

= 2009 ? 10 Duquesne Dukes men 's basketball team =

The 2009 ? 10 Duquesne Dukes men 's basketball team represented Duquesne University in National Collegiate Athletic Association ( NCAA ) Division I ( D @-@ I ) college basketball during the 2009 ? 10 season .

Duquesne hoped to build on the success of the 2008 ? 09 season and began the new year with five straight victories . Soon , however , a string of setbacks hit the team , including the loss of two players , one due to injury and the other to suspension . Duquesne lost its final non @-@ conference game and slipped into a five @-@ game losing streak . The team did manage to break the streak , but had trouble gaining any momentum . In mid @-@ February the Dukes finally seemed to break free with a solid 21 point victory over La Salle , followed by a crucial road upset of the University of Charlotte , which was ranked first in the Atlantic 10 Conference at the time , and finally another upset of the University of Dayton Flyers in front of a sellout Pittsburgh crowd . However , Duquesne then lost its final two road games of the season .

Despite its lackluster season 's end , Duquesne won an invitation to the College Basketball Invitational postseason tournament . The team lost to the Princeton Tigers , and the Dukes were eliminated in the first round , ending the 2009 season .

= = Duquesne University = =

Duquesne University , also called Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit , is a private Catholic university in Pittsburgh , Pennsylvania , United States . The University 's Duquesne Dukes compete in NCAA Division I ( D @-@ I ) . D @-@ I schools are generally the major collegiate athletic powers , with larger budgets , more elaborate facilities , and higher numbers of athletic scholarships in comparison to Division II and III . This level was once called the University Division of the NCAA , and the Division II and III levels , the College Division ; this terminology was replaced with the current numeric ( I , II , III ) divisions in 1973 .

The Dukes have played twice in national championship games in the 1950s and won the National Invitation Tournament championship in 1955 , when the NIT was the premier collegiate basketball tournament in the country . The men 's basketball Dukes annually play its cross @-@ town rival , the University of Pittsburgh Panthers , in Pittsburgh 's highly anticipated and well @-@ attended City Game . The current head coach is Ron Everhart , who has a two @-@ year record of 27 ? 32 ( 13 ? 19 in the Atlantic 10 Conference ) . Well @-@ known Duquesne players of the past include All @-@ Americans Chuck Cooper , Sihugo Green , Dick Ricketts and Willie Somerset , and Norm Nixon , who won the Most Outstanding Player in Duquesne 's 57 ? 54 victory over the Villanova Wildcats in the 1977 Atlantic 10 Men 's Basketball Tournament .

= = Preseason = =

Duquesne lost only one starter , Aaron Jackson , from the 2008 ? 09 team which ended with a record of 21 ? 13 , the first time since 1981 that the school had 20 or more wins in a season . Picked to finish 12th in the Atlantic 10 , Duquesne went on to finish second , losing to Temple by only five points in the conference championship game . This earned Duquesne a bid into the National Invitation Tournament , its first postseason appearance since 1994 . The team was eliminated in a double @-@ overtime first round loss to Virginia Tech , but the Dukes ' unlikely success inspired the hope of a return to the NIT , or perhaps even the NCAA tournament .

On May 12 , 2009 the school announced that two freshman forwards , Shawntez Patterson and Aleksandar Milovic , had been released from their scholarships and cleared to transfer to other schools . Both saw limited action in the 2008 season . Shawntez Patterson transferred to Pensacola Junior College , and Aleksandar Milovic transferred to the University of Hawaii .

Andre Marhold , a small forward and the first of two incoming freshmen , signed with Duquesne on April 16 . Marhold , a native of Pittsburgh who moved to North Carolina for High School , averaged 17 @.@ 0 points and 10 @.@ 0 rebounds per game his senior year , in which his team was the

regular season champion . He was ranked 188 in the top 1000 high school seniors by Hoop Scoop . Marhold turned down scholarship offers from Clemson , Charlotte , and Purdue .

Several weeks later on May 13 , guard Sean Johnson of Queens , New York also signed with the team . He attended Christ the King high school , whose basketball team finished his senior year ranked fourth in the state and eleventh in the nation by ESPN . He averaged 22 @. @ 4 points per game and was named New York City Catholic High School Athletic Association Most Valuable Player . Johnson also received scholarship offers from Nebraska , Manhattan , and Quinnipiac .

