

PRO CALENDAR

Table with columns for days of the week (SAT 30, SUN 1, MON 2, TUE 3, WED 4) and rows for various sports teams like LAKERS, CLIPPERS, RAMS, CHARGERS, KINGS, and DUCKS.

Shade denotes home game

TODAY ON THE AIR

Table with columns for TIME, EVENT, and ON THE AIR. Lists various sports events such as BASKETBALL, BOXING, COLLEGE BASKETBALL, COLLEGE FOOTBALL, COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL, HOCKEY, HORSE RACING, PREP FOOTBALL, SOCCER, and WINTER SPORTS.

LETTERS

It was like Rams to the slaughter

Sadly, in less than one year, the Rams have gone from must-see TV to un-watchable.

RON TOM PASADENA

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Don't fret, Rams fans. So what if the Ravens man-handled, outclassed and thoroughly dominated you Monday night? You still can use the draft to quickly get back on top.

But hey, look at the bright side. You still have Jared Goff.

GREG NERSESYAN North Hollywood

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Here are some random thoughts on the Rams after their "Monday Night Football" debacle...

1. The Rams looked lethargic and unmotivated after the Ravens took their hearts out in the first half.

2. The once "genius" coach of the Rams may have lost this team.

3. Super Bowl hangover theories are alive and well, as another Super Bowl loser goes into the next season as a shell of the team it was the previous year.

4. The Rams' organization better turn things around before they move into their new state-of-the-art stadium in Inglewood or those luxury boxes are going to go for pennies on the dollar!

GINO CIRIGNANO Playa del Rey

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Regarding the Rams: "Who's house?" is more like "Who's home?"

MICHAEL GRAY Yorba Linda

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Hopefully the Rams realize the color yellow is not a winner suit.

JERRY SELBY Pasadena

Rivalry week

If many USC athletic boosters think 31 arrests of Urban Meyer's players at Florida and protecting a spouse-abusing assistant coach at Ohio State are "not that big of an issue," then USC really has lost all identity as an academic institution.



institution.

JEFF SEVERA West Hills

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Can you throw a flag on sportswriters for piling on? Arash Markazi and Dylan Hernandez basically called for Clay Helton to be fired after a big victory over UCLA.

BERT BERGEN La Cañada

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As a lifelong Trojan, I want to add my comment about the future of the university and Coach Helton. I know that the raging opinion among more money-eyed alums and your staff writers is that he should go as the team has had some losing games this season and last.

I disagree. The primary goal of the university is to turn out educated, responsible citizens. There will always be losses in life. How we respond to them is the critical determinant of a mature person.

LESLIE TILLMANN Rancho Mirage

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Last Saturday may have been Clay Helton's last day coaching USC and I would

not be disappointed if it was. However, all of us Trojans die-hards should reach out and pat him on the back and thank him and wish him and his family best of luck.

He took over a team in turmoil and all he did was steady the program, never once complaining about anything, including all the noise of everyone wanting him fired. He was honest with his players, treated them like his own kids, and was loyal to USC and will always be a Trojan at heart.

JIM COREY Manteca

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For this almost 50-year UCLA fan, the only thing more depressing than watching the Bruins' total ineptitude on defense and reading nothing positive about UCLA in the Sunday papers was the obvious rooting for USC by the TV announcers.

As far as I am concerned if USC doesn't want Clay Helton he can move across town. He is certainly better than what the Bruins have now as proved by his superior coaching of the freshmen and sophomores.

DAVE SNYDER Grand Terrace

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I believe the only local institution more in fear of USC hiring Urban Meyer than UCLA is the Los Angeles Times! Geez, give it a rest guys!

MICHAEL DRAGOTTO Los Angeles

Stan down

While writing about the Andrew Friedman contract saga, The Times reported that one thing we know about Dodgers president Stan Kasten is that he has a policy not to discuss new contracts for team executives.

