

WEEK THIRTEEN
UCLA at USC

Slovris throws for record 515 yards, USC holds off UCLA 52-35

LOS ANGELES -- Kedon Slovis didn't grow up in the Los Angeles area, and Southern California's rivalry with UCLA doesn't yet loom as large for him it does for his fellow Trojans and Bruins playing against lifelong friends for yearlong bragging rights. When USC's freshman quarterback got his first taste of the famed crosstown showdown Saturday, he still took one enormous bite. Slovis passed for a school-record 515 yards and threw four touchdown passes in USC's 52-35 victory over UCLA in the schools' 89th meeting. Slovis and four 100-yard receivers carried the Trojans (8-4, 7-2 Pac-12) to the Victory Bell with another landmark performance in the 18-year-old passer's shockingly impressive debut season. During his fourth 400-yard performance in the last five games, Slovis surpassed Matt Barkley's single-game USC records against UCLA and against any opponent in the fourth quarter while coordinator Graham Harrell's offense racked up 643 yards.

"It's obviously an honor to be up on that list, (but) it's just a testament to the players around me," said Slovis, who also surpassed the school's single-season freshman yards passing record. "Any of you (reporters) in here could probably throw for 100 yards with these receivers." Michael Pittman Jr. caught two touchdown passes and Vavae Malepeai rushed for two scores as the Trojans wrapped up their regular season with their 16th win in the last 21 meetings with UCLA. Drake London and Tyler Vaughns also caught TD passes while USC survived a tumultuous second half at the Coliseum and eliminated the rival Bruins (4-7, 4-4) from bowl contention.

A year after UCLA's Joshua Kelley broke the crosstown showdown's rushing yardage record, Slovis broke its passing record while leading USC to its 10th win in the Bruins' last 11 visits to the Coliseum. Slovis also had his third consecutive 400-yard passing game -- another first in USC's lengthy history.

Not bad for a freshman who only got a shot to play as a freshman because of J.T. Daniels' season-ending knee injury.

"No, I didn't see him becoming the new superstar quarterback of college football," Pittman said with a grin.

Dorian Thompson-Robinson passed for 367 yards with TD throws to Demetric Felton, Devin Asiase and Chase Cota for the Bruins, who will finish with four consecutive losing records for the first time since 1921-24, shortly after the school was established in 1919. Asiase finished with a career-high 141 yards receiving.

"They had very good quarterback play and many receivers that can beat you," Chip Kelly said. "It's a seasoned offensive football team."

After Kelly won his first game in the rivalry last year, USC beat the Bruins for the fourth time in five years under embattled head coach Clay Helton. After starting 3-3 this year, USC finished the regular season with five wins in six games.

"It means a whole lot, especially based off of last year and what happened, and wanting to change the narrative and fix that.," USC defensive end Christian Rector said. "I think we did that as a team."

With both teams wearing their home jerseys in accordance with rivalry tradition, USC scored 28 consecutive points after falling behind 10-7 early. The Bruins hung around with TD catches by Asiase and Cota, but Slovis hit Vaughns with a 49-yard TD pass on the opening snap of the fourth quarter. On USC's final scoring drive capped by Stephen Carr's TD run, Slovis blew past Barkley's USC-record 493 yards passing against Arizona in 2012.

"It is frustrating, but we made a lot of mistakes," UCLA receiver Kyle Philips said. "We didn't take advantage of their mistakes. We put up a decent amount of points, but left a lot on the table."

HELTON'S FUTURE

Unless Pac-12 South leader Utah stumbles late in the season, the Trojans have likely earned a trip to the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio on New Year's Eve. Whether they'll make it with Helton remains to be seen.

Fan calls for Helton's ouster have remained strong this year, but new university president Carol Folt and athletic director Mike Bohn haven't announced a plan. A decision is expected, but not guaranteed, before USC begins its bowl preparations.

"USC is an extremely special place, and always will be," Helton said. "It doesn't matter if I'm the coach or you're the coach."

CATCHES IN BUNCHES

A school-record four Trojans topped 100 yards receiving, and two Bruins also hit the mark. No game between Power Five teams had featured six 100-yard receivers since 2012, when Baylor and West Virginia did it.

"This is Wide Receiver U here," Vaughns said. "At any point in time, we have great receivers coming in and out of here, so I mean just knowing that, we are Wide Receiver U."

THE TAKEAWAY

UCLA: The Bruins will miss out on a bowl game in three of four years for the first time since 1989-92, and Kelly's rebuilding project still has little traction after two seasons, even after a strong second half by the offense in this rivalry game. UCLA has given up 101 points in its last two games, guaranteeing another long winter without a bowl in Westwood. Next season looms large for Kelly and his credibility as a coach.

