



### POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. No. 21 UCLA

Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.

Saturday, February 6, 2021

**Final: USC 66, UCLA 48**

- With the 66-48 win tonight, USC improved to 15-3, 9-2 and UCLA fell to 13-4, 9-2. Both teams now are tied for first in Pac-12 play at 9-2
- USC has won 10 of 11 games with the lone loss being a 58-56 setback at Oregon State on Jan. 19.
- The 48 points that UCLA scored were a season low and its fewest in a game against USC since falling 67-46 at Pauley Pavilion on Jan. 16, 2010.
- USC led 30-20 at halftime. USC finished the half on a 13-4 run over the final 8:12 after taking a timeout with a 17-16 lead. USC made 35.3 percent of its shots and UCLA made 31.0 percent of its field goal attempts before the break.
- USC made 50 percent of its shots in the second half and held UCLA to 36.4 percent shooting after the break. For the game, USC made 41.1 percent of its shots and UCLA made 33.9 percent of its shots. In USC's last game on Feb. 2 at Stanford, the Trojans allowed the Cardinal to make 51.9 percent of its field goal attempts, the first team all season to make over 50 percent in a game against the USC defense.
- Ethan Anderson scored a career-high 19 points tonight. His previous best was 14 points scored on Jan. 11, 2020 at UCLA. His previous best this season was 11 done twice.
- Ethan Anderson also made a career-high five three-pointers tonight. His previous best in makes from behind the arc was two, done seven times.
- Tahj Eaddy scored 16 points tonight, his 13<sup>th</sup> game this season scoring in double figures, second on the team.
- USC outscored UCLA 36-28 in the second half. USC has outscored the opposition in the second half in all but two games this season (Montana and Washington State). USC has outscored the opposition by 124 points in the 18 games (6.9 points per game).
- Evan Mobley finished with 9 points and 9 rebounds tonight. He also had 4 blocked shots and led USC with 3 assists.
- All nine Trojans who played tonight had at least one assist, with Evan Mobley's 3 leading the way. USC had 15 assists on its 23 baskets.
- UCLA forward Cody Riley (right ankle) and forward/center Jalen Hill (personal reasons) were unavailable for tonight's game.
- USC started the lineup of guards Tahj Eaddy, Drew Peterson and Isaiah White and forwards Evan and Isaiah Mobley for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive game.
- USC's next will be at Washington in Seattle, Wash. on Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. The game will air on the Pac-12 Network.

### ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES, 2-6-21:

"It was a good win. UCLA is an excellent offensive team and to hold them to 48 points is a credit to our players. They challenged most shots and stayed focused on the game plan. It was a good team win. We're excited to be where we are. It's a long season ahead."

"Ethan played tremendous tonight on both ends. He shot the ball at a high level. He has improved his shooting. He had a tough go early in the year with his injury. He's still trying to get back to where he was. Tonight was a great game to get his confidence to where it needs to be for us to compete in the next 9 games."

"We didn't know for sure, any time you have back issues. Sometimes the discomfort and pain is too much. We were hopeful. We thought with the proper rest and our excellent medical staff, we thought he would come back. We just didn't know how long it would take. It was longer than we had hoped. It is a credit to Ethan, he's a tough young man, very mentally tough. It wore on him from a mental aspect."

"We were trying to find someone who could make a 3. We were just hoping one of those shots would go in. We felt that once someone made one, maybe we'll make 2 or 3 in a row. That's been an issue at times for us this year, we start off shooting poorly from the 3 then we shot well the rest of the game."



"UCLA played zone. We hadn't gone over our zone offense in 3 weeks. We had to dust off our zone plays. We're actually very good against zones, but you have to make outside shots to open up the lane. UCLA hasn't played zone all year. Once we adjusted to it, they went back to man a little bit. Evan played a complete game, he just didn't get a lot of shot attempts but some of that is his unselfishness. He's a team player."

"Their reserve big #12 did a very good job coming in and filling that spot. We had a game plan and stuck to it. We tried to guard Campbell as hard as we could and keep some length on him. He's an outstanding player. He had a decent game, but didn't score big."

"We knew once we saw the zone, our guards had to make shots. That's what they gave us tonight, so we had to take the 3s."

"Our defense was very good. To hold them to 48 points. They're good players. They have shooting, ballhandling, creativity, guys who can drive, multipositional players, so they're a very hard team to guard. Our team did a good job of staying focused on the game plan and giving effort. UCLA is so dangerous offensively."

"A goal of ours is to compete for a Pac-12 championship. We're excited to be where we are but we also understand it's a long season ahead. The teams at the top can't take anything for granted and we certainly won't. We'll stay focused game to game."

