



POSTGAME NOTES

USC vs. FGCU

Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.

Monday, November 7, 2022

Final: USC 61, FGCU 74

- With the 74-61 loss tonight, USC opens up 0-1 and FGCU begins 1-0.
- With the loss, USC is now 23-5 in its last 28 home openers. USC has won 13 of its last 15 home openers.
- USC lost its opener and home opener for the first time since the 2015 season when it began with a 76-68 loss to Portland State.
- USC had its 14-game regular season nonconference winning streak snapped. USC's last loss to a nonconference team was when it fell 61-58 to UConn on Dec. 3, 2020 in Uncasville, Conn. USC's last regular season home nonconference loss was to Temple on Nov. 22, 2019 (70-61). USC had won 13 consecutive home nonconference games since that loss.
- USC head coach Andy Enfield is now 2-1 all-time against his former FGCU team.
- USC led 30-29 at halftime. USC scored the first six points of the game as FGCU started 0-for-4. USC led 21-10 with 9:54 remaining in the first half before FGCU went on a 12-1 run to tie the game at 22-all with 5:12 left in the first half. FGCU led by 20 points with 4:01 remaining in the game.
- USC stated a lineup of Kobe Johnson (G), Boogie Ellis (G), Drew Peterson (G), Reese Dixon-Waters (G) and Josh Morgan (F).
- Kobe Johnson made his first career start tonight. He finished with 6 points, 4 rebounds and 4 steals.
- Josh Morgan made his first start for USC and the 30th of his career (29 for Long Beach State in the 2019-20 season). He finished with 6 points, 7 blocks and 9 rebounds. The rebound total was his most as a Trojan. His previous best rebound total in a game for USC was 8, done twice last season.
- Morgan had his USC high of 7 blocks tonight, his most since a career-high 8 blocks on Jan. 18, 2020 vs. CS Fullerton while with LBSU (a LBSU single-game record). His 7 blocks tonight ties him for 5th on USC's all-time single-game blocks list. USC's single-game record for blocks is 8 done by 4 players, last by Onyeka Okongwu on Nov. 5, 2019.
- Boogie Ellis led USC with 19 points, making 6 of 7 from the FT line and all 3 of USC's three-pointers made (he was 3-for-6).
- Malik Thomas came off the bench to score a career-best 6 points in 9:35 minutes of action. He made 2 of 3 shots and both FTs he attempted.
- Nine of 11 players to get in the game tonight for USC scored at least 2 points. Seven Trojans scored at least 5 points.
- USC held FGCU to 37.5 percent shooting. USC held the opposition to 39.0 percent shooting during the 2021-22 season, 14th in the country.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

"This is not the result we wanted for our first game. Everybody was excited to start the season. We got off to a pretty good start tonight. We were up at a double-digit lead early and our offense fell apart, turned the ball over, missed some shots, and we still had to lead at halftime. Then our offense just went into a deep freeze and it was tough, tough stretches for us. FGCU played very well and give them credit. We have to be better. I take the blame for this. I thought we were prepared to play tonight and that's on me."

"Well we missed a lot of open shots. First half, we were 1 for 12 from the three-point line. I think probably all, but one or two were open and only one or two were contested. A few of them were in and about four in a row were in and out. We missed some easy open looks from the three. You obviously don't make them all, but you would like to be better than 1 for 12 for a good shooting team. We had turnovers and in transition we just dribbled the ball off or foot or got back tipped or just lost the ball three or four times. These are experienced players doing this. So as far as what went wrong, you watched the game, so you have as good an idea as I did. If you look at the stat sheet 15 turnovers, these are upperclassmen and guys that want this role to be the league guys, the starters or the first guy off the bench. We just didn't have it tonight. They're good players, we will get better. They just had an off night as a collective group."

"16 offensive rebounds to our seven, and when you play four guards a lot, some of the guards aren't used to going to the glass as much as they should. They had two free throw rebounds, one in the middle of the second half, and then one one later and that should never happen. That's just a lack of awareness and



maybe some toughness so we'll see. We've actually been rebounding the ball pretty well in our two scrimmages and in practice it looked like."

