

Saturday February 8, 2020

UCLA 37, Oregon 30

UCLA finishes game strong despite Oregon's late comeback

UCLA played physical defense to start the game holding Oregon to only points. Oregon would respond by in second getting offensive rebound after offensive rebound. Derek Jelen (6 points, 10 rebounds) led Oregon in rebounding while adding both a steal and a block and distributing the ball very well dishing out 5 assists.

This game was all about offense for the Bruins. 8 out of 10 total players scored throughout the game. The Bruins scoring was led by Evan Eodice (11 points, 7 rebounds) along with his scoring he good defense, getting 2 steals. Connor West was all over the court (8 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist) scoring at will and being a bully on defense with 2 blocked shots and a steal. Ryan Tuite (2 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist) led the Bruins with 3 total steals, while Sam Tortorella (2 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists) contributed on the offensive and defensive end adding a steal. Chris Desiderio (2 points, 4 rebounds) made smart passes and controlled the tempo very well, helping players like Noah Matyevich (6 points, 2 assists, 1 block) and Jacob Szlis (2 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 block) get easy looks. Jack Baker also contributed to the Bruins win adding 4 points, 5 rebounds and 1 block. Even though Matthew Schmutzler (1 rebound) and Auggie Giordano didn't score for the Bruins, they contributed on defense playing very well and switching on screens.

Oregon played extremely well throughout the game not giving up for a second. Tristan Fox (11 points, 6 rebounds) led Oregon in scoring and being a bully on the offensive glass. Chad Himmelback (8 points, 4 rebounds) played great adding second chance points for Oregon. Connor Lembke (2 points) had much needed scoring in the third quarter while Brandon Jopp (1 rebound) and Kalen Drury (6 rebounds, 1 block) added toughness on the glass grabbing important rebounds. Despite being down 29-17 at the end of the third quarter, Oregon come out firing on all cylinders to start, and finish, the fourth quarter. Nathan Schaefer (3 points, 4 rebounds) and Derek Jelen (6 points, 10 rebounds, 5 assists) made back to back, clutch threes cutting the Bruins lead to just 6 points to start the fourth quarter.

Despite losing the game, Oregon never gave up, finishing the game going on a 13-8 run throughout the fourth. The Bruins switched it up in the second quarter playing both a 2-3 zone and a 1-3-1 zone ultimately holding Oregon to 12 first half points. That didn't stop Oregon though, outscoring UCLA 18-17 in the second half, hungry for a victory.

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LSU 33, Memphis 28

LSU pulls away late after back-and-forth game for win over Memphis.

In a matchup that pit the LSU Tigers against the Memphis Tigers, it was both teams trading baskets to start. Landon Calvert (5 points, 9 rebounds, 1 steal) got the party going for LSU as he was a force in the paint scoring 5 points in the first quarter including a three pointer. Teammate Nick Argenio (13 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 4 steals, 1 block) layup took it to 7 points in the quarter for LSU. On the other side of the ball, Blake Denhaese (13 points, 6 rebounds) consistently took it to the basket and was able to score 4 points in the quarter while adding a rebound as well. William Mollosky scored a mid-range jumper to give Memphis 6. At the end of the first, it was anyone's game as the LSU led by a point, 7-6.

Memphis came out of the intermission with a mission as the team was able to connect offensively with Adam Kyler dropping 5 points including a deep three-pointer that got the crowd on their feet. Kyler also added 2 rebounds in the quarter to have a well-rounded effort. Aaron Quinn (6 points, 9 rebounds, 1 block) scored 3 points in the quarter including a layup and connecting on one of two free throws while Denhaese added 2 of his own. Nick Argenio scored 4 of his team's 7 points being able to connect from all areas of the court. To go along with Argenio's offensive performance, Evan Johnson (5 points, 3 rebounds) was able to connect from 3 with the assist from Aiden Bennett. However, it was the Memphis Tigers that gained a slight lead over the LSU Tigers by a score of 16-14 to end the half.

Coming out of the half time break, both teams continued to battle as no team gave an inch. It was a plethora of LSU Tigers that were able to score as Argenio, Dylan Burd (4 points, 3 rebounds), Calvert, and Johnson all making two point baskets to combine for 8 points in the quarter. A total team effort all around. It was a slow start offensively for Memphis as Denhaese scored 3 in the quarter from the free throw line and from attacking the basket. Aaron Quinn (6 points, 9 rebounds) also added a made free throw to give Memphis 4 points in the quarter. Although, the scoring was low the Memphis defense kept the game close at the end of the third as they trailed 22-20 at the end of the third.

