

Tuesday June 8, 2021

Former USC QB and NFL coach **Jim Fassel** died Monday (June 7, 2021) of a heart attack. He was 71.

Fassel was the Trojans' backup QB in 1969 but left USC after the season because he wanted to play and could not beat out **Jimmy Jones**. Fassel and his high school teammate, fullback **Tom Fitzpatrick**, left USC and went to Long Beach State. Fassel played there in 1971.

He threw a TD pass to **Sam Dickerson** in USC's 48-6 victory over Northwestern in 1969. Fassel completed 7 of 22 passes for 94 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions in 1969.

In 1966, Fassel led Anaheim High School to a 12-1 record, Sunset League title and place in the CIF 4-A championship game at the Coliseum.

Fassel obviously was best known as a coach. He was named the NFL's Coach of the Year in 1997 while coaching the New York Giants. The Giants lost to the Baltimore Ravens, 34-7, in Super Bowl XXXV in January 2001, after going 12-4 and winning the NFC East that season. Fassel was 58-53-1 overall with the Giants.