

USC Football Announces Early Signing Period 2018 Class

<http://usctrojans.com/news/2017/12/20/usc-trojans-early-signing-period-2018-clay-helton.aspx>



BIOGRAPHIES ON USC FOOTBALL'S 2018 SPRING ENROLLEES

DEDICH—He made **2017 PrepStar All-American** as a 2-way lineman (primarily center on offense) at Chaparral High in Temecula (Calif.). As a 2017 senior, he had 15 tackles, with 2.5 sacks, and a forced fumble on defense. As a 2016 junior, he made **Cal-Hi Sports All-State Junior first team and Riverside Press-Enterprise All-Area second team**. He also played soccer at Chaparral, with a 1.333 goals against average as a goalkeeper.

MAUGA—He made **2017 PrepStar All-American** as a senior linebacker and tight end at Waianae (Hi.) High. As a 2016 junior, he made **All-State third team**. He also was on the track team (sprints, hurdles, weights, jumps) at Waianae.

SCOTT—He was a 4-year starting linebacker at Narbonne High in Harbor City (Calif.), playing outside linebacker as a 2017 senior and inside linebacker before that. In 2017, he made **PrepStar Dream Team** while recording 94 tackles, 3 deflections, 1 fumble recovery, 1 forced fumble and 1 blocked punt as Narbonne won the L.A. City Open Division championship and the California Division I-A Bowl. As a 2016 junior, he made **Max Preps Junior All-American second team, Cal-Hi Sports All-State Junior first team, USA Today All-California second team, All-L.A. City first team and All-Marine League first team** while getting 100 tackles, with 7 for losses, plus 3 forced fumbles, 2 fumble recoveries and 3 deflections as Narbonne won the L.A. City Division I title. As a 2015 sophomore, he made **Max Preps Sophomore All-American first team** while getting 140 tackles, with 6 sacks, plus 4 deflections, 1 interception and 1 forced

fumble as Narbonne won the L.A. City Division I crown and the California Division I-A Bowl.

WILLIAMS—He played wide receiver and cornerback at Roosevelt High in Eastvale (Calif.). As a 2017 senior, he had 50 receptions for 785 yards (15.7 avg) with 12 TDs and 25 tackles with 1 interception. As a 2016 junior, he made **Cal-Hi Sports All-State Junior third team, All-CIF Division 5 and Riverside Press-Enterprise All-Area second team** as he had 42 receptions for 1,007 yards (24.0 avg) with 19 TDs and 37 tackles with 1 interception. As a 2015 sophomore, he had 34 receptions for 620 yards (18.2 avg) with 6 TDs and 4 tackles. As a 2014 freshman, he had 3 receptions for 50 yards (16.7 avg).

DOUGLASS—He made **2017 PrepStar All-Western Region** as a 2-way lineman (tackle on offense) at Harvard-Westlake School in Studio City (Calif.). As a 2017 senior, he had 16 tackles, with 4 sacks, and a forced fumble on defense. As a 2016 junior in his first year playing football, he made **All-Angelus League Co-Lineman of the Year**. He also was on the baseball, track and wrestling teams at Harvard-Westlake.

GAOTEOTE—He made **2017 PrepStar Dream Team** and **Polynesian Football Hall of Fame Polynesian High School Football Player of the Year finalist** as a senior linebacker at Bishop Gorman High in Las Vegas (Nev.), when he made 80 tackles, including 20 for losses (with 3 sacks), 2 deflections, 2 forced fumbles and 3 blocked punts (he also caught a 6-yard TD pass). As a 2016 junior, he made **Max Preps Junior All-American first team and USA Today All-Nevada first team** while getting 68 tackles, including 11.5 for losses (with 2 sacks), 2 deflections, 1 forced fumble and 1 fumble recovery. Bishop Gorman won its second consecutive national championship. As a 2015 sophomore, he had 92 tackles, including 13.5 for losses (with 3 sacks), 1 interception, 3 deflections and 1 forced fumble as Bishop Gorman was the national champion. He spent his 2014 freshman year playing at Mililani (Hi.) High, which won the state championship. He spent his youth in American Samoa. His uncle is Ma'a Tanuvasa, who played defensive end at Hawaii (1990-92), then with the Denver Broncos (1995-2000), where he won Super Bowls XXXII and XXXIII, San Diego Chargers (2001) and Atlanta Falcons (2002). His cousin, also named Ma'a Tanuvasa, is a redshirt freshman safety at Boise State, while another cousin, Haskell Garrett, is a freshman defensive lineman at Ohio State. His name is pronounced "pa-la-EE-ae nah-OE-tae-OE-tae."

LOS ANGELES — Eight high school football players signed letters of intent with Pac-12 champion USC today (Dec. 20) on the first day of the early signing period, USC head coach *Clay Helton* announced.

Four of the signees will graduate early from high school and enroll at USC in January, so they can participate in the upcoming spring practice. The other four signees will join the Trojan program in the fall.

The 2018 spring enrollment signees are, alphabetically: OL **Justin Dedich** of Chaparral High in Temecula (Calif.); LB **Kana'i Mauga** of Waianae (Hi.) High; LB **Raymond Scott** of Narbonne High in Harbor City (Calif.); and DB **Chase Williams** of Roosevelt High in Eastvale (Calif.).

The 2018 fall enrollment signees are, alphabetically: OL **Liam Douglass** of Harvard Westlake High in Studio City (Calif.); LB **Palaie Gaoteote IV** of Bishop Gorman High in Las Vegas (Nev.); LB **Abdul-Malik McClain** of JSerra Catholic High in San Juan Capistrano (Calif.); and RB **Markese Stepp** of Cathedral High in Indianapolis (Ind.).

"We are excited to welcome these eight new players to our Trojan football family," said Helton. "We're very pleased with this group. These are some extremely talented players who fill some of our needs. They are national recruits who were sought after by a lot of schools. I am thankful for the hard work put in by our staff to sign these players in this early period. Now we'll continue to work hard to find some more talented players to sign in February."

Helton said additional players could be added to this 2018 class in the near future.

New USC football season ticket deposits can be placed now and current season ticket holders may place a renewal deposit, both by calling 213-740-GOSC (4672). Season ticket renewals will officially launch in early January.

USC FOOTBALL EARLY SIGNING PERIOD 2018 CLASS SIGNEES

SPRING ENROLLMENT HIGH SCHOOL PLAYERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POS</u>	<u>HGT</u>	<u>WGT</u>	<u>HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL)</u>
Justin Dedich	OL	6-2	290	Temecula, CA (Chaparral)
Kana'i Mauga	LB	6-2	220	Waianae, HI (Waianae)
Raymond Scott	LB	6-2	220	Harbor City, CA (Narbonne)
Chase Williams	DB	6-2	190	Corona, CA (Roosevelt)

FALL ENROLLMENT HIGH SCHOOL PLAYERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POS</u>	<u>HGT</u>	<u>WGT</u>	<u>HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL)</u>
Liam Douglass	OL	6-5	285	Topanga, CA (Harvard Westlake)
Palaie Gaoteote IV	LB	6-2	235	Las Vegas, NV (Bishop Gorman)
Abdul-Malik McClain	LB	6-4	230	San Juan Capistrano, CA (JSerra Catholic)
Markese Stepp	RB	6-0	230	Indianapolis, IN (Cathedral)