

TODAY, 7:10 P.M.

[2] DUKE vs. [15] BELMONT



TV: WUSA-9, WJZ-13.

RECORDS: Blue Devils (ACC at-large), 27-5; Bruins (Atlantic Sun champion), 25-8.
COACHES: Mike Krzyzewski (802-266 in 33 seasons); Rick Byrd (541-302 in 27 seasons).
WINNER FACES: West Virginia-Arizona winner on Saturday in Washington.



BACK COURT: Duke has a perimeter-oriented offense that attacks defenses with dribble penetration and a blizzard of three-point shots. The Blue Devils made 10 or more three-pointers in a game 15 times this season, averaging 9.3 per game. Greg Paulus made a team-high 78 three-pointers. DeMarcus Nelson, who shot 50.6 percent overall this season, is one of just six players in school history to reach 1,300 points, 600 rebounds, 200 assists and 125 steals. Belmont will attempt to win the game from beyond the three-point arc. The Bruins made 10.6 three-pointers per game, which ranked fourth nationally. Guard Justin Hare shot 43.8 percent from three-point range in conference play. Hare entered the season as a 76 percent free throw shooter, but he is tied for fourth nationally this season (91.5 percent).

FRONT COURT: Neither team is here because of its front-court dominance. Duke's Gerald Henderson has blocked a team-high 29 shots this season. Lance Thomas averaged 4.1 rebounds in league play. Kyle Singler took a team-high 19 charges this season, but every Duke player has made a defensive impact. Belmont's Shane Dansby, a swingman, ranked among Atlantic Sun leaders in scoring, rebounding and field goal percentage. Matthew Dotson, the team's third-leading scorer, will need to provide a contribution in the paint.

BENCH: Duke's Jon Scheyer is one of the nation's best sixth men. He ranked second in the ACC in free throw percentage (88.2), but in his last five games he is shooting 96.6 percent from the free throw line, making 28 of 29. Freshman Taylor King will be in his shooting range as soon as he steps inside Verizon Center. Belmont is fairly deep, as seven players average at least 20 minutes.

COACHES: There is no better coach to have on your side in an NCAA tournament game than Krzyzewski, who has won three national championships and has 68 victories in the NCAA tournament, the most of any coach in Division I history. His career .773 winning percentage ranks second behind UCLA's John Wooden for coaches with 40 or more NCAA tournament games. Byrd ranks 16th among active Division I coaches with 541 wins. Belmont won a program-record 25 games and became the first Atlantic Sun school to receive three straight NCAA tournament automatic berths.

— Eric Prisbell



Guard DeMarcus Nelson led the Blue Devils in scoring this season.

BY KEVIN C. COX — GETTY IMAGES

DUKE ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Pts.	Rb.
2	Nolan Smith	G	Fr.	6-2	6.1	1.6
3	Greg Paulus	G	Jr.	6-1	11.3	2.0
5	Martynas Pocius	G-F	Jr.	6-5	4.0	2.3
12	Kyle Singler	F	Fr.	6-8	13.6	5.9
14	David McClure	F	Jr.	6-6	1.1	1.9
15	Gerald Henderson	G	So.	6-4	12.3	4.7
20	Taylor King	F	Fr.	6-6	5.7	2.1
21	DeMarcus Nelson	G	Sr.	6-4	15.2	6.0
30	Jon Scheyer	G	So.	6-5	11.5	4.0
41	Jordan Davidson	G	Jr.	6-1	0.3	0.0
42	Lance Thomas	F	So.	6-8	4.4	3.3
55	Brian Zoubek	C	So.	7-1	3.9	3.5

STARTERS ARE SHADED

RESULTS

NOVEMBER			
N.C. Central	W, 121-56	vs. Marquette	W, 77-73
New Mexico State	W, 86-61	Eastern Kentucky	W, 78-43
vs. Princeton	W, 83-61	Wisconsin	W, 82-58
vs. Illinois	W, 79-66		

DECEMBER			
vs. Davidson	W, 79-73	Albany	W, 111-70
Michigan	W, 95-67	vs. Pittsburgh	L, 65-64

