

WEEK FOURTEEN
WAKE FOREST at SYRACUSE

Syracuse beats Wake Forest 39-30 in OT

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- Trill Williams made sure Clayton Welch's only start for Syracuse was one he'll never forget.

The sophomore nickel back stole the ball from Wake Forest receiver Kendall Hinton and returned it 94 yards for a touchdown in overtime, and Syracuse beat Wake Forest 39-30 on Saturday.

"We wanted the seniors to go out with a win," Williams said. "Next year is going to be a different season."

Syracuse (5-7, 2-6 Atlantic Coast Conference) was ranked No. 22 in the preseason after posting 10 wins last year and finishing ranked No. 15 in the final AP Top 25. But the Orange lost badly at Maryland in the second game on the schedule and an ensuing four-game skid doomed the season.

"It's amazing. This was a good football team," Syracuse coach Dino Babers said. "We're going to get into a situation where we can turn this thing around, win consistently and not occasionally."

Welch, a redshirt senior, started at quarterback in place of injured Tommy DeVito, who was hurt during the week in practice, and had a solid day. He finished 21 of 36 for 234 yards passing with two interceptions and threw touchdown passes of 12 yards to Trishton Jackson in the first quarter and a wide-open Luke Benson for 29 early in the second to stake Syracuse to a 17-3 lead.

Welch had the same reaction as his coach.

"Amazing," said Welch, who was hurt by a hard hit to the sternum but played most of the game. "I wouldn't have printed it up any other way. It was a great game to go out in. It was amazing to see my teammates fight for me."

Andre Szymt had given the Orange the lead in extra time with a 40-yard field goal and Williams sealed the victory when he wrestled the ball away from Hinton inside the 5 and raced down the left side untouched as Hinton collapsed in dismay.

"It just came down to one more play," Wake Forest coach Dave Clawson said. "They made one more play than us. It was a tough way to finish the regular season. We didn't play well."

Szymt's 49-yard field goal with 44 seconds left in the fourth broke a 27-all tie, but Nick Sciba connected for Wake Forest from 43 yards out with four seconds left to force overtime.

Moe Neal scored on a 13-yard run midway through the fourth quarter to break a 20-all tie after Welch had hit Jackson with a pair of 26-yard completions. Jackson had 10 catches for 111 yards and finished the season with 1,023 receiving yards.

The Demon Deacons (8-4, 4-4) tied it just over four minutes later on Sam Hartman's scoring pass to Hinton on fourth-and-goal from the 2.

The Wake Forest defense stopped three straight running plays inside the 1 and Syracuse settled for Szymt's 20-yard field goal and a 20-13 lead. Donavon Greene's 75-yard catch-and-run on Wake Forest's next play from scrimmage knotted the score late in the third.

Greene finished with seven catches for 172 yards and is the first freshman with a 100-yard receiving game for Wake Forest since Todd Dixon in 1990.

Wake Forest starting quarterback Jamie Newman was 6 of 13 for 71 yards and an interception and rushed for 23 yards before getting shaken up in the second quarter. He did not return.

Hartman, who finished 25 of 42 for 350 yards, hit Greene for 27 yards on the first possession of the second half and Cade Carney scored on a 19-yard run after a nice delay at the line as Wake Forest closed to within 17-13.

MISTAKES, MISTAKES

The first half featured six turnovers, with Wake Forest suffering three interceptions and a lost fumble. Syracuse defensive back Ifeatu Melifonwu had a key pick in the end zone, wresting Hartman's throw away from Waydale Jones with just over four minutes left in the second.

"They had their guys ready to go," Clawson said. "We didn't take care of the football early. We were fortunate to be in the game, but credit to our kids. We battled back and every time they took the lead we responded."

ALMOST AUTOMATIC NICK

Sciba entered the game with an NCAA record 32 straight field goals. He gave the Demon Deacons a 3-0 lead early in the first quarter with a 43-yarder and kicked a season-long 45-yarder as time expired in the second. That made him a perfect 23 of 23 for the season, but his streak of 34 in a row ended when he missed a 48-yard attempt early in the fourth.

THE TAKEAWAY

Wake Forest: The Demon Deacons have a real threat with Newman, a redshirt junior who has three 400-yard games in his career, if he takes care of the ball, and a capable backup in Hartman.

Syracuse: Defense became an Achilles heel and defensive coordinator Brian Ward was fired after an embarrassing home loss to Boston College in early November. Coach Dino Babers said that will be addressed in the offseason. Wake Forest outgained the Orange 572-441.

