

NOTES | GAME 10



NO. 7 NC STATE 66, NO. 2 SYRACUSE 63

Seventh-seeded NC State is now 21-12 and moves on to meet the Duke-Clemson winner in Saturday's second semifinal. NC State lost at Duke 95-60 on Jan. 18 and lost at Clemson 73-56 on Feb. 18.

The "double-bye curse" claimed its second victim of the day. The second-seeded Orange joined fourth-seeded North Carolina in being eliminated in their first games.

With its win, NC State moved its all-time record to 69-50 in the ACC Tournament. It is 23-21 in tournament games in Greensboro, where it won in championships in 1973 and 1974.

NC State's T.J. Warren, the ACC's leading scorer, led the way with 28 points. He now has 28 games of 20 or more points, including his last 16 games. Warren also led State with eight rebounds and added two assists and two blocks.

Third-year head coach Mark Gottfried has now led his team to the ACC Tournament semifinals in each of his seasons at NC State.

For the second straight game, the Wolfpack's Ralston Turner hit a key 3-pointer. In this game, his deep three that banked in put State ahead 62-59. On Thursday night, his late three put State ahead by five against Miami.

Senior center Jordan Vandenberg, who hadn't scored more than four points in any game in almost two months, was State's second-high scorer with 10. He made all five of his shots from the floor and added five rebounds. His last double-figures game was against Wake Forest on Jan. 15, when he also scored 10.

Wolfpack point guard Tyler Lewis, averaging 4.2 points, dropped in seven while hitting a pair of 3-pointers for only the second time this season. Lewis and Cat Barber split the time at the point and combined for 11 points and eight assists. Barber picked up six of the assists.

The Wolfpack survived a flurry of Syracuse shots at the end of the game. Down by three, the Orange launched six shots, including four 3-pointers, in the final 24 seconds but came up empty.

NC State is 1-1 against Syracuse this season. The Orange squeezed out a 56-55 win over State on Feb. 15 in Syracuse.

With NC State's win, No. 7 seeds improved to 21-60 in ACC Tournament play. With the loss by Syracuse, No. 2 seeds are now 93-48.

This marked the 10th time that the seventh-seeded team has defeated the second-seeded team in the ACC Tournament quarterfinals and the second year in a row. Maryland scored an 83-74 win over Duke in last year's quarterfinal round.

Syracuse freshman guard Tyler Ennis' total of 21 points is his highest against an ACC opponent in his brief career. He had 20 in his team's 57-55 win at Maryland on Feb. 24.

For only the third time in 32 games this season, senior C.J. Fair failed to score in double figures for the Orange. He finished with nine points on 3-of-16 shooting.

Sophomore forward Jerami Grant, limited by injury toward the end of the regular season, posted his fifth double-double against an ACC opponent with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

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The game is the fifth this season in which the Orange have made fewer than 20 field goals, but the first of those that Syracuse has lost.

It marked the Orange's sixth contest in 19 outings against ACC teams this season decided by three or fewer points. Syracuse is 4-2 in those games.

Although they are in their first year of ACC membership, the Orange and coach Jim Boeheim made their third Greensboro Coliseum appearance on Friday. The Orange lost to Penn 84-76 in the East regional semifinal of the NCAA Tournament on March 16, 1979, and defeated Duke 78-76 in the ACC-Big East Challenge on Dec. 6, 1989.

Syracuse forward Michael Gbinije was also familiar with the facility. As a freshman at Duke, he played in the Blue Devils' NCAA Tournament loss to Lehigh here on March 16, 2012. Gbinije was also a member of the ACC's All-Academic team that year.

Christmas came in March when Rakeem Christmas started for the Orange. He joined former Clemson Tiger Wayne "Tree" Rollins and ex-North Carolina Tar Heel David Noel on the very informal and unofficial All-Yuletide Team. Rollins averaged 13.3 points and 10.1 rebounds in seven ACC Tournament games from 1974-77 while Noel contributed 6.4 points and 5.8 boards in seven outings of his own from 2003-06.

The game featured prominent performances from a C.J. (Fair) and a T.J. (Warren of NC State). B.J. Johnson of Syracuse did not play, but BeeJay Anya of NC State did get into the game.

Since 2005, new ACC members are 2-5 in their ACC Tournament debuts.

Six of the 2014 ACC Tournament's first 10 games have gone to overtime or have been decided by three or fewer points in regulation