

# Hartford High Ousts Pittsfield 78-65

## Griffin Nets 32 Points In New Englands Romp

By PAT BOLDUC  
Courant Sports Writer

BOSTON —Hartford High, the defending New England Interscholastic basketball champion, Saturday night successfully opened its quest for a repeat triumph with a convincing 78-65 victory over Pittsfield, the Western Massachusetts champion, at the Boston Garden.

The speedy and deadly shooting Owls from Hartford will now meet the Vermont titleholder, Spaulding of Barre in the semi-final round next Friday. Spaulding held on to outlast a small Concord, N. H., quintet, 63-59 in Saturday's opening test.

East Providence, R.I., met Morse High of Bath, Maine in the third game at 8 o'clock and Bulkeley of Hartford battled Rindge Tech of Cambridge, the Eastern Massachusetts titlist, in the 10 o'clock finale.

Bulkeley won 52-31. Hartford's dazzling Ed Griffin, an all-New England selection last year, thrilled the Garden fans with a brilliant all-around performance. Griffin scored 32 points, grabbed 15 rebounds, was credited with five assists and came up with six clean steals. The Hartford senior hit on 15 of 31 floor shots.

Another veteran, Len Kostak chipped in with 18 valuable points while newcomer Billy Jones, a junior, provided Griffin excellent support in the important rebounding department. Hartford out-rebounded the highly-touted Bay Staters by a decisive 44-24 margin.

Pittsfield had an outstanding performer in Mark Belanger who

wound up with 32 points and a glittering 14 for 14 performances at the foul line. It was Belanger's perfect string of 14 free throws in the opening half which kept Pittsfield in contention.

As a team, Pittsfield hit on 17 of 19 foul shots while being outscored by 22 points from the field. The Western Mass. quintet made good on 24 of 67 attempts from the field for a 35.9 average. Hartford was 35 for 81 for 43.2 per cent.

Hartford went the distance with a 3-2 zone and zone press and except for Belanger and little Dick Premerlani, Pittsfield's outside shooting, a key factor in the Massachusetts tournament, was held in check nicely. Premerlani wound up with 14 points.

Pittsfield Led 15-14

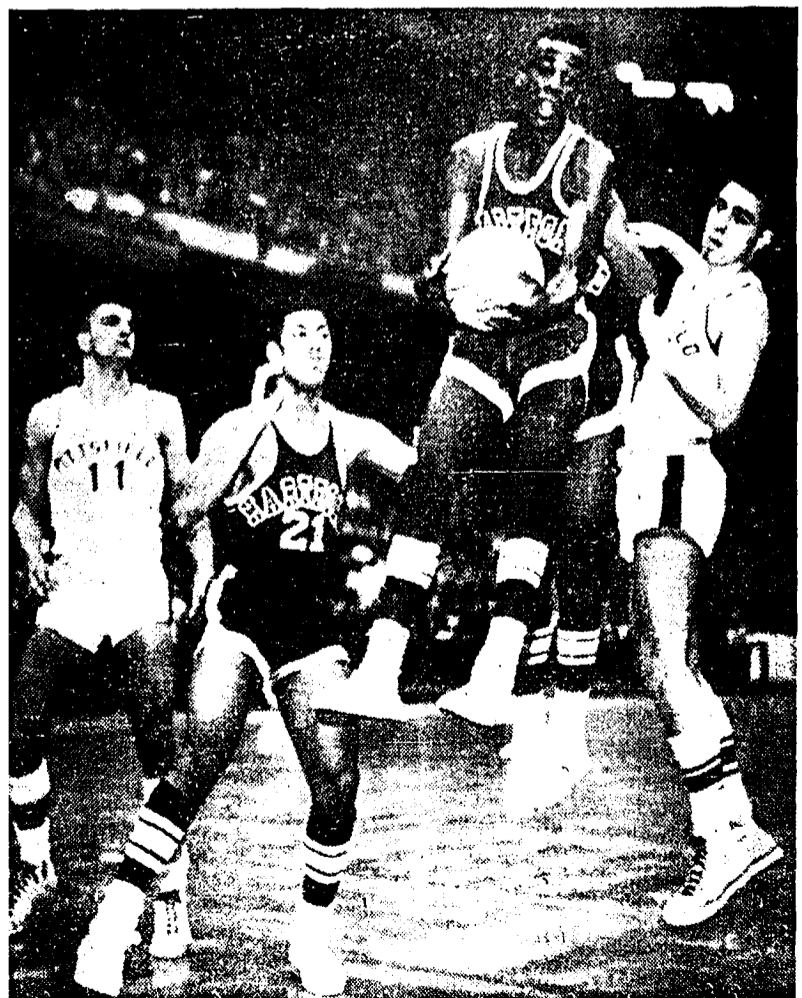
With Griffin, Jones and Bruce Maddox controlling both boards, the Owls ran up an 11-5 bulge with 2:48 left in the opening quarter. But Premerlani and Dick Gull fought back and a jump shot by Premerlani with only eight seconds to go gave Pittsfield a 15-14 edge at the first turn.

