

Niagara Seeks Upset Against Bonnies Today

By BILL McGRATH
Gazette Sports Writer

IF EVER THERE was a college basketball team with incentive for victory, that team must be Niagara University's Purple Eagles today.

Coach Jim Maloney's men have at least five reasons, maybe more, in trying for an upset of archrival St. Bonaventure University in Buffalo's Memorial Auditorium at 3:30 this afternoon.

The reasons, not necessarily in order of importance, are:

- 1—The Bonnies have won the last 10 games between the two rivals.
- 2—If Niagara can spring the upset, it will have a shot at a possible tie for the Little Three championship. A victory over Canisius on March 5 would have to follow the win over Bona. Then NU and

the Brown Indians would have 3-1 conference marks.

- 3—The Eagles were humiliated by 29 points (101-72) in last January's game at Bonaventure. Niagara players know they are not 29 points inferior.
- 4—St. Bonaventure is undefeated in 20 games and ranked fourth in the nation. The Bonnies are one of two teams in the major college ranks with an unblemished record. Top-ranked Houston is the other.
- 5—Lastly, a victory over Bona could lift the Eagles into the National Invitation Tournament field. There has been much speculation about NU's chances of a N.I.T. bid, but the committee can't make a decision until the Eagles prove themselves. Five victories in the last seven games is a favorable aspect.

BONAVENTURE HAS INCENTIVE ALSO.

It is within two games of chalking up a perfect record for regular season play. Niagara and Fairfield are the only obstacles and it isn't likely the Bonnies are going to lay down for Niagara.

What NU will have to do to beat the Indians is no secret. It will take an extraordinary team effort. Calvin Murphy and Manny Leaks cannot beat the Bonnies alone.

"A lot depends on how tough Leaks and Greg Hudecki will be," Maloney said. "If Leaks can reasonably contain Bob Lanier and Hudecki check Bill Butler, we will have a heck of a shot at them."

Niagara tried a zone against Bona in the last game. Butler, Lanier and John Hayes ruined it. Maloney did not disclose his defensive plans, but in all of Niagara's toughest games, it resorted to a zone defense.

BONA UNDOUBTEDLY will play a zone, probably a 1-2-2 with Billy (The K'd) Kalbaugh on the point. The 5-11 sophomore is especially effective stealing the ball.

Rounding out the lineup is Jim Satalin, the brains behind the operation. He's tough defensively and, if left alone, can score from the outside.

NIAGARA MAY BE without the services of Steve Schafer who bruised a hip in the Buffalo game last Wednesday. He hasn't practiced in a week. Jim Malfeiti is the likely replacement.

The rest of NU's probable starting lineup includes Murphy and Mike Brown at the guards, Hudecki at a forward position and Leaks at center.

Murphy could get only 25 points against Bona's zone in the first game this year. He was used primarily as a decoy. His 39.8 average is second nationally.

Brown has improved since the first game and the Bonnies may find that out the hard way. Brown, the Lockport laceman, has been disrupting opposing offenses with timely steals for the last month. He helped break open the UB game with three quick thefts.

The battle up front will decide this one.

"If we can handle them on the boards, we'll be alright," Maloney said. "We can't let them get second and third shots."

The game is a complete sellout. No tickets will be sold at the door. The NU-Bona freshman game starts at 1:30.

As a result of the doubleheader, tonight's American Hockey League game between Buffalo and Seattle will begin at 8:15, an hour later than usual.

LOCAL NOTES— This Prof Has A Computer That Is A Bona-Buster!

By BOB DAVIES
Times Herald Sports Writer

KINGSTON, R. I. — St. Bona's basketball bubble is about to burst — if that blankety-blank computer is correct.

But if the human element has anything to do with it — and it does in this case — then the Brown Indians will be in North Carolina next weekend, just one stop away from the NCAA finals in Los Angeles.

The Bonnies have a 22-0 record and are one of two major college unbeaten. How-

says, Houston plays teams we don't know. Everyone has easy teams on the schedule. Like the coach says, these teams we played have been good in past years. This year, they're down (not all, John old boy) and we have a good team. It's not an easy schedule. We just beat them. If we had lost 5-6 games, nobody would mention it being easy. Look at some of the clubs we have beaten. Seattle killed Texas-El Paso (formerly Texas Western, the NCAA champ two seasons ago) and Auburn knocks off Tennessee. What do they expect?"

BONA SPECIAL 6 PAGES. SEE EDITORIAL PAGE.

ever, there are people — quite a few, I might add — who sneer at the Bona record.

The scoffers insist the 22-0 was compiled on a schedule made up of a bunch of stiffs. Also, they have support from 'that' machine which is certain to draw the undying enmity of the thousands of Bona faithful in WNY.

Bill Butler was his usual brief, but right to the point, self: "Our schedule definitely was not easy. We played good teams (Villanova, Duquesne, St. Francis, DePaul). We showed we were good. Now, we have to find out how good we are."

IT STARTED in the mid-west where the professor with the computer trimmed a few feathers off the Brown Indians' war bonnet. He is Gordon L. Wise, an assistant professor of Marketing at Wright State University, Dayton. Seems that the prof fed a bunch of statistics into his computer.

Out popped the results: St. Bona has not played a team ranked in the Top 10 in either of the weekly wire service polls.

Adding insult to the injured Bona pride, the prof's computer rated Bona's schedule 154th in toughness and dead last — again, dead last — among the leading court powers. However, the Bonnies are not alone in this scheduling category. No 1 rated Houston gets only an 84th level in schedule quality.

