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Dion Waiters impresses in front of Philly fans

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**Donna Ditota/The Post-Standard**

Dennis Nett / The Post-Standard

Syracuse's Dion Waiters goes in for a dunk in the Orange's game against Georgia Tech in second-half action in the Legends Classic in Atlantic City, N.J.

Atlantic City, N.J. — The Orange played to a decidedly pro-SU crowd Saturday during the championship game of the Legends Classic. Among the Orange fans was a big contingent of Philadelphians, most of whom sat behind the SU bench and cheered for the Philly trio of Jardine, Rick Jackson and Dion Waiters.

Waiters gave them something to salute in the first half. During one 4½-minute stretch he scored nine SU points.

"C.J. (Fair) and Dion were very, very good coming off the bench," SU coach Jim Boeheim said. "I thought Dion was huge in the first half. He and C.J. were both very solid in the first half. They're getting some experience. I thought both guys played really well."

Waiters reveled in those points and in SU's 80-76 victory.

"Coach just tells me, 'Just play.' Just play my game. Just score. Do what I do best," Waiters said.

Waiters is an admittedly confident young man. He says he inherited that from his

mother — “She’s a strong woman,” he said.

“She says ‘believe in yourself,’ and that’s what I was able to do,” Waiters said. “Had the whole Philly fans out there, the crowd going crazy. Welcome to college, baby. I love it. I love college, man.”

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