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Loyola of Maryland Sticks It to No. 1 Duke Lacrosse

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The Duke lacrosse team won't enjoy the first No. 1 national ranking in school history for long. Loyola of Maryland goalkeeper Alex Petty helped see to that.

The Greyhounds stormed Petty on the field to celebrate an 8-7 victory over Duke in the third annual First 4 Invitational last night before 5,132 at USD's Torero Stadium. Seconds earlier, he made the last of his 12 saves to close out an incredible finish that included back-to-back Loyola goals 35 seconds apart in the final 1:13 of play.

"It's the best feeling of my life," said Petty in reaction to handing the Blue Devils their first loss of the season. "It was a total team effort. Everyone contributed to that win, and that all goes back to hard work in practice."

Adam Langley scored the tying goal for the No. 16 Greyhounds (2-2) and then Greg Leonard converted with 38 seconds left to regain the lead that Loyola had held from midway through the first quarter into the fourth.

"I never felt so confident in a bunch of guys in my life," said Petty, a sophomore. "I knew the whole time that they could do it. I have faith in them, and they have faith in me."

Down 5-2 to start the fourth quarter, Duke (4-1) moved ahead 7-6 with 4:14 to go on the third goal of the night by Ned Crotty in a stretch of four straight scores by the Blue Devils' suddenly awakened attack.

"We didn't play well," Duke coach John Danowski said. "If we had won, we would have stolen it. Loyola clearly outplayed us from the start. They were the better team. But I'm proud of our kids. They didn't give up."

The Greyhounds' win avenged a 9-7 setback to Duke in this event last year. In the first game of the doubleheader, No. 19 Yale commemorated its first visit to California with a 12-9 victory over Air Force.

"It's unreal here," said team captain Chris Kempner, who kept his two-season point streak alive with a second-half score that triggered a pivotal six-goal run for Yale. "The setup here is unbeatable. We have lights, a ton of fans and a great field. We came out here to do one thing, and we got the win."

The Bulldogs (3-0) finished midterm exams before arriving on Friday, bypassing their annual trip to Florida for the spring break to compete in this event that brings together four of the nation's leading Division I teams.

Freshman Brendan Gibson scored four goals to match junior teammate Kyle Washabaugh for the game high in helping send the Falcons (1-3) to their third straight loss.

“Everybody knows that Yale is one of the best academic schools, but the real reason that I came here is all the guys on the team,” said Gibson, who has seven goals on the season. “They are the best guys that I’ve ever met.”

Yale trailed 6-4 in the second quarter before surging to take a 10-6 lead in the third period.