Prior to the start of the season , ESPN picked Duquesne to finish fifth in the Atlantic 10 conference , noting the loss of star Aaron Jackson but looking with optimism at the addition of 7 ft ( 2 @. @ 1 m ) center Morakinyo Williams and the continued development of other stars . Sophomore Melquan Bolding was also highlighted by ESPN as a key player in the Atlantic 10 .

= = = Incoming recruits = = =

= = = Roster = = =

Source

= = = Coaching staff = = =

Ron Everhart returned for his fourth season as head coach . After the departure of previous coach Danny Nee , Everhart steadily improved the team 's record year after year , taking the team from 3 ? 24 the year before he arrived to the 21 ? 13 record of 2008 ? 09 . Everhart attended Virginia Tech , from which he graduated in 1985 . He served as an assistant coach at Georgia Tech , Virginia Military Institute , and Tulane University . In 1995 he took his first head coaching job at McNeese State University , and also coached at Northeastern University before moving to Duquesne in 2006 .

Bill Barton returned for his third season as Associate Head Coach . Steve Hall and Scott Rigot both served as Assistant Coaches for their second year . Jason Byrd was the Director of Basketball Operations .

= = Regular season = =

= = = Exhibition , Nicholls State , and Iowa = = =

The Dukes played their first game of the season on November 7 in an exhibition match against Division III La Roche . Duquesne scored a 47 @- @ point victory in which Damian Saunders led in scoring with 17 points . Despite the solid win , Duquesne made only 47 @. @ 6 % from the free throw line , a trend which haunted the team the rest of the season .

The regular season home @- @ opener was another victory for the team , as they defeated Nicholls State 85 ? 62 on November 13 . Early in the game , Melquan Bolding hit the floor on a hard foul during a breakaway . After a few minutes , he recovered and went on to lead the team with 25 points . Saunders scored 17 points with 19 rebounds , his first of a long streak of double @- @ doubles . This game was also the second and final game of B.J. Monteiro 's 2 @- @ game suspension following allegations of participating in a robbery . Three days later , it was announced that Bolding had fractured his wrist when he was fouled , and would be unable to play for 4 ? 6 weeks .

Despite the loss of Bolding , the team went on the road to face Iowa on November 17 , with newly returned B.J. Monteiro starting in place of Melquan Bolding . When down 49 ? 50 with 11 @. @ 7 seconds left , Bill Clark took an off @- @ balance 3 @- @ point shot which spun in , putting the team up 52 ? 50 and sealing their second victory of the regular season . This was Duquesne 's first ever victory at a Big Ten arena , and its first victory against a Big Ten school since a win over Illinois in

1973 .

== The CBE Classic ==

The team then traveled to Cullowhee , North Carolina for three games as part of the O 'Reilly Auto Parts CBE Classic . Duquesne defeated Binghamton 70 ? 52 to extend its record to 3 ? 0 , with Saunders leading the way with 24 points . The next day the team improved to 4 ? 0 with an overtime 75 ? 72 victory against Division II Arkansas @-@ Monticello . On the third day of play , Duquesne finally lost to Western Carolina , 77 ? 83 .

== The City Game and Chuck Cooper Classic ==

The Dukes then returned home , where they faced Radford on November 29 . B.J. Monteiro continued to perform well as a starter in replacing Melquan Bolding , leading the team with 21 points . Next up for the team was the annual City Game match @-@ up between Duquesne and its crosstown rival Pitt . In front of 12 @,@ 336 fans at the Mellon Arena , Duquesne sprang out to a 16 @-@ point lead before slipping and losing 58 ? 67 in double overtime . Bill Clark led all players with 23 points but the team hit foul trouble , with Saunders , Monteiro , and Peggau all fouling out in the final minutes .

On December 5 , Duquesne hosted the Chuck Cooper Classic , in which it defeated the Savannah State Tigers by a score of 58 ? 44 . Eric Evans led with 17 points and Damian Saunders contributed 15 .

