

Plays Cross Tonight

HPHS Five Romps 82-55, Advances to N.E. Finals

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BOSTON, Mass — A hustling, bustling Hartford High quintet advanced to the championship game in the 36th annual New England Interscholastic Basketball Tournament Friday night with a resounding 82-55 triumph over a completely outclassed Cheverus High School team from Portland, Me., at spacious Boston Garden.

Except for two brief moments in the opening half when the 1961 Maine schoolboy champions led by a single point, the sharp-shooting Owls, second only to Wilbur Cross in the recent Connecticut tournament, had little difficulty solving a loose 2-1-2 zone defense set up by a game but inferior Portland quintet.

With Captain Stan Poole, clever Ed Griffin and sturdy Pat Burke turning in dazzling per-

formances in sparking the Owl's potent offense the winners led at every turn, 14-13, 42-26 and 62-41, actually icing the lop-sided victory in the first four minutes of the second period.

After gaining a slim 3-2 edge early in the opening quarter and a 17-16 margin with only one minute gone in the second per-

See HARTFORD, Page 13

Hartford, Cross in New England Final

(Continued from Page 1)

iod, Cheverus quickly faded in the face of a powerful offensive and defensive display generated by the racy Owls.

For the first time in the school's long and glorious history Hartford High will bid for the coveted New England title in tonight's finale beginning at 8:30.

Poole turned in an especially brilliant performance, leading the Owls in scoring with 23 points and grabbing 17 rebounds. Hartford outclassed the taller Maine squad by a whopping 68-27 margin off the boards. Poole and Griffin, who together garnered 21 rebounds were particularly effective under the defensive board. Burke did an excellent job controlling the offensive board getting 16.

Burke wound up with 19 points 16 in Hartford's decisive second half. Griffin, who excited the enthusiastic Garden fans with his sparkling ball handling, dribbling and playmaking, chipped in with 15 markers. Otis Woods had 12 tallies.

Solid Shooting Average

Hartford, which hit on 13 of 24 field goal attempts in its blistering second quarter attack, ended up with a solid 45 per cent shooting average. 34 baskets in 75 attempts.

Cheverus, which constantly had trouble getting off good shots against the Owls' pressing man-to-man defense showed 20 baskets in 65 tries or 31 per cent. But the losers did excel at the foul line with a 13-for-18 performance. Hartford converted 14 of 21 foul shots.

John Cimino paced the Cheverus scoring with 21 points. Teammate Dick Joyce finished with 15.

Griffin, Poole Spark Owls

With Griffin and Poole sparking the offense Hartford picked up several gift hoops en route to an early 14-8 bulge in the first quarter. But the Owls slowed down noticeably when Griffin was removed after being tagged with his second personal with just three minutes played.

Cheverus, on some key points by John Kerry, took advantage of costly Hartford offensive mistakes and battled back to within two points of the lead, 14-12, before Hartford Coach Joe Kubachka quickly got Griffin back into the fray. A charity toss by John Cimino cut the Owls' margin to a single point at the first turn.

A driving layup by Santo Cimino authored Cheverus' last lead, 17-16, to open the second period. But with electrifying suddenness Griffin and Poole began exerting their abilities under the defensive board. Hitting on seven of 12 shots Hartford quickly ran off a string of 13 straight points to grab a 29-17 advantage with

the second quarter only half gone.

Cheverus Fights

Cheverus, which refused to fold under such pressure, battled back with six straight points to trail 29-23 before four glittering tap-in baskets by the high-jumping Poole carried the Owls to their comfortable 42-26 bulge at the intermission.

Hartford nursed a one-sided 33-35 lead when Kubachka decided to rest Poole with 2:45 gone in the third period. It was then that Burke, a steady performer throughout the entire season, began his mastery under the offensive board. The hard-working Hartford center scored his club's final eight points in the period to spark the winner's to their 62-41 margin going into the final quarter. Burke wound up with 10 points in the eight-minute stretch.

Burke continued his superiority off the boards and accounted for six of the Owls' first nine points in the fourth period. Hartford was ahead 71-44 when Kubachka pulled out both Burke and Poole with only 3:3 gone.

Despite Hartford's uncanny marksmanship inside and outside, Cheverus' floating 2-1-2 zone the losers failed to make a change until two minutes gone in the last quarter. By then Cheverus' press failed to dent Hartford's commencing 67-42 advantage.

Wilbur Cross 64, Hope 56. For the second straight night, defending champion Wilbur Cross of New Haven was pressed to the

ulicest of its capabilities before escaping with a thrilling and exciting 64-56 win over a surprisingly strong Hope High combine from Providence, R. I., in the second game of the semi-final doubleheader witnessed by a crowd announced at 8,083.

