



POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. Temple

Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.

Friday, November 22, 2019

Final: USC 61, Temple 70

- With the 70-61 loss tonight, USC fell to 5-1 and Temple improved to 4-0.
- USC dropped to 33-5 in its last 38 home nonconference games.
- Temple made a layup at the buzzer to take a 31-30 lead at halftime. Temple led for 17:04 in the first half and by as many as 9 points. USC made 37.5 percent of its first half shots and Temple made 37.5 percent. Temple made 4 of its first 8 three-point shots, but finished the half making 1 of its last 11 from beyond the arc. USC made 4 of 11 free throws in the first half. USC trailed at the half for the first time this season. USC began the second half on an 8-0 run to take a 38-31 lead. Temple then responded with a 22-4 run to take the lead back at 53-42 with 9:31 remaining.
- Freshman guard Ethan Anderson scored a career-high 12 points. He also had 6 rebounds and 5 assists. It was his 4th game with 5 or more assists.
- Senior guard Daniel Utomo finished with 9 points, 2 rebounds and 2 assists.
- Freshman forward Onyeka Okongwu scored 17 points, had 6 rebounds and 5 blocks. It was his fourth game with 17 or more points. He scored a career-best 33 points in his last game. Okongwu now has had at least one block in every game this season for a total of 18 blocks (3.0 blocks per game).
- Freshman forward Max Agbonkpolo made his first career start tonight. He had one block and one rebound in 7 minutes of action.
- After no three-point baskets in his first 109 career game, forward Nick Rakoccevic hit his first three-point attempt tonight to make it consecutive games with a make from beyond the arc.
- Temple entered the game shooting 27.9 percent from three-point range (19-for-68) and made 10 of 30 tonight (33.3 percent), including 5 of 11 (45.5 percent in the second half).
- Temple had 8 steals tonight and entered the game second in the nation is steals per game at 12.3.
- USC had 13 turnovers which led to a Temple 21-8 advantage on points off turnovers.
- Onyeka Okongwu won his sixth consecutive opening tip.
- USC's next game will be vs. Fairfield in the Orlando Invitational held at the HP Fieldhouse in Orlando, Fla. on Nov. 28 at 1 p.m. PT.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"That was a tough game. We didn't play well offensively. Credit Temple.

"We turned the ball over and missed open shots (during Temple's second half run). You can't go that long without scoring. I'll take the blame. I couldn't figure out what to do to get us out of that rut.

"We shot a low percentage. We have to play better offensively, shoot the ball, move the ball. No one stepped up. It was a group loss.

"We turned the ball over 13 times and they had 21 points off of turnovers. Some of the things we did tonight were on us. We just have to play better. We have too much size and athleticism to only have 6 offensive rebounds.

"We played the first 4 or 5 minutes of the second half, then we turned the ball over and missed shots. We didn't have it, we weren't sharp tonight. There's not a lot of positives from this game."

JONAH MATHEWS QUOTES:

"They got multiple baskets and we couldn't get baskets (during Temple's second half run).

"We haven't been 94-feet pressed yet this year. We got the shots we wanted, we just didn't hit them. It's only the fifth game of the season. We have to get our chemistry.

"We haven't played a team that big and physical like them yet. We have to block out. It was one of those games, the ball bounced their way, rebounded their way

"We just have to move on. We'll play better teams in Orlando. We just have to put this loss behind us."



DANIEL UTOMI QUOTES:

"Shooters shoot. They'll drop.

"It's hard to beat any team when your shot's not falling. We'll bounce back and play better."

TEMPLE HEAD COACH AARON McKIE:

"I think this has always been a guards game in college. You look back on some of the best teams to play and ours was stellar today but you know we found a way to improve the game. I told my guys just to be patient. The ball wasn't going into the basket early on so I told them to be patient. Sometimes you've got to be a facilitator. Just because a play is designed for you does not necessarily mean you have to shoot the ball. We battled. We may have had our disadvantages out there, we were smaller than those guys but we will bounce."

On playing against zone:

"We got impatient and we got some good shots out of it but we hung in there. You know, it's early on in the year and we don't get to play against zone every day. We worked against it this week, certainly, because we had an opportunity to watch these guys and we knew they were going to throw some zone. We just had to be able to knock those shots down and be patient. We're starting to get what we want out of the zone and we eventually got them out of it."

On Josh Pierre-Louis's contribution:

"His contribution was big. I wasn't anticipating Josh coming in like he did the first half and was making shots but it happened for us at a good time and he kept us in it until our veteran guys were able to get their footing. I think we took control of that game midway through the second half."

On east-west change:

"I don't think there's any way to prepare for what is an 11 p.m. start time to our guys but we spent the day out here and too the guys to Santa Monica to get some food. They got to take in LA and were able to get them off their feet all day today and had a light shoot around. I just told them to be ready to expend a lot of energy."