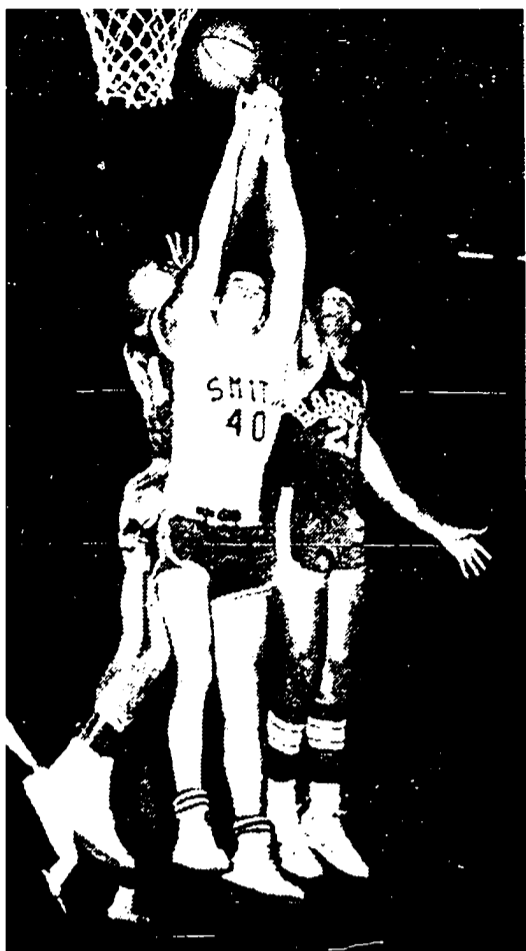
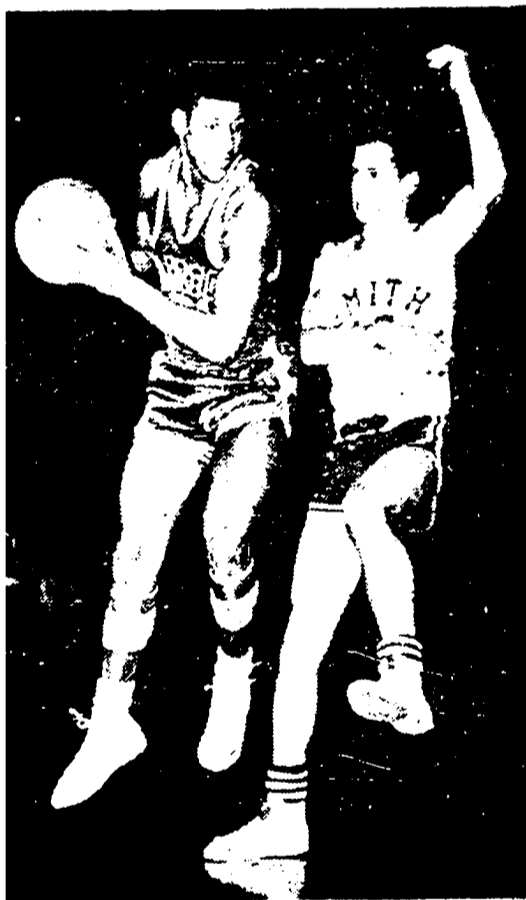


# Hartford High Ousts Smith Five 63-43



**BATTLE OF THE BOARDS:** Leaping high for rebound are players of Hartford, Conn. High and Smith Academy, Hatfield, Mass., in opening round game of annual New England School-boy Basketball Tournament at Boston Garden Thursday. The battlers, left to right, are Stan Poole of Hartford, William Celatka of Smith and Eddie Griffin of Hartford. Owls won by 63-43 over Western Massachusetts champs (AP Wirephoto).



**ARTISTRY IN RHYTHM:** Ballet action is not quite what it appears in hard-fought early stages of New England school-boy basketball tournament game between Hartford, Conn., High and Smith Academy, of Hatfield, Mass., Thursday in Boston Garden. Eddie Griffin, of Hartford, left, and William Celatka of Smith are the dancers. Connecticut runners eliminated Western Massachusetts champions by 63-43 score (AP Wirephoto).

## Owls Face Maine in Hub; Wilbur Cross Wins 52-49

By PAT BOLDUC  
 Courant Sports Writer

BOSTON, Mass. — Hartford High School Thursday night turned a late game full court press into a dazzling 63-43 triumph over little Smith Academy of Hatfield, Mass., in the opening round of the 36th annual New England Interscholastic Basketball Tournament at the Boston Garden.

