

SPORTS SPECIAL ISSUE

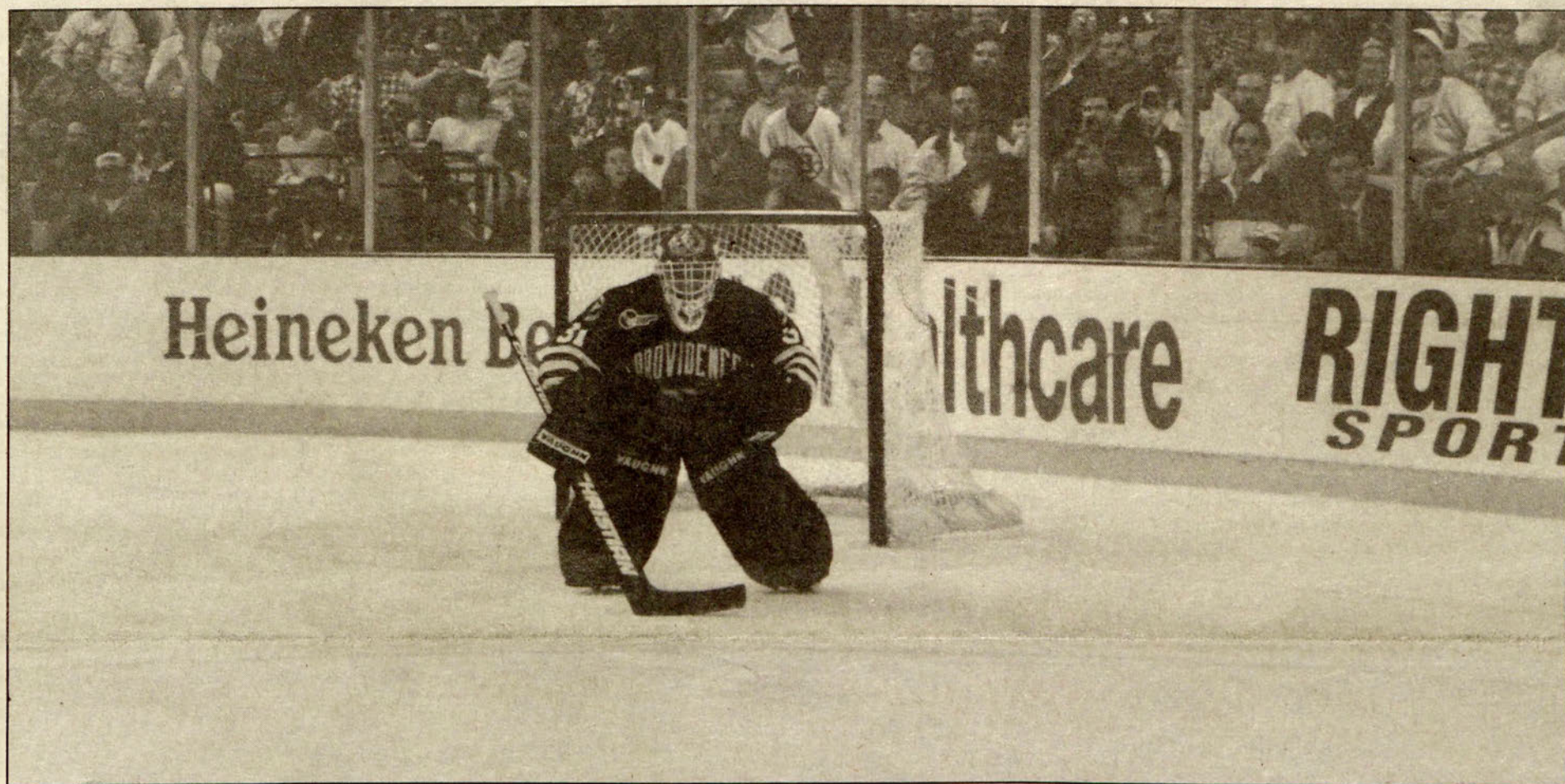


Special Issue

Providence College - Providence, Rhode Island

March 21, 1996

Kings of the East



by Michael Sablone '98 (2)

Dan Dennis '97 (top) was in a league of his own this weekend, backboning wins over Boston University and Maine as the Friars captured the Hockey East crown. BU netminder Tom Noble (prone) was bowled over by Mike Omicioli '99, who is celebrating this goal, along with teammate Dennis Burke, while a dejected Chris Drury hangs his head. Stories p. 2-3

From the Editor's Desk

To the Readers:

Every once in a while, publications sometimes include a note from the editor regarding staff changes and a little bit of biographical information on the staffer in the new position, or on departing staffers. Of course, such information seems a little silly at a college newspaper, where the staffers are all obviously from the college, and their pre-college histories don't offer much in terms of neat experiences.

Changes in staff do occur, however, even in college newspapers, and sometimes the reasons are interesting. For instance, beginning this spring, Ken Martin's byline will no longer appear in the Sports Section. Not because the freshman lacks talent, but because he has so much of it. Martin had the game-winning hit for the Trumbull, CT, team that won the Little League World Series, and he is now an outfielder for the Friars.

Junior Scott Palmieri, who has covered tennis and indoor track this year, is also finished for the year, devoting his energies to Friar baseball. Palmieri was an All-Big East selection last season, and the second baseman will be a key as the Friars look to repeat as conference champions.

Senior Rebecca Joyce will also lay down her pen this spring. Pressed into service after the field hockey writer left, she was convinced to cover women's ice hockey. There will be no fifth overtime for Joyce, however, and her byline will only be an occasional grace this spring.

There are newcomers as well. Freshman Gladys Ganiel joined the staff just after Winter Break, and her byline will now be found above golf articles instead of columns. Ganiel represents the third Varsity athlete to join the staff this year; the Maine native is a member of the Cross Country team.

Freshman Colleen Pappas, who serves as the assistant news editor, will also contribute to sports this fall, covering men's lacrosse.

Finally, there is John Carchedi. The sophomore, who is in his first year with The Cowl, has covered cross country and men's hockey, and leads the sports staff in front-page articles. A year ago, when reviewing applications, I read John's, and laughed. I read his writing sample, and hired him. After six months of reading his articles and observing his dedication, it's my pleasure to promote him to Assistant Sports Editor.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who made this issue possible, especially Theresa Edo, whose support has been invaluable this year. Additionally, Cory McGann, John Carchedi, Mike Friess, Rebecca Joyce, and A & E staff members Michael Sablone and Pete Keenan, who took pictures for the sports section all winter, were indispensable. The Sports Information Department has provided material and guidance throughout the year, and I thank them for all their help.

