Painter Splashes Game-Winner Over Princeton

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box score

RALEIGH, N.C. - DeShawn Painter's turnaround jumper from the top of the key with 4.2 seconds remaining capped NC State's comeback win over Princeton 60-58 Wednesday night at the RBC Center.

The game-winner gave Painter 11 points on 4-of-8 shooting. For the first time in his career, the junior notches his third-consecutive double figure outing.

Lorenzo Brown showed no ill effects of the virus that kept him out of practice Tuesday, or the ankle injury that hobbled him late in Sunday night's game, as the sophomore led all Pack scorers with 16 points on 8-of-13 shooting, while adding eight assists and five steals.

"I'm really proud of our guys and I'm proud for a lot of reasons," said NC State head coach Mark Gottfried "We're in the infant stages with our team, hopefully building something great. Sometimes, you're going to have games like this where you have to dig down and overcome some obstacles. Princeton played phenomenally in the first half. They were making their shots, Scott Wood went down, Richard was in foul trouble, but we found a way to gut one out. Hopefully, that's something we can build on."

C.J. Williams and Richard Howell joined Brown and Painter in double figures with 10 points a piece in the victory. Howell's nine rebounds led the Pack.

The Wolfpack outscored Princeton 15-5 on second chances, 34-20 in the paint, and held a 14-4 advantage on fast break scoring.

Junior Scott Wood left the game only two minutes in with an injured ankle. Though he did not return to the game, x-rays came back negative.

NC State (3-0) emerged from the locker room trailing the Tigers 35-32 after a hot-starting Princeton (0-2) squad made 6-of-7 three pointers in the opening stanza. The second half did not look promising early, as the Wolfpack turned the ball over in each of its first three possessions.

The Pack came roaring back, though, with a stout defensive effort that held the Tigers without a field goal for nearly nine minutes from 14:34 to 5:36. During that stretch, NC State outgunned Princeton 12-4 to take its first lead since the 18:04 mark in the first half.

With the score knotted at 55-55, Alex Johnson made the Pack's first three of the night with 1:57 remaining. NC State had gone 0-of-7 before Johnson finally broke the string.

Douglas Davis answered Johnson's three with 21 seconds remaining to make the contest 58-58 and likely headed for overtime.

Without calling a timeout to regroup, Brown moved the ball into the front court and found Painter popping up to the top of the key. Painter's jumper pushed the Pack up 60-58, leaving only four seconds for Princeton's eventual desperation heave from halfcourt to fall short.