

Bonnie-e-e 22-0!!! Wowie-e-e!!!

--- Wise Looked Like 0-22 Coach ---

Bona Survives Ref's TKOs

By BOB DAVIES

Times Herald Sports Writer

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — No. 22 wasn't perfect, but it was the end of a perfect basketball season (regular, that is) for St. Bona.

Now it's NCAA tournament time with the first stop in Kingston, R.I., Saturday against Boston College.

How will the unbeaten Bonnies (22-0) do against Boston College in that eastern regional first round game?

George Bisacca thinks "they should do well in the tourney." Bisacca should know. His Fairfield club lost by 96-76 to BC, but took Bona into overtime here Tuesday night before losing 70-69, in one of the roughest, weirdest games the Olean outfit has encountered this long and successful season.

BISACCA WAS asked how Bona and BC shape up?

"It should be a helluva game. BC has more depth, but I don't know. This team (Bona) may be

stronger off the boards. Boston College has nobody to handle both Lanier (Bob) and Butler (Bill). We played Butler as tough tonight as anyone has. We collapsed on Lanier (using Solomon Crenshaw, 6-5 and Art Kenney, 6-8 to front and back the 6-11 Bona sophomore), Lanier had to work for his shots. We figured Hayes (John) wouldn't want to shoot that much. We had to give up something."

Bisacca also added that Driscoll (Terry, 6-7 BC center) and Lanier should be a great battle.

The Fairfield coach also was asked to compare Bona and No. 1 Houston a club which battered the Stags, 108-76.

"First I think Hayes (Elvin) is better than Lanier. They are different kind of players, though. Hayes just overpower you, Lanier is a great shooter, but he doesn't overpower you as much physically. Houston as a team has a little more power. Bona is nowhere near as big as

Houston. They have a 6-5 guy in backcourt. Houston is physically monstrous. Everyone is great. But this Bona team is very good."

BONA HAD TO struggle to beat Fairfield and two technical calls almost cost Bona the prize 22-0 season.

The first came with 5:40 left and Bona up, 57-53. Lanier, in trying to save the ball from going out of bounds, bounced it off Kenney's chest, thus giving the ball back to Bona, so he thought. Ref Frank Corkin had other ideas. He called a technical on Lanier for unsportsmanlike conduct on a play which even the smartest high school kids use game after game after game without a technical. So

Frank Magaletta scored on the technical and Fairfield took the ball out of bounds and Bill Jones hit on a jumper and Fairfield was back in business.

The Stags, playing in the Arena here in front of a partisan crowd of 4,020, actually went on top 61-58, with 2:37 left.

It wasn't, not by any means. Butler, who had played since the 12:09 point in the second half with four personals, was taking a brutal physical beating. And nothing happened. No fouls. Nothing. With about two seconds left, he took a perfect pass from Kalbaugh, drove for the layup, was clobbered by Jones. No whistle. Butler tried for the rebound and fouled Jones. Wham. Whistle, foul (no. 5) on Butts. The usually cool senior captain tried to grab the ref (Corkin) wham... technical.

Now things are serious. Really serious.

Jones shoots the one-and-one and makes both and it is now 70-69. He shoots the technical. He misses. Still the game isn't over. Fairfield has the ball out of bounds. Time for one shot. Crenshaw takes it. It's short.

The game is over and the Indians ran a perfect 22-0 season, even if their play was less than perfect.

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LARRY WEISE, who looked more like a 0-22 coach instead of a 22-0 coach, was somber in the Bona dressing room. In fact, the team was quiet. There wasn't the usual banter, the hollering, the laughter. They were just happy to escape with a one-point win, knowing they hadn't played their best.

"I'd rather not say anything about the officiating," Weise said. He did talk about Fairfield, though.

"They played a great game against us, but we expected that. They only made a couple of mistakes."

Bona played more man-for-man defense last night than in all the other 21 games put together. Fairfield's shooting over Bona's 1-2-2 zone was deadly. And Fairfield on top, 43-38, and about 17 minutes left.

Weise called a time out and Bona went man-for-man, and eventually tied the game at 48-48 and battled the rest of the way. "We had to change," said Weise. I couldn't put my finger on it, but we seemed to be a step away on defense. We quickened the pace for us and for them by changing. We had been standing still.

THE BONA COACH was asked if he felt pressure was getting to the team.

"I haven't been concerned. We had a good game against Niagara. We've had good workouts. But there is pressure. It's normal. If a normal person doesn't react to pressure, then he's not normal. Pressure didn't hurt our game."

Fairfield did, Fairfield was shooting free and easy. "This 22-0 meant a lot to me and it meant a lot to the kids. They wanted it badly. I think it will ease things a little. Now we can take things step-by-step.

That first step is Boston College, Saturday at Kingston, R.I.

