

had an agreement going into this Final Four and who will be all too happy. I am sure, to don the Duke jersey and the Duke cap, and to read a script which they have agreed to deliver in homage to the Duke Blue Devils and their national championship.

Let me say, before I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), that Duke in this path to the national championship met not just Arizona, but the University of Maryland in the semifinal, University of Southern California, UCLA, University of Missouri, and Monmouth.

We are the adversaries of all. We are as proud as we can be.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to yield to the gentleman from College Park, Maryland (Mr. HOYER), my friend and colleague.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my remarks be expunged from the record as soon as they are made.

Mr. Speaker, but for the fact that the rules prohibit it, I would wear this jersey during the course of my remarks; but our Parliamentarian would have a heart attack and think that I had stepped egregiously on the rules. So only because the parliamentarian wants me to take off the Duke shirt do I do so. But I will hold it up.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair appreciates the gentleman's cooperation.

Mr. HOYER. I thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will put my jacket back on. I cannot be totally inoffensive.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will put his jacket back on.

Mr. HOYER. I will put the jacket back on. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), my friend, is helping me with my jacket, who is a graduate of Duke. All the Dukes are pretty gracious tonight. They were not very gracious last Saturday night I noticed.

Mr. Speaker, I humbly rise to deliver an ode to the Duke Blue Devils, college basketball 2001 national champions.

Only one team during the course of the season beat Duke by more than 10 points, the mighty Maryland Terrapins. Unfortunately, it was not Saturday night.

The Duke Blue Devils are champions worthy of the name. They proved it again and again in game after game. But before they could play for the title last night, the Dukies had to get through a Saturday night fright.

The Maryland Terrapins, new to the Final Four, came out of the blocks like they wanted much more. Determined not to fall short to the Blue Devils again, my Terps were as ferocious as a lion guarding her den.

Duke was down 22 points and flat on their backs, 11 at the half, but lo and behold, a comeback was hatched. As the game wore on, the Blue Devils would not quit, and for Maryland's Cinderella season, the slipper no longer fit. But the Blue Devils were not finished; they had not cleared the field.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. KOLBE. By Monday night, Duke had beaten Monmouth and Mizzou. They had sent home the Bruins, the Trojans and the Terrapins, too. The time had come to battle our beloved 'Cats. The final game would determine to whom we would tip our hats.

Duke came from the East and Arizona rode in from the West for a final Minneapolis shoot-out to answer who is best. The Devils showed that they were up for the fight, and the question of who is best was answered last night.

We watched the joyous Blue Devils cut down the net, and I thought to myself why did I make this bet?

Arizona, Maryland, and the rest of our teams are left thinking of next year and dreaming championship dreams. For now, the Blue Devils wear the crown, they can celebrate a great victory as the toast of the town.

Mr. HOYER. Here, here.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) and congratulate all of these teams. These were wonderful games, hard fought; and we are very proud to have survived this Final Four.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Eighth District of North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), a Duke alumnus.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) lives in Chapel Hill. We defeated the dreaded Tar Heels several times on the way to this victory.

I say to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), we are not gloating here. We are just here saying how proud we are of those young men, the coaching staff, the students and others.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to rise a little bit in seriousness and say how proud we are, those of us who were in the ACC, of Duke's magnificent victory, not in derogation of Arizona, a great team itself, but my, my, my, how Duke plays, how Coach Krzyzewski coaches, and the fire that they showed.

I said during the ditty that I was forced to go through, that they were down by 22, and it is because of the character, the heart, the courage and, yes, the extraordinary ability of the Duke players that they came back and prevailed in that game on Saturday night.

I know the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) joins me in congratulating the Duke players, the Duke coach, and Duke itself for a magnificent and winning effort.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) and to our Duke Blue Devils who exhibited team work,

sportsmanship, scholarship and a family of young men and women working together that achieved remarkable things.

Congratulations to the Blue Devils.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIBERI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

REGARDING THE RE-REGULATION OF THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, before I get into my Special Order, since the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is still here, I simply want to say that the reason the Duke Blue Devils won the NCAA championship is because the referees managed to foul out almost every Big 10 player that was in the tournament, and the second reason is the fact that the coach of the Blue Devils happens to be of Polish-American heritage from the city of Chicago.

American Airlines' acquisition of TWA, which declared bankruptcy in January, is nearly complete. The American-TWA transaction was approved in March by a U.S. bankruptcy court judge. The Department of Justice issued a statement declaring that the agency would not challenge the merger, in essence, approving it.

The Department of Transportation is currently working on the transfer of TWA's certificates and international routes to American Airlines. Although American Airlines must still survive some legal challenges during the bankruptcy appeals process, and, more importantly, gain approval from its unions, it will, by the end of this month, acquire 190 TWA planes, 175 TWA gates at airports throughout the Nation, 173 TWA slots at the four slot-controlled airports, TWA's hub in St. Louis, and 20,000 TWA employees.

As a result, American Airlines will now enjoy the title of the world's largest airline with a 20 percent share of the U.S. domestic market.

Unfortunately, American Airlines' quest to become bigger does not end there. American Airlines has also joined in the fray of the proposed United-US Airways merger.

Last summer, United Airlines announced plans to purchase US Airways for a total of \$11.6 billion. Now American Airlines plans to pay United Airlines \$1.2 billion for 20 percent of the US Airways' assets, which includes 86 jets and 14 gates at six East Coast airports.

□ 1900

As part of the deal, American and United would join together to operate