

Butler On NIT: 'Heck No!'

By BOB DAVIES

Now, the Bonnies have other things on their mind.

First, there's that National Collegiate Athletic Association championship tourney. This morning the fourth-ranked Bonnies were invited to play in the Eastern Regionals of the NCAA.

Next, there's Canisius, Wednesday in the St. Bonaventure University Center.

Then, there's that meeting with Calvin Murphy and Niagara. That'll be Sunday in Buffalo's Memorial Aud.

And then, the season's final regular season game, March 5th against Fairfield in New Haven, Conn.

After that, it's Rhode Island or Maryland and NCAA action — how sweet it is!

Monday night, the clock and the score told the story: 1:06 showed on the two multi-colored timepieces and the score read, St. Bona 95, Creighton 78.

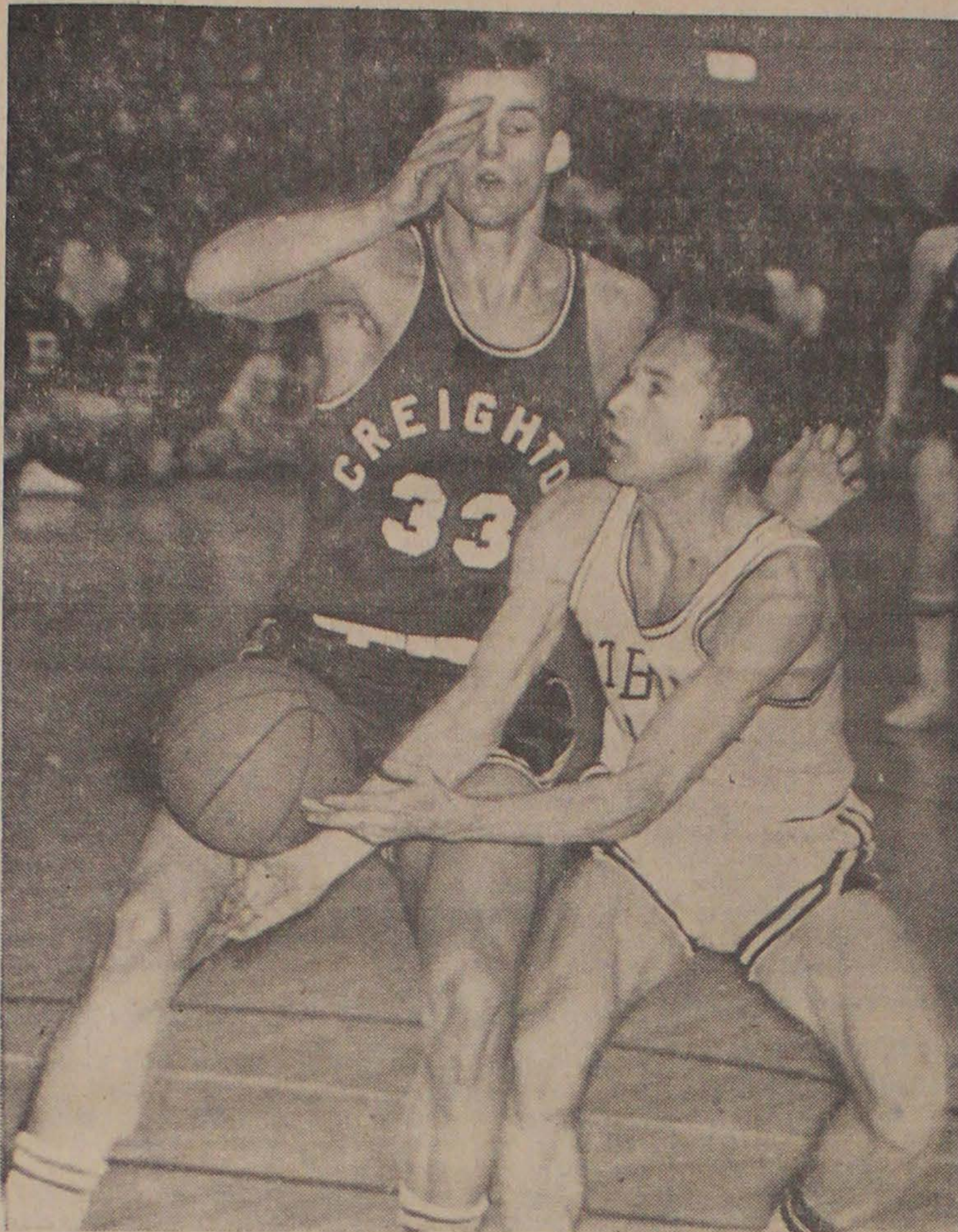
That was enough for Bona students.

This was the moment they had waited for and they didn't miff it. Their chant was loud and clear:

"NC-Double A, NC-Double A, NC-Double A."

A MINUTE AND six seconds later, St. Bonaventure's unbeaten basketball troop had wrapped up a 97-84 victory over Creighton.

