



USC vs. Utah
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.
Thursday, January 14, 2023
Final: USC 71, Utah 56

- With the 71-56 win tonight, USC improved to 13-5 (5-2) and Utah fell to 12-7 (5-3).
- USC improved to 9-1 at home this season, winning its last 9 following the 74-61 loss in the opener to FGCU on Nov. 7. USC's 9 consecutive home wins in one season is its most since also winning 9 games to start the 2016-17 season.
- USC completed a home sweep over the Mountain schools (Colorado and Utah) for just the second time since they joined the conference (also in the 2017-18 season).
- USC led 39-34 at halftime. USC made 53.1 percent of its shots, while Utah connected on 44.8 percent of its shots. USC trailed 7-2 early in rebounding, but led 16-13 in that category at the break. Branden Carlsen of Utah had 17 first-half points, making 3 of 4 three-point shots. USC had 3 players in double figures, led by Tre White's 11 points before the break. Utah scored the first 7 points of the second half to take the lead, before USC took control of the game.
- Redshirt junior forward Joshua Morgan scored 8 points and had 10 rebounds. It was his most rebounds in a game since also getting 10 vs. BYU on Nov. 23.
- Senior guard Boogie Ellis led USC with 17 points. He has averaged 18.1 points the last 7 games (127 total).
- Sophomore guard Kobe Johnson scored 9 points, had 6 rebounds and an assist.
- Fifth-year guard Drew Peterson scored 11 points, had 6 rebounds and 4 assists. It was his most assists in a game since also registering 4 vs. Colorado State on Dec. 21.
- Freshman guard Tre White scored 13 points and has averaged 11.2 points (101 total) the last 9 games.
- Sophomore guard Reese Dixon-Waters scored 11 points and matched season highs with 6 rebounds and 4 assists.
- USC was 7-for-16 from three-point range 43.8 percent, its most makes and highest percentage from beyond the arc since making 9 and shooting 47.4 percent from three-point range on Dec. 21 vs. Colorado State.
- Four different Trojans scored at least 10 points tonight. USC is 12-1 this season when 3 or more players score in double figures. USC improved to 55-7 the last three seasons when at least three players score 10 or more points in a game.
- USC had 18 assists on 29 baskets this season. USC improved to 7-0 this season when it registers 16 or more assists. Nine different players had at least one assist tonight.
- USC improved to 8-1 this season and to 61-7 since the 2019 season when it scores 70 or more points.
- After being outrebounded 7-2 early, USC finished with a +12 edge in rebounds (41-29). USC was outrebounded by 15 vs. Colorado on Thursday.
- Freshman forward Vincent Iwuchukwu, who made his 2022-23 season debut on Thursday, collected his first rebound and assist of the season tonight.
- USC held Utah to 34.4 percent shooting, its second-lowest percentage of the season (.327 vs. Mississippi State on Nov. 23).
- The 71 points scored by USC were the third-most Utah has allowed in a game this season.
- Utah center Branden Carlson scored 21 points, but was held to 4 early second-half points following the break, after scoring 17 points in the first half.
- USC's next game will be on January 19 at Arizona. The game will air at 6 p.m. (PT) on the Pac-12 Network.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

On the bench helping out:

"The bench came in and each guy contributed something, Malik (Thomas) had one offensive rebound and had an assist, and everybody came in. Oziyah (Sellers) came in and made a great defensive play, where he got up on their shooter and they missed a shot. We're getting better as a team and we need that depth moving forward."



On limiting turnovers:

"Yeah, we're at nine turnovers in terms of two games. They say 10 here (statsheet), but the last one there was three seconds left, we just took the turnover. Boogie (Ellis) threw it to Reese (Dixon-Waters), so Boogie wouldn't get it (laughing). That's important for us to play smart, offensive basketball. We've really improved offensively, especially in the last couple of weeks. We're right there. There's certain things that we need to improve on but I am very proud of our effort, and how unselfish they've been on offense."

On dominating the boards after giving up the first eight rebounds:

"Well, we had some things to say in the first media timeout. It's the intensity, the focus, the effort. It's the desire to hold home court advantage in a big game and they did. I'm very proud of them. They gave great effort after the first couple of minutes."

BOOGIE ELLIS QUOTES:

On the team having 18 assists:

"Oh, it's been great. You know, we've been really playing well together. Getting a lot of threes up driving and kicking. So I feel like what we're doing, that we're at our best."

On the complete effort today:

"Everybody contributed today. Tre (White) had a great game. Got a lot of offensive rebounds, played his game. Reese did great as well. Kobe (Johnson) was everywhere; doing what he does. Josh (Morgan) had 10 rebounds and did great. Drew (Peterson) played well, as well. So definitely a great overall game."

On having nine assists and one turnover in the past two games:

"Just like I said, making easy play. I'm not trying to do too much. Just you know, watching film, being a step ahead. Making sure I know where the reasonable guy is going to be, where the tag is going to be, and then just making sure to get the ball to the open guys."

TRE WHITE QUOTES:

On the crowd's impact:

"It was even crazier with the atmosphere, whenever we have the gym packed like this, these are the best games. The gym and the fans are just behind us, I feel like players could feel it on the court definitely."

On his increased playing time"

"I feel like it's all on me. My teammates, they always hit me on time, on target. My coaches believe in me. My teammates believe me and it's all just me just finishing the play. Tonight, I feel like we all had it rolling. So just getting stops on the other end, scoring on the other end. I feel like that just amps me up even more, just to see that we're all playing together. Tonight, we just played well, like solid as a team and I love when we play like that."

On limiting Branden Carlson to four points after a 17 point first half:

"I feel like coming into the game, our game plan was to shut some of their key players down and he was one of them. I feel like just at halftime we readjusted. First half, we did pretty good. Just a couple of small things and we fixed those and I feel like we shut him down."

UTAH HEAD COACH CRAIG SMITH

On the game...

"Well, congrats to USC. I thought they played a great game. You know, in the first half Boogie Ellis and Peterson, the two real go-to guys and veteran guys, really led the way for USC. The true freshman Tre White, I thought, had a spark. I mean, those guys made 31 out of their 39 points. I just thought we were kind of soft on the ball."

"I think they shot 52%, which is not our DNA. That's not good enough for us. And I thought we got a lot better in the second half. We toughened up in the ball and made life a little more difficult on that end of the floor. But, USC really separated and got 14 second-chance points in the second half and 19 for the game"



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"USC shot a lot of long twos, some threes, long shots and equal long rebounds. We got to do a better job. We have to stay disciplined and be a little quicker to the ball.

On what went wrong in the 2nd half...

"Well, I mean, a lot of it is shooting. I felt good about our shot selection for the most part. I mean, I don't know that we took too many bad shots. We only turned it over 10 times. Turnovers have been an issue for us."

"We certainly played with a lot more structure tonight, which certainly helped us cut down our turnovers. But we missed a lot of clean looks tonight."

On Utah's lack of defense:

"Drew Peterson had a look to him early on and really got going. And then I thought Ellis really got it going. They have two guys that are dynamic and quick. Boogie is so quick and athletic and plays at a great pace. Peterson is just a really crafty guy."

"USC is good. They've been very good at home. They beat Auburn. So we just got to keep climbing and keep getting better and keep growing and keep maturing."