"The last few days we've been sharing the ball. We've been moving the ball, we've had a lot of movement. Quite a few passes per possession, and when the lights turned on, everybody wanted this opportunity. It looked like they went back to some bad habits or just did not play like we had been and so it was disappointing. You know, we don't have the luxury of having a dominant big guy score like we've had in the past last year Chevez averaged 11 a game and Mobley almost 15 a game and they could score in the low post. Before we had all those other good big guys, so whenever we needed a bucket we could throw it down low and now our guards have to be the primary decision makers or primary playmakers and they have to score. I saw Josh Morgan play outstanding basketball tonight with seven blocked shots, and he had nine rebounds. Kijani Wright came in and played well off the bench. So the big guys did their job tonight. But we have to be able to make plays for each other on the offensive end, to create easy shots and then when we have to have easy shots. We did especially in the first half and early in the second half. We just have to make some of them. We missed a lot of open threes tonight. I think we started out 1 for 12 and we ended up 3 for 19 and Boogie made the last one, so if you're a team that doesn't score until the last second you're not going to win a whole lot of games."

"Yeah, the thing that frustrates me is that we tried to give our guys a lot of freedom. It wasn't a lack of effort, it was bad decision making that led to turnovers and a couple over dribbling and some tough shots and bad shots. It was our upper class and that trickled down to our freshmen. So that was frustrating, because you can't script everything, you can't call a play every time on the court. You have to have some kind of flow to your offense and you rely on your players to do that. We've been very good at it recently. In fact, the last four or five days of practice, we've been as good as any team we've had here in a long time as far as making plays for each other and keeping that flow going. Tonight, unfortunately, we reverted back to some bad habits in crucial parts of the game and that stuff becomes contagious at times. We have to be more mature as basketball players in that, because you're getting the responsibility now to step up and do that."

DREW PETERSON QUOTES:

"I mean offensively we couldn't get it going and you know, top to bottom especially you know top guys like me, Boogie and Reese, we got to set the tone offensively. It trickles down to the rest of the guys and it's a bad example for the freshmen and that's on us to take care of it. We held him to 37% from the field and 20% from three. I thought defensively, we did our job, but offensively we got to get a better rhythm in the next game."

"I agree. I thought this past week, we were pushing transition and looking around and distributing really well. Our assists to turnover ratio and profit last week was probably really high and things like this happen. It's just something where we got to translate our practice to the games. I think that comes with learning with having a little bit more younger guys and it starts at the top and goes down from the leaders and the captains of this team. So it's something that we're going to have to set a tone."

BOOGIE ELLIS QUOTES:

"I mean, there's really no frustration really, I see all these guys work out, they make shots, they make shots in practice. I feel like we're one of the best shooting teams in the country, but I just feel like tonight we just didn't make shots. Everybody on our team can shoot, everybody is a great shooter. I just feel like tonight we just didn't hit him. So when we're not making shots, we gotta figure it out, get to the line, or do other things to get to the rim. We can't just rely on the three point shot."

"Honestly, I feel like this game we didn't play our style, we didn't play fast. We were playing really fast getting the ball up the floor. Everybody was getting touches and moving around, I just feel like we didn't do that tonight. We kind of got away from it, especially a lot of the big guys were out running in transition and we didn't reward them. I mean, Josh had seven blocks tonight and he didn't get enough touches. So we just got to get back to what we're doing and then just work together and stay positive and get better from this."



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FGCU HEAD COACH PAT CHAMBERS:

"First of all, he's [Andy Enfield] a great coach and it's an honor that I'm holding the torch that he once had. Let me say first and foremost, what he built in South Florida is amazing. So I'm reaping the rewards of him and his staff."

"I'm proud of my guys. We worked hard in the spring and worked hard all summer. We pushed each other. We found our identity in the second half and we defended hard and played hard. The team rebounded the basketball and then we added some good extra passes on the offensive end. Some guys hit big shots for us. I thought Isaiah Thompson was fantastic. Chase Johnson is definitely fantastic, but a lot of guys stepped up on the defensive end and did a good job."