



POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. Washington State
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.
Saturday, January 16, 2021
Final: USC 85, Washington State 77

- With the 85-77 win tonight, USC improved to 11-2, 5-1 and Washington State fell to 9-4, 2-4. USC ran its winning streak against the Cougars to nine games. USC has won a season-high six consecutive games and the five-straight conference wins are its longest winning streak in the Pac-12 since the 2018 season.
- USC's 5-1 start to Pac-12 play is its best since also starting 5-1 in conference in the 2002 season.
- USC led 39-27 at halftime. USC made 47.1 percent of its first-half shots, while Washington State made 42.3 percent. USC had a first-half rebound advantage of 20-10.
- Washington State made 49.1 percent (28-for-57) of its FG attempts tonight, the highest shooting percentage by a USC opponent this season. USC held nine of its first 12 opponents to under 40 percent shooting with the previous opponent high being 45.1 percent by California Baptist in the season opener.
- Tahj Eaddy led USC with 14 first-half points and finished with a season-best and team-leading 21 points. He made 2 three-point baskets and leads USC with 23 makes from beyond the arc this season.
- Drew Peterson scored 15 points and had 11 rebounds for his second double-double of the season. He now has six career double-doubles.
- Evan Mobley scored 16 points, had 3 rebounds, 2 blocks, 2 steals and a season-best 4 assists.
- Isaiah White scored 13 points tonight, his fifth game in double figures this season and second most he has scored in a game this season.
- USC had 17 assists tonight and eight turnovers. The eight turnovers were the second fewest by the Trojans in a game this season.
- USC outscored WSU 24-7 on points off of turnovers.
- USC's next will be at Oregon State in Corvallis, Ore. on Jan. 19 at 4 p.m.. The game will air on ESPN2 with Dave Pasch and Bill Walton calling the action.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES, 1-16-21:

"This was a good week for us, going 3-0. Washington State played very good basketball on the offensive end. Bonton made it very difficult for us, we had to switch defense a lot, he was playing at a very high level. I'm very proud of our team being 11-2 and 5-1 in league, we now go on the road in good position. We got in foul trouble in the second half, we had to go small. Our wings did a good job. We had to switch defenses. In the first half, our defense was effective. Then Bonton caught fire and their bigs played well. Give Washington state credit."

"We're excited to be 11-2 and 5-1 in the league. But we have goals to compete at a very high level. It starts Tuesday night in Corvallis. We're taking it game by game. We're off to a very good start."

We scored 46 in the second half and they scored 50, that's a lot 96 points. It was important when they made tough shots, we came down and put points up. If you can't stop the other team, you better score with them. Both teams played very well offensively. Our free throw shooting tonight was disappointing."

"Tahj is a very good shooter. He played outstanding tonight. He had a good rhythm and really helped us on the offensive end."

"We finished strong. The two games we lost this year, we didn't finish. Tonight once they cut it to 4, we refocused and pushed the lead back to double digits."

"I'm very proud how we've come together as a team. They showed that tonight. Our defense has been very good most of the season."

"Tahj has played big, big minutes for us. He's developing as a point guard, he's more of a scorer. We need our guards to score because our big guys get so much attention. Tahj is a tremendous shooter and a



very safe player, he doesn't turn the ball over. Drew has also stepped up as a playmaker. We're getting great production from both of them with Ethan being out."

TAHJ EADDY QUOTES:

"There defensive scheme allowed us (the guards) to put a lot of pressure on the defense, they like to trap ball screens. It was about making the right read and keeping it simple."

"It's a very natural position for me, playing point guard. I've been doing it my whole life. Throughout college I've been off the ball at times because of my ability to score from the perimeter. I have definitely missed Ethan because of the stability he brings to our team, we need him on the court, but yeah it was a natural transition for me?"

"Maybe it was in terms of shooting, but I don't consider it my best game because I scored points. I can have just as much of an effect on a game by deflecting balls, getting steals, getting stops on defense. There are times when I can effect the game in other ways."

DREW PETERSON QUOTES:

"We didn't really change things up, but we have so much trust in the rest of the team. It is so cool we have such a deep team. Isaiah Mobley gets his career high the other night. Isaiah White gets his career high for USC at Arizona. Tahj scored 21 tonight. Anyone can step up at any given moment. It just depends what the defense is giving us."

"Its awesome to play along side of him (Eaddy). He is such a good creator, he hits such tough shots and he puts so much pressure on the defense. It makes everybody's job easier. We have so much trust in Tahj."

"We have another three-game stretch this week. I think it is just going to take consistency. One of our problems is not being able to shoot consistently and I think we are getting better with that. Limiting turnovers as well. What is good is that we have a consistent defense which sets the tone. Consistency is what can give us a Pac-12 title."

WASHINGTON STATE HEAD COACH KYLE SMITH:

"We came out with a lot more fight in us and we're a little snake bit the first four minutes. They had 13 points and they hit the back of the rim twice and got a good bounce. I thought our guys were competing well and the bounces evened out as we went. We had too many mental mistakes, didn't do a great job of controlling it. So many little things that we didn't take care of. We gave up a couple of baskets and on the road, you get fatigued and tired, but those things don't take talent, they require focus and we've got to focus more."

"We did a good job guarding the Mobley's who are really good. Eaddy, Peterson and White made us pay but we know it's going to be hard for us to win if we give up 85 points. We can't do that and have to get back to guarding. I thought our bigs were great, but we didn't get the job done."