USC vs. Washington State
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.
Thursday, February 2, 2023

Final: USC 80, Washington State 70

- With the 80-70 win tonight, USC improved to 16-6 (8-3) and Washington State fell to 10-14 (5-8).
- USC has now won 13 of its last 14 games against Washington State. USC leads the all-time series with the Cougars, 82-49.
- USC improved to 11-1 at home this season, winning its last 11 following the 74-61 loss in the opener to FGCU on Nov. 7. USC's 11 consecutive home wins in one season is its most since winning the first 15 home games of the 2015-16 season.
- For the second consecutive game USC was able to overcome a 13-point deficit.
- Washington State took an 13-7 lead 5 and a half minutes into the game with Mouhamed Gueye scoring the Cougars' first 11 points. Washington State made 11 of its first 17 shots to take a 26-13 lead 10:26 into the game. USC outscored Washington State 24-9 the rest of the half to take a 37-35 lead at the break. USC made 51.6 percent of its first-half shots, while Washington State made 46.7 percent. Gueye had 20 first-half point. Washington State outrebounded USC 20-10 and outscored them 7-0 on second chance points in the first half.
- Senior guard Boogie Ellis led USC with 23 points, a game after scoring a career-high 31 points vs. UCLA on Jan. 26. Ellis also had 4 assists and 5 rebounds. He was 5 of 9 from three-point range, a season high in makes from beyond the arc. His career high is 6 three-pointers made. Ellis has scored in double figures the last 12 games. He has scored 20 or more points six times this season.
- Fifth-year guard Drew Peterson scored 20 points and had 4 assists without a turnover.
- Freshman guard Tre White scored 14 points on 6 of 9 shooting.
- Freshman forward Vincent Iwuchukwu scored 5 points, had 2 rebounds and 4 blocks. He played a season-high 22:23 minutes.
- Sophomore guard Kobe Johnson scored 3 points, had 6 rebounds, a steal and 3 assists without a turnover.
- USC made 51.9 percent of its shots tonight, its fourth game this season making over 50 percent of its field goals. USC has not allowed an opponent to shoot 50 percent in a game this season. In the last 3 games, USC has made 50.0 percent of its shots (80-for-160).
- USC has made 46.3 percent of its three-pointers the last 2 games (19-for-41).
- USC had three players score in double-figures tonight. USC improved to 15-1 this season when at least three players score 10 or more points.
- Washington State's Mouhamed Gueye scored a USC opponent-high 31 points tonight. The previous high by a player against USC this season was 25 by Julian Phillips of Tennessee on Nov. 24. Gueye also had 12 rebounds for his 10th double-double of the season.
- WSU's Jabe Mullins was 0-for-3 from three-point range tonight. He entered the game with a 45.6 shooting percentage from beyond the arc, tops among Pac-12 players. Mullins was 4-for-6 from three-point range in the first game against USC.
- USC improved to 4-0 this season when wearing the gold uniforms and were 5-0 last season when wearing gold.
- Sr. forward Josh Morgan left tonight’s game with a right ankle sprain. He was limited to 5:08 minutes and had 5 points. He will be re-evaluated tomorrow.
- USC's next game will be on February 4 vs. Washington. The game will air at 6:30 p.m. on Fox Sports 1.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

Opening Statement

"Washington State's very difficult team to guard, because they spread out their shooters and they have an all-conference big man with Mouhamed Gueye in there and he was terrific tonight, so it's hard to guard. We're really proud of our team, we hung in there, and made some plays in the last few minutes to win the game. Back and forth, very unusual game we're down early, came back, took the lead, they retook it and then we finished the game. So our players stepped up, Drew (Peterson) and Boogie (Ellis) stepped up scoring and Kobe (Johnson) hit that big three. Kobe stole that ball when we double teamed and he read the cutter, it was an incredible steal just his anticipation, that's why to me he's the best defensive player in
the Pac 12. To see that cut happen and then go and steal the ball was probably the biggest play of the
game and then he comes down to his step three when we reverse the ball to him and that was great team
basketball.”

On Vince (Iwuchukwu)
“Vince was terrific. He played very hard, you see he’s starting to feel a good rhythm. You know, it’s so hard
when you go through what he did and then not play and forget about the medical issue, talking about the
lack of playing. He had no training camp, no summer basketball, no scrimmages and now we throw him
into Pac-12 play in the middle of the season. It takes a little bit to adjust. So I thought he was great
defensively with four big blocks. Offensively, he will come around, right now we just need him to defend
and rebound and finish around the rim.”

On having a lot of scoring runs
“You’re in league play, anything can happen. It’s hard to explain. We are very streaky offensively at times.
We made nine threes tonight, I think we made ten last Thursday against UCLA. We’re starting to shoot the
ball better. We’re shooting cleaner looks. We’re starting to drive and much more and make plays for our
teammates.”

DREW PETERSON QUOTES:

On his step back three that sealed the game:
“It was a little bit messy for 25 seconds. Give Gueye credit, good defense in the second half. You know he’s
got length and he can move his feet and I noticed he gave me a little bit of space, but I kept trying to
drive him and after two attempts of trying to drive him, I just kind of took advantage of some space and
stepped back and thankfully got the shot pulled down.”

On getting fired up from those offsetting technicals:
“It definitely got a little chippy there and I’m not sure the exact score, but I think it was close and it got us
really going and thankfully we were able to push it and take the lead into half, and try to build up a little bit
of lead. Sometimes plays like that happen and you know, Kobe and him were going at it and Reese (Dixon-
Waters) tried to help Kobe and I’m not going to get mad at him for doing something like that.”

BOOGIE ELLIS QUOTES:

On his confidence:
“I actually watched this video; it was Gilbert Arenas. He said, ‘if you start the game zero for five, and then in
the second half, you go to five for five it’s still a great game. If in the first half you start five for five and you
finish zero for five it is still a great game.’ At the end of the day, I’m always in the gym, and I’m working on
my game. I have extreme confidence, even when I’m missing shots, I feel like the younger me would check
out the game, if I’m not making shots. Just believing in myself. Trust in my work, basketball is about its misses,
makes and turnovers. Bad things are going happen, but then you have to shake it off and keep going.”

On Kobe’s defense:
“He’s always in the passing lanes. He’s always trying to cheat the play. In practice it’s kind of fun, he does
this thing where I’ll come off a screen and roll and I’ll be looking to throw it on the weak side. He’ll hide
behind the big, and then come out of nowhere and he’ll get the steal.”

WASHINGTON STATE HEAD COACH KYLE SMITH:

“It was a really hard-fought game. We played well to stay in there and they played a little better down the
stretch.”

“I thought we were really good offensively and we rebounded well enough, but USC was just too much
offensively. Peterson, Ellis and White really played well and made some tough shots. USC just played really
well as a team offensively.”