What do the Bona players think of the professor's gadget:

Bob Lanier, the 6-foot-11 Buffalo All-American, put it this bluntly: "People say we're playing a crummy schedule. If we were 13-9 like last year (actually 14-7, Bob), no one would say we had a weak schedule. But, when you start to win — well, UCLA and Houston are playing teams we never heard of, either."

John Hayes added: "Like Bob

Jimmy Satalin, also commented: "We played some tough teams. We were better than anyone we played. They can say what they want about the schedule — they're just being jealous."

THE BONNIES CAN prove their right to that No. 3 ownership in the polls on Saturday. That's the kickoff of the NCAA championship basketball whirl and Bona takes on Boston College in that Kingston, R.I., setting.

The prof with the computer rates Boston college 41st on the tough-schedule listing.

If the prof is correct, Bonnie figures to get a big, fat eye, comes Saturday night — but, a basketball takes funny bounces and the bounce, in this case, could bound right back and knock the good professor right off his computer.

Observation Post: A team made up of faculty members at Delevan-Machias Central School has played nine exhibition basketball games this season and turned over more than \$850 to a fund established for groups in the school that need a few bucks. Bill O'Connell, D-M principal and a one-time Bradford St. Bernard High star under coach Don Raabe, is one of the nine faculty members of the team. Niagara University's answer to that new drinking pub on the St. Bona campus opened several weeks ago and the

Canisius Easier The Second Time

(Feb. 21, University Center)

Now it's Calvin Murphy's turn.

Canisius College didn't have the guns in its arsenal Wednesday night to stop St. Bonaventure's bid for an unbeaten basketball season.

But, Niagara and Calvin have to be a far different story — and the big reason is the 5-10 marksman called Calvin Murphy.

The sophomore shooting whiz has gunned up 100 points in his last two games, and if he's still on target Sunday afternoon in Buffalo's Memorial Auditorium, Bona will require all the defensive know-how in coach Larry Weise's little black book to put the collar on Calvin.

THAT HASN'T been accomplished too often this year, however.

The Brown Indians did a handcuff job on Little Cal in the first meeting as Bona won, 101-72.

Sunday's return game will have a different atmosphere than the first go-round. Bona is 20-0 after Wednesday night's 79-62 victory over Canisius, before 5,424 in the University Center. Only Calvin and Fairfield stand in the way of an unbeaten season for the fourth-ranked Bonnies, who will meet Boston College March 9th in first round Eastern Regional NCAA game.

Bona's second win of the season over Canisius was much easier than the January game when the Golden Griffs of Bob Mackinnon put up a rugged fight before succumbing in the final minute.

CANISIUS dug its own grave in the first half, with 16 turnovers.

Phil Ranallo

What's New, Harry?

BILL BUTLER, THE 6-FOOT 3-INCH, 205-pound senior who captains the St. Bonaventure basketball team, is the "people's choice" on the Bona campus. Everybody at Bona calls him "Butts"—with affection.

It is said that a more popular young man never has trod the grounds of the Franciscan institution of higher learning.

"The Bona kids trust Bill Butler all the way," a man in an Olean pub pointed out one night, a month or so ago, when the Bona captain's attributes were under discussion.

"They trust him with a basketball . . . and with their money. Butler has been treasurer of his class for four straight years."

BILL BUTLER, THE "PEOPLE'S CHOICE" at Bona, apparently, also is the "players' choice."

This was deduced Friday morning when a phone call was made to the Sheraton-Biltmore Hotel in Providence, R.I., where the 10 athletes who comprise this unforgettable Bona team are currently housed—two men to a room.

Seven of the players . . . it was discovered, with the help of the switchboard operator . . . were in Room 432—Bill Butler's room.

One of Butler's "secretaries"—John Hayes, Bona's exciting "garbage collector" with the huge hands—answered the call. Hayes did not identify himself.

"It's for you, Butts," Hayes said.

"WHO WAS THAT, BILL?" THE caller asked.

"That was 'Bread-loaf Hands,'" Butler replied.

"Who?"

"'Bread-loaf Hands'—John Hayes. You'd understand Hayes' nickname if you ever saw him at the dinner table.

"Johnny, with those mitts of his, can pick up two of those big hard rolls, stick one in each hand, make two fists—and not even one tiny bit of the crust shows."

Then Bill Butler accommodated the caller by commenting on the business at hand—St. Bonaventure's NCAA Tournament engagement with Boston College tonight on the University of Rhode Island court in Kingston, R.I.

"WE'RE 'UP' AND WE'RE READY," Butler said. "We're anxious to find out how really good we are. We're 22-and-0, I know—but we're still not sure, still not satisfied. We want to go farther.

"And I think we can. I have visions of us making it all the way to Los Angeles—if we get by Boston College.

"I'll tell you why.

"Boston College, in my opinion, has a better offense than North Carolina, which we figure will be our next opponent.

"I'm a senior, so I'll be all through if we lose to Boston College—but I'm not figuring on being through that soon. I'm planning on wearing my Bona uniform in Los Angeles."

ASKED IF HE COULD GIVE THE KEY to Bona's extraordinary success this season, Butler said: "There are two keys—the togetherness of us players and the inspiration provided us by our coach.

"We're all close, all 10 of us—the first-team players and the reserves, the F-Troopers.

"Before this season started, we set a goal for ourselves—to have a big season . . . a season that would do us and the school proud.

"We realized we could reach our goal only one way—by playing as a unit, unselfishly.

"BUT WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT without our coach. Larry Weise has led the way. He convinced us, from the start, that unselfishness bears fruit.

"And he doesn't treat us like we're machines. He treats us as human beings. He understands when we make mistakes. And because he understands, I think we've made fewer mistakes.

"I'm proud to be the captain of his team."