Final	1	2	3	4	OT	T
WAKE	3	3	14	10	0	30
SYR	10	7	3	10	9	39

Scoring Summary -----

	WAKE	SYR
FIRST QUARTER		
WAKE FG 10:02 Nick Sciba 43 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 58 yards, 3:43	3	0
SYR TD 6:27 Trishton Jackson 12 Yd pass from Clayton Welch (Andre Szymt Kick)		7
11 plays, 65 yards, 3:35	3	7
SYR FG 2:19 Andre Szymt 24 Yd Field Goal		
4 plays, 7 yards, 1:38	3	10
SECOND QUARTER		
SYR TD 13:18 Luke Benson 29 Yd pass from Clayton Welch (Andre Szymt Kick)		
5 plays, 56 yards, 1:12	3	17
WAKE FG 0:00 Nick Sciba 45 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 49 yards, 0:48	6	17
THIRD QUARTER		
WAKE TD 13:11 Cade Carney 19 Yd Run (Nick Sciba Kick)		
6 plays, 75 yards, 1:49	13	17
SYR FG 5:57 Andre Szymt 20 Yd Field Goal		
13 plays, 66 yards, 7:14	13	20
WAKE TD 5:45 Donavon Greene 75 Yd pass from Sam Hartman (Nick Sciba Kick)		
1 play, 75 yards, 0:12	20	20
FOURTH QUARTER		
SYR TD 8:29 Moe Neal 13 Yd Run (Andre Szymt Kick)		
7 plays, 70 yards, 2:11	20	27
WAKE TD 4:12 Kendall Hinton 2 Yd pass from Sam Hartman (Nick Sciba Kick)		
12 plays, 75 yards, 4:17	27	27
SYR FG 0:44 Andre Szymt 49 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 46 yards, 3:28	27	30
WAKE FG 0:00 Nick Sciba 43 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 50 yards, 0:44	30	30
OVERTIME		
SYR FG Andre Szymt 40 Yd Field Goal		
4 plays, 3 yards	30	33
SYR TD Trill Williams 94 Yd Fumble Return		
4 plays, 19 yards	30	39

Team Stats	WAKE	SYR
First Downs	32	25
Passes for First	21	13
Rushes for First	8	11
Penalties for First	3	1
Third Down Efficiency	10-20	9-20
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-2	0-0
Total Yards	572	441
Total Plays	100	83
Avg Gain Per Play	5.7	5.3
Net Yards Rushing	151	180
Rushes	44	44
Yards Per Rush	3.4	4.1
Net Yards Passing	421	261
Comp-Att	31-56	23-39
Yards Per Pass	7.5	6.7
Times Sacked	2	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-5	-6
Interceptions	3	2
Punts	3	5
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	7	12
Penalty Yards	61	122
Fumbles	3	1
Fumbles Lost	2	1
Time of Poss	29:02	30:58

Individual Stats

RUSHING		Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
WAKE FOREST						
Cade Carney	12	54	4.5	1	19	
Sam Hartman	10	42	4.2	0	12	
Kenneth Walker III	10	32	3.2	0	12	
Jamie Newman	12	23	1.9	0	8	
SYRACUSE						
Moe Neal	20	98	4.9	1	15	
Jarveon Howard	13	51	3.9	0	11	
Clayton Welch	9	19	2.1	0	13	
Taj Harris	1	10	10.0	0	10	
Tommy DeVito	1	2	2.0	0	2	

PASSING		Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
WAKE FOREST								
Sam Hartman	25	42	350	8.3	2	2		
Jamie Newman	6	13	71	5.5	0	1		
Team	0	1	0	0.0	0	0		
SYRACUSE								
Clayton Welch	21	36	234	6.5	2	2		
Tommy DeVito	2	3	27	9.0	0	0		

RECEIVING		Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
WAKE FOREST						
Donavon Greene	7	172	24.6	1	75	
Kendall Hinton	11	88	8.0	1	18	
Steven Claude	5	83	16.6	0	23	
Jack Freudenthal	3	42	14.0	0	30	
Brandon Chapman	2	19	9.5	0	11	
Waydale Jones	2	13	6.5	0	8	
Cade Carney	1	4	4.0	0	4	
SYRACUSE						
Trishton Jackson	10	111	11.1	1	26	
Taj Harris	7	70	10.0	0	33	
Luke Benson	1	29	29.0	1	29	
Moe Neal	2	22	11.0	0	19	
Nykeim Johnson	1	18	18.0	0	18	
Aaron Hackett	2	11	5.5	0	11	