

lead all bona-villanova

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 17 -- Bill Connery's only field goal of the night --- a driving layup with nine seconds left --- gave streaking St. Bonaventure a dramatic 72-70 victory over Villanova tonight in the Palestra.

The unheralded Connery and another Brown Indian without press clippings --- Orris Jirele, the little violinist from Austin, Minn. --- dealt the death blows in this tremendously exciting game.

The 5-foot 10-inch Jirele, who learned the importance of poise as a solo violinist at the National High School Catholic Music Concerts in St. Louis, did everything right in the life-and-death stages of this basketball war.

Jirele drilled the basket that tied it at 70-70, fed Connery the ball for the victory-clinching field goal, and ~~grabbed~~ killed Villanova's last ~~just~~ chance in the last second by grabbing the rebound as the Wildcats were tapping desperately ~~in~~ in search of the equalizer.

Not only the St. Bonaventure substitutes distinguished themselves in this National Invitation Tournament preview. The Brown Indians had two other heroes, both well known --- Tom Stith and Whitey Martin.

more

add one buffalo courier-express

Stith, the nation's No. 2 scorer behind Oscar Robertson, meshed 30 points. He jammed 22 of them into the first ~~half~~ half, preventing the Wildcats from opening an insuperable lead.

The 30 enabled Tom to establish an all-time single-season record for a St. Bonaventure player. It raised his 17-game total to 532, wiping out the former Bona mark of 507 set five years ago by Mal Duffy.

Martin, the South Buffalo boy with the lightning-quick hands, scored 18 points, came up with numerous steals, and limited Villanova's outside ace, Jim Huggard, to three field goals.

John Driscoll, a 6-8 junior, was high for Villanova with 26 points. Hubie White, the Wildcats' great leaper, had 16.

The victory extended the Brown Indians' win streak to 11 games. The Bonnies are 14-3 overall. The defeat was only Villanova's third against 17 wins.

Villanova, incidentally, is the third NIT-bound team to fall before the Indians this season. The other two are Providence and St. John's. Bona, of course, also is headed for the NIT.

more

add two buffalo courier-express

The Bonnies had a fine shooting night against Villanova's ~~fanatic~~ zone ~~defense~~ defense, putting away 30 of 59 for 50.8 per cent. Tom Stith was 11-for-23, Martin ~~6~~ 8-for-14, Sam Stith 4-13.

But, most important of all, Connery --- the guy who settled it --- was ~~xxxx~~ 1-for-1.

The Wildcats also were sharp, netting 30 of 60 for 50 per cent. Driscoll was 13-for-21 and White 8-for-14.

The Bonnies managed to pull this one out despite being blistered off the backboards, 44-22, by the much taller Wildcats. White paced all rebounders with 15. Driscoll had 12 and Tom Stith 11.

Palestra regulars said this was the best game ~~xxxx~~ played here this season.

Bona trailed by five, 65-60, with seven minutes left. Then Tom Stith meshed a lefthanded hook and Sam Stith converted Martin's perfect pass to close the gap to 65-64.

After Huggard interrupted with a free throw, Tom Stith tied at 66-66 with another hook. ~~xxxx~~ Martin, fed by Jirele, and George Raveling traded field goals.

~~3x~~ more

last add buffalo courier-express

Then, with 3:25 remaining, Richie Kaminski drilled a corner jump to put Villanova in front, 70-68. Thirty-five seconds later, Jirele deadlocked it ~~with~~ with a fast-break basket.

Villanova went into a semi-freeze, hoping for a foul or a ~~kickbasket~~ chance at a cinch basket. But Martin wrecked these plans by stealing the ball with 1:16 left.

Bona froze until the 32-second mark, then called time. The Indians then played for the last chance. With nine seconds left, however, a golden opportunity presented itself --- and Jirele did not fail.

Jirele, with the ball, saw Connery ~~cutting~~ drive the middle unguarded. Orrie made a perfect pass, and Connery laid the ball up and in.

~~Villanova~~ Villanova called time. The put the ball in play at mid-court. It was passed in to Driscoll, who took a short side jump. The ball hit the rim and bounded away.

White and Raveling each tapped desperately, but both shots missed. And, finally, the little violinist grabbed the rebound.

Villanova led by as many as nine, 19-10, in the first half. Then Tom Stith's brilliant shooting got the Bonnies back into contention. The Indians led by 39-37 at the half.

~~Upon resumption, Villanova regained command~~