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## Rick Jackson cleans up glass while being crowded on offense

Published: Saturday, November 27, 2010, 12:37 AM Updated: Saturday, November 27, 2010, 12:43 AM



**Donna Ditota/The Post-Standard**



Dennis Nett / The Post-Standard

Syracuse's Rick Jackson grabs a rebound and outlets the ball in second-half action against Michigan in Atlantic City, N.J.

Michigan punished Syracuse on the backboards in the first half of Friday's Legends Classic.

Michigan outrebounded SU 23-17. MU players grabbed 10 offensive boards.

But by the second half, SU stubbornly refused the Wolverines many missed shots. Michigan collected just three second-half offensive rebounds. The Orange outboarded the Wolverines 22-14.

"It seems like their plan at halftime was to keep us off the boards," Michigan guard Tim Hardaway Jr. said. "And I think they did a great job on that."

Jackson was SU's main man on the glass.

Jackson, the senior forward, collected 12 rebounds. He had plenty of help from Keita, who grabbed nine missed shots — eight on the defensive glass.

### Crowding Jackson

Because SU does not have a credible scoring threat at the center position, teams — like Michigan — are ganging up on Jackson on the low block.

"They were trying to be physical with me," Jackson said. "They were grabbing me, triple-teaming me. I talked to the ref — I didn't do too much talking, but a little talking to the ref — but I just tried to not be out-toughed. When teams play like that, you gotta just play the same game they're playing."

Jackson spent most of the first half fending off the blatant holding of Morgan, who is a beefy 6-foot-8, 240 pounds. Morgan, too, had help from his teammates whenever Jackson roamed near the rim.

The Wolverines used 6-foot-4 guard Zack Novak to cover 6-foot-10 Keita.

“When they double team me, I’m looking for him, but it happens so fast,” Jackson said. “Whoever I see and whoever wants the ball, I get them the ball. You gotta be more aggressive. You gotta get that confidence to want the ball. Call for it. Being the big guy, if you don’t call for the ball, if you be quiet, you won’t get it.”

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