== West Virginia , Robert Morris , and Canisius ==

Four days later , the Dukes were blown out 39 ? 68 by # 7 West Virginia . Saunders led the team with only 12 points . One analyst attributed this loss to the skill of the Mountaineers , an abysmal night by star Bill Clark , as well as the continued absence of Melquan Bolding and now senior captain Jason Duty , who missed the game with a sprained ankle .

On December 12 the Dukes faced off against another local rival , Robert Morris . In a 59 ? 54 win , B.J. Monteiro again led the team with 17 points . Monteiro 's continued high level of play prompted some analysts , as well as fans , to wonder whether the approaching return of Melquan Bolding would send Monteiro back to the bench , or if someone else would lose their starting position . Four days later the Dukes held off the Canisius Golden Griffins in a double overtime 86 ? 77 victory at home . Bill Clark and Damian Saunders both contributed double doubles while B.J. Monteiro scored a career high 27 points .

== The end of non @-@ conference play ==

The team then traveled to Indianapolis , where they lost to IUPUI 64 ? 73 , despite a career high 20 points from Eric Evans . In their final game before a short Christmas break , Duquesne defeated the Saint Francis Red Flash 86 ? 56 . Damian Saunders scored his tenth double @-@ double , making him the national leader in that statistic , as well as second in rebounds . Following the break , Duquesne lost its final non @-@ conference game to the Old Dominion Monarchs by a score of 54 ? 63 , the first of a five @-@ game losing streak . Saunders still managed to post his eleventh double @-@ double , coming just one block short of what would have been only the second triple @-@ double in school history .

== Early conference play ==

Duquesne opened conference play on January 6 in a match against the Richmond Spiders , a team which the Dukes had not defeated since the Spiders joined the Atlantic 10 in 2001 . This game marked the return of Melquan Bolding , though he did not start and scored only three points in

fourteen minutes of playing time . Richmond managed to extend their streak , defeating the Dukes 86 ? 80 , while Saunders maintained his nation @-@ leading position and now placed eighth in both blocks and steals . Duquesne then traveled to Dayton , Ohio where they lost to the Dayton Flyers 72 ? 78 in overtime in front of a crowd of 13 @,@ 435 , the largest crowd the team would see all season . Senior Jason Duty was fouled on a 3 @-@ point attempt at the end of the game when his team was down by one , but made only one of three foul shots , sending the game into overtime . Melquan Bolding scored 13 points in 36 minutes , though he did not start , and Saunders came into the game now leading the nation in rebounds .

Duquesne found itself in overtime once again as they dropped another game against the St. Louis Billikens in double overtime , 75 ? 79 . Melquan Bolding suffered another setback as he sat out most of the game , playing only five minutes due to strep throat . The team then went back out on the road to face the Rhode Island Rams , where they again lost with a final score of 67 ? 75 , dropping their conference record to 0 ? 4 . Bill Clark missed a game for the first time in his college career due to a suspension on suspicion of a " secondary NCAA rules violation . " Melquan Bolding started the game for the first time since his injury , but only scored 6 points .

= = = First conference win , Xavier , and Saint Joseph 's = = =

Two days later , Clark was reinstated . With Clark back in the lineup for a home game against St. Bonaventure Bonnies , Ron Everhart tried a new starting lineup : one that included Bolding and Monteiro , but left Senior Jason Duty on the bench . The Dukes took a 15 point lead at half time , but the Bonnies came back . With less than thirty seconds left , Bill Clark drew a charging penalty which gave his team the ball , down by two . One quick possession by each team left it 67 ? 69 in favor of the Bonnies . On the final play , Damian Saunders drove towards the basket before passing it out to Melquan Bolding , who hit a 3 @-@ point shot to put the Dukes up by one with 3 @.@ 5 seconds remaining . Duquesne won 70 ? 69 , giving them their first win since December 22 .

The winning feeling was short @-@ lived , however , as the Dukes were shut down by the Xavier Musketeers on January 28 , losing 86 ? 50 . Melquan Bolding led the team with 14 points , Damian Saunders scored only 6 , and Bill Clark only 4 . On January 31 the team pulled out a 74 ? 71 win against the Saint Joseph 's Hawks at home , with Melquan Bolding leading the team with 24 points .

