

# NCAA TOURNAMENT



## NCAA TOURNAMENT: DAVIDSON 82, GU 76

### GONZAGA

Continued from C1

Gonzaga (25-8) said goodbye after the first round of the NCAAAs for the second straight season. GU led by as many as 11 in each half, but Curry brought the Wildcats back. He scored 22 of his team's first 26 points in the second half.

"It was like an opening-night performance on Broadway and he was the star," said Davidson coach Bob McKillop, a New York native. "But he had a great cast with him."

Gonzaga, spurred by seven 3-pointers by freshman guard Steven Gray, had the upper hand for roughly 30 minutes. Gray's shots barely grazed the rim, if at all, and his fourth and fifth 3s came on consecutive possessions to give the Bulldogs their biggest lead at 28-17 with 8:07 left.

Gonzaga could have widened the gap, but 12 first-half turnovers got in the way, including turnovers on five straight possessions that allowed the Wildcats to close within 28-24. The Bulldogs, who led 41-36 at half, were the aggressors for most of the first 30 minutes, running down loose balls and dominating the boards. But it was the Wildcats who

"It was like an opening-night performance on Broadway and he (Curry) was the star."

**Bob McKillop**  
Davidson coach

made the majority of hustle plays in the last 10 minutes, several of which generated crucial points. Davidson caught up at 62-all on — what else? — a long 3-pointer by Curry and took its first lead, 66-65, with 8:25 left on a putback by Stephen Rossiter.

"We got the 50-50 balls, the loose balls at the start of the second half," Bulldogs senior forward Abdullahi Kuso said, "but they just turned it around on us down the stretch."

Pargo scored eight of GU's last 11 points, but he misfired on a long 3-pointer that prompted a discussion with Few near the bench after David Pendergraft was whistled for a foul on the rebound.

Another Lovedale offensive rebound led to Curry's back-breaking 3-pointer and a 77-74 lead.



Davidson's Andrew Lovedale was a handful for Gonzaga underneath, including Zags Steven Gray and David Pendergraft.

"I was pretty much there with the ball (on the rebound) and basically got stripped," Pargo said.

Gonzaga freshman forward Austin Daye, who finished just 3

of 13 from the floor, missed a 3-pointer and Lovedale's two free throws bumped Davidson's lead to 79-74. Gray was short on a 3-pointer. Daye then missed a free throw and GU committed a viol-

ation on his second foul shot. Curry made 3 of 4 free throws in the final 14.5 seconds to seal it.

Gray led GU with a season-high 21 points as the Bulldogs finished 50.9 percent of its field-goal attempts. Richards supported Curry with 15 points and nine assists. Lovedale added a double-double (12 points, 13 boards).

In the closing seconds, Curry chucked the ball high into the air and celebrated with Richards in the backcourt.

"He reminds me of (ex-Zag Dan) Dickau," Bulldogs coach Mark Few said. "He has a very simple shot. He doesn't need space or time to get it off."

It was a disappointing conclusion for the Bulldogs, who dropped their last two games.

"Any time you lead for 90 percent of the game, it's tough to let a team come back on you and take the lead," Pargo said. "We made some bonehead plays later in the game, including me probably more than others. We had great contributions from Josh (Heytvelt), 12 points, eight rebounds) and Steven. We just gave up too many things. ... It's very disappointing. The sky was the limit for us, especially seeing what we had coming down the road. It just hurts right now."

### BY THE NUMBERS

15

The combined number of turnovers committed by Gonzaga's starting backcourt of Jeremy Pargo (6), Matt Bouldin (5) and Steven Gray (4).

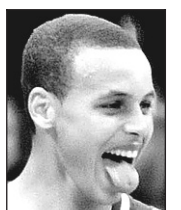
6

The previous single-game NCAA record for 3-pointers made in a first-round tournament game, prior to Friday when Davidson's Stephen Curry made eight and Gonzaga's Steven Gray made seven.

28

The most points Gonzaga had given up to an opposing player this season, which are 12 fewer than they allowed Stephen Curry.

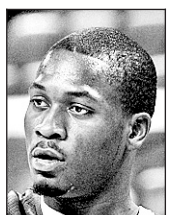
### THEY SAID IT



"I approach every game the same way, so this is nothing different for me. I warm up the same way and shoot the same way, so I don't get caught up in this big atmosphere and people-are-watching kind of mind-set."

