

NOTES | GAME 12



NO. 1 VIRGINIA 51, NO. 5 PITT 48

Virginia (27-6) advances to the title game of the ACC Tournament for the seventh time and the first time since 1994, when the Cavaliers lost 73-66 to North Carolina in the final at Charlotte, N.C. Virginia's lone ACC Tournament championship came in 1976 at Landover, Md., where the Cavaliers defeated North Carolina in the final, 67-62.

Virginia's 27 wins are its most since winning 29 in 1982-83.

Virginia's 12 road/neutral site wins this season are its most since winning 18 in 1982-83.

The Cavaliers improved to 33-59 all-time in ACC Tournament play with Saturday's win. Virginia is 7-14 in tournament semifinal games and 15-24 in ACC Tournament games played in Greensboro.

The three-point win is Virginia's second of the season vs. the Panthers. Virginia won the lone regular-season game at Pitt by a 48-45 score on Feb. 2.

Justin Anderson, whose blocked shot of a Pitt 3-point attempt with 0.5 seconds remaining preserved Virginia's win, was voted the ACC Sixth Man of the Year by the Atlantic Coast Sports Media Association (ACSMA).

Anderson came off the bench for the 28th time in 33 games on Saturday and contributed two points and two rebounds in 18 minutes prior to his big defensive play at the end. The blocked shot was Anderson's 25th of the season, which ranks second on the team behind Mike Tobey's 37.

Senior Joe Harris led the Cavaliers in scoring for the second tournament game with 12 points. Harris scored in double figures for the 22nd time in 33 games. Harris needs eight points to pass John Crotty (1988-91), whose 1,646 rank 12th on Virginia's all-time list.

Virginia redshirt sophomore Anthony Gill, playing 20 minutes away from his hometown of High Point, N.C., posted his 13th double figure scoring game of the season—and his seventh in the last 11 games – with 10 points. Gill's effort included a pair of clutch free throws with just under nine seconds remaining that gave the Cavaliers their three-point cushion.

After scoring in double figures in every game against ACC opposition during the regular-season, Virginia All-ACC guard Malcolm Brogdon finished with six points in Friday's quarterfinal win over Florida State. Brogdon scored 10 points on Saturday, giving him double-figure scoring in 19 of 20 games against ACC opposition this season.

With eight rebounds on Saturday, senior Akil Mitchell now has 766 for his career and moved into 10th place on Virginia's all-time list.

The top-seeded Cavaliers will face third-seeded Duke or seventh-seeded NC State in Sunday's 1 p.m. championship game. Duke handed Virginia one of its two ACC regular-season losses by a 69-65 score in Durham on Jan. 23. The loss to Duke came two nights after Virginia had defeated NC State by a 76-45 score in Raleigh. Saturday's win gave Virginia a 9-3 lead in its all-time series with Pitt.

With Virginia's win, the top seeded teams are now a collective 123-31 all-time in ACC Tournament play. With Pitt's loss, the No. 5 seeded teams are now 51-56.

Virginia improved its season record to 20-2 when leading at the half and 27-4 when opponents shoot less than 50 percent from the floor.

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Virginia improved to 22-2 for the season when holding its opponent to fewer than 60 points. Fifth-seeded Pittsburgh is now 25-9.

When Virginia's Joe Harris hit a jumper at the 18:16 point of the first half to give Virginia a 2-0 lead, it marked the first time the Panthers had been behind in the tournament, a span of 81 minutes and 44 seconds.

Panthers center Talib Zanna followed his 21-rebound effort on Friday by grabbing nine more rebounds. He finished three games in the tournament with a total of 39 rebounds – 19 offensive and 20 defensive.

Zanna and Lamar Patterson each scored 15 points but the rest of the Panthers only contributed 18, with only five coming from the bench players. The two seniors finished the tournament with 51 points apiece.

Patterson extended his Pitt record for career games played to 146.

Pitt entered the game tied with Virginia for the best rebounding margin in the ACC at 6.5. The Panthers grabbed 29 rebounds to 27 for the Cavs.

Eight of the first 12 games in this ACC Tournament have been decided by four or fewer points. The average margin of victory for the 12 games has been 7.3 points. Only five of the previous 60 tournaments had an average of margin of fewer than eight points.

The No. 1 seed is now 23-5 against the No. 5 seed in ACC Tournament history. The No. 1 team has now advanced to the finals 44 times.

Virginia won while going 6-of-7 from the foul line. Teams attempting fewer than seven free throws are now 4-25 all-time in ACC Tournament play.