



POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. Florida Gulf Coast
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.
Sunday, December 29, 2019
Final: USC 71, Florida Gulf Coast 58

- With the 71-58 win tonight, USC improved to 11-2 and Florida Gulf Coast fell to 3-12.
- USC has won five consecutive games for the second time this season. Only two other times in the past decade has USC had two winning streaks of five games or more in a season (2016 & 2017).
- USC has won 11 of its first 13 games, only the third time in the last 18 seasons USC has won 11 or more games in its first 13 contests (13-0 in 2017 and 11-2 in 2016).
- USC led 35-31 at halftime. USC made 42.9 percent of its first-half shots and FGCU made 40.6 percent of its shots before the break. FGCU outrebounded USC 21-19 in the first half.
- USC made 50 percent of its second-half shots to finish the game at 46.2 percent. FGCU made 40.7 percent of its shots. USC out rebounded FGCU 37-32, including 18-11 in the second half.
- Senior guard Daniel Utomi scored a season-best 13 points and matched a season high with 3 three-pointers made.
- Senior forward Nick Rakocovic had 19 points and 13 rebounds for his fifth double-double of the season and 25th of his career. He also made 2 of 2 three-pointers and is shooting 70 percent from beyond the arc this season (7-for-10). He entered the season 0-for-4 in his career from beyond the arc.
- FGCU assistant coach Joey Cantens served as the USC Director of Scouting and Video Operations for the 2014-15 season.
- Today is freshman guard Kyle Sturdivant's birthday. He scored 4 points and had a season-high 5 assists.
- USC's 18 turnovers were its most since having a season-high 20 vs. Portland in the second game of the season.
- Freshman forward Onyeka Okongwu missed tonight's game with a sprained right ankle. He injured the ankle at the end of the LSU game. He is listed as day-to-day.
- USC's next game will at Washington State on Jan. 2 at 7:30 p.m. The game will air on the Pac-12 Network.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"It was a good win, but we didn't play exceptionally well. But being 11-2 is a credit to our team with the tough schedule we've had. Gulf Coast played very hard and made shots. They kept it a game for most of the game. We were fortunate to put them away at the end.

"Onyeka could have played tonight, but it was precautionary to hold him out. With the swelling from his sprained ankle and soreness, he needed another day or two or rest.

"We didn't play well. Our starting 5 had 16 turnovers. They have to play better. We didn't take them lightly. We just didn't play well in the first half and it snowballed.

"The last 3 weeks we've played good basketball. To be 11-2 and have the experience with our young players, I'm excited to be where we are. But we know the conference is very deep and has excellent teams.

(On playing FGCU, his former team)—"It brings back memories, you appreciate the friendships and the people. It was fun to see them. But when the game started you have a game to play. It could've been anybody, the jerseys didn't matter at that point.

"Drake London will start practicing and get in shape. He's a world-class athlete. He's a very good player and we're excited to have him on our team. He needs to get in basketball shape and learn our offense and defense."



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DANIEL UTOMI QUOTES:

"Shooters shoot. They'll drop sooner or later. That's all it is

"With Big O out, other players had to step up. We had to toughen it out and come out with a win."

NICK RAKOCEVIC QUOTES:

"In high school, I was considered a shooter. That stroke never left. My role has changed a bit this year, I'm playing more of the 4. I'm taking good shots, open shots, staying patient and keep working at it.

"We weren't looking ahead. We were shorthanded without Big O. We missed his presence down low. It was a game we knew we had to knock out before focusing on the conference. I think we're good. The freshmen are playing exceptionally well. We're more fluid now, we all believe in the team. We're playing together now.

"We need to keep our composure, keep our discipline and play together. If we do, we're as good as any team in the Pac-12.

"Adding Drake London gives us another guy to give us solid production.

"We looked at it as any other game. Obviously, that was Coach's old school but we weren't thinking of that. We just wanted to win our last game out of conference."

FGCU HEAD COACH MICHAEL FLY:

"I thought we competed very well and executed our game plan."

"I don't think we lost due to an execution deal at all"

"There were a few unforced errors and some things that we could have controlled better"

"We could have played smarter and harder"

"As a coach I am very encouraged because we proved we can play well against teams"

"We need to close out games better"

"Non-conference is important however, conference is more important. We get a fresh start in conference"