



USC vs. Oregon State
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.
Sunday, December 4, 2022
Final: USC 63, Oregon State 62

- With the 63-62 win today, USC improved to 6-3 (2-0) and Oregon State fell to 4-5 (1-1). USC is 2-0 to start Pac-12 play for the third time since the 2010-11 season.
- USC overcame an 11-point halftime deficit to win by outscoring Oregon State 40-28 in the second half. USC improved to 2-2 when trailing at halftime this season. The comeback from down 11 at the break was USC's best since also winning after trailing by 11 at halftime vs. UCLA on March 6, 2021.
- In the first half, Oregon State went on an 11-0 run after Reese Dixon-Waters tied the game at 15-all with a FT with 6:46 remaining in the first half to open up a 26-15 lead with 4:55 remaining in the first half. Oregon State then took a 34-23 lead into halftime. Oregon State made 56.0 percent of its field goals in the first half, while USC made 41.7 percent. Oregon State also made 50 percent of its three-pointers (6-for-12), while USC was held to 16.7 percent (1-for-6) from beyond the arc.
- USC outscored Oregon State 32-18 on points in the paint and improved to 5-1 when outscoring the opposition on points in the paint.
- USC outscored Oregon State 16-0 on fast-break points.
- USC improved to 8-2 in one-possession games since the start of the 2021-22 season.
- USC had a season-low 6 turnovers today, 2 in the second half. USC had 10 or more turnovers in each of its previous 8 games this season and came into the game averaging 14.9 turnovers per game.
- Sophomore guard Kobe Johnson scored a career-high 17 points and made a career-best 3 three-pointers. He also had 6 rebounds, 3 assists and matched a career high with 5 steals. He leads USC with 18 steals this season.
- Fifth-year guard Drew Peterson scored 10 points, had 5 rebounds and 6 assists. He leads USC with 57 assists. He entered the game tied for 14th in the country in total assists.
- Redshirt junior forward Joshua Morgan matched a season best with 15 points and added 4 rebounds and 3 blocks. He now has 32 blocks this season. He came into the game third in the country in blocks.
- USC had 9 steals today, its most since registering a season-best 11 vs. Alabama State on Nov. 10.
- USC's next game will be on December 7 when it hosts CS Fullerton in an 8 p.m. game. The game will air on the Pac-12 Network.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

Opening Statement:

A lot of energy and the individual shot making was outstanding, especially in the second half. I thought our guys played outstanding defense besides in the second half with the couple of threes we gave up in the last 30 seconds, which was frustrating. But really proud of our players for staying mentally tough and making the plays when we had to, in the second half.

On what changed in the last five minutes:

Well our defense and defensive intensity. I thought Tre White came in the second half and finally got an offensive rebound. That got us back in the game. Then, of course Kobe (Johnson) and Reese (Dixon-Waters) were very active, Boogie (Ellis and Drew (Peterson) in our zone and zone press were able to steal the ball and get deflections. Then Kobe had five steals. It was a good night as a team, so I thought our press center zone defense really helped us win tonight.

On Kobe's career night:

Well, this is a big game for him because we have a lot of players who are developing as players. We won 26 games last year and were ranked in the top 20 in the offseason. Obviously, we lost a heartbreaker in March Madness, but on that team we had a lot of veterans. If you look at Kobe Johnson, he was a role player last year as a freshman and helped us, but he didn't play 33 minutes like he did tonight and start. I think our team is getting better. We're not the finished product or anywhere close yet. For Kobe this was



nice. To see him do everything, he had five steals, he rebounded and had the big offensive rebound at the end. He was our best defender; he scored 17 points and played an all around game.

KOBE JOHNSON QUOTES:

On what changed in the last five minutes:

I'm saying the energy, we put them in the press and that provided a boost for us. We were able to get steals out of it, so I feel like the press really messed with them tonight.

On his 17 point game and increased role:

Oh, it's awesome. You know, just being out there, and being able to do whatever I can to help this team win.

On his three point shooting:

Yeah, so I started off kind of shaky. I didn't make any for like the first five games, but I had people around me that kept that confidence in me to continue shooting, so I just kept on shooting and they fell tonight for me.

JOSHUA MORGAN QUOTES:

On missing the last free throw:

Coach did tell me to miss the free throw. He said try and shoot off the back rim. That's what happened and then it kind of bounced back to me in the end, which I didn't plan, but I was not mad at it.

On the growth of the pick and roll:

We went into the game where in scouting they said they normally don't tag too much off the back action. So we were really coming in looking for the pick and roll. We've been working with our guards, because sometimes we don't always hit the pick and roll. So we've been working on that this week and this game we really just got into it and the results kind of speak for themselves.

On the message at halftime:

They were on us, deservedly so. We weren't making the best plays, and we were being a bit soft on offense and defense. Andy Enfield never tells us things that are out of line, he always just shoots straight and tells us the truth. Being a good team, you just have to take the truth and then get into the second half and improve.

OREGON STATE HEAD COACH WAYNE TINKLE:

"I am proud of our guys. We made some nice adjustments. We settled for some shots early in the second half. We lost our aggression and pounded it in the post. That was one of our keys before the game, if USC goes zone let's continue to pound it inside pass or dribble."

"I think USC's pressure got to us. And then our youth showed up in the moment of truth. We had some silly turnovers against pressure in the three-quarter court when we know darn well how to handle it. A couple of missed assignments defensively and a couple of offensive rebounds we gave up were the difference."

"To battle like this, you know to go on the road and get outshot. To get eight free throws for us to USC's 21 is really tough to overcome, but we gave ourselves a chance."