As the fourth quarter commenced, Argenio from LSU was able to continue to produce on offense with multiple moves to the basket while also hitting a three that got the LSU bench on their feet as he scored 5 in the quarter. Romeon Alriche (2 points, 6 rebounds) added a layup as did Burd to keep the offense clicking. This did not phase Memphis as the team was able to keep their offensive production going with Denhaese adding 4 for Memphis early in the quarter while Quinn being able to score from the post. LSU was pulling away with under a minute left when Vinny Lodavico of the Memphis Tigers was able to grab a rebound and make a quick basket to bring the game within 5 before LSU was able to completely pull away and come away with a tough victory by a score of 33-28.

In the win, Argenio finished with 13 points, 5 rebounds, 4 steals, a block and an assist as he was able to lead his team offensively. Blake Denhaese from Memphis finished with an impressive stat line of 13 points and 6 rebounds while adding great defense.

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Syracuse 35, Louisville 33 F/OT

Late Game Heroics Give Syracuse First Win of the Season

Louisville came out on fire Saturday evening, however, it was an incredible comeback by Syracuse that earned them their first win of the season. Anthony Savino (12 points, 5 rebounds) led Louisville on both ends of the court in the first quarter, stealing the ball with ease and scoring an incredible 8 points in the frame, going coast to coast on each occasion. Sal Constantino (2 points, 7 rebounds) also hit a jumper, and Braedon Dembek (5 points, 1 rebound, 2 assists, 2 steals) scored a basket and dished out 2 assists in the frame. Louisville led 14-4 at the end of the first quarter.

Louisville continued their reign of terror in the second quarter, jumping out to a 23-11 lead at halftime. Anthony Savino continued to knock down shots, as he scored another 4 in the frame. Jayden Mayville (9 points, 4 rebounds, 2 blocks, 1 steal) knocked down a 3-pointer, while Zach Cilano (2 points, 5 rebounds) went to work in the paint scoring 2 points and ripping down two rebounds. For Syracuse, getting baskets to fall was difficult in the first half, as it seemed like the team could not buy a basket. However, things would begin to change in the third quarter.

Syracuse changed the tide in the second half, as they finally began to get shots to fall. Syracuse utilized everyone of the floor, passing the ball around and finding the best shot possible. Mateo Marazzo (9 points, 1 rebound) got the party started by hitting a 3-pointer, and then Ryan Wojtaszek (2 points, 3 rebounds) had a nice rebound and basket in the paint. Cam Gruarin (2 points, 4 rebounds) and Luke Bradley (5 points, 2 assists, 2 steals) each scored baskets in the frame, by taking the ball hard to the basket. Syracuse also locked-down on defense, only surrendering 3 points in the frame, using their speed and athleticism to stop opposing players. At the end of the 3rd quarter, Louisville held a 26-20 lead.

Each team battled in the 4th quarter. Jayden Maville stopped the bleeding for Louisville with a clutch basket to start the quarter, however, Syracuse did not get discouraged. Dom Caccamise (5 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists) then did a great job of getting to the hoop and seeing the floor, as he scored a basket, and then found Mateo Marazzo for baskets, who scored 4 clutch points in the frame. After a smooth 3-pointer by Braedon Dembek gave Louisville a 31-28 lead, Louisville looked poised to come away victorious.

However, Luke Bradley of Syracuse had other plans. After a steal by Dominic Caccamise, Dom found Luke wide-open on the wing. Luke was able to step into his shot in perfect stride, as he knocked down the clutch 3-pointer that hit nothing but net—tying the game at 31. The scored would remain tied, and the game would head to overtime.

In overtime, Louisville exchanged the first blow, with a basket by Jayden Mayville. This shot was answered by Ian Wilson (6 points, 4 rebounds, 2 steals), who completed a tough And-1 play a deep pass during an inbounds play. Ian's free-throw would give Syracuse the edge, with under 30 seconds remaining. On the next possession, Ian was fouled again, and he added a free throw, adding to the Syracuse lead. Syracuse would hold on to win, 35-33, earning them their first win of the season.

In the victory, Ryler Mnych (2 points, 3 rebounds) and Nick Woronecki (4 points, 5 rebounds, 1 block) gave Syracuse great work on both ends of the floor—doing the dirty work of

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setting screens and rebounding. Cam Guarin also did a great job of locking in on defense, while also making great reads on offense.

Despite the loss, Anthony Savino finished with 12 points and 5 rebounds, while Jayden Mayville added 9 points. Zach Cilano (2 points, 5 rebounds) was also a force in the paint on both ends of the floor, playing great help-side defense all game long, while also scoring a basket and adding 5 rebounds.