



### POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. Santa Clara

Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.

Thursday, December 14, 2017

**Final: USC 82, Santa Clara 59**

- With the win tonight, USC improved to 5-3 and Santa Clara fell to 3-7.
- USC improved to 71-17 vs. nonconference opponents at the Galen Center and is 22-1 in its last 23 games at home vs. nonconference teams. USC is 33-3 in nonconference games at home under Andy Enfield.
- USC led 37-22 at halftime. USC made 41.9 percent of its first-half shots, while Santa Clara made 24.2 percent in the first half. USC outrebounded the Broncos 28-15 in the first half.
- USC scored the first 10 points of the game tonight as Santa Clara started the game 0-for-5 in the first 4:31 of the game. USC blocked three of Santa Clara's first five shots.
- Bennie Boatwright scored 21 points and had 11 rebounds. It was his second double-double of the season and fourth of his career.
- Chimezie Metu had 20 points and 11 rebounds for his third double-double this season and 10<sup>th</sup> of his career. He has scored at least 13 points and had at least one block in every game this season.
- Tonight was USC's first home game since Nov. 26 vs. Texas A&M and first home win since Nov. 22 vs. Lehigh.
- USC had a season-high 10 blocks tonight to give it 50 for the season. USC entered the game 23<sup>rd</sup> in the country with an average of 5.7 blocks per game. Chimezie Metu had three blocks tonight to give him 17 for the season. Santa Clara as a team has 14.
- Jordan McLaughlin just missed a double-double with nine points and a season-high 10 assists. He has totaled 40 assists in USC's last five games.
- Nick Rakocevic made his first start of the season and ninth of his career. His last start was on Jan. 8, 2017 vs. California. He scored a career-high 16 points tonight. His previous high in points was 13 vs. Pepperdine last season. He also had a career-high 10 rebounds for his first career double-double. His previous high in rebounds was nine vs. Pepperdine last season.
- USC had three players with double-doubles tonight and entered the game with three total double-doubles this season.
- Charles O'Bannon made his first field goal of the season tonight. He had four points on free throws entering tonight's game.
- Tonight was the second lineup used by USC this season.
- USC matched a season high with 52 rebounds tonight. It outrebounded Santa Clara 52-27 and outscored them 36-22 on points in the paint.
- USC's next game will be vs. UC Santa Barbara at the Galen Center on Dec. 17 at 5 p.m. The game will air on the Pac-12 Network and AM 690.

#### ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"That was a nice win. We played hard and played 40 minutes of good defense and rebounded.

"Elijah had a minor team violation. He was late for a few things.

"I'm proud of our big guys for getting in their stances and guarding the 3-point line. We saw more flashes from guys more like their normal selves than in the past. Boatwright played a good all-around game. Jonah was very effective. Chimezie was dominant. But we have work to do still.

"The guys who can play well need to play well for us to be the team we want to be.

"Nick played great. He's been playing well. If he can stay out of foul trouble and get this kind of production, he can really help us."



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**CHIEMZIE METU QUOTES:**

"We (the 3 bigs who started) went in there and fed off of each other's energy. We took advantage of our size. We tried to be aggressive and take advantage of their bigs.

"Even when Bennie is not shooting well, you have to guard him. If he's making them, it gives us another dynamic. The shots were going in, not just for him but for everybody. When we're making shots, we're hard to beat."

**NICK RAKOCEVIC QUOTES:**

"They had to guard three 7-footers. It felt good to win. Losing 3 in a row is tough. We bounced back. Now we hope to get on a streak.

"It was fun to play with 2 other big guys. They're easy to play with. We feed off of each other's energy.

"I'm working on his (foul trouble). If I can stay in games, I can do good things."