

NCAA Ban: Bombshell At Bona

Weise, Bonnies Are Stunned

By BOB DAVIES

Where do the Bonnies go from here?

The 1968-69 basketball season will be played, as scheduled, by the NCAA-hit St. Bonaventure varsity but there will be no post-season tournament action. The season ends with that.

(SEE LOCAL NOTES)

Mar. 5 meeting at Creighton University — and, no matter how one looks at it, it'll be a long, long season ahead.

It has to be a dismal prospect for coach Larry Weise and a Bonnie squad that had, just 24 hours ago, such high hopes.

THE NCAA'S policy council for rules infractions saw to that Tuesday with that bombshell from St. Louis. St. Bonaventure has been placed on one year's probation for providing a basketball prospect (Tom Riker, the 6-11 Long Island high school star) with an expense paid tour to the NCAA regional tournament at Raleigh, N.C.

It's a tough one to swallow, and Weise and his Bonnies took the news hard. The probation announcement — and the ban on post-season tournament play — came just before the practice session that had been scheduled. It was Weise who broke the news to the team.

THE PLAYERS — to the last man — were shocked by the announcement. The practice session was called off. The players, in silence and gloom so thick that it could be cut with a knife, shot a few baskets for a very short time. Weise, just as stunned as the

QUOTE 'N UNQUOTE:
'If The Bonnies Sinned They Did It In Front Of 20,000 Or So In North Carolina'

players, said softly, "no comment" when asked if he or the school would issue a statement. The Very Rev. Reginald Redon, OFM, school president, was out of town, as was the Very Rev. Gordon Murphy, OFM, executive vice president.

What's done is done. However, there's one thing to be said. Weise didn't keep the Riker trip a secret. Everyone knew that the much-sought

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after high school star was there and as a guest of the Bonnies.

If Weise and St. Bona sinned, they sinned in front of 20,000 or so basketball fans in the North Carolina State fieldhouse, plus a flock of college coaches who were every bit as anxious to land Riker as was Weise.

What about the future. It's a tough coaching job that Weise faces this season.

He'll have to use every ounce of his coaching ability — an ability he proved last season in guiding the Bonnies to that 23-2 year — to pull his club out of the shock it dropped into yesterday.

One fellow coach summed up Weise's No. 1 problem as of now: "You have to feel badly for Salatin (Jimmy) and the other seniors on the club. This is taking a lot from them. This definitely is a tournament team. They have to suffer over something not connected with them."



HAPPIER DAYS. When the Times Herald cameraman took this picture of the St. Bonaventure University basketball team, the Bonnies were in a playful, light-hearted mood, thinking ahead to

another winning season and a possible post-season tournament. That was all changed Tuesday when the NCAA's policy council for rules infractions place St. Bona on a

year's probation. That probation means the Bonnies play the regular season schedule, including the All-College tournament in Oklahoma City, but will not be eligible to compete

in either the NIT or NCAA post-season tournaments. Reason for the laughter in this photo is sophomore Greg Gray, late arriving for the picture. Back row, left to

right: Ed Klimkowski, Paul Gry's, Bob Lanier, Gene Fahy. Front row, left to right: Mike Kull, Billy Kalbaugh, Jimmy Salatin, John Hayes and Pete Wisniewski.

Injuries Becloud A Once-Bright Picture at Bona

What looked like a bright post-season tournament picture for the St. Bonaventure Brown Indians is turning a sallow gray.

The injury hex continued Saturday night in Memorial Auditorium as the Bonnies bowed to the Denver U. Pioneers, 65-58.

John Hayes, the 6-foot 4-inch sophomore forward, was helped off the floor with a recurrence of a right-knee injury, and it is undetermined when he'll play again.

"You can't lose a scorer like Hayes and maintain our attack," said the harassed coach, Larry Weise.

Hayes, who scored 26 points Wednesday at Xavier in his varsity debut, had taken only one shot when he leaped and landed on an opponent's foot with 3 minutes 30 seconds gone.

The Bonnies had one of their worst shooting nights. They had the shots, 83, but made only 24 for a 28.9 percentage. Denver shot 46.3%.

Yet, after being behind, 38-30, at intermission, Bona blazed for 14 straight points to take a 50-48 lead.

Taking over the DU All-America hopeful, Harry Hollines, who scored 18 points in the first half, Ed Ahearn with help locked him up while the Bonnies rallied.

Driven out of their zone defense, the Westerners now concentrated on their big post men, Byron Beck, 6-9, and 6-10 Byron Clair.

It was Denver's first victory on their three-game Eastern trip.

Though he wasn't hitting (5 for 16), Billy Butler, who started at guard and switched to forward after Hayes' injury, gave the Bonnies a fine game under the boards, 14 rebounds.

Now 2-won, 2-lost with the Holiday Festival at Madison Square Garden ahead, the Bonnies play the University of California at Santa Barbara this evening in the Bona field house.

DENVER (65)		(58) ST. BONA	
Fo	FT	Fo	FT
Roderick	2-2	Hayes	2-6
Callahan	1-0	Hazard	2-2
Clare	5-5	Carter	4-7
Grover	0-1	Butler	3-3
Hollines	11-5	Kull	3-3
Beck	6-6	Ahearn	3-3
		Martin	0-0
		Stappenbeck	2-2
			0-4
Totals	25-15-65	Totals	24-10-58
Halftime:	Denver 38, St. Bona, 30.		

College Basketball

Knee Surgery Sidelines Hayes

John Hayes, "the garbage collector" of last year's third-ranked basketball team, underwent surgery yesterday in Buffalo's Mercy Hospital. The results of the operation were not available at press time.

Hayes, who was out for most of the '66-67 season recuperating from a similar operation, re-injured the knee several weeks ago in a pick-up game at the Olean YMCA.

The operation obviously raises questions as to Hayes' early season status this year.

Even with a quick recovery it is doubtful he will be ready to play in December.

Coach Larry Weise has considered going with a three-guard offense if Hayes does not recover in time for the season opener. Either Vinny Martin, Mike Kull, Dale Tepas or Paul Gry's would be the third guard.

Last year, Hayes finished third in scoring for the Bonnies with 337 points for a 13.4 average. He was successful on 53 percent of his shots from the floor and grabbed a total of 170 rebounds.