

**Saturday, January 18, 2020**

**UCLA 39, Syracuse 27**

*UCLA Pulls Away From Syracuse Late*

UCLA and Syracuse played a great back-and-forth game on Saturday evening, as UCLA outlasted a scrappy Syracuse team. UCLA exchanging opening baskets, UCLA pulled away a bit in the first quarter, leading 18-10 after the frame. Connor West (27 points, 10 rebounds, 6 steals, 2 blocks) had a combination of attacks to the basket and three-point shots throughout the game, and scored 10 points in the first quarter. Dominic Caccamise (12 points, 11 rebounds, 2 steals) of Syracuse matched West in the first, scoring 10 points of his own, and was the heart and soul of Syracuse's offense.

Syracuse clawed back in the second quarter thanks to their scrappy and tenacious defense. This energy was led by Ian Wilson (7 points, 6 rebounds, 4 steals) and Luke Bradley (5 points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal), who pressured the ball and used their speed to make life difficult for UCLA. Nicholas Woroinecki (6 rebounds) also played great defense in the paint during the quarter. On offense, Syracuse also found their groove, as the team began to jell and work together. Luke Bradley scored 5 points in the frame, and Ian Wilson and Dominic Caccamise added a steal and basket in the quarter. At half UCLA led 22-19.

Syracuse would gain the lead by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, as Ian Wilson scored 6 points and recorded 2 steals. Cameron Guarin (2 points, 3 rebounds, 1 steal) hit a pair of free-throws, and played great defense to keep UCLA in check. For UCLA, Evan Eodice (6 points, 7 rebounds) and Connor West each scored a basket, and West added a block. At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, Syracuse led 27-26.

UCLA shut-down Syracuse in the 4<sup>th</sup> by playing lock-down defense, not surrendering a point in the frame. Connor West also went on a tear, scoring 9 total points in the quarter. After taking three straight drives to the hoop, Connor hit the dagger with a minute remaining by draining a three-pointer on the wing. Connor could not do it without his teammates, however, as Jack Baker (2 points, 4 rebounds), Evan Eodice, and Jacob Szlis (2 points, 4 rebounds, 1 block, 1 steal) all played great defense in the quarter, and worked the ball around efficiently while on offense.

Ultimately, UCLA defeated Syracuse 39-27, thanks to a huge fourth quarter push and tenacious defense.