

Providence
College


THE COWL

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College

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Friars in Semis, Upset Bills

Providence College blasted its way into the semi-finals of the National Invitation Tournament by defeating St. Louis 75-72 in a double overtime thriller Tuesday night in Madison Square Garden.

Led by the fantastic shooting and defensive work of Lenny Wilkens, the Black and White of Coach Joe Mullaney fought from behind time and again through out the ballgame and finally won it on the clutch foul shooting of Johnny Egan and Captain Jimmy Swartz.

At the outset of the fracas, St. Louis and its All-American center Bob Ferry pulled away to an 8-2 lead and by the eight minute mark led 11-5. Ferry scored nine of the first eleven Billiken points. George Burkel and Ferry then led a further St. Louis splurge and with 10:48 left in the initial half, PC trailed 18-8.

FRIAR RALLY

A long set by Swartz started the Friar resurgence and then Wilkens completely took over for Providence. Outclassing the taller but slower Billikens, Lenny stole the ball several times and started hitting from all over the court. Twice in the last ten minutes, Wilkens counted on three-point plays. The first came on a drive when he was fouled by Jim Dailey, and tied the score, 18-18. The second came with four and a half minutes left when he tapped in a rebound while being hooked by Ferry.

Wilkens scored fifteen of the last sixteen first half points for the Mullaneymen and knotted the score at 28-28 with a jumper from the left hand side twenty-five seconds before the final buzzer. A lay-up by Burkel with seven seconds left gave the amazed Billikens a 30-28 halftime lead.



Len Wilkens



Johnny Egan

Baskets by Ferry, Tom Smith and Burkel zoomed St. Louis to a 38-30 lead early in the second half but from this point on, the Billikens were on the run and the huge crowd of over 14,000 fans climbed on the PC bandwagon, urging the underdog Friarson in their uphill struggle.

Two long jumpers by Egan,

(Continued on Page 2)

Wilkins, Egan Spearhead Triumph

Continued from Page 1

another by Swartz and a brace of baskets by Wilkins tied the score at 40-40 and when John Woods caged a foul shot, PC led for the first time, 41-40. Dailey and 6'5" Pete McCaffrey shoved St. Louis ahead 48-45 with 10:30 left. Woods capitalized on a foul shot to bring Providence within two, 48-46.

WILKENS SHINES

Wilkins then stole the ball from Glen Mankowski and fed the fast breaking Egan. Space scored and was fouled. When he swished the bonus shot, PC again led 49-48. A Schementi foul shot made it 50-48, Providence, but Burkel tapped in a rebound to tie it once again.

Wilkins hooped two more foul shots and these counter-balanced a Terry hook shot. In the last five minutes, Egan found the range for seven of the nine Providence markers and managed to offset the fast finishing St. Louis five.

CLOSING SECONDS

McCaffrey had put the Bilikens ahead 61-59 a minute from the end but the ever present Wilkins scored on a jumper from the middle with 43 seconds left to tie it, 61-61. St. Louis stalled for the last shot but missed with ten seconds left.

Swartz captured the rebound with seven precious seconds remaining. The Friars, however, could not score and the game went into overtime.

Ferry shot St. Louis ahead after seventeen seconds of the overtime with a jump shot but Wilkins and substitute Bob Gibson, who replaced Schementi when Pete fouled out late in the regulation game, both scored and PC led 65-63. Ferry tapped in a rebound with 3:15 left to tie it all up at 65-65.

Providence then started to wait out the clock but Ferry stole the ball from Gibson. The deft Wilkins then restole it from Ferry only to have a pass go awry. With 47 seconds left, St. Louis took possession. The Bilikens set up for one shot and when Ferry was bottled up by the pressing Friars, McCaffrey tried a jumper which missed the mark. A Ferry tap also was off and the buzzer sounded, necessitating another overtime.

The final overtime was scoreless for almost two minutes before Swartz captured a rebound and layed it in on a fast break for a PC basket. Ferry made this up at the three minute mark and after being fouled on the same play, sank the free throw giving St. Louis a 68-67 lead. Egan was then fouled and scored on both ends of a one and one situation to recapture the lead.

Wilkins again stole an errant St. Louis pass and after Lenny missed on a drive, Woods tapped in the rebound and Providence led 71-68. With 1:05 left in the game, Wilkins fouled out and left the court as over 14,000 fans awarded him with a standing ovation for his more than capable performance.

