Kentucky Survives

A late surge by Kentucky against Notre Dame in an Elite 8 game in Cleveland, OH punches them a ticket to the final four, to face Wisconsin. As a team Kentucky shot a high percentage from the floor shooting 53.4% which helped aid them in their victory. Towns' great individual performance of 25 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists, and 2 steals was a standout performance in its own. Notre Dame also shot well from the floor as a team shooting 46.4% from the floor in their 2 point heart breaking loss. Zach Auguste had a great individual performance as well with 20 points and 9 rebounds, just one board away from a double double. The whole game seemed like the two teams were pretty evenly matched. Notre Dame had their points throughout the game were they looked a step ahead of Kentucky and vise versa. Notre Dame held a lead for 11 mins and 39 seconds in the 2nd half from 14:57 - 3:18 left in the game, but then Aaron Harrison hit a 3 and the loyal and anxious Kentucky fans let out a loud cheer. Kentucky had taken a 1 point lead 64-63 with 3:18 left in the game, but don't forget about Jerian Grant of Notre Dame. He quickly quieted the Kentucky crowd with a 3 of his own extending Notre Dame's lead to 66-64 and the confident Notre Dam crowd roared back. This game would finish as intense as one could imagine. With 2:36 standing between a final four appearance for both teams, they were both hungry for that spot. Then a missed shot, foul, and then a layup from Towns tied the game at 66 a piece with 1:14 left.

For a speculator this game was nerve wracking and immensely intense, so one couldn't imagine what these players were going through. Kentucky with the ball and chewing the clock down, Andrew Harrison drives down the lane and is fouled and sent to the free throw line for 2 shots With 6 seconds left. A final four appearance, college basketball careers, and a perfect season all in the hands of Andrew Harrison. He sinks the first one and a lot of the weight is lifted off his shoulders, still some weight remains upon his shoulders. He nails the second one as well and gives Kentucky a 2 point lead 68-66, but a 3 pointer would ensure a final four spot for Notre Dame and they were well capable of getting the win. The ball is inbounded to Jarien Grant and pushes his way across the floor down to the corner, and is double teamed but is forced to throw up a 3 pointer. Looks like a potential miraculous buzzer beater, but it falls short, and the Kentucky fans go crazy. Kentucky players, coaches, fans in the arena, and fans at home hit their most excited mood of the night. A perfect season still alive and a chance at the championship is achievable, but Notre Dame's hopes are diminished into thin air. One team smiling as wide as possible while shaking hands and ecstatic into the locker room, while the other is completely opposite. Both teams clearly gave it their all and it just happened to be Kentucky's night. Although Notre Dame lost this game, in my opinion they were still one the best teams in the NCAA tournament. Opinions aside Kentucky was able to pass by teams all year not skipping a beat and they have ticketed their final four spot.