

Hartford Clinches City Series Hoop Title

Defeats Bulkeley 71-61 Before 1,400 at Trinity

CITY SERIES

	W	L	Pct
Hartford	3	0	1.000
Weaver	1	7	.333
Bulkeley	1	3	.250

By PAT BOLDUC

Talented Ed Griffin ignited a third period spurt which carried racy Hartford High to an exciting 71-61 basketball victory over a sharpshooting Bulkeley quintet and outright possession of the city series championship Friday night before an appreciative crowd of 1,400 at the Trinity field house.

The win was the third straight for the unbeaten Owls in city series warfare. Bulkeley lost its third decision in four starts and dropped to third place in the standings behind Weaver (1-2).

It marked the sixth straight victory for Hartford since edging the Maroon 58-56. It was the 12th victory as against two setbacks for the Owls who maintained their first place margin in the Capital District Conference with a 7-1 mark.

Bulkeley, now 9-5 overall, dropped to fifth place behind East Hartford (5-4) in the CDC race with its 5-5 record.

Griffin Paced Scorers

Griffin paced all scorers with 22 points despite being guarded very closely by Bulkeley's speedy Gene Reilly. Griffin, who also passed off for several vital baskets, shared rebounding honors with Captain Stan Poole, each with 13. Poole chipped in with 20 points and Otis Woods 14 for the winners.

Center Pat Burke, who held Bulkeley's tall Jim Pillion to just seven points, grabbed 12 solo rebounds for the Owls who showed a decisive edge off the boards.

Jim Muraski turned in a fine performance in a losing cause and wound up with 22 points, four more than the aggressive Reilly. But Coach Lou Bazzano's fired-up quintet simply was no match for the Owls in the all-important rebounding department.

Hits First Four Shots

Bulkeley hit on its first four shots to erect a 10-2 lead before Hartford battled back to take the lead, 15-14 on a jump shot by Griffin with 30 seconds remaining in the opening period. A jumper by Reilly made it 16-15 in favor of the Maroon at the buzzer.

The lead changed hands four times in the second quarter before Griffin, with an assist from

Len Kotek, gave the Owls a 23-22 edge with three minutes gone.

Coach Joe Kubachka's well-balanced club never relinquished the lead, moving to a 37-29 advantage before two foul shots by Reilly left the Maroon trailing, 37-31 at halftime.

Three times Bulkeley crept to within two points of the lead, the last time 40-38 before Griffin led the Owls on what turned out to be their game-clinching surge.

With the fast-stepping Griffin accounting for seven of the points, Hartford outscored the Maroon 12-2, the last seven points coming in succession, to erect a 12-point bulge, 52-40 late in the third period.

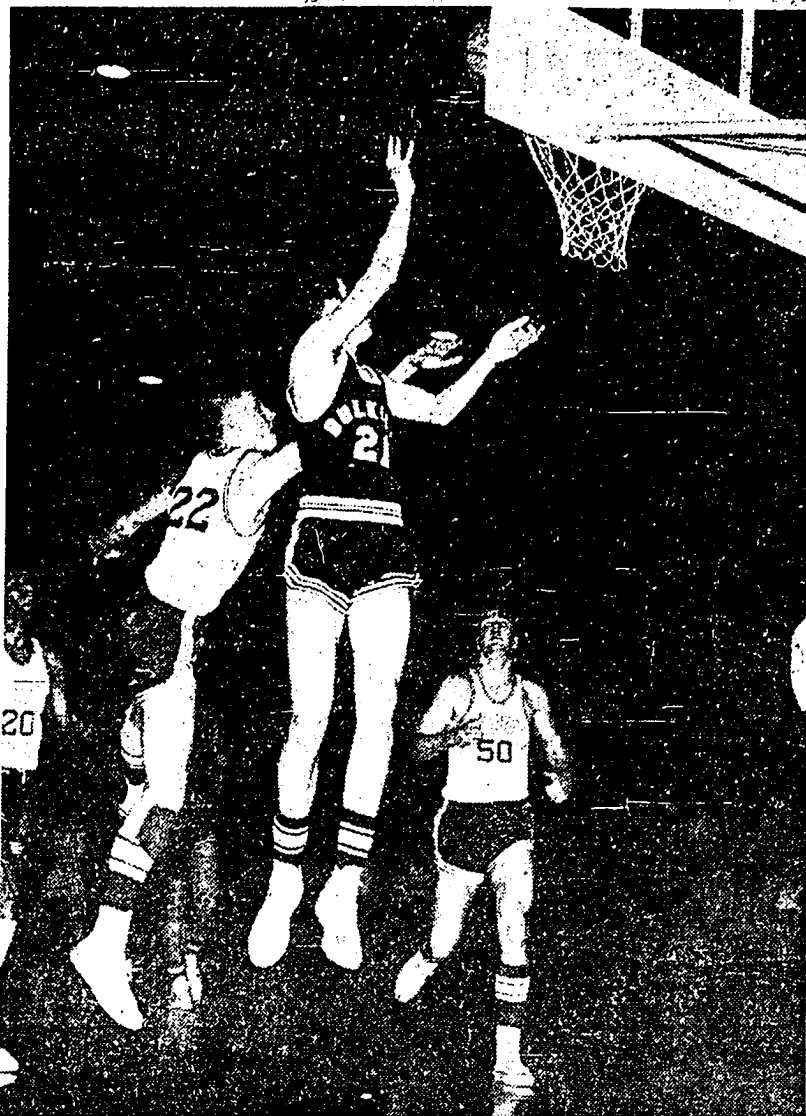
Bulkeley continued its tremendous shooting in the final quarter but was never able to get closer than six points of the victorious Owls. A three-point play by Griffin accorded the winners a comfortable 68-59 cushion with 1:21 to play.

The Maroon shot at a glittering 49 per cent average from the floor, hitting on 25 of 51 attempts. Hartford was 29 for 70, 41 per cent.

Veteran Bruce Maddox returned to the Hartford lineup after sitting out the first 13 games because of an injury suffered last fall.

Bulkeley's Jayvees captured the JV contest, 66-59.

HARTFORD			BULKELEY				
	B	F	Pt	B	F	Pt	
Griffin	13	2	22	Reilly	6	6	18
Poole	7	6	20	Bellflore	3	0	6
Woods	7	0	14	Pillion	3	1	7
Kostek	1	4	6	Muraski	9	4	22
Burke	3	0	6	Kwash	3	0	6
Smith	0	0	0	Hurlhan	1	0	2
Maddox	1	1	3	McGrath	0	0	0
Totals	29	13	71	Totals	25	11	61
Score at half time	37-31, Hartford.						



MAROON HOOP TAKES LEAD: Co-Captain Jim Muraski, (21) found the range and scored a hoop for Bulkeley High in the action above, during the first half of the Maroons' basketball game Friday with Hartford High at the Trinity Field House. Bulkeley took a temporary lead

of 22-21 on Muraski's goal when the Owls' Leonard Kostek (22) failed to halt the score. Two other Owls Ed Griffin (20) and Brian Smith (50) are shown in the action (Courant Photo by Herman Marshall).