

Saturday March 9, 2019

Syracuse 32, Notre Dame 31

Syracuse holds on to defeat Notre Dame

Syracuse vs Notre Dame lived up to the March Madness hype, as Syracuse squeaked away from Notre Dame, 32-31. At the end of the first quarter, the game was tied at 5.

The game opened up in the 2nd quarter. Syracuse went on a run early in the quarter, but then Notre Dame clawed back. A slew of Syracuse players got them off to a hot start in the quarter, with Quinn Haynes (12 points, 12 rebounds, 7 assists, 5 steals) leading the way. In the 2nd quarter, Quinn scored 4 points, including an acrobatic drive to the basket, to go with 3 assists. He found Ayden Woolston (6 points, 8 rebounds, 3 steals) for a fast-break lay-up, while also finding Greg Johnson (10 points, 10 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal) on two of his three baskets in the frame. Ryan Tuite also added a basket late in the quarter for Syracuse.

However, Notre Dame clawed back, as Henry Hughes (14 points, 1 rebound) did a great job of distributing the ball. While he scored 4 points in the quarter, Evan Eodice and Landen Schult scored 5 points combined. At the end of the first half, Syracuse held a 19-14 lead.

Each team was tied at 25 when the buzzer sounded at the end of the 3rd quarter. Notre Dame opened the quarter on a run of their own, ultimately taking a 2 point lead. This was led by Henry Hughes, with 4 points, and Michael Shapiro (6 points, 12 rebounds, 3 blocks), who used his size to grab offensive rebounds and score 4 points on nice moves in the paint. Syracuse weathered the storm, as Ayden Woolston added another lay-up, and Quinn Haynes scored on a mid-range jumper. Ryan Tuite also added another basket, while Blake Denhaese played great defense, capping off the end of the quarter with an emphatic block.

The 4th quarter was a tightly fought battle, that came down to the last possession. Quinn Haynes was the go-to guy for Syracuse, cutting through Notre Dame pressure, to score 5 points and rip down 6 rebounds in the final frame. He also found Greg Johnson in the post for a crucial basket. Greg Johnson did a great job of locking down the paint on defense, disrupting numerous passes and shots; being a bonified rim-protector.

Derek Jelen scored 4 key points for Notre Dame to keep them at pace with Syracuse, and Henry Hughes added a basket. Michael Shapiro ripped down 4 rebounds in the final frame and had two blocks.

With 30 seconds remaining, Syracuse held a 32-31 lead. After breaking the press a couple times, they turned the ball over with 4 seconds remaining. Off the inbounds, Quinn Haynes made a heads-up play, blocking the half-court heave to seal the victory.

Syracuse held-on to defeat Notre Dame, 32-31.