Ferry caged the two foul shots to make it 71-70 PC, but Dailey fouled Swartz with forty seconds left and the cool captain pushed the lead back to three points by scoring on both attempts. Twenty-one seconds from the end, Ferry scored on a hook to make it 73-72 but St. Louis substitute Rick Sanders fouled Egan with only ten seconds remaining.

EGAN PRODUCES

Egan calmly stepped to the line and deposited the two foul shots which fixed the score at 75-72, Providence. Ten seconds later, the little known Friars had made the semi-finals and were scheduled to face St. John University Thursday night.

Wilkins led all scorers with thirty points and hit on eight of nine from the foul line. Space Egan hooped in twenty-five points and sank eleven of twelve foul shots. Swartz also scored in double figures for Providence with a total of eleven.



John Woods



Jim Swartz

Basketball Ambassadors . . .

"Just who is Providence College anyway? That's what New Yorkers were asking only days ago.

RIGHT NOW Providence College is the little New England school with the big basketball team. Coach Mullaney's crew isn't big in inches, but the Friar athletes managed to look like giants then the chips were really down; they cast a big, black shadow that blotted out the NIT hopes of a fine Manhattan squad and a nationally ranked St. Louis outfit.

FIVE DAYS AGO the PC contingent possessed the same finessethat sparkled on the smoky Garden court this week. Two games certainly didn't produce any astounding metamorphosis in the Team, but what a transformation in public opinion toward the little Rhode Island school!

FOR YEARS Providence College has itself been in much the same position as this year's- unheralded hoopsters. The inner-satisfaction of receiving a fine education in the great heritage of western civilization is often severely jarred when one encounters people who perplexedly mutter "Providence College....? Is that an annex of Brown.?"

IN THE FUTURE perhaps its basketball team will be the means of a truly outstanding small college attaining due academic as well as athletic recognition. Basketball comes far down the list of positive assets offered to a student at Providence, but the road to fame is made of many steps. This is that first big stop.

Cheers For the Cheers . . .

If they give out medals for college spirit, Little Rhody will be hard-pressed to contain the sheer volume of metal that the PC rooters deserve. Without being overly jaundiced by partisan prejudice, the number of PC fans who made the long trek to the last two tourney games here in New York bears eloquent tribute to the College's propensity for making friends in New England.

It is easy enough to pass off the huge Friar attendance in New York this past week as simply an unsophisticated reaction of enthusiasm over a first major tournament bid. But, enthusiasm or no, it does seem significant that the PC rooting section twice outnumbered - and outshouted, we might add - the representations from local colleges whose fans need have only taken a twenty minute subway ride.

Few would deny that such support must have been a definite factor in the teams's sparkling play this week. And, win or lose tonight, there will be fewer still who wouldn't make the 200 mile trip again and again and again.

See you all in New York next year!

N. I. T. EXTRA

CARROLL'S COMMENTS

N. I. T. EXTRA

By JIM CARROLL
Sports Editor

The black-clad figure leaped high in the air and arched a crucial shot which swished through the waiting net in Madison Square Garden.

The shooter was PC's John Egan, and the basket gave his team a 68-66 first round victory over Manhattan College in the NIT. About ten minutes earlier, the Spaceman had hit a cold spell and missed three or four consecutive shots. New York critics had then nodded their heads and smugly said, "I told you so."

Then Space threw in a forty foot jumper and, after being fouled on the way down from the on-target heave, calmly walked to the foul line and deposited his free throw. Egan was to add two more baskets and three additional foul shots before his winning hoop as he led the Black and White in the conquest of the Jaspers.

And when the final buzzer sounded and the fans deliriously swept the PC heroes off the floor on their shoulders, other Providence rooters looked up toward the press coop and smiled, saying to themselves and to all who would listen, "We told you so!"

John Egan had redeemed himself.

The New York writers then took up the Egan banner, but gave Providence little chance against the sky-scraping Billikens of St. Louis University. But they again underrated the warriors of Coach Mullaney and, also, forgot a lithe fellow named Len Wilkens.

In the next game, Wilkens took up where Egan had left off. Lenny's masterful defensive touch and his accurate shooting eye combined to present to 14,000 fans, the New York writers, and to St. Louis University the capabilities which every PC fan and player knew he possessed. Wilkens drew rave press notices in Wednesday's New York papers and upon fouling out on the second overtime, received perhaps his greatest tribute.

Walking off a court surrounded by fans which included only about 3,500 PC rooters, Wilkens found 14,000 people standing and roaring as he approached the sidelines. This was the second time in two games that Lenny had been accorded such a tribute. It was the second time he had earned such a tribute.

