



POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. Pepperdine
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.
Tuesday, November 19, 2019
Final: USC 91, Pepperdine 84

- With the 91-84 win tonight, USC improved to 5-0 and Pepperdine fell to 3-2.
- USC's 5-0 start is its best since starting the 2016-17 season 14-0. This is the first USC team to start 5-0 with all five wins by 7 points for more since the 1963 team accomplished the feat the first eight games.
- USC improved to 33-4 in its last 37 home nonconference games.
- USC led 44-37 at halftime. Pepperdine opened up a 21-11 lead 8:00 into the game. USC made 9 of its final 13 shots of the first half (69.2 percent) to finish the half making 46.7 percent (14-for-30). Pepperdine made 40 percent of its shots before the break (12-for-30). Freshman forward Onyeka Okongwu had 15 first-half points.
- Okongwu ended up with a career-best 33 points, the most by a USC freshman since O.J. Mayo scored 37 on March 1, 2008 at Arizona State (player participation later vacated due to NCAA penalty). The previous freshman to score more points in a game was Harold Miner who scored 34 on Feb. 15, 1990 vs. Stanford.
- Okongwu's 17 free throws made were the most ever made by a Trojan in this arena. The previous high was 14 by Nikola Vucevic vs. Washington on Dec. 29, 2010 and Elijah Stewart vs. Montana on Nov. 11, 2016. His 17 free throws made rank third on USC's single-game list behind 21 by John Block vs. Washington on Feb. 11, 1966 and 19 by Danny Rogers vs. Oregon on March 1, 1957.
- Senior forward Nick Rakocevic finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds for his third consecutive double-double. He now has 23 career double-doubles.
- Rakocevic also made his first career three-point basket. He was previously 0-for-6 on three-point attempts. He also had a career-best 6 assists tonight.
- Freshman forward Isaiah Mobley scored 11 of his 14 points in the second half.
- USC scored a season-best 91 points and allowed a season-high 84 points.
- Pepperdine shot an opponent high of 46.9 percent from the floor tonight.
- Onyeka Okongwu won his fifth consecutive opening tip.
- USC seniors Jonah Mathews and Nick Rakocevic were honored in a pregame ceremony for registering their 1,000th career points in USC's last home game on Nov. 12 vs. South Dakota State.
- USC's next game will be vs. Temple at the Galen Center on Nov. 22 at 8 p.m.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"That was a good win against a very good team. Both teams offensively made a lot of tough shots. Ross was spectacular. He had some shot making you don't see often. Every time we tried to extend the lead, he'd hit a shot. Our guys played well and we're 5-0. Pepperdine is much improved. Lorenzo has done a good job and they have a lot of offensive talent.

"Onyeka does what he does well. And when he is fouled, he makes his free throws. He played a smart game. All three of our bigs played well. If we can get that productivity out of our three bigs, that's be pretty good.

"Nick has great hands and feet and is a very good passer. He helps his teammates. When he plays to his strengths, he's an all-league player.

"We had a size advantage and tried to use it. Onyeka is a load in there. He's hard to guard, usually all you can do is foul him.

"We tried different things on Ross. He had it rolling. Some of the shots he made were really hard. Sometimes you've got to give others credit.

"Being 5-0 is nice and the schedule is getting challenging coming up. I hope we can draw from these games. We need to keep getting better."



USC SPORTS INFORMATION OFFICE • HER 103 • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90089-0601
TELEPHONE: (213) 740-8480 • FAX: (213) 740-7584 • WEB: USCTROJANS.COM

ONYEKA OKONGWU QUOTES:

"I'm most proud of my motor, being relentless on the offensive and defensive end

"I don't believe in pressure. I believe in having a good work ethic.

"I love playing with Nick. He takes pressure off me and I take it off him.

"We have to keep going, keep working.

"Colbey is a good player and he made shots."

ISAIAH MOBLEY QUOTES:

"I'm proud of staying engaged the whole game. I had a quiet second half, but it kept me in the game in the second half.

"I try to play hard every game. Whatever the outcome, I'll live with.

"The coaches kept telling me to be aggressive. I was trying to find where I can be consistent and persistent. I found a spot in the second half to get going.

"We have a really good group. Our chemistry is really good."

PEPPERDINE HEAD COACH LORENZO ROMAR:

"USC is a great team, a really strong team. You have to capitalize on mistakes with them. I thought we did some things well, but they're a really talented group."