

# Second Half Rally Leads to 76-58 Win Over West Haveners

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STORRS—Hartford High shook off the effects of a dismal opening first half Thursday night to bounce back with an impressive and convincing 76-58 class A basketball tournament victory over a surprisingly stubborn Notre Dame quintet of West Haven. A disappointing crowd of 1971 viewed the semi final test in the University of Connecticut Field House.

The win by the 11th rated Owls creates an all Hartford championship final for the first time in the 40 year history of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference event. Not since 1959 when Wilbur Cross and Hillhouse clashed has one city boasted two finalists.

Hartford now battles city rival Bulkeley in Saturday's final, and the two schools will represent Connecticut in next week's New England tournament, at the Boston Garden. It will mark the third meeting between the rivals, Hartford winning both previous games, 67-65 and 65-63 in overtime.

Except for a brief 4-2 edge in the opening minutes of the first quarter, the favored Owls trailed until a string of six straight points regained a 36-34 margin with 1:06 gone in the third period. From then on, it was strictly Hartford's show as the winners fashioned a 12 point advantage midway in the third quarter and a comfortable 69-53 bulge with about four minutes to go in the final period.

Veteran Bruce Maddox came up with a tremendous performance to spark the triumph. Maddox led all scorers with 25 points and was the night's top rebounder with 13. He also extended his foul shooting string to 10 in succession with a perfect 5 for 5 performance.

Another tested veteran Eddie Griffin chipped in with 20 tallies and 12 rebounds and his dazzling floor work set up numerous other Hartford baskets. Griffin now has 60 points in three tourney games.

Tall Billy Jones, 6-2 junior, turned in a masterful rebounding job off the defensive board and time and again set up the Owls' patented fast break in the second half.

Little Joe Tonelli had 19 points for the 18th ranked Green Knights who faded in the face of Hartford's blistering second half attack after leading 15-6 at the first turn and 33-30 at halftime. Sharp shooting Bill Barbieri, whose deadly jumpers paved the way for Notre Dame's superiority in the half, added 18 points.

A string of six straight points created an 8-4 Notre Dame lead in the first quarter. And while tenacious rebounding by 6-2 Bill Hayes limited Hartford to a single shot, the Green Knights rolled to their nine point bulge at the first turn on timely baskets by Barbieri and Ed Schreck.

Barbieri's jump shots over Hartford's zone press opened a 23-12 advantage for the upset minded downstaters before a 12-2 Hartford tear sliced the Knights' margin to 25-24. A jumper by Barbieri who was 6 for 12 from the field in the first half, provided Notre Dame its three point edge at intermission.

Cliff Thornton took a pass from Griffin and laid up an easy basket to give the Owls their 36-34 lead at the outset of the third period. Then Griffin followed with a free throw and two jump shots and Thornton threw in a jumper from the corner as the racy Owls quickly increased their advantage to 43-24.

Forced into several costly mistakes by the Owls' full court press, the Knights did not score a basket until the 4:08 mark in the third quarter. But with Jones, Maddox and Griffin taking turns setting up the fast break, Hartford zoomed ahead 48-36 before Notre Dame rallied to trail 50-44 at the three quarter mark.

The Owls clinched matters with a one sided 26-14 spurt in the final eight minutes. A string of 11 consecutive points produced a 69-53 Hartford dead. Three times the Knights crept to within six points but their stock dipped when Hayes, their top rebound-

er, fouled out with 5:29 remaining and the Owls ahead 59-51.

Hartford wound up with a good 42 per cent average from the field. Notre Dame was 49 in the shooting department. The Owls had a whopping 51-28 edge in rebounding, the majority coming off the defensive board.



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