A capacity crowd of 13,909 jammed the Garden as the Insurance City cagers handed previously unbeaten Smith its first loss slicing a 22 game winning skein.

It marked the first appearance ever for the Hartford school, the second oldest in the country, in the biggest of all tournaments for successful New England quintets. The victorious Owls now will engage Cheverus High of Portland, Maine in Friday's opening semi-final test at 7:30 o'clock.

Hartford, getting excellent performances from six players, never trailed in the contest after jumping off to an early 6-0 lead over the cold-shooting western Massachusetts titlists. But it wasn't until Coach Joe Kubachka instructed his eager charges to abandon their 3-2 zone defense in favor of a full court press with only two minutes remaining in the third quarter that the Owls were able to attain their final 20-point margin.

The Capitol District Conference champions from Hartford, runners-up in the Connecticut tournament, went into the third quarter nursing a 28-19 lead. A jump shot by Pat Burke, a steal and a basket by impressive Ed Griffin and another basket by Otis Woods, set up by a steal and a timely pass from Griffin, gave the Owls a 36-25 cushion early in the period.

### Griffin Sparks Comeback

But Terry Michaloski triggered a Smith string of eight straight points which sliced Hartford's lead to three points, 36-33. Hartford's Len Kostek converted a free throw just before the Owls requested a time out.

With its tenacious press preventing Smith from getting off a single shot in the last two minutes of the third period Hartford raced into a 42-33 advantage at the third turn. Griffin, the Owls' top scorer with 14 points, accounted for the final five tallies in the quarter, hitting once from the foul line and twice on deadly jumpers from the top of the key.

Hartford remained in its full press throughout the fourth period and with reserve Bruce Maddox, Woods and Kostek taking 39 and 61-41.

When the Owls went into their press, Captain Stan Poole was assigned the task of guarding Smith's 6-foot-6 center Bob Kovalski. Kovalski, who scored all seven Smith points in the opening period, had chalked up 19 points against Hartford's 3-2 zone but was held to just five markers in the last 10 minutes of play. Kovalski Nets 24 Points

Kovalski wound up as the night's top scorer with 24 points but Smith's next high man was Michaloski with eight.

On the other hand Hartford's balanced attack produced four players in double figures. Along with Griffin's 14, Maddox chipped in with 12, Kostek 11 and Woods 10.

Poole, in addition to his brilliant job of containing Kovalski, turned in a superb performance off the boards, hauling down 19 rebounds. And with Burke and Griffin also doing yeoman work under both boards, the Owls out-rebounded their smaller opponents, 45-31.

Slow starting Smith, making its second straight appearance in the New England event, went 3:51 before Kovalski finally hit from the foul line. Kovalski also tallied the losers' first basket with 4:45 gone in the first period and Hartford out front, 8-3. Despite missing their last four attempts from the free throw line the victors led, 10-7 at the buzzer.

With Poole and Griffin effectively policing the boards Hartford went ahead 17-9 early in the second quarter. Two foul shots by Griffin, a one-hander by Maddox and another basket by Poole vaulted the Owls into a 25-15 bulge. Free throws by Burke and Poole made it 28-17 before a Smith hoop by Charles Symanski cut the Hartford lead to 28-19 at intermission. Kovalski accounted for 13 of the loser's total.

Only a weak 8-for-16 perfor-

mance from the foul line kept the Owls from adding to their first half advantage. Kubachka's quintet recovered in the second half, converting seven of 11 attempts.

HARTFORD	B	F	PT	SMITH ACAD.	B	F	PT
Kostek	4	3	11	Celatka	1	0	2
Green	0	0	0	Godek	0	0	0
Griffin	5	4	14	Mchlski	4	0	8
Jenkins	0	0	0	Palis	0	0	0
Poole	3	3	9	Kvatski	10	4	24
Smith	0	0	0	Barubin	0	0	0
Woods	4	2	10	Symanski	2	0	4
Maddox	5	2	12	Mullins	0	0	0
Burke	3	1	7	Wilks	2	1	5
Tarasio	0	0	0	Kiopacz	0	0	0

Totals 24 15 63 Totals 19 3 43  
 Halftime score: 28-19, Hartford.

