

Drumgoole Jr. leads the Delaware Fightin' Blue Hens over the Hampton Pirates, 80-50, and into CAA quarterfinals

By Keelin Brown



Gerald Drumgoole Jr. driving past his defender (Photo by Rafael Suanes)

WASHINGTON — The No. 6 Delaware Fightin' Blue Hens are moving on to the Coastal Athletic Association quarterfinals after defeating the No. 14 Hampton Pirates, 80-50, on Saturday at the Entertainment & Sports Arena. With the win, Delaware advances to face the No. 3 Hofstra Pride.

Guard Gerald Drumgoole Jr. led the way, thrashing the Pirates with a team-high 17 points on five for seven from the field (three for four from three), three rebounds, and one steal. He needed just 16 minutes of action to do so, as Delaware built a 35-point lead by halftime and never looked back.

<https://x.com/caabasketball/status/1766651257664504108?s=66>

“I think it’s just everybody else being active,” Drumgoole said. “Obviously it’s going to be a lot of attention on me when I have the ball in my hands. Everybody just executes and making the right plays and just ultimately knowing that it’s not about me; it’s about everybody else. My teammates being able to just play hard and being able to set the screens for me, and just play off the ball for me allowed me to ultimately have success today. Tomorrow might be somebody else, and the next game might be about somebody else, and that is the special thing about our team.”

After a slow start to the game, the Fightin’ Blue Hens quickly turned things around and executed a run. All-CAA Second Team forward Jyáre Davis (nine points, five rebounds) came out aggressive — earning the free throws that kickstarted the Fightin’ Blue Hens’ offense, attacking the basket regularly, and creating 3-point chances for Drumgoole and guard Cavan Reilly (14 points). As the Pirates spent the first half struggling with early foul trouble and poor field-goal

shooting (15%), the Fightin' Blue Hens took advantage, going on a 21-2 run in the last seven minutes of the half to take a commanding 51-16 lead.

"We were there all week with our preparation," Fightin' Blue Hens head coach Martin Ingelsby said. "It really challenged our group to get back to who we are on the defensive end. I thought the first half we were fabulous; we held them to 14%, we guarded the line, and we did a great job of not fouling. We came down here to get one, and we got one today."

The second half continued in much the same way, as the Pirates were no match for the Fightin' Blue Hens' high-powered offense. Fifth-year guard Jalun Trent (12 points, seven rebounds, two assists, two steals), frustrated the Pirates with his energy and pesky defense, as he keyed the Fightin' Blue Hens to a 12-0 run early in the second half that put the Pirates away for good.

https://www.instagram.com/reel/C4UyUaVul_a/?igsh=MWVwb3BwZWF3aHVq

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Drumgoole and Davis sat for the final 16 minutes, allowing Hampton to trim the final margin to 30 points. But it was still an emotional loss for the Pirates, who have struggled to win consistently after jumping from the MEAC to the Big South in 2018, then to the CAA in 2022.

“We were not mentally and physically prepared for what we ran into tonight,” Pirates head coach Edward Joyner said. “Hopefully, we can learn from that, and hopefully we can grow from that as a team.”