

USC vs. UCLA Game Notes
Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum
Nov. 18, 2017

- USC improves to 47-31-7 against UCLA (Not including 2 wins vacated due to NCAA penalty, original record 49-31-7) with its third win in a row over the Bruins. UCLA lost for the 15th time in the last 19 meetings.
- USC extends its home win streak to 16, its longest since 21 in a row from 2001-04 (not including 6 wins later vacated due to NCAA penalty, original record 35 in a row from 2001-07). It's the nation's second-longest streak behind Alabama's 19.
- So. QB **Sam Darnold** finished 17-of-28 for 264 yards. He threw for over 200 yards for the 21st time.
- Darnold's 1-yard, 3rd-quarter TD run was his 5th rushing score this year, second-most on team.
- Jr. TB **Ronald Jones II** finished with 122 yards on 28 carries, his 13th 100-yard rushing game, seventh this year.
- Jones' pair of 2-yard TD runs (1st and 4th quarters) give him 16 rushing scores this year, 17 TDs overall. He now has at least 1 TD in 17 of his last 18 games.
- Jones is sixth on USC's rushing list with 3,415 yards. He came within eight yards of passing O.J. Simpson for fifth (3,423). He now has 1,346 rushing yards this year, moving into 16th on USC's season list.
- So. WR **Michael Pittman's** 72-yard punt return for a TD is USC's second this year, first not off a block (which was returned by Jalen Greene for a score). It is USC's first punt return for a score vs. UCLA since 2015 when Adoree' Jackson returned on 42 yards for a TD.
- RS Fr. WR **Velus Jones'** 59-yard kickoff return was a career best.
- Fr. TB **Stephen Carr** finished with a career-high 49 receiving yards.
- Jr. WR **Deontay Burnett** finished with four receptions for 55 yards, the 10th time he's had at least four receptions in a game this year.
- USC's defense – which entered the game 6th in the NCAA averaging 3.4 sacks per game -- finished with four sacks, the sixth time the Trojans have had at least four in a game this year.
- USC now has a nation's best 41 sacks.
- Sr. OLB **Uchenna Nwosu's** 1st and 3rd-quarter pass deflections give him 13 this year. Nwosu also recorded a 3rd-quarter sack, giving him 6.5 this year.
- Sr. DT **Josh Fatu's** first-quarter sack was his sixth this year
- Sr. S **Chris Hawkins'** 3rd-quarter sack was his third this year.
- JR. DL **Malik Dorton's 3-yard** sack-fumble is his first forced fumble, giving him 2.5 sacks this year. So. OLB **John Houston Jr.** posted his first fumble recovery of 2017 on the play.
- So. LB **Jordan Iosefa's** 2nd- and 3rd-quarter TFLs give him 3 this year.
- Jr. LB **Cameron Smith**, USC's tackle leader, recorded his first pass deflection this year to force a punt midway through the second quarter.
- Jr. **FS Marvell Tell III's** 3rd-quarter interception is his third this year (fourth of his career). He returned it 27 yards and now has 64 return yards on his three picks.
- USC allowed over 300 yards passing for just the 4th time this year.
- UCLA's 23 points tied for its second-lowest output this season.
- Josh Rosen's 421 passing yards was the most against USC since Mike Bercovici had 510 in ASU's win over USC in 2014.
- Opponent 200-yard receiving games

UCLA at USC – November 18, 2017

Los Angeles Coliseum

Postgame Notes

*Quarterback Josh Rosen passed for 421 yards to record his seventh 300-yard passing game of the season, a new school record. He extended his school record of most career 300-yard games to 17. Rosen has five 400-yard passing games in his career, four this season.

*Rosen threw for three touchdowns in the game and has thrown at least one scoring pass in 27 of his 29 career games (not Arizona in 2017 and Washington State in 2015).

*With 32 completions and 421 passing yards, Rosen has moved up to fourth on the single-season school completions list with 269 and up to third with 3,515 passing yards.

*Rosen's 421 yards passing in the game is the most ever by a UCLA quarterback against USC (the previous record was 409 by Tommy Maddox in 1990). The most ever in the series was 423 by Matt Barkley in 2011.

*Wide receiver Jordan Lasley totaled a career-high 204 receiving yards and set a new career-high with three touchdown receptions, his fifth, sixth and seventh of the season.

*Lasley became just the fourth Bruin receiver ever to record 200+ receiving yards in a game and is the second this season, joining Caleb Wilson, who had 207 receiving yards against Texas A&M on Sept. 3. Lasley's 204 receiving yards rank fourth-best in UCLA history. Wilson and Lasley are the first Bruin pair in history to have 200-yard receiving games in one season.

*Lasley has 11 career touchdown receptions, five of which are against USC (two in 2016 and three in 2017).

*Lasley has caught a touchdown pass in five of the seven games he has played in this season.

*Lasley had four 20+-yard receptions in the game and has a team-high 16 on the year. He has 11 receptions of 30 yards or more, and his 41-yard reception in the first quarter and 42-yard catch in the fourth quarter were his sixth and seventh 40+ yard receptions of the year.

