Saturday February 16, 2019

Louisville 38, Syracuse 35

Louisville holds off Syracuse's late push

AJ Zarcone (22 points, 9 rebounds, 3 steals, 2 blocks) started out on fire for Louisville, scoring 8 points in the 1st quarter alone. However, Syracuse battled back, thanks to Quinn Haynes (15 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals) leading the flow of the 'Cuse offense. Quinn had 4 points in the 1st quarter, while Blake Denhaese (6 points, 3 rebounds) and Nick Worineki added jumpers. At the end of the 1st quarter, the score was tied at 8.

The score was also tied at 19 at half-time, as each team matched each other step-for-step. Zarcone hit an early 3 in the quarter, and then added another lay-up to give his team a 13-8 lead. Ryan Tuite (10 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal) quietly had his best game of the season, hitting a 3 pointer in the 2nd quarter to stop the bleeding for Syracuse. Ethan Whitehead answered back with a basket for Louisville before Quinn Haynes and Jaedon Zalewski (2 points, 11 rebounds) combined for 8 points in the frame, to give Syracuse a 2 point lead. Right before the buzzer sounded however, Whitehead took a nice drive to the basket to tie the game at 19.

Louisville dominated play in the 3rd quarter. Zarcone dropped 7 points, including a 3-pointer, and Nick Woods dominated in the paint, securing loose rebounds to add 4 points. Liam Mcnamara (6 points, 6 rebounds) also hit a jump shot. Louisville's success was based on their defense in the quarter, as Blake Denhaese was the only Syracuse player to find the score sheet, with 4 points. Louisville held a commanding 32-24 lead heading into the 4th.

Louisville started the 4th quarter right where they left off, as Whitehead hit another jumper. Although they were down 10, Syracuse would claw back. Quinn Hanes had a basket, and then Ryan Tuite hit a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 6 with 2 minutes remaining. After baskets by Zarcone and Mcnamara, the Louisville lead was back to 8. However, Quinn Haynes then scored on a drive to the basket, and cut the lead back to 6 points. Ryan Tuite would then hit another 3-pointer to cut the lead back to 3 points, with under a minute remaining. However, Louisville would hold on , moving the ball ahead of Syracuse pressure, to prevent them from fouling.

Syracuse did have a chance to tie at the end of regulation, however Ethan Whitehead had the game-winning block. Louisville held on to win, 38-35.