During the middle stages of the game when the Friars were fighting to stay in contention, Wilkens scored eight Providence points in a row, fifteen out of sixteen and twenty-four out of thirty-three.

Besides this, he rebounded fiercely and made over ten direct steals from the befuddled, bewildered and outclassed Billikens.

Wilkens made four direct steals from the All-American Bob Ferry, and rather than detracting from the brilliant Ferry, who scored twenty-nine points, this fact adds immensely to Wilkens' superior performance. His indirect steals, many pass deflections and innumerable break-ups of St. Louis plays were the main factors which led the Friars to their stirring triumph.

Once again, Capt. Jimmy Swartz was overshadowed by the high scoring antics of his more famous teammates. But Swartz gained much stature in the two upsets. For it was the PC captain who got the assist on Egan's game winning basket against Manhattan.

It was the PC captain who snared a rebound with seven seconds left in regulation time against St. Louis, preventing the St. Louis giants from tapping in a game winning basket.

And finally, it was Swartz who tallied four vital points in the second overtime, twice giving PC the lead upon which his more famous teammates built the eventual three-point cushion.

First Round	Quarter-Finals	Semi-Finals	Final
Butler (94)	Bradley (83)	Bradley	PC ?
Fordham (90)	Butler (77)		
Denver (82)	New York U. (63)	Thursday,	
N. Y. U. (90)	New York U. (60)	Night	
Providence (98)	Okl. City (48)	New York U.	Saturday,
Manhattan (96)	Providence (75)	Providence	4 P. M.
St. John's (75)	St. Louis (72)	Thursday,	PC ?
	St. John's (82)	Night	
Villanova (87)	St. John's (87)	St. John's	
	St. Bonaventure (74)		

PC's Gentlemen A Credit To College . . .

Before the Providence College - St. Louis game Tuesday, there were 3,500 PC fans in Madison Square Garden. At the end of the contest 14,000 spectators were cheering the Friar quintet.

The Black and White had captured the hearts of the crowd at this game just as they had done against Manhattan three days earlier.

The Friars' cheering section is the biggest and most vociferous of any to be seen in the NIT this year. Even with their team trailing by a ten point deficit early in the St. Louis game, the Garden was shaken to the rafters by the shouts of "Go, Friars, go!" And go they did.

Indomitable PC spirit was earlier displayed as the official school St. Patrick's Day parade representatives, the ROTC band and Drill Team, were followed by some 200 unofficial marchers, all PC students. The rabid Friar supporters marched twenty blocks through the swirling snow

flurries shouting "Beat St. Louis," and "F-R-I-A-R-S," and only left the parade when the school unit was pulled out because of the precipitation.

This unconquerable, boisterous spirit displayed by the Friar rooters throughout this tournament has been remarkably orderly.

One of the Garden officials posted in front of PC's cheering block in a vain attempt to keep them off the floor after the St. Louis victory commented that, despite their determination to reach their heroes, the PC students conducted themselves in a gentlemanly manner and cooperated once they had reached the team.

"They told us they were coming out anyway," the official said. "And who can blame them. They have terrific school spirit. And that's all it was really. There was no rough stuff."

Get Your COWL At The Garden!

After this week, the editors of the Providence College COWL will probably never again feel this much like those fictional newspapermen of "Stop the presses, tear out the front page" fame!

Today's special issue was compiled during five frantic hours yesterday morning.

College newspapers usually require a minimum of 3 days from preparation of copy to publication date. This issue was printed by a special process which made the short preparation period possible.

COWL staffers Pete Costigan, James Carroll, Robert Grathwol, and Brian Mulaney worked on the NIT issue. Charles Goetz, managing editor of the paper, supervised the operation.

"We realize that this is at best a makeshift job, but all concerned felt that some recognition of the tournament was clearly called for, typographical errors and other difficulties notwithstanding," Goetz stated.

Egan's Sparkling Play

John Egan smashed the all-time, one year scoring record in the upset win over St. Louis Tuesday night.

Egan broke the record after one minute and fifty-three seconds of the game when he tossed in one of his patented jump shots, this one from the right hand side just off the key.

The basket broke the former record of 455 points held by Bob Moran. Egan went on to score twenty-three other points to raise the new mark to 479. With two tournament games remaining, Space is a cinch to go over the 500 total.

In approaching and breaking the four year old record, Egan has enabled the Providence quintet to advance to the semi-finals of the tournament. Against Manhattan College little E scored twenty-eight points including the last second, game winning basket.

Tuesday night Space combined with Len Wilkens to score fifty-five out of the seventy-five points accounted for by the flashy Friars.