*Lasley now has 909 receiving yards this season, good for 11th on UCLA's single-season list.

*Lasley recorded his Pac-12-leading fifth 100-yard receiving game this season and the seventh of his career. His seven 100-yard games tie for fifth-most in UCLA history.

*Wide receiver Theo Howard had a career-high 11 receptions and has caught at least one pass in 14-straight games, a team-best mark.

*Jaleel Wadood's second-quarter interception was the third of his career and first since the 2015 season.

*Linebacker Kenny Young finished with nine tackles to move into UCLA's career Top 20 list with 280 (tied for 19th with Stacy Argo, 1988-91).

*UCLA has totaled 3,751 passing yards this season, third-most in school history, behind only the 2012 (3,860) and 2015 (3,755) teams.

*UCLA allowed a season-low 153 rushing yards in the game.



POSTGAME QUOTES | USC

USC vs. UCLA

LA Memorial Coliseum • Los Angeles, Calif.

Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017

HEAD COACH CLAY HELTON

Opening Statement:

"It was a great night to honor our seniors... I can't tell you what an honor it has been to be around those men for their time here and it pleased me so much to watch them walk away from the Coliseum with the accomplishments that they have... The guys are unbelievable, honorable men and I can't tell you what it's like to be surrounded by them each and every day and how proud I am of them. Also, a lot of credit to UCLA. I thought that was as hard-fought a game as it comes. It was neat to see those kids and the coaches come together out of just pure respect for a really hard-fought game and credit to these two men up here [Sam Darnold, Cam Smith]. The leadership that they provided us as captains has put us to this point."

On the trick play in the first quarter:

"Yeah, it's something that we practice each and every year... I thought Coach Baxter and our punt return team had it set up perfectly and all we needed was a good kick. It was executed well and that gave us an early spark in the game. Really well done by Michael Pittman."

On whether or not it was surprising that UCLA kept the game tight throughout:

"No, they're a good football team and we thought their offensive skill was phenomenal. You're talking about a bunch of great athletes out there with Theo Howard, Jordan Lasley, Josh Rosen... those are all great recruits that came to UCLA and are doing great things there. We went into game saying that we had to play our best to win and that it was going to be an emotional game... I thought our defense did a great job bending but not breaking and creating some huge turnovers in the game that created separation for us."

On evaluating the game against the Bruins:

"There's always things we can fix and get better at going into the Pac-12 Championship. I don't think any game is perfect but our kids did what was needed to be done to win a hard-fought ball game. It was very rewarding for our team and there's a lot of happy players in our locker room right now."

On the thrill of playing crosstown rival UCLA:

"It was a really hard-fought game with a lot of good players on that field and to come out on top was very rewarding for us. And it's always good to have the opportunity to keep the Victory Bell."

SAM DARNOLD, QB

On what a 10-win season means to him:

"Being able to win 10 games and then for the second straight year being undefeated in the Coliseum really means a lot. Especially with it being Senior Day and wanting to send the seniors out on a high note. Beating UCLA and keeping the Victory Bell here and staying undefeated at home for the last two years, it's a huge accomplishment. It's nice to go 10-2 this year. We're going to keep preparing for whoever we have to play in Pac-12 Championship game. We're going to be looking forward to it."

On playing 12-straight games:

"Like Cam said, I've never played 12 straight weeks in a row. You kind of learn as you go when you're going through something new like that. It was a new thing that I had to deal with, that our whole team had to deal with. And I thought we battled through it pretty well."

On what the "quarterback battle" with Josh Rosen was like:

"It's pretty interesting because we're not technically battling against each other because I'm going against their defense and our defense is going against him. So I think it's pretty interesting in that regard. I think it's awesome to battle against a great player like Josh. I got a lot of questions too when we played Khalil Tate about how cool it is to face another quarterback who's electric and can score points. I think whenever we get the opportunity to play a great team and a great quarterback like Josh, you want to compete to the highest level and I think that's what we did tonight."

What was it like leading the band afterwards and hearing them chant "One more year...?":

(Laughs) I'm not going to say anything about the last part of that question. It's so cool whenever I get the opportunity to lead the band. I know it is for everyone on our team whenever they get the opportunity. You don't get that opportunity everywhere you play. Not every college has that kind of tradition. Really cool to be able to do that after a good win."



CAM SMITH, LB

On how playing against Sam Darnold in practice prepares the defense for playing Josh Rosen:

"It's awesome. Sam and Josh couldn't be two more different players in my opinion. But we have the utmost respect for Josh Rosen. And I think he came out and showed exactly what he's about. He threw the ball all over and made some really big plays. It helps going against another top quarterback in Sam, with that level of competition every single day. I give credit to him but I'm just happy we're sitting here with a win."

On what a 10-win season means to him:

"I think it's just huge for how much adversity we faced this year, playing 12 games in a row. I've never played 12 games in a row in my life. Going to Pullman and to South Bend and some teams were really on point then and we battled so much through the season. To finally say we're 10-2 is huge for us. It's a huge accomplishment for our guys and Coach Helton and the staff. I couldn't be more happy right now."

