



USC vs. Arizona State
Galen Center • Los Angeles, Calif.
Thursday, March 7, 2024
Final: USC 81, Arizona State 73

- With the 81-73 win tonight, USC improved 13-17, 7-12 and Arizona State fell to 14-16, 8-11. USC won its eighth consecutive game at the Galen Center against ASU and is 8-2 overall in its last 10 games against the Sun Devils.
- USC has won consecutive games for the first time since Jan. 3 and Jan. 6 vs. California and Stanford respectively.
- USC has won 3 of its last 4 games and 5 of its last 9 games.
- USC and Arizona State were tied at 32 at halftime. USC made 37.0 percent of its first-half shots, while ASU made 47.8 percent of its shots before the break. USC outrebounded Arizona State 18-12 in the first half.
- USC improved to 2-0 when tied at the half this season.
- USC outrebounded Arizona State 32-22 and improved to 8-5 this season when it outrebounds the opposition.
- USC was outshot 50.0 percent to 45.8 percent tonight. USC is now 2-12 in games it is outshot by the opposition this season.
- Freshman guard Isaiah Collier had 8 points and 5 assists tonight. He now has 100 assists, just outside of the USC freshman all-time top 10 in assists, despite missing 6 games due to injury. Daniel Hackett (2007) ranks 10th with 103 steals as a USC freshman.
- Fifth-year guard Boogie Ellis scored 8 of USC's first 13 points tonight (13-4 lead 4:37 into the game). He then picked up 2 fouls and was limited to 9:01 minutes of action in the first half. He finished with 28 points on 8 of 12 shooting, 6 of 8 from three-point range. He now has 218 career three-pointers as a Trojan, tying for fifth with Brandon Granville (1999-02) on USC's all-time three-point baskets made list. It was Ellis' fifth game this season scoring 28 or more points and the 10th of his career.
- Junior guard Kobe Johnson scored 15 points tonight, his most points in a game since scoring a season-best 21 points vs. Stanford on Jan. 6. He also 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 blocks and a steal. He had his streak of four consecutive games with 4 steals snapped. It was just the 9th time a Pac-12 player had accomplished the feat since the 1996-97 season. The last major conference player with five consecutive games with four or more assists was Chris Paul of Wake Forest in the 2003-04 season. Johnson was 3-for-5 from three-point range tonight and over the last 8 games is 11-for-24 from beyond the arc (45.8 percent).
- Redshirt senior forward Joshua Morgan scored 8 points, had 8 rebounds and a block. The eight rebounds were his most in a game since registering 9 rebounds vs. Brown on Nov. 19. Morgan also matched a career high with 6 free throws made (6-for-6). He was also 6-for-6 at California on Nov. 30, 2022.
- There were 44 fouls called in tonight's game. ASU's 30 FT attempts were the most by a Trojan opponent since Oregon State took 31 against USC on Dec. 30. USC's 30 FT attempts were its most since taking 36 FTs vs. Long Beach State on Dec. 10.
- Arizona State made 36 of 49 free throws in the two games against the Trojans (73.5 percent). For the season, the Sun Devils were shooting 66.0 percent from the line.
- USC held Arizona State to 18.8 percent shooting from beyond the arc, matching the season low by a Trojan opponent (Seton Hall also 3-for-16, 18.8 percent). In 5 of the previous 7 games, USC's opponent had made over 40 percent of its shots from three-point range.
- USC played before 6,384 fans tonight, its 21st game this season playing before crowds of 6,000 or more. The last season USC played in more games in front of crowds of 6,000 or more was the 2008-09 season when it played 23 of 35 games in front of crowds of 6,000 or more.
- USC started a lineup of guards Boogie Ellis, Isaiah Collier and Kobe Johnson, and forwards DJ Rodman and Joshua Morgan. This lineup was USC's season-opening lineup. USC is now 9-4 in games with this starting lineup.
- Forward Arrinton Page missed tonight's game with flu-like symptoms.
- USC's next game and final regular season game will be on March 9 vs. No. 5 Arizona. The game will start at 7:00 p.m. and air on ESPN.



ANDY ENFIELD QUOTES:

Opening Statement:

"Nice win for our guys, teams playing pretty well. Happy to have a couple game winning streak now and now we need to prepare for our last regular season game on Saturday."

On the rebounding and second chance success:

"We outrebounded them offensively and defensively, we had 32 rebounds and nine offensive. Arizona State has a lot of strengths, they're very active on defense, they steal the ball a lot, they pressure you, they press you, and one thing we can do is rebound against them, because usually they're out of position and they're not a great offensive rebounding team. They have a lot of strengths and they're hard to play against. They draw a lot of fouls, they also foul a lot. So there were 60 free throws tonight and I thought both teams fouled too much. I thought it was a very physical game and just proud of our guys to be able to go to the foul line and do well enough to win the game."

