Hartford High Ousts Pittsfield 78-65: Griffin Nets 32 Points In New Englands Romp

PAT BOLDUC Courant Sports Writer

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Griffin Nets 32 Points In New Englands Romp

By PAT BOLDUC Courant Sports Writer

defending New England Inter-throws in the opening half which scholastic basketball champion, kept Pittsfield in contention. Saturday night successfully opened its quest for a repeat 17 of 19 foul shots while being triumph with a convincing 78-65 outscored by 22 points from the victory over Pittsfield, the West- field. The Western Mass. quintet ern Massachusetts champion, at made good on 24 of 67 attempts the Boston Garden.

The speedy and deadly shooting Owls from Hartford will now meet the Vermont titleholder, Spaulding of Barre in the semifinal round next Friday. Spauldfinal round next Friday. Spauld-ing held on to outlast a small the Massachusetts tournament, Concord, N. H., quintet, 63-59 in was held in check nicely. Pre-Saturday's opening test.

East Providence, R.I., met Pittsfield Led 15-14 Morse High of Bath, Maine in the third game at 8 o'clock and dge 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

Pittsfield had an outstanding performer in Mark Belanger who

wound up with 32 points and 8 glittering 14 for 14 performances BOSTON —Hartford High, the at the foul line. It was Belang-

As a team, Pittsfield hit on 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 outmerlani wound up with 14 points.

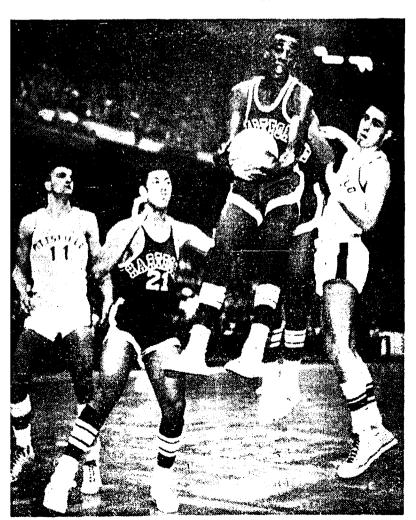
With Griffin, Jones and Bruce Maddox controlling both boards, Bulkeley of Hartford battled Rin- the Owls ran up an 11-5 bulge with 2,48 left in the opening quarter. But Premerlani and Dick Gull fought back and a jump shot by Premerlani with only eight seconds to go gave Pittsfield a 15-14 edge at the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

> A string of five straight points gave the Bay Staters their final lead of the game, 22-20 with 1.55 Mayod in the second period.
>
> Moments later Hartford broke

a 24-24 stalemate with 10 consec utive 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 uninserviented 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 - 46 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.

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