ALLAN KANDEL Los Angeles

Amend this

Rajon Rondo gets fined by the NBA for "inappropriate comments" and states, "I guess the same free speech doesn't apply to everyone."

Where was Rondo when the NBA clamped down on comments about free speech in Hong Kong?

I miss the old NBA, when they were tall, before they got on their knees to China.

DAVE SUSSER Redondo Beach

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Valdez's opponent misses weight by mile

Former featherweight titlist will face López of Glendale after foe is 12 pounds too heavy.

BY MANOUK AKOPYAN

Oscar Valdez was having such a hard time making the 126-pound limit, it was easier to vacate the World Boxing Organization featherweight title he successfully defended six consecutive times than go through the arduous task of cutting weight.

A two-time Mexican Olympian, Valdez (26-0, 20 knockouts) will be making his 130-pound debut Saturday in Las Vegas against Adam López (13-1, six KOs), so he didn't get to enjoy the spoils of a traditional holiday spread on Thanksgiving because of the unforgiving scales.

López, who's from Glendale and trained by Buddy

McGirt, is a late replacement for Andrés Gutiérrez, who presumably could not pass up his Thanksgiving dinner and weighed 12 pounds over the limit Friday.

Gutiérrez was scratched. "I trained hard for three months making the sacrifices, and I am very upset with Andrés. He was unprofessional," Valdez said.

"It could be hard to move up in weight because your opponents hit harder, but I'm in tremendous shape... I give credit to Adam for stepping up."

Valdez has competed as a featherweight his entire career, and he believes the extra four pounds he doesn't have to shed will make a major difference on fight night.

He suffered a litany of injuries since winning the title in 2016. His jaw was broken during a fight against Scott Quigg in Carson, but he fought through the final seven rounds to score a unanimous decision, a win

Valdez considers his most complete performance as a professional.

"I get reminded a lot about my jaw," said Valdez, whose jaw was wired shut for a couple of months, "but it's not something that I really think about."

After the Quigg fight, Valdez switched trainers, replacing Manny Robles with Eddy Reynoso, the longtime coach to Canelo Álvarez.

This will be Valdez's third fight with Reynoso as his trainer after returning from an 11-month layoff following the Quigg fight. The 28-year-old said he's reached a comfortable state with his new trainer and credits him for improved counterpunching and waist movement — two staples of Álvarez's.

"I truly have learned a lot from Eddy since Day 1," Valdez said. "We've had great training camps, but with this one in particular, I feel that I've finally adjusted to his style and we really

know each other. We keep on improving."

Valdez considers his style revamped from his amateur days, when he represented Mexico in the Olympic Games in 2008 and 2012. Valdez was born in Mexico but went to elementary school in Tucson. After his parents divorced, he moved back to Mexico, where he's lived in Hermosillo, relocating to Southern California for training camps.

"I'm different in a good way. I've improved a lot," Valdez said. "I don't know a lot of former Olympians who give wars. But I'm going to be ready for my first test at 130."

If Valdez wins, next could be one of the 130-pound class' biggest punchers, World Boxing Council junior-lightweight champion Miguel Berchelt.

"He's the best 130-pound fighter out there right now," Valdez said, "and he's my target to beat."

ODDS

College basketball odds table with columns for Favorite, Line, Underdog and rows for various teams like Indiana, Iowa, and Kentucky.

NHL odds table with columns for Favorite, Underdog and rows for teams like Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver.

College football odds table with columns for Favorite, Line, Underdog and rows for teams like Iowa State, North Carolina, and Navy.

NFL odds table with columns for Favorite, Line, Underdog and rows for teams like Alabama, Georgia, and Michigan State.

NFL odds table with columns for Favorite, Line, Underdog and rows for teams like Arizona, Kansas City, and Tampa Bay.

NFL odds table with columns for Favorite, Line, Underdog and rows for teams like Dallas, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland.

Updated odds available at Pregame.com