

Saturday February 1, 2020

UCLA 43, Louisville 17

UCLA Offense Erupts in Victory

UCLA and Louisville played a steady game in the first half, however, UCLA played tremendous defense in the second half, shutting down the Cardinals during the final 16 minutes. Early on, Louisville was led by the play of Anthony Battaglia, who hit a 3-pointer to start the game. Braedon Dembek also hit a 3-pointer in the 1st half, as did Makhi Spencer. Zach Cilano played tremendous defense on the afternoon, doing a great job of beating his opponent down the floor and taking away key cutting lanes.

In the first half, UCLA was led by Connor West (14 points, 5 rebounds, 4 blocks, 1 steal), Evan Eodice (6 points, 6 rebounds), and Chris Desiderio (4 points, 1 rebounds, 2 assists), who all scored 4 points during the first 16 minutes of play. Jacob Sliz (4 points, 7 rebounds) grabbed 3 rebounds earl-on, while Sam Tortorella knocked down a jump shot. At the end of the first half, UCLA held a 19-13 lead.

The second half was dominated by UCLA, as they came away with a 43-17 victory. Noah Matyevich (7 points, 2 rebounds) started the domination by scoring 7 points in the 3rd quarter, including a key three-pointer. Jack Baker (4 points), Jacob Sliz, and Ryan Tuite each scored baskets in the frame, while Connor West also scored 4 points. By the end of the 3rd quarter, UCLA held a 36-15 lead. UCLA turned up the defensive pressure during the quarter, taking steals and rebounds coast-to-coast for quick baskets.

Ultimately, UCLA defeated Louisville, 43-17. On each team's first offensive possession of the game, each team elected to take an 8-second back-court violation's in honor of Kobe and Gianna Bryant, and all others who lost their lives last Sunday. Kobe Bryant's "Mamba Mentality" is what many of our Rec Staff grew up with when playing basketball in our leagues as children, as it taught many of the workers to always play hard, regardless of the score and outcome.

Saturday was about more than just playing basketball.