NOTE: MOMENTS ARE UNRANKED AND LISTED CHRONOLOGICALLY

1. USC routs Iowa in the Orange Bowl, 38-17, and ends the football season ranked #4 nationally (Jan. 2)
2. Laker Kobe Bryant scores at least 40 points in 9 consecutive games setting an NBA record (Feb. 6-23)
3. UCLA named Ben Howland its new basketball coach, the first time a former national coach of the year has been hired for the position (April 3)
4. The new Home Depot Center opens in Carson; the Home Depot Track & Field Invitational is the inaugural event, drawing a sellout crowd of 10,094 (June 1)
5. Anaheim Mighty Ducks make the NHL playoffs for the first time in four years and advance to the Stanley Cup finals for the first time ever, eventually losing to New Jersey in seven games (April-June)
6. Lennox Lewis beats Vitali Klitschko at Staples Center in the first heavyweight title fight held in L.A. in 45 years; Lewis wins by 6th round KO (June 21)
7. Dodger Eric Gagne sets consecutive saves record and finishes a perfect 55-for-55 in save opportunities en route to winning the National League Cy Young award (September)
8. The FIFA Women's World Cup final is held at the Home Depot Center in Carson as Germany beats Sweden, 2-1, in overtime (Oct. 12)
9. Richard Mandella becomes the first trainer to saddle four winners in a single Breeders' Cup day at Santa Anita (Oct. 25)
10. USC football team finishes the regular season 11-1 and #1 in both major national polls for the first time since 1972 (December)

In 1995, the Los Angeles Sports Council produced a book titled, *"Unforgettable! The 100 Greatest Moments in Los Angeles Sports History,"* chronicling and ranking the most memorable events in Southern California's storied sports history. How many from this year's list do you think would qualify for the top 100 all-time?

For a review of previous lists of greatest moments, visit www.lasports.org.

The Los Angeles Sports Council is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to attract world-class sporting events to Southern California.

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