

Cancellation of Glasnost Bowl leaves USC home against Illini

From staff and wire reports

The Glasnost Bowl — which would have pitted Pacific-10 champion USC and Illinois in the first college football game to be played in the Soviet Union — has been canceled, according to Rick Ray, executive director of Raycom, Inc.

The game between the Trojans and Fighting Illini, which was scheduled to be played Sept. 2 in Moscow, will be moved to the Los Angeles Coliseum at a date and time to be determined.

USC sports information director Tim Tessalone said the game would most likely be played in the first two weeks of September.

Tessalone also said it is hoped that the game will be nationally

televised by a major network.

Ray said that Raycom officials made the decision to cancel the game after contractual concerns arose that couldn't be resolved between Raycom and Soviet sports authorities.

"As the time for the game got closer, it became apparent to us that many of the logistics necessary to stage a major college football game were becoming next to impossible to implement," Ray said.

"We felt it was in the best interest of all parties to make a decision which would establish for the game and its spectators an acceptable setting rather than having to deal with possible inad-

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equate facilities, accommodations and transportation."

Ken Haines, Raycom executive vice president, said that in the seven months subsequent to the Nov. 16 announcement of the Glasnost Bowl, Raycom officials made at least five trips to Moscow "in an effort to establish and coordinate the game plan with Soviet sports authorities."

"Both schools have been very supportive and understanding in this project, and it is a tremendous disappointment to all of us that it didn't work out as we had originally planned," Haines said.

"Obviously, we're extremely disappointed that negotiations between Raycom and the Soviets

fell through," said USC athletic director Mike McGee. "All of us at USC — our team, band and supporters — were looking forward to this historic opportunity to travel to the Soviet Union and play a college football game there."

Raycom's contract with USC and Illinois included a provision that if the game wasn't played in Moscow, it would be played in Los Angeles with a return game at Illinois in the future.

USC, which returns 19 starters from last season's 10-2 team, will now play seven of its 11 regular season games — and four of its seven conference games — at the Coliseum.