



### POSTGAME NOTES

No. 19/18 USC vs. No. NR/No. 23 Oregon  
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.  
Monday, February 22, 2021  
**Final: USC 72, Oregon 58**

- With the 72-58 win tonight, USC improved to 19-4, 13-3 and Oregon fell to 14-5, 9-4.
- USC has won 7 of eight games and 14 of 16 games.
- The last time USC began a season 19-4 was the 2017 season. USC is 13-3 in Pac-12 play. The last time USC started conference play with a 13-3 record was in the 1992 season.
- USC led 43-22 at halftime. USC scored the first 15 points of the game before Oregon made a free throw. Franck Kepnang hit a short jumper in the lane for Oregon's first FG to make it 17-3 eight minutes into the game. Oregon had missed its first 12 shots and finished the half making 34.5 percent from the field. USC made 65.4 percent of its first-half shots. Tahj Eaddy led USC with 21 first-half points. He made 5 of 7 three-pointers in the first half which was already a season-best makes.
- Tahj Eaddy had another big night and got the Trojans off to the fast start by making three 3-pointers in the first two minutes of the game to give USC a 9-0 lead. Eaddy scored 21 of his game-high 24 points in the first half.
- In the last four games, Eaddy has scored 88 points for an average of 22.0 points per game. He also has made 54.2 percent of his shots (32-for-59) in the four contests.
- Eaddy made a Trojan season-best six three-pointers tonight (6-for-11, 54.5 percent).
- Drew Peterson came off the bench for the first time this season and responded with his third double-double of the season. Peterson scored 14 points, had 11 rebounds and four assists. It was the third time this season he had registered 11 rebounds in a game.
- Ethan Anderson started for the first time since the BYU game on Dec. 1 and had six points, a career-high seven rebounds and a season-best eight assists.
- USC outrebounded Oregon 39-26. The Trojans improved to 19-1 when they have more or tie the opponent's rebound total.
- USC made 47.6 percent of its 3-pointers (10-for-21). It was the third time this season that the Trojans reached double figures in made 3-pointers, including twice in the last three games. In the last three games, USC has made 45.9 percent of its three pointers (28-for-61).
- Max Agbonkpolo matched a season high with 7 points scored tonight.
- USC started a lineup of guards Tahj Eaddy, Isaiah White, and Ethan Anderson and forwards Chevez Goodwin and Evan Mobley. The lineup of Eaddy, Drew Peterson, White, Isaiah Mobley and Evan Mobley had started the previous 17 games.
- Forward Isaiah Mobley missed tonight's game with a right calf strain. Mobley is listed as day-to-day.
- The USC home game with Stanford most recently scheduled for Feb. 22 has now been set for Wednesday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. The USC-Stanford game will air on FS1.
- USC's next game will be at Colorado on Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. PT. The game will air on either ESPN2 or ESPN2.

### ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES, 2-22-21:

"This was a very important game for us. We lost a tough one on Saturday. Oregon is a very good team. It's hard to prepare for Oregon in one day because of their unique style. Our players did a great job of paying attention to the scouting report, they were very focused and they played very hard. I'm very proud of them, they responded on short notice.

"Tahj didn't play very well Saturday, especially defensively. Tonight he gave outstanding effort on both sides of the ball. For him to come out with that intensity, focus and shotmaking was very impressive. He is a terrific offensive player and he's been so important to our success. He is getting better and better, and it's fun to watch. When he gets on a roll, he's hard to stop.

"Isaiah Mobley has a strained calf muscle. He should be back. He's day to day.



"Having Ethan back and playing well is very important. We challenged him to rebound the ball tonight. He was all over the court. He played like an all-league guard. Drew was just outstanding. We challenged him to rebound the ball. His defensive effort and intensity was much better. They really controlled the game from the guard spot and that was a huge part of our win.

"We just missed some easy shots and they made it a hectic game with full court pressure. We had some silly turnovers. Give Oregon credit, they're a very good team. We knew they'd go on a run. To hold Oregon to 58 points is a credit to our defense.

