



POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. California Baptist
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.
Wednesday, November 25, 2020
Final: USC 95, CBU 87 - OT

- With the 95-87 overtime win tonight, USC opens up 1-0 and California Baptist opens up 0-1. It was the first-ever meeting between USC and California Baptist in basketball.
- USC is 22-4 in its last 26 home openers. USC has won 12 of its last 13 home openers.
- USC started tonight's game with a lineup of Tahj Eaddy (Sr, G), Isaiah Mobley (So, F), Evan Mobley (Fr., F), Drew Peterson (Jr., G) and Ethan Anderson (So., G).
- USC's first basket of the season was a little jump hook in the lane by Evan Mobley to tie the game at 2-all.
- The Mobley brothers scored 11 of USC's first 13 points (Evan – 7 & Isaiah – 4)
- USC led by as many as 9 points in the first half (31-22 with 6:26 left in the first half), but California Baptist came back to tie it at 39-all behind the strength of its 10 first-half three-pointers (10 of 24, 41.7 percent). Ten of CBU's 14 first-half baskets were three-pointers and 24 of its 32 first-half shots were from beyond the arc.
- California Baptist made a USC opponent record 20 three-point baskets tonight (20-for-41, 48.8 percent). The previous best was 16 by Arizona in 2002.
- The game was tied at 79-all after regulation.
- The last overtime game to start a season for USC was on Nov. 20, 2005 when USC fell 81-76 at home to CS Northridge.
- Tahj Eaddy's baseline floater 4 minutes into the second half gave him 11 points in the game and 1,001 in his career. Eaddy scored 224 at Southeast Missouri State and 766 at Santa Clara. Eaddy finished the game with 18 points, including hitting the three-pointer that tied the game at 79 in regulation.
- USC outrebounded California Baptist, 48-28, including 18-9 on offensive rebounds.
- Evan Mobley led USC with 21 points, making 10 of 15 shots. He was rebound short of a double-double as he grabbed 9 rebounds.
- Evan Mobley's 21 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.
- Isaiah Mobley posted his first career double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds.
- Six Trojans scored 10 points or more tonight. All nine Trojans to play tonight scored at least 2 points.
- USC's next game will be vs. Montana at the Galen Center on Nov. 28 at 6 p.m.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"Cal Baptist played an excellent game tonight. They made a lot of threes, the most we've ever given up. They made shot after shot, tough shots. Give them credit. Our players showed a lot of toughness to come back and put the game in overtime and win it. We made some adjustments defensively and finally were able to challenge their shots.

"We're a work in progress. They're all new, never played together, never had a scrimmage. It was interesting to see some of the combinations on the floor. Hopefully we'll watch the video and improve.

"Evan played a solid game. Defensively he turned it up late in the game and in overtime. He needs to be more active. He'll get better. Offensively we went to him a lot and he made some great plays. He's learning like everyone else. Gave great effort, he's a winner, he made great plays for his teammates.

"It's not easy, it's a little different, everyone has to get used to it. We're just happy to play. If wearing a facemask is the worst thing, we're very thankful to be on the court.

"We took the three away in the later part of the game and in overtime. We were in decent position on a lot of their threes, we didn't leave our feet and close out and have more sense of urgency. Give them credit, they made tough shot after tough shot. We were very impressed with their players. We're fortunate to win the game and will learn from it.



"When guys get hot and confident, you have to up your energy and get them off their spot. We'll learn from it. We challenged their shots better when the game got tight.

"Every time we got a lead, we either missed a layup or free throws or they made a tough free. We couldn't pull away. We gave a lot of points away. We have to finish dunks. It was frustrating, we were playing okay but couldn't pull away. We let them hang around and get confident.

"Offensively, Eaddy helped us, Peterson gave us some big minutes late and White had energy and toughness. Defensively, they'll realize they have work to do defensively. But it was their first game, they're winners and their best basketball is ahead of them."

EVAN MOBLEY QUOTES:

"I felt pretty good. My teammates got me the ball in the right spots. I'm pretty happy with my performance.

"We had to lock in. They had a good system. We were making mistakes. I tried to lock in and create defensive plays for my team.

"I felt we played pretty good as a team. I felt we could have played better. But overall we got the win.

"We fixed our mistakes. That's why we went on that 8-0 run. It was mostly on the defensive side. Our defensive really stepped up in overtime.

ETHAN ANDERSON QUOTES:

"No fans, the atmosphere. Fans don't get enough credit in bringing energy. We had to create our own energy. It felt different. It worked to the other team's advantage.

"They had a terrific system. Kept us on our toes. We had too many defensive slipups, we left too many shooters open. Credit to them, they made so many tough shots. We have to close out better.

"A few plays had to be repeated several times because I couldn't hear the coaches through the masks. It certainly made it harder.

"At the end, we said let's make them drive to the basket and we knew what the result would be. When Evan got that big block, it allowed us to run on transition. It helped our momentum and helped us go through our offense easier.

"At that last time out, I told the guys let's keep running our stuff. There's no home run or five-point play. We had to lock in, we don't need a crazy play, we need to run our set.

"This team looks to me to spark our defensive efforts. My biggest identity is I can help the team in lots of ways."

CALIFORNIA BAPTIST HEAD COACH RICK CROY:

"Really proud of our team. I thought we fought extremely hard, there were probably three or four stretches where USC separated but we just stayed with it. I thought we showed what we are about. We're a true brotherhood, and I'm really proud of how we competed, and I told the guys in the locker room, the net time we have a chance to finish, we go and finish."

"We took some tough shots. We've got to get stronger and tougher around the rim, which will also get us better three-point shots as defenses learn who we are. We're constantly making adjustments, but more importantly we're improving. We did a lot of good things tonight, but we have a lot to tighten up and improve on."

"USC has a very big and athletic team, but I thought there were a lot of balls that we could have won tonight that we didn't fight hard enough for throughout the 45 minutes."