

# Final exam out West: Tigers against Arizona

**M.U. survives** a late run by Syracuse to win in overtime and advance to the regional finals.

By **CHIP SCOGGINS**  
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LOS ANGELES — Just when it looked as though the Missouri Tigers were about to turn the game into a rout, the Syracuse Orangemen started to press.

With M.U. leading 67-55 — the largest lead of the game — with 8:48 left in the NCAA West Regional semifinal game Thursday, Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim instructed his players to press full-court.

The Orangemen (23-7) cut the lead and eventually forced overtime. But the fifth-ranked Tigers (28-3) regained their composure and won 98-88.

M.U. advances to a regional final for the first time since the NCAA Tournament expanded to 64 teams. The Tigers made it to the regional finals in 1976, but that came with a 32-team field. M.U. is 3-0 in overtime games this season.

"I thought it was a great ballgame," M.U. coach Norm Stewart said. "It was hard-fought. We had a nine-point lead in the second half and did not handle that well. But I think really the main thing is that our ballclub has got a lot of grit and figured out a way to win the game."

Adrian Autry almost single-handedly won the game for the Orangemen, with 13 points in the final 4:33 and a career-high 31 points for the game. All of his points came after halftime.

S.U.'s Lawrence Moten, who finished with 29 points, cut M.U.'s lead to 70-69 on a layup after he picked off Melvin Booker's cross-court pass.

Autry scored the last eight points for Syracuse and freshman Kelly Thames scored the final four points for the Tigers and regulation ended in a 79-79 tie.

Thames' final two points in regulation came from the free throw line after a bizarre play that may have been the luckiest of the night for the Tigers.

Lamont Frazier inbounded the ball to the Tigers' last option, Jevon Crudup, who lobbed a pass toward Booker. S.U.'s Lucious Jackson intercepted the ball but tripped, and Booker took it from him. Booker was double-teamed at midcourt. But he jumped up and found Thames down low. Moten then fouled Thames.



MARK J. TERRILL/Associated Press

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Missouri's Melvin Booker tries to muscle his way past Syracuse's Otis Hill, left, and Lucious Jackson.

**Crudup, Thames**  
 stand tall inside



**Wildcats**  
 Corde in