**Stephen Curry**

Davidson guard on his 40-point performance



"Myself included, we made some big mistakes and it cost us the game. Any time you have 19 turnovers in a game, it usually turns out bad for you."

**Jeremy Pargo**

On GU's 19 turnovers

"I know there were a couple I could have made, which is why I feel a little bit worse about this loss. I didn't do everything I could."

**Josh Heytvelt**

On GU's lack of hustle

# Nothing could stop Curry

BY STEVE BERGUM

Staff writer

RALEIGH, N.C. — Select teams for a schoolyard pick-up game — without watching each other warm up — and Stephen Curry might well be the last player chosen.

Standing 6-foot-3, weighing a mere 185 pounds, and sporting a boyish grin that would prompt most ticket takers to ban him from an R-rated movie, Davidson College's sophomore shooting guard is far from physically imposing.

But on Friday afternoon, in front of a national television audience, Curry's shooting led the 10th-seeded Wildcats to an 82-76 win over seventh-seeded Gonzaga in the opening round of the NCAA tournament.

Curry, who came into the game averaging 25.1 points per game, lit up the Bulldogs for 40 points in an entertaining game that played out in front of a large, appreciative crowd in the RBC Center.

Using a quick release that sometimes resembles a volleyball set and seemingly unlimited range, the Southern Conference's player of the year knocked down one tough shot after another in handing GU its second straight first-round tournament defeat.

He made 8 of 10 3-pointers and picked up several big buckets in scramble situations to impress his teammates and the Gonzaga players charged with trying to defend him.

"He never ceases to amaze us with the crazy shots he hits," Wildcats backup forward Stephen Rossiter said of Curry. "He's been doing it since he got here and he just keeps getting better, which is the best part."

The Bulldogs used nearly every defensive plan imaginable to slow down Davidson's hot hand, but they failed.

Freshman Steven Gray did most of the heavy lifting against Curry when the Zags were playing man, but juniors Jeremy Pargo and Micah Downs also got their chances, only to watch well-defended, hand-in-your-face shots float just out of their reach and into the net.

Even the Curry-conscious zone and triangle-and-two GU employed at times during the game did little to rein him in.

"He reminds me of like a (Dan) Dickau," Bulldogs coach Mark Few said of Curry, whose point total was 12 more than the Zags had previously allowed an opponent to score this season. "He has a nice, high pocket, very simple shot and doesn't need space or time to get it off."

GU's senior forward David Pendergraft also had plenty of praise for the guy who almost single-handedly dropped the curtain on his collegiate career.



Davidson's Stephen Curry played a little defense, too, here stealing a pass intended for Gonzaga's Matt Bouldin.

"As just a pure shooter, he's unbelievable," Pendergraft said. "His shot, he's shooting it from 24 feet way, but it seems like he's shooting from 5 because of how soft it is. It's still a set shot, but he gets it off so quick and it's just so soft."

"Steven (Gray) was draped all over him all game long, and he still gets 40. Even if he misses a little bit right or left, the ball stays on the rim and usually falls in, just because of how soft he shoots it."

Gray, who finished with a career-high 21

points despite spending so much energy trying to track down Curry, said he did all he could to make each shot a challenge.

But the way Curry's teammates were so willing to set screens and look for him on the perimeter whenever he was open, made that difficult.

"Personally, I don't know if I (ever) ran off that many screens trying to defend someone," Gray said. "He sets them up very well. He's very knowledgeable that way."

GU's junior center Josh Heytvelt said

Curry's performance reminded him of those the Zags used to get from former teammate Adam Morrison.

"Whenever Adam wanted to put the ball in the hoop, he did," Heytvelt said. "And that's kind of what Curry did to us today — and he didn't even look like he was working too hard to do it."

"We tried to pressure him, bump him, get in his face and do all that stuff the entire game, but he's a smart player, and none of it seemed to bother him."

# Gray puts on his own long-shot exhibition

## Gonzaga freshman hits seven 3-pointers

NOTEBOOK

BY JIM MEEHAN AND STEVE BERGUM

Staff writers

RALEIGH, N.C. — Gonzaga's Steven Gray let it be known early that there would be more than one sharp-shooting guard on the RBC Center court Friday.

The freshman guard from Bainbridge, Wash., deposited seven 3-pointers and scored a team-high 21 points in Gonzaga's 82-76 NCAA men's basketball tournament loss to Davidson, which relied on sophomore guard Stephen Curry's 40 points to knock off the higher-seeded Bulldogs.

