

SFGate.com

[Print This Article](#)[Back to advertisement](#) | [your ad here](#)

Article

SFGate.com

## Kansas State Uses Depth, 3-point Shooting to Overpower Gonzaga

Terrance Harris, provided by



Tuesday, November 23, 2010

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - For a while there, [Gonzaga](#) coach Mark Few had the feeling the [Kansas State](#) bench would never end.

The harder Few's Bulldogs charged at the Wildcats during the semifinal round of the CBE

Classic on Monday the more able big bodies Frank Martin seemed to pull off his bench inside the Sprint Center. Martin pulled from star sixth man [Jamar Samuels](#), [Will Spradling](#), [Victor Ojeleye](#), [Jordan Henriquez-Roberts](#) and even suspended star [Curtis Kelly](#) was let out of the doghouse as the fourth-ranked Wildcats' bench sparked them to an 81-64 win over No. 22 Gonzaga in front of a mostly purple-clad crowd of 18,630.

"It just seemed like they kept bringing guys in," Few said. "There were just so many of them."

In all, Martin played nine off his bench as his reserves outscored the Bulldogs subs 35-20 in a game which Gonzaga made a couple runs but wasn't able to sustain them in part due to Kansas State's depth.

"That's what I believe in. I believe in playing people. That's how we practice," said Martin, whose team win sets up a showdown Tuesday night against No.1 [Duke](#) the CBE Final. "The style of playing that we play needs to have depth because we try to play at high energy on both ends of the floor and pressure on both sides of the floor. So it's important and it's a big part of our basketball team."

That depth will be necessary Tuesday night when the Wildcats take on defending national champion Duke in what will be another very friendly KSU environment. The Blue Devils will pull talent from their bench and the Wildcats will need to match it in order to have success.

"The depth we have on our front line is amazing because we can continue to throw people out there," said KSU combo guard [Jacob Pullen](#). "That's what we hang our hats on. We feel like we have an army of people. We have depth. We feel like we are deepest team in the country."

On a night when Pullen broke out of his slump with an 18-point performance and Kelly played his first game of the season, the attention was on the bench. Spradling, a true freshman guard, led the K-State reserves with 13 points in 21 minutes, but bench players like [Martavious Irving](#) along with

Kelly and Samuels made major contributions to prevent the Bulldogs from sustaining runs at the lead.

KSU never relinquished the lead, but the Bulldogs (2-2) did manage to pull within 53-47 in the first four minutes of the second half. But that's when Wildcats depth and 3-point shooting took control.

[0 retweet](#)

Sparked by Pullen's 4 for 8 shooting from 3-point range, K-State converted 46 percent from beyond the arc compared with just 23 percent shooting for the Bulldogs.

"When you make threes the way we made them today then you feel like that gives you a great chance to win," Martin said.

More importantly, it gave the Wildcats their most important win as they head into their biggest game of the non-conference schedule. KSU (4-0) is definitely looking for some respect after an uninspired 76-67 win over Presbyterian last week caused the Cats to drop a spot in the AP poll from No. 3 to No. 4 Monday.

Beating Duke, even in a overwhelming home environment just two hours from campus, could go a long way in building confidence and gaining back some national respect.

"It's a great opportunity even though it's early in the season," said KSU guard [Rodney McGruder](#). "They are the No.1 team in the country. This is basically like a home game for us. We have a lot of our fans here so this is going to be a great experience."

```
<style type="text/css"> .fanhouseButton {margin:2em 0;} .fanhouseButton a:link,
.fanhouseButton a:visited, .fanhouseButton a:hover, .fanhouseButton a:active {background-
color:#dd2829;color:#FFFFFF;font-size:18px;padding:0.3em 0.6em;text-
decoration:none;} .fanhouseButton a:hover {background-color:#000000;}</style>
```

[Follow Us on Twitter](#) [Friend Us on Facebook](#)

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2010/11/23/fanhousekansassstateusesdepth.DTL>

© 2010 Hearst Communications Inc. | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Feedback](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Site Index](#) | [Contact](#)