



POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. Nevada

Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.

Saturday, December 1, 2018

Final: USC 61, Nevada 73

- With the 73-61 loss today, USC fell to 5-3 and No. 5 Nevada improved to 8-0.
- USC led 35-34 at halftime. USC led by as many as 7 points and Nevada's biggest lead was 3 points. USC made 50.0 percent of its first-half shots and Nevada 45.5 percent. Nevada began the second half on a 9-0 run to open a 43-35 lead at 17:22 of the second half.
- USC shot 35.7 percent in the second half and Nevada made 48.1 percent of its shots in the second half.
- USC was held to a season-low 61 points today. USC's previous low was 63 points vs. Texas Tech on Nov. 19.
- No. 5 Nevada has won every game this season by at least 10 points.
- USC came into the game making 41.8 percent from three-point range and made only 23.8 percent of its shots from beyond the arc today.
- Junior forward Nick Rakocevic scored a season-high 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for his fifth double-double of the season and 10th 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.
- Rakocevic had three blocks today to give him 22 this season. His career high in blocks in a season is 23 set as a freshman.
- USC tied a season high with 8 steals today.
- Freshman guard Kevin Porter Jr. came in at 15:12 in the second half. He had missed the two previous games with a right quadriceps contusion. He played four minutes and then came out of the game.
- 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. The cast on his left hand is expected to be removed on Monday.
- Today's attendance was 5,844.
- USC's next game will be vs. TCU at the Staples Center on Friday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. on FS1.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"It was a tough game in the second half. Nevada played exceptional basketball in that opening stretch. We played hard, but went through a dry spell and they put the game away. Our defense played well enough to win. But even at the end, we missed shots. That's the way the second half went.

"When they go on a run, you have to go with them, and we didn't do that.

"We took a lot of tough shots. We took some good ones and missed, and we took some contested shots.

"They happened to be a very good team. There's a sense of urgency to do your best. We played hard, just not well enough for that 5-6 minute stretch. The hope is we can become a better team as the season goes on.

"Our 2 best shooters went 2-for-14 from the 3.

"Kevin wanted to play so badly. I thought he could play a few minutes. He gave it his best shot. He did fine, but he wasn't himself.

"We need our best players to play well."



NICK RAKOCEVIC QUOTES:

"We came out flat in the second half, our defense had too many breakdowns, they got open shots, we didn't box out. It was a lot of little things. The first half is a good sign we can be a top team. We have to come out better in the second half. When the shots aren't falling, you have to stay composed and do it on the defensive end.

"We were with them, then it started slipping away. We have to stay composed.

"They're a good team. Give it to them. They made shots, rebounded, played defense, all the small things. That's why they're a top 5 team. They took the wind out of us.

"Caroline absolutely killed us. We gave him a lot in the paint. We need to get better.

"This would've been a huge win. We just have to focus on game-by-game, put this one in the past. It's a long season. It's not the end of the world."

NEVADA HEAD COACH ERIC MUSSELMAN:

"We felt like we didn't have good enough rhythm to start the game, and we felt like USC was controlling the pace. We had to play better defense, obviously, and we made some adjustments defensively on our matchups, then changed our pick and roll coverage and I think both those things really helped us."

"Historically, we've been a really good second half team. So far this year, it's kind of mixed results on first half-second half, but I thought we did a phenomenal job for sure in that second half."

"Our adjustment offensively was when they collapsed [in the second half], to steal the ball from behind and try to kick it out towards three point shooters. Then when we hit a couple threes it opened up the game a little bit for us."

"[We knew that USC would have a great crowd...so far we've responded in the four games away from home. We've got two more, and our guys like LA, and I like LA, so we'll be back.]"