



POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. Washington

Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.

Sunday, December 29, 2017

Final: USC 81, Washington 88

- With the loss tonight, USC fell to 9-5, 0-1 and Washington improved to 11-3, 1-0.
- When Chimezie Metu dunked at 8:21 of the second half, he recorded his 1,000th career point. He finished with 26 points and 10 rebounds for his fifth double-double of the season. He has scored at least 13 points in all but one game this season.
- Washington made 67.3 percent of its field goals, the highest shooting percentage by a Trojan opponent since Penn shot 72.0 percent on Jan. 11, 2003.
- Washington led 41-35 at halftime. USC shot 48.3 percent in the first half, while Washington shot 62.1 percent before the break. Washington made 13 of its last 17 shots (76.5 percent) before the break.
- Scored first for only the fifth time this season and fell to 4-1 in those games. USC scored the first four points, but Washington scored the next 7 to lead 7-4 3:15 into the game. USC trailed at the half for the fifth time (2-3). The six-point halftime deficit was USC's largest since trailing Oklahoma by 12 on Dec. 8. USC was 2-for-11 (18.2 percent) in the first half.
- Bennie Boatwright scored 24 points tonight. He scored a career-high 33 in USC's last game.
- Washington forward Noah Dickerson scored 17 points tonight and in his last four games against USC (3 last season), he has averaged 19.8 points.
- USC led 19-9 when Chimezie Metu picked up his second foul at 12:36 of the first half. Over the next 6:33 with Metu on the bench, Washington outscored USC 14-4 to tie the game at 23-all.
- USC has averaged 85.9 points over the last eight games, scoring 80 or more points seven times.
- USC's next game will be vs. Washington State at the Galen Center on Dec. 31 at 6:00 p.m. The game will be broadcast on ESPN2 and will be available on the TuneIn Radio app.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"Washington played a very good game against us tonight. We did not play very well and I was disappointed in our defense. Washington made an extremely high amount of shots, some easy shots and some tough shots, and they deserved to win the game."

"We also didn't help ourselves. We missed some wide open threes and transition opportunities and we just could not get the key bucket when we needed to. And then our defense--we played soft. There were just too many easy, uncontested shots and that's on our team. Give Washington a lot of credit. They shot the ball well. They made a lot of shots and they played well together."

On Chimezie Metu scoring 1,000 career points:

"Chimezie is a worker. He's in the gym all the time working on his game. Offensively, he's been very good for us. He's our leading scorer and our leading rebounder. I thought tonight he played well offensively."

On the status of Derryck Thornton and De'Anthony Melton:

"We're hopeful that we can get Derryck back as soon as possible, meaning that he could be back in the next few days or in a week or two. I don't want to play him until he feels 100%. But he's been working very, very hard in his rehab so we're hopeful. As for De'Anthony, there isn't anything new to say. We're just remaining hopeful."

BENNIE BOATWRIGHT:

"We didn't perform the way we should have. The energy wasn't there, but we have to generate our own energy. Moving forward, the next couple of days are going to be big for us, heading into our next game against Washington State. Rest assured, we're going to come into practice tomorrow focused and locked in and live up to the potential that this team has. As a unit, we're going to come together and get better from it moving forward. We're not worried. It's still a long season. It's the first game of Pac-12 play... we didn't start it off the way we wanted to, but we're going to come back even harder."



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CHIMEZIE METU:

"We didn't defend hard enough. They were getting a lot of easy looks and it's hard to miss when you're so close to the basket. But we're going to come together and pick it up. The season is definitely not over for us--it's just one loss. We just need to ramp it up and we can definitely do that. We just have to look in the mirror and play up to our potential."

WASHINGTON HEAD COACH MIKE HOPKINS QUOTES:

"Well, big thing is, they [USC] are one of the best offensive teams that I've seen. I lost to them a lot, [they are] talented players. We just want to take away the 3-point shot. And we are so potent, so many different guys came off the bench and I thought they did a good job at finding Boatwright after he made a couple early. And I noticed a big part of the game we try to keep the block rolling and for the most part we did a decent job. You know, they missed some shots from the foul line. And they are a high quality team and, our guys, they just showed composure and poise. We just got to stay together, keep showing poise."

On playing, and winning, on the road..

"It is hard. There are so many good teams and it's such a fine line, not a lot of margin for error, just to win in this conference is a feat. And to win on the road, my new word is 'Yes Please'."

On thoughts for Jan. 6 game, future games..

"No I haven't thought about that. I just prepare each game, one game at a time. Get a game plan, get these guys to play together, believe in each other. And we are starting to believe, and that's the fun thing [about being] a coach