

Saturday March 2, 2019

UNC 28, Syracuse 26

UNC outbattles Syracuse

UNC vs. Syracuse is an early season candidate for “game of the year” as each team played their hearts out in the 28-26 victory for UNC. UNC had a strong start during the first quarter and a half. Nash Rieselmann (16 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals) and Andrew Barnes established that this game would be played in the paint, using their size to control the flow of the game. In the 1st quarter, Rieselmann scored 4 points on takes to the basket, while Andrew Barnes added 4 points of his own. Dylan Franusiak (10 rebounds, 2 blocks) also had an overall solid game in the paint. The size of UNC caused a lot of trouble for Syracuse, as their typical offensive attack needed to be adapted. At the end of the 1st quarter, UNC held a 10-5 lead.

UNC would extend their lead to 15-7 before Syracuse gained some momentum early in the quarter. Rieselmann and Barnes combined for the 5 points in the quarter, as Rieselmann hit a 3-pointer to start off the quarter. However, Syracuse did come back after they began to move the ball to break down the UNC defense. Jaedon Zalewski (6 points, 7 rebounds, 4 steals, 2 blocks) scored in the paint, and then Quinn Haynes (5 points, 3 rebounds, 3 steals) added a nice take to the hoop for 2 more. Ayden Woolston then had a huge 3-pointer right before the half to bring the game back within reach. At half-time, UNC led 15-12.

The 2nd-half featured some of the best basket the league has seen this season, as each team answered each other’s calls. For Syracuse, Ayden Woolston (10 points, 1 rebound, 2 assists, 3 steals) was a man on a mission in the 3rd quarter, racking up 7 points in the span of 3 minutes by pressuring the ball and getting steals. He worked in tandem with Quinn Haynes, who helped push the ball up the court in the frame. Jaedon Zalewski also added a basket for Syracuse. While this was occurring, Nash Rieselmann added another 5 points to match what Syracuse put up, and Andrew Barnes added another 2. During the quarter, Zack Smith had 2 assists on their baskets. At the end of the 3rd quarter, the game was tied at 22.

The 4th quarter was once again back-and-forth. Nash Rieselmann scored an early basket, and then Zack Smith added 2 shots. However, Syracuse came back, as Greg Johnson (4 points, 10 rebounds, 2 blocks) had 4 points and 4 rebounds in the quarter, using his size to battle downlow. Quinn Haynes did a good job of pushing the pace for Syracuse, despite running into the size of UNC. Syracuse had some opportunities to score, however, UNC’s defense did not break. Late in the 4th quarter, with the game tied at 26, Nash Rieselmann worked hard downlow and finished over the Syracuse defenders, giving his team the two point lead. Each team had opportunities to score, but the defense was too strong. UNC held on to win 28-26.