



USC vs. UC Irvine  
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.  
Sunday, November 19, 2023  
**Final: USC 81, Brown 70**

- With the 81-70 win tonight, USC improved to 3-1 and Brown fell to 1-4. Tonight was the first meeting ever between the two schools in men's basketball.
- USC led 35-32 at halftime as Felix Kroman hit a three-pointer at the buzzer for Brown to bring them within three points, their closest mark since it was 10-7 USC, five minutes into the game. USC made 2 of its final 12 shots before the break. USC made 36.7 percent of its first-half shots, while Brown made 32.4 percent of its shots before the break.
- Freshman guard Isaiah Collier scored a season-best 24 points tonight and has 84 points in his first four games. It is the most points through the first four games by a Trojan freshman since O.J. Mayo totaled 97 points through the first four games of his USC career during the 2007-08 season.
- Junior guard Kobe Johnson returned from missing the last two games with left knee soreness. He finished with 14 points, 4 rebounds and 2 assists.
- Fifth-year guard Boogie Ellis returned after missing one game with a sprained right ankle and scored a season-high 28 points. He matched a career high with 6 three-pointers made (5<sup>th</sup> time).
- Junior forward Harrison Hornery made his second career start tonight. He scored a point and had a career-best 9 rebounds.
- Sophomore forward Vincent Iwuchukwu scored 7 points and matched a career high with 7 rebounds (also 7 rebounds at Oregon State on Feb. 11, 2023).
- Redshirt senior forward Joshua Morgan scored 2 points, had a block and 9 rebounds. He has 19 rebounds in USC's last 2 games.
- USC has now scored 80 or more points in 3 of its first 4 games.
- Graduate transfer forward DJ Rodman missed tonight's game with left foot discomfort.
- USC's next game will be on Nov. 23 vs. Seton Hall in the first round of the Rady Children's Invitational held at the LionTree Arena in San Diego, Calif.. The game will air on the FS1 beginning at 2:30 p.m.

**ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:**

**Opening Statement:**

"Good win, we have a few of our guys back after injuries prevented them from playing, so it was nice to see some of our veterans out there and that they finished the game and did what they had to do."

**On the Boogie Ellis Growing:**

"He's really improved like you said he made some good decisions tonight. He had four assists, 28 points and shot the ball well for him being out for him. He really, really hurt himself. in the second game, so he's been out and hasn't practiced. Tried to practice yesterday was the first time back, where he actually was able to withstand the pain. So I was really proud of him tonight, because a lot of guys like Kobe and Boogie aren't 100% yet. A lot of players would not have played. I leave it up to them. I don't ask guys to play hurt, but they really battled through it, so I'm proud of Kobe and Boogie because they've been injured."

**On Vince starting the second half:**

"Well, Vince is going to be a very good player and he is a very hard worker. We have a lot of confidence in him. When he sets himself up and makes simple moves, he's very hard to stop; now he missed a lot of easy shots in the first half especially, but we started him in the second half and he just has to keep going. Everybody makes mistakes, we'll take guys out just because they miss shots, but he's improved a lot; but he hasn't played in eight months. Competitive games. So it's gonna take him a few weeks here to get back into flow. I think his timing is close but it's not quite there on some of those offensive moves or some of the defensive assignments that we give him, but I'm sure he'll get there pretty soon."



**On making second half adjustments:**

"Well Brown played very well the last five minutes for the first half. So we missed a lot of easy shots and our bigs were 0-9, so it was frustrating for us because even though they scored and played well off we still should have been up probably by 10 points. But we weren't so now we gave them hope and they came out and played a really competitive second half. I think Brown has a lot of good players, when guys get hot, they have some very good offensive players and a couple got hot and were tough to stop."

**BOOGIE ELLIS QUOTES:**

**Ellis on whether or not they were worried they would lose:** "No. Me and Kobe, we're captains so we've been in situations like that before. When instances happen like that, you just never panic, stay calm, and come out with the win."

**Ellis on coming off his injury and his season high:** "It's just getting back into the flow of things and this one game. Kind of felt a little bit off, but just glad to be back."

**Ellis on how Brown made the game tough:** "They made shots, tough shots, but they made a lot of shots tonight."

**KOBE JOHNSON QUOTES:**

**Johnson on his return:** "Coming into the game, I just wanted to provide anything I could for my teammates. I just wanted to come in and do what I needed to do to win. I knew I wasn't shooting the ball well, but I have confidence enough, just from my teammates, coming into the game just to keep shooting and stay locked in. So yeah, I was ready to come play, and actually get in there."

**Johnson on Ellis:** "Just being out on the floor with Boogie, and just seeing some of the shots he makes and just some of the plays he's making, it's incredible. Just his growth from when I first got here to now, I can't say anything less about him. He does what he needs to do on a daily basis for us and you get — he gives us a lot of wins, he gives us a whole lot of energy, and he's a huge boost for his team. So having him back on the floor for us. Just having him in particular is huge for us because again, he's a playmaker and he gets everybody involved. If we can keep him healthy the entire year, he's going to lead us very far in March."

**BROWN HEAD COACH MIKE MARTIN:**

"Well, obviously Ellis was so good, so skilled. He's such a good shooter. We gave him too many good looks. Collier, he can make shots, but he's also lightning-fast, and he's got such a burst. He's got so much strength when he gets to the paint. Our plan was to try to keep Collier out of the paint, try to make everything tough on Ellis. There were certainly stretches where we did that. With really good players like that, it's hard to keep them down all game."

"We're obviously disappointed that we came up a little short, but we are certainly pleased with how our team played, the confidence we played with, and the unity and connectivity we showed. You have to learn from it, and in a tight game we have to do a better job of defending without fouling."

"We're at our best when we are playing with great pace and we have good spacing. We can play at this level and we can compete. We're a lot better than our record would tell you, but we've got to learn a little bit down the stretch of these tight games so we can come on top next time."