



## Veterans, defense allow Arizona to storm out of Madison Square with a 81-72 win

by [K\\_Zim](#) on Nov 17, 2011 9:59 PM PST in [Arizona Wildcats Basketball](#)

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The glitz of playing at Madison Square Garden didn't get to them. Neither did the fact that the **Arizona Wildcats'** opponent, the **St. John's Red Storm**, essentially had a home game in Thursday night's 2K Sports Classic.

The Wildcats played in a fun-to-watch, back-and-forth game that resulted in another 8-to-10 point victory. Again, it was a second-half surge that lifted No. 15 Arizona (4-0) to a 81-72 win. **Solomon Hill** led the charge with 15 points, six rebounds and four assists.

And again, **Kyle Fogg** played incredible defense down the stretch run that saw Arizona come back from a 66-58 deficit with 7:01 to play. Fogg drew two clutch charging calls -- one of which fouled out hot-shooting guard **Nurideen Lindsey** -- and hit a key 3-pointer with 3:42 to put Arizona ahead 72-68. In the end, Arizona outscored St. John's 23-6 in the final seven minutes. Fogg scored 13 and had six assists.

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All in all, Thursday was the best offensive performance of the young season for UA.

I've been first to criticize the apparent lack of shooting, and the 1-3-1 trapping zone that the Wildcats mostly destroyed proved to be vitamins for a formerly stale Wildcat offense. Arizona went 14-for-18 from 3-point range, picking apart St. John's traps.

Luckily for Arizona, the Johnnies struggled to capitalize and remain imposing in the paint. Even with a clear advantage in speed and athleticism, St. John's didn't use that in the rebounding department.

Arizona won that battle 32-31 and gained 11 more shots thanks to turning the ball over nine times to the Red Storm's 16.

St. John's got to the rack at will, and their 30 free throws proved it as Nurideen Lindsey and company blew by Arizona defenders seemingly at will. Lindsey dropped 18 to lead St. John's.

Point guard play for Arizona was key. **Jordin Mayes** again started and scored 12 points. **Josiah Turner** returned after sitting out last game, and displayed his speed by twice making steals off perimeter passes that led to two fastbreak scores.

He showed that he's still a knucklehead, too. Turner jumped off the bench and ran fullcourt after Fogg got tangled up with a St. John's player during a break in the action. That won't earn Turner more playing time.

But of course, the storyline of the evening, forward **Kevin Parrom**, made his mark in his return to his home town in New York.

Parrom nailed two 3-pointers in the first half and dished out four assists.

### ***What's it mean?***

Thursday was the smoothest the offense has looked. The Wildcats ball movement increased greatly without the man-on-man ball pressure, and it's perhaps a blessing in disguise; the team gained confidence with its open, set jumpers being readily available.

In addition, the Wildcats proved they could overcome an athletically superior team. Overall, the game was up and down because it was a chess match of Miller's team's execution trying to deal with a very fast-moving St. John's team. Arizona handled it well, but it's a wonder whether they could compete against that level of athleticism, say, if St. John's played with Arizona's defense. I feel like their zone played into UA's hands, but that's up for debate.

Turnovers turned out to be the key. St. John's looked like the young team they are down the stretch, and would this game to be replayed with the same rosters a year from now (next year's recruits not included), something tells me it would be an even closer affair.

Other notables:

- **Jesse Perry** scored 11 and grabbed nine rebounds.
- Nick Johnson scored 11, including a 3-pointer with 2:27 to put UA ahead 77-70.

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### Johnnie fan here...

...and a great game last night at the Garden. The Wildcats were a good test for our very young Storm and it was a real exciting game to watch. Hard to win with all freshmen, but our guys will get better. Good luck tonight.

by [redmen9194](#) on Nov 18, 2011 7:57 AM PST [reply](#)

### It was a fun game to watch

You definitely have a lot to like on that team. As the young guys develop, I think St. John's will be able to compete and win against any team in this country.

*Kevin Zimmerman*  
*@offensivelyfoul*

by [K\\_Zim](#) on Nov 18, 2011 2:44 PM PST [up](#) [reply](#)

### Turner

Came in a got the momentum back on both sides of the ball. I think the silent leader of this team is Perry. He just brings it every single night. I saw two blocks down the stretch, one on Lindsey if I'm not mistaken. What this game showed me is we have LOTS OF SHOOTERS. How about Nick Johnson. He will be a POY candidate before he is done at Zona. I live in Gilbert and was able to see him play as a freshman in HS. He was good but raw. It's awesome to see the player he has become. With Miller coaching him, he will become one of the great cats. Kryl for all the negatives he gets, I believe he does what Miller asks of him. Take up space down in the key and set screens. His passing is underrated for his size. Just wish he would hit the glass harder.

The PAC 12 race will be interesting. Not sure there is a deeper team then the Cats. Cal has experience, Washington has not impressed me. UCLA obviously is a fraud. Is that seat getting hot Ben? With Nelsons drama and the losses, seems as tho they are imploding. ASU is ASU of course, so no worries there. I think the Cal matchup is the most exciting. Young vs Experience.

As far as overall, I can't really make up my mind about where we are. Duke and North Carolina look very solid. Kentucky is just scary. Scary like Arizona next year scary. I feel really bad for the schools on our schedule next year and the year after. For tonight, I think the hot shooting continues. Not 14-28 hot, but maybe 8-19. Something along there. I see the defense clamping down a bit more leading to some more transition buckets. Wildcats 77, Bulldogs 64.

by [49erInAz](#) on Nov 18, 2011 8:06 AM PST [reply](#)