

By MIKE ABDO

Is St. Bonaventure's Tom Stith ready to take his place at the head of Western New York's all-time collegiate basketball parade of greats?

It's a fair enough question in view of the 20-year-old Bonnie Junior's torrid scoring pace of the last seven days. However, it's a topic Bona coach Ed Donovan would rather keep in cold storage—for a year, at least.

#### SHORT OF RECORD

Tom, the junior member of the basketball firm of Stith & Stith, produced a strictly-under-wraps 29 job as the Brown Indians did everything but chase Valparaiso College out of Buffalo's Memorial Auditorium Saturday. The Bonnies fell one short of the Aud's all-time scoring mark with their 105-77 rout of the Indiana visitors. Let's say that the record remained in one piece only because of a merciful Coach Donovan, who squirms at those 'running up the score' jobs.

Today, Tom Stith is No. three in the national collegiate hoop point chase with his 28 plus game scoring average. Topping the list, of course, is Oscar the Robertson. The Cincinnati whiz has a 41 plus average with Bowling Green's Jim Darrow second with 30 plus.

#### BRIGHT FUTURE

If you are one to believe in figures and the story they tell, then Tom's future appears mighty bright. His 28 plus average is computed on his 258 points in nine games (Sweeney Pipers exhibition not included). His 403 total last year should be an easy mark to eclipse and the 507 Bona all-time record of Mal Duffy (1954-55) appears to be a cinch to tumble.

But, that's the story that doesn't go with Donovan.

"Certainly I think Tom is of All-American stature," explained the straight-talking Bonnie mentor in his appraisal of his high-scoring whiz. "But that sort of talk is on how many points a fellow can score in a game. I don't buy that."

Donovan continued: "How about his defensive play; the rebounds and something you don't see in the box score: assists. He's been setting up scoring plays."

#### NIAGARA IS NEXT

Saturday's win, fashioned before some 4,658 Aud onlookers, was the Brown Indians' third win in six days and hiked their season record to six won, three lost. Ahead is next Saturday's Niagara game in the Olean Armory and if you don't have a ticket then plan on a WHDL-WESB fireside hearing berth.

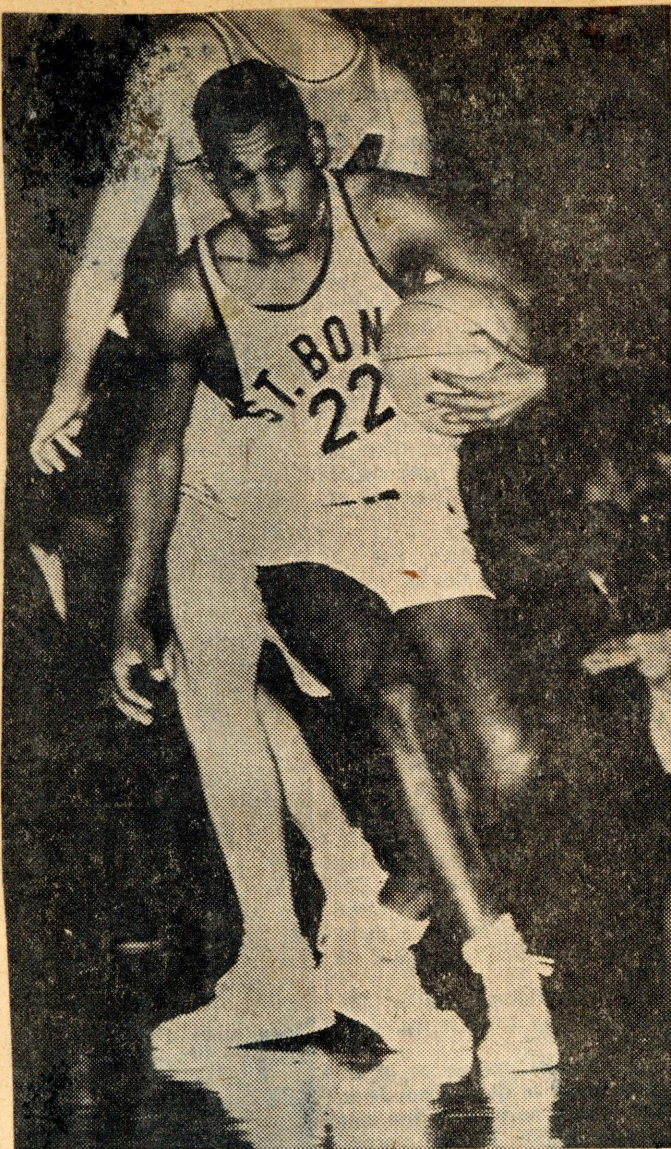
The Indians completely overwhelmed Valparaiso as they connected on 44 goals in 98 attempts, which might be a record for the Auditorium. The Bonnies, in the

first half had 68 attempts, another eye-popping figure.

