Duke dominates in exhibition game

BY JOE DALY Special to the Herald Sun

DURHAM -– If Kyle Singler and Nolan Smith are known quantities at this point of their Duke careers, Kyrie Irving, Seth Curry and, to a lesser degree, Andre Dawkins still are forming initial impressions.

So while Singler (31 points, nine rebounds and six 3-pointers) and Smith (15 points, nine assists and just two turnovers) were their usual selves in Duke's 141-68 exhibition victory over St. Augustine's on Saturday night at Cameron Indoor Stadium, it was the likes of Curry and Irving and Dawkins that were of greater interest.

Irving dazzled in his first organized action, scoring 17 points while dishing out seven assists.

It wouldn't have taken a whole lot for Irving's vision, to give St. Aug's trouble, but it did, any way. The freshman point guard from New Jersey repeatedly found teammates with savvy passes, both in transition and in the half-court. He and Smith helped Duke hand out 38 assists on its 46 field goals.

Irving also made his shots, knocking down the opening 3-pointer as part of a 30-1 Duke run to open the game. And his defense didn't give St. Aug's any chance to run its offense.

"I felt really comfortable out there," Irving said. "We've been prac-ticing really hard lately, and our practices are a lot harder than games."

In an intra-squad scrimmage Thursday, Irving had 11 assists and just one turnover.

Numbers like that give Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski confidence that his team won't see a drop in point guard play as the Blue Devils try to replace Jon Scheyer.

"I think he's just mature — mentally, physi-cally," Krzyzewski said. 'He's a special player."

Curry has been around Durham longer, sitting out the 2009-10 season after transferring from Liberty. With the last name Curry — his older brother, Stephen, starred Davidson before a at

strong rookie season for Golden State, and his father, Dell, had a long NBA career knocking down 3-pointers — Seth will be expected to shoot the ball and shoot the ball well.

From that standpoint, his first Duke shot didn't disappoint Curry drained a long-range shot from a couple steps beyond the 3-point line. He finished with 15 points and two 3-pointers.

"I just open up the floor for everybody else by making shots," Curry said. "Wherever I catch it, I feel that's in my range and I can make a shot from there.

While Dawkins isn't technically a new face, he will be counted on in ways he never was last year.

The sophomore scored 20 points, making four 3-pointers on a night the Blue Devils made 19 3pointers.

"I think I'm a lot more comfortable out there," Dawkins said, comparhis first game of ing 2010-11 to a year ago. "I know exactly what I'm supposed to do out there,

Carolina earlier this season. But

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BLOW

a 78-yard opening drive with a 19-yard field goal. The Tar Heels then had a chance to add to their lead after an interception by Da'Norris Searcy gave them the ball on the Hurricanes' 20, but Anthony Elzy fumbled the ball in the end zone to keep the score at 3-0.

"When we had a chance to build some momentum and kind of go up on them we shot ourselves in the foot," UNC quarterback T.J. Yates said.

Miami took advantage of the turnover to drive down the field and tie the score on a 38-yard field goal by Matt Bosher.

The tie didn't last long, however.

On the first play of the ensuing possession, Johnny White zigged and zagged his way 76 yards down the field for the longest run of his career to put UNC ahead 10-3. His previous high was a 54-yard run against East

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UNC's offense would all but disappear

after White's long run. The Hurricanes reeled off 30 unanswered points and shut out the Tar Heels in the second half. Yates, who entered the game with just one interception, was picked off twice in the second half, and UNC was held to just 109 yards of offense in the final two quarters.

"It's tough to play a team like that because when they get momen-tum and when they start doing well and playing well defensively and offensively they have a lot of motivation to keep playing well," Yates playing

said. "We can't get in holes like that. against a team like that. We can't beat ourselves against a team like that because they're the type of team that will take advantage of your mistakes."

Miami also took advantage of UNC's inexperience in the secondary, which took a couple

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more hits because of in-

juries Saturday. UNC knew it would be without cornerback Charles Brown (ineligible), cornerback Kendric Burney - who still is being withheld because of the investigations – - and LeCount Fantroy (shoulder) before the game, but then it lost safety Searcy and cornerback Mywan Jackson to injuries in the first half.

It meant freshmen Boston and Terry Tre Shankle saw more minutes against the Hurricanes, and each was covering the receivers who caught Harris' two touchdown passes in the second half.

DADDY'S HOME

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SIDE OF THE ROOM BUT NOT ON THIS SIDE ??

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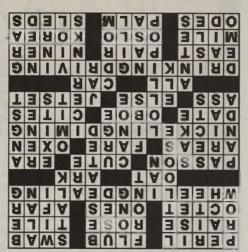
Otherwise. it was something of a perfunctory affair, which is to be expected when the reigning NCAA champion plays a Division II team that lost five starters and has a new coach.

The best thing for Duke may be that it still impressed, even with the gap in talent. We have a chance to be

very, very good," Krzyze-wski said.

Newsday Crossword

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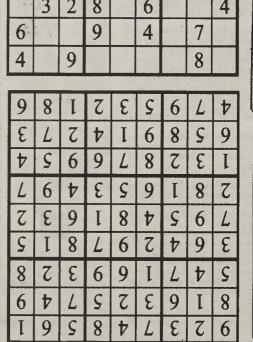




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