The box score:

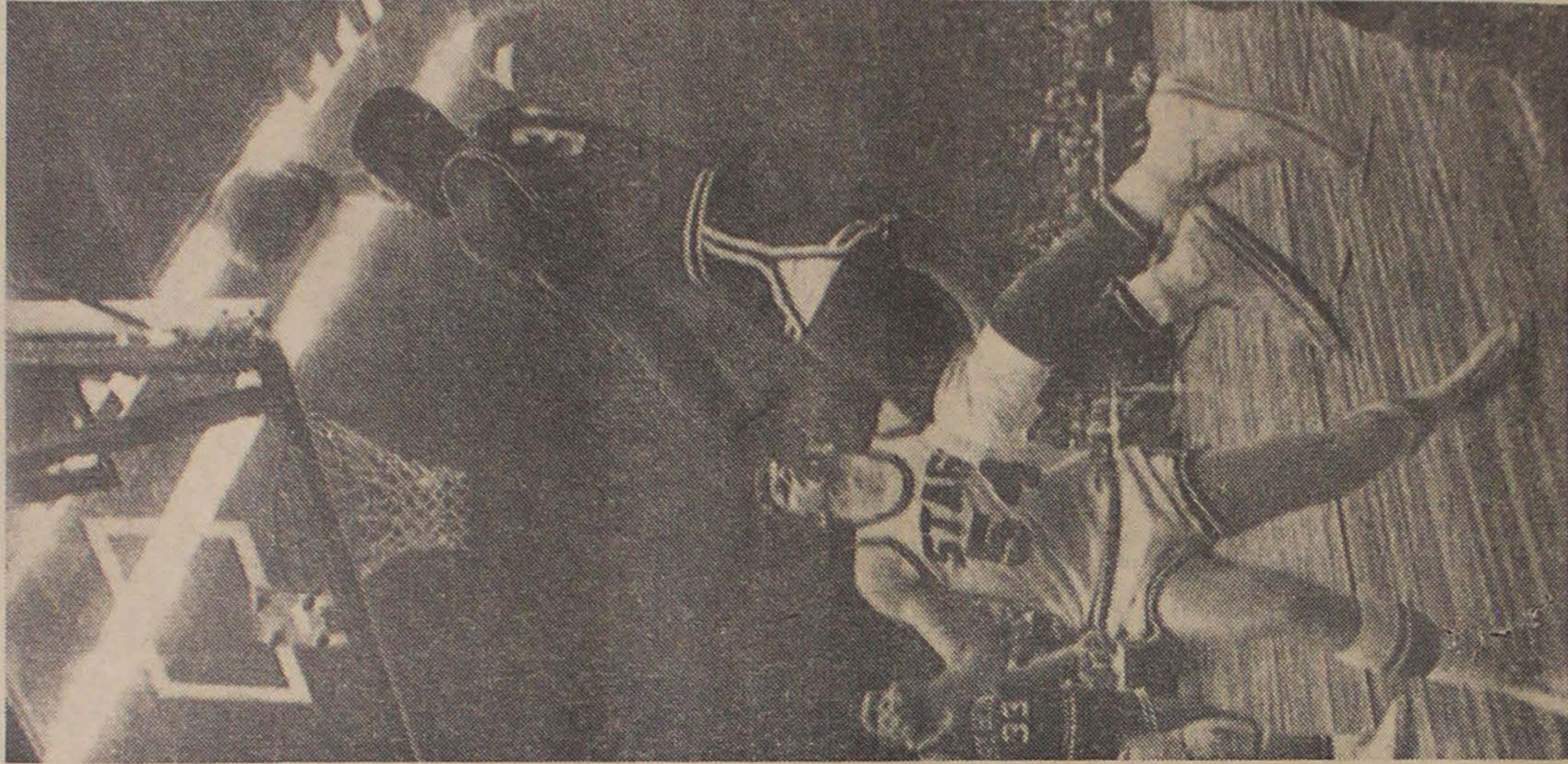
ST. BONAVENTURE (70)

Player	FG	FT	R	PF	TP
Hayes	7-11	0-2	11	2	14
Butler	8-12	4-4	14	3	20
Lanier	3-13	0-1	3	4	23
Kalbaugh	2-8	1-2	1	2	5
Marlin	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Team	29-61	12-17	47	16	70

FAIRFIELD (69)

Player	FG	FT	R	PF	TP
Jones	6-9	3-4	8	3	21
Crenshaw	1-2	2-4	8	5	5
Wham	2-9	2-4	9	3	6
Cirina	8-19	1-1	3	2	17
Magaletta	7-13	3-5	12	0	17
Gibbons	2-5	1-1	0	3	3
Team	28-71	13-21	45	16	69

Fairfield
St. Bonaventure



points and 14 rebounds during a 70-69 overtime victory over Fairfield University. Art Kenney (54) of Fairfield was too late to defend on this basket.

TWENTY TWO SKIDOO — St. Bonaventure completed its basketball season with a perfect 22-0 record Tuesday night as six-foot-11 Bob Lanier, right, led the Bonnies with 23

Fairfield And The 22-0 — Toughest!

(March 5, at New Haven)

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — No. 22 wasn't perfect, but it was the end of a perfect basketball season (regular, that is) for St. Bona.

The Stags, playing in the Arena here in front of a partisan crowd of 4,020, actually went on top 61-58, with 2:37 left. But Butler's three-point play tied the game with 2:19. And that's the way it stayed in regulation despite all the time outs, strategy, freezing, go-for-one-shot routine, etc., that went on.

Crenshaw missed a one shot foul with 1:24 left, and after a Bona turnover (one of 16), Jones missed the front end of a one-and-one with 33 seconds left.

THEN CAME THE overtime, and Bona appeared to have everything under control.

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ST. BONA 70
FAIRFIELD 69

NO. 22