



USC vs. Long Beach State
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.
Sunday, December 10, 2023
Final: USC 79, Long Beach State 84 (OT)

- With the 84-79 overtime loss today, USC fell to 5-4 and Long Beach State improved to 7-4. USC is now 12-7 all-time against Long Beach State. USC had won its last four games against LBSU.
- This was USC's first overtime game of the season. USC's last overtime game was a 73-66 loss to then No. 22 Tennessee in the Battle4Atlantis semifinal in Paradise Island, Bahamas on Nov. 24, 2022. USC's last home overtime game was a 67-62 win vs. UC Riverside on Jan. 12, 2021.
- Today's game was an announced sellout of 9,806. It was the largest crowd at the Galen Center for a USC men's game since 10,258 fans were in attendance when USC hosted Arizona on March 1, 2022.
- USC led 45-30 at halftime. The Trojans made 48.5 percent of their shots and Long Beach State made 37.5 percent of its shots in the first half. USC owned a 19-12 first-half rebound edge. Long Beach State outscored USC 44-29 in the second half to forge a 74-all tie at the end of regulation. USC made 1 of 6 shots (16.7 percent) in overtime.
- Freshman Bronny James made his USC debut at the 12:58 mark of the first half. He played 5:46 in the first half and a total of 16:15 minutes. He scored 4 points, had 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals and a block.
- Fifth-year guard Boogie Ellis scored 14 points and had 4 assists.
- Freshman guard Isaiah Collier tied for a team high with 15 points. He also had a season-best and game-high 5 steals.
- Junior guard Kobe Johnson scored 8 points, had a team-high 8 rebounds, as well as 5 assists and 4 steals.
- Sophomore forward Vincent Iwuchukwu scored a season-high 15 points on 7 of 8 shooting. He also had 6 rebounds. Iwuchukwu's career high in points is 19 accomplished at Oregon State on Feb. 11, 2023. Iwuchukwu had a career-high four dunks today. His previous high for dunks in a game was 3 at Arizona State on Jan. 21, 2023.
- Sophomore guard Oziyah Sellers scored 6 points, all in the first half.
- USC shot 55.6 percent (20-for-36) from the free throw line today. Prior to the last 2 games (today and Dec. 2 vs. Gonzaga), USC had made 76.5 percent of its free throws this season. In the last two games, USC has combined to make 52.8 percent from the charity stripe (28-for-53).
- USC's next game will be on Dec. 17 at Auburn. The game will start at 10 a.m. PT and air on ESPN.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

Andy Enfield on the opportunity to showcase USC with Bronny here:

"We recruited Bronny James because he's a very good basketball player, and we expect him to keep developing and now he's back on the court. He went through a very unfortunate situation, and he's done an incredible job to get back to this point. So, with the extra spotlight or eyeballs, as you said, sometimes that comes with a guy like Bronny but we have to get better as a basketball team and he has to keep improving as an individual player — that's what we were focused on. We don't focus on the amount of media that are here in this room right now. We're just focused on trying to get better, and I know when he gets in the gym, it's a safe spot with his teammates and that's what he wants to do."

Andy Enfield on Boogie:

"He still had four assists and only one turnover, two steals. He played very hard, Boogie plays hard all the time. He's a tremendous player. Everybody's allowed to have an off night."

On differences between first and second half:

"Well we had a 15 point lead at halftime but I was disappointed in our energy to start the second half. Our starting unit came out and we missed some wide-open shots to start. They were flat on defense, and they (Long Beach State) just had more energy to start the second half. I didn't understand it because we had a great crowd, and we played so energetic in the first half."



On missed free throws:

"Well free throw shooting is very important. We've been shooting well throughout the year; I think we were at 74% as a team before today. Isaiah Collier had been shooting decent until last game; I know he missed some against Gonzaga, but he went 5-12 tonight. Boogie missed a couple; Kobe missed a couple and they're very good shooters and then we had everybody else. Bronny missed that one at the end of the game to end regulation. Some very good shooters missed free throws today and it's a very frustrating sequence when you keep missing free shots, and we missed 16 of them."

