

WEEK NINE
NC STATE AT SYRACUSE

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) Eric Dungey threw for three touchdowns and ran for another, and Syracuse held off No. 22 North Carolina State 51-41 on Saturday night to become eligible for the postseason for the first time in five years.

Syracuse (6-2, 3-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), which snapped a two-game losing streak last time out with a 40-37, double-overtime victory over North Carolina, improved to 5-0 in the Carrier Dome. N.C. State (5-2, 2-2), which was coming off its first loss of the season, a 41-7 thrashing at No. 2 Clemson, fell behind early, rallied, then ran out of time at the end. Orange linebacker Andrew Armstrong sealed the victory with an interception at the Wolfpack 23-yard line with 2:18 left.

Syracuse coach Dino Babers did not reveal his starter at quarterback before the game, but Dungey got the nod over redshirt freshman Tommy DeVito, the hero in last week's victory. The senior responded in a big way, answering every challenge by the Wolfpack and their ace quarterback, Ryan Finley in a game punctuated by big plays by both stars.

Dungey finished 27 of 38 for 411 yards passing with zero turnovers. Finley was 26 of 44 for a career-high 473 yards and three scores as the teams combined for 1,102 total yards. He hit Kelvin Harmon 11 times for a career-high 247 yards and two scores.

Dungey, who was averaging 273.8 yards offensively per game, passed for 204 yards in a first-quarter blitz that gave Syracuse a 24-7 lead, and his 1-yard plunge in the third quarter, his ninth rushing touchdown of the season, put the Orange ahead 34-20.

The Wolfpack responded with a 75-yard scoring drive keyed by Finley's 49-yard pass to tight end Cary Angeline, who was all alone down the right side. That set up Brady Bodine's 1-yard run.

Dungey then hit Taj Harris for a 31-yard TD, faking a run before hitting his wide-open freshman receiver. The play left Dungey just 16 yards shy of 10,000 for his career, tops in school history.

Finley's 16-yard pass to Angeline set up Reggie Gallaspy's 1-yard run early in the fourth, cutting the Orange lead to 41-34.

Andre Szmyt's third field goal of the game, a 41-yarder, gave the Orange a 10-point lead with 9:44 to play. Dungey keyed that drive with a 29-yard pass to Sean Riley on a third-and-21 play.

A key for the Orange defense was trying to put pressure on Finley, a tall order considering the Wolfpack had only allowed three sacks on the year. Syracuse only managed to sack him once, but forced the Wolfpack into four three-and-outs in gaining the big first-quarter lead.

After a 29-yard field goal by Szmyt, Finley hit a streaking Emeka Emezie down the middle for a 67-yard touchdown and a 7-3 lead.

The Orange responded in 36 seconds, with Dungey lofting a perfectly thrown pass to Nykeim Johnson deep down the middle for an 82-yard score.

The Syracuse defense forced two more three-and-outs, and Dungey took advantage. He hit Jamal Custis for 45 yards down the right sideline to set up Jarveon Howard's 2-yard scoring run, then completed a 20-yard touchdown pass to Custis for a 24-7 lead with 2:39 left in the opening period. The scoring pass to Custis was set up by a 48-yard completion by tailback Dontae Strickland to Sean Riley.

Unfazed, the Wolfpack responded with a 13-point surge to narrow the lead to 24-20, getting a pair of short field goals (25 and 29 yards) from Christopher Dunn and taking advantage of a crucial penalty by the Orange.

After Syracuse forced its fourth three-and-out of the game, Riley was called for roughing the kicker. Given new life, Finley quickly made the Orange pay, hitting Harmon on a 74-yard bomb midway through the second.

Szmyt's 45-yard field goal, his 20th of the season, gave the Orange a 27-20 halftime lead.

THIRD DOWN
North Carolina State entered the game converting half of their third downs in league play (20 of 40), the top mark in the ACC. The Wolfpack converted just 3 of 11 in the opening half and finished 6 of 15.

QUARTERBACK SHUFFLE
DeVito, who had played in five games and was 28 of 53 for 399 yards and four TDs with one interception, played one series in the second quarter to try to jumpstart the Orange offense like he did a week ago. Syracuse punted after three plays that included an intentional grounding.

THE TAKEAWAY
North Carolina State: The Wolfpack have plenty of firepower with Finley at the helm but likely will fall out of the national rankings.

