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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USC Quarterback Reveals How He Uses Faith to Guide Team through Tough Times on iamsecond.com Matt Barkley shares story of faith and leadership prior to key matchup against Oregon

DALLAS, Nov. 18, 2011 – Starting quarterback for the University of Southern California [Matt Barkley](#) is the newest athlete to share his story on iamsecond.com, a website featuring video testimonies of personal struggle, transformation and hope of celebrities and everyday people.

“As much as football defines me by this world, it doesn’t define who I am as a person,” said Barkley.

Growing up, Barkley had a poster of famed Denver Broncos Quarterback John Elway hanging on his bedroom wall. He has always loved playing football, but recognizes that he’s not the best player on the field.

“I think God gives talents differently to different people, and He will use them in different ways,” said Barkley. “God is working a huge plan here, and I think if you stay true to yourself and work hard, that it will pay off.”

The Heisman hopeful and his teammates face a monumental showdown in their upcoming game against a No. 4 ranked Oregon team. Dubbed the “most underrated team in the country” by ESPN because of their post-season ban, the Trojans are 8-2 this season and hope to come away with a big upset this weekend.



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USC QB Matt Barkley share his story of a tough season on iamsecond.com, page 2

In the wake of recent issues facing this year's team, ranging from bowl restrictions to shake-ups in the head coaching position, the USC football program has left fans wondering how Barkley hasn't buckled under the pressure as the team's leader.

"I think leaving my mark at USC, not only as a football player, but also as a man of God who brought USC through troubled times and relied on God and trusted in Him to make things happen, will be better than any game we can win," said Barkley.

Now in his junior year at USC, Barkley acknowledges that being a Christian at one of the most diverse universities in the nation is special, because there aren't many other students who are as open about their faith. He has seen a movement of college students from all over the world grow to love God, follow Him more closely, and accept that He is in control.

"I absolutely think that God has placed me where I am, and the platform I have as the USC starting quarterback is something I have always dreamed about, but only recently have I realized the power of that position," said Barkley. "To see the quarterbacks of the past and the influence they've had on people, and now that I am in that same position, how can I use that for God's kingdom."

USC faces Oregon this Saturday at 8:00 p.m. ET, and will be televised on ABC.

[I am Second](http://www.iamsecond.com) is designed to help individuals discover hope. The [iamsecond.com](http://www.iamsecond.com) website includes authentic film testimonies of "everyday" people and celebrities related to a variety of personal struggles, including abuse, addictions, pride, eating disorders, broken families and the search for success and meaning in life. Celebrities featured include 2010 American League MVP and Texas Rangers outfielder Josh Hamilton; former Korn band member Brian "Head" Welch; surfer Bethany Hamilton; and football stars Bradie James, Colt McCoy and Sam Bradford.

Launched in Dallas-Fort Worth in December 2008, [iamsecond.com](http://www.iamsecond.com) quickly spread virally across the globe. To date, the website has seen more than 5.5 million visitors from 217 countries/regions who have viewed over 20 million pages and films on the site. The site has since officially launched in Orlando, Fla., Evansville, Ind., and Kansas City, Mo., with several other cities planned for the future. I am Second's newest initiative, the *I am Second* book, is slated to release from Thomas Nelson in January 2012.

For more information about I am Second, visit <http://www.iamsecond.com>.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Additional information about I am Second can be found at <http://www.alcnewskitchen.com/iamsecond>.