



POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. UCLA

Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.

Saturday, January 19, 2019

Final: USC 80, UCLA 67

- With the 80-67 win today, USC improved to 10-8, 3-2 and UCLA fell to 10-8, 3-2.
- USC led 36-33 at halftime. USC shot 41.2 percent in the first half, while UCLA shot 44.1 percent. UCLA outrebounded USC 25-18 in the first half and outscored the Trojans 26-12 on points in the paint. USC outshot UCLA 53.3 percent to 37.8 percent in the second half.
- USC led 80-55 with 1:27 remaining, then UCLA finished the game on a 12-0 run.
- USC won its fifth consecutive home game and improved to 3-0 in home conference games this season.
- The USC win snapped a four-game losing streak to UCLA. USC is now 5-4 in its last nine games against UCLA.
- USC made 12 three-point baskets today and improved to 8-3 when it makes seven or more three-point baskets.
- USC had a season-high 26 assists today and improved to 10-0 this season when registering 16 or more assists. It was USC's most assists since getting 28 vs. UC Santa Barbara on Dec. 17, 2017.
- Senior forward Bennie Boatwright scored 21 points today and has totaled 149 points in his last seven games (21.3 ppg). Boatwright made a season-high 5 three-pointers today (5-for-9).
- Junior forward Nick Rakocovic scored 21 points and grabbed 12 rebounds today for his eighth double-double of the season and 13th of his career.
- USC won its 38th consecutive game when holding the opposition to 70 points or less.
- USC had a season high in steals with 12. The previous season high in steals was 11 vs. Southern Utah on Dec. 21.
- USC won when the opponent scores first in the game for the second time this season (2-6).
- Senior guard Shaquan Aaron had a career best 6 assists by halftime and finished with a career-high 7 assists, 8 points and 6 rebounds.
- Junior guard Jonah Mathews scored 16 points and had 5 assists today.
- Anthony Sootile, a USC freshman Business major, won the Lorenzo Half Court Contest today. He won a 5-day, 4-night cruise for two.
- USC's next game will be vs. Arizona at the Galen Center on Jan. 24 at 6 p.m.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"It was a nice win. We played extremely hard and we played well together. I'm proud of their effort.

"Weaver has been improving as a player. We put him in in crunch time in the second half. He had great flow to his game. We need his contributions and being a true lead guard. We're excited about his future.

"We gave great effort. We challenged shots. We did a decent job on the boards. We rotated quickly. We got in front of them and made it hard for them to get to the basket.

"UCLA is a very good team. It was important to get off to a good start. They came back, we knew they'd make a run. With 19 minutes to go, I thought our defense picked us up and we made shots.

"They played a lot of zone. I knew we'd have to make a lot of 3s to beat them. We did a good job of taking good shots today.

"Our team has improved. A big part is Bennie Boatwright. Since mid-December, he's been a totally different player. He's got his rhythm back and there's a flow to his offensive game. We're enthusiastic about the improvement we've made. But we know our margin of error is very small."



JONAH MATHEWS QUOTES:

"It was one of our top 2 best games this year (along with Missouri State). In both, we had 20-plus assists. When we're sharing the ball and making shots, we're tough to beat. It was a rivalry game, with a lot of emotion. We came out and got the W.

"Last year, they came and beat us here. We couldn't let that happen this year. It was personal for all of us.

"I've always known Bennie is talented. When you have a knee injury like he had, it can mess you up mentally. He's back to being Bennie Buckets. You can tell the way he talks basketball differently now, the maturity, the instincts. He's changed tremendously mentally and physically."

BENNIE BOATWRIGHT QUOTES:

"I feel totally more comfortable now. I didn't have a pre-season. It took me a couple games to get comfortable.

"It feels good beating UCLA. It's a rivalry game.

"People don't understand how tough it is to come back from an injury. I had to get my rhythm back."

UCLA HEAD COACH MURRY BARTOW:

On USC's star players...

"They are three really really good players. Matthews, Rakocovic and Boatwright all played great. I thought the first half we did some good things but they just played better than we did. We turned the ball over too many times and their star players hurt us. We collectively just didn't play very well."

On how the score ran up the way it did...

"A lot of good play by them and not very good defense by us...we didn't attack it very well but I thought their zone was good...That's just a bad run for us in the second half."

On free throws and road games...

"It's not easy. We are not a great free-throw shooting team but hopefully we can improve. And we turn the ball over a lot. When you go on the road and you turn it over a lot, it's hard to win."

On USC's offense...

"I thought they moved it well. We had 13 and they had 26 [assists]. We've been playing pretty exclusively in zone, we started the game in man and we played a little man. Our zones been pretty dang good but they picked it apart. Boatwright is pretty good against the zone, Rakocovic did some good things against the zone and they moved the ball well."

On the loss...

"On the road, you have to play really well to win. We had 20 turnovers and their three stars really hurt us. We just didn't play well enough to win."