A SRO crowd of 5,479 sat in on win No. 19 for this all-



COME'RE BABES. That's what St. Bona's Bill Kalbaugh could be entreating as he pulls in a pass while Creighton's All-American Bob Portman closes on. (Times Herald Photo)

half, Bona had a 17-point spread (40-23) and later it was 16 (47-31).

"We got off to a bad start. They beat us early. I don't know what happened. We haven't played well on the road," the Creighton coach commented.

On the road, Creighton is 0-9, with four games left, all on the road. Overall the Jays are 8-13. "We just don't have a good club," he said frankly.

BUTLER, WHO had 29 points, picked up 19 in the hot first half when the Bonnies blazed away for 55 percent (22 of 40) and took a 54-44 halftime lead.

"In the second half," explained McManus, "we sagged our defense back to play Butler more man-for-man. He killed us in that first half. We didn't intend to let him go outside, but our side man was sagging back to cover Lanier (Bob) and Butler was free. We got that straightened out at halftime," he added.

"I knew Butler was tough — I don't know if my players did, though," he cracked.

"We'll give them a battle next year," he ended. Bona will play Creighton in Omaha, March 5th.

IN THE OTHER dressing room, a relaxed Larry Weise talked about "being spotty" and sidestepped all questions about the tournament.

"We played well in spots," he said. "Sometimes we rested on our lead. We seem to do that."

That has been the pattern in many of the 19 wins. The club star is to pull away but never really pulls out all the stops to kill off the opposition. Last night was a case in point.

Bona permitted Creighton to keep pecking away. The visitors drew within seven (62-55) with 13:42 to go. It wasn't until the late stages of the game that the Indians buried the hatchet in the visitors with a flurry of 10 points.

COURT NOTES: Bob Portman, the nation's No. 4 scorer had a so-so night. The 6-5 junior scored 23 points, but his shoot-

ing was sub-par, hitting on nine of 32. "It was his worst game," noted McManus. "He needs a rest. He's a great kid but he's been dead the last two games."

He has a 30.9 average... Creighton had to rely on outside shooting against the 1-2-2 zone and didn't fare too well, making 34 of 93 for 36.6 percent...

Bona hit for 54.9 percent on 39 of 71... Bona held the boards, 56-43, with Lanier plucking off 23. He had 15 the first half...

...once again Bona was plagued with turnovers, losing the ball 18 times... Lanier, in particular, couldn't find the handle, but he was being double and triple teamed by Creighton's 2-3 zone.

"Once the ball went into Lanier," said McManus, "it wasn't going to feed back the way we sagged on him." Weise added: "They had 23 men on him at all times. It makes it pretty tough." John Hayes, bothered by his knee (bumped in the

Seton Hall game), picked up 16 points. "It bothered him," Weise said. "He wasn't up to par but he should be all right for Canisius (Wednesday at the University Center)." Lanier had 27 points before relieved by Vinnie Martin with 1:06 to go.

The box score:

CREIGHTON (84)					
	FG	FT	R	P	PT
Portman	9-32	5-6	14	2	23
Babcock	0-3	0-1	3	4	0
Michele	4-9	3-3	12	4	11
Hickey	5-15	5-5	0	2	15
Ketterer	4-7	0-0	0	2	8
Jansa	5-14	1-2	5	4	11
Ilicisin	5-7	0-1	4	1	10
Bova	2-5	2-3	2	2	6
Balen	0-1	0-0	0	0	0
Team Rebounds	3				
Totals	34-93	16-21	43	21	84
Shooting percentage	34 or 93 for 36.6				
ST. BONA (97)					
	FG	FT	R	P	PT
Butler	12-19	5-6	9	3	29
Hayes	7-13	2-4	8	4	16
Lanier	9-14	9-14	23	2	27
Satalin	5-14	2-2	3	3	12
Kalbaugh	6-10	1-1	6	2	13
Martin	0-1	0-1	0	1	0
Team Rebounds	7				
Totals	39-71	19-28	56	15	97
St. Bona	54 43-97				
Creighton	44 40-84				
Officials:	John Gee and John Bellanti				

MacKinnon Says Bona Is Better Than Stith Team

Canisius Coach

Saturday night's St. Bonaventure game in Memorial Auditorium will be a new coaching experience for Bob MacKinnon of Canisius.

Poring over the records, MacKinnon said, "This will be the first time we've played an undefeated St. Bonaventure team, ranked so highly at this stage of the season."

It's the 94th game of the basketball series, and MacKinnon has been involved in six games as a player and as a coach, starting in 1959. The Bonnies lead, 50 victories to 43.

MacKinnon recalled that the great Tom Stith team of 1960-61 reached No. 2 in the national rankings, but had lost to Ohio State in the Holiday Festival and had another defeat on its record, coming into the Canisius series.

