

Owls Wallop Bristol Central 67-43

Ed Griffin Sets Pace In Victory

By PAT BOLDUC
 Courant Sports Writer

NEW BRITAIN — Poker-faced Ed Griffin turned in a sparkling night to lead 11th ranked Hartford to a one-sided 67-43 victory over third rated Bristol Central. An overflow crowd of 1,500 in the Central Connecticut State College gym looked on as the Owls became the first team to advance to the quarter-final round in the 40th annual Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference Class A tournament.

Griffin, an all-state selection last year, scored 15 points, grabbed 20 rebounds and was credited with nine assists. He was ably assisted by tardy Bruce Maddox, Billy Jones, John Joiner and Bill Thornton who combined for an additional 42 points.

Maddox, who put in an appearance 10 minutes before game time after missing the bus, did not play in the opening half as the Owls erected a 28-18 advantage.

Central, which averaged over 40 per cent in the shooting department while compiling a nifty 16-2 record during the regular season, fell off to a weak 25 per cent average against Hartford's pesky 3-2 zone. Coach Bill McCooney's unnerved Rams hit on 16 of 65 field goal attempts.

And seldom did the Rams get more than a single shot as the Owls completely dominated the boards by a whopping 53-27 margin. Thornton hauled down 14 rebounds, two more than Jones. Howie Busse was Central's top boardman with nine grabs.

Hartford, which managed a slim 14-13 edge at the first turn and a comfortable 42-31 bulge after three quarters, hit on 25 of 72 shots for a respectable 35 per cent average. Both teams were deadly from the foul line, Hartford converting 17 of 21 and Central 11 of 15.

Sophomore George Benoit and Busse each scored 12 points for the Rams.

Provided Vital Points

Griffin provided the vital points and several timely assists as the more experienced Owls grabbed leads of 6-0 and 14-6 before Central fought back with seven straight points to slice its deficit to a single tally at the first buzzer.

Hartford added to its 16-15 edge early in the second period with an uninterrupted string of eight points which opened up a 24-15 advantage. A rebound basket by Jones gave the victors their 10-point lead at halftime.

Maddox made his appearance with 1:55 gone in the third period and his rebounding, along with deadly shooting by Jones, Thornton and Len Kostek, paved the way for Hartford's biggest lead of the night, 41-24. But Benoit and Busse triggered a counter attack which cut the Owls' margin at the buzzer.

Central scored the first basket to open the final quarter but Maddox found the range and personally led Hartford to a safe 51-33 bulge with about two minutes gone. Hartford Coach Joe Kubackha began lifting his regulars with 1:26 left and the Owls home free, 63-43.

HARTFORD			BRISTOL CENT.		
	b	f. pts		b	f. pts
Griffin	7	15	Benoit	5	12
Maddox	3	11	Gagnon	3	6
Kostek	3	8	Whitehead	2	5
Jones	5	11	Busse	3	12
Joiner	2	4	Cohen	2	4
Thornton	5	10	Benecick	1	4
Vaughan	0	0	Cole	0	0
Minkas	0	0	Kelly	0	0
Turner	0	0	Monico	0	0
Womack	0	2			
Thompson	0	0			
Odlum	0	0			
Beaulieu	0	0			
Capes	0	0			
Totals	25	67	Totals	16	43
Score at half time: 28-18, Hartford.					