

USC MEN'S BASKETBALL

USC Trojans 71, Idaho State 69

• Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif. • November 7, 2024 •

NOTES & QUOTES

- With the 75-69 win tonight, USC improves to 2-0 and Idaho State fell to 0-2. Tonight was the sixth all-time meeting between the two schools in men's basketball. USC now leads the series 6-0.
- USC has now scored 75 or more points in its first two games.
- Graduate transfers Bryce Pope and Terrance Williams II missed tonight's game.
- F Josh Cohen led the Trojans in scoring, recording 19 points in 29:40 minutes played.
- For the second consecutive game, USC's starting lineup featured a freshman. Tonight, Isaiah Elohim started, while Jalen Shelley started for the Trojans against Chattanooga.
- F Saint Thomas led USC with nine assists (all in the first half).
- USC's largest lead of the game was 12 points with 10:41 remaining in the first half.
- Tonight marked the second consecutive game for the Trojans with more than 25 points off the bench (27 tonight, 41 against Chattanooga).
- USC recorded more than 20 assists and 30 points in the paint for the second time this season.
- Since 2019, USC is now 83-18 in games when the Trojans score 70.
- USC is now 213-84 in 19 seasons at the Galen Center and 106-25 in nonconference games at Galen.
- USC's next game will be on Wednesday, Nov. 13 against UT Arlington at the Galen Center. Tipoff is scheduled for 8 p.m. PT and the game will air on the Big Ten Network.

COACH ERIC MUSSELMAN QUOTES:

On Saint Thomas' performance:

"Saint was unbelievable at the point guard position with nine assists in the first half when Desmond Claude had two fouls. I don't know too many guys that have nine assists at halftime that play his position."

On message to the team after tonight's game:

"I think one we have to get healthy, and two we have to get back and look at the areas that hurt us. It's hard to simulate rebounding - we have a million rebounding drills, but I think you get minimal out of that. You have to do it in a game. You have to box out better, but we have to drill it because that's unacceptable - our defensive rebounding tonight."

On positive's from tonight's game:

"There were some positives, with our 20 assists. That's a lot of assists in a college basketball game, and causing 17 turnovers."

On work that need's to be done:

"We have to rebound the ball better, that's plain and simple. You can't have two defensive rebounds from your centers, especially when you play in the big ten."

SAINT THOMAS QUOTES:

On last minute three:

"I knew I was going to have to step up and either hit a big shot or some free throws, so I decided I just had to take off the mask."

On playing the point guard position tonight:

"It's probably the first year that I've experienced playing the point and being a leader for this team and running the offense, but I think I was prepared for it."

On team outlook:

"I'm feeling very good about this team. I've said since the start that I think we can make a run late in March Madness, but it starts with just being disciplined."

On approach to playing:

"I know the players, they respond to how I react or how I show up in practice or my approach to the day. So my approach to the day, every day, is that I want to get better. I want to dominate. So if I go like that every day, I know I'm going to make the guys better."