—Keith Christensen '96
Sports Editor

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A Tale of Three Friars

by John Carchedi '98
Asst. Sports Editor

These are two tales about perspective. The first is about Friar goaltender Dan Dennis. The setting is a decent sized, slightly well known hockey rink in Boston. A year ago, Dennis and his 4.62 goals against average sat on a Boston Garden bench during the Hockey East Tournament, watching fellow Friar stopper Bob Bell carry the Black and White to the championship game, narrowly missing the title.

This season, Dennis had nothing to do with the pine, starting 36 of the Friars' 38 games and all 24 of league contests. He played often and well, notching roughly a 3.30 GAA, earning a spot on the All-Hockey East team. The kicker: Dennis' play figured heavily in their capture of the 1996 tournament crown last weekend at the Fleet Center. Dennis gives a lot of the credit of his turnaround to Bell.

"When I saw the guys play last year, I said, 'Boy I want to play bad'," recalled the junior from

offensive squad in the nation, the defense in front of him was stellar. But when the defense broke down, the netminder was solid, stopping three partial or total breakaways. In the final against Maine, Dennis turned away 26 shots and survived a feverish third period that brought 13 quality shots his way. The performance placed him on the All Tournament team, and earned the praise of his rival, stellar Black Bear netminder Blair Allison.

"The difference of the game was finishing," said Allison. "(Providence) capitalized on most of their chances whereas I don't think we did. Obviously Dan had a lot to do with that."

The other little tale is one of a giant and a sprite. Picture a David and Goliath story, only David and Goliath are linemates.

Six-foot-three, 214 pound senior Joe Hulbig came to Providence College highly celebrated, a first-round draft choice of the Edmonton Oilers. He was expected to do great things for this club. But several injuries in his first two seasons slowed him, as

earned him Tournament MVP honors.

"It's definitely been a long four years," explained Hulbig. "My first two years I'd just like to put behind me. I had a new beginning when Coach (Pooley) came in. I just saw it as a chance to work harder. I saw a chance to lead this team and this year I have."

One of the reasons for the success has been 5-5 freshman linemate Mike Omicoli. The West Warwick, Rhode Island native started the year off strong, but missed a large chunk of the season with a shoulder injury. When he returned, Pooley moved him from wing to his natural center position on Hulbig's line. Omicoli finished the season strong. In the tournament, he complemented Hulbig nicely, as their line figured in six of the Friars' eight goals in Boston.

"Mike's done a great job," praised Hulbig. "The puck goes into the corner, Mike goes in there, you think he'll get killed, but he comes out with the puck more times than usually I do. As far as playing with him? As long as we



Joe Hulbig '96: Hockey East Tournament MVP

Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. "I think I learned a lot from Bob Bell and a lot from [Head] Coach [Paul] Pooley. They helped me make the transition from a pretty awful goalie to a not bad one now. I've mirrored Bob Bell's work ethic and the way he went toward the game, I've tried to copy that somewhat. Coach Pooley has challenged me quite a bit to bring my game up."

In Saturday's semifinal against BU, one of the most dangerous

he chipped in just 26 points over the two campaigns.

The third year, after Pooley took over, he did much better, but it was not until the second half of his senior year that he began to dominate games. Since recovering from yet another injury this fall and taken some time to warm up, Hulbig has been on fire, notching 20 points in his last 11 games. The hot streak included three goals and one assist at the Fleet Center last weekend, a performance that

get through practice all right, we're kind of yelling at each other, but come gametime, we both step it up a bit. It's worked out good for both of us. He sees the ice so very well, I'm just going to the net as hard as I can, and it's turned out to be a good combination this weekend."

So as long as David and Goliath don't kill each other in practice, and Dan Dennis can avoid the pine like the plague, perhaps they'll be even happier tales to tell, the setting being the NCAA Tournament.

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FRIARS CAPTURE HOCKEY EAST CROWN, NCAA BID

by John Carchedi '98
Asst. Sports Editor

A long time ago, the nine Hockey East coaches were polled and predicted Providence to place seventh. Fortunately, polls are inaccurate by nature, and there's a reason we play the games.

The Friars topped their admirable fourth-place regular season finish (as predicted by our fearless sports editor, see The Cowl, October 19) by winning the Hockey East Tournament this weekend at Boston's Fleet Center. After sweeping Boston College in the best of three quarterfinals on March 7th and 8th, PC upset number one seed Boston University 5-4 in the semi's last Friday.

The victory earns Providence a coveted spot in the NCAA Tournament. The journey begins this Saturday in East Lansing, Michigan against first round opponent Minnesota.

Saturday, Providence capitalized on a five minute power play with two goals, downing Maine 3-2 to take their second Lamoriello cup since the first tourney in 1985.

"It's a huge advancement for the program, getting the Hockey East Championship," admitted Head Coach Paul Pooley, the architect of the title team and the best outlook for the future the Friars have known in recent years. "It does not mean we've arrived by any means. We lose a lot of quality kids next year, so that's going to be a big step. But it puts Providence College back on the Hockey Map, and I guess gains us some respect and recognition that we'd like to have."

"But we have to keep things in perspective. Our whole program is based on work ethic and prepa-

ration, and that's been the key to our success this weekend."

Saturday night's championship against the Black Bears started off frightfully. With Maine on probation from any NCAA tournament appearances, this contest meant their season. With the Black Bears riding on that emotion, PC had beaten arguably the best squad in the nation a night earlier.

"The big challenge was getting up for (Maine), because BU was such a drain on us emotionally," admitted Pooley. "It sounds weird saying you can't get fired up for a championship game, but neither team was to start with."

Although neither team looked good in the first period, the Black Bears had the edge and gained more momentum after Brad Purdie swept home a power play goal midway at 10:48.

In the past, the Friars have faltered when down, and they looked sluggish after Purdie's tally. That's where the captain stepped up. With a power play of their own in the final minute, freshman Mike Omicioli shuffled a pass to co-captain Joe Hulbig at the point. The pair traded passes again before Hulbig scorched a slapshot past standout Bear goalie Blair Allison. The score knotted the game at 1-1, and lifted PC spirits as they headed into the locker room.

As big as Hulbig's goal was, the story of the night was a five minute major penalty to Bear Tony Frenette. At 11:39 of the second, Friar defenseman Scott Balboni was moving to retrieve a puck deep in his zone. Balboni was hit from behind and knocked down hard by Frenette before he reached the puck, earning the Maine winger a five minute rest.

"It was frustrating, obviously,"

said Black Bears' interim Head Coach Greg Cronin, who filled in for Shawn Walsh while he serves a year suspension for NCAA violations. "You get a five-minute major against you, it kind of takes the wind out of your sails, puts your team on its heels."

"We got the advantage when we got the five minute power play," agreed Pooley.

Maine killed the first three minutes fairly easily, until the strategy of having Hulbig, normally a forward, playing the point on the power play paid off again.

