



Syracuse University

Alumni Club of South Florida



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South Florida Orange Squeezings

Upsetting Georgetown Was Huge!

The Carrier Dome has seen many exciting Syracuse basketball games, but the one last Monday night will be talked about for years to come. This year's addition of the Orange has been loaded with talent, but they often lack team cohesion. With too many losses it seemed like we were destined for the NIT, or worse.

But, the team made a **Statement** and it was unfortunate for Georgetown that they were the opponent of jour. While it is true that we had a 5 game winning streak going, but it was against non-ranked teams. G'town was 9th in the nation and they had just come off a victory over Pitt who is leading the Big East.

The first half was a back and forth effort with neither team being able to break it open. It was heartening to note that our guys played their big stars, Hibbert and Green, with skill and spirit. You just knew we were going to be in this game.

But the real joy for anyone with "Orange Blood" was the second half. Mid way through the second half, the Dome started to "rain" 3 point shots. The 'Cuse went on a 14-0 tear. That was accomplished by 4 threes in a row and a Wat-

kins drive to the hoop for two. Nichols and Rautins looked like the second coming of G'Mac. In particular Nichols fall away shot with no time on the shot clock was pure joy. All of the sudden what was a close game turned into a 59-46 lead.

Now Eric Handis and I have sat through a couple of lead-blowing disappointments, so Eric kept saying "I won't feel comfortable until we have a 15 point lead." Remember, Georgetown is the number nine team in the nation. We got more than that, then lost a bit of the edge, but as the clock wound down we were clearly going to prevail. The fans in the Dome started to crowd the side lines and it was clear that the party was about to begin.

Now the folks from ESPN did not like the court storming, but no one was hurt and victories like this one do not happen every night. Coach Boeheim said after the game: "Five or six games ago, people were booing them right here in Syracuse." The fickle fans are back! The Orange have come together at just the right time. As I see it, the best is yet to come, but any time you embarrass Georgetown it is a great night.



EXTRA

This is a newspaper "Extra" edition. Your humble editor has just returned from a fabulous ski vacation in Park City, UT. In spite of the fact that I am "retired," I have made tons of commitments to people and did not intend to do another issue of South Florida Orange Squeezings until the second week of March.

The upset victory over Georgetown changed all that. There will be as many issues of Squeezings as needed to report on the Orange as they get as deep into the Big East and the NCAA as they can. As the article below indicates, we will be gathering at Gatsby's for all the action.

Watch the Website for Information About Tournament Play

Anyone who saw SU, not only upset 9th ranked Georgetown, but destroy them, knows that the Orange can play with any team in the country. Now I am not going to predict that this is the second coming of 2003, but this team has the potential to go all the way!

A small stalwart band of South Floridian alumni packed into Gatsby's Monday night and witnessed SU sports history being made. As one who followed the 2003 team from bar to bar in Boston and

on out to Dallas, TX I can tell you it was déjà vu. These guys are the real deal. They have had the talent all year, but now they are starting to play together as a team.

The Club plans to meet at Gatsby's for every game that is televised in the evening. That means that we will gather for all SU games played in the Big East and then on out to the NCAA tournament. If you never have observed Orange basketball playoffs you are in for a treat.

Since the schedule is dictated by results we will post the Gatsby's games on the website first. I will try to do e.mail blasts in a timely fashion. But, rest assured, if the Orange is playing in prime time, the alumni will be gathering at Gatsby's!

Catch the Orange Spirit. It is oh so much better to view these games with other SU fanatics than to sit at home and watch by yourselves. It is the next best thing to sitting in the Dome... Count on it.