



USC vs. California
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.
Wednesday, January 3, 2024
Final: USC 82, California 74

- With the 82-74 win tonight, USC improved to 7-7, 1-2 and California fell to 4-10, 0-3. USC has now won its last 11 games against California.
- USC's 29 assists tonight were one off the school record of 30 set vs. Oklahoma State in 1975. USC had an assist on its first 19 baskets before Boogie Ellis made an unassisted jumper nearly four minutes into the second half.
- USC led 37-29 at halftime. USC made 48.5 percent of its first-half shots, while California made 40.0 percent. The rebounds were 16 apiece. Isaiah Collier led USC with 9 points and Jalon Tyson led California with 10 first-half points. USC had an assist on all 16 first-half baskets.
- Freshman guard Bronny James had 10 points, 2 rebounds and 3 assists in 18 minutes off the bench. He has scored 25 points in USC's last two games.
- Freshman guard Isaiah Collier scored 13 points and had a season-high seven assists. He also had no turnovers for the first time this season.
- Fifth-year guard Boogie Ellis scored 15 points, matched a career high with 8 rebounds (4th time, last time on Feb. 11, 2023 at Oregon State) and matched a career best with 7 assists (Feb. 18, 2023 vs. Stanford).
- Junior guard Kobe Johnson scored 14 points, had 7 rebounds and 5 assists. He made 4 of 7 3-point shots, tying his career best (also four 3-pointers made on Feb. 25, 2023 at Utah).
- Redshirt senior forward Joshua Morgan made his first start since Dec. 2 vs. Gonzaga. He started USC's first eight games. Morgan finished with 6 points, 2 assists, one block and one steal.
- Graduate transfer forward DJ Rodman scored 11 points and made 3 of 6 3-point shots. He tied his season high in 3-pointers made (also 3 vs. CSU Bakersfield on Nov. 9). His career high in 3-pointers is six vs. Northern Colorado on Dec. 18, 2021.
- Junior forward Harrison Hornery scored 8 points, grabbed 4 rebounds and matched a career high with 3 assists (2nd time, other vs. EWU on Nov. 29, 2023).
- USC made 11 3-point baskets tonight (11 of 28, 39.3 percent), its sixth game this season with 10 or more 3-pointers made.
- Five different Trojans scored in double figures tonight. USC improved to 3-0 in games this season when five or more players score 10 points or more.
- USC's next game will be on Jan. 6 vs. Stanford. The game will start at 1:00 p.m. and air on the Pac-12 Network.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

Opening Statement

"Happy New Year everybody! Good to be back home after being on the road for four or five weeks. Our guys played well tonight offensively, really shared the ball well. 29 assists and that was a point of emphasis the last few days, to try to get more ball movement, more player movement on our offense and they responded very well."

On ball movement as a point of emphasis:

"I'm tired of watching turnovers and no ball movement, no player movement, so if you're going to stand there, you're going to come out of the game. Pretty simple. They did a great job tonight. Isaiah (Collier) had seven assists, no turnovers. Boogie had seven assists, Kobe had five and everybody did a good job of sharing the ball."

On lineup changes:

"We've been playing 11 guys all season and we are going to play guys that defend, that play well in practice and that produce in the games. Look AP, Kijane and Oziyah are all good players, but it's hard to play 11 guys every single game. So, this lineups not set in stone, minutes will vary, just have to play well but we had to change some things the last couple of days in practice. I thought we were productive and we'll see what happens."



On defensive improvements tonight:

"We played much better defense in the first half. I was disappointed in the second half, we got the big lead and then we gave them three straight threes. That's something we have to keep working on since our guys get a little winded and get a lead and relax. That's happened numerous games this year in the second half and has caught up to us a couple of times. So, tonight we were fortunate to hang on."

On road games and roster:

"We have a deep roster, so everybody knows that you have to play hard on defense and we're a developing team. It was my fault for scheduling so many road games and away games. We had the least amount of home games - five in the power conferences this year by far, up into this point. We misjudged our inexperience a little bit and also meshing this team together before regular season. Then we had those injuries after our first and second game for about two and a half weeks, so our schedule may have hurt us this year because of all the travel. Didn't give us a chance to come back and regroup and work on things and catch our breath, so we are excited to be home."