"Better Than the Stith Team"

Comparing Larry Weise's present team (12-won, 0-lost), which has won 19 of its last 21 games over this and last season, MacKinnon looked up from his scouting reports and said:

"I have to rate this team better than the Stith team. There is no weakness in Weise's first five, none at all."

One thing in Weise's favor is that he doesn't have to worry about matchups, because he'll play a zone defense with either Bob Lanier or Capt. Billy Butler in deep and Billy Kalbaugh or Jimmy Satalin on the point.

It's no secret how MacKinnon will try to defend the Bonnies in his switching man-for-man defense.

His tallest man is 6-foot 6-inch Tom Pasternak and he'll be assigned to the 6-11 Lanier.

Finest Team Effort Needed

Co-Capt. Tony Masiello of the Griffins will draw the Bona captain, 6-3 Billy Butler who led the Bonnies in rebounding last season. And either Bob Trenta or Jack Hassett will have the job of containing the 6-4 John Hayes, Bona's third scorer and rebounder to Lanier and Butler.

Roger Brown and either Tom Hardiman or Co-Capt. Terry Connors, still handicapped by a lame ankle, will have the chore of containing the Bona guards, Billy (The Kid) Kalbaugh and Jimmy Satalin.

From this deduction, it is evident that MacKinnon in no way can match the Bona personnel, and only the Golden Griffins' finest team effort of the season and some consistent hitting from outside can make it a typical Little Three battle.

The Griffins, after three days off for a rest and examinations, returned to practice today at the Canisius High floor.

The freshman game should be a hummer. It unveils three coming Bona stars in Greg Gary, Texas and Paul Gos...

Undefeated Bonnies Rule Huge Favorites Over the Griffis

Special to Buffalo Evening News

ST. BONAVENTURE, Jan. 16 — St. Bonaventure's undefeated Brown Indians, ranking seventh in one national basketball poll, will do nothing different for Saturday night's Canisius game in Memorial Auditorium.

"We'll do what we do best," said Weise, who gave the Bona squad a week-end of rest. "I always have had the highest respect for Canisius and Bob MacKinnon, and this year is no exception."

The comparative scores of Bona's 39-point victory over Niagara, and Niagara's 21-point conquest of Canisius makes the Indians overwhelming favorites to score their 13th victory.

"A Little Three game," said Weiss, "can't be prejudged or reckoned on scores. A Canisius team that beat Syracuse in Syracuse, a team that beat Murray State is capable of beating the best," Weise told his squad.

No Bona team ever carried such impressive credentials. The Bonnies are shooting 53 per cent from field, averaging 90.4 points a game to the opposition's 72.9 with every regular in double scoring figures.

Buffalo's Bob Lanier, shooting 66 per cent on 148 field goals in 223 attempts and 70 per cent from the free throw line (53-75), has scored 349 points for a 29 point average.

Capt. Billy Butler is next with 279 points and a 23.2 average. He is shooting 53 per cent, 115 of 214 attempts and 84 per cent in free throws, 49 for 58. John Hayes, the of her front-liner, also is shooting 53 per cent, 65 for 121, from the floor, 29 for 45 in free throws for 159 points and a 13.2 average.

The outside shooters, Billy Kalbaugh and Jimmy Satalin, are shooting 46 and 44 per cent respectively. Satalin with 146 points has a 12.1 average, Kalbaugh is 10.4 on 125 points.

"It's the best balanced team we've ever had," reports John Ritzenthaler, the Bona sports information director, and the most relaxed. I don't think they'll feel any pressure."

ST. BONA 97
CREIGHTON 84 # 19
No. 19

Billy The Kid Saves Bonnies, 18th Straight

(Feb. 14 at South Orange)

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. — Guzzled down by Billy The Kid. The biggest upset of the college basketball season was ready to be written here Wednesday night, but Billy Kalbaugh, operating like a seasoned senior instead of the sophomore he is, took command.

St. Bonaventure is still unbeaten — thanks to the Kid.

BONA WON the wild and woolly overtime thriller, 81-71.

"He killed us."

"He killed us."

Lossing coach Richie Regan muttered that phrase over and over as he marveled at the littlest Bonnie of them all, who personally prevented Seton Hall from knocking off the nation's No. four ranked court club.

The 5-10 guard from Troy, N.Y., stood taller than his 6-11 roommate Bob Lanier when the chips were on the table.

And, they were on the table often.

The kid never blushed in the face of the pressure.

Regan figured his Seton Hall club was ready to engineer the season's No. one upset. He had everything going his way.

Two Bona starters — Lanier and Jimmy Satalin — were on the bench with five personal fouls and the score was tied 55-55.

BUT THE KID put on a show of ball handling, shooting, passing and court generalship that thwarted the Hall.

The Bonnies had to play exceptionally fine basketball — which they did to overcome a determined and hushing band of Pirates from Seton Hall.

"If they can get out and get the lead and make you play their game, five is enough"

THAT'S WHAT happened last