### Hope 89, Spaulding 64

Undefeated Hope High of Providence, R.I., set a sizzling pace in the final quarter to eliminate a game but outmanned Spaulding quintet from Barre, Vt., 89-64, despite a brilliant 35-point scoring effort by the loser's classy Romeo AJA. The tournament scoring record of 38 points was set in 1957 by Maine's Tom Chappelle.

Spaulding, which tired noticeably in the final period, led only once in the contest, 21-18, late in the opening half. Hope, winning its 25th consecutive victory, led at every turn, 22-21 42-40 and 64-54 before outscoring the Vermont champions 25-10 in the last eight minutes. Carleton Chase (27), Tom Cannon (21) and Al Lopes (18) combined for 66 points for the winners.

HOPE HIGH	B	F	PT	SPAUDLING HIGH	B	F	PT
T. Cannon	9	3	21	Ale	13	7	33
J. Cannon	0	0	0	Barnes	0	0	0
Grioux	2	2	6	Higgs	8	1	17
McConaghey	1	0	2	Calevaro	0	1	1
Chace	9	9	27	Johnson	1	0	2
Fisher	1	0	2	Bernasconi	0	0	0
Lambert	3	0	6	Fratini	1	2	4
Madeiras	2	2	4	Cristie	1	0	2
Lopes	7	4	18	Cassani	1	2	4
Castello	0	0	0	Middett	0	0	0
Lynch	1	1	3	Sancibrian	0	1	1

Totals 35 21 91 Totals 25 14 64  
 Score at half time: 42-40, Hope.

### Cheverus 62, Portsmouth 32

Led by some fine scoring by Dick Joyce, 19 points, and John Cimino, 15 points, a tall Cheverus High Five from Portland, Maine, staged a second half comeback to eliminate Portsmouth, N.H., 62-52, in the opening game of Thursday's first round action.

Cheverus trailed, 29-27, at half-time but outclassed its smaller opponent off the boards in the decisive second half. Bruce Shumway topped the New Hampshire champions with 21 markers.

CHEVERUS	B	F	PT	PORTSMOUTH	B	F	PT
Joyce	8	3	19	Black	1	0	2
Carr	0	3	3	Pwningin	0	0	0
J. Cimino	7	1	15	Neri	3	7	0
S. Cimino	3	1	7	Cnningham	0	0	0
Kerry	5	2	12	Wagner	4	1	9
Sullivan	3	0	6	Shumway	8	5	21
				Bracey	0	0	0
				Snenbck	3	4	10
				Demerais	0	0	0

Totals 26 10 62 Totals 19 14 52  
 Halftime score: 29-27, Portsmouth.

### Wilbur Cross 52, New Bedford 49

Defending Champion Wilbur Cross of New Haven, after building a seemingly comfortable 32-20 advantage at halftime, was forced to hang on before gaining a slim 52-49 victory over a surprisingly stubborn New Bedford, Mass., quintet in the fourth and final game of the quarter-final round.

A free throw by 6-7 Frank Nighthale sliced a one time Cross margin of 16 points to a mere point 40-39 with only 1:30 gone in a hectic and exciting fourth quarter. A string of six straight points regained a 46-39 bulge for the victorious Governors who then elected to go into their patented freeze.

Twice the Eastern Massachusetts champions crept to within two points of the lead, 47-45, and 49-47, before successful charity tosses by little Ralph Buccini and Phil Brooks got the Connecticut state titlists home safely.

Brooks with 15 points, Buccini with 12 and Dave Hicks with 10 led Cross' attack which produced quarter leads of 21-9, 32-20, and 40-35. New Bedford's Mark Stuart topped all point-makers with 17 tallies, including a perfect 9-for-9 performance from the foul line.

### Wilbur Cross meets Hope Friday night at 9 o'clock.

WILBUR CROSS	B	F	PT	NEW BEDFORD	B	F	PT
Brooks	4	3	15	Costa	3	1	7
DiNapoli	3	0	6	Hunter	0	0	0
J. Napoli	5	1	11	Stuart	4	9	17
Joiner	0	0	0	Martino	0	0	0
Hicks	3	4	10	Nighthale	2	3	7
Parks	0	0	0	Silva	0	0	0
Buccini	1	7	9	Fazendelo	0	0	0
Hockey	0	0	0	Arzoo	1	3	4
Harpert	0	1	1	Tavares	3	2	8
Ferraro	0	0	0	Alfrendo	2	1	5
				Lopes	0	0	0

Totals 18 16 52 Totals 15 19 49  
 Score at half time: 30-22, Cross.