The Wrentham, MA native hustled and just kept the puck in at the blue line. Hulbig blasted another slapper which Friar winger Travis Dillabough deflected past Allison for a 2-1 PC advantage.

Then the killer. With seconds left on Frenette's breather, Hulbig sent a pass from the corner to linemate Dennis Burke in front. Burke was foiled by Allison, but the rebound kicked out straight to Hulbig, now on the opposite side after circling the net.

The big senior sent it back to the net. The puck kicked up in the air. Maine defenseman, captain, and standout Jeff Tory tried to grab the puck out of the air, but accidentally swatted the puck into his own net. That was the game winner.

Providence played stellar defense in the third, featuring the play of netminder Dan Dennis (28 saves, 13 in the third). Cronin's club cut the deficit to 3-2 with Allison out and less than a minute to play. But the last minute ticked away, and Providence completed a feat few saw in their reach.

"We just focus on doing what we do best," said Pooley. "We prepare for the opposition and we try not to think 'Hey, can we beat BU and Maine back to back'. If you focus on that, it becomes overwhelming."

As for the intangible aspects, Maine may have had more to play for, but Providence had the talent on this night.

"That was a big challenge for us," Pooley said about Saturday being Maine's added incentive. "They're a tremendous hockey club. I have a lot of respect for the

program, and what they do. We mirror ourselves a little bit after Maine, and obviously Lake Superior, because of the preparation and the way they have their kids develop. Yeah, I was concerned about it because you play a game on emotion, you play for the school, play for yourself, play for

A minute later, Friar defenseman Hal Gill notched his fifth goal of the season with a vicious slap shot from the point. Both tallies came with a man advantage.

Omicioli struck again in the third, lifting a rebound over fallen BU goalie Tom Noble for a 5-2 lead. As expected, the Terriers

charged back with two quick goals midway through the third. But the locals hung on, again with tremendous defense and the play of Dennis.

"We didn't seem quite ready to play, we didn't seem quite as physically strong as we should be," surmised BU mentor Jack Parker. "We looked a little slow and I think that had to do with us being physically down and I think it had a lot to do with how hard Providence played. I really like how hard we played in the third period being very shorthanded and short benched, and a little bit under the



Hal Gill '97 tallied one goal against BU



by Michael Sablone (3)

No matter how crazy their fans were, the Terriers couldn't beat the Friars

the coaching staff. We knew they would be tough to beat because of the emotion, and we tried to pick up our emotional intensity up just to match them."

Boston University pounded Providence 8-1 in their last regular season meeting just a few weeks ago. Whether or not payback fueled their 5-4 victory is unknown, but the Black and White definitely played hungrier.

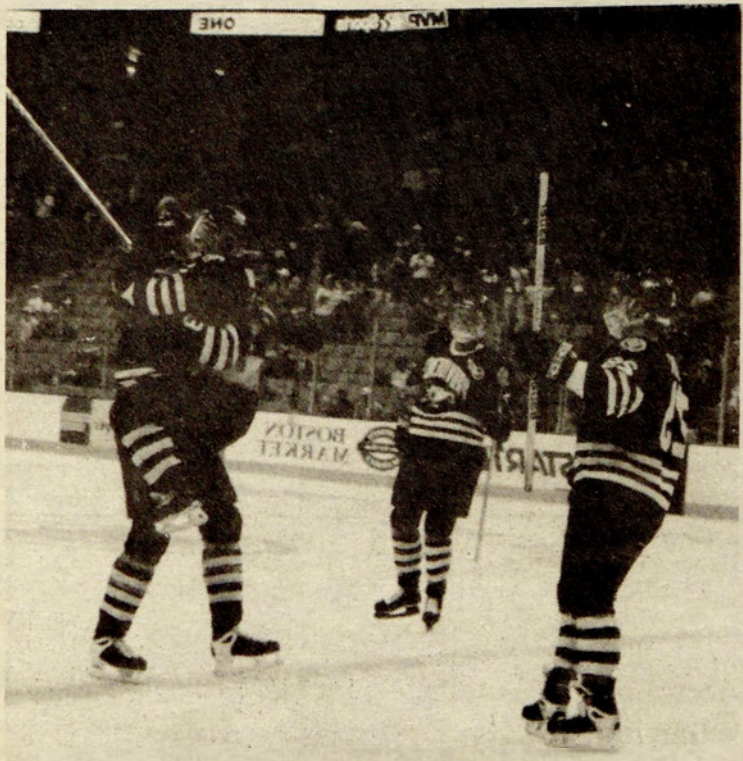
Providence jumped out to a 2-0 cushion on goals by Hulbig and Omicioli. Terrier captain Jay Pandolfo backhanded a shot past Dennis to make it 2-1.

In the second period, Dillabough banged home a rebound at 15:20 for a 3-1 cushion.

weather. I liked our competitiveness but it was very, very too little too late. We weren't nearly as competitive as Providence was in the first two periods.

"Give Providence a lot of credit for how hard they played, and give them a lot of credit especially for how smart they played. We didn't get beat because we were under the weather; we got beat because Providence played harder and smarter for 60 minutes."

The All-Tournament team included Pandolfo from BU (seven points in tournament), Tory from Maine, and four Friars: Hulbig, Omicioli, Dennis, and senior defenseman Justin Gould.



The Friars celebrate a goal at the Hockey East Tournament

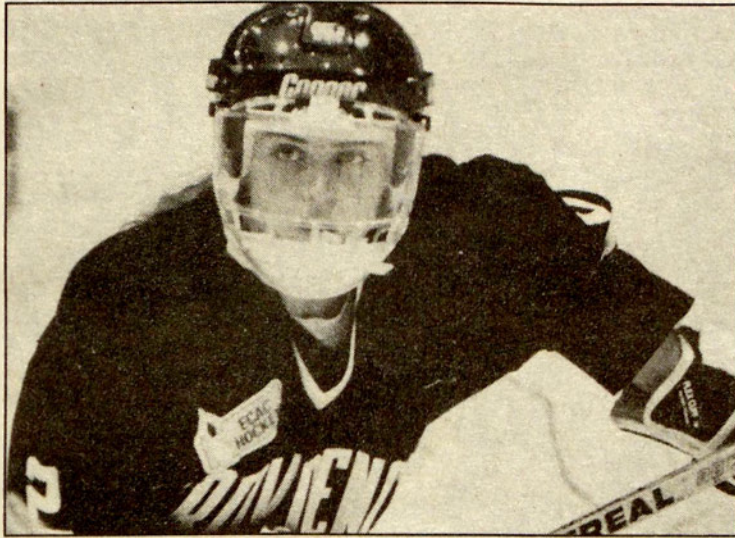
Water Under the Ice

by Rebecca Joyce '96
Sports Writer

As the women's ice hockey program readjusts to make room for next year's rookies, five seniors were told to empty out lockers that had stored four years of struggle, joys, and disappointments. The struggle paid off for these seniors as they maintained a championship tradition for their first three years here at PC. Though this year had a rocky start, the Lady Friars hiked step by step from eighth to fourth place in ECAC standings.

