



POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. Utah

Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.

Saturday, January 2, 2020

Final: USC 64, Utah 46

- With the 64-46 win today, USC improved to 6-2, 1-1 and Utah fell to 4-3, 1-2.
- USC outscored Utah 12-2 to start the game and pushed it to 20-4 seven minutes into the game. Utah took the lead at 27-26 with 3:13 minutes to go in the first half. USC closed the half outscoring Utah 6-1 to take a 32-28 lead into halftime. USC made 52.0 percent of its shots, while Utah made 41.9 percent. USC had 10 first half turnovers and Utah outscored USC 13-0 on Fastbreak points before the break.
- USC held Utah to 27.9 percent shooting today (17-for-61) and to 13.6 percent from three point range (3-for-22). USC made 53.2 percent of its shots from the field, its fifth game this season shooting over 50 percent from the floor.
- Tahj Eaddy matched a season high with 18 points scored today. Eaddy is second on the team with six double-figure scoring games.
- Chevez Goodwin scored a season-high 11 points today.
- Isaiah White scored a season-high 12 points today. He made 5 of 7 shots and had 5 rebounds before fouling out.
- Drew Peterson scored 13 points today for his fourth double-figure scoring game of the season and first since Dec. 1 vs. BYU. He also had a season-best 11 rebounds and notched his fifth career double-double, first as a Trojan.
- Evan Mobley came into the game averaging 16.7 points and 8.4 rebounds and scored 3 points and grabbed 5 rebounds. He did not have an official shot attempt today. In USC's previous 7 games he had scored in double figures and had at least 7 rebounds.
- Isaiah Mobley came into today averaging 9.9 points and 8.3 rebounds and finished today with 2 points and 5 rebounds.
- USC outrebounded Utah 38-30 and improved to 6-0 this season when winning the rebound battle.
- Ethan Anderson missed his fifth 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 will be at Arizona on Jan. 7 at 5 p.m. PT. The game will air on ESPN2.

USC COACH ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES, 1-2-21:

It was a good team win. Our defense was outstanding, especially in the second half. To play like we did defensively was very impressive on short preparation. We had great effort from our guards and big men.

We tried to challenge every shot. We switched on all ball screens. Our bigs were able to get out to the perimeter and challenge the 3-point shots. Our guards did a good job rotating on their bigs. It was a team effort, we played with a lot of energy, we communicated and had some toughness. Utah is a very good team, very dangerous because they can shoot at a high level, but today we did a good job of getting to their shooters and take tough shots.

Evan is the most unselfish talented player we've ever seen. He's a team player first. He could have forced some tough shots up but made the right decision, they were double teaming him on the catch. They did a good job. He was passing the ball and getting our guys shots. Evan is about winning, this was a team win. He played great defense today. He played terrific, he just didn't score. When you're getting double teamed, sometimes it's difficult.

We did try to move the ball. We did make a point to share the basketball and move it and take better shots. We had our chances against Colorado, we just didn't make our shots.



Defense is a big focus of ours. We have a culture here and we demand it as a staff. We expect them to play at the Pac-12 and national level defensively. If they don't play to our level, they don't play minutes. They did a great job tonight. They gave great effort, communicated and were buying in to team defense.

That was our offense breaking down, we had turnovers in the first half. Utah is a good team. In the second half, we went on that run and were able to pull away.

Ethan Anderson is progressing with his back injury. We expect him to be closer to playing next week. We're not sure yet if he'll play or not. We'll make the decision with team doctors next week. We're proud of the other guys for stepping up, as Tahj Eaddy and Drew Peterson have become primary ball handlers when Ethan would normally take a lot of that responsibility away.

Paul Westphal was a wonderful human being, so caring. He's a USC Trojan at heart. He made a huge impact in the game of basketball at the college and pro level as a player and coach. It's a very sad day, he'll certainly be remembered. Our hearts are with his family, he was a special man and we'll always remember him in the highest regard.

CHEVEZ GOODWIN:

Basketball is a game of runs. Utah is a good team. To get them to start the second half that poorly was big for our team. The second half was big. The first 4 minutes of the second half determined the game.

This is a defensive performance we can build on. It's a big stepping stone in the right direction.

You can find offense as the game goes along. If you can't get stops, you'll find yourself behind. It was big for us to get those stops. Our defense had to be there regardless of our offense.

Colorado was a tough loss. I felt like we could have won that game. We came out today and cleaned up our win and got a win against a really good Utah team.

ISAIAH WHITE:

We keyed in on Plummer and Allen, we knew Utah relied heavily on them. Our game plan was to slow down Plummer from the 3s and packed the paint against Allen. It worked out well.

Our goal is to get 3 stops in a row. During those mark when we were getting stops, we just knew we had to play solid on offense and we'd be okay and we'd make a run.

UTAH HEAD COACH LARRY KRYSKTOWIAK:

Second half offense:

"Well, I can think of a couple layups. When it's a two-point game, it's a variety of things. Let's not forget that USC is top 10 in the country in defensive field goal percentage from two so shots aren't easy to come by. When you get them, you've got to make them, or certainly more of them. We missed two layups and in a one possession game those make a difference. I thought our defense was really good. I don't know if I've ever been involved in a game that the score doesn't indicate what type of game it was, but we've got a big week ahead of us to try to show some offense. I've been really pleased with our defense, even if you look at the Mobley brothers, with the exception of the dunk at the end, they would've had three points between them. So, our guys are buying into some things defensively and our offense is behind our defense right now, so that's going to be a challenge for us, but we look forward to jumping into it this week."



On aggressiveness on Defense:

"Well, It starts with that [aggressiveness on defense], but you've also got to make a couple shots. I was really impressed with our defensive focus, we had turned them over 10 times in the first half. Our pick and roll coverage was great, our double team coverage was great on their post up guys. There was a lot of defense that kept us in the ball game. We've been sitting in a hotel for 5 days, not that anybody will feel sorry for us but there's not a soul around. It hasn't been easy for our guys and it's what we talked about on our second time out. Nobody is going to feel sorry for us, we have to go out and make our own breaks and they responded shortly after. Our bench got involved and it was fantastic. Again, our offense is putting too much pressure on our defense against teams of this caliber."

On challenge against long and athletic USC:

"Oh, it's difficult. We have to have a bit of a plan. This is the tallest team in the country. It's not easy to simulate that length, deflections, and blocked shots. That's not us, we're not close to being the tallest team in the country. Some of it is concepts, I think film will help us when we look at missed opportunities, and our guys need to gain some confidence. I've told them we're going to put some time into offense and we better not forget how important defense is. We've got to make some strides as we head into conference right now getting a lot more functional offensively than we have. Having said that too, we come off from playing two really good defensive teams, UCLA and USC. Let's not bury our head in the sand because we had a hard time scoring, they're two teams that are elite defensive and rebounding type teams. There are no consolation prizes, but we're in a one possession game with UCLA and same goes here, we were real competitive on the road and we just will have to clean it up this week which I'm looking very much forward to."

On difficulty winning on the road:

"I think a lot of people want to talk about how we haven't won a road game since February of 2018. That sounds almost like 1963, but the fact is we didn't win a road game last year and it's not easy on the road. We're in a different season. We're competitive and there's less of a homecourt advantage overall for everybody this season. We've got a different team with a different spirit, and each game tells a different story. I'm confident we're going to be fine as long as everyone keeps working and staying together."