

Syracuse Turns Back St. John's

By DEANE MCGOWEN

Syracuse seems to have a small jinx working against St. John's on the basketball court. Last night on the Redmen court in Hillcrest, Queens, Syracuse won a battle of nerves in the final minute for a 72-71 victory.

It was the fourth straight time the upstate squad had beaten St. John's. Syracuse entered the game with two straight losses, one to Rutgers in New Brunswick, N.J., the other to a visiting Connecticut team that ended a 36-game home-court winning streak for the Orange.

This game might have gone the other way, especially since Syracuse lost three of its top performers over the final five minutes. The first to go was Fred Saunders, the much heralded star from Southwestern Louisiana, who transferred after Southwestern was banned from the court for three years for recruiting violations.

Saunders was declared eligible last Sunday.

After Saunders's departure, the Orange also lost Bob Dooms, who has been a big help under the boards, and Kevin King.

But St. John's, which had turned three Syracuse turnovers into a 61-60 lead with 6 minutes 29 seconds remaining, lost its touch as the Orange forged ahead on the shooting of Jim Lee and Dennis Duval. Duval's 3-point play at 3:41 kept the Orange in front by 3 points as the game moved toward its climax.

In the final seconds, the Orange almost lost the game at the foul line. St. John's got 4 points on the free-throw shooting of Mel Utley and Ed Searcy. Utley also hit with a jump shot with 1:46 left, then Glen Williams added another jumper to give the Redmen a 69-68 edge with 1:13 remaining.

But the Orangemen held on despite the exhortations of the packed gym of 6,000 fans. Tom Stundis, with 47 seconds remaining, calmly dropped in two free throws.

Searcy had a chance to put the Redmen back in front, but he missed on the first free throw and that eliminated a bonus shot.

Lee, fouled by St. John's Frank Alagia at the nine-second mark, made two shots to put Syracuse up by 3 before Beaver Smith scored on a layup at the final buzzer.

Utley and Searcy scored 19 points each to pace the Redmen. Duval finished with 23 to lead Syracuse. Rudy Hackett got 11 rebounds for Syracuse.

Searcy, with 13 rebounds, and Smith with 11, had to do the board work for the Redmen. Syracuse shot 43.9 per cent to St. John's 39.1. From the line Syracuse had the big advantage, shooting 67 percent to 54.8 for the losers.

ST. JOHN'S (71)—Alagia 10, Utley 19, Smith 15, Searcy 19, Claess 2, Williams 6.

SYRACUSE (72)—Lee 12, DuVal 23, Hackett 15, Dooms 4, King 1, Saunders 6, Stundis 7, Sease 4.

Half-time score—St. John's 32, Syracuse 32. Attendance—6,000.

Temple, Penn Victors

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 12 (AP)—Temple, which had held a 16-point lead in the second half, beat Fordham, 68-61, tonight in the second game of a double-header at the Palestra.

John Beecroft hit a 12-foot jump shot with one second left to give Pennsylvania a 55-53 Ivy League victory over Harvard in the first game. Temple led Fordham, 50-34, with 12:37 to play. But in the next two minutes, Temple's Jerry Baskerville and Joe Newman picked up their fourth personal fouls and a pressing Fordham defense got the Rams back within 4 points at 60-56 with 1:13 left. The Rams got no closer, however.

HARVARD (53)—Silver 12, 1-2, 25; Jenkins 4, 0-0, 8; Wolfe 4, 3-4, 11; Griffin 2, 0-0, 4; Carey 1, 0-0, 2; Adams 1, 1-2 3. Totals—24, 5-8.

PENNSYLVANIA (55)—Haigler 9, 3-5, 21; Lewis 2, 1-2, 5; Engles 2, 4-4, 8; Beecroft 5, 0-0, 12; Varga 0, 1-2, 1; Bigelow 3, 0-0, 6; Johnson 1, 0-0, 2. Totals—23, 9-13.

Half-time: Harvard 33, Penn 27. Fouled out: none. Total fouls—Harvard 15, Pennsylvania 9.

Special to The New York Times

HEMPSTEAD, L. I., Jan. 12 —Richie O'Connor and Ray Kelly combined for 40 points tonight in leading Fairfield University to a 71-61 college basketball victory over Hofstra.

HOFSTRA (61)—Laurel 13, Macukas 15, Volmut 11, Whitefield 4, Blyden 2, Dowling 2, Rood 14.

FAIRFIELD (71)—Kelly 16, Moorer 5, O'Connor 24, Rehn 12, Ryan 3, Mahorn 2, Morina 2, Rhaburn 4, Scott 3.

Half-time score—Fairfield 38, Hofstra 35. Attendance—1,433.

Princeton Triumphs, 67-49

Special to The New York Times

PRINCETON, N.J., Jan. 12 —Joe Vavricka, a senior forward, scored 15 points tonight to help Princeton to a 67-49 Ivy League triumph over victoryless Dartmouth at Jadwin Gymnasium.

PRINCETON (67)—Steurer 7, Van Blommesteijn 13, Hill 8, Vavricka 15, Swater 9, Hauptfuhrer 11, Berger 4.

DARTMOUTH (49)—Raynor 19, Sutton 20, Beattie 2, Hayes 2, Healey 4, McKay 2.

Half-time score—Princeton 30, Dartmouth 25. Fouled out—Hayes. Attendance—1,800.

New York Tech Victor

Fred Williams, a freshman guard, sank two free throws with seven seconds remaining and helped New York Tech to a 43-40 victory over Hunter College last night at Hunter.

HUNTER (40)—Groves 2, McGuire 9, Muriel 5, Simoson 5, Sims 10, Sommer 8.

NEW YORK TECH (43)—Armstrong 16, Martin 2, Lopiano 8, Williams 4, Manning 9, Slavov 2, Geohagen 2.

Half-time score—New York Tech 20, Hunter 16. Attendance—610.

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