

## **Red Storm Takes Down Temple in Vivid Seats Empire Classic Opener**

**MEW YORK** – St. John's earned a hard-fought 78-72 victory over Temple (2-3) in the 2022 Vivid Seats Empire Classic benefiting Wounded Warrior Project presented by Continental Tire on Monday at Barclays Center. Montez Mathis recorded a team-high 16 points on 7-of-10 shooting while Joel Soriano registered his fourth double-double with 15 points and 12 boards to help St. John's improve to 5-0 on the season.

Andre Curbelo came up clutch for the Red Storm in the semifinal matchup with key buckets in the final 75 seconds of action. After Zach Hicks put the Owls up 72-70 with his third triple of the contest, Curbelo answered with a 3-point play to regain a 73-72 edge with 1:15 to go. Then following Temple's 21<sup>st</sup> turnover, Curbelo converted another acrobatic layup 35 seconds later to put the Johnnies up by three. St. John's sealed the game at the free-throw line as Mathis hit a pair and Soriano added another.

Curbelo finished with 13 points to go with four assists, three steals and one block. David Jones was the fourth St. John's player to record double figures posting 14 points. The junior wing also pulled down seven rebounds and made four steals.

Posh Alexander registered six points, six assists, six rebounds and two steals for the Johnnies. O'Mar Stanley hit all four of his shot attempts and finished with eight points in 13 minutes off the bench.

Jamille Reynolds scored 16 of his game-high 21 points in the second half to lead the Owls. Battle finished with 17 points after recording 13 in the opening 20 minutes of action.