

Martin Handles 'Back Shop' While Tom Rings Register —

Bona 'Pressers' Steam Eagles 88-68

By MIKE ABDO

St. Bonaventure, back in the "pressing" business, is breathing down the necks of top-ranked Ohio State and Bradley in the race for the national basketball championship.

And, a big reason Bonnies figure to be one-two-three for the big hoop title, is the quiet man—Ron (Whitey) Martin.

"Whites," as Bonnie mates affectionately call Martin, did a job Saturday in the Niagara University Student Center not many in the turn-away-crowd of 3,400, plus a Western New York Northwestern Pennsylvania TV audience of many more thousands—will forget.

IT WAS A TYPICAL Martin job that was instrumental—with All-America Tom Stith's amazing offensive show—in the Bona wreck of a fine Niagara crew, 88-68, Saturday night. The win marked the

ninth consecutive time a Brown and White team of Coach Ed Donovan has conquered a Niagara team.

Next Saturday before what is an assured sellout of 12,200 plus in the Buffalo Auditorium, the Bonnies will go after their seventh straight win over a Canisius team. The Golden Griffins prepared for the game with their own rout of Syracuse University, 103-78, last Saturday before a slim Aud turnout of 2,000 plus in the Auditorium.

In the Purple Eagles' lair, however, it was Stith putting on the offensive fireworks and Martin the solid man in Bona's press—the same press that became a national basketball trademark last season. It was the first time this season Donovan pulled out of his bag of tricks and really put it to work. "We used it a few times earlier, but this was the first time we really put it to work again,"

explained the Brown Indian mentor.

MARTIN WENT ABOUT the job of guarding the Niagara star, Al Butler, in a quiet but mighty efficient fashion. He blanked Butler from the field for nearly 24 minutes and the first basket Al popped through the meshes could be termed a gift. Butler did finish with 11 points—nine below his season average—but by the time Albert was back in the scoring business, the game was securely lodged in the Bonnie bag.

Noted Taps Gallagher, the veteran Niagara coach: "He (Martin) was tough, he did everything right."

Martin paired with Orrie Jirele—the Mr. Ooze of Bona defensive fame—as the heart and soul of the mid-court defenders of the Bonnie press. Whitey picked up Butler at that point and gave him no room most of the time. Al manager to get off but four attempts in the first half.

Donovan, this morning said about the press: "We decided to gamble with it because of the week's layoff (between Niagara and Canisius). It still needs a lot of work. It showed a lot of 'holes.' It (the press) require plenty of physical endurance but the kids came through."

STITH'S MAGICAL scoring touch was never better than it was against the Purple Eagles. He finished with a record 46 points—18 in first half, 28 in final 20

minutes—for a player in Little Three Conference competition. The 6-foot-5 senior—who always seems to rise to the heights in the clutch games—scored almost at will with his patented soft, left-handed hook shot and his smooth driving layups.

He made eight of 14 field goal attempts in the first half, piling up all 18 of his points in the first 12 minutes. In the second half he flipped in 10 of 16 field goal attempts before retiring to the bench with just under two minutes remaining in the game.

Sophomores Ken Glenn and Joe Maddrey carried the Eagles offensively, but were unable to cope with the all-around performance of their opponents.

Glenn grabbed 23 points to 17 for Maddrey, six points less than Stith's game total of 46.

NIAGARA TURNED in an impressive display for the first five minutes of the game. Successive baskets by Glenn, Len Whelan and Maddrey sent the Eagles soaring to a 10-5 lead. The home team looked good and St. Bona was in the throes of a rare shooting slump. The Bonnies snapped the slide, however, ending a five-minute field goal famine with a sudden 14-point streak that ripped the game wide open at 19-10 with 10 minutes gone in the game.

The tide turned and remained in Bonaventure's favor, with the visitor's ball-hawking tactics taking a mighty toll.

Martin and Jirele applied constant defensive pressure on the Ni-

agara play-makers, forcing countless passing errors. A big number of the bad passes were four-pointers, with Niagara losing a potential two-pointer and St. Bona scoring on each occasion.

The Indians, ahead 41-26 at intermission, extended its lead to 47-26 once the second half got under way. That's when Butler finally made his offensive move. He had missed the four shots he took in the first half and finally made the grade by picking up a loose ball near the key and popping it home.

A few minutes later Glenn and Butler gave the home fans their big moment of the second half. Glenn's two buckets and five

points by Butler on a jump-shot and a tap-in of his own missed layup, cut St. Bona's advantage 55-43 at the 10:58 mark.

ST. BONA poured in 35 of field goal attempts for a 52.2 percentage while making it nine straight wins over the Eagles. Niagara was 25-for-69 and 36.8 percentage. . . . NU enjoy an unbelievable 55-24 edge in rebounding according to the home team's statistics, with Center D Jones, blanked from the field offensively, hauling in 17. Maddrey added 16 and Glenn, playing top-flight game for the Eagles had 13. The 6-9 Bob McCully was credited with eight of St. Bona's rebounds.

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This Fan Had Best Seat -- Thanks TV!

By CHARLIE FISH

Saturday was a day like all days—except that instead of a very few, thousands of Olean area basketball fans were there . . .

There, of course, was the Niagara Student Center along about 9 p.m.

And, thanks to the magic of video, the thousands who were unable to get into the arena saw more of the action and from a better position than did many of the 3,500 who were on hand for the 70th meeting of the Brown Indians and Purple Eagles.

SATURDAY night was one of the few times this fan was not envious of those at the game.

We had plenty of time to prepare for the big event and after drawing up the most comfortable chair, aligning plenty of smokes in one side and beverages and snacks on the other, we were ready.

From the opening tap to the losing whistle we followed every move.

WHEN THE Niagara fans were eloping with joy as their Eagles pulled ahead in the opening minutes we sat straighter in the easy chair and mumbled encouragement and advice to the Bonnies. Moments later when the Indians started to rip the ball off the tickboards and the Trail T began put on his graceful and seemingly unimpeachable scoring display

we confidently sat back, munched a sandwich and washed it down.

BILL MAZER, voice of WGR and WGR-TV had a tough job to do and did it well—he was doing a simulcast—that is, he was describing the game as it was being seen on TV and at the same time calling the plays for a radio audience that had to be kept up to date on the action it was unable to see.

The radio fans heard of the terrific Bona defense, the fans at the game saw it, but we TV viewers were best able to see its effectiveness.

The angle of the cameras gave us an overall picture from above showing the pincer movement of the Bona guards—Whitey Martin and Orrie Jirele—and we were able to see why it devastated the Niagara attack and forced the Eagles into so many errors.

WE COULD SEE the offensive and defensive moves as the Eagles tried in vain to stop Tom's shots.

Our angle gave us the best possible view of the Bonnie weave as they moved the ball seeking an opening to set up a scoring play and we could see why it worked or why it didn't.

WE HAVE watched Bona basketball for many years, mostly from a floor level position, and we saw things Saturday night that we knew had been happening but for the first time we were able to see what was going on and