



USC vs. UCLA
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.
Saturday, January 27, 2024
Final: USC 50, UCLA 65

- With the 65-50 loss tonight, USC fell to 8-12, 2-7 and UCLA improved to 9-11, 4-5. USC had won its last five home games against UCLA at the Galen Center.
- USC has lost 5 consecutive games for the first time since losing nine consecutive games in the 2015 season.
- USC scored a season-low 50 points tonight. The last time USC scored less points in a game was when it fell 72-40 at Washington on Jan. 5, 2020. The 50 points against UCLA were USC's fewest against the Bruins since losing 55-40 on March 7, 2012 in the conference tournament.
- USC fell to 0-9 this season when trailing at halftime.
- USC led 22-15 with 7:29 remaining in the first half, but UCLA went on a 22-4 run to close out the half and forge a 37-26 lead at the break. USC made 42.9 percent of its first-half shots, while UCLA made 40 percent. UCLA had 10 offensive rebounds in the first half compared to USC's zero and UCLA outscored USC 11-0 on second-chance points in the first half.
- USC held UCLA to 35.7 percent shooting and over the last three games has held the opposition to 39.8 percent shooting (78-for-196).
- USC was outrebounded 43-29, outscored 22-14 on points in the paint and outscored 17-4 on second chance points.
- Fifth-year guard Boogie Ellis had missed USC's last three game with a sore left hamstring. He scored 8 of USC's first 10 points tonight. He finished with 8 points and 3 assists.
- Sophomore guard Oziyah Sellers led USC with 10 points on 3-for-3 shooting and going 2-for-2 from the free throw line. Tonight was his fifth game this season scoring in double figures. Sellers has averaged 11.3 points per game in USC's last four contests. Sellers was 2-for-2 from three-point range tonight and has made 16 of his last 29 three-point attempts (55.2 percent).
- USC started a lineup of guards Boogie Ellis and Kobe Johnson and forwards DJ Rodman, Vincent Iwuchukwu and Josh Morgan for the first time.
- Redshirt senior forward Joshua Morgan had 6 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists and 4 blocks tonight. He now has 133 career blocks for USC which moves him into sole possession of fourth place on USC's all-time career blocks list. Chimezie Metu with 168 blocks is in third.
- USC as a team had 10 blocks tonight, its most since registering 13 blocks vs. Seton Hall on Nov. 23. USC entered the game with 724 blocks over the last 5 seasons which ranked eighth nationally.
- In USC's five-game losing streak, it has been outscored 75-49 at the free throw line.
- USC's next game will be on Feb. 1 vs. Oregon. The game will start at 7:30 p.m. and air on ESPN.

ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

Opening Statement

"A tough game for our players tonight. Came out and played pretty well defensively, the first half, until the seven-minute mark we had that lead and gave up some threes. Fouled some three-point shooters, a couple of them, three of them to be exact, but we battled. Unfortunately, as well as we played defensively at times tonight, we just not did not play very well offensively with our shot-making finishing around the rim. We just couldn't get a lot of easy baskets and unfortunately, got outplayed in certain areas tonight and I take the blame for that."

On struggling at the end of first-halves

"Sometimes it's the whole game that's tough. You know, I'm not sure about the ends of the first half; I haven't really tracked that as far as sometimes the beginning of the second half though sometimes beginning the game. So we looked at a 40 minute game."

On struggling to rebound:

"We started a big lineup, so we thought it'd be a little more effective than that. We held them to 35% from the field for the game, 28 in the second half and started out the game very well, mixed zone and man up and had a little trouble rebounding out of the zone as long shots missed, but then they hurt us on the



offensive glass. Bona put a lot of pressure on us and if he didn't get the ball he was creating sometimes too, as we were blocking him out."

JOSH MORGAN QUOTES:

On rebounding discrepancy:

"I've got to give it to Adem Bona, he's a very good rebounder who plays hard every possession. All of our bigs, that's really on us. There's not much excuse for that. It doesn't really matter what they were doing at the end of the day, it's me and the other bigs, we have to step up and rebound.

