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Russell Garners Ranked Victory in Setback to UVA

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February 9, 2019

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. – Duke sophomore Kaden Russell garnered his biggest win of the season with a second-period pin in a hard-fought 26-17 setback for the Blue Devils at Virginia Saturday afternoon. The Blue Devils were within two points heading into the final two bouts, but again came up just a win short.

Russell, sporting a 1-1 mark against ACC foes, came in with a 16-10 record overall against Will Schany who was ranked 19th in the initial NCAA Coaches' Rankings. The Duke 184-pounder led 2-0 heading into the final minute of the second period and was able to put Schany on his back to get the six team points for the Blue Devils. The fall was fourth for the Medina, Ohio native.

The pin at 184 pounds pulled Duke within two after it had fallen behind 11-0 after the first two bouts. Josh Finesilver started Duke's climb back as Mitch and Matt also joined him in the win column before Virginia (11-9) closed out the bout with victories at 197 and 285.

Josh Finesilver garnered his first ACC victory, upending Scott Kiyono by a 15-9 score. Josh jumped on top of Kiyono early and proceeded to build his lead in the third period before coming up just short of the major decision. The sophomore 141-pounder is 17-10 overall and 1-2 against conference opponents.

Duke's wins leader, Mitch Finesilver continues to be a force to be reckoned with at 149 pounds. He never left the result in doubt, taking control from the opening whistle en route to the 13-0 blanking of Michael Murphy. The sixth-ranked Mitch Finesilver improves to 25-3 on the year and is unbeaten in duals. He has scored 30 dual points for the Blue Devils in his nine victories.

Matt Finesilver, ranked 16th nationally, moved to 2-1 in league action and 8-1 in duals with a commanding 14-4 major decision over Robby Patrick. The Cavalier rookie led 4-2 in the first period before Matt scored the final 12 points of the match for his eighth major decision of the season.

With Matt's win at 174 followed by Russell's fall, the Blue Devils trailed the No. 23 Cavaliers by only two points with two bouts remaining.

Eighth-ranked Jay Aiello came out and virtually iced the victory with a 12-3 major decision at 197. Duke senior Alec Schenk battled well early, but couldn't score on Aiello. At heavyweight, Araad Fisher continued to show excellent improvement in an 8-6 setback to Tyler Love. Trailing 4-1, Fisher pulled within one, 4-3, and continued to go for the win. Love defended well and got the takedown to edge Fisher and secure the victory for the Cavaliers.

Duke (2-7, 0-3) will remain on the road next Friday, Feb. 15 at No. 16 Pittsburgh. The match begins at 7 p.m., on the ACC Network Extra.

No. 23 Virginia 26, Duke 17

125: Jack Mueller by forfeit – UVA 6, Duke 0

133: Louie Hayes tech fall Arien Leigh (DU), 17-1 – UVA 11, Duke 0

141: Josh Finesilver (DU) dec. Scott Kiyono, 15-9 – UVA 11, Duke 3

149: No. 6 Mitch Finesilver (DU) major dec. Michael Murphy, 13-0 – UVA 11, Duke 7

157: Jake Keating tech fall Ben Anderson (DU), 23-7 – UVA 16, Duke 7

165: Cam Coy dec. Zach Finesilver (DU), 5-2 – UVA 19, Duke 7

174: No. 16 Matt Finesilver (DU) major dec. Robby Patrick, 14-4 – UVA 19, Duke 11

184: Kaden Russell (DU) pinned Will Schany, 4:18 – UVA 19, Duke 17

197: No. 8 Jay Aiello major dec. Alec Schenk (DU), 12-3 – UVA 23, Duke 17

HWT: Tyler Love dec. Araad Fisher (DU), 8-6 – UVA 26, Duke 17

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