



### POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. UC Santa Barbara  
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.  
Sunday, December 17, 2017  
**Final: USC 98, UC Santa Barbara 87**

- With the win tonight, USC improved to 6-3 and UC Santa Barbara fell to 8-3.
- USC improved to 72-17 vs. nonconference opponents at the Galen Center and is 23-1 in its last 24 games at home vs. nonconference teams. USC is 34-3 in nonconference games at home under Andy Enfield.
- USC scored its most points of the season and its most since also scoring 98 points vs. Washington on Jan. 30, 2016.
- USC led 52-33 at halftime. USC made 51.4 percent of its shots, while UC Santa Barbara made 41.9 percent of its shots in the first half.
- USC finished the first half on a 16-4 run after Chimezie Metu went out with a laceration near his right eye which required sutures with five and a half minutes remaining before the break. USC made its final six shots of the half, after missing its previous 10.
- Nick Rakocovic scored 12 points and had a career-high 12 rebounds for his second consecutive double-double. In the last three games he has 38 points and 30 rebounds.
- Chimezie Metu scored a career-high 31 points tonight. His previous career high was 29 points at Washington State on Feb. 4, 2017.
- Jordan McLaughlin scored 10 points and tied the Pac-12 record with 19 assists tonight. The Pac-12 record for assists in a game of 19 that he tied was set by Russell Brown of Arizona vs. Grand Canyon on Dec. 8, 1979. McLaughlin broke his school record of 16 assists in a game, done on Dec. 23, 2015 vs. Lafayette. He has totaled 59 assists in USC's last six games. It was the third double-double of his career.
- USC finished with 28 assists as a team. It was USC's most in a game since getting 29 vs. George Mason on Dec. 20, 1995. The school record for assists in a game is 30 set vs. Oklahoma State in 1975.
- Jonah Mathews scored 16 points...his third game in double figures this season, first since scoring 18 vs. Lehigh on Nov. 22.
- Jordan Usher made his first three-pointer of the season at 14:23 of the first half....it was his first made field goal of the season after beginning the season 0-for-8. He finished the game with 8 points on 3 of 4 shooting. He also had 3 assists and 3 rebounds.
- Forward Bennie Boatwright missed tonight's game with soreness in his right foot due to a plantar wart.
- After starting the same lineup for the first seven games, USC played its second consecutive game with a new lineup.
- USC's next game will be vs. Princeton at the Galen Center on Dec. 19 at 8 p.m. The game will air on the Pac-12 Network and ESPNLA 710.

### ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"Our offense was good tonight. We shared the basketball and played well together. Bennie (not playing) was a game-time decision. I'm proud of our effort. I knew the wings had to make shots. Stewart and Mathews did, that was the key. I knew McLaughlin and Metu would do their thing.

"Jordan McLaughlin is a special player. He deserves it. He's been spectacular all season long.

"Chimezie played well. He got in a flow. He was big for us. He got stitches, he's a tough kid. When his feet are set, he's a good shooter.

"You're not going to beat a competitive team without making shots or having too many turnovers. The last 2 games, they've made shots and made plays for teammates."



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**JORDAN MCLAUGHLIN QUOTES:**

"Yeah (I was disappointed on being fouled at the end), but that's part of the game. I was just trying to break the record. The last shot almost went in, it bounced out. I knew what to look for and my teammates knocked down shots tonight. We want everyone knocking down shots. That carries over to our defense, too.

"Chimezie worked on his 3-point shooting in the offseason and knocked them down in workouts. We want him to take good shots, which he has.

"When one guy goes down, others have to step up. Like last year when Bennie went down."

**CHIEMZIE METU QUOTES:**

"I got 3 stitches. When I got hit, it didn't feel that bad. I knew I'd come back.

"The 3s felt really good. Jordan was hitting everyone in the right spot and that made it easier to knock down shots. I've been working on it all summer. I feel more comfortable shooting it.

"It felt really good tonight. The last 2 games, we've been knocking down shots. I hope that carries over to the rest of the games."

**UC SANTA BARBARA HEAD COACH JOE PASTERNAK QUOTES:**

"The last four minutes of the first half is what did us in. I think there was like a 16-4 run, but other than that in the second half, I was really proud how the guards competed. They competed really hard in the second half. No matter what they score, they weren't watching the score, just kept going down. But it was the last 4 minutes of the first half that really did us in. They [USC] are an incredibly talented team, I think they will finish in the top 2 or 3 in the PAC-12 if not win it. But it's great for us to see what we need to improve going against such a talented team."

"I'm really proud of how hard our guys competed, there are some things we have to improve upon and it was great to play this team to see how we have to improve."

On Metu and McLaughlin: "Those are two NBA players we played tonight."

"We were a little impatient offensively, especially in the first half. I think the anxious, the nerves playing USC, the excitement. All in all it's a great game to play for us to learn and get better."