



## POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. UC Irvine

Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

**Final: USC 91, UC Irvine 56**

- With the 91-56 win tonight, USC improved to 4-1 and UC Irvine fell to 2-3. USC has won its last eight home games dating back to last season.
- USC is 7-2 all-time against UC Irvine. USC lost the last time the two teams squared off, falling 61-54 on Dec. 20, 2012.
- USC led 22-14 at 6:53 of the first half and then scored the next 11 points to take a 33-14 lead with 3:33 remaining before the break. USC went into halftime with a 46-21 lead. The 46 points scored before the break were the most in the first half of a game this season for the Trojans. Noah Baumann hit 4 three-pointers to lead USC with 12 points at halftime.
- USC started tonight's game with the lineup of Isaiah Mobley (So. F), Evan Mobley (Fr., F), Drew Peterson (Jr., G), Max Agbonkpolo (So., G) and Noah Baumann (Jr., G)
- Max Agbonkpolo tonight made his second career start, the last being vs. Temple on Nov. 22, 2019. Agbonkpolo finished with 6 points and matched a career high with 4 rebounds (third time).
- Noah Baumann made his first start of the season and first as a Trojan. He made 44 starts in his two seasons at San Jose State. Baumann's 4 three-pointers made were the most by a Trojan in a game this season. Baumann had a career best of 8 three-pointers made vs. New Mexico on Feb. 27, 2019. Baumann finished with 18 points. His career best is 29 points scored vs. Utah State on Jan. 16, 2019.
- Evan Mobley finished with a season-best 22 points and 11 rebounds tonight for his second double-double of the season. He also had 5 blocks and now has 15 in USC's first 5 games.
- USC had a season-high 10 blocks tonight. It was USC's most blocks in a game since getting 11 vs. FAMU on Nov. 5, 2019.
- USC had a season-high 23 assists on 32 baskets tonight. USC has averaged 17.5 (70 total) assists in its wins and had 4 assists in its loss.
- Guards Amar Ross and Reggie Parris played the final minute tonight, their first action in a USC uniform.
- USC made a season-high 12 three-point baskets tonight (12-for-24, 50.0 percent). Its previous best in a game this season was 6 done twice. The last time USC made more three-pointers in a game was when it hit 14 vs. California on Jan. 16, 2020.
- Ethan Anderson missed his second consecutive game with back spasms. He is listed as day-to-day. He started USC's first three games, but was limited to only 9 minutes vs. BYU on Dec. 1 with the back spasms.
- USC's next game will be vs. Stanford on Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. vs. Stanford. The USC women's team will host UCLA at noon on the same day.

### ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES, 12-8-20:

"It was a complete game for us tonight. I was very proud of our players how they bounced back and played hard on both ends of the court."

"We really missed Ethan Anderson against UConn. Tonight, we made shots, made some 3s, and we shared the basketball. We played inside-outside to start the game. When Noah Baumann hit his first three 3s, that really opened the floor up."

"Tonight we did a lot of subbing. If they made defensive mistakes, they came out and we put somebody else in. We played really hard. We weren't perfect tonight, but they gave really good effort."

"Ethan has a back injury, he is progressing, we hope to have him back Sunday. It's just day-to-day."

"They understood we gave a game away we could have won (vs. UConn). We played good enough defense to win, we just play well enough on offense. Tonight we did everything, we defended, played hard, stole the ball, blocked shots, got out in transition and made our spot up jump shots."



"It was very important to get Noah going. He's been struggling. He's an elite shooter and he is much better than that. We expect him to defend at a higher level, he gave great effort in the first half doing what we expect him to do defensively."

"Our zone press gave them issues. That's been our focus, get more deflections and use our length."

"Tonight was a very important game for us. UC Irvine is good, talented, dangerous, big and very deep. We were coming off a loss and it was important for our players to understand what it takes to win. I was very impressed with the energy and intensity tonight and stay with that the entire 40 minutes."

#### **NOAH BAUMANN QUOTES:**

"I try to bring some intensity on the defensive end and then whatever happens on offense I play off my teammates. Defense was more of an emphasis today. If I'm open, I'm going to shoot it and with confidence."

"Evan has his own presence. He can do a lot. Every game brings something out we didn't see before. He's a great player. This is only the surface for him."

"The first couple games, I didn't have it. I have great teammates and coaches who told me to keep the confidence going. However many minutes I get I'll give it my all."

"It was relieving, but we have a lot of work to do and we have a good Stanford team coming in."

"Me and Drew were saying, 'Let's turn up the energy.' We made an effort to up the tempo and put UC Irvine in a hole."

#### **EVAN MOBLEY QUOTES:**

"The 5 blocks, I just try to be active on defense and show my length and alter their shots."

"I get more comfortable every time I step on the floor. Every day in practice I work on the threes, the mid-range, just a lot of shots and overall it's paying off in the games."

"Last game, we didn't make shots so we didn't get assists. This game we made shots."

"I do what I see is open, if it's a drive, a pop or kick out, I do what's best for the game. Usually, it works out."

#### **UC IRVINE HEAD COACH RUSSELL TURNER:**

"Well, it's hard to come away from this performance with any kind of good feeling, for any of our players, coaches or fans, so that is frustrating. I thought that there would be some things in this game that we could do to help us control the game, and we weren't able to really ever get our footing defensively or on the glass."

"I give USC credit, they played really well, but we didn't do anything at all to dictate the game with our defense. When we've won games against Power 5 conference teams, we've been able to do that. I'm surprised we aren't showing an ability yet to do that for an extended period of time."

"Our guys altogether seemed offensively focused like a lot of young teams do. So, when things don't go well for us offensively, we sort of hang our heads a little bit, and don't compete very hard. That's not a winning formula. Ultimately I have to figure out ways to adjust this group."