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## Duke sees red in victory

**By Dan Friedell**

Special to the News & Record

NEW YORK -- It took four drops of blood on the Madison Square Garden parquet for the Duke Blue Devils to see red.

After a slow first half that saw them post their lowest point total of the year, the sixth-ranked Blue Devils (11-1) played solid ball in the final 14 minutes for a 61-54 victory over Gonzaga. Sophomore point guard Greg Paulus clipped his chin as he dove under the press table chasing a loose ball.

He remained under the table's blue draping for a minute before teammates came to his aid. When he got to his feet, there were four red droplets on the floor. He left the floor for the only time all game to have a trainer bandage his chin.

A minute later, he was back leading the Duke offense to a key non-conference win over the 21st-ranked Bulldogs (9-4). Despite the blood, Paulus, a former quarterback, was eager to return to action; especially in front of about 50 friends and family who made the four-hour drive down from Syracuse.

"It was, let's get up and see what the score was and try to get out there as soon as possible," he said.

While Paulus didn't hit his next few shots, he found Josh McRoberts for a dunk off an inbounds pass that gave the Blue Devils a 43-38 lead with 8:00 to go. Then he made a 3-pointer a few minutes later that gave them their largest lead of the game, 48-40, and helped the Devils stay in their offense after DeMarcus Nelson fouled out with 4:12 to play.

That, combined with intrepid defense from freshman Jon Scheyer and Nelson against Gonzaga's leading scorer, Derek Raivio, propelled the Blue Devils to the win. Paulus hit four 3-pointers in a career-high 20-point game coach Mike Krzyzewski called "the best of his career."

Paulus' effort was capped by a give-and-go executed with McRoberts that pushed the Duke lead to 56-50 with just under a minute to play. The guard, who has been dealing with a foot injury and illness throughout the season, said he feels like he's almost at full capacity for the first time this year.

"I'm not where I'd like to be," he said. "But I know I'm getting better and getting back into shape."

Krzyzewski joked about his bench's lack of offensive production -- zero points in 35 combined minutes -- but he was impressed with the way they dealt with Gonzaga's big scorers, Raivio and 6-foot-10 forward Josh Heytvelt.

The duo, averaging 37 points combined, was held to four. Gonzaga coach Mark Few was impressed with the atmosphere at the packed Madison Square Garden (19,528) but would have liked to see his offense make the easy shots.

"We missed layins during a real critical stretch there," he said. "We just didn't deliver."

Krzyzewski was thrilled to see his young team perform well in a foreign environment ahead of the ACC schedule.

"This was a really big win for us," he said. "I'm proud of our guys."

The slow first half provided a contrast for the active and bloody second half.

The opening 20 minutes were defined by two runs, the first by Gonzaga and the second by Duke. When Paulus hit a jumper to tie it at 10 halfway through the period, the Bulldogs took off on a 9-0 sprint that was punctuated by Sean Mallon's 3-pointer that made it 19-10 with 6:07 to go.

During the run, Gonzaga's interior defenders contested every Duke short-range shot, as McRoberts and Brian Zoubek had trouble gaining position against Gonzaga forward Abdullahi Kuso.

Kuso also imposed himself inside during the period, scoring eight points to best his season average by three.

The Blue Devils, energized by a McRoberts blocked shot and an authoritative dunk that made it 19-14 with three minutes to play, went on a 10-0 tear during a 4:40 stretch and took a 20-19 lead when Nelson made a long 3-pointer with 1:11 to go. Raivio, the Bulldogs' leading scorer, made his first shot of the half, a mid-range jumper that gave Gonzaga a 21-20 lead heading into the break.

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