

USC MEN'S BASKETBALL

Cal 71, USC Trojans 66

• Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif. • November 17, 2024 •

NOTES & QUOTES

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- With the loss tonight, USC falls to 3-1. In 272 meetings between the two schools, the Trojans are 134-138 against the Golden Bears.
- USC has scored 65 or more points in all four games this season.
- USC is now 214-85 in 19 seasons at the Galen Center and 107-26 in non-conference games at Galen.
- Junior Desmond Claude led the Trojans in scoring (20 points) and assists (3). It is the second consecutive game where he has led the Trojans in both categories.
- Claude scored 20 or more points for the second consecutive game.
- Trojans Saint Thomas leads all Big-10 conference players in percentage of minutes played (87.5%).
- The Trojans took a 43-42 lead into the halftime break. USC has led at the halftime break in all four games played in 2024-25.
- USC shot 41.7% from three-point range in the first half. It is the third consecutive game where the Trojans shot above 40% in the first half.
- USC has given up 35-plus first-half points in its third consecutive game.
- Forward Terrance Williams II has hit at least two three-pointers in each of his first two games for the Trojans.
- Guard Wesley Yates III scored in the double digits for the third consecutive game off the bench. Yates has led the Trojans in steals in three of the past four games. Yates is currently averaging two steals per game this season.
- The Trojans forced 13 turnovers. It is the fourth consecutive game where the Trojans committed fewer turnovers than their opponents.
- USC's next game will be on Nov. 20 vs. San Jose State at the Galen Center. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. PT and the game will air on Peacock.

COACH ERIC MUSSELMAN QUOTES:

On late game management:

"When we did have timeouts, I thought we executed pretty well. I am still trying to get to know the team and anybody that's followed our teams, even if it's an NCAA Tournament game - I usually have faith that we prepared properly for what happens late in the game."

On defensive rebounding:

"I thought our effort was good. There was a huge size advantage in the paint. And I thought our guys were down there scrapping and trying to get loose balls and deflections. I thought we played good post defense when they tried to punch it in there."

On maintaining defensive momentum:

"The only thing I know is to just keep working at it. I definitely have to think about the starting lineup. These are decisions that we have to make as a coaching staff."

FORWARD - #0, SAINT THOMAS QUOTES:

On defensive struggles:

"I think we've proved multiple times throughout the season, through these four games - that we can score the ball. 66 points is not bad, but we can't give up 71 points in a basketball game and expect to win."

On how the team can improve:

"It's just a communication thing. We're all new and we're all still trying to mold together. This is how we figure that out, through games."

On making a statement:

"I think we showed the fans that we have energy. We may have failed them and lost, but we're still here and we still have something to prove."

GUARD - #1, DESMOND CLAUDE QUOTES:

On what needs to improve going forward:

"We can all score the ball. We all have our nights, but being able to stop the ball is key to what we're trying to do."

On shooting in the final minutes:

"We have to do a better job with shot selection and getting downhill."

On communication:

"We're all coming from different places with different terminology and different tendencies. Just being over-communicative and talking will be the biggest key, on and off the court."