#### **ETHAN ANDERSON QUOTES:**

"My back injury, I got a few different diagnostics. It was hard for the doctors to tell what was going on. They couldn't pinpoint the injury. But I was able to figure it out, get proper stretches and treatment to get me back to playing pain free. I'm just blessed to be here. I'm still getting back to my groove in terms of my rhythm and my defense. I'm still getting back in shape."

"Over time, I've had lower back soreness. I would just stretch and ignore it and keep playing. We still don't know exactly what it is, but I know how to keep it away and from flaring up again."

"This was a very big night for me, having a career high. And for my confidence and demeanor. I hadn't seen my shots fall. It just reminded me that I could play at the highest level. We did a great job of being unselfish tonight."

"I haven't shot like this since high school. It just gave me confidence. I knew it was a good night for me. Rivalry games. Playing against UCLA, the way they switch 5 guys on defense, that gives me an advantage. I like to get switches and attack mismatches. I was able to do that tonight. I was able to get shots from unselfish teammates and make some passes. Playing UCLA is a wake-up call for me, it reminds me to be aggressive and attack."

"There's a lot on the line in rivalry games. Every possession is almost life or death, every possession can win or lose the game. Tonight we were able to get it going, and they had injuries so we were able to get up with a big lead."

"I've been telling people that we have some bigtime transfers. Nobody knew their names, all they knew was Evan Mobley. I'm happy our team got a chance to have other people step up and show what they can do when I got hurt and they've all been excellent. I enjoy watching them take over this team and will us to where we are. I'm really happy at our position and happy that all our players know that on any night anybody can score double digits and get hot. We have a team that can keep this momentum rolling."

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

"It's big to see. We know this is what Ethan is capable of. Whenever he's making shots, it gives us momentum. We know he's coming back from a big time injury."

"It's sweet. We were confident coming into the season. We're not surprised, this is what we expected. We want to keep the ball rolling. We expect to win championships so this is the right step forward."



#### UCLA HEAD COACH MICK CRONIN QUOTES:

"Ethan Anderson killed us, made a lot of shots, but defensively we had some breakdowns from some of our younger guys. We did a good job overall on points in the paint, and also scored 16 points off of their turnovers. Ultimately, we're not winning games with 48 points. We got off 62 shots, which is enough to win, but we didn't come close to making enough to give ourselves a chance, not against a good team. The way I see it, they don't have to go to Connecticut to start their season, they are a team that could have only one loss on the season."

"I think the guys gave everything they had. We defended and kept our effort up in spite of abysmal shooting, which says a lot about our guys. I didn't even want them looking at the scoreboard when we were down 12. We have to practice not hanging our heads or looking at the scoreboard, and just playing every single play like it's the only one that matters."

"All I care about is that we win. I don't care if any single player comes in and gets 40 points. A lot of our guys got stuck taking hard shots because we struggled with our execution. We struggled to score in the paint at times, and we got stuck. Doesn't matter who has the ball, we've got to find ways out of those situations."

*on Mac Etienne*

"Well, I mean the kid played 27 minutes against the first pick in the draft (USC's Evan Mobley). Mac is in the class behind him - he's in our recruiting class for next year. Fortunately for us, the pandemic - probably the only positive thing out of it - Mac's in school early. If I knew a couple weeks ago ... he was getting close. He was on a mission to get himself on the floor. Kids love to play, he wasn't waiting until next November, so he was going to play tonight regardless of whether we were at full strength or not. You can see that he has a tremendous amount of potential. Very, very tough situation for him though, obviously."

*on Cody Riley and Jalen Hill*

"Jalen is out for personal reasons, Cody is day-to-day with his ankle."

*on the team's performance without Riley and Hill*

"The guys gave everything they had. We defended and kept our effort up in spite of abysmal shooting. That says a lot about our guys. I told them we've gotta practice, I didn't even want them looking at the scoreboard. This isn't the NCAA Tournament, if we get a chance to get to the tournament, to stay alive you're probably gonna have to make a comeback so we gotta practice right now doing it. Not hanging our head, not looking at the scoreboard, just playing every play like it's the only one that matters, and they did that, we just couldn't get enough baskets."

*on using a zone defense*

"Well, they shot 35% in the first half. It was something we practiced a lot. I was concerned with our matchups, with two guys - [Kenneth Nwuba] has played 6 minutes this year and Mac [Etienne's] played none - so I was concerned with our matchups in the man-to-man. We did a lot of good things in the zone. It'll give us a chance to look at it on film, and hopefully teach going forward so we can use it as a weapon when needed."