

Saturday February 2, 2019

UCLA 27, Syracuse 19

UCLA runs away from Syracuse late

UCLA and Syracuse played stride for stride until the final 3 minutes, when UCLA ran away with the game, thanks to Josiah Oliver's 10 4th quarter points (17 total, 7 rebounds, 1 assist).

The first quarter featured a great defensive effort from each team, making it difficult for either defense to find any rhythm. For UCLA, Joshiah scored 3 points. On Syracuse's side of the ball, Jaedon Zalewski (2 points, 17 rebounds, 2 steals) hauled in 6 rebounds, and Greg Johnson (2 points, 10 rebounds, 3 blocks) grabbed 3. Ayden Woolston (7 points, 5 rebounds, 1 steal) scored in the first quarter, as did Blake Denhaese (8 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals). At the end of the 1st quarter, Syracuse led 4-3.

Aydenn Woolston and Josiah Oliver battled all day long, as each team played especially hard in their match-up. In the second quarter, Josiah Oliver added 5 quick points, and Jayden Mayville added a basket. Henry Millar also worked hard at established his presence in the paint, carving out space on his basket among the tall players of Syracuse. On Syracuse, Woolston hit a bank 3 from the top of the arc, and Greg Johnson had a nifty basket after fighting hard for the ball inside. At half-time, UCLA led 12-9.

Each team continued to battle in the second-half, as the 3rd quarter ended up tied at 15. Although Connor West of UCLA scored 3 quick points early in the quarter, Syracuse did their best to stick around. In the second half of the quarter, they did their best to sieze the opportunity to try and claw back.

They did claw back in the 3rd, as Ayden Woolston scored a lay-up off a steal from Ryan Tuite, and Blake Denhaese hit 2 clutch jump-shots near the end of the quarter.

At the start of the 4th quarter, each team played great defense. Blake Denhaese did a great job of disrupting jump shooters, and Greg Johnson worked hard in the defensive paint. With about 3 minutes to go, the game was tied at 19.

However, then Josiah Oliver went off. In the final 3 minutes, Oliver scored 8 points off a mixture of drives to the basket and free throws. Connor West also did a great job of setting screens for Oliver, and hit the dagger basket with 30 seconds remaining. Ultimately, UCLA's speed was too much for Syracuse to contain.

UCLA defeated Syracuse 27-19.