= = = Temple , George Washington , and Massachusetts = = =

Once again , though , the Dukes were unable to build momentum as they lost 60 ? 76 to # 19 ranked Temple . Bill Clark and Eric Evans led the team with just 12 points each . On February 6 , the Dukes braved a blizzard for a game against the George Washington Colonials in Washington , D.C .. Saunders led the way to a 70 ? 63 win with a career @-@ high 27 points . Returning home on February 11 to face the Massachusetts Minutemen , the Dukes were unable to win two consecutive games for the third straight time , losing 80 ? 84 . Damian Saunders scored 15 points , but was injured and left the game for a while ; when he returned , he did not score in the remainder of his playing time . He did , however , become Duquesne 's 33rd player to pass the 1 @,@ 000 career points mark .

= = = Introducing the 10 ? 40 , Charlotte , and a rematch with Dayton = = =

Duquesne enjoyed another game at home on February 14 against the La Salle Explorers . Ron Everhart sought a new strategy for his team , which was struggling in conference play . In this game , La Salle was missing three players , leaving them with an active roster of only eight players . Duquesne ran a 10 ? 40 pattern , in which two squads of five players execute short , intense bursts before being switched out for the other squad . At first , Duquesne fell behind by 14 points , but the strategy paid off as La Salle 's players tired . With La Salle fatigued , Duquesne switched back to a normal rotation and went on to win 103 ? 82 . Bill Clark scored a career high 34 points , and also surpassed the 1 @,@ 000 point mark .

As underdogs on the road against the Charlotte 49ers , the Dukes ' new 10 ? 40 strategy led them to an 83 ? 77 upset victory . This was the first time of the season the team had managed to win two consecutive conference games . On February 21 , Duquesne again returned home for a nationally @-@ televised game against the Dayton Flyers . Senior Jason Duty was honored in a pre @-@ game ceremony , and the game 's attendance of 5 @,@ 144 was only 214 short of the A.J. Palumbo Center 's capacity . A late layup drive by Damian Saunders put the Dukes up by one , and they went on to win 73 ? 71 .

= = = Ending the regular season = = =

Duquesne was unable to extend its streak on the road against St. Louis , as they lost 59 ? 69 . Bill Clark led the team with 17 points and Saunders grabbed four steals , enough to raise his per @-@ game average to 2 @.@ 9 , a nation @-@ leading figure . With this , Saunders had at one point led the nation in double @-@ doubles , rebounds , and steals . The Dukes lost again , 80 ? 92 , in their final road game against Saint Bonaventure . The loss put a damper on Duquesne 's hopes for a home game in the first round of the Atlantic 10 tournament , as they fell into a tie for the ninth seed position .

Duquesne closed its season against Fordham , who had yet to win a conference game and had only won two games all season . Fordham was hungry for a win , and a lack of effective defense on both sides led to a high scoring 111 ? 100 victory for Duquesne . Melquan Bolding and Eric Evans both posted career high scores of 32 and 23 , respectively .

= = Postseason = =

After Duquesne lost to Saint Bonaventure , the Bonnies also lost their final regular season game to Xavier , which left the two teams in a tie for the eighth seed and the home tournament game that went with it . The two teams had played each other twice during the season , with each team taking one victory , so the second tiebreaker came down to who had scored the best victory . Duquesne 's best win came against Charlotte , while Saint Bonaventure 's was against Rhode Island . Unfortunately , those two teams were also in a tie . So for Duquesne to get their home game , Charlotte had to win their final home game , and Rhode Island had to lose . Both teams lost , so the tie remained and Rhode Island won out due to their head @-@ to @-@ head records . Thus Duquesne would head back out on the road against the Bonnies .

The game was played on March 9 and was close until the Bonnies went on a 14 ? 0 run halfway into the second half , going on to win 71 ? 83 . Despite Damian Saunders posting his 20th and final double @-@ double of the year , Duquesne 's 5 for 21 performance from beyond the 3 @-@ point arc combined with St. Bonaventure 's 75 % 3 @-@ point shooting and two players scoring in the upper twenties put the game out of the Dukes ' reach . The loss dashed Duquesne 's last hopes at a bid to the NIT . However , an invitation to either the College Basketball Invitational ( CBI ) or CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament was still possible .

