



POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. Lehigh

Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.

Wednesday, November 22, 2017

Final: USC 88, Lehigh 63

- With the win tonight, USC improved to 4-0 and Lehigh fell to 3-2.
- The win for USC tonight was its 21st consecutive over a nonconference opponent at the Galen Center.
- USC led 44-34 at halftime. USC shot 47.2 percent before the break, while Lehigh shot 42.4 percent. USC made 7 of 15 three-pointers (46.7 percent) and Lehigh 3 of 14 (21.4 percent) in the first half.
- For the game, USC shot 47.1 percent and held Lehigh to 35.7 percent. Lehigh hit 29.7 percent of its second-half shots.
- Elijah Stewart had 13 points and made 3 three-point baskets tonight. He now has 182 career three-point baskets made, alone in fourth on USC's all-time list. Desmon Farmer is third with 203 career three-point baskets.
- Jonah Mathews scored a season-high 19 points and had a career-high seven rebounds tonight. His previous high for rebounds in a game was six on Feb. 24, 2017 at Washington State. He also made 4 of 6 shots from three-point range. His career high in three-point makes is 5 vs. Wyoming on Dec. 23, 2016.
- USC made 12 three-point baskets for the second consecutive game.
- USC had a season-high 24 assists tonight. Its previous high in assists this season was 13 vs. North Dakota State.
- Bennie Boatwright scored 19 points and had 11 rebounds tonight. It was his third career double-double. Boatwright's rebound total was his most since grabbing a career-high 12 rebounds on Jan. 21, 2016 at Oregon.
- Jordan McLaughlin had three steals tonight and has 10 this season. He moved from tied for seventh to all alone in seventh on USC's all-time steals list. Gabe Pruitt is sixth on the list with 158 career steals.
- Victor Uyaelunmo's dunk late in the second half was his first career basket. His previous four points came in the opener vs. CS Fullerton, making all four free throw attempts.
- Charles O'Bannon's free throws with 56.6 seconds left were his first two career points.
- Prior to tonight's game, USC senior guard Elijah Stewart was saluted for scoring his 1,000th career point. He surpassed the mark with a dunk in the game at Vanderbilt on Nov. 19.
- Eleven different Trojans scored tonight and eight had at least one assist.
- USC outscored Lehigh 40-22 on points in the paint. USC had nine dunks in the game.
- USC's next game will be vs. No. 16/No. 19 Texas A&M at the Galen Center on Sunday, Nov. 26 at 7 p.m.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"It was a good win. We knew Lehigh was a good team and that they could shoot well from the three. Our players had intensity and focus to go out and play team offense and team defense. They came out in the second half and shared the basketball and challenged every shot that Lehigh took.

"Jonah plays excellent defense. He can contain the basketball. He's very skilled, he can pass, shoot and dribble. He's becoming a very well-rounded player.

"Jordan doesn't care about scoring. He scores when he has to. Our team needs him to be a playmaker and distribute and score when he has to.

"Derryck Thornton did a good job tonight. He's learning our system.

"Jonah earned a starting spot and is playing really well right now. He had a great pre-season. You saw it tonight."



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JONAH MATHEWS QUOTES:

"We just wanted to make it a clean game today, keep the lead and play smart.

"Just improve every aspect of my game, that was the emphasis this summer.

(His goal in guarding Ross in the second half): "Just lock Ross up and not let him score any more.

"Sunday, they couldn't guard Jordan. Tonight we all can shoot and we showed that."

ELIJAH STEWART QUOTES:

"Jonah is very experienced. He knows what to bring every day. He knows how to play defense and how to score.

(On scoring 1,000 points): "Two games ago, I didn't know I was close. I'm excited. I talked to some alums and I'm going after their records now.

"Texas A&M is one of those games you look forward to. It's one of those guard-your-yard games. They'll come in and give us their best, so we'll have to take it and come out hard."

LEHIGH HEAD COACH BRETT REED:

"We had some moments when we were really unified and together. We had some small segments where we played excellent defense. Unfortunately, USC, as talented as they are, when you make mistake, they will certainly capitalize on it. We didn't have a lot of players step up and produce for us."

"There is disappointment and I'd hope there would be. We had some guys who wanted to come home and play really well in their home crowd. We had an opportunity to play against a nationally recognized program and we wanted to perform really well. But there is also a sense of reality, that USC is really good and on a night when we didn't have our best overall product, it was going to be a challenge to beat them. It's not the easiest thing to come into a ranked opponent's house, play ok basketball and expect to come away with a win. Unfortunately, we weren't able to get the result,s but I do hope they were able to get some lessons and we can take some small steps forward and see what it takes to play really successful basketball."