After a 4-2 tournament semi-final victory over the regular season champ, Brown, PC carried the momentum of a ten game winning streak into the UNH match-up. The sinew of both teams was stretched out in five overtimes. Never before in the history of men's or women's hockey had a game lasted this long.

The door quietly closed on PC's hope for a fifth consecutive crown when UNH's Brandy Fisher lifted the puck over goalie Megan Smith's shoulder. "We went down fighting. None of us had ever known what it felt like to lose," said Karen McCabe as she looked



Sheila Killion '96 had one of two PC goals in the finals

around at her four fellow seniors who had a far away look in their eyes. Someone added as an afterthought, "It was original."

All things said and done, PC had a successful season crushing the barriers they had built for themselves. In the ECAC semi-final game against Brown, the first goal was popped in by senior Sheila Killion on an assist from Alison Wheeler and McCabe. Laurie Baker netted the second goal just minutes later in the first.

Halfway through the third period, when the score had evened out to 2-2, McCabe made the game winning goal with the help of Katie Lachapelle and Baker. Baker added the insurance shot, which secured both a 4-2 win and a chance at the crown in a duel with UNH.

The excitement rushed through the veins of the Lady Friars when they entered the cement walls of UNH's Towse rink for their second and final game on March 10. UNH hit the first punch with the only first period goal, soon to be returned at 9:02 into the second by Wheeler on an unassisted shot.

UNH took another step ahead of PC in the third, which Killion echoed in a goal by an assist from Wheeler and Catherine Hanson. Regulation time ended with a 2-2 head to head draw. Then came the overtimes.

PC's determination stretched like an elastic band over the trek of five overtimes until it snapped with a UNH goal. Senior Alana Blahoski commented on the game, "If there was going to be a loser, I guess that's the way to do it. Neither team gave it away, and it

wasn't lost on a poor play. We gave it all we had."

UNH had more teammates and a home ice advantage, yet Blahoski said, "I didn't think it was a test for endurance. They were as tired as we were at the end of the game." The seniors agreed that by the third overtime, it was more of a mental trial than a physical one. McCabe opened the window to what was going through her head during these tense minutes, "Keep going, and keep up adrenaline!"

On the edge of her seat was senior Amy Carlson, who could only offer a teammate's morale support. She watched the Black and White struggle through the season's last game without her, due to an injury.

Though everyone gave all they had, McCabe said, "It doesn't feel good to lose. It's not like getting a 'B' in a class." Blahoski emphasized the connection by saying with a wry chuckle, "It's failing a class and getting kicked out of



Emilie Turcotte '96 forsees coaching in her future

school."

Fortunately, time is not like skating; you can only move in one direction. After leaving their last dents on the ice in PC uniforms, the seniors look ahead to graduate schools, coaching possibilities, and Life After College.

The Lady Friars finished their season with a 17-12-0 record.



Amy Carlson '96 was not on the ice when her college career ended



Alana Blahoski '96 showed her agility this year, playing both forward and defense



Karen McCabe '96 used her ferocious slapshot to help the Lady Friars

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Friars Split at Big East Tourney

by Keith Christensen '96
Sports Editor

For the third straight year, Providence met Villanova in the Big East Tournament, and the Wildcats bounced the Friars for the second straight time, 78-68, at Madison Square Garden on March 7, ending PC's dream of a Big East title and an automatic NCAA bid.

The Black and White knocked off St. John's, 80-72, the night before and were within one, 65-64, with 1:39 to go against the 'Cats. But Kerry Kittles fed Eric Eberz on the break and Eberz converted it into a lay-up while the refs whistled Jason Murdock for a very questionable blocking foul. Eberz hit the free throw, and 'Nova nailed their next ten from the charity stripe, quashing any hopes of a Friar comeback.

"Our kids gave it everything they had," commented Coach Gillen afterwards. "We were right there until about 1:30 to go, and then Villanova got that big three point play."

Providence took a 35-32 lead into the half, led by Austin Croshere, who had nine of team-high 18 points in the first stanza. 'Nova led by as many as seven in the first behind All-Big East center Jason Lawson. The 'Cat big man was a perfect four of four from the floor en route to 14 first half points.

Jamel Thomas hit a free throw at the 8:40 mark to begin a 20-10 run that propelled the Friars into the lead. Little-used freshman Llewellyn Cole came off the bench to provide a spark, with four points, a steal, a block, and a rebound in six minutes. Murdock drove to the hole for a lay-up in the half's final seconds after a Michael Brown steal had given PC possession.

Rebounding and defense were the two key ingredients to the Friars' first half success. They outrebounded the Wildcats, 25-19, including 13 offensive rebounds, while Kerry Kittles, playing in his first game after serving a three-game suspension for improperly using a university phone card, was held to four points by Michael Brown and the PC defense.

The second half was an entirely different ballgame. The Friars managed to hit just eight field goals, shooting a woeful 23.5%, but stayed in the game with superb free throw shooting. The Black and White hit just over 70% from the line on the year, but shot a perfect 15 of 15 in the second half against 'Nova, led by Derrick Brown, who hit all seven of his

tries, on his way to a 17 point, 11 rebound performance.

Unfortunately, the 'Cats made ten more trips to the line than PC, with Lawson, Kittles, and Eberz — 'Nova's three best players — going to the line a combined 31 times. Kittles didn't shoot a single free throw in the first, but sank 7 of 8 in the second, as the refs seemed to give him a ticket to the line every time he touched the ball.

"We didn't get breakfast in bed," replied Gillen when asked about the officiating. The coach, however, was quick to acknowledge that the Friars "lost to a more talented, more experienced team. We gave it our best shot. We just couldn't stop them."

The unstoppable force the night before was Ruben Garces. In his best game of the year, the 6'9" Juco transfer scored 17 points and pulled down nine boards against St. John's, while limiting Zendon Hamilton, the Storm's best player and a second team All-Big East selection, to 5-12 shooting from the floor.

"Our guys were terrific on the boards," praised Gillen, alluding to PC's 44-29 rebounding edge. "Ruben Garces was great on the boards. I think rebounding was the difference."

The biggest rebound of the game was grabbed by Jamel Thomas. St. John's much-maligned Felipe Lopez buried a three to give the Red Storm a one point edge, 68-67, with 4:10 left, and Michael Brown missed his own try from three, but Thomas grabbed the board and put it back to give the Friars the lead for good. Hamilton then missed the front end of a one and one, and Michael Brown drilled a three, effectively ending the game. Thomas, who had fifteen points, threw down a thunderous dunk in the final seconds for emphasis.