On scoring 49 in the second half:

"I thought we shared the ball, 18 assists and we made our free throws, we were aggressive, we drove it. They're so aggressive defensively. They overplay, they hand shack, they reach and they try to steal the ball in every possession, so we were strong with it. We were able to get to the rim. I thought our guys found Boogie a few times, we played some set plays to get him going. We ran a couple of set plays for Kobe, he knocked down two threes on screening action and because Collier had foul trouble, we really had to rely on some of the guys stepping up and they did."

On Boogie's impact:

"Well, he's helped us win a lot of games, the last two years. We came in second in the league last year. I think we were in the second or third year before and went to the NCAA tournament both years. He was a big part of that, a big part of our success. Unfortunately, he got hurt in November, in the second game and was out for a while and really hurt himself with his hamstring and he's had a very up and down season because of his injuries. It's really affected him, so I'm glad he's back. Two and a half, three weeks ago was the first time all season since the injuries where he had a bounce in his step, he's playing harder. Other than the Washington State game, where he was off, he's really looked like the guy that we all have known and expect, but he's come a long way in decision making, defense, his playmaking, his scoring. So he's playing very well right now."

BOOGIE ELLIS QUOTES:

On the game:

"Just locking in on the details, I had a couple of slip ups on defense in the second half. Overall, as a team, I felt like we defended pretty well. We just got to, you know, stay down on Perez (Jose Perez, GS ASU), but we got the stops when we needed to. It was great to close out the game."

On what was working well for him tonight:

"Just taking what the defense gives me, taking my open shots. They were going for the under screen a lot, so just work on that a lot, just start to shoot the ball, they're going under. I was just, really in the moment, just trying to stay even keel, not trying to think about it, just taking it play by play."

On team chemistry:

"I feel like when we have the ball moving in, everybody's making shots is one where we're at our best. This year, we won a lot of games with multiple, high assists games. I felt like 18 assists is really good for us, that's above our goal. But I feel like if we do that, we just gotta continue to build on that. When we move the ball like that, get out in transition, everybody eats."

On playing Arizona on Saturday:

"Just treating everything as an opportunity. We're obviously blessed to play the game that we love, play my last game in the Galen Center. Just taking that as an opportunity, at just being humble and treating it as a blessing."



On his final games with USC:

"I've definitely come a long way, definitely accomplished a lot, but, I'm just focused on trying to get better, 1% better every day. I'm, doing whatever it takes, first of all on this run, because it's very important to me to go win and finish strong."

KOBE JOHNSON QUOTES:

On keeping this group together:

"We're playing well. I think over the past few games, we've really shown how good we can be. There's a few games here and there which we gave away ourselves — the other team didn't beat us, we beat ourselves. I think once we just clean up, hold the lead, and figure out how to finish out games, I don't think there's anybody who can beat us. I think there's a really strong chance we're gonna make a strong run here in the Pac-12 tournament. We just have to keep doing what we do and let the results live with themselves."

On the team coming back from early season injuries:

"Injuries have played a huge part throughout the season, but injuries happen — you have to deal with them, you still have to play the game. Once we got our whole team back, we just started playing our way and started to lock in, and then we knew what to do. We started playing well with each other. I think we just keep on going, and we're going to be fine."

On keeping leads at the end of games:

"We just do stuff that we kill ourselves on — it's not that the team is doing anything special, we mess ourselves up. We just have to be smarter in those situations. Whether it's going for a steal if you don't have it, we just have to be smarter than those situations and take care of the ball. We get sped up and start taking quick shots, stupid shots, or even turn the ball over; but tonight we did a good job of staying calm and handling the pressure very well."

On evolving offensively:

"When I had that little shooting slump throughout the middle of the year, at that time I was just trying to force stuff just because I believe in [Isaiah], and we had a lot of people out. I felt like I had to do a lot more than I needed to. Now that we have everybody out there, everybody knows the roles, and I know my role. I'm going to take what's given to me and take advantage when the defense isn't paying attention to me. But I think everybody's roles are figured out now. I'm just playing with all the best I can."

ARIZONA STATE HEAD COACH BOBBY HURLEY:

On the game:

"We had foul issues in the first half, I was concerned at halftime. So we don't play nine minutes, the first half and then wonder if the sky is going to come out. We've missed a couple of assignments on defense."

On USC:

"We knew they have multiple weapons to use. We let them get away from us with 12 for 24 from three."

On ASU's play:

"I thought that we played pretty well on offense, shot 50%, and made as many field goals as them. Free throw differential wasn't significant. 17 assists, 6 turnovers so that ratio is really good. We shared the ball, played away on offense and just got to do a better job of defense."