A string of five straight points gave the Bay Staters their final lead of the game, 22-20 with 1:53 played in the second period.

Moments later Hartford broke a 24-24 stalemate with 10 consecutive points, the last six by the hot shooting Griffin, to fashion a 34-24 advantage with a little over two minutes remaining in the first half. Only four closing foul shots by Belanger kept Pittsfield close, 40-36 at halftime.

The Owls opened fast in the third quarter, scoring six points in a row for a 46-36 edge. Then with Griffin and Jones set-

See HARTFORD, Page 3, Col. 1



OWLS ON THE MARCH: Bruce Maddox pulls down a rebound for Hartford High's defending champions in first round victory over Pittsfield Saturday night in New England

Interscholastic Tournament at Boston. Close at hand are the game's stars, Eddie Griffin of Hartford (21) and Mark Belanger of Pittsfield (11). Both had 32 points (AP Wirephoto).

# Hartford

(Continued from Page 1)

ting up its patented fastbreak, Hartford rolled off another uninterrupted string of eight points to erect its biggest lead of the game, 54 - 38 with 4.30 left in the third quarter. Hartford was out front, 60 - 48 going into the final period.

Hartford led by 10, 62 - 52 with two minutes gone in the fourth quarter and Griffin drove in for an easy basket and then followed with a steal to give the Owls a 68 - 56 cushion with 4.30 to play. Ahead, 68 - 58 with four minutes left, the Owls turned to their deliberate patterns and were never in danger when Coach Joe Kubachka began pulling his regulars with about two minutes left.

SPAULDING			CONCORD				
	B	F	Pt	B	F	Pt	
Higgs	6	3	13	Degnen	1	0	2
Johnson	4	3	11	Walker	2	0	4
D.Hale	0	4	4	Beall	3	1	7
A.Hale	2	1	5	Harren	3	2	8
Calavro	10	0	20	Calden	0	1	1
Mudcett	5	0	10	Drinon	9	10	28
				Skarp	3	3	9

Totals 26 11 63 Total 21 17 59  
Score at halftime: 34-24, Spaulding.

HARTFORD			PITTSFIELD				
	G	F	Pt	G	F	Pt	
Maddox	3	2	8	Belanger	9	14	32
Thronton	2	1	5	Gull	3	1	7
Joiner	2	1	5	Conry	1	0	2
Thompson	0	1	1	Butler	0	1	1
Jones	4	1	9	Carmell	1	0	2
Turner	0	0	0	Premierant	7	0	14
Kostek	9	0	18	Bruinell	0	0	0
Womack	0	0	0	Tallaferro	3	1	7
Griffin	15	2	32	Downey	0	0	0
Beaulieu	0	0	0				
Copes	0	0	0				

Totals 35 8 78 Totals 24 17 65  
Hartford 14 26 20 18-78  
Pittsfield 15 21 10 19-65

EAST PROV.			MORSE				
	B	F	Pt	B	F	Pt	
Muter	3	2	8	Bussey	0	0	0
Traverse	4	3	11	Mackinnon	9	2	20
Walsh	4	5	13	Harrington	11	6	28
Paparella	2	2	6	Woods	2	1	5
Amaral	0	0	0	Smith	0	0	0
Mederois	7	3	17				

Totals 20 15 55 Totals 22 9 53  
East Providence 8 13 12 22-53  
Morse 12 8 22 11-53