



USC vs. Arizona
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.
Thursday, March 2, 2023
Final: USC 81, Arizona 87

- With the 87-81 loss tonight, USC fell to 21-9 (13-6) and Arizona improved to 25-5 (14-5).
- USC has now lost five consecutive games to Arizona.
- USC has clinched the No. 3 seed in the Pac-12 Tournament.
- The loss tonight snapped USC's 14-game home winning streak which is tied for the third-longest in school history. USC lost the home opener vs. FGCU on Nov. 7, then won its next 14 home games until tonight.
- USC allowed a season-high 87 points tonight. The previous opponent high this season was 81 points, done twice. The last time USC allowed more points was when Arizona scored 91 points in a 91-71 victory on March 1, 2022.
- USC fell to 15-2 this season when it scores 70 or more points and is 68-8 when scoring 70 or more points since the start of the 2019.
- USC fell to 8-2 this season when having the full roster available, with both losses coming at the hands of the Arizona Wildcats.
- Arizona shot an 2022-23 opponent high 54.2 percent tonight, just the second game all season the Trojans allowed the opposition to make more than 50 percent of its field goal attempts. Arizona also made 50 percent of its three-pointers which tied an opponent high done by Arizona on Jan. 19.
- Arizona led 43-31 at the break, after making 56.7 percent of its first-half shots. Arizona outrebounded USC 19-15 before the break. USC made 37.9 percent of its first-half shots.
- Senior guard Boogie Ellis scored a career-high 35 points tonight. It was his third 30-plus point game of the season. He is now tied for eighth on USC's all-time list for most 30-point games in a season. The last Trojan to score 35 or more points in a game was Bennie Boatwright, who scored 36 points at California on Feb. 16, 2019. Ellis now has 77 three-pointers made which are tied for the 9th-most in a single season by a Trojan (Lodrick Stewart, 2007). His 6 three-pointers made tonight tied a career high, done four times, last on Feb. 18 vs. Stanford.
- Fifth-year guard Drew Peterson did not score in the first half tonight. It was his second scoreless first half of the season, also against Tennessee on Nov. 24. He didn't score until 14:10 of the second half when he hit a three-pointer. Peterson was slowed tonight with back spasms.
- Sophomore guard Kobe Johnson scored 14 points and tied a career high with 6 assists (also vs. Alabama State on Nov. 10).
- Sophomore guard Reese Dixon-Waters scored 17 points and matched a season and career high with 6 rebounds (4th time).
- Redshirt junior forward Joshua Morgan had 4 points, 11 rebounds and 4 blocks tonight. His rebound total was his second-best this season. He had 12 rebounds vs. Mount St. Mary's on Nov. 18. Morgan now has 62 blocks this season, which moves him into 10th place on USC's single-season block list.
- Freshman forward Kijani Wright scored 4 points and grabbed 3 rebounds. He was 4-for-4 from the FT line tonight.
- USC fell to 13-2 this season when the tip time was at 7 p.m. or later PT.
- Tubelis has averaged 18.5 points (111 total) and 10.8 rebounds (65 total) in his 6 career games against USC.
- USC's next game will be on March 4 at the Galen Center vs. Arizona State. It will be Senior Night. The game will air on FS1 at 8 p.m.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

Opening Statement:

"Tough night for us. Got in foul trouble, early in the game and had three starters out. Three folks who started, and Drew (Peterson) was hurt, so challenging without three of our main guys. In the first half we got behind and Arizona made a lot of timely shots tonight, so give them credit they played well."



On Arizona

"Their big guys are really big, they're very physical and Azuolas Tubelis is extremely skilled. We did go a little big in the first half. Kijani Wright gave us some really good minutes and Vince (Iwchukwu), Josh (Morgan) played together at times. Our best offensive team is with four guards and we knew it'd be a high scoring game because there's extra possessions when you play Arizona. They played at a pretty fast tempo and we just tried to do our best to neutralize them. Sent the big guys with some double teams but Tubelis still had 25. There were five, or six possessions. I thought we cut into the lead and their guards made some very timely threes and sometimes you need a little luck for some of those to not go in. In the first half we had three loose balls, and we had our hands on it and couldn't come up with it and they scored all three times. Those little things when you're down 12 at halftime are a big difference."

On moving on to Arizona State

"We have a huge game Saturday. Our guys competed; with the foul trouble we had, and Drew being injured, our guys competed and they played hard. We have to prepare, starting tonight or tomorrow very early for Arizona State who's an exceptional team and very talented, so Saturday is a big game. I won't think about this game after I wake up at five in the morning."

BOOGIE ELLIS QUOTES:

On his growth

"I feel like my decision making has definitely grown a lot. It's definitely had to do with a lot of film. Knowing the defensive coverages, knowing what's going to happen before the play. Really steps ahead and then I know I can get in the paint whenever I want. I know guys can't stay in front of me. Whenever I get into the paint, it opens up my teammates shots and allows me to get shots at the rim. So I just got to continue to do that. Continue to make those passes to my guys and just continue to get better."

On Arizona's three-point shooting

"That happened when we played on the road over there. We just got to respond to it. We've got to really capitalize. We have to lock in every play against Arizona, every possession matters. We tried to cut it to ten and they hit a big three. We're about to cut it to nine, and they hit another big three. So we just got to lock in as a team, focus on details, every possession is valuable, so just don't take you for granted."

REESE DIXON-WATERS QUOTES:

On how his teammates help him grow:

"Watching Boogie, Drew, Kobe (Johnson), Tre (White) and other players on my team who produce at a high level watching film and I look up to him in a way because he's older than me. You know he's accomplished more in college and getting to where I want to get to eventually with my scoring and how I see the floor and maturing as a player. Looking up to Boogie and working on my craft and watching film, trying to make smarter decisions. There were times in this game where I shot a shot that was a tougher shot than an easier shot. I just learned by watching film and listening to my coach."

On getting up shots early to improve his shooting

"It's more of a mentality. Just be ready to shoot, and take advantage of opportunities."

ARIZONA HEAD COACH TOMMY LLOYD:

"I thought for the most part we played well and pretty consistent and, you know, against a really good team. Obviously they've been great at home. I mean, I think USC is really being undervalued nationally. Just the talent they have and across the board."

"Drew Peterson is a really good player. You know, he is aggressive and he is got a lot of freedom. He is fun to watch play."