Gray made his first five from long distance and finished 7 of 12. He didn't attempt a two-point field goal or a free throw. He made 6 of 7 3-pointers against

Santa Clara nearly three weeks ago en route to 18 points, which was his previous high.

"That's just the way it developed," Gray said. "We have been working all week on finding shots off the penetration and early on Jeremy (Pargo) and Matt (Bouldin) found me open and toed up on the line."

"His approach was great," Bulldogs coach Mark Few said. "We really wanted to come out and let it rip."

Gray drew the starting defensive assignment on Curry, so it wasn't like he was getting a break at the other end of the floor. Gray played 35 minutes, his third-longest stint of the season.

"He hit numerous really difficult shots," Gray said of Curry. "I was kind of surprised to look up at the end of the game and see he had 40. I felt like most of his shots were contested, but he was

putting them in."

### Senior sendoff

As sendoffs go, this wasn't the best for Gonzaga seniors David Pendergraft and Abdullahi Kuso, who spent the closing seconds of the loss watching from the bench.

"This isn't how I thought it was going to end, but I'm very proud and I appreciate my time here (at Gonzaga)," Kuso said. "I kept hoping we'd pull out a miracle. When that final whistle blew, it was really tough."

Pendergraft was seated next to freshman Austin Daye in the Zags' locker room after the loss and was noticeably dejected.

Daye, in an effort to pick up his teammate, said he planned on getting back in the gym and working on his game as soon as possible.

"Because I want to make this guy proud," he said, nodding toward Pendergraft, who responded by tapping Daye on the knee

and saying, "You already have, buddy."

### Morrison sighting

Adam Morrison, Gonzaga's former first-team all-American and first-round NBA draft choice of the Charlotte Bobcats, was in attendance at the game sporting longer locks than he did during his days as a Zag — along with a couple of ugly scars on his left knee.

Morrison, who underwent surgery to repair the season-ending ACL injury he suffered in an Oct. 20 exhibition game, made the two-hour drive from Charlotte to watch his former team play.

"I just got here and haven't had time to talk to the guys," Morrison said during halftime of the Zags' loss to Davidson.

Morrison planned to return to Charlotte for the Bobcats' home game today, but was hoping to return to Raleigh for the Bulldogs' second-round game, which

never materialized.

### Neutral-court advantage?

Much of the pregame hype centered on the fact this game was played in Raleigh, which is roughly a 2½-hour drive from the Davidson campus. There were plenty of empty seats at the outset, but they gradually filled up in the second half with blue-clad fans supporting No. 1 seed North Carolina, which defeated Mount St. Mary's later in the day. Many of the Tar Heels' faithful loaned their rooting interests to Davidson when the Wildcats staged their second-half rally.

Gonzaga's Pargo said the crowd didn't make a difference.

"It wasn't difficult at all," he said. "It's a basketball game, no matter where you're at. A lot of people forget that we played Saint Joe's (in Philadelphia) and UConn in Boston. It was the same atmosphere there as here and we got two wins in those games."

### BOX SCORE

Davidson 82, Gonzaga 76									
Davidson (27-6)	Min	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	PF	PTS	Reb	Stls
Sander	25	1-1	0-0	0-0	2	2	2	2	2
Lovedale	29	4-8	4-6	6-13	2	4	12	2	1
Richards	36	4-14	5-7	1-3	9	4	15	2	1
Gosselin	31	2-6	2-2	0-3	2	3	7	2	1
Curry	39	14-22	4-6	0-3	2	0	40	2	0
Meno	15	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0	0	0
Archambault	11	1-3	0-0	0-0	1	2	2	0	0
Rossiter	11	2-2	0-0	1-4	1	4	4	0	0
Barr	3	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>28-55</b>	<b>15-21</b>	<b>10-29</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>82</b>			

Percentages: FG 50.9, FT 57.1, 3-Point Goals 11-22, 27, 44.4 (Gray 7-12, Pargo 2-5, Heytvelt 1-1, Pendergraft 1-2, Daye 1-6, Bouldin 0-1). Team Rebounds: 1 (Bouldin 5, Gray 4, Downs, Kuso, Heytvelt, Team), 2 (Curry 3, Richards 2, Gosselin, Archambault). Technical Fouls: None.

Halftime—Gonzaga 41, Davidson 36. A—NA.