

Maryland Responds with Three-Point Attack

Terps rebound from opening-round loss with long-range shooting against Temple

[box score](#)

NEW YORK (AP) -- Maryland answered any questions after just one night with an impressive long-range performance.

Juan Dixon busted the zone with five 3s and had 25 points.

Juan Dixon scored 15 of his 25 points on 3-pointers and the second-ranked Terrapins (No. 3 ESPN/USA Today, No. 2 AP) improved dramatically on their outside shooting to earn an 82-74 victory over Temple (No. 17 ESPN/USA Today, No. 16 AP) Friday night in the third-place game of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

In Thursday night's stunning 71-67 loss to Arizona, the Terrapins (1-1) were just 7-for-27 from behind the arc. With Dixon leading the way against Temple's matchup zone, Maryland improved to 63.2 percent (12-for-19).

"I'm very proud of my team not just with the win but for the way they came back from a very tough night," Maryland coach Gary Williams said. "That was a tough loss and when you're ranked No. 2 right away the questions were 'What's the problem?' We don't have a problem, we're just working to get where we have to go. We shot 59 percent against that zone and we did a good job of shooting the 3."

Dixon, who was 5-for-10 on 3s in both games, hit three straight 3s in Maryland's 14-2 run to close the first half that gave it a 39-32 lead. He hit another one 39 seconds into the second half to give the Terrapins their first double-digit lead of the game.

Temple (0-2), which lost 72-64 to No. 6 Florida on Thursday, was within 61-58 on a rebound basket by Kevin Lyde with 4:20 left, but Byron Mouton and Steve Blake started and ended an 8-0 run with 3s to give the Terrapins a 69-58 lead with 2:11.

Lynn Greer, who led Temple with 27 points, kept the Owls close in the final minute with three 3-pointers, but Maryland closed the game by going 10-for-10 from the free throw line over the final 1:03.

Against Arizona, the Terrapins were just 4-for-12 from the foul line and until the closing streak it wasn't much better against Temple as they finished 18-for-28.

"We were always able to meet the challenge from them," Williams said. "We rebounded better in terms of intensity and we found some things out about our team against a good team."

Blake, a junior, added a career-high 20 points for Maryland, while Mouton had 13.

"Blake played against a tough guard last night," Williams said of Blake's 2-for-10 effort against Arizona's Jason Gardner. "He went against another tough guard tonight in Greer and came up with a career-high."

Greer finished 3-for-6 from 3-point range and the Owls were 9-for-26 (34.6 percent). Lyde added 13 points and 10 rebounds for Temple, while freshman Brian Polk had 11 points.

"We are so disjointed with so many young players so I'm proud of them," Temple coach John Chaney said. "We're asking Lynn and Kevin to carry the load. I saw them patting the young guys on the back because they've been there before and know that sooner or later they'll start coming together."

Chaney was told that Duke lost two games in this tournament two years ago and went on to win 18 straight games and Kentucky finished fourth last season and then won the Southeastern Conference title.

"We haven't showed these new kids a lot of the defense yet," he said with a smile. "We wanted them to have some facsimile of our offense."

The victory gave Williams a 450-268 record in 24 seasons at four schools and made him 243-140 at Maryland. He is tied for second on the school's career victory list with Bud Millikan, whom Williams played for at Maryland.