Early on March 15 , hours after the NCAA and NIT fields were announced , Duquesne accepted a bid into the CBI . This would be Duquesne 's 23rd postseason appearance and first in the CBI , which started in 2008 . This also marked the first time since 1981 that the Dukes made two consecutive postseason appearances . It was announced that the Dukes would face off against the Princeton Tigers at Jadwin Gymnasium on March 17 .

On Tuesday , March 16 , it was announced that Junior Bill Clark had been suspended indefinitely from the team due to " conduct " issues . Clark had not attended practice the day before and would not travel to Princeton with the team for the CBI opening game on Wednesday . This would be only the second game that Bill Clark has missed in his college career .

Duquesne suffered its final disappointment of the season on March 17 as it fell to the Princeton Tigers . Bill Clark remained suspended and Damian Saunders led the team with only 14 points . Duquesne dominated the game early on , taking a 20 ? 11 lead before Princeton came back , eventually leading 28 ? 23 at the half . The Dukes were unable to turn the momentum and continued

to fall behind , eventually losing 51 ? 65 . The absence of Bill Clark showed on defense , as the Dukes were out @-@ rebounded heavily . The Dukes also failed to improve on their issues from the regular season , going only 8 for 18 from the free throw line and 3 for 15 from 3 @-@ point range . This loss ended the 2009 season , and all Duquesne could do was look ahead to the next year .

= = Schedule = =

= = Statistics = =

Duquesne was plagued by a few issues during the 2009 season . Most notable were the poor free @-@ throw and 3 @-@ point shooting percentages . Duquesne was last in the Atlantic 10 in both of these categories at 60 @. @ 8 % and 26 @. @ 3 % respectively . Despite their poor performance shooting from beyond the 3 @-@ point line , Duquesne still shot the fourth most three @-@ pointers of all teams in the Atlantic 10 . The following chart displays player per @-@ game average statistics for the regular season and Atlantic 10 tournament .

Source

= = Awards and controversies = = =

Duquesne players received a few accolades in the 2009 ? 10 season . Junior Damian Saunders 's outstanding play earned him a spot on the Atlantic 10 All @-@ Conference First Team . He was also named the Atlantic 10 Defensive Player of the Year . Earlier in the season , Jason Duty was nominated as a finalist for the Lowe 's Senior CLASS award , an award which recognizes college seniors who demonstrate exemplary outstanding performance both on the court and in the classroom . Duty , who held a 3 @. @ 72 GPA as an accounting major and had already accepted a job with PricewaterhouseCoopers , was named to the Atlantic 10 All @-@ Academic Team .

Early in the season , Damian Saunders was named Atlantic 10 ( A @-@ 10 ) player of the week for two consecutive weeks , sharing the honors with Chris Wright of Dayton and Jordan Crawford of Xavier , respectively . Following his 34 @-@ point performance against La Salle , Bill Clark earned his first career A @-@ 10 Player of the Week award , with Richmond 's Kevin Anderson .

The season was also marred by a few controversies . Prior to the beginning of play , B.J. Monteiro was arrested on October 3 in Middletown , Connecticut . He turned himself into police on suspicion of participating in the theft of a laptop , iPod , and cash from a house during a party in early August . He was charged with third @-@ degree larceny and , on October 6 , he was suspended indefinitely from the team . Following his court appearance on October 13 , all charges were dropped and Monteiro was reinstated to the team .

In late January , Junior Bill Clark was benched for the game against Rhode Island as the NCAA investigated a potential secondary rules violation . The specific details of the incident were not released by Duquesne , even after Clark 's return to the team the next day . A secondary rules violation is defined as " one that is isolated or inadvertent in nature , provides or is intended to provide only a minimal recruiting , competitive or other advantage . "

In the postseason , Bill Clark was again suspended , this time by coach Everhart for a conduct issue . The day before the CBI game against Princeton , Everhart announced that Clark would not travel to the game or participate in any practices or team activities until he felt the student ready to return . Clark was reinstated two weeks later , and , as before , no details were revealed .