



POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. Stanford

Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Final: USC 69, Stanford 64

- With the win tonight, USC improved to 16-6, 7-2 and Stanford fell to 11-10, 5-3.
- USC's 7-2 start to conference play is its best since also starting 7-2 in 2002.
- Stanford had won 6 of previous 7 games against USC.
- USC led 41-26 at halftime. USC shot 58.1 percent in the first half and held Stanford to 35.7 percent shooting. All eight players that played for USC in the first half scored at least 2 points. USC outscored Stanford 32-14 on points in the paint in the first half.
- Jordan McLaughlin had 9 assists tonight to give him 624 in his career and move him into 10th on the Pac-12's all-time assist list. Darrick Martin (UCLA) is ninth on the list with 636 career assists.
- Jonah Mathews scored 18 points tonight and has averaged 11.6 points (58 total points) in the 5 games since he started back coming off the bench on Jan. 10 vs. Colorado.
- Elijah Stewart scored 10 points tonight and played in his 124th career game as a Trojan, tying him with Brandon Granville for the second most games played by a Trojan. Dwight Lewis USC's all-time leader in games played at 133.
- Bennie Boatwright missed tonight's game with soreness in his right foot. It is the same foot injury which caused him to miss the games vs. UC Santa Barbara on Dec. 17 and Princeton on Dec. 19.
- USC had 20 assists tonight and seven turnovers. It was USC's seventh game this season with 20 or more assists. USC entered the game averaging 11.2 turnovers per game, fewest in the conference and 22nd in the country.
- USC forced 16 turnovers and made 9 steals tonight. In the last eight games, USC has forced 131 turnovers and made 64 steals.
- USC's next game will vs. California on Jan. 28 at 1 p.m. The game will be broadcast on the Pac-12 Network and air on AM 830 Radio.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"That was a very challenging Pac-12 basketball game. It doesn't matter how you play in the first half or the second half. This is a very good league. We were fortunate to win against a very good Stanford team.

(On Davis' last 3-point attempt)—"It was too close for him. He would've made it from 55 feet.

"Defensively, we're holding teams in the 60s and 50s lately, we're playing very good defense and not turning the ball over and we're forcing turnovers. That's the recipe for a chance to win games.

"We got some stops in the last few minutes, even though we missed some free throws. The ball bounced our way tonight. We've been in so many close games and been to two straight NCAA tournaments. So they're used to it. They don't get rattled. They go about their business. They're not afraid to fail. We're very confident in our upperclassmen.

"We understand the next game is the most important. This league is extremely deep and tough. But we're getting better.

"We didn't shoot any free throws, so I guess we didn't get fouled.

"In the second half, we didn't get to the foul line and we missed some wide open shots and they made shots. But we didn't turn the ball over, so that gave us a chance. We didn't play well offensively in the second half.

"We're focused on the process of getting better for the next game.

"We just didn't make plays (in the second half). We got what we wanted, but how many shots did we miss?"



NICK RAKOCEVIC QUOTES:

(On Davis' last 3-point attempt)--"My heart stopped a bit. I was thinking that hopefully this doesn't happen again. It was scary. It looked good. Thankfully, he missed it.

"Our defense has changed a lot the past couple weeks. We're emphasizing defense more and doing a better job of executing and staying focused.

"We feel good. Anytime you're on a winning streak, you want to keep it going. Our confidence is high right now. It's all about staying focused.

"At the timeouts, we were just saying that we had to get it done because it would advance us in the Pac-12. We were saying that whatever we do, it has to be together.

"It feels good (to be in first place). Now we're on a roll and starting to pick it up. We're playing better defense, moving the ball more, guys are coming off the bench and producing. Each game, we get better as a team. Our defense has been a lot better as a group."

JONAH MATHEWS QUOTES:

(On Davis' last 3-point attempt)--"Up there, I turned around when he shot it, I didn't want to look. I did the same thing tonight.

"I don't care about starting, I just want to win.

"It's the Pac-12, everybody's good. Teams make runs, no game is ever over. They just kept playing, we kept playing.

"Teams go through stretches where shots just don't go."

STANFORD HEAD COACH JEROD HAASE QUOTES:

"We weren't in the flow of the game. It was kind of 'Hey, let's go out there and see how it goes and figure things out'. It can't be that way. We just have to go out there and lay it out there and not worry about the result of any play or the game. We have to worry about just putting it out there and trying to execute what we're trying to do with a reckless abandon. I didn't think we had that in the first half."

"I do have confidence in our guys going up to the free throw line, but to win on the road against an elite level team like this you have to knock those in."

"Teams against them average the longest possessions out of everybody in the country. They slow you down...and make you move the basketball, which is fine. I thought we had a decent game plan for it and in the second half we were more efficient with it, but they still slowed the game down there."

"Guys weren't making plays, they were trying to defer to the next guy and when you have five guys deferring, or at least three perimeter players deferring, you're not going to be able to get the ball inside of the zone."