Hustling Friars Surprise

By Pete Costigan

At the end of the ninth overtime period of the season for the remarkable quintet of one Joe Mullaney, Providence College had extended their stay at the Manhattan Hotel until the weekend.

The Black and White played an outstanding game against St. Louis University, a team which had such an abundance of height that even the most die-hard PC fans admitted that things looked bleak for Swartz, Wilkens, Egan and Company. Although out-rebounded badly through most of the game the Friars, John Woods and Pete Schimenti in particular, pulled down some very important rebounds.

One New York sportswriter hit the nail on the head after the Manhattan game, when he said that Providence is a team "which looks to Egan, Wilkens and Swartz for their scoring, to Schementi and Woods for their rebounding, and to all for defense." The three scorers rang up 66 points, the rebounders did very well against the Billikens forward wall which averaged 6'7", and the defense held a high scoring club to 61 points in regulation time.

Perhaps the most outstanding feature of the game was Len Wilkens' all around great play. Len had been experiencing shooting troubles during the last few games and was below par during the first half of the Manhattan game.

Before the game, this writer had a chance meeting in front of the Garden with a fan who had followed Wilkens at Brooklyn's Boys High and now watches his performances with the Friars. Referring to Lenny, he lauded his defensive play but said that he lacked a potent scoring punch. If his scoring punch had been any more potent, the game would have ended in a knock out instead of taking two extra rounds for a decision.

John Egan, with twenty-five points, was again in top form, but one gets to expect that of the Spaceman from Hartford, Connecticut. With his first basket, he broke the PC season scoring record of 455 points held by Bobby Moran, a native New Yorker who captained Providence a few years back. With his last two foul

shots, he gave the Black and White a 75-lead and all but insured victory.

His other twenty-one points came as usual, a mixture of drives, jump shots, and charity tosses. Space collected eleven of twelve from the foul line to make his two game total twenty-one for twenty-three and put him well within range of the three game NIT mark of twenty-nine free throws and the four game mark of thirty-six, both held by Maurice Stokes of St. Francis, Pa.

One outstanding feature of the game was the sight of John Woods pulling down a rebound with five seconds remaining in the first overtime after Pete McCaffrey had missed a jumper and Ferry's tap attempt had rolled off the rim. Jake's grip on the ball reminded residents of his New Haven, Conn. home town of Nick Pietrosante lugging the pigskin for Notre Dame. Woods also impressed with his tap-in during the second overtime which gave Providence a 71-68 lead.

The game was again a team effort. Captain Jim Swartz added eleven points to the total including two foul shots in a one and one situation in the second overtime to increase a PC lead from 71-70 to 73-70 before Ferry ended the St. Louis scoring with a hook shot from underneath.

Schementi was invaluable as he pulled down more rebounds than were to be expected of anyone facing the tremendous St. Louis height. Bob Gibson and Denny Guimares both filled in well when Schementi and Wilkens fouled out. Gibson's hoop and Guimares' defensive play kept the Mullaneymen from faltering when they lost two key men.

It was a heart-breaking loss for St. Louis and for All-American Bob Ferry, who kept the Billikens ahead most of the way with his jumpers, hooks, tap-ins and rebounds. Ferry finished next to Wilkens in the scoring with twenty-nine points, but it was also a thrilling victory for a previously almost unknown club wearing Black and White. "They said it couldn't be done but....."

FRIARS *Take Manhattan*



THEY CARRY PC PENNANT



Pictured are members of the 1958-59 Friar basketball squad. Front row, left to right, are Len Wilkens, Ken Clements, captain Jim Swartz, Tim Moynahan, Dick Bessette, and Johnny Egan. In the back row are Dick Whelan, Johnny Woods, Bob Gibson, Pete Schementi, Rich Holzheimer, and Denny Guimares.

By STAFF REPORTER

Providence College defeated Manhattan College 68-66 in a first round NIT game last Saturday in Madison Square Garden.

A twenty-five foot jump shot by sophomore sensation John Egan in the waning seconds of the game sealed the fate of the Jaspers.

Early in the contest, the sharp shooting of Captain Jimmy Swartz and the jumpers and drives of Space Egan gave the Friars a 12-2 lead. The score read 19-8 in favor of Providence at the ten minute mark of the first half, as the PC five continued to pour it on.

Then Joe Dougherty, who was to keep Manhattan in the game throughout the entire contest, began to hit. He lifted Manhattan to within three points of the Black and White at times during the second ten minutes of the first half and Providence finally carried a 37-33 lead into the dressingroom at half time.