On assessing the defensive performance:

"I think when the going gets tough our defense stands up. We've proven all year we're a great red zone team. When we get some pressure on a guy, we're coming at all angles and it's tough for any quarterback. Without watching film, I'm very excited with how we got to him. And in some key situations we stepped up and made a play when we needed to."

UCLA Quotes
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UCLA Coach Jim Mora

"We knew we had to play our best to have a chance to win. They played hard and fought to the bitter end. I'm very proud of them. Unfortunately, we made some mistakes and they made some plays that prohibited us from winning. Obviously there were special teams issues. Not being able to convert the field goal. Certainly the punt return where they fooled us. And the onside kick there. That was supposed to be a bloop 20 yards over. JJ (Molson) knew what he was supposed to do but hit his toe and miss-hit it. It's nothing I'm pinning on anyone. And we didn't protect the ball well enough and uncharacteristically of us we did not do well in the red zone.

"Usually in tight games like this it comes down to those type of variables and we were not able to get it done. It's a very disappointed team in there. I commend them on their energy and effort and the way they worked all week. I expect them to bring the same effort next week at the Rose Bowl. It's been a tough season, obviously and we've had to overcome tremendous (adversity) on defense in terms of personnel. They will continue to fight back and the next guy will step up."

On if he felt UCLA had the momentum in the third quarter

"I felt confident the entire game and the entire week. It wasn't until they converted that third and 1 that I didn't feel we had a shot, but that's how I am. You have to convert when you get in the red zone. When you are playing a really good team, you have to do things and stop things to win and we weren't good enough."

Assessment of Josh Rosen

"I'm not going to make a full assessment until I watch the film. But he did some tremendous things, but just like every QB, there's some moments he would like to take back. When you talk to Josh, he'll probably talk about the missed opportunities and that's what great performers do. He won't talk about the 32 completions for 421 yards, but the one interception. It's all about team and winning for him."

On Jordan Lasley

"He makes big plays. He's a good football player and did a tremendous job of being focused. In game when we're missing these guys two weeks in a row he's come up big and we'll need him again next week.

On possibility of a bowl game

"If we can pull this together and come back with great energy and go out and defend our home field and get to a bowl would mean a lot to these young men given circumstances of the situation.

On the punt return

"Everyone has a responsibility on punt return and we've been good on it this year but we picked the wrong time to not be good on it. You could see it setting up on the sideline but unfortunately you couldn't convey it to players as it developed. Great play by them, very well executed by them."

UCLA QB Josh Rosen

On his feelings after the game

"Not great at all. I really thought we were going to win this game. We executed how we wanted, but we couldn't get it done in the red zone. We missed a field goal, had two turnovers. We lost by 5. Another TD called back. It's just really frustrating."

On the red zone problems

"It was just one-off mistakes. Nothing really glaring. Just stupid mistakes. I didn't see Marvell (Tell) on the field. I thought it was TD when I threw it and then saw him and said 'I guess I have to play defense now.'

On facing USC defense

"I thought our guys did a really good job. There were mental errors where we messed up here or there. The sacks were not guys getting beat. It was a combination of me, the backs and the line not communicating properly and someone getting free. I thought we handled the USC defense very well but for some reason we got inside the 10, 15-yard line and spazzed out."

On getting to a bowl

"It would mean everything. We just want to win. We feel like we're such a better team than our record reflects and they're so positive (the guys on the team). We just want to get our seniors to a bowl game, and finish the season undefeated at home."

UCLA S Jaleel Wadood*On his interception*

"It was good coverage by Nate (Meadors). (Sam Darnold) was looking for (Deontay Burnett). It was good coverage by Nate and it was just a little overthrown and it came right to me."

On UCLA bouncing back

"Like we do every Monday morning, we watch the film and see what we did and move on. The season is not over and we'll play the next game until they tell us we can't play again."

On possibility of a bowl

"Everyone wants it bad. We have one game and one more shot to get to a bowl game and play our butts off."

UCLA DL Jacob Tuioti-Mariner

"It's tough knowing you can't pay them again and ending with a difficult loss. It's tough but in the coming year I know they'll put up a fight."

On facing USC's running game and Ronald Jones II

"We just did our job and settled down, committed to our job and technique. He's a good back and he was able to make some plays. At the end of the line we had to do our job."

On pressuring USC QB Sam Darnold

"We pushed the pocket well. We could've done a better job and finished and got some more sacks. For the most part we stepped forward on it."

UCLA P Stefan Flintoft*On USC's punt return TD*

"That was a directional right punt at that field position, but they ran a trick play and they executed it. I think Oregon ran it 2 or 3 years ago. Everyone goes left and one guy goes back. I hit it, looked up, and out of corner of my eye I saw a sea of red and blue going left and I knew what was going on. An inch more to the right and it goes out of bounds. But props to them they executed it."