"It was a great college basketball game," said a relieved Gillen, who watched his team skitter away an 11 point 2nd half lead. Asked what he said down the stretch, Gillen replied, "I just screamed, 'If you get beat, go down swinging.' Our kids answered the bell."

The Friars answered the bell from the opening tip, springing to a 20-10 lead. Croshere scored the game's first five points, and Garces had a pair of mighty dunks, overcoming some pre-game jitters to contribute early.

"I was a little bit nervous early in the game," admitted Garces, "but when I started going, and everybody started going on the right track, you keep playing and I started getting comfortable."



Derrick "Flight" Brown displays why he was given his nickname

The Red Storm closed to within two behind Fred Lyson, who had ten first half points, but Michael Brown and Garces helped stretch the lead to 40-35 heading into the break, combining for nine of PC's final 12 first half points.

An 11-5 run to open the second half staked St. John's to a 46-45 lead, but PC proceeded to score 15 of the next 19 to open up a 61-50 lead. Garces and Croshere each had five points as the Friars enjoyed their largest lead of the game. The two teams then traded baskets in the quiet before the storm that was Felipe Lopez.

Lopez, a 6'6" sophomore guard

heralded on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* as the savior of the Big East conference before ever playing a college game, single handedly brought his team and the crowd back into the game. With 10:03 left, Lopez quietly hit two free throws. He then blocked a Murdock shot and, on the other end, drove from the wing for a stupendous slam. Less than a minute later, he soared for another dunk, cutting the PC lead to 65-61. After his three pointer, however, the Friars rallied, ending his hopes of being a hero.

In the aftermath of PC's tumultuous two games, Gillen spoke

candidly about his team's NCAA chances for the first time all season.

"I think we deserve it," claimed Gillen after the 'Nova game. "I think we have the ammunition, but you don't always get what you deserve."

Then, in a classic Gillen-ism, the head man put the NCAA Tournament and its importance in perspective. "Whatever is to be is to be. I think we deserve to be in. Whatever happens, the world goes on. There's still going to be poetry and music, the sun, the beach, and cold beer. So, if not, I'll go get a beer."

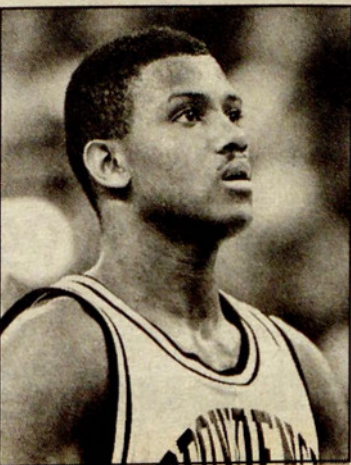
Men's Basketball Continued

continued from page 8

rection. For the guys that were returning, I tried to be a brother to them." Michael had a somewhat out of the ordinary four years: thrown into the starting lineup occasionally freshman year, Big East Champion sophomore year, position change junior year, and defensive stopper senior year. Needless to say, he is the Friars' MVP.

The loss of Mike Brown will hurt Providence next year, but that will be the only pain they will receive. Corey Wright will be available next year (he was redshirted this season) and will backup Shammgod at the point. PC has already signed two Junior College players, Kevin Simpson and Abdul Brown. Simpson, a JUCO All-American, will be fighting Borja

Larragan and Jason Murdock for playing time, while Brown, a 6'9" forward, will give the Friars added depth on the blocks.



Michael Brown '96

by Pieter J. Ketelaar '97
Sports Writer

The awards, honors, and distinctions are beginning to pile up on the doorstep of the women's basketball offices. Here's to hoping that Head Coach Bob Foley has a big enough office.

Nadine Malcolm, a junior center for the Providence College Lady Friars, was recently named to the District I Kodak Women's All-American Basketball Team. The honor was given to Malcolm by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association who voted on Monday.

Malcolm was recently passed over for All Big East honors, a distinction most thought she should have received. Providence Col-

lege Athletic Director John Marinatto offered an explanation. His thought was that the lack of respect for Malcolm was "a function of the team's 9-9 league record."

The sad fact is, Malcolm had the statistics to back up her claim. The Syracuse, New York native averaged 24.2 points per game and finished fifth in the country in scoring. And to top it all off, she led the Friars to a Big East 7 title.

"Nadine belonged on the All Big East team," stated Head Coach Foley. "She sure played like a Big East first teamer. It was up to her to prove herself, and she did in a really big way. She is a tremendous athlete and she deserved the recognition. She always had the potential and she really capitalized

on it this year."

Malcolm will have some illustrious company on the regional team. Maine's Cindy Blodgett, a scoring powerhouse, joins Malcolm as the only other non-Connecticut team member. The Huskies are represented by floor general Jennifer Rizzotti, all-purpose glass cleaner Kara Wolters, and Nykesha Sales.

However, the jury is still out on the ten member All-American Team that will be named on March 28. Malcolm has a very strong case to make the team, but will have to wait till the 28th to find out for sure.

With reporting and contributions
by Cory McGann '98

Malcolm Earns Honor

East Regional Remembrances

Fearless Cub Writer Survives Weekend of Wackiness as the Stars Shined

by Cory McGann '98
Sports Writer

The madness has gripped us all. The madness that is NCAA tournament basketball has met the unbridled lunacy that is downtown Providence.

Now *there* is a perfect 8-9 matchup.

If you were in a pool, who would you go with (a pool meaning just for fun... I mean, we all know that gambling is illegal)?

March is the greatest month of the year if you love college basketball. The regular season is ending, making the final few games that much more important. The Conference Tournaments are held and for some teams, it is their only chance of getting a ticket to the big dance; for others, it provides a taste of the excitement and the majesty that is the NCAA tournament.

And finally, the dance itself. This is where dreams are made, hearts are broken, and men emerge.

And it came to our backyard. Sounds great, huh?

Wrong. And you wanna know why?

Okay, let's talk a little about downtown.

Where it's crowded even on Sundays; where the crazies and the

sane are so intermingled it's tough to tell them apart; where a "kill or be killed" attitude prevails on the roadways; where parking is regulated to a total of 42 spaces on the streets, and the parking garages charge you eight bucks a pop.

Our own version of "March Madness." Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Coach Molinari, "You're not going to see a better individual performance in the NCAA tournament than Anthony did today."

There are two possible wise-crack answers for this. Pick your favorite. (A) Coach Molinari was not aware that Georgetown and Allen Iverson were in the tournament this year, or, (B) Coach Molinari was not aware that

that's who. After trying to kick the crap out of him physically, they decided in the second half of the game to actually play some basketball. Big mistake. UMASS ran away with it. I fell in love with Carmelo Travieso and his sweet shooting, but I soured even more on Edgar Padilla. Lets face it kids, if I had Camby on my team, I could play the point, too.