On what changed defensively as the game progressed:

"I think our zone got exposed a little bit. There were definitely some rotational errors, and for whatever reason we had a little bit of a defensive lapse. They capitalized on it, and they just ran with it from the end of the first half all the way to the end of the game."

On the vibe in the locker room

"I'm sure coach [Enfield] has talked about it, we try to keep as positive as possible. It's no secret that this season hasn't gone exactly the way we've wanted it to. But at the end of the day, no one's in there making it a very toxic environment, no one's pointing fingers at each other, no one's doing any of that. At the end of the day, we're a team. We're a family, that's what you always preach for any team. We're obviously frustrated, and any team in this situation would be, but we try to keep it as together as possible."

BOOGIE ELLIS QUOTES:

On UCLA's heavy second half defense:

"I feel like they did a good job of denying the guards, making it where we had to backdoor a lot and just taking away the guards from getting the ball. They did a great job with that, and I feel like that's why our offense was kind of stagnant. We were getting denied the ball."

On moving forward through the season:

"There's supposed to be a sense of urgency — when we lost that first game. Going into February, I feel like we have to lock in and stack up some wins. Everything we're doing now is preparing for the Pac-12 tournament. We have to get sound defensively, get our offense figured out. I feel like we're doing a great job defensively, we're holding teams 35% from the fields, doing things like that. We just have to figure it out offensively. I feel like we have to be able to put the ball in the basket. From here on out, I feel like we just need to focus on doing what we can do, taking it one game at a time, getting better for the Pac-12 tournament — because we have to win.

On Trojan offense with Isaiah out:

"I feel like other guys have to step up. I feel like [Isaiah Collier] does a great job getting into the paint, and he draws a lot of attention. Teams can't really sit in the gaps as much, because he's gonna find an open shooter. I just feel like we just have to continue to move the ball, make our open shots, feed the ball in the post, play inside out, and get these guys touches. At the end of the day, we just want to make shots."

UCLA HEAD COACH MICK CRONIN:

On the game and team trajectory: "Look you know we did what we needed to do, we just keep focused on trying to get better. Obviously we feel we should have won four in a row so it is where it's at. We would only be the game away sitting at five and four from being at my approach, we let Oregon slip away and we definitely let Arizona get away from us"

On Devin Williams: "Devin, you know he hasn't played a lot so we you know, Berke (Buyuktuncel, F, Fr.) got hurt early in the week. So he knew he was going to play and I told him don't hesitate and shoot the ball with an open that's been the theme that we've been really working hard on and Aday the same thing."



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On scoring: "At halftime I believe we had, you can look it up, we had 14 or 15 more shots than USC hard to lose. You got to be up and the truth of it is look second half we didn't get the ball in the basket very well. We had a stretch and missed free throws and miss shots or we could really get away from it."

On USC: "Andy's a great coach. Obviously losing Collier threw everything off for them. They get too many guys in and out. Too many guys hurt, not hurt, and he'll find a way to show he always has since I've been in LA."

On his first win in Galen: "It's gonna feel good and about. I don't have that traffic. When I'm in that backyard smoking a Cohibas is when it's gonna feel real good."

On the youth of his team: "Look, we lost our five leading scorers from last year and replaced them with Lazar and seven freshmen. So we're gonna have growth spurts, you know, we're figuring it out. I've been telling you, the guys that covers the most great kids on this team, they listened and they try. It's my job to get them in position to have success and we know staffs been continuing trying to make adjustments. You know, we dealt with Berke (Buyuktuncel, F, Fr.) being out this week. He's day to day, bang his wrist, hopefully he'll be back for the next game."

"These guys never played together, they don't already know each other, you gotta go through some things together. But again, you find out who you are when times are tough. And there's no you know, they're great when you have great kids. And you make it about them and try them trying to get better, and not what people are saying. And all the stuff people want to say when we struggle."

On turning a corner: "We'll see, just gotta keep trying, make it about them and their development, that you guys get better individually. The team will continue to do well. That's what I try to make it about"