

Game Day Extra

Click here for everything you need to get ready for this weekend's high school football games, including up-to-the-minute scores and updates.



Misfiring No. 9 Syracuse finds way to beat Michigan, reach Legends Classic title game in Atlantic City

 Post this article for your Facebook friends

Recommend

Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.

By MICHAEL McGARRY, Staff Writer | Posted: Saturday, November 27, 2010

Inside: Link to photo gallery from the Orange's win over the Wolverines

ATLANTIC CITY - The Syracuse University men's basketball team struggled with missed shots and turnovers Friday night.

That doesn't bode well for March, but it's OK for November.

The Orange held Michigan to five points in the final five minutes and won a Legends Classic semifinal 53-50 before 6,273 fans at Boardwalk Hall. Scoop Jardine's 3-pointer from the right wing gave Syracuse a 47-45 lead with 4 minutes, 32 seconds left in the game.

The Orange never trailed again.

"Our offense was horrible," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. "We have to get better on offense. There's no secret to this thing. We won't be worried about playing in March or April if we don't play better on offense this year."

Syracuse (5-0) will play Georgia Tech for the championship at 7:30 p.m. today. Michigan (3-1) and UTEP will meet in the 5:30 p.m. consolation game. Georgia Tech beat UTEP 71-61 in Friday's first semifinal.

The Syracuse-Michigan game was easily the most anticipated of Friday's two games.

Syracuse, the defending Big East Champion, is ranked No. 9 in the country and one of the marquee names in college basketball. Boeheim has 834 career wins - fifth best all-time among Division I coaches.

Meanwhile, Michigan returned 10 players from a team that finished 15-17 but was the youngest in the Big 10 last season.

Syracuse fans turned Boardwalk Hall into a miniature Carrier Dome. Most fans wore orange – Syracuse's color. They chanted "Let's go, Orange! Let's go, Orange!"

"The setting was pretty good, but there was too much orange in the building," Michigan coach John Beline said with a smile. "There was some blue out there. We've enjoyed ourselves. The hospitality has been good. You'd just like to win."

One Syracuse player who didn't struggle on offense was Kris Joseph, who sank 8-of-14 shots to score 22 points. The 6-foot-7 junior said Boardwalk Hall reminded him of the Carrier Dome.

"It resembled the dome because of the open space behind (the baskets)," Joseph said. "I just felt comfortable after the first shot."

Syracuse's offense has been a problem in every game in this young season. The Orange's main three players ball handlers - Jardine, Joseph and Brand Triche - combined for 13 turnovers Friday.

"That's not good," Boeheim said.

Jardine was 2-of-10 from the floor. Triche was 0-for-2 from 3-point range. The Orange went six minutes in the second half without a basket.

"We're struggling shooting the ball from the perimeter," Boeheim said. "Teams are going to pack it in, which is what Michigan did."

The Syracuse offense may not be ready for March, but the defense certainly is.

Michigan relies on the 3-point shot for its offense. The Wolverines finished 8-of-32 from beyond the arc against Syracuse's trademark matchup zone defense.

"We wanted to push them as far away from the 3-point line as possible," Joseph said. "Overall we did a good job of keeping them off the line and forcing them to create tough shots."

And despite their offensive troubles, the Orange made enough plays with the ball to win.

Michigan had thoughts of an upset after reserve guard Stu Douglass (11 points) sank a 3-pointer from the right wing with 5 minutes, 53 seconds left in the game to give the Wolverines a 45-44 lead.

But Syracuse responded with a 6-0 run. Joseph penetrated and found Jardine open on the right wing for a 3-pointer to give the Orange a 47-45 lead.

Joseph penetrated again and made a 15-foot jumper with 2:58 to play to give Syracuse a 49-45 lead. Michigan never again had the ball with a chance to tie.

"The offense is going to be there," Joseph said. "Someone is going to step up at some point in the game."

Contact Michael McGarry:

609-272-7185


MMcGarry@pressofac.com

MICHIGAN (3-1)Totals 20-62 2-4 50.SYRACUSE (5-0)Totals 20-48 8-15 53.Halftime3-Point GoalsFouled OutReboundsAssistsTotal FoulsA

Story Commenting Notice

PressofAtlanticCity.com is integrating Facebook into a new method for commenting on stories on the site. This feature allows you to easily share content and comments with your social network, and you will be able to see what your friends and other PressofAtlanticCity.com readers are responding to as well. Simply log into Facebook below to post your comment.

If you wish to have your comment appear with this story but NOT shared on Facebook, be sure to UNCHECK the box to the left of the

 button labeled, "Post comment to my Facebook profile"

[View our full terms of service and privacy agreement](#)

[Click here to report a comment as abusive.](#)