Twelve times the score was tied and 12 times the closely matched rivals exchanged the lead before Cross' successful freeze and crucial foul shots by little Ralph Buccini and tall Dave Hicks clinched the verdict in the final 85 seconds.

A basket by Hope's Al Lopes produced the last deadlock, 54-54, early in the fourth period before two hoops by Hicks provided the Governors a 58-54 bulge and with a little over two minutes remaining the Connecticut state champions went into their freeze.

Cross' triumph thus set up the first All-Connecticut final since Meriden defeated Bridgeport Harding, 40-22, back in 1935. Highly regarded Connecticut has had at least one finalist in the past five years and in 13 of the last 16 New England classics.

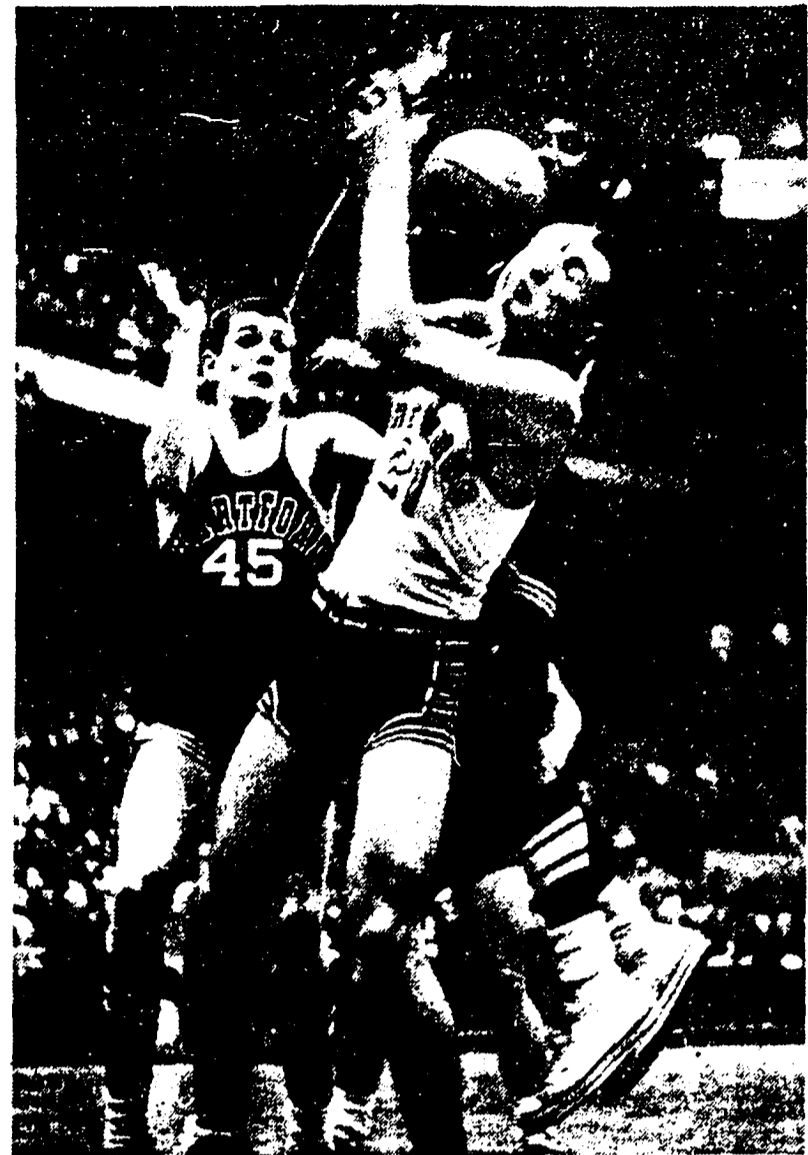
The gallant Rhode Island quintet, undefeated in 26 previous games this winter, scored only three points, hitting on just one of 17 field goal attempts, in the final eight minutes.

The opening period produced four ties and finally ended at 15-15. Cross finally went ahead 34-31 at halftime after the clubs were tied five times in the second quarter. The game's finest action was saved for the third period which saw the teams change leads nine times before Hope erected a slim 53-50 going into their dismal fourth period.

Hicks, a tower of strength off the boards down the stretch, scored 29 points in a sterling performance. Teammate Phil Brooks, another strong board man, added 19 markers.