USC: Helton's future will dominate discussion until it is resolved, but his Trojans showed impressive resilience after a brutal first half of the schedule. Going 8-4 would be enough to keep most jobs, but USC's weak recruiting traction and widespread fan dissatisfaction won't be resolved by this victory.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
UCLA	7	7	14	7	35
USC	10	14	14	14	52

Scoring Summary -----

	UCLA	USC
FIRST QUARTER		
UCLA TD 11:08 Demetric Felton 9 Yd pass from Dorian Thompson-Robinson (JJ Molson Kick)		
9 plays, 83 yards, 3:52	7	0
USC FG 6:13 Chase McGrath 31 Yd Field Goal		
6 plays, 55 yards, 2:09	7	3
USC TD 1:40 Vavae Malepeai 1 Yd Run (Chase McGrath Kick)		
5 plays, 83 yards, 1:42	7	10
SECOND QUARTER		
UCLA TD 13:16 Dorian Thompson-Robinson 3 Yd Run (JJ Molson Kick)		
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:24	14	10
USC TD 9:39 Michael Pittman Jr. 1 Yd pass from Kedon Slovis (Chase McGrath Kick)		
10 plays, 75 yards, 3:37	14	17
USC TD 2:06 Michael Pittman Jr. 4 Yd pass from Kedon Slovis (Chase McGrath Kick)		
8 plays, 64 yards, 3:37	14	24
THIRD QUARTER		
USC TD 13:26 Drake London 32 Yd pass from Kedon Slovis (Chase McGrath Kick)		
5 plays, 75 yards, 1:34	14	31
USC TD 8:20 Vavae Malepeai 8 Yd Run (Chase McGrath Kick)		
11 plays, 88 yards, 3:26	14	38
UCLA TD 6:20 Devin Asiase 53 Yd pass from Dorian Thompson-Robinson (JJ Molson Kick)		
5 plays, 75 yards, 2:00	21	38
UCLA TD 1:54 Chase Cota 7 Yd pass from Dorian Thompson-Robinson (JJ Molson Kick)		
8 plays, 73 yards, 2:54	28	38
FOURTH QUARTER		
USC TD 14:52 Tyler Vaughns 49 Yd pass from Kedon Slovis (Chase McGrath Kick)		
5 plays, 76 yards, 2:02	28	45
UCLA TD 12:16 Joshua Kelley 1 Yd Run (JJ Molson Kick)		
10 plays, 74 yards, 2:36	35	45
USC TD 8:39 Stephen Carr 2 Yd Run (Chase McGrath Kick)		
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:37	35	52

Team Stats	UCLA	USC
First Downs	27	34
Passes for First	15	22
Rushes for First	10	9
Penalties for First	2	3
Third Down Efficiency	5-17	4-10
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-4	0-0
Total Yards	540	643
Total Plays	88	79
Avg Gain Per Play	6.1	8.1
Net Yards Rushing	157	128
Rushes	39	32
Yards Per Rush	4.0	4.0
Net Yards Passing	383	515
Comp-Att	30-49	37-47
Yards Per Pass	7.8	11.0
Times Sacked	3	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-21	-29
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	5	3
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	10	7
Penalty Yards	73	57
Fumbles	0	2
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of Poss	31:24	28:36

Individual Stats

RUSHING

UCLA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Dorian Thompson-Robinson	16	64	4.0	1	26
Joshua Kelley	15	45	3.0	1	11
Kazmeir Allen	4	39	9.8	0	23
Austin Burton	2	6	3.0	0	6
Demetric Felton	2	3	1.5	0	5
USC	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Stephen Carr	11	87	7.9	1	46
Vavae Malepeai	10	60	6.0	2	11
Kenan Christon	2	9	4.5	0	6
Kedon Slovis	6	-13	-2.2	0	7
Team	3	-15	-5.0	0	0

PASSING

UCLA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Dorian Thompson-Robinson	26	44	367	8.3	3	1	55.8
Austin Burton	4	5	16	3.2	0	0	59.9
USC	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Kedon Slovis	37	47	515	11.0	4	0	88.3

RECEIVING

UCLA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Devin Asiase	5	141	28.2	1	53
Kyle Philips	12	123	10.3	0	38
Demetric Felton	6	50	8.3	1	19
Jordan Wilson	2	26	13.0	0	14
Chase Cota	3	24	8.0	1	10
Jaylen Erwin	1	10	10.0	0	10
Joshua Kelley	1	9	9.0	0	9
USC	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Drake London	8	142	17.8	1	46
Amon-Ra St. Brown	8	128	16.0	0	24
Tyler Vaughns	6	106	17.7	1	49
Michael Pittman Jr.	13	104	8.0	2	13
Stephen Carr	1	21	21.0	0	21
Kenan Christon	1	14	14.0	0	14