William Jefferson Clinton.

Last game of the night - Marquette against Monmouth. Too tired to stick around. Saw SportsCenter the next morning. Marquette won.

Saturday arrived and Providence was again percolating. It was a little less stressful with those Nittany Lions gone (is it a form of mountain lion?). Stanford had to face UMASS (no truth to the rumor that a few Cardinal players suggested a head to head battle taking the SAT). Brevin Knight, Stanford's three foot point guard, had to lead his team past UMASS and 9'4" Marcus Camby. Good luck next year, Brevin.

Arkansas faced Marquette in the second game of the afternoon. No, William Jefferson Clinton was not in attendance, but Mayor Cianci was! Well, amid cries of "Pig Sooeey" by the Razorback fans, Arkansas raced to victory and the Sweet 16. Yes, they said pig sooeey. Yes, it was annoying. Yes, I was glad to have experienced it.

So now, Massachusetts and Arkansas go on to play in the Sweet 16. Maybe, just maybe, if one of them wins the National Championship, they will remember their humble beginnings right here in Providence, and grace us with their presence again. Pig sooeey.

Let's face it kids, if I had Camby on my team, I could play the point, too.

Now combine them. Pretty scary, huh?

Well, it happened. And although the whole experience was, well, somewhat maddening, it was great.

Thursday saw first round action, and a whole lot of college basketball. Stanford and Bradley kicked off the festivities. Anthony Parker had 34 points (a career high), and praise from his coach (also a career high). Said Head

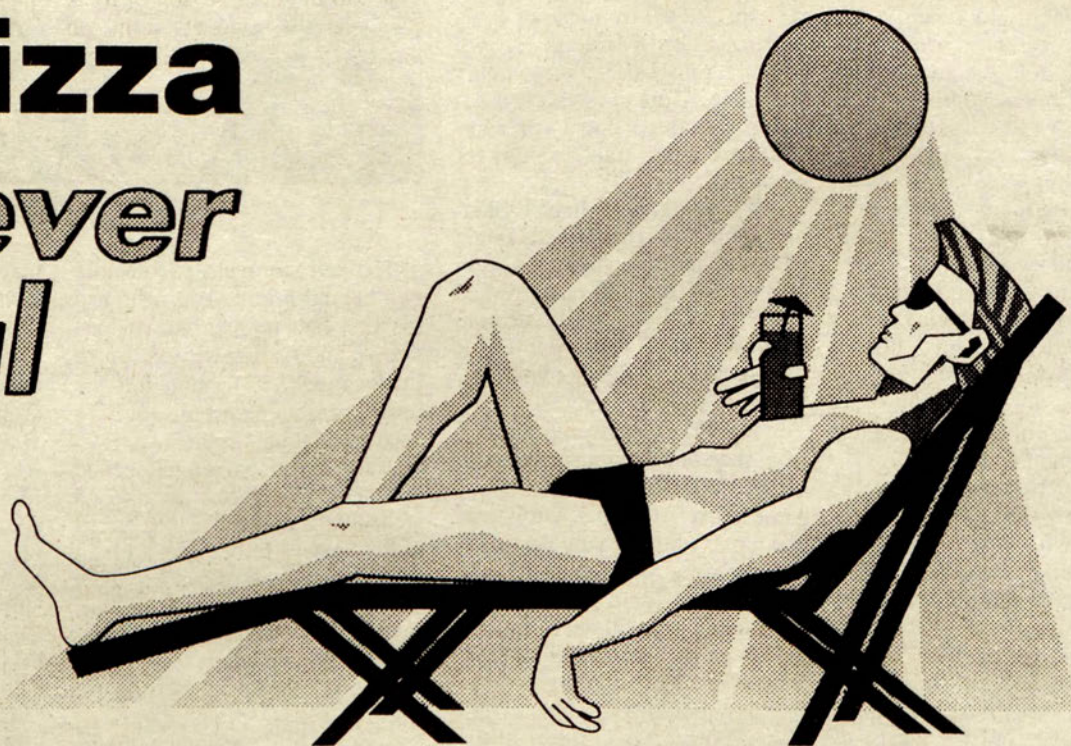
UMASS and Marcus Camby was about to tip off in the very same building. By the way, Stanford won, behind excellent play from point guard Brevin Knight. And no, it is not true that the Stanford Head Coach was going to say the same thing about Knight as Molinari said about Parker. Probably cause he had to face UMASS in the next game.

So who was going to stop Marcus Camby? Central Florida,

Arkansas vs. Penn State seemed to be the best matchup of the night. Although the Razorbacks were seeded 13th and were one of the last at-large teams picked, they always seem to give teams trouble with their "40 minutes of hell." Well, against the Nittany Lions (what the hell is a Nittany Lion?) it was more like 40 minutes of well-played heck. It was enough, Arkansas rolled, despite the conspicuous absence of

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Racing for Gold

McMahon Wins 5000M Title

by Michael Sablone '98
A&E Sports Writer

Over spring break you probably did not get much exercise, save twisting your body in order to catch golden sun-rays. Coach Ray Treacy's Men's and Women's Indoor track teams got some exercise and captured real gold as they raced their way to the NCAA Championships in Indianapolis. One shone through brighter than the rest, as Marie McMahon powered her way to a first place finish in the 3000 meters, beating out rivals Kathy Butler from Wisconsin and Jen Rhines from Villanova.

Early on in the season, Coach Treacy set the goals for his prodigies. "We wanted to get as many people qualified for NCAAAs as possible." Some runners went above and beyond Treacy's standards. Overall, PC walked away with five All-Americans.

On the women's side, Moira Harrington placed seventh in the 3000 meters, gaining her second All-American honor this year. The Distance Medley team of Maria McCambridge, Erin Murphy, Harrington and McMahon finished eighth, adding to PC's All American honorees. Other highlights for the girls included Susan Murnane's advancement to the final of the mile and Krissy Haacke narrowly missing the final in the 5000. "Overall we were very happy on the girl's side on how the season ended up," Treacy lauded.

In the men's 3000 meter race both David Healy and Andy Wedlake had standout performances. Each reached the final and Healy placed eighth, giving the men's team their only All American. Treacy saw this as an important one for Healy, commenting that it was "a good stepping stone for him, [getting All American status] for the first time in his career."

There was one race that stood out from the rest. The women's 5000 meters. Butler, McMahon and Rhines led the pack for most of the race. Then with 1200 meters to go, McMahon made her move. She broke away for good from the pack with a hard 400 meters. The last 800 meters was devoted to McMahon extending her lead.

"It was *the* distance race at the championships," commented Treacy. "It was a great one to win [for McMahon] to beat those two girls who have beaten her up to this point in time."