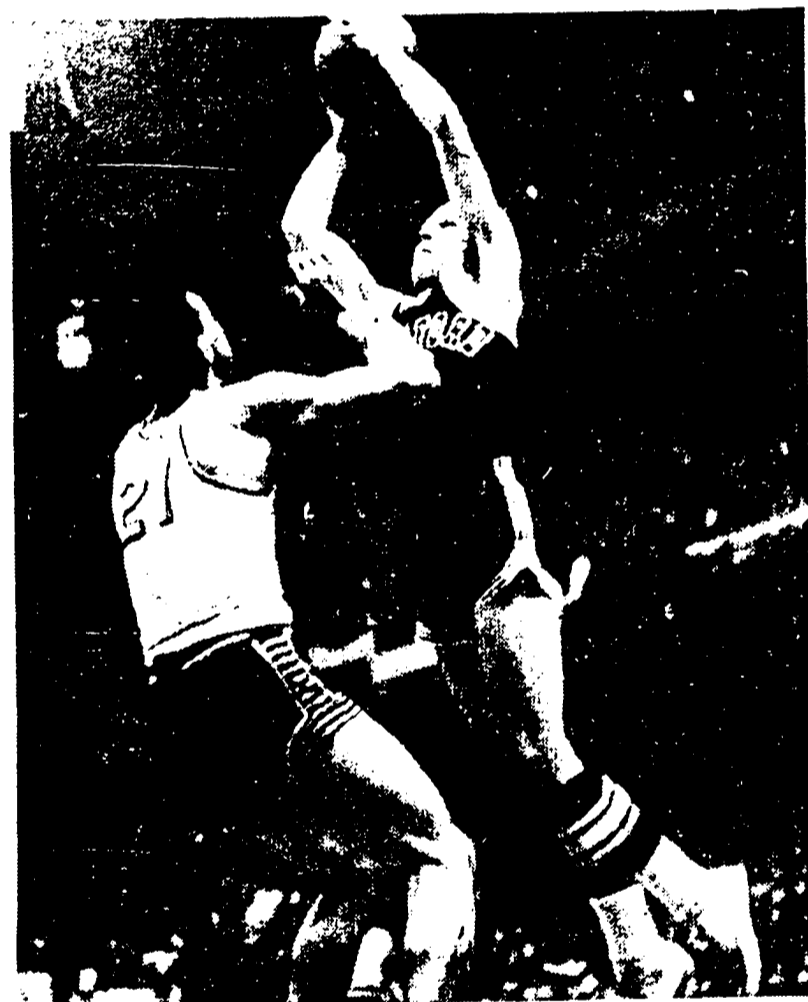
Lopes (14), Norm Lambert (14) and Tom Cannon (13) combined for 41 tallies in a losing cause.

HARTFORD				CHEVERUS			
B	F	Pt		B	F	Pt	
3	1	7	Joyce	5	4	14	
0	0	0	Lomac	0	0	0	
5	5	15	Carr	0	0	0	
0	0	0	Higgins	0	0	0	
10	3	23	J. Cimino	8	5	21	
0	0	0	Hamilton	0	0	0	
6	0	12	S. Cimino	3	3	9	
2	2	6	Kerry	1	1	3	
8	3	19	Newman	1	0	2	
0	0	0	Sullivan	0	1	1	
			Cloutier	0	0	0	
			Murphy	0	0	0	
Total 34 14 82				Total 20 15 55			
Half time score: 42-26 Hartford.							
WILBUR CROSS				HOPE HIGH			
B	F	Pt		B	F	Pt	
8	5	21	T. Cannon	6	1	13	
0	0	0	Givroz	3	0	6	
3	1	7	McConagher	0	0	0	
11	7	29	Chace	3	3	9	
1	3	5	Fisher	0	0	0	
1	1	3	Lambert	7	0	14	
			Madeiros	0	0	0	
			Lopes	6	2	14	
			Lynch	0	0	0	
Totals 24 17 65				Totals 25 4 56			
Score at half time, 34-31, Cross.							



OWLS GO HIGH: Two of the Hartford Owls Pat Burke (45) with Ed Griffin in the background are shown with Santo Cimino of Bishop Cheverus of Portland, Me. in the New England Interscholastic basketball championship Friday night at Boston. Hartford High

won 82-55 to reach the finals where they will oppose Wilbur Cross of New Haven, the defending champion. The New Haveners won over Hope High of Providence, R.I., 65-56 (AP Wirephoto).



HARTFORD GETS A HOOP: Brian Smith of the Hartford Owls is getting a layup with Santo Cimino of the Portland team trying to block the shot during the New England Interscholastic basketball semi-final game at Boston

Friday night. The Owls won 82-55 over the Bishop Cheverus team to reach the final on Saturday, when they will play Wilbur Cross. The New Haveners defeated Hope High of Providence, R.I., 65-56 (AP Wirephoto).



MAINE CAGER ELUDES AN OWL: John Kerry of Bishop Cheverus High School of Portland, Me. eludes Pat Burke of Hartford Owls during the semi-final game of the New England Interscholastic basketball championship Friday

at Boston. In the center background is Dick Joyce of Portland. The Owls won 82-55 to gain the final against Wilbur Cross of New Haven, which won over Hope High of Providence, R.I., 65-56 (AP Wirephoto).