



USC vs. CSU Bakersfield  
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.  
Thursday, November 9, 2023  
**Final: USC 85, CSU Bakersfield 59**

- With the 85-59 win tonight, USC improved to 2-0 and CSU Bakersfield fell to 1-1. USC is now 3-0 all-time against CSU Bakersfield.
- USC is 23-5 in its last 28 home openers.
- The last time USC opened the season by scoring 80 or more points in its first two games was the 2016 season when it scored 83 vs. San Diego on Nov. 13, 2015 and then 101 vs. Monmouth on Nov. 16, 2015.
- USC opened with a 12-4 lead 3:18 into the game, making its first five shot attempts. USC did not trail in the game. USC led 47-23 at halftime. USC made 58.6 percent of its first-half shots, while holding CSUB to 38.5 percent shooting. USC had 7 steals in the first half which led to a 19-2 advantage on points off turnovers.
- USC's 24-point halftime lead was its biggest since it led California 50-23 on Feb. 16, 2023. Prior to that, USC's previous biggest halftime lead was 33 points vs. CSUN on Nov. 9, 2021.
- Outside of the two players who played 25 seconds tonight, the other 9 players to appear in the game scored at least two points. Also, seven different players had at least 3 rebounds.
- USC has had 6 different players score in double figures at least once in the first two games.
- In the first two games, USC has held its opponents to a 35.9 field goal percentage (46-for-128) and to 24.5 shooting from three-point range (12-for-49).
- Junior forward Harrison Hornery made his first career start tonight in his 38<sup>th</sup> collegiate game. He finished with 5 points and 5 rebounds.
- Sophomore guard Oziyah Sellers scored a career-high 16 points. His previous high for points in a game was 11 on Feb. 16, 2023 vs. California.
- Redshirt senior forward Joshua Morgan scored 12 points tonight. It was his third consecutive game dating back to USC's NCAA Tournament game vs. Michigan State in which he has scored in double figures.
- USC had 5 players score in double figures tonight. USC is now 65-11 in its last 76 games when at least three Trojans reach double figures in scoring.
- Freshman guard Isaiah Collier scored a team-high 19 points and added 5 assists and 4 steals.
- Graduate student DJ Rodman scored 15 points on 4 of 6 shooting, including 3-for-4 from 3-point range and 4-for-4 from the free throw line.
- Freshman forward Brandon Gardner played in his first game as a Trojan and scored on a thunderous dunk.
- Senior guard JD Plough appeared in his first game for the Trojans. He joined the team last season and practiced with the team last season, but did not suit up.
- Kobe Johnson sat out tonight's contest with left knee discomfort. He originally injured the knee during the game vs. Kansas State on Nov. 6 in Las Vegas, Nev.
- USC's next game will be on Nov. 14 vs. UC Irvine at the Galen Center. The game will air on the Pac-12 Network beginning at 8 p.m.

**ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:**

On the defensive success

"I thought we challenged every shoot, they were able to get a couple jump shots in the mid-range which we will give up as long as we don't challenge it, but I thought our guys gave a great effort on defense and then offensively we were able to push the pace and transition and had a lot of assists; a lot of good open looks for our shooters."

On Isaiah and Boogie:

"Both of them complement each other very well, offensively and defensively, but Boogie's a better defender because he's been in our system for a few years and Isaiah has to keep improving defensively but he's very capable. They're both exceptional offensive players. I think if you look at Isaiah's strengths and Boogie's when they have high assists and no turnovers, that means they played a good game. And of course, Boogie can score the ball at an elite level. Isaiah can get to the rim and score the ball and both



are very good foul shooters. I think if you looked at turnovers, that's one thing that we look at, Isaiah needs to clean that up a little bit. He got a little sloppy in the second half with three straight but other than that he played an outstanding game. There's stretches like you said of spectacular basketball for both guys as a tandem and individual. Against Kansas State on Monday they both played terrific basketball, so we're a work in progress right now including Isaiah Collier. He's only a freshman and so we can't rely on him to do everything. We have a lot of the good players on this team that have to step up and keep performing."

On the depth of the team:

"Well, it's nice to have DJ (Rodman) and Oziyah Sellers step up and make shots, because they're very, very good shooters and very capable. We need our guys like Oziyah and DJ to be consistent and our big guys have to finish around the rim. I thought Josh played a very good second half because we can't rely on everybody. Boogie Ellis, an all-conference player, one of the best players in the country offensively, and even tonight he's four-for-eleven, one-for-six from three. So he's gonna go one-for-six occasionally from the three point line, but we need other players to step up and they did tonight."

#### **OZIYAH SELLERS QUOTES:**

On how he feels about his big game:

"It felt good. You know, we have some guys out right now, Kobe (Johnson) being a big one, you know with him being a starter. I had to just step up and fill that role, and make the most of my minutes."

On how he's improved

"Really just the work I put in you know, I've been working all summer working on my game. All around trying to be more of an all-around player. People just called me a shooter and I didn't like that, so I've just been working on my game and that showed tonight."

#### **ISAIAH COLLIER QUOTES:**

On learning Trojan Basketball:

"I learned a lot in the summer, it took me a while to learn Trojan basketball in terms of defending at a high level the whole game. I mean the offense came with it, but it took a while, it's hard-nosed basketball."

On the fan attendance:

"It was great, I definitely saw a lot of people out there. I mean, hopefully it could be more as the season goes on. But I mean, it was definitely great for sure."

On learning from Boogie:

"I learn something every day. We work out every day together; since I got here, day one in May. It's all been natural as far as just working out with each other. We know each other's movements and things like that."

#### **CSU BAKERSFIELD HEAD COACH ROD BARNES:**

"First, I have to give them credit, they are a really good basketball team. I thought they played well tonight."

"I am disappointed in our play because I thought we got off to a slow start. With a team that good, you can't do that. Obviously, we came in as the underdog, and you can't let a team with that much talent get a lead like that on you early."

"They hurt us a lot in transition because they got the ball down the floor. Collier is really talented, and he puts pressure on you all the time. They were more aggressive than we were."

"Our team is better than we performed tonight, but we didn't get off to a good start. When a team like that gets you down, it is difficult to fight from behind all night, and they are too talented to catch up."



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**CSU GUARD KALEB HIGGINS:**

What was coach telling the players in the locker room after the game:

"We came out and we weren't disciplined enough. We gave up a lot of easy baskets. We just gotta come back to practice, work on our mistakes, and we have to get better."

What are the focuses moving forward that you struggled with tonight:

"Getting back in transition was the biggest thing. They got a lot of buckets in transition in the first half. In the second half, we kind of stopped it a little bit, but we can't give up that many transition points."

What are the keys to taking care of the ball better:

"We just have to come back to practice this week and get better with our ball handling, cleaning up our mistakes and just keep working to get better."

Were there any specific players that were difficult to match up against:

"I don't want to say they're giving us trouble, but they're good at what they do. We just have to be disciplined, listen to what our coach tells us and play our brand of basketball."