



### POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. California

Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.

Sunday, January 3, 2019

**Final: USC 82, California 73**

- With the 82-73 win tonight, USC improved to 8-6 and California fell to 5-8.
- USC has won a season-high three consecutive games for the second time this season.
- USC led 37-33 at halftime. USC made 48.3 percent of its first-half shots and California made 41.4 percent.
- USC made 53.4 percent of its shots for the game and improved to 7-0 this season when making 50 percent or more of its shots.
- USC won its Pac-12 opener tonight. USC was 3-5 in its last eight Pac-12 openers and 4-4 in its last eight Pac-12 home openers.
- Senior forward Bennie Boatwright scored 19 points tonight and has totaled 56 points in his last three games.
- Junior guard Derryck Thornton had a career-high 12 assists tonight. His previous best was 8 set earlier this season vs. Southern Utah on Dec. 21. He also registered his first career double-double with 13 points. Thornton also did not have a turnover and fell three rebounds short of the second triple-double in school history (Daniel Hackett on Nov. 17, 2007 at South Carolina).
- Junior forward Nick Rakocovic scored a career-high 27 points tonight. His previous best was 24 points vs. UNC Asheville on March 13, 2018 in the NIT first-round game. Rakocovic was 10-for-10 in the second half tonight.
- USC had 21 assists tonight and is averaging 20.5 assists in its wins and 11.2 assists in its losses this season.
- USC committed only 5 turnovers tonight, its fewest since also having 5 turnovers vs. UCLA on March 3, 2018. The fewest turnovers in a game for USC this season had been 9 done twice. The school record for fewest turnovers in a game is 4 vs. Oregon in 1984.
- Freshman guard Elijah Weaver re-aggravated his left ankle sprain during shootaround today and is listed as day-to-day. Weaver first injured his ankle in the game vs. Oklahoma in Tulsa, Okla. on Dec. 15, he played at Santa Clara on Dec. 18, then missed the game vs. Southern Utah on Dec. 21. He returned to action for the game vs. UC Davis on Dec. 30 and scored a career-best 13 points.
- Sophomore guard Charles O'Bannon Jr. is still out recovering from left pinky surgery. Freshman guard Kevin Porter Jr. is still out recovering from a right quadriceps contusion.
- USC's next game will be vs. Stanford at the Galen Center on Jan. 6 at 5 p.m.

### ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"It was a good game. We played hard with a short bench. We shared the basketball. I'm proud of their effort.

"Derryck played a great game. He ran the team and played under control.

"We were walking through one of Cal's offensive sets today and Weaver stepped on someone's foot. I've never seen that. It doesn't surprise us anymore, but it's a first. We had 7 scholarship players tonight. It's very challenging. It's hard to get in a rhythm, it's hard to practice. We need guys to get healthy.

"Victor played well off the bench. J'Raen gave us more energy. They need to keep getting better. Now is their opportunity.

"We made adjustments at halftime and Nick was able to get behind the defense. He did a great job of finding the open area. He played efficiently and extremely well in the second half. We were playing with great emotion until Nick picked up the flagrant foul. We're tired of that. He has to act better. He's too good a player. He just has to stop it.



"Assists are key for us. We need to share the basketball and take uncontested shots. I'm proud of our guys, we're leading the Pac-12 again in assists."

**NICK RAKOCEVIC QUOTES:**

"Derryck was incredible. He continues to get better all season. He's looking like an amazing point guard. He was 3 rebounds from a triple double. He gave it all he had."

"We got tangled (on the flagrant foul). I seem to get in that habit, I need to avoid it. We got tangled and I tried to get him off me. I need to get better and let it go."

"I owe my teammates all the credit. They were looking for me and made my job easier. I just had to make layups."

"It (Weaver's injury) is obviously unfortunate. It's hard on us. He just had a breakout game. Hopefully he recovers soon."

**BENNIE BOATWRIGHT QUOTES:**

"It's fun, I like playing in a big lineup. I'm comfortable at the 3."

"Derryck was big. Everything came together for him. He had an all-around game. He controlled the game. It was big for us."

"Shaququan's 3 (late) was huge. It stopped their run. It was a big-time shot by a big-time player. And Nick had a heck of a game."

**CALIFORNIA HEAD COACH WYKING JONES:**

On three-point shooting...

"They forced us to shoot 27 three's. We're a very good shooting team so I'm ok with us shooting 27 three's against a zone that forced us to shoot. They kept it tight and didn't allow us to throw it into the paint much so I'm ok with us shooting 27 three's. I wish we would have made more, we're a very good three-point shooting team. Darius McNeill typically wouldn't go 2-for-8, he knocks down two more and goes 4-for-8 and it's a very different game."

On Connor Vanover...

"You know, he's a weapon out there and you have to bring you center away from the rim to guard him. We have that luxury of having him...He really shot the ball well, he gave us something on the offensive end but he's got to be better on the defensive end."

Mentality cutting lead...

"We've just got to continue to fight, that's been the mentality all week. They've got great size, we don't and for them to even us up in the boards was something that we wanted and something that we challenged our guys with all week. I'm happy with our effort, the fight was there. We had some open looks that we normally knock down. If we just shot the ball better I think it would have been a totally different game."

Switching from their two big-man lineup...

"Just to have extra guys that can shoot the ball out there...My main reason for going with a bigger lineup was rebounding, they weren't hurting us on the glass. It just felt like it gave us the best opportunities."