JANUARY			
Cornell	W, 81-67	Clemson	W, 93-80
at Temple	W, 74-64	at Virginia Tech	W, 81-64
Virginia	W, 87-65	at Maryland	W, 93-84
at Florida State	W, 70-57	N.C. State	W, 92-72

FEBRUARY			
Miami	W, 88-73	at Wake Forest	L, 86-73
at North Carolina	W, 89-78	at Miami	L, 96-95
Boston College	W, 90-80	St. John's	W, 86-56
Maryland	W, 77-65	Georgia Tech	W, 71-58

MARCH			
at N.C. State	W, 87-86	Georgia Tech*	W, 82-70
at Virginia	W, 86-70	Duke*	L, 78-74
North Carolina	L, 76-68		

*ACC TOURNAMENT

BELMONT ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Pts.	Rb.
2	Shane Dansby	G-F	Jr.	6-4	13.8	6.2
3	Keaton Belcher	F	So.	6-9	6.2	2.5
12	Alex Renfroe	G	Jr.	6-2	8.6	4.0
13	Jon House	G	Fr.	6-6	2.6	2.4
14	Andrew House	G-F	Jr.	6-4	3.1	0.8
20	Andy Wicke	G	Jr.	6-2	9.1	2.1
23	Mike Dejworek	C	So.	6-11	1.6	1.1
24	Justin Hare	G	Sr.	6-2	14.9	2.9
30	Matthew Dotson	F	Jr.	6-8	11.3	3.6
32	Jordan Campbell	G-F	Fr.	6-5	7.2	5.3
33	Will Peebles	F	Jr.	6-5	4.1	3.0
40	Henry Harris	G	Jr.	6-1	3.1	1.3

STARTERS ARE SHADED

RESULTS

NOVEMBER			
at Cincinnati	W, 86-75	at Austin Peay	L, 71-56
vs. Bowling Green	L, 78-67	at Alabama	W, 85-83
vs. West. Carolina	W, 79-70	Mid. Tennessee	W, 85-62
at Samford	W, 82-73		

DECEMBER			
at Xavier	L, 90-49	Austin Peay	L, 93-84
Fisk	W, 106-49	vs. Wright State	L, 78-74
at Mid. Tennessee	L, 86-80	vs. Murray State	W, 84-67
Tennessee State	W, 82-71		

JANUARY			
at Gardner-Webb	W, 87-84	SC Upstate	W, 76-52
at Campbell	L, 83-75	at Kennesaw St.	L, 81-79
at Lipscomb	W, 99-91	at Mercer	W, 93-82
East Tennessee St.	W, 86-83	at Stetson	W, 83-75

FEBRUARY			
Fla. Gulf Coast	W, 86-74	at SC Upstate	W, 82-72
Jacksonville	W, 85-78	Lipscomb	W, 74-65
North Florida	W, 79-56	Campbell	W, 75-64
at E. Tennessee St.	W, 87-75		

MARCH			
Gardner-Webb	W, 76-73	East Tennessee St.*	W, 69-65
Campbell*	W, 75-66	Jacksonville*	W, 79-61

*ATLANTIC SUN TOURNAMENT

DIFFERENCE MAKER

The play of **Kyle Singler** is critical to Duke's chances in the NCAA tournament. While Singler can thrive on the perimeter, he at least has the size and the skill to operate inside as well. Singler, a native of Medford, Ore., was among the most coveted recruits nationally and has lived up to the hype, winning the ACC's rookie of the year award. In conference games, Singler ranked 14th in the ACC in scoring and rebounding. Overall, he had four double-doubles and scored in double figures 24 times. But Singler has a tendency to get in foul trouble. He averaged three fouls per game and fouled out of three games. In Duke's loss to Clemson in the ACC tournament semifinals, Singler made only 1 of 9 shots and scored a season-low two points. Duke is talented enough to advance to the second round even if Singler has an off night, but the Blue Devils will need consistent contributions from the freshman to make a deep run.