Manhattan and Joe Dougherty continued to challenge the Mullaneymen. Midway through the second half the Jaspers crept into the lead. They led 43-42; they led 45-44, but they never led by more than one point.

Another Providence surge occurred when the score was knotted at 50 all and Egan and Wilkens connected on successive three point plays. For the next five and one half minutes the two teams played even and the PC five was still six ahead when Len Wilkens fouled out.

In less than two minutes, the score was 66-66 as Dougherty connected on jumpers from all over the floor.

Providence took control of the ball with 2:01

remaining, and with 1:49 left in the game, called a time out to talk it over with coach Joe Mullaney.

When play was resumed, PC took it cool; the ball went into the Friar freeze.

As the seconds clicked off and Manhattan refused to come after the ball, Egan, Swartz, and Associates passed the ball around.

Captain Jim Swartz, who had connected on all six of his shots from the floor in the first half, kept a close watch on the time remaining. When the Garden clock read 0:10, Jim called for the ball from John Egan.

Captain Swartz turned toward the Hartford Hot shot and said, "C'mon John, let's go."

They did!

Swartz dribbled forward and beautifully blocked out the two befuddled Manhattan defenders.

He passed to the cutting Egan who soared and scored.

Manhattan immediately called time out and when they finally got the ball in play, they were left with only four seconds in which to tie the game.

Manhattan was not the only team who had used the time out to its best advantage. The Jaspers found their two big guns, Dougherty and Tom Leder, covered by a veritable blanket. As a result, Mickey Burkowski was forced to take the final shot.

Burkowski tossed up a jumper from deep in the corner. A fraction of a second after the ball hit the back of the rim and bounced away harmlessly, the game ending buzzer sounded.

Friars Face Strong Saint John's Tonight

Providence College collides with an early season foe tonight when they meet St. John's University in the semi-final round of the NIT in Madison Square Garden.

Fresh from two stirring victories over favored opponents, the Friars are faced with the task of conquering the Redmen who defeated PC 73-55 early in December.

Leading the St. John's attack will be the Catholic College All-American Tony Jackson, a sophomore. Jumping Tony is a master of the jump shot and ranks as one of the top rebounders on Coach Joe Lapchick's metropolitan club. Although he has recently been hampered by an attack of bursitis, Jackson snared twenty rebounds in the Redmen's tourney opener against Villanova.

In the quarterfinal round against St. Bonaventure, Tony did everything but sell tickets. He led both teams in scoring with twenty-seven points, in rebounds with seventeen and in assists with fourteen.

SEIDEN CAPTAIN

General of the powerful St. John's forces is Captain Alan Seiden, also a member of the Catholic All-American team. Speedy, deceptive and accurate, Al is the ball-handler who runs Lapchick's offense. Seiden's effectiveness as a scorer and shooter is increased by his great accuracy with outside set and jump shots. His ability to shoot over a sagging defense and drive through and around a pressing defense labels him as an ever dangerous scoring threat.

Seiden's backcourt playmate is Gus Alfieri. A strong driver with an excellent set shot. Gus is the steady factor in the Redmen's lineup. Together with Seiden, Alfieri sets up the majority of the St. John's pass patterns and plays.

Lou Roethel and Dick Engert round out the New Yorkers' lineup and give them the necessary backboard strength. In the Villanova game, with Jackson's scoring output held down by his ailing shoulder, Roethel scored twenty points to fill in the gap.

REBOUNDS

Engert, a strong rebounder, is also a scoring threat. His fourteen points against St. Bonaventure figured heavily in the St. John's win. Engert is a rugged defensive performer whose experience stands him in good stead during tournament competition.



TWO DECISIONS, TRY FOR A KO!

The Redmen all coached by Joe Lapchick, one of the original Celtics-Lapchick is admired and respected by members of the coaching profession in both the collegiate and professional ranks.

This is Lapchick's second whirl in the college ranks, having coached some of the greatest St. John's teams in the forties. After coaching the New York Knicks for a period of time, Lapchick returned to the college game and St. John's.

TEAM

Facing this formidable opposition will be the Underella Friars of Providence College, coached by Joe Mullaney. Mullaney's vaunted defense and strategic coaching guided PC to upset wins over Manhattan and second-seeded St. Louis.

The New York born mentor is expected to start his usual five of Capt. Jim Swartz, Len Wilkens, John Egan, John Woods and Pete Schimante - Subs Denny Guimares, Rich Holzmeiner and Bob Gibson could also break into the lineup before the game's end.

The New Yorkers were slight favorites to upend the upstart Rhode Island victors.