



#### POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. Washington State  
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.  
Sunday, December 31, 2017  
**Final: USC 89, Washington State 71**

- With the win tonight, USC improved to 10-5, 1-1 and Washington State fell to 8-6, 0-2.
- Chimezie Metu was ejected at 5:43 of the first half for a flagrant 2 foul on Carter Skaggs. USC led 33-20 at the time. Washington State scored the next 10 points to cut it to 30-33. USC finished the half on an 8-1 run to lead 41-31 at the break. USC shot 43.2 percent, while WSU shot 34.5 percent in the first half.
- USC made 69.0 percent of its shots in the second half to finish with a 54.5 shooting percentage for the game.
- USC held Washington State to 39.7 percent shooting, after allowing Washington to make 67.3 percent of its field goals on Friday, the highest shooting percentage by a Trojan opponent since Penn shot 72.0 percent on Jan. 11, 2003.
- USC has averaged 86.4 points (778 total) over the last nine games, scoring 80 or more points eight times. USC has made 51.4 percent of its shots (278-for-541) in that stretch.
- Freshman Jordan Usher scored 10 points and grabbed 5 rebounds, while dishing out three assists and making three steals. It was his second game of the season in double figures in scoring.
- Senior guard Elijah Stewart scored 17 points, including making 7 of 8 from the free throw line. In the last five games, he is 19 of 22 from the charity stripe (86.4 percent). He made a total of 13 free throws in USC's first 10 games.
- Stewart had 2 blocks tonight to give him 118 in his career, moving into sole possession of seventh place on USC's all-time blocks list.
- Senior guard Jordan McLaughlin 10 points and 11 assists for his second double-double of the season. It was the seventh time in the last nine games with at least eight assists. He has averaged 9.4 assists in the last nine games.
- USC had six players score in double figures for the first time since vs. UCLA on March 9, 2016.
- Sophomore guard Derryck Thornton was available for the first time since the game vs. Texas A&M on Nov. 26. He had missed the last nine games with a right shoulder injury, suffering a dislocation during practice on Nov. 28.
- USC outrebounded WSU 40-30 and outscored the Cougars 58-16 on points in the paint.
- USC's next game will be at California in Berkeley, Calif. on Jan. 4, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. The game will be broadcast on the Pac-12 Network and air on ESPNLA Radio 710.

#### ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"That was a good win for us. I was impressed with our players' focus the last two days after we stumbled against Washington. They came out with good energy and intensity. They got their hands on a lot more balls, they guarded the ball better and were a lot more energetic in the lane.

"This is a team game. We had six guys in double figures. We shared the ball and got stops. We need our bench to play like that to get us W's in this league.

"They (USC) have been in two straight NCAA tournaments, they set the school record for wins, we have a lot of returners. They know what it takes to win. That was what I was so upset about last game. They didn't do what was needed to beat Washington. Tonight, they did. You have to go out and prove yourself on the court on a nightly basis. This is an experienced group of upperclassmen in the starting lineup. No one is perfect. We're not down on our players, we just had to point out that they know what to do so let's not have any more of those games.

"Thornton is a very good player. He just needs to get back into the flow of the game.

"It's not easy to win on the road. We need to prepare and play as hard as we can.

(On Metu's ejection) "I didn't see it and haven't talked to anyone about it yet. If it was poor sportsmanship, we'll address it because that's not something we condone."



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**ELIJAH STEWART QUOTES:**

"We knew our assignments. We tried to run them off the line. We felt more of an urgency this game. We just had to come back and redeem ourselves."

**JORDAN McLAUGHLIN QUOTES:**

"We had more energy tonight. We played hard and with a purpose. We played more aggressive and for the whole 40 minutes. We know what we're capable of, but we haven't shown that this year. Tonight was a good step leading to that. We just need to keep getting better."

**WASHINGTON STATE HEAD COACH ERNIE KENT QUOTES:**

"Very athletic, physical basketball. At times, they looked like every bit as a team, your final four team, picked to be in the top 3 team in the nation and for whatever reason, they've been playing out of rhythm. I thought they played really tough and really physical. They played even more physical after they lost Metu out of the game and they took us out of our offense, made things tough for us to score. The positive for us is Drick Bernstine's back. If we would've had him the other night I think we would have played UCLA a lot differently. And the fact that we don't have to play USC again until the tournament so we need to go home now and take a deep breath and hit the reset button and get ready for the Huskies."

*On USC's performance this season so far...*

"We all as coaches wish we had a psychiatrist sitting alongside of us. I can't tell you why because that is a good team. They've got depth, they've got shooters, they've got athleticism, they've got experience. Uh, I don't know that's something Andy has to answer. But I knew we were going to get a different team then what the Huskies got just because of the media kind of got after them and got their attention, nobody wants to lose two home games in a row and they came out with a tremendous amount of energy, jumped on us in the beginning. We certainly got composed and got the game down three with the ball and it was turnover, turnover, turnover and that's when the game got away from us."