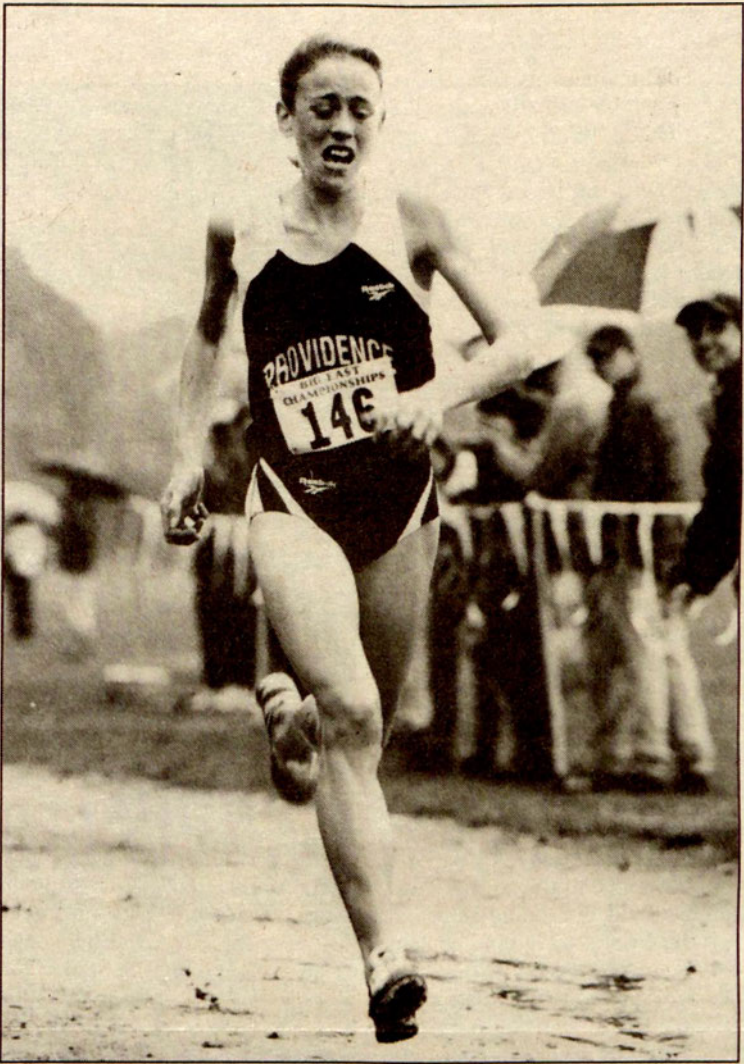
McMahon's time of 15:42.71 proved not only good enough to beat the rest of the field, but as Treacy put it, "It put her in great shape for the rest of the season and made the qualifying for the Olympic Games this summer in Atlanta."

According to Treacy it is still up in the air whether or not McMahon will be running for Ireland in the Olympics. If she does she will focus her attention on Atlanta, most likely preventing her

from adding a third NCAA title to go with the Cross Country Team Championship and the Indoor crown. This was not the first time she had run an Olympic qualifying time. On two other occasions she has beaten the clock.

However there was more than just time on the women's minds. This year's woman triumvirate of Butler, Rhines and McMahon have changed rulers. Speaking of the rivalry between the three, Treacy smiled and said "That's always going to be there. [However] They are all good friends as well at the same time, they get along pretty well together. They are great athletes and they race hard against another when they do race." McMahon was unavailable for comments as she is currently in South Africa participating in the World Cross Country Championships. Continuing the rivalry is Kathy Butler, who also is in South Africa.

With the Indoor Track season behind them, Treacy's harriers are looking forward to a fruitful spring. The big meets that the Friars hope to make some noise in are the Penn Relays and the NCAAAs. The Friars definitely have a bright future, for this season they had more people qualify for the ECACs than ever before. Heading into the third season of track this year, the Friars are sitting on top of a gold mine that they might never give up.



Marie McMahon '97 outgunned rivals Kathy Butler and Jen Rhines for the 5000m Championship

SWEET 16

Connecticut
Mississippi St.

Massachusetts
Arkansas

Georgia Tech
Cincinnati

Texas Tech
Georgetown

Georgia
Syracuse

Kentucky
Utah

Arizona
Kansas

Louisville
Wake Forest

FYI:

The following are the only remaining publishing dates for *The Cowl* this year:

March 28
April 3 (Wed.)
April 18
April 25
May 2

Friess Continued

continued from page 8

second year in a row decided to reward the ACC with more invitations than any conference in America: 6. The Big Ten was second with 5.

The Big East also received 5 invites, and Providence would have been the sixth. Providence, despite the fact that they were hot and had a .500 record in the league, probably did not deserve to go to the tournament because of our loss to Miami in the regular season finale and our poor out-of-conference schedule. However, the ACC did not deserve 6 bids. Let's take a look at how the ACC and the Big East stacked up against each other so far.

The ACC is made up of 9 teams compared to 13 for the Big East. Three of the 13 are in their first year in the league, and have not had the chance to use their membership in the Big East to lure star recruits and thus better themselves; and Miami has only had four years in the league. The ACC has only one relatively new school, FSU. So if one ignores the schools who are new to their conferences, which is less than 10 years in the league, and looks at the 9 established members of the Big East and

the 8 of the ACC, it is clear that the Big East is vastly superior.

During the regular season, 5 Big East teams were ranked in the top 25, with 4 in the top 15, including #3, #4, and #6 (UConn, Georgetown, and Villanova). The ACC had only four in the top 25, and only 2 in the top 15. In the tournament, the 6 ACC schools went 5-4 including three first round losses, while the Big East's 5 schools went an amazing 8-2 with 0 first round losses. The ACC has 2 schools in the Sweet 16 and the Big East has 4.

The controversial sixth team from the ACC was Clemson, coached by former Providence coach Rick Barnes. Clemson actually had a *losing* conference record and a weak out-of-conference schedule, but because they played in the "holy" ACC and pulled off a last second win against legendary coach Dean Smith's UNC team in the tournament, they were not only given a bid, but a 9th seed. The win against UNC was only Clemson's 14th in 115 tries and this is one of the worst Carolina teams Smith has had in years. Clemson was thoroughly trashed in the first round by Georgia, under first year coach Tubby

Smith. The Bulldogs play in the SEC, who only received 4 bids, and is only 8-0. The Big Ten's 5 bids went 2-5.

