

St John's mounts thrilling comeback victory over Georgetown
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The St. John's men's basketball team overcame a late double-digit deficit against Georgetown to win the first game of the Big East tournament 75-62 Wednesday night.

The Red Storm found themselves down 62-52 with six and a half minutes remaining and went on an unbelievable 23-0 run to win the game.

"Coach always emphasizes that we are never out of games," said St. Johns guard LJ Figueroa. "I don't think anyone out there on the court knew that we were on a 23-0 run. We were just out there having fun and that's how it's supposed to feel."

St. Johns shot a paltry 30.8 percent from the field, but forced 21 turnovers to topple Georgetown for the first time this year and forced the Hoyas to end their season on a seven-game losing streak.

"It still hasn't hit me that the game ended like that," Georgetown senior Jagen Mosely said. "You never want to go out on a loss. I mean 95 to 99 percent of teams in college end their career in losses, but you never want to end it like that."

LJ Figueroa led the way offensively for St. Johns with 22 points on 8-17 shooting. Marcellus Earlington had a double-double with 19 points and 10 rebounds, including some big 3-point shots down the stretch to help propel St. Johns to victory.

"It was a great feeling," Earlington said. "My teammates did a good job at finding me at my spots."

The win for the Red Storm came on a night where the NCAA announced a few hours before tip-off that fans will not attend the men's and women's national championship tournaments.

"I have made the decision to conduct our upcoming championship events, including the Division I men's and women's basketball tournaments, with only essential staff and limited family attendance." Said NCAA President Mark Emmert. "While I understand how disappointing this is for all fans of our sports, my decision is based on the current understanding of how COVID-19 is progressing in the United States. This decision is in the best interest of public health, including that of coaches, administrators, fans and, most importantly, our student-athletes."

The two Big East tournament games played on Wednesday night did have fans in attendance, but whether or not that will continue throughout the tournament is unclear. Several conferences including the American Athletic Conference and the Big 12 Conference announced that they will limit spectators in their conference tournament games.

St. John's will play seventh-ranked Creighton Thursday at noon. Their season series is split 1-1 with the most recent game being a 20-point blow-out by St. Johns on March 1.