On Kobe Johnson's performance tonight:

"Five star playing good offensive basketball, I don't know what else to say. I mean, he made the one and then he made four in a row and he played great. We can't make open shots for our guys; he finally started making some open shots and played outstanding. He was terrific in the second half."

On Collier learning his position:

"Well, you have to learn to play the position. It's hard. That's the hardest position to learn is the point guard. You have so much responsibility and he's learning the position and learning what he can do what and what he can't do and also has his own game developing. So, he's going to be a much better player here coming up, we all hope. Tonight was the first step, and I was very proud of him."

KOBE JOHNSON QUOTES:

On finding his shot:

"Just staying in the gym and keeping my confidence. You know, these past few games everybody's seen I haven't been hitting my shots, but I have good people around me and I just kept the confidence within myself to make those shots, so I'm going to keep on taking them. Once I saw that first one go through, I did feel the weight come off my shoulders and then I just had the confidence from there on out."

On teams' defensive struggles:

"I think the biggest thing is once we build a lead, we kind of to slack off and don't pay attention to the little details. We don't box out every possession, we don't go get the rebounds and like I said we just don't do the details and I think that's something we have to fix ASAP because we're going to get into a big stretch of tough games in the Pac-12. So, I feel like practice coming up we have to clean those little details up and then we'll be the defensive team that we've been in the past."

On managing expectations:

"I know there's a lot of expectations. We've all seen the internet spew about us and how good we should be, but we're just going to play our game. We all know how good we are. We're a family here. So, no matter what happens, we're going to stick through it together and we're just going to keep on playing. I think we're starting to come together as a team, and I think these next few games are going to be really good and showcase everybody's ability and how good of a team we can really be."

ISAIAH COLLIER QUOTES:

On improved defensive performance:

"For us it was just coming back to regroup. I mean, we know it's a new year, so it's like a new start for us. Now we've got a couple of games at home. So, I think it was really important for us to rebuild, like regroup with each other, get back in the gym together and things like that. I feel like practices have gone really well for us this year."



On difference between high school and college point guard role:

"Making the simple plays. Me in high school, you want that one flashy assist or something like that, but it's about just making the simple plays."

On tonight's win:

"I feel like it was a great team win tonight. We had a lot of fun, especially because we won. So, I'm looking forward to keeping things going."

CAL HEAD COACH MARK MADSEN:

On battling through the end of the 2nd half: I think it just shows that the heart and the effort that the Cal Bears have. No matter what the adversity is, our guys are gonna give that full effort that fight that energy and we were able to scratch and claw and have a chance to almost get into a one possession game late. So I'm proud of them a couple tweaks it's a different ballgame for us.

On Jaylon Tyson: Jalen Tyson is someone who he's a tremendous leader. He's some of them, we can post up, we can go out to the three point line and get his feet set and shoot it three, he can elevate, going into the room and dunk it on somebody. The thing that we don't talk about enough with Jalen Tyson is his ability to make his teammates better, passing the ball setting screens for others getting organized. I've asked him to basically play the point guard at times, and he's done an outstanding job of that.

On Rodney Brown Jr: Rodney is a young player but he has confidence is huge. Rodney Brown has the confidence of upperclassmen. There's certain aspects of his game that we haven't even seen yet, kind of in the games, because he's a great passer, he's a finisher at the rim, he showcased his three point shooting and there but there's so much more to his game that is just unfolding before everyone's eyes.

On Keonte Kennedy: Keonte and I met after practice two days, ago. We had a great talk. And the substance of the talk was just keep working, keep persisting the outcomes of the ball going in or out, that's gonna take care of itself. But what you can't do is stop putting the work in and he never wants to stop doing the work.

On not fouling SC early in the game: That's a tribute to our players, you know, we we have a drill called the bear drill where we literally work on sliding, and just showing our hands and just if there's going to be physical contact, it's going to be with the chest area, you know, and because the refs when the hands come down, that's when they blow the whistle. So we work on that, we talk about it every day, and we get the guys that really embrace it.

On the loss (11th consecutive loss to USC): Obviously, we're disappointed with the loss. But what I told the players in the locker room was I'm proud of them, because there's growth happening. There's progress happening, and we're right there, and we're not going let anything discourage us, we're not going let anything stand in our way. We are going to be a great team at Cal this year, and we're going to continue to build on that every year.