

Syracuse Men's Basketball Wins Big Game

By Caleigh O'Toole

Syracuse, New York, February 19, 2022— Syracuse Men's Basketball faced off against Boston College on Saturday, February 19th. The game took place at 12:00 p.m. and finished with a Syracuse win. Long-time coach Jim Boeheim has been leading the team since 1976. The starting lineup for this game was fierce. Leading the team was guard Buddy Boeheim, forward Jimmy Boeheim, forward Cole Swider, guard Joe Girard III and center Frank Anselem.

The 2021-2022 season has been quite the challenge for the University's program. The team greeted the halfway point of the regular season with a 7-8 record. As the season progressed the team's chances of making the March Madness Tournament became slim, however this did not show in the play seen on Saturday. Going into the Boston College rematch, in the Dome, the Orange stood at 12-11.

The esteemed basketball program was faced with a challenge after center Jessie Edwards suffered from a left-wrist fracture that removed him from the rest of the season. Edwards' replacements Frank Aselem and Bourama Sidibe did a decent job this game picking up the slack. Both centers played about 19 minutes and had almost equal statistics. Comparing these numbers to those posted by Edwards some fans may say they are disappointed. Yet, Coach Boeheim has confidence in his players. On February 10th, after Jessie Edwards' injury at Boston College, Boeheim said he believes Sidibe is "ready to help us. But it may take a game, it may take a little time." This illustration of belief continues as Coach Boeheim continues to give Sidibe minutes in the games following the starting center's injury. When asked, fans made it clear Anselem and Sidibe have large shoes to fill as Edwards was averaging 12.5 points per game.

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Comparing those numbers to Anselem's 2.5 points per game and Sidibe's 1.4 points per game, fans are expecting more.

The defense came to play on Saturday as they forced a total of twelve turnovers, seven of which were caused by Buddy Boeheim. The Orange were able to place seventeen points on the scoreboard from their defensive steals. Syracuse Men's Basketball have faced multiple losses that can be connected to their poor defensive skills, but those complaints were shut-down as the team adjusted to all strategies the Boston College Eagles tried to implement.

The offense flourished in this game with Syracuse's power three. College basketball superfan, and Newhouse Broadcast Digital Journalism student, Austin Barach says "When Swider and Girard can extend leads with their perimeter shooting and still rely on Boeheim [Buddy] as the Orange's go-to player to ensure points, it is a good thing and that is what we saw against BC."

Syracuse Men's Basketball worked diligently to put their best foot forward in the rematch against Boston College. The main focus for Coach Boeheim is to mold Anselem and Sidibe into higher-scoring players. The Orange defeated the Eagles 76-56 placing them with a record of 13-11.



Mark Konezny-USA TODAY Sports. Cole Swider on offense.

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Word Count: 508