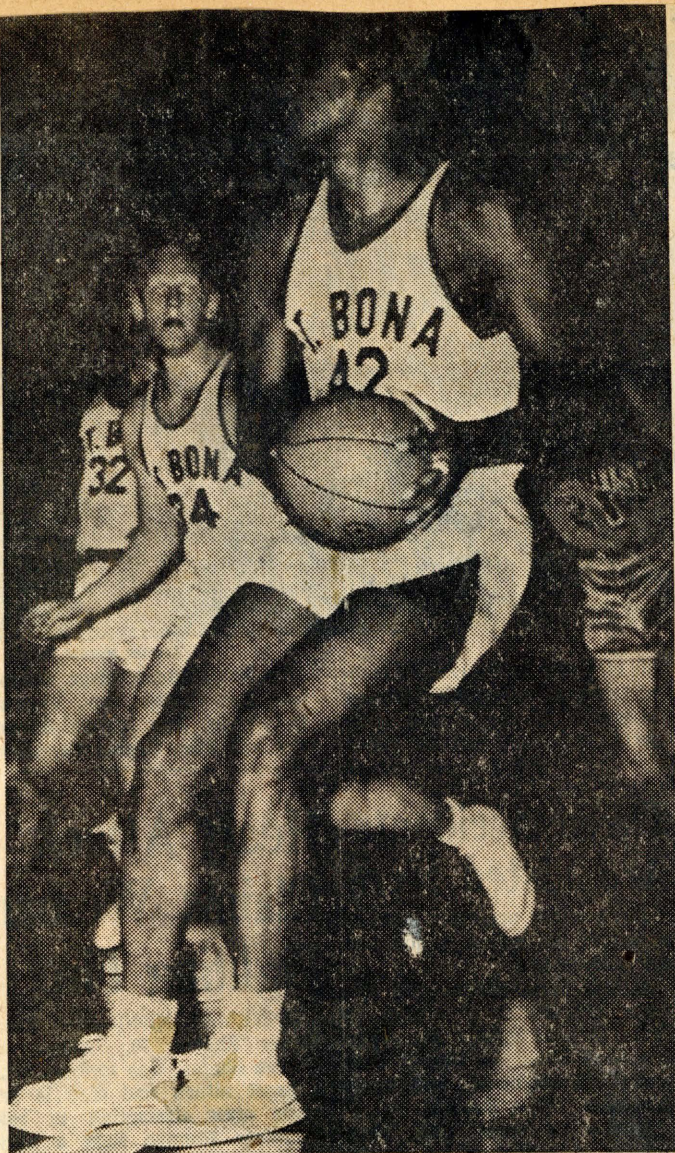
The Bonnies had the all-time Aud record (Canisius, 106 back in 1955) within reach when Donovan emptied his bench. Sam Stith in the first half, popped through 10 straight Bonnie points. Tom in the second half, scored 22 of his 29 points; 18 of them in six and a half minutes of play.

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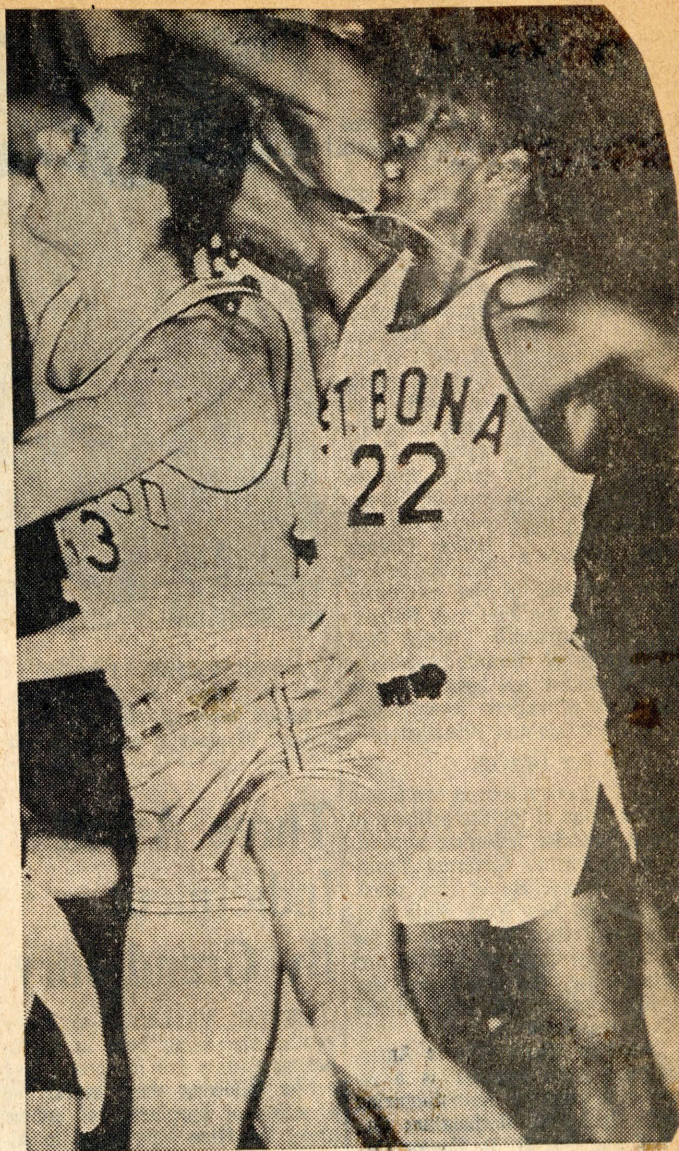
**Off the Hoop:** The Indians had a 45 per cent figure from the field (44 of 98) and made an amazing 22 of 33 shots in the second half for 67 per cent . . . Ed Petrovick, the 6-foot-5 sophomore, who is considered the unsung hero in Tom Stith's new role, had 13 rebounds . . . Sam Stith was 12 of 17 in his shooting from the floor and, with Whitey Martin, had so many steals and easy layups that it must have made the visiting Indians dizzy reversing their course . . . Bona had a 53-31 edge in the rebounding column . . . Bona frosh are at Bradford Thursday for a March of Dimes benefit game . . . Bona Frosh - Niagara Frosh clash which opens next Saturday's Armory twinbill looks a top attraction.



Sam Stith At Work



Again It's Young Tom



This Time 'Old' Sam