

Syracuse routs Duke 49-6, snaps 4-game slide

DURHAM, N.C. -- Syracuse's quarterback stayed upright and its running backs ran free. The Orange's new-look defense kept its opponent out of the end zone.

They only needed one win to avoid being 0-for-the-ACC -- and did they ever get it.

Syracuse routed Duke 49-6 on Saturday to snap a four-game losing streak, with Tommy DeVito throwing for two touchdowns and running for another.

"It's just one game -- that's all it is, one football game -- but how important a football game it was to us was extreme based on things that have gone on the past two weeks," coach Dino Babers said.

Andre Cisco returned an interception 48 yards for a TD to help the Orange (4-6, 1-5 Atlantic Coast Conference) earn their first win against a power-conference team. Syracuse, a 10-point underdog, pulled away by turning three second-half takeaways into touchdowns and outscored Duke 35-0 after halftime.

"I'm really excited that they have the experience of winning again," Babers said.

Moe Neal rushed for 115 yards and a 2-yard score, Jarveon Howard also finished with 115 yards rushing with a 28-yard TD and the Orange had a season-best 286 yards on the ground. Syracuse had only one 100-yard rusher in its first nine games, with Neal gaining 123 in the victory over Western Michigan on Sept. 21.

"They were serious about running the football," Babers said.

"We didn't expect that coming in," Duke coach David Cutcliffe said.

DeVito was 6 of 15 for 105 yards with an 18-yard scoring pass to Trishton Jackson and a 22-yarder to Luke Benson to go along with his 1-yard scoring run.

Perhaps more importantly for DeVito, Syracuse -- which allows an FBS-worst five sacks per game -- was sacked only once.

AJ Reed kicked field goals of 31 and 51 yards for the Blue Devils (4-6, 2-4), who lost their fourth straight.

THE TAKEAWAY

Syracuse: Everything that went wrong during the past few weeks suddenly went right for the Orange. They protected DeVito, found a way to run the ball and showed marked improvement on defense under interim coordinator Steve Stanard, who took over when Brian Ward was fired. If nothing else, this team won't match Greg Robinson's forgettable 2005 Big East squad -- the program's last to finish a season without a conference victory.

"Duke didn't know what we were going to do, so that's a huge advantage for us," Babers said, adding that his defense was "on fire."

Duke: The Blue Devils have been in a total free fall ever since that failed jump pass in the closing seconds at North Carolina. Duke has lost its last two by a combined 87-13 and this largely listless performance was reminiscent of a 59-7 loss to Wake Forest on Senior Day 2018. This was one the Blue Devils probably had to win to have a realistic shot at bowl eligibility. No more wiggle room: Either beat the Demon Deacons and Miami or spend the holidays at home.

"Cliches aren't going to fix what we have to do," Cutcliffe said. "Intense study by our staff and intense work by our staff and team is about the only path out of a hole like this. It will not define us and it will not defeat us. I can say that."

KEY STAT

Everyone else in the ACC had teed off on DeVito, with each of the Orange's first five conference opponents finishing with at least three sacks and four of them notching at least seven. The beleaguered Syracuse offensive line kept the Blue Devils away from him. Their only sack came on the final play of the first quarter.

HIGHLIGHT REEL

Syracuse took complete control of the momentum on Cisco's double-defected pick-six, which put the Orange up 21-6 early in the third. Quentin Harris' pass for Jalon Calhoun was tipped into the air, bounced off Duke receiver Jake Bobo's hands and directly to Cisco, who caught it in stride on his way to the end zone.