On Bronny's debut:

"I thought Bronny play well, he defended at a high level, he rebounded well, had two steals, two assists and made the three, so I thought he was very solid."

On spotlight on Bronny:

"Bronny handles the spotlight extremely well. He's a passionate young man about playing basketball, and I'm not sure what will happen in the future as far as the spotlight as you as you said, but all I know is he handles it very well."

On Bronny's defensive performance:

"Like I said, he had two steals, a couple rebounds and he guarded the quick ball handlers on the other team pretty well."

On Iwuchukwu's performance:

"I thought Vince gave us good offense today. 15 points, six rebounds and four offensive rebounds. Our big guys have to do a better job with the defensive rebounding, but I was proud of him. I thought he played hard and gave us great energy."

On spotlight on today's game and the program as a whole:

"Well, this isn't how we anticipated it going. Being up 15 at halftime and losing in overtime, we had plenty of chances. In fact, we even had the lead in the last 10 seconds and they made a shot to tie it. In overtime we went 1-6 and 3-6 from the foul line, so that's not ideal. But we did that to ourselves and so we have a good team. I think this team is developing, we have to get better in certain areas and some of our guys off the bench have to improve. And then our starters have to do their job and tonight was frustrating because some of our better players had off nights."

BRONNY JAMES STATEMENT:

"I just want to say I'm thankful for everything — Mayo Clinic, everything they helped me with. My parents and siblings are supporting me through this hard time in my life. I just want to give appreciation to everyone that's helped me through this. Also my coach, my teammates, and my other coaches. They've been with me since the start. I just want to say I'm thankful."

BOOGIE ELLIS QUOTES:

"I definitely think I should have gotten to the rim and gotten something better [on the last play]. That's on me."

"I feel like pressure is fake. All of us are in the gym every day working. We do thousands of hours in the gym for environments just like this, so we've just got to be better at the end of the day. We missed 16 free throws, and we didn't box out. Me personally, I feel like I let my team down tonight."

"In college I have been through a lot. I have been through the fire for sure, so a couple of losses really doesn't impact me. I am going to take these as lessons. We need to get better, we are not a good team right now, and that starts with me and Kobe as the leaders of the team."

"Bronny is built [for the pressure]. He embraces it. He put in the work, and he's a great player. We are going to continue to get him back into the rotation, but he is built for it. He handles it very well."



VINCENT IWUCHUKWU QUOTES:

"It's great to see Bronny out there, he has put in a lot of work in the gym. Unfortunately, we both had to go through certain tests, but I know that it made him stronger, and I have a great bond with him. We talked before the game and I just told him to have fun, and that is what he did."

"We didn't get the job done, and there are a lot of things I have to fix on my end. I had six rebounds in total, and opposing bigs had seven or eight, so I failed at that assignment. I'm supposed to be a shot blocker and I only had one blocked shot today, I turned the ball over twice, so my turnover ratio is low. It's definitely not where I want to be at and there is a lot to improve on, so I am just going to keep working."

LONG BEACH STATE HEAD COACH DAN MONSON:

"We have to be realistic with our schedule that they're not all going to be wins. It was great that we won, but I was more proud of how we played and how we fought. We came out and we were a little intimidated and not aggressive, and I was just really proud of how we were able to flip that and be the aggressor in the second half."

"The biggest thing defensively was the awareness of where Boggie and Collier were and try to make it hard for them to catch the ball in their sweet spots and where they wanted it."

"The fans are coming to watch USC, they're coming to watch Bronny James' first day, but they've got to watch us too. We knew if we could just stay in the game and put pressure on them, we'd have a chance."

"The Big West is no joke. It's a very competitive league, and we've just got to get better. We got better today, and I want to thank USC for letting us play. It meant a lot to our kids, and Andy has always been a class act for letting us play here."

"The best thing is our guys didn't try to save themselves. They just played hard and if they fouled out, they fouled out."