



## POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. Vermont

Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

**Final: USC 59, Vermont 57**

- With the 59-57 win tonight, USC improved to 2-1 and Vermont fell to 1-3.
- USC improved to 2-0 all-time against Vermont.
- USC made 1 of its first 8 FG attempts the first 5 minutes of the game, but trailed only 4-2 at that point, as Vermont was 2-for-9. USC led 20-19 with 2:56 remaining in the first half and Vermont finished on a 8-2 run to lead 27-22 at the break. USC made 25.9 percent of its shots before the break and Vermont made 35.7 percent of its first-half shot. The teams combined to go 2-for-17 from three-point range in the first half (USC – 1 of 8, Vermont – 1 of 9).
- USC trailed 30-22 early in the second half, then outscored Vermont 37-27 the rest of the way. USC made 46.2 percent of its shots after halftime. The game was tied 12 times and there were 19 lead changes.
- USC made 78.3 percent of its free throws (18-for-23).
- Drew Peterson led USC in scoring for the second consecutive game, scoring 20 points tonight after getting 21 points vs. Alabama State on Nov. 10. Peterson added 8 rebounds and 8 assists tonight, without a turnover. He has 20 assists through USC's first 3 games.
- Josh Morgan scored 6 points, had 4 rebounds and a block tonight. He has 11 blocks through 3 games.
- Tre White scored 4 points and had a team-leading 10 rebounds. He has led USC in rebounds the last two games, totaling 22 in the two games.
- Reese Dixon-Waters scored 13 points for the second consecutive game.
- Boogie Ellis scored 10 points tonight and was 2-for-4 from 3-point range.
- USC held Vermont to 36.8 percent shooting and has held all three opponents this season to under 40 percent shooting.
- Nine of 10 Trojans who saw action tonight had at least 2 rebounds.
- USC's next game will be on November 18, when it hosts Mount St. Mary's at the Galen Center. The game's start time is 8 p.m. and it will air on the Pac-12 Network.

### ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

#### Opening Statement

Really happy with our mental toughness in the second half. We were down by five at halftime and not playing well offensively. I thought we showed a lot of grit and mental toughness, we got down eight, I should say we were down eight very quickly and then came back and figured out some things offensively and then defensively we rebounded the ball. I thought we played pretty good defense most of the game.

#### On Drew overcoming his early struggles:

He started 1-7 and he wasn't playing well in the first half. He ended up 6-14 with eight assists, no turnovers and 20 points and also had eight rebounds. So he played great in the second half. We ran a lot of offense through him, I called a lot of sets just to get him the ball. I also thought Boogie really showed a lot of toughness to come back from four fouls. He comes back in the game and makes that big three to put us up late in the game with one or two minutes. Then Harrison Hornery, he came in and gave us a big lift tonight. I thought he didn't score a ton, but he gave us some very good minutes.

#### On the free throw shooting:

Free throw shooting was outstanding. First of all, we got to the line a lot. I thought we were aggressive especially in the second half, where we were able to drive the ball and get fouled. We put pressure on the defense and then we were able to make them when it counted.



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

On the young talent of the team:

We got a lot of guys earning minutes for the first time this year, you know, across the board, our sophomores and outside of maybe Reese and obviously all the freshmen that are contributing, we got a lot of guys new guys that don't have as much experience. There's going to be growing pains and we know we're going to be learning, but we came around. It was a test that really helped us down the road. You know, it's a good test, we're not going to take anything lightly, we really got that win and I think it taught us a lot of things.

On the halftime speech from coach:

They got out to us in the locker room, we really needed a kick in the ass. I was trying to amp up our guys and we got good guys like Tre that step up. We opened the half pretty well and it's just something where we need a little bit more toughness, and I think we found that in the second half, and we got to keep doing it. You know, it's a game where we're a little bit smaller, and we didn't get any offensive rebounds in the first half and we really tried to attack that. So I was really proud of our guys and in the second half was pretty pumped.

#### **TRE WHITE QUOTES:**

On his rebounds:

I feel like for one, we have great leaders on the team, so they just helped me in all aspects. Then for coach, he really harps that the offense is going to come, so the little things are where we really get our identity. I just tried to really embrace that. We got scorers all over the court. I know it's going to come, and it might be off, but I'm going to be aggressive. I really just take pride in the little things and I feel like that's going to keep us going. For USC, rebounding has always been a big part of the game.

On overcoming zero offensive rebounds in the first:

Like Drew said, you know, sometimes we start off a little slow, but I feel like in the first half we didn't crash the boards, we had zero offensive rebounds and we really take pride in that. I just feel like it's a waiting game. Our offense is going to come, but we have to rebound, I just took pride in that.

#### **VERMONT HEAD COACH JOHN BECKER:**

"We played much more like Vermont basketball. I thought the guys played hard and tough and defensively we were good. You know, just couldn't make some shots. But this is a much better effort and something to build off of."