



POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. Florida A&M

Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Final: USC 77, FAMU 48

- With the 74-46 win tonight, USC opens up 1-0 and Florida A&M opens up 0-1. It was the first-ever meeting between USC and Florida A&M in basketball.
- USC is 21-4 in its last 25 home openers. USC has won 11 of its last 12 home openers.
- USC led 24-23 at halftime. USC made 33.3 percent of its first-half shots (11-for-33), while Florida A&M made 32.3 percent of its shots before the break (10-for-31). USC was 1-for-8 from three-point range and 1-for-9 from the free throw line in the first half.
- USC trailed 10-6 eight and a half minutes into the first half and was 3-for-13 at that time (23.1 percent). USC called a time out and then went on a 9-2 run to take a 15-12 lead, forcing a Florida A&M timeout at the 8:47 mark of the first half.
- USC outscored Florida A&M 50-23 in the second half, while making 58.1 percent of its shots 18-for-31) and 92.3 percent from the free throw line (12-for-13).
- USC held FAMU to 32.3 percent shooting tonight (20-for-62).
- Freshman forward Onyeka Okongwu had eight blocks tonight to tie the school record for blocks in a game, previously done by Avondre Jones (1995 vs. Rhode Island), Gerry Wright (1982 vs. Santa Clara) and Steve Malovic (1975 vs. Howard).
- Okongwu's eight blocks broke the previous freshman first-game record of five blocks set by Chimezie Metu in 2015. Okongwu had five blocks in the first 8:17 of the game and six by halftime.
- Okongwu, who scored 20 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, also became the first Trojan freshman with a double-double in his debut since Taj Gibson had 13 points and 14 rebounds vs. South Carolina on Nov. 16, 2006 (the first game at the Galen Center).
- Okongwu's points were the third-most by a USC freshman in his debut and the most since O.J. Mayo scored 32 vs. Mercer in 2007 (player participation later vacated due to NCAA violation). His 13 rebounds were tied for third among USC debuting freshmen.
- Freshman point guard Ethan Anderson had seven assists to tie the USC freshman first-game record for assists in a debut, also done by Greg White vs. LSU in 1974.
- Freshman forward Isaiah Mobley scored 17 points and had seven rebounds in his collegiate debut.
- USC had 12 steals tonight, matching the most the 2018-19 team had in a game.
- USC had 11 players with at least one rebound, 10 with at least two points and nine with at least one steal. Ten different Trojans played at least 10 minutes tonight.
- USC's freshmen scored 53 of the team's 77 points (68.8 percent).
- USC's next game will be vs. Portland at the Galen Center on Nov. 8 at 8 p.m.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"It was a good opening win. We were sluggish in the first half, but we played pretty well on defense. We grinded it out. We started making shots in the second half, shared the basketball. We had too many turnovers. In the second half, we started by getting easy baskets inside and we shared the basketball. In the first half, we had too many turnovers and misses. We were our own worst enemy in the first half.

"Onyeka has very good timing, he's a good defender, he's quick off his feet. He's been solid and steady for us the whole preseason. He's relentless when the shot goes up. He has great skills, but it's his mentality. It was a pretty impressive debut, especially blocks and rebounds.

"Our two freshmen point guards had 11 assists and just 2 turnovers. They play with pace and see the floor. We're so happy with them. They are going to be terrific. We need them to perform this year.

"I would have liked to make our 3s and our free throws. We're a good shooting team, we just didn't make 3s tonight. They didn't go in. That needs to improve.

"We weren't concerned about Onyeka breaking the (blocks) record. We were concerned about winning. If he wants the record, do it next game."



ONYEKA OKONGWU QUOTES:

"The record wasn't my objective. I just wanted to have fun and win. Tonight felt good. It's been a long couple months of practice.

"We got the first game jitters out of the way and came out in the second half and got going.
"The biggest adjustment has been in physicality and playing with new people."

ISAIAH MOBLEY QUOTES:

"When you play with big guys like Onyeka, it makes it easy. The chemistry is there, our games complement each other well.

"The biggest adjustment has been the physicality and because I was out with a foot injury, I had to catch up, and now I'm getting comfortable.

"Onyeka was impressive tonight, but that's nothing new. He works extremely hard."

FLORIDA A&M HEAD COACH ROBERT McCULLUM :

"Our transition defense was poor. They're a good team, a very good team. Obviously we saw the exhibition game against Villanova and human nature just kicked in tonight. We saw some real college basketball players. We knew we'd see their best in the first half. We talked about at halftime and they come with even more intensity in the second half and we didn't respond. It's early but yet we still have a lot that we can build on."

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"He's a junior college transfer, it's his first game. He's still making an adjustment in terms of attention to detail. I thought he did some things well in the second half. But yet again, he's still transitioning from junior college to division I basketball and he has a lot of potential. So hopefully, with each game, he can begin to put it all together."

On Onyeka Okongwu's debut

"Well, we probably talked as much about him as with any players on the team just based on the fact that he plays hard on both ends. We anticipated the intensity that he plays with when he rebounds the basketball, he contests and block shots, so unfortunately, we didn't do a good job of listening to the important shots taken and as a result, he had an outstanding college debut."