

November 20, 2009

## No. 6 N. Carolina Beats No. 15 Ohio St 77-73

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Filed at 12:52 a.m. ET

NEW YORK (AP) -- There was so much to talk about after No. 6 North Carolina held on for 77-73 victory over No. 15 [Ohio State](#) in the 2K Sports Classic semifinals Thursday night.

There was the Tar Heels' big early lead that dwindled to two points in the final minute, something that can happen even to a sixth-ranked team early in the season. There was the exceptional defensive job by Marcus Ginyard on Ohio State's Evan Turner, something that has become common for a player considered one of the top stoppers in the country. There was coach Roy Williams' halftime rant directed at Ginyard, something that never happens.

"I chewed his rear end out probably the hardest I've ever got on him," Williams said of the fifth-year senior. "If I'm going to chew him out, it scares the dickens out of the rest of the team. He's one of my pets."

The one-way halftime discussion worked as North Carolina was in control until the final minute.

"That was the worst I can remember," Ginyard said of Williams' yelling session. "But he was right. If I'm going to be a leader of this team I have to play better, and I did in the second half."

Ginyard finished with 13 points and was 3 of 5 from 3-point range. But it was his defense on Turner that made the difference in the win that sent the Tar Heels (4-0) into Friday night's championship game against Syracuse, which beat No. 13 California 95-73 in the tournament the benefits Coaches vs. Cancer.

"No question, I take challenges like tonight very personally, and I get really excited about facing players like him," Ginyard said of Turner, who had a triple-double in Ohio State's opening win over Alcorn State with 14 points, 17 rebounds and 10 assists. He matched that feat against the Tar Heels, but it was a lot different as he finished with 23 points, 11 rebounds and 10 turnovers.

The 6-foot-7 junior swingman, who had 17 rebounds in each of the first two games, couldn't go anywhere on the court without Ginyard, who missed most of last season with a stress fracture in his left foot.

Turner's time was limited as well by foul trouble, and his second personal was an offensive drawn by Ginyard.

"It was a rough night, obviously," Turner said. I'm bumped and bruised and I'll be back tomorrow.

"It was a rough first half, rough first 30 minutes of the game. They did a great job, and we just got to bounce back."

Deon Thompson had 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Tar Heels, who led by 19 points with 10:23 to play.

The Buckeyes (2-1) finally started hitting from the outside at the same time the Tar Heels starting missing free throws, and Ohio State was within 75-73 on a 3 by Jon Diebler with 11 seconds left.

Larry Drew II, who missed four of his previous six free throws in the final minute, then made two from the line with 11 seconds left for the final margin.

"I wanted the ball in my hands, especially for the last two free throws," Drew said. "You have to go through bad times to enjoy the highs, and I enjoyed making those last two free throws."

Ohio State chipped away at the lead and was finally within single digits when David Lighty scored on a drive that made it 68-60 with 2:09 to go. Ginyard hit a 3 with the shot clock winding down to make it 71-60 with 1:36 to go, but the Buckeyes finally hit from the outside as William Buford and Lighty hit 3s as Drew struggled at the line.

Will Graves had 14 points for North Carolina, the defending national champions who have only one starter back from the team that beat Michigan State in April, and Drew finished with 11 points and eight assists and was 6 of 10 from the line.

Diebler had 17 points for Ohio State, which finished 6 of 21 from 3-point range after going 1 of 10 in the first half.

"We feel very fortunate," Williams said. "We have a chance to be a very good basketball team, but I want it a lot sooner than it's coming."

The Tar Heels had the lead to 10 points within the first 6 minutes, and it reached 16 points three times, the first at 29-13 on a 3-pointer by Ginyard with 5:40 left in the half.

Ohio State missed its first nine 3-point attempts, and the Buckeyes finished 1 of 10 from beyond the arc and shot just 29 percent (9 for 31) overall in falling behind 38-24 at the half.

