



### POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. Long Beach State  
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.  
Sunday, November 28, 2018  
**Final: USC 75, Long Beach State 65**

- With the 75-65 win tonight, USC improved to 5-2 and Long Beach State fell to 2-6.
- USC led 36-28 at halftime. USC made 40.6 percent of its first-half shots, while Long Beach State made 31.4 percent before the break. Long Beach State outrebounded USC 23-21 in the first half. LBSU had 10 offensive rebounds in the first half.
- USC made 42.2 percent of its shots tonight, its second-lowest shooting percentage of the season. USC shot a season-low 39.5 percent from the floor vs. Vanderbilt on Nov. 11.
- USC has now won 34 consecutive games when holding the opponent to 70 points or less.
- Five Trojans scored in double figures for the second consecutive game.
- Junior forward Nick Rakocovic scored 19 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for his fourth double-double of the season and ninth of his career. He came into the game tops in the Pac-12 and sixth in the country with an average of 11.7 rebounds per game.
- Rs.-junior guard Derryck Thornton scored 13 points, had six assists and a season-high three steals tonight.
- USC had 19 assists tonight and in the last three games has a total of 64 assists for an average of 21.3 in the three games. Tonight six different players had at least two assists.
- USC was 7-for-14 (.500) from three-point range tonight and is now shooting 41.8 percent (61-for-146) from three-point range this season.
- Freshman guard Kevin Porter Jr. missed his second consecutive game with a right quadriceps contusion, suffered in the game vs. Missouri State on Nov. 20. He is listed as day-to-day.
- Sophomore guard Charles O'Bannon Jr. fractured his left pinky finger in practice on Nov. 9. He had surgery on Nov. 13 and is expected to miss about a month.
- USC's next game will be vs. No. 5/No. 6 Nevada at the Galen Center on Saturday, December 1 at 1:30 p.m. on FOX.

### ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"That was a tough game. Long Beach played very hard. We played well enough to win. We struggled at time offensively, missed shots and didn't pass well. Our defense was okay. Long Beach came with a lot of intensity. But give our players credit for figuring out how to win.

"Nick has done a great job of improving every year. He's improved defensively. He has a good touch around the basket. He missed a lot of easy layups tonight. We got 2 dunks for him, which helped his confidence a lot.

"We missed a lot of wide open shots tonight, from close in and from the 3-point line.

"Our biggest thing is rebounding. We play small a lot. We have to do a better job of team rebounding. Our biggest concern is defensive rebounding.

"Nevada is the oldest team in the country, experience and age-wise. They are physical, long and play well together.

"When you have a lead on a team, you have to keep playing. You can't relax or take possessions off.

"Derryck has played very good basketball the last 2 weeks. He's sharing the basketball, making the right decisions, shooting well."



**NICK RAKOCEVIC QUOTES:**

"My teammates were making all the right plays, I was just cutting. I missed some easy ones I usually don't miss. Overall, we got the win and that's what counts.

"Boxing out was killing us, and their second-chance points. That got them going. They fought hard the whole night. They're a solid team, give them credit. Defensive rebounding is what we need to work on.

"We need to stay focused all together (against Nevada). Slow the game down. Do the little things, that the key to beating a good team."

**DERRYCK THORNTON QUOTES:**

(On his improvement) "Slowing down, letting the game come to me, don't rush, and make sure everyone is happy. Our coaches want us to run.

"(On what is need against Nevada) "Locking in on defense and getting rebounds. They're an amazing offensive team, so we have to play defense the whole possession."

**LONG BEACH STATE ASSOC. HEAD COACH MYKE SCHOLL:**

On holding USC to shooting 40 percent from the floor:

"Our big thing was to stop them from the three-pointers. They made six in the first half and one in the second half. That was a big emphasis for us. We wanted to make sure we drove them off the line and tried to keep it as low scoring as we could. I'm extremely proud of this team defensively. They hung together when we got down there and really gritted it out."

On Drew Cobb having his best night of the season:

"He got us into offense. He got us the shots we wanted. He did a great job defensively of bothering those guys and standing the basketball which is how we were able to get them to play slower. I think everyone that played gave great effort tonight. We hung together with that 'next man up' mentality."

On a career high for Jordan Roberts:

"He was terrific. That's what we saw in the exhibition game against Bakersfield and a lot of what we saw last year. We've spent the last couple weeks talking to him about really getting aggressive at his spots. He was shooting that 15-foot jumper and putting it on the floor for himself and others. That's what he brings to the table as a big guard."