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## Gonzaga finishes off Marquette in CBE third-place game

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Third-place games pit squads under repair.

The previous evening's losses means a follow of tinkering and tweaking — and No. 22 Gonzaga and Marquette cleaned things up for their O'Reilly Auto Parts CBE Classic consolation game on Tuesday.

The Zags feel better, though, after a 66-63 victory in a battle of Jesuit schools.

The game wasn't decided until Jimmy Butler's too-deep three-point attempt glanced off the rim as the buzzer sounded. Marquette found itself in a position to deliver overtime when Steven Gray made one of two free throws with 12.5 seconds left.

Gonzaga snapped a two-game losing streak.

"I think one of the hardest things to do in athletics — baseball, basketball or football — is (when) you're not playing very good or what you're accustomed to is to put an end to it," Bulldogs coach Mark Few said. "A lot of guys can't do that."

A couple who did were Gray, who had 20 points, and Elias Harris.

"Especially this guy," Few said pointing to Harris, who had 19 points and eight rebounds in his best game this season.

Harris and Gray each had 15 points in the first half, staking Gonzaga to a 42-33 lead.

"It was good to come back quickly," Harris said. "That was a tough loss for us."

In Monday's 17-point loss to Kansas State, the Bulldogs had trouble getting open looks, and Gray, who came to Kansas City averaging 25.7 points, was held to six-of-15 shooting and 15 points.

The Zags were slow in transition on Monday. That didn't happen much against the Golden Eagles — and when possessions slowed, the Zags played solid defense in the half-court.

Marquette looked to improve on the boards and in playmaking after a five-point loss to Duke on Monday, and early on the Golden Eagles were on target.

Darius Johnson-Odom's three-pointer gave Marquette a 26-22 lead, and at the time, the Golden Eagles had kept Gonzaga off the offensive glass. They also were getting good ball movement, with assists on seven of their first 10 field goals.

But shots weren't falling. Marquette hit 34 percent in the first half and 39 percent for the game.

Still, the Golden Eagles made a run. They trailed 59-49 with 7 minutes remaining and started pecking their way back. Butler's three-point play made it 63-60 with 1:58 left.

After Gray buried a pair of free throws, Butler responded with a three for his 22nd point.

That set the stage for Gray's final free throw and the Golden Eagles' last possession. Marquette coach Buzz Williams called a timeout with 3 seconds remaining and ran an inbounds pass in front of the bench. But Butler found himself too far from the basket when he let it fly. Short.

"Our character really showed tonight after a tough loss," Few said.