



MICHIGAN STATE ENDING

THE SITUATION

With 1.6 seconds remaining in a 78-77 game Sunday night at then-#13 Michigan State, **Christian Terrell** threw an in-bounds pass from under the Spartans' basket to **Antravious Simmons** at the FGCU free throw line. However, despite the ball not being touched by any player, the game clock hit zero before Simmons even touched the ball.

The play was designed for him to take a dribble and attempt a game-winning layup, but when he heard the horn as soon as he caught the ball - after time had already expired - he threw the ball toward the basket and did not make the shot.

FGCU coaches were told by the referees that the play could not be reviewed with video to see if the clock started early, and only to see the time related to a made or missed shot. However, on pages 101 and 102 of the official NCAA Men's Basketball Rule Book for 2015-16 and 2016-17 (Rule 11-C-2), the rule appears to state that video replay could have been utilized to correct a timing mistake:

"Determine whether the shot clock malfunctioned or a timing mistake occurred in failing to properly start, stop, set or reset the shot clock" (shot and game clock are the same with less than 30 seconds remaining).

HEAD REFEREE STATEMENT

A timing error occurred with 1.6 seconds remaining on the game clock. Since a timing error occurred, we are able to utilize the replay monitor. A stopwatch was used to determine if any time should remain on the game clock. Using a stopwatch, it was determined the ball was caught and released in 1.3 seconds, meaning if the shot would have gone in, it would have counted. After the miss there was no time remaining in the game, therefore ending the game. By rule the possession can not be replayed. Period.

All four of us (3 referees and 1 table staff) have the capability (to start the clock). When the timing error occurred it allowed us to utilize the monitor. Ok, and then that's when we break out the stopwatch. At that point, as the statement read, we have to determine what's the, because play didn't stop. If that try is released after the 1.6 we are going to wave it off. If that try is released before the 1.6 we are going to count it. It was determined it was released before the 1.6, we were prepared to count it. It did not go in, and using the stopwatch we didn't need to put any time back on the clock because it had expired. -- Bo Boroski

ASUN STATEMENT

The timing error was that the clock was started too early, prior to it being contacted by a player. The clock should have started its countdown from 1.6 only after it was touched in bounds. The officiating crew used the monitor and a digital stopwatch to review the play to see if Simmons' shot occurred within the 1.6 seconds that should have been available for play. It was determined that the shot was attempted before 1.6 seconds elapsed, and therefore the attempt would have counted had it been good.

The ASUN appreciates the acknowledgment of the error by the Big Ten and the timely review and communication exhibited by the Big Ten and the Collegiate Officiating Consortium which assigns and evaluates officials for the Big Ten.

While the conclusion of the contest was marred by the timing error, the fact that FGCU played on equal terms with a nationally ranked opponent on the road cannot be denied. While official records show the contest as a loss statistically for FGCU, perhaps the notoriety of the finish will serve as a highlight for how good the Eagles are as a basketball team. Also of note is the fact that FGCU competed without the services of leading returning scorer (17.1 PPG) and rebounder (9.3 RPG) Marc-Eddy Norelia, still recovering from a broken left (shooting) hand. In terms of the subjective "eye test" used to evaluate the quality of a basketball team, FGCU has shown it is a winner.

BIG TEN STATEMENT

Big Ten Associate Commissioner and Men's Basketball Collegiate Officiating Consortium Coordinator Executive Director Rick Boyages acknowledged an officiating timing error during the final play of the Florida Gulf Coast at Michigan State game.

While the on-court officials and Michigan State timekeeper have the ability to start and stop the clock, after a complete review of the timing error on the game's final play with 1.6 seconds remaining, it was confirmed that a game official improperly set the clock in motion via his Precision Timing belt pack. The subsequent adjudication of rules, allowing for use of the courtside video monitor and a hand-held digital stopwatch to determine whether the shot was released prior to expiration, and if there was any time remaining in the game, were properly administered.

All officials assigned by the Collegiate Officiating Consortium are graded and evaluated on every play of every game throughout the season. Officials are held accountable pursuant to policies and procedures established by both the Big Ten Conference and the Men's Basketball Collegiate Officiating Consortium.

The Men's Basketball Collegiate Officiating Consortium, LLC provides regional oversight of officiating operations in the Big Ten, Horizon League, Mid-American Conference, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Summit League and Northern Sun. The consortium considers this matter concluded and will have no further comment.

FGCU STATEMENT

We want to put to rest that the MSU clock operator had anything to do with the end of our game on Sunday. Big Ten policies call for the on-court officials being involved with starting the clock in the final two minutes with their Precision Timing belt pack. It was confirmed that this occurred improperly in our final seconds. Unfortunately, rather than having been forced to focus on whether or not Antravious got his shot off on time, we believe that common sense should have dictated concentrating on the fact that the immediate sounding of the horn resulted in his understandably rushing a shot, instead of the opportunity to have more fairly completed the designed dribble and shoot. Therefore, like most, we believe that the fairest thing to have done was to have simply replayed the possession. To our chagrin, current rules apparently did not allow this to have occurred. Hence, it is our hope that this very disappointing conclusion will result in a near future full-vetting with the Men's Basketball Rules Committee that will lend itself to modifying the playing rules to better allow a replay to occur and to avoid a frustrating repeat occurrence for another team and its supporters.

#DunkCity