Saturday February 2, 2019

Notre Dame 30, Louisville 27

Notre Dame pulls away from Louisville

Notre Dame's 10-0 run to start the game was put in jeprody after Louisville got rolling in the 2nd half. It was all Notre Dame for the first quarter and a half, as they jumped out to a 14 point lead. Henry Hughes and Michael Shapiro worked in unison, controlling the pace of play. Hughes (8 points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal) and Shapiro (4 points, 20 rebounds, 2 assists) made life difficult for Louisville in the first half. Their hard work also opened up lanes for Derek Jelen (4 points, 7 rebounds, 2 steals) and Evan Eodice (4 points) to get easy shots and contribute to the lead. Shapiro dominated the boards in the half as well. At halftime, the score was 14-5 in favor of Notre Dame.

Louisville began to turn the tides in their favor beginning in the middle of the 2nd quarter. Patrick McNeil (13 points, 2 rebounds, 4 steals, 1 block) had an immediate impact on the game when he arrived, opening up lanes for all of his teammates.

Louisville had control for much of the 2nd half, in an attempt to claw back into the game. In the 3rd quarter, McNeil had 6 points. Owen Tylec (6 points, 1 rebound) also did a great job of getting into the paint by using a quick cross-over, scoring a basket and hitting Nick Woods with a nice pass. Notre Dame found offense in spurts, as Henry Hughes hit 2 quick baskets, and Landen Schult worked hard in the paint to score 4 points (8 points, 9 rebounds). At the end of the 3rd quarter, Notre Dame's lead was cut, leading 22-17.

The 4th quarter featured some clutch plays by each team. Patrick McNeil and AJ Zarcone (6 points, 5 rebounds) used their speed and size to score a combined 6 points in the quarter. Their presence also opened up lanes for Tylec, who drained back-to-back jumpers.

With the score 23-20 in favor of Notre Dame, Zarcone made a lay-up to cut the score to 1. On the next 2 plays for Notre Dame, Schult made back-to-back baskets to give Notre Dame a 27-22 lead. Zarcone hit another lay-up to once again cut the lead.

Out of a time-out, Henry Hughes hit a beautiful corner jumper that hit nothing but net, in what would be the game-winner, with 45 seconds remaining. Although Louisville would score again, it was ultimately too little, too late, as Notre Dame was able to hang on and win, 30-27.