INJURY REPORT

More hits came for Duke's offensive line, which has already lost Jack Wohlabough to ankle surgery earlier in the week. Left tackle Casey Holman suffered an upper body injury in the first half. Holman laid face down and motionless for several minutes, went off the field on a stretcher and was driven from the stadium in an ambulance. Cutcliffe said X-rays showed no fractures and he had movement and feeling in his extremities.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
SYR	14	0	21	14	49
DUKE	0	6	0	0	6

Scoring Summary -----

FIRST QUARTER	SYR	DUKE
SYR TD 9:36 Trishton Jackson 18 Yd pass from Tommy DeVito (Andre Szmyt Kick)		
4 plays, 74 yards, 1:36	7	0
SYR TD 3:37 Tommy DeVito 1 Yd Run (Andre Szmyt Kick)	14	
9 plays, 80 yards, 3:07	14	0
SECOND QUARTER	SYR	DUKE
DUKE FG 6:14 AJ Reed 31 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 24 yards, 3:23	14	3
DUKE FG 0:22 AJ Reed 51 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 19 yards, 0:58	14	6
THIRD QUARTER	SYR	DUKE
SYR TD 12:48 Andre Cisco 48 Yd Interception Return (Andre Szmyt Kick)	21	6
2 plays, 2 yards, 0:37	21	6
SYR TD 7:54 Luke Benson 22 Yd pass from Tommy DeVito (Andre Szmyt Kick)		
6 plays, 42 yards, 3:40	28	6
SYR TD 4:35 Moe Neal 2 Yd Run (Andre Szmyt Kick)		
4 plays, 15 yards, 2:19	35	6
FOURTH QUARTER	SYR	DUKE
SYR TD 8:47 Jarveon Howard 28 Yd Run (Andre Szmyt Kick)		
3 plays, 69 yards, 1:32	42	6
SYR TD 1:52 Jawhar Jordan 7 Yd Run (Andre Szmyt Kick)		
7 plays, 68 yards, 3:58	49	6

Team Stats	SYR	DUKE
First Downs	16	19
Passes for First	5	9
Rushes for First	11	8
Penalties for First	0	2
Third Down Efficiency	4-12	5-20
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	2-4
Total Yards	395	279
Total Plays	59	85
Avg Gain Per Play	6.7	3.3
Net Yards Rushing	286	122
Rushes	43	45
Yards Per Rush	6.7	2.7
Net Yards Passing	109	157
Comp-Att	7-16	19-40
Yards Per Pass	6.8	3.9
Times Sacked	4	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-19	-7
Interceptions	0	2
Punts	7	6
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	4	4
Penalty Yards	39	20
Fumbles	1	2
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of Poss	27:18	32:42

Individual Stats

RUSHING

SYRACUSE	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Jarveon Howard	9	115	12.8	1	37
Moe Neal	17	115	6.8	1	35
Jawhar Jordan	2	24	12.0	1	17
Abdul Adams	7	18	2.6	0	6
Taj Harris	1	15	15.0	0	15
Tommy DeVito	6	1	0.2	1	5
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
DUKE	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Mataeo Durant	11	54	4.9	0	12
Deon Jackson	13	32	2.5	0	8
Chris Katrenick	7	27	3.9	0	11
Jaylen Coleman	2	5	2.5	0	3
Quentin Harris	12	4	0.3	0	10

PASSING

SYRACUSE	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Tommy DeVito	6	15	105	7.0	2	0	39.5
Taj Harris	1	1	4	4.0	0	0	72.3
DUKE	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Quentin Harris	19	36	157	4.4	0	2	12.3
Chris Katrenick	0	4	0	0.0	0	0	10.8

RECEIVING

SYRACUSE	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Trishton Jackson	2	68	34.0	1	50
Luke Benson	2	28	14.0	1	22
Nykeim Johnson	1	5	5.0	0	5
Moe Neal	1	4	4.0	0	4
Tommy DeVito	1	4	4.0	0	4
DUKE	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Aaron Young	5	63	12.6	0	25
Noah Gray	6	39	6.5	0	14
Jake Bobo	2	34	17.0	0	17
Deon Jackson	3	17	5.7	0	14
Eli Pancol	1	4	4.0	0	4
Jalon Calhoun	2	0	0.0	0	4