



## POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. Princeton

Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.

Sunday, December 19, 2017

**Final: USC 93, Princeton 103**

- With the loss tonight, USC fell to 6-4 and Princeton improved to 5-6.
- Tonight was USC's first loss to an Ivy League opponent since falling to Penn 99-61 at the Forum on Jan. 11, 2003.
- USC is now 72-18 vs. nonconference opponents at the Galen Center and 23-2 in its last 25 games at home vs. nonconference teams. USC is 34-4 in nonconference games at home under Andy Enfield.
- USC trailed 10-3 4:31 into the game, starting 1-for-4 with two turnovers. USC's first four baskets were three-pointers which allowed them to tie the game at 12-all eight minutes into the game. USC led 36-33 at halftime. USC led by as many as nine points (34-25) and Princeton by as many as seven points.
- Princeton made 5 of its first 6 three-point shots in the second half to open up a 55-48 lead at 12:54 of the second half. The Tigers opened it up to a 59-48 lead with 10:38 remaining in the game. USC tied it at 86-all with 8 seconds remaining to force overtime.
- Tonight was USC's second overtime game of the season (1-1). It was Princeton's first overtime game of the season.
- Princeton made 7 of 15 three-pointers in the second half and finished 14-for-37 (37.8 percent) from beyond the arc.
- The loss snapped a streak of 13 consecutive wins by the Trojans in Tuesday games. USC last lost on a Tuesday to Memphis at Madison Square Garden in New York, N.Y. on Dec. 4, 2007.
- Chimezie Metu scored 25 points and had 10 rebounds for his fourth double-double of the season and 11<sup>th</sup> of his career.
- Jordan McLaughlin scored 24 points and had 8 assists tonight. He has 67 assists in USC's last 7 games.
- Princeton's 103 points were the most by an opponent since UCLA scored 107 on Jan. 5, 2014.
- Freshman Jordan Usher scored a season-best 12 points tonight. His previous high for points in a game was 8 in the previous game.
- USC was outrebounded by Princeton 35-34. It was the fourth game this season the Trojans have been outrebounded and they are 1-3 in those contests.
- Guard Shaquwan Aaron made his first start of the season. He started 20 games for the Trojans last season. He finished tonight with 5 points and 2 rebounds before fouling out.
- Forward Bennie Boatwright missed his second consecutive game with soreness in his right foot. Guard Jonah Mathews missed tonight's game due to a sprained right ankle suffered in Sunday's game. Guard Derryck Thornton is still out recovering from a dislocated right shoulder, suffered on Nov. 28. He has missed USC's last 4 games.
- After starting the same lineup for the first seven games, USC played its third consecutive game with a new lineup.
- USC's next game will be vs. Akron at the Diamond Head Classic in Honolulu, Hawaii Dec. 22 at 4:30 p.m PT. The game will air on ESPNU and AM 830.

### ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"That was a tough game for us. Princeton played exceptionally well. In overtime, we couldn't get the crucial stops. Give Princeton credit. They deserved to beat us, they scored 100 points.

"We didn't contain the basketball. They were able to kick it out and shoot 3s. With our bigger lineup, it was hard to get out to the 3-point line. Being shorthanded, it was hard to chase them down. It wore us down.

Princeton made shots, some tough shots. They scored 103 points, they're obviously good at what they did.

"It's been a very challenging year so far. We have 4 players out right now. We had a lot of points, rebounds and assists on the sideline tonight. That's not an excuse, others have to step up.



"De'Anthony is a terrific player and a fine young man. When you're on the first round draft board, you miss a guy like that. That's no excuse, he's a great player. Sure, we miss him. We tell him to hang in there. Hopefully, something happens in the near future. We're hopeful.

"We've lost a couple tough games. We've had our chances. It's a long season. We need to get better, especially on the defensive end.

"Chimezie played a great second half offensively. He got us back in the game. Others helped. But they tied him up when they went to the box-and-one on him. Even in overtime, we had great looks. It's hard if you're not getting stops, then you have to make shots."

**CHIMEZIE METU QUOTES:**

"They were driving aggressively and we couldn't contain them. They hit the open man and hit open shots. Others have to step up, be ready.

"I was making quick moves and trying to keep us in the game.

"We miss De'Anthony a lot. He scores points and is one of our better rebounders.

"It's a long season. 6-4 is definitely not where we want to be. We have to lock in and keep grinding on defense."

**PRINCETON HEAD COACH MITCH HENDERSON QUOTES:**

What were your thoughts about the game and about your individual players?

"I'm really proud of our guys for an overall great team effort tonight. I can't mention everyone individually, but we had Devin [Cannady] who's our leader, Myles [Stephens] making all of his free throws, Sebastian [Much] making some huge shots... I just thought it was a really good all-around team effort. We're really happy. It's a very happy locker room and we're on our way back west again to Hawai'i later this week."

What were some adjustments you tried to make in the last few minutes of regulation and going into OT?

"We couldn't stop [Chimezie] Metu and we made a couple of adjustments, they kind of worked but I don't know if anyone can really stop him. They got easy baskets to get themselves back into the game and hit crucial shots. I like the shot that we got at the end of regulation from Sebastian [Much] too, but I'm just so proud of them to have made some small adjustments and not get too down in overtime. I'm very happy and we're enjoying this win."