Wait a minute!!! What does all this have to do with the selection process? It's been proven that the ACC and Big Ten are no longer the two best conferences in America, but once again they receive the most bids. It's time for the Selection Committee to look beyond the traditional powerhouses and really look at which conferences are really the best, or more importantly, which **TEAMS** are the best. By over-rewarding the ACC and Big Ten, the committee shuts out deserving teams like Fresno St., Tulane, or even Providence from competing in the Big Dance. So for all you Friar fans who sat wondering why Providence didn't go, and who was going instead, now you know. Teams like Duke, Indiana, Michigan, and especially Clemson, because of legendary coaches, storied histories, or the fact that they play in what WAS a great conference, get a chance, while teams that are trying to have breakthrough years and battle the toughest opponents in the nation **TWICE** every year get an invitation to the NIT.

STAFF FINAL FOUR PICKS:

Mike Friess: Georgia Tech, Syracuse, Georgetown, Wake Forest. "I like ACC vs. Big East."
John Carchedi: Mississippi State, Georgia, Texas Tech, Louisville. "I like their uniforms."
Cory McGann: Connecticut, Kansas, Georgetown, Kentucky. "I like their players."
Keith Christensen: Connecticut, Syracuse, Georgetown, Utah. "I like my bookie, J. Stuart."

The Suffering is Over

Up and Down Season Ends With Disappointing NIT Loss to St. Joseph's

by Cory McGann '98
Asst. Sports Editor

The Providence College Men's Basketball team ended their season on a severely sour note on Tuesday as St. Joseph, a small school from the Atlantic 10, completely dismantled the Friars, 82-62. Senior Mark Bass, a 5'9" guard from Trenton, New Jersey, led the Hawks with 21 points, 17 of them in the first half. Contributions also came from guard Rashid Bey, who had 16 points to go with 8 assists. Derrick Brown and God Shammgod had 19 points each for Providence, who finish the season at 18-12.

"Our guys just had nothing left in the gas tank," explained Head Coach Pete Gillen as to why the Friars played the way they did - terribly. "I don't think they really wanted to be here tonight, to be very honest with you. They were just drained physically, mentally, and emotionally."

Providence was considered a "bubble team" as the NCAA tournament field was being selected, and the Friars, disappointed that they weren't invited to the Big Dance, expressed their frustrations on the court.

"(We were) disappointed not getting into the Big Dance. We just didn't want to be there. They had enough - enough of the pain, enough of the pressure, enough of the stress. They're kids. They're not machines, and just emotionally they had nothing left."

The game started out with sloppy play from both teams, yet the Hawks were, unfortunately, less sloppy than the Friars. Bass began an 11-2 run with a short running jumper with 14:08 to play. The run was highlighted by a Terrell Myers three pointer to make it 15-6, Hawks. St. Joe's then slowly infected the wound, leading by 18 at one point. Providence cut the lead to 12 behind a jumper, a layup, and two free throws from "Flight" Brown with two minutes to play. The half ended with PC down 42-28 and the crowd quite hostile.



God Shammgod '99, seen here scoring on UNH, was a member of the Big East All-Rookie Team

More of the same permeated the second half as St. Joe's always had an answer for the Providence half-assed effort. Shammgod, the ultra quick point guard, cut the Hawks' lead to eight with a driving layup early in the second. Other than that, there was no other Providence threat. With five minutes to play, a Llewellyn Cole jumper cut it to nine, but Bey had an answer, drilling a 19 footer of his own. With a minute and a half remaining, the subs came in and the season was over.

Coach Gillen told reporters that he knew right away that the team was in for a rough night. "The first two or three minutes I knew... and St. Joe's struggled early, they couldn't do anything right and they got it going. But they're a very fine team, the coach did a great job. We couldn't control their guards, we just had nothing."

Most observers were unable to decipher which was uglier: the game itself or the statistics amassed. Providence was 0-23 from three point land, one of their major weapons throughout the season. Austin Croshere, the Friars' co-captain and go-to guy, had 0 points in 19 minutes. "Austin," pointed out Coach Gillen, "if he had anything left emotionally, he's not going to go 19 minutes and not score, he's a great scorer. They had no legs, we were 0-23 from three, that's pretty hard. I'm 48 I can make at least 1 out of 23, I think."

Co-captain Michael Brown, the spiritual leader of the team, echoed his coaches remarks. "We just totally weren't ready to play tonight... we weren't focused and weren't ready to play." This was a difficult idea to come to grips with because this was his last basketball game as a Providence College Friar.

"I tried to do everything I could to set a good example for the college," said Michael. "As a basketball player, as the young guys came in I gave them a little leadership to get them in the right di-

continued on page 5

What's the Method To Their Madness?

by Mike Friess '97
Sports Writer

6:27 P.M., March 10, 1996. It could have been any other Sunday evening with college students eating dinner, watching a video with friends, studying, or getting ready to go out. But this was Selection Sunday! Hundreds of thousands of 18-22 year olds were glued to CBS or ESPN to see whether or not their school's team made the most heralded tournament in college sports: the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament, otherwise known as the Big Dance or March Madness. There they sat with their pencils and their brackets, ready to feverishly fill in the 64 teams that would compete for the crown. The lucky schools like Kentucky, UCLA, or UConn usually don't watch to see IF they made the tournament, but instead how high they are seeded and who they are playing in the first round.

But some schools, known as "Bubble Teams", nervously look to see if they mea-

sured up and were deemed worthy by the NCAA Selection Committee. The Committee is made up of Athletic Directors from major schools across the country, and it is

uled, margin of victory, record versus top 25, record vs. top 100, and obviously their overall and conference records, and lists all the schools in order of strength. The Selection

Every year, teams that think they should go aren't invited and are left wondering--why?

they who decide which schools will receive the 34 at-large invitations that are left over after the 30 Conference Champions are invited. The 300 plus Division I schools are ranked by a computer program known as the RPI (RATING POWER INDEX). The RPI judges such criteria as strength of sched-

ule, margin of victory, record versus top 25, record vs. top 100, and obviously their overall and conference records, and lists all the schools in order of strength. The Selection

Committee uses the RPI as a reference and a guideline, but they insist that the decisions are made by the actual committee members. Every year, teams that think they should go aren't invited and are left wondering--why? The committee frequently uses criteria like who's hot or who plays in the best

conference to augment the purely mathematical formula used by the computer. This year, the committee judged, once again, the ACC and the Big Ten to be the best conferences in America. This may have been true as recently as two or three years ago, but the fact is that the Big East is the best basketball conference in America, with the SEC coming in second.

The ACC and the Big Ten live off the glory of days gone by. Gone is the Duke of Laettner, Hurley, and Hill; the UNC of Jordan, Worthy, and Stackhouse. Even the Georgia Tech of Price and Wake Forest of Childress are mere memories, and while the ACC has some talented players and has a bright future ahead, right now they are in a slump. Poor recruiting, early entry of young players into the NBA, and the illness of one of the game's greatest coaches has caused the ACC to fall behind the star-filled Big East. But the Selection Committee for the

continued on page 7