"Every game is important for us right now. We're tied for first. We have some exceptionally tough games coming up. This was a hard game for us. It's hard to win in this league, especially with the talent level. We're staying focused on game to game. We have to bring it every night to have a chance to win.

"Our players were focused and understood when they saw video of Saturday's game where we were outplayed by Arizona. They didn't want that to happen again tonight. They came out focused and played very hard early in the game. We had to adjust our lineup with Isaiah being out and had to go small. Our forwards and guards did a good job rebounding and defending. We were able to play with an extra ballhandler to break their press.

"This was an important game. We only play Oregon once this year. To have the tiebreaker over them is important. We have 4 really hard games left. We can't relax, we have to prepare for the last 2 weeks of the season.

"Drew hadn't played well the last 8 or 9 games. He needed to play better. We knew Oregon would pressure us and we needed an extra ball handler with Ethan and he responded. And Drew responded exceptionally well coming off the bench.

"They learned a lesson from Saturday where Arizona dominated us on the boards and in the paint. Evan played really well tonight. He played hard. He's a terrific player and very unselfish."

#### **TAHJ EADDY QUOTES:**

"We made a point of emphasis to come out with the right intensity tonight. We saw against Arizona some toughness plays that were uncharacteristic for us. That contributed to our big start tonight.

"I've felt like a leader all season. My offensive performance the past few weeks, it's about being more aggressive. We play at a higher level when I'm more aggressive offensively.

"We control our own destiny. We know we have a tough road ahead. We're trying to make the most of our opportunities. Every game is important. We're treating it like we're in March Madness already.

"We're showing we're one of the best teams in the control. We felt like we let one slip against Arizona. We wanted to let teams know you can't bully us, we're fighters.

"Having 16 turnovers isn't what we want. We have to be sharper. We did well, but have to clean some things up.

"I knew as soon as we started playing this summer, I knew Max was a freak of a talent. Once he put it together, he'd be special for us. That's what's happening, he's coming into his own and gaining his confidence. We're going to need him every single game."



#### **DREW PETERSON QUOTES:**

"Coming off the bench woke me up a bit. I talked to Coach Enfield. I had been shooting poor and lost a little bit of confidence. He told me to get back at it. When I'm getting rebounds and assists, it helps me get my shots to fall and I'm in a better rhythm. I got back to what I was doing earlier in the season.

"We missed Isaiah out there. But we had to adjust on the fly, especially our third game in 5 days and Oregon being physical. With Isaiah out, it was next man up mentality. With 4 guards, we could space the floor more and ran a few guys threw to confuse Oregon. We all stepped up being physical after that Arizona performance when we were a little bit soft. It was a big performance by everybody. We stepped up on the defensive end. We started off really hot. Tahj started off hot which was huge for us. It was a great team win.

"When you're winning a lot of games in a row, you tend to relax. You're rolling and everything is coming easier. Coming into March, you need games like that (Arizona) to really get your head on straight. We come out today against just as physical a team as Arizona and we come in with toughness. It's what we're going to need. We need moments like that to get us a reality check. Hopefully it doesn't happen again."

#### **OREGON HEAD COACH DANA ALTMAN QUOTES:**

"I was extremely disappointed. We thought we were ready to go but obviously we weren't. They threw a knockout- punch the first five minutes of the game and we just couldn't get anything going offensively. We were just stuck in the mud. Just defensively, no activity and couldn't get anything going. We got way down early, had a bit of a run there that got it down to 10, but we missed free throws, missed layups, and just an overall poor performance."

"We're going to have to get energized. Take a day, analyze, and get some energy. We just didn't play with any energy tonight. I thought our depth would help us with that, it did not. We just didn't get after it from the very start, and really struggled."

"Tahj Eaddy hit those three's and it was nine to nothing before I could even get a drink of water. They had a hot start, and we had a cold start. When we got into our presses, our defensive numbers we're pretty good but again, we weren't scoring. They'd come down and execute and get whatever they wanted, as reflected in their 65% shooting during the first half. Again, the energy level has got to get better, we just didn't get it done. They had a hot start, had some good looks and they hit them."