

Udenyi, Davis Lift Waves to Win Over Howard in Gotham Classic

Pepperdine now travels to New York to take on Richmond at Madison Square Garden on Saturday.

[box score](#)

MALIBU, Calif. - [Amadi Udenyi](#) scored a career-high 16 points and [Stacy Davis](#) recorded another double-double to help the Pepperdine men's basketball team edge past Howard, 53-45, on a cold-shooting Wednesday night in a Gotham Classic game.

Pepperdine improved to 7-2, its best record after nine games since 2004-05, while Howard dropped to 6-7.

The Waves struggled against the Bison's aggressive zone defense and shot just 30.2% for the night, including 24.0% in the second half. Pepperdine also had to withstand a 7 1/2-minute scoreless drought that saw the Waves' biggest lead of the night -- nine points at 36-27 -- shrink to one point at 36-35 with less than eight minutes to play.

Udenyi (Oakland, Calif./De La Salle HS/St. Thomas More), a sophomore guard, was involved in all of the big plays down the stretch. He drew an offensive foul with 7:23 left that was reviewed and changed to a flagrant foul on the Bison. Udenyi hit both free throws to end the Bison's 8-0 run, then fed Davis (Laveen, Ariz./Fairfax HS) for a basket and the Waves' first field goal in nine minutes. That put the Waves ahead 40-35.

Not long after, the Waves only led by two at 42-40 when Udenyi assisted on a made jumper by junior guard [Atif Russell](#) (Katy, Texas/Seven Lakes HS) with 3 1/2 minutes to go. A three-pointer by Howard's James Daniel III cut the lead to one point again with 3:22 left. On the next possession, Udenyi answered with his third three-pointer of the game, putting the Waves back up by four at 47-43.

The Waves then outscored Howard 6-2 over the final two-plus minutes to secure the win.

Pepperdine's defense was stellar as the Waves held an opponent to 45 points or less for the second time this season. Howard shot 34.7% and made just three of 16 three-pointers (18.8%) against the nation's number one-ranked three-point defensive team.

Davis, a junior forward who is a returning All-WCC first team selection, had his second straight double-double and third of the season with 18 points and 11 rebounds. The Waves have won their last nine games when he records a double-double.

Udenyi also had a game-high six assists.

The Waves tied a season low with just seven turnovers for the second straight game.

Pepperdine continues the Gotham Classic in the event's showcase doubleheader on Saturday (Dec. 20) at Madison Square Garden in New York. The Waves face Richmond in the first game at 7 p.m. ET / 4 p.m. PT, followed by North Carolina State-West Virginia. Fans can watch the game online on ESPN3 or listen via WaveCasts at PepperdineSports.com.

