

Hartford Nips Bulkeley in Overtime

65-63 Win Nails Down City Crown

By PAT BOLDUC

Billy Jones and Bruce Maddox provided the vital points in overtime as Hartford High nipped Bulkeley, 65-63 in another sizzling city series basketball game Friday night before a sellout crowd of 1,800 at Trinity's Memorial fieldhouse.

The victory, which clinched a second straight city championship for the Owls, was practically a repeat of Hartford's earlier 67-65 triumph over the Maroon. The loss was only the second for Bulkeley as against 11 wins.

Record-wise Hartford stands at 11-3 overall, 8-0 in Capital District Conference warfare and 3-0 in city competition. The victory also qualified the Owls for the upcoming state tournament. Bulkeley is 7-2 in the CDC and 1-2 in the city race.

Jones threw in a rebound basket and added a foul shot to break a 59-59 deadlock in the early moments of the overtime period. Bulkeley's Gene Reilly retaliated with a jump shot but an ill-thrown Maroon pass was intercepted by Len Kostek with 1:25 remaining.

Five seconds later Maddox converted twice from the foul line to give the Owls a 64-61 edge. Larry Murphy threw in a free throw to cut the lead to two points but Jones neatly blocked an attempted Bulkeley field goal and Maddox grabbed the deflected ball and was deliberately fouled. Only seven seconds remained when Maddox made good his second try.

Little To Choose

There was little to choose between the two evenly matched rivals. Hartford had a slight edge in off the boards where Ed Griffin and Jones outdueled Reilly, Jim Belfiore and Ted Kwash by a 37-29 margin. Bulkeley shot at a 44 per cent clip from the field while the Owls hit on 41 per cent of their shots. From the foul line Hartford was nine for 12 and Bulkeley nine for 13.

Game scoring honors were garnered by Griffin who wound up with 26 points in another dazzling display of outside shooting. Four Bulkeley players took turns guarding the Hartford ace. Maddox chipped in with 19 markers and Billy Thornton added 13.

Both Reilly and Belfiore scored 16 points for Bulkeley. Joe Hourihan, who hit four straight times in a red-hot third quarter, wound up with 11 tallies.

The teams opened with similar 3-2 zone defenses but the Maroon was the first to switch to a full court press after Thornton had shot the Owls into a quick 8-1 lead in the opening quarter. The switch paid off as the Maroon, on some key scoring by Belfiore, trailed 15-11 at the buzzer.

Caught The Owls

Combining excellent marksmanship with control of the defensive board, Bulkeley finally caught the Owls, 23-22 on a fast break basket by Leo McGrath late in the second period. A jumper by McGrath and a basket by Kwash had Bulkeley ahead, 27-26 at halftime.

The third period developed into a scoring duel between Griffin and Hourihan. Griffin scored 12 of his points in the period which ended in a 45-45 stalemate. Hourihan's spectacular outside shooting forced the Owls to abandon their zone in favor of a press.

The lead exchanged hands four times in the fourth quarter. Bulkeley missed a field goal with 28 seconds to play and Hartford grabbed the rebound. But a desperate shot by the Owls also fell short of the mark at the buzzer.

Hartford's Jayvees wrapped up their share of the city title with a 58-47 win over the Bulkeley seconds. With two games to play Hartford has a 3-0 record. Bulkeley 1-2 and Weaver 0-2.

HARTFORD				BULKELEY			
	B	F	Pt.		B	F	Pt.
Griffin	12	2	26	Reilly	7	2	18
Kostek	1	0	2	Belfiore	6	4	16
Maddox	7	5	19	Kwash	4	0	8
Jones	2	1	5	Murphy	1	2	4
Thornton	6	1	13	Hourihan	5	1	11
Jother	0	0	0	McGrath	3	0	6
				Hickey	0	0	0
Totals	28	9	65	Totals	27	9	63
Score at half time	27-26, Bulkeley.						