

Let the Games Begin!

March 20, 2014



Watch parties are always fun. Sometimes it's the game itself. Sometimes it's the friends and conversation. And sometimes, it's the people you meet. That's what happened when the Orange played Western Michigan in their NCAA tournament opener on March 20.

The game was decided early on. Eventually, 'Cuse prevailed 77 - 53. But our cast of characters at Macadam's made it a fun day...



Mike Weader ('91) (left) joined us for the first time in a while. Mike's a charter member of the club who's helped design our logo and our blood drive posters.

Of course, some of our stalwart members were there, too. Such as **Ted Bunga ('61)**, **Christie Martin ('99)** and **Bob Gates ('61)** (below, next to Mike). Behind the camera was **Ken Kane ('75)**. Without these folks, who knows if there would even be a Stumptown Orange.



We actually had a Western Michigan interloper, but no one seemed to mind. It was "Honorary Orange" Arnie Pantich (WMU, '63) but as you can see (above right), Arnie has a soft spot for the 'Cuse ... under his sweatshirt.

But the coolest dude at the watch party was someone who Ted bumped into elsewhere in Macadam's. It was a young Syracuse fan by the name of Wilkins Wallace. He was eating at the restaurant with his mom and grandmother. But eagle-eyed Ted spotted Wilkins' SU t-shirt and Orange basketball shorts, and invited him join us. Eventually, grandmom came in, smartphone at the ready, and photos were exchanged along with well wishes.



So, why does Wilkins root for Syracuse? Did family attend SU? Is he a fan of a particular player? Not really. He just likes the team and focuses his passion on Boheim's Boys.

That's good enough for the Stumptown Orange. By the time he finished lunch and his visit with us, he was headed home with a pennant, a team poster and even a stuffed Otto. And hugs all around from his like-minded new "aunts and uncles."

Here's to ya, Wilkins. Who knows, maybe one of these years we'll see you at a Student Send-off!