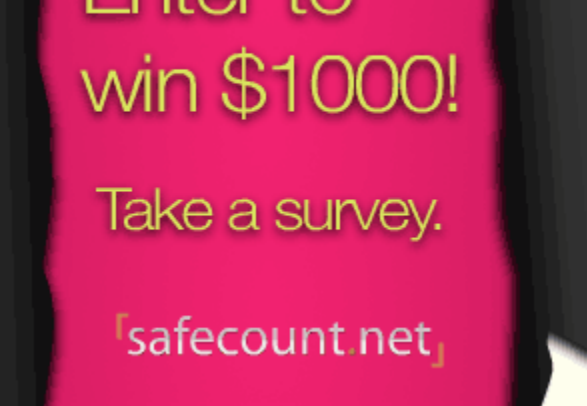
"We obviously made a great comeback," Ohio State coach Thad Matta said. "I thought the first half we couldn't get the ball in the basket. We had some decent looks, the shots weren't falling for us. We had a stretch where I think we lost our composure, and they were able to get it to a double-digit lead. ... Hopefully we learned a lesson there getting ourselves ready to go right from the start."

## SYRACUSE 95, CAL 73

### Bigger, tougher Orange blow out Bears in semis

Dave Skretta, Associated Press

Friday, November 20, 2009



**(11-20) 04:00 PST New York --**

With four seniors in the regular starting lineup, No. 13 Cal has been a trendy pick this season to win the Pac-10 title and reach the Final Four. But if Thursday's dismantling at the hands of unranked Syracuse was any indication, the Bears have much work to do.

The Orange whipped Cal 95-73 in a semifinal of the 2K Sports Classic at Madison Square Garden, and the final could have been much more lopsided if not for Bears guard Jerome Randle, who scored 25 points including a three-pointer during a 9-0 second-half spurt.

Jamal Boykin added 14 points and Patrick Christopher 12 for Cal, which played without senior Theo Robertson. The Bears also struggled in a season-opening victory over Murray State, but they looked even more uncomfortable against Syracuse, a more physical Big East team.

On one trip down the floor, Omondi Amoke and Markhuri Sanders-Frison had shots stuffed seconds apart, and an ensuing fast break led to an easy layup by the Orange's Scoop Jardine, who scored 22 points.

"I don't think any question their size - they had nine blocks," Cal coach Mike Montgomery said, almost in disbelief. "That takes a little wind out of your sails. They took away the inside game."

It didn't help either that Cal was missing Robertson (18 points per game), who experienced swelling in his injured foot and wasn't available. His return is uncertain.

"He won't play tomorrow," Montgomery said. "We expected him to play, he wanted to play, but it got worse between the time we left Cal and got here."

Wesley Johnson scored 17 points and Arinze Onuaku added 12 points for Syracuse. The Orange (3-0) play No. 6 North Carolina for the title tonight, while Cal plays No. 15 Ohio State in the consolation game.

Syracuse confounded the Bears (2-1) from the tip with Jim Boeheim's trademark zone defense, building a double-digit lead by halftime before breaking away with a 15-4 run early in the second half.

## Local teams today

### Men

**#13 Cal** (2-1) vs. **#15 Ohio State**, 2 p.m., ESPN2, 1550, 2K Sports Classic, New York

Vanderbilt (1-0) at **St. Mary's** (2-0), 8:30 p.m.

**USF** (2-0) at Arizona State (3-0), 3:30 p.m.

**San Jose State** (1-0) at Washington (3-0), 8 p.m. Fox College Central

### Women

Nevada (2-0) at **St. Mary's** (1-1), 6 p.m.

Cal State Fullerton (2-0) at **USF** (0-1), 7 p.m.

Cal State Northridge (0-2) at **San Jose State** (0-2), 7 p.m.

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/11/20/SPF01ANI7P.DTL>

This article appeared on page **B - 5** of the San Francisco Chronicle

# Heels do enough: Thompson scores 15 in 77-73 victory over Buckeyes

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deon Thompson had 15 points and 12 rebounds and sixth-ranked North Carolina managed to hold on for a 77-73 victory over No. 15 Ohio State in the 2K Sports Classic semifinals last night.

The Tar Heels (4-0), who led by 19 points with 10:23 to play, will face Syracuse, which beat No. 13 California 95-73, in tonight's championship game of the tournament that benefits Coaches vs. Cancer.

Coach Roy Williams hadn't been overly pleased with the Tar Heels' play in their three double-digit victories, including ones over Florida International and N.C. Central, to advance to New York.

He couldn't find much to be upset with early against Ohio State (2-1) as the defending national champions -- only one starter returned from the team that beat Michigan State in April -- were in charge for most of the game.

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