



Posted on Sat, Nov. 27, 2010

Syracuse and Georgia Tech meet in Legends Classic title tilt

By Sports Network
 The Sports Network

The ninth-ranked Syracuse Orange try to remain undefeated tonight as they clash with the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets in the championship game of the fourth annual Legends Classic at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City.

The Orange made it to New Jersey after putting up four straight wins at home to begin 2010-11, and all but one of those decisions came by double figures. Yesterday, Syracuse survived a close call against the Michigan Wolverines, holding on for a 53-50 triumph to advance.

Meanwhile, the Yellow Jackets seem to have found themselves again after their perplexing loss to Kennesaw State (80-63) in the middle of the month. The team has won the three games since by double digits, including a 71-61 final versus Texas-El Paso on Friday in the semifinals of this event.

With respect to the all-time series between these two schools on the hardwood, the Yellow Jackets have taken two of the three previous meetings. However, it was the Orange that captured the last encounter back in 2002 by a score of 92-65.

Syracuse made a total of just eight field goals in the second half last night against the Wolverines, yet it was still enough to get the squad over the hump and into the win column with a three-point decision. Kris Joseph overcame five turnovers to put up a team-best 22 points, shooting 8-of-14 from the floor and 3-of-6 behind the three-point line, while Rick Jackson registered a double-double consisting of 10 points and a team-high 12 rebounds. Scoop Jardine converted a mere 2-of-10 shots from the field, but still ended up with 11 points to go along with his five assists and four rebounds. Jardine has had trouble finding the mark from the floor in the early going, hitting a mere 34.9 percent, but he is still tied for second in scoring (12.4 ppg) and is a vital piece of the offense otherwise with his 34 assists over five starts. Joseph is responsible for 13.4 ppg as he too struggles from the field (.388), while Jackson averages a double-double with 12.4 points and 12.8 rebounds per contest.

Glen Rice registered a double-double with 19 points and 11 rebounds on Friday evening, adding five assists as well, during the 10-point win over UTEP. Brian Oliver recorded a double-double of his own with 15 points and a team-best 12 rebounds, although he shot just 6-of-17 from the field, while Iman Shumpert tacked on 13 points, five steals and four assists in the triumph as well for a team that landed in the win column despite shooting just 35.8 percent from the field and 5-of-19 behind the three-point line. Field goal accuracy has not been a strength of this GaTech group at all in the early going, the team converting just 38 percent at the moment. The same goes for perimeter shooting which shows the group converting at a mere 24.2 percent clip. Shumpert is responsible for a team-best 14.8 ppg, is clearing 6.2 rpg and is also tops with 17 assists and 15 steals thus far. Oliver and Rice check in with 12.6 and 11.0 ppg, respectively, although the former is hitting a mere 38.1 percent of his field goal chances at this stage.

© 2010 Kansas City Star and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.kansascity.com>