



POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. Portland

Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.

Friday, November 8, 2019

Final: USC 76, Portland 65

- With the 76-65 win tonight, USC improved to 2-0 and Portland fell to 1-1.
- USC improved to 31-4 in its last 35 home nonconference games.
- USC scored the first 7 points of the game...Portland then hit back-to-back three-pointers. Portland trailed 33-32 with just over two minutes remaining in the first half, but USC outscored them 8-3 to close out the half and take a 41-35 lead at the break. USC made 51.6 percent of its first-half shots and Portland made 46.2 percent. Both teams were 7-for-13 from three-point range (53.8 percent).
- The game was tied at 48-all with 15 minutes remaining and USC outscored Portland 28-17 the rest of the way.
- Freshman forward Onyeka Okongwu had his second consecutive double-double, finishing with 20 points and 10 rebounds. He had six points and two rebounds at halftime as he played 6:32 due to foul trouble.
- Senior guard Jonah Mathews made 4 of 9 three-pointers to finish with 12 points. Mathews now has scored 995 career points.
- Senior forward Nick Rakoccevic had 11 points, 8 rebounds and a career-high three steals tonight.
- Freshman guard Ethan Anderson had 10 assists, four points and four rebounds tonight.
- Sophomore guard Elijah Weaver scored 12 points and made a career-high 3 three-pointers tonight (3-for-4).
- Redshirt senior guard Quinton Adlesh made all three of his three-point attempts tonight to finish with nine points.
- USC outscored Portland 38-12 on points in the paint.
- USC had 17 offensive rebounds tonight, its most offensive rebounds since grabbing 21 vs. Vanderbilt on Nov. 11, 2018.
- Portland made 13 three-pointers tonight and made 10 three-pointers in its first game.
- USC assistant coach Eric Mobley played collegiately at Portland where he was a starter in 1990.
- USC's next game will be vs. South Dakota State at the Galen Center on Nov. 12 at 7 p.m.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

Opening statement

"Great win for us tonight. Portland played terrific basketball. They're very tough to guard and the offense really spread us out. Give Portland credit. I thought they played an excellent basketball game; made some shots--made 13 threes--and a few of those were very tough and contested. Give them credit because I thought they shot the ball great. Tonight, we did our job with the assists part but did not do our job with the turnovers."

On Ethan Anderson's spark off the bench

"He came off the bench and played a lot in the second half. He had 10 assists and two turnovers. He had a really controlled game. I thought he made the right reads. Anytime you get 10 assists in a game, that's impressive; especially for a freshman. He's still developing as a player but he has great court vision and he's a tough kid. He gave us a big jump off the bench."

On the outside shooting

"Q is a really good player, period. He's an excellent defender and he's an elite shooter. Tonight, he got hot in the first half and made three straight, but I was most impressed with his defense when he helped us make that run in the second half to take the lead."

On his use of the bench and diversity of his players

"We got off to a good start. I think we had a 12-point lead early but we let them come back in it and we made some defensive mistakes. We played a lot of guys, but that's not the reasons they came back. We just didn't defend."



On Big O's efficiency

"He does a lot on his own. We don't run a ton of plays for him. We run a few, but he's constantly ball screening, rolling to the rim, going for the offensive glass and running the floor. He does it on his own and within our system, he does it very well. We just need him to keep playing within the system and we can keep using his talents. He's really good at reading the ball in mid-air and going to get it."

ETHAN ANDERSON

On his contribution to the team

"I think going forward, I'm going to have to take care of the ball better. I had a little bit more turnovers than I wanted to. My seniors, my coaches and teammates gave me confidence out there. I just try to get in the paint and find open guys."

On the help of having Okongwu inside

"It helps a great deal whether I'm coming off a pick-and-roll or dribble transition. There's a lot of talent around me. We have good shooters and when big O comes around, I know I always have a safety net. He always goes and gets it."

JONAH MATHEWS

On his first two games' performance

"It's been alright. People expect me to shoot the lights out and it's not really like that, but my teammates were finding me and telling to keep on shooting. I'm going to give them 100 percent, but we got two wins so I'm not really concerned about me right now. I'm just going to keep playing hard and it's going to come during the season."

On shooting improvement from Tuesday's game

"We weren't really worried about [Tuesday]. We have great shooters on our team. We have people who can all shoot the ball. It's going to come within rhythm and in the first two games. We've just got to keep working on it and I think we shot pretty well today. We shot the ball better today and that's why we came out with the win."

The experience of Daniel Utomi and Quinton Adlesh

"It's super important. They come in the game and they already know what the deal is. They've been here in college basketball for four-plus years so you don't have to tell them anything. Just having them and having that experience on the court helps me a lot."

PORTLAND HEAD COACH TERRY PORTER :

On coming out strong in the second half:

"We went with our small lineup which is very effective lineup for us. We have gotten some good productivity on both ends of the floor. On offense we need to open up the floor to allow us to drive it and get looks. It was good to see that lineup be effective. Obviously USC has some very strong interior presence and we struggled with their size on the boards. All-in-all I'm proud of how our guys competed tonight. Going into a high major, a tough environment and we were kind of short-handed on the interior. A couple of our guys were not here. WE are happy with how our guys competed. This is a good USC basketball team over there. That is a very good basketball team with a lot of talent. I think they are going to surprise a lot of people in the PAC-12"

On Onyeka Okongwu:

"He's what we call a TC, a tough cover. His motor, his athleticism, he is so quick to the ball. He just never quits. He was able to get loose, we didn't do a good job testing his physicality and putting a body on him to not let him get offensive rebounds. Sometimes he didn't even get it, but he kept it alive and one of the other guys got it. They have a very strong presence on the interior. Our guys fought their butts off but they just came up short inside."

How is the season going"?:



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"It is a whole new process. It is about the process for us this year. Every game is about us trying to play where we have to play at both ends of the floor. I think we made great strides, it's early but I'm pleased with what we've tried to teach, our philosophy, at both ends of the floor and what our team has been able to absorb then really go out and execute. We did some good things defensively. I think offensively we did some good things the ball was moving and we got some good, quality possessions. Every game is a new challenge and as long as our guys continue to buy in, continue to believe, continue to work hard I think it will serve us well down the stretch and into our conference play."