



USC vs. Arizona State
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.
Saturday, March 4, 2023
Final: USC 68, Arizona State 65

- With the 68-65 win tonight, USC improved to 22-9 (14-6) and Arizona State fell to 20-11 (11-9).
- USC finished with a 14-6 Pac-12 Conference record, tied with Arizona for second-place in the regular season.
- USC extended its winning streak against Arizona State to seven games, the longest Trojan winning streak in the series. Arizona State last won a game at the Galen Center in 2014, losing its last 7 games here.
- USC is the No. 3 seed in the Pac-12 Tournament and will play the winner of the No. 6 Arizona State/No. 11 Oregon State in a Pac-12 Quarterfinal game on March 9.
- USC is now 4-2 this season and 10-4 since the start of last season in one-possession games.
- USC finished 15-2 at the Galen Center.
- After USC scored the first 4 points of the night, Arizona State went on a 9-0 run to take a 9-4 lead 6 minutes into the game. USC had 7 turnovers and 5 fouls in the first 10 minutes, yet led 13-11. USC ended up with a 29-20 lead at the break. USC made 44.4 of its first-half shots, while Arizona State made 22.6 of its FGs in the first half.
- Senior guard Boogie Ellis led USC with 28 points. It was his 11th game with 20 or more points. Ellis made 4 three-pointers tonight to give him 81 this season which moves him to 7th on USC's single-season list.
- Fifth-year guard Drew Peterson scored 9 points, had 5 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 blocks.
- Sophomore guard Kobe Johnson had 4 points, 5 rebounds and 3 steals. He now has 69 steals this season which ranks tied for 4th on USC's all-time single-season list.
- Redshirt junior forward Joshua Morgan picked up 2 fouls in 3 and a half minutes in the first half then sat out until the second half. He then picked up 2 more fouls in the first 2 minutes of the second half. He ended up with 1 point and 4 rebounds in 9:47 of action. He had a key rebound and FT at the end of the game.
- Freshman guard Tre White came off the bench to score 13 points and grab 7 rebounds. He did not start for the first time since Nov. 15 vs. Vermont. White came off the bench in USC's first three games, then started the next 27 for the Trojans.
- With forwards Joshua Morgan in foul trouble and Vincent Iwuchukwu out, freshman forward Kijani Wright played a season-high 23:34 minutes and scored 3 points and had a season-best 7 rebounds. He also added 2 blocks, an assist and a steal.
- USC's bench of freshman Wright, freshman White, freshman Oziyah Sellers and sophomore Harrison Hornery outscored Arizona State's bench 23-6 tonight.
- USC had 15 turnovers tonight, its most turnovers in a game since committing 18 turnovers at Arizona State on Jan. 21.
- Sophomore Malik Thomas missed tonight's game due to a family matter.
- Freshman forward Vincent Iwuchukwu missed tonight's game with a sore back.
- USC's next game will be in the Pac-12 Tournament quarterfinals on March 9 at T-Mobile Arena. The game will air on ESPN at 8:30 p.m.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

Opening Statement:

"Great win for us, to be 22-9 and 14-6 in the league is an outstanding regular season for us. They're 9-1 at home in the league. I can't say enough about the improvement this team has made. One of the most improved teams we've ever had here in 10 years. The upperclassmen, you got Boogie (Ellis), who was probably the most improved player in the Pac 12. The freshman and sophomores really grew up this season. Were always led by Boogie and Drew (Peterson), our two seniors, so it was great to go out on senior night, and to make it interesting at the end. Every game we played against Arizona State is always close. They usually end with some kind of shot in the last 30 seconds, or even sometimes at the buzzer like today. Arizona State is an outstanding basketball team. I think they definitely deserve to make the NCAA tournament. They're playing really well to beat Arizona on the road last week. I think they're as good as any team we played this year. They're very, very good."



On the bench's success:

"That was big, Tre White played basketball 13 points and 7 rebounds. Kajani Wright played his best game as a Trojan. A lot of energy rebounding and defensively. It has Oziyah Sellers how made a big three and then Harrison Hornery, he came in and gave us four big points, we outscored their bench I think 26 to six (23-6). That was a big part of the game, because those guys don't get they don't get steady minutes throughout the year they're thrown in sometimes and taken out. So for those four guys to perform like they did tonight was a huge reason why we won the game."

On Drew and Boogie transferring here:

"Well Drew's been with us for three years, first year we went to the Elite Eight and he was a starter on a team last year that won 26 games and he was a big part of being ranked the top 25 all season. Now we are 22-9, so that's pretty impressive. To have single digit losses for three straight years for a guy and then Boogie joined us. This is a really impressive season for Boogie and Drew, because we had no experience. These other guys had never been relied upon to play big minutes, to start, to play starters minutes, to be relied upon every single game to win a college basketball game. We knew that it would be a little challenging at the beginning of the year because Boogie and Drew were the only guys that had that experience. That's why it's so impressive how they led our team by example, but also every day in practice. In the games we relied upon them and the other guys improved a lot and I think you saw that with quite a few of our players."

BOOGIE ELLIS QUOTES:

On playing at USC:

"It was definitely a blessing to play at a high level. This has been a great place to play. Tonight, it was a great environment. I'm just happy and blessed that I got a chance to play my last games and season here."

On their defensive success:

"Kobe Johnson... I mean, we played great defensively. We got guys like Kobe, that's in the passing lanes contesting everything. Defending guys like Reese (Dixon-Waters), you know, Drews length, and me being able to put pressure and get steals and stuff like that. We're a great defensive team and we're just going to keep getting better. It's March, so we got to bring our defense and our toughness."

DREW PETERSON QUOTES:

On playing at USC:

"It was great, you know this court has been awesome all year. I feel like I've been a part of this program where we're building it every year. Turned into a program that's going to the tournament every year. So it's been great to be a part of the building process with this program and the sport around the USC community's been awesome."

On playing through his back injury:

"It's been a brutal last 24 hours with you know the amount of different rehabs we've been doing. Chiropractor, massage, even got IV drip and all this, I tried everything I could and I didn't think I was gonna play when I woke up this morning. With the stakes of the game and this being the last home game, I really just tried to do anything I could to have gotten on the floor and even though I'm not 100% I really just wanted to be able to impact the game."

ARIZONA STATE HEAD COACH BOBBY HURLEY:

I'm not surprised. We had chances to win and no deficient means anything to these guys so they were really good on defense. That's why what you just watched was like another NCAA tournament game. There should be no debate about USC. They defend their athleticism, you know their size. They've got guys out there like Boogie Ellis who go out there and do it, day and night. We have a very good defensive runner and we struggled tonight without him. And you know Peterson is another threat. So, I'm happy about my team. I'm very proud of my team, my season that we've had here. A very tough finish for anyone. You all can ask any NCAA team to go to Arizona, UCLA, USC with their last three games and see what their record is. So with that with that being said, I'm mostly happy."