



### POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. Western Kentucky  
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.  
NIT Second-Round Game  
Monday, March 19, 2018  
**Final: USC 75, Western Kentucky 79**

- With the loss tonight, USC finished the season 24-12 and Western Kentucky improved to 26-10.
- USC reached 24 wins for the seventh time in school history.
- USC led 23-18 after the first quarter. Elijah Stewart led USC with 10 points and Justin Johnson led the Hilltoppers with 10 points.
- Western Kentucky led 40-39 at halftime. Western Kentucky made 60.7 percent of its first-half shots, while USC made 46.9 percent of its shots.
- Western Kentucky led 59-58 after the third quarter.
- With 20 assists tonight, USC set the school record for most assists in a season with 569. The previous record of 550 was set by the 2016-17 Trojans. USC lost for the first time this season when registering 20 or more assists in a game (8-1).
- With 75 points scored tonight, USC finished with 2,798 points this season, second all-time to the 2,816 points scored by the 2017-18 Trojans.
- USC made 9 three-pointers to extend its school record for most three-pointers made in a season to 296.
- Jordan McLaughlin scored 13 points and had 14 assists tonight and has had 7 or more assists in 24 of the 36 games. It was his sixth double-double of the season and ninth of his career.
- Elijah Stewart scored 20 points to lead USC tonight. He also made 4 three-pointers to extend his school record for three-pointers made to 245.
- Western Kentucky made its first 15 free throws and finished making 16 of 17 from the charity stripe (94.1 percent). USC made 8 of 19 from the free throw line (42.1 percent). Western Kentucky came into the game making 70.9 percent from the charity stripe, while USC had hit at a 71.4 percent clip.
- Victor Uyaelunmo made his first career start and scored a career-high 5 points.
- Nick Rakocevic scored 11 points and had 10 rebounds for his fifth double-double.
- Devin Fleming missed tonight's game with a right thigh contusion.
- **Rules changes in effect for the NIT...**The three-point line will be extended by approximately 1 foot 8 inches to the same distance used by FIBA for international competition (22 feet 1.75 inches).
  - The FT lane will be widened from 12 feet to 16 feet, consistent with the width used by the NBA.
  - The games will be divided into four 10-minute quarters as opposed to two 20-minute halves. Teams will shoot two free throws beginning with the fifth foul of each quarter.
  - The shot clock will reset to 20 seconds after an offensive rebound instead of the full 30 seconds.

### ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"I'm very proud of our team. They had an excellent season. Obviously, it was an unusual game for us with a lot of guys out. Western Kentucky played very well. But we'll focus on our season. I'm very proud of our players and what they accomplished this year. I'm excited to see where Elijah and Jordan end up, they have long careers ahead of them. We'll regroup and build for next year.

"Victor did a nice job. He's learned and developing as a player.

"We were terrible (shooting free throws). That was a big difference in the game. They also had 52 points in the paint, we were undersized. If you don't make free throws, that's not good enough for anybody.

"When you're down 2 with 20 seconds left, we should have fouled. That was a mistake on our part.

"I'm excited about our program. We had a lot of firsts for this program. We're set up as a real program.

We have good recruits coming in and excellent returning players. Now they have to go prove it. I can't say enough about our upperclassmen. They're the reason why we had 71 wins the last 3 years."



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**JORDAN McLAUGHLIN QUOTES:**

"It's tough, it hasn't hit me yet. We had a good run. The last 4 years have been amazing. I'm glad I chose this program and I wish them the best of luck in the future.

"I learned a lot here. I learned how to slow the game down and how to be a better point guard."

**ELIJAH STEWART QUOTES:**

"It's the end of a chapter in our lives. It's sad to let go. But you have to move on. We gave USC a great 4 years. Now, we've got to go be an adult.

"I learned people skills and I broadened my horizons. Our team elevated and we got better."

**WESTERN KENTUCKY HEAD COACH RICK STANSBURY QUOTES:**

"USC has had a terrific year. I know everyone was disappointed they didn't make the tournament and they probably should have made the tournament. They finished second in the Pac-12 and I know everybody wants more, but again, they had a terrific year. We knew we would have to play awfully well to come in here and win. They are awfully good here at home."

"We never let USC separate too much from us. We just kind of hung around enough to keep it close. They did a really good job keeping the ball out of the paint for us. We didn't get it in there versus that zone as much as we usually do. So give them a lot of credit."

"Anytime you can go on the road and win, anywhere, but in particular against a really good USC team, I'm proud for these guys."

"We backed off Usher late in that game hoping a freshman would take a shot and he took that shot. We didn't want McLaughlin beating us. We didn't want the big boy beating us and we didn't want Stewart popping out of that double screen they run that you guys have seen many times and make shots. The guy we were going to take a chance on was Usher and he jumped up and didn't make the shot."

"We lead the country in free throws attempted as a team. We also lead the country in that we've made more free throws than opponents have shot... We lead the country in both of those categories. That's why I said tonight they did a very good job when we weren't being as efficient inside that block playing that zone.

**Justin Johnson:**

"I think they compare a lot to Boston College because they are guard dominant and they have two really good guards. They can make plays and make shots. Our goal coming in was, you know coach always says 'Take the head of the snake off' and that's their point guard. We did a good job on him."

**Darius Thompson:**

"When they play four guards that's what really makes them good and they really got out on transition. That was one of the big things we tried to key in on in transition. They got a few points on us in transition and they have four guards and space it out to come off the ball screen and find the shooter. I think that's what makes them a really good team."