Syracuse: The Orange have not been ranked since 2001 and though they didn't get any votes last week they have proved their mettle. With Dungey at the helm, the offense continues to put up a lot of points. They entered the game averaging 42.6 and have scored over 50 four times.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
NCST	7	13	7	14	41
SYR	24	3	14	10	51

Scoring Summary -----

	NCST	SYR
FIRST QUARTER		
SYR FG 10:20		
Andre Szmyt 29 Yd Field Goal		3
10 plays, 55 yards, 3:31	0	
NCST TD 9:44		
Emeka Emezie 67 Yd pass from Ryan Finley (Christopher Dunn Kick)		3
2 plays, 75 yards, 0:36	7	
SYR TD 9:08		
Nykeim Johnson 82 Yd pass from Eric Dungey (Andre Szmyt Kick)		10
2 plays, 88 yards, 0:36	7	
SYR TD 6:08		
Jarveon Howard 2 Yd Run (Andre Szmyt Kick)		17
4 plays, 60 yards, 1:30	7	
SYR TD 2:39		
Jamal Custis 20 Yd pass from Eric Dungey (Andre Szmyt Kick)		24
3 plays, 68 yards, 0:43	7	
SECOND QUARTER		
NCST FG 10:45		
Christopher Dunn 25 Yd Field Goal		24
14 plays, 68 yards, 6:54	10	
NCST TD 7:40		
Kelvin Harmon 74 Yd pass from Ryan Finley (Christopher Dunn Kick)		24
4 plays, 91 yards, 1:24	17	
NCST FG 3:13		
Christopher Dunn 29 Yd Field Goal		24
8 plays, 62 yards, 2:25	20	
SYR FG 0:00		
Andre Szmyt 45 Yd Field Goal		27
4 plays, 43 yards, 0:36	20	
THIRD QUARTER		
SYR TD 9:15		
Eric Dungey 1 Yd Run (Andre Szmyt Kick)		34
14 plays, 75 yards, 5:45	20	
NCST TD 6:10		
Brady Bodine 1 Yd Run (Christopher Dunn Kick)		34
7 plays, 75 yards, 3:05	27	
SYR TD 4:11		
Taj Harris 31 Yd pass from Eric Dungey (Andre Szmyt Kick)		41
5 plays, 75 yards, 1:59	27	
FOURTH QUARTER		
NCST TD 14:28		
Reggie Gallaspy II 1 Yd Run (Christopher Dunn Kick)		41
10 plays, 75 yards, 4:43	34	
SYR FG 9:39		
Andre Szmyt 41 Yd Field Goal		44
11 plays, 51 yards, 4:49	34	
NCST TD 7:23		
Kelvin Harmon 12 Yd pass from Ryan Finley (Christopher Dunn Kick)		44
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:16	41	
SYR TD 1:05		
Dontae Strickland 5 Yd Run (Andre Szmyt Kick)		51
5 plays, 21 yards, 1:05	41	

Team Stats	NCST	SYR
First Downs	23	30
Total Yards	538	560
Total Plays	73	79
Avg Gain Per Play	7.4	7.1
Net Yards Rushing	65	79
Rushes	29	37
Yards Per Rush	2.2	2.1
Net Yards Passing	473	481
Comp-Att	26-44	30-42
Yards Per Pass	10.8	11.5
Times Sacked	1	5
Yds Lost To Sacks	-6	-44
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	5	5
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	9	8
Penalty Yards	95	60
Fumbles	2	2
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Possession	28:38	31:22

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
NCST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Reggie Gallaspy II	19	65	3.4	1	14		
Brady Bodine	3	11	3.7	1	7		
Trent Pennix	2	6	3.0	0	3		
Ryan Finley	3	0	0.0	0	4		
- Team	1	-3	-3.0	0	0		
C.J. Riley	1	-11	-11.0	0	0		
SYR	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Dontae Strickland	11	43	3.9	1	8		
Eric Dungey	15	32	2.1	1	17		
Moe Neal	5	17	3.4	0	7		
Jarveon Howard	5	4	0.8	1	2		
Tommy DeVito	1	-15	-15.0	0	0		
PASSING							
NCST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Ryan Finley	26	44	473	10.8	3	1	167.3
SYR	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Eric Dungey	27	38	411	10.8	3	0	188.2
Dontae Strickland	1	1	48	48.0	0	0	503.2
Tommy DeVito	2	3	21	7.0	0	0	125.5
RECEIVING							
NCST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Kelvin Harmon	11	247	22.5	2	74		
Emeka Emezie	4	89	22.3	1	67		
Cary Angeline	2	64	32.0	0	49		
Thayer Thomas	3	37	12.3	0	22		
Jakobi Meyers	5	36	7.2	0	11		
Reggie Gallaspy II	1	0	0.0	0	0		
SYR	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Sean Riley	10	164	16.4	0	48		
Nykeim Johnson	7	136	19.4	1	82		
Taj Harris	6	86	14.3	1	31		
Jamal Custis	3	80	26.7	1	45		
Moe Neal	1	11	11.0	0	11		
Ravian Pierce	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Devin C. Butler	1	0	0.0	0	0		
Dontae Strickland	1	-3	-3.0	0	0		