



USC vs. Washington State
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.
Wednesday, January 10, 2024
Final: USC 64, Washington State 72

- With the 72-64 loss tonight, USC falls to 8-8, 2-3 and Washington State improves to 11-5, 2-3. USC had won its last 7 games against Washington State at the Galen Center. Washington State's last win at the Galen Center was a 70-66 victory on Feb. 25, 2015.
- USC fell to 0-6 this season when trailing at halftime.
- There were 9 ties and 19 lead changes in the game tonight. The 8-point margin of victory was WSU's largest lead of the game.
- USC had its streak of 12 consecutive games scoring 70 or more points snapped.
- The Trojans made 6 of their first 26 shot attempts tonight and trailed 24-18 with 3 minutes left in the first half. USC made 4 of its final 5 shots of the half to finish shooting 32.3 percent before the break (10-for-31). WSU made 42.9 percent of its first-half shots (12-for-28) and lead 29-28 at the break.
- Freshman guard Isaiah Collier scored 12 points on 5 of 9 shooting. He left tonight's game with a right hand contusion.
- Fifth-year guard Boogie Ellis led USC with 18 points, going 3 of 7 from three-point range.
- Graduate transfer forward DJ Rodman, who earned his Communications degree from Washington State last year (played in 111 games for WSU), scored 8 points and had a team-high 8 rebounds tonight.
- WSU's Isaac Jones led all players with 26 points and 11 rebounds. He made 11 of 13 free throws in the second half and 12 of 15 in the game.
- USC shot 28.6 percent from three-point range tonight (6-for-21) and had its streak of games with 10 or more three-pointers made snapped at three. In the previous three games, USC made 44.3 percent of its three-pointers (35-for-79).
- Redshirt senior forward Joshua Morgan missed tonight's game with an upper respiratory infection.
- USC's next game will be on Jan. 13 at Colorado. The game will start at 7:00 p.m. PT and air on ESPN2.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

Opening Statement:

"It was a disappointing result for us. We took the lead a few times late in the second half and just couldn't get any stops defensively without Josh Morgan. He was the biggest key in my eyes for this game because of rim protection, he's the leading shot blocker in our league. They scored a lot at the rim; 34 points in the paint. Then Isaiah hurt himself and he was playing well and then Boogie is at about 60%. Doesn't excuse our missed free throws or open threes or some of the mistakes we made, but it was a disappointing result for our guys. I know they gave it an effort, but just didn't come up with a win."

On changing defensively:

"We're gonna have to figure out defensively, maybe we should play more zone, maybe we should mix it up more. We tried to go to the zone. They still got the ball inside three straight times in a row. We kept the ball in the low post. Yeah, they still scored three times on us in zone, early in the second half and even late in the second half. When they get to a guy that is going like that it's hard to stop."

On the defensive effort:

"We do a lot of the same drills we've always done, so some teams grasp the concepts and are able to do it when the game goes on. It's different when you just do it in practice. When you get in the game it's moving fast. It's against players, you're not against your own team and so you have to adjust to other good players and at times we've been pretty good. That is our biggest deficiency this year compared to the last four or five years where we're being an outstanding defensive team and we haven't reached that yet. It is frustrating, because we are causing turnovers when Joshua is in there and blocking shots. We had a bunch of steals in the last few games, but the field goal percent defense is not nearly what it was the last four years and so we'll keep working."



DJ RODMAN QUOTES:

On playing against his old team:

"It was as I expected. They didn't let me do anything, obviously. I mean, it was fun. I had a fun time. People don't really get the opportunity to play games against they're old school. I had a lot of fun talking to dudes on the court, talking to dudes on the bench. It was just a fun time. Obviously losing wasn't fun, but other than that I had fun competing with my friends from there and just playing basketball."

On missing Josh:

"I mean, tonight changed a lot, because to be honest no one stopped (Isaac) Jones. Just having rim protection, we take that for granted. When Josh is there, I don't worry about getting blown by because Josh is there to block the shot. I mean give credit to them too. I mean, they took it, they slowed us down in terms of our game. So yeah, Josh is a huge part of this team."

BOOGIE ELLIS QUOTES:

On leading the team through the early season struggles:

"I mean, throughout my life I've been through a lot, a lot of ups and downs. I have been a part of a lot of winning teams and just trying to get better every day at the end of the day. That's what it's about. Just got to keep encouraging the guys, trying to get better. I've been at the lows and the highs. I'm just trying to keep it even keel and you know, just work."

On staying motivated for the upcoming road trip:

"Just realize what is at stake. We got to come and go compete to try and get three wins and at the end of the day, nobody feels sorry for us. So we just have to work and keep pushing and go get some wins."

WASHINGTON STATE HEAD COACH KYLE SMITH:

On the recent history vs SC: "It's good you know, we've been knocking on the door last two years in tight games so, I think looking at it two years, two years ago Boogie hit a game winner. And then we led most of the game last year and we let it slip away. Drew Peterson and Boogie kind of made, we felt good about the way we played last year we made those guys beat us, you know, on just play making plays like one on one stuff. So just playing really well played his group and hung in there and got it done."

On keeping opponents under 40% shooting: "You know not sure because the Oregon game we couldn't last game it was if we gave up 14 three's we couldn't get a stop so we just we just tried to come in with the mindset that 'hey, we got to defend to give ourselves a chance' and Boogie is so good. And we I think we put Andrej [Jakimovski] on him and I was a little worried about that. And even the broadcaster Casey Jacobs is like 'Andrej' said I know he's our best chance and I was worried about it too. But Andre has been a senior he just made it hard then you're not going to hold them down he made some big shots late and we tried to defend we usually defend we got length around the rim so we can guard the two pretty well at the at the rim and then we usually do a pretty good job of keeping people off the three, man or zone. They're well coached team and they start getting some looks late and we were just lucky to let the last two minutes evidently were really good."

On preparing for the game: "Try to keep them out of transition because they are so fast with all of them they have like four point guards with everyone look at Collier, Ellis, Johnson, and even Bronnie coming off the bench, so if we didn't have any live ball turnovers, we had nine and we didn't have too much. We took some bad shots and were fortunate just to keep them out of transition because they can really fly it up and get transition threes and we did a fairly good job there, really good job."

On No. 13 Isiah Jones: "This is tremendous, he had been struggling at home last week and a little sick but and we thought just trying to get his head cleared a little bit late because he's getting so many double teams and stuff and I think he's a little frustrated and bringing him off the bench really kind of got him, he displayed a little more confidence. I think it just simplified things you know sometimes the best teacher is the bench and he did well"



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On Rodman: "You know what, we know what it is, but it's hard to scout him because he's a smart player that gets like he hit a couple of big threes late and got an offensive board put back. It is hard to keep him off the glass. Smart player. I mean, he didn't take any charges, that's a win for us. He usually took like 30 last year for so he's good there but just I mean we know his game but he's just the guy that kills you is an auxiliary guy, he knows how to find the right spots and he almost pulled it off."

On the physicality of the game: "You know, we had some guys off the bench, Isaiah Watts, Jay Mullins, that gave us a lot of minutes. We had to downsize a little bit because Oscar [Cluff] and Rueben [Chinyelu] were in foul trouble and that was it makes us a little better offensively. But it's harder to get rebounds, but that really helped us."

Coaches takeaways: "It's a good program that we've been kinda measuring ourselves against the top of the league and we've been knocking on door playing those guys tough and we beat him at our place last year and that and just it's good measuring stick for us. We got a good team. They got some young guys, but they got some old guys too. And I mean, it's a shame that we don't have the PAC 12 anymore because I think it's such a fun League and maybe someday we'll get back together."