

Villanova and Penn Fives Triumph in East Regional

Wildcats Top La Salle;

McDonald Leads Quakers

By SAM GOLDAPER

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PHILADELPHIA, March 12—Keven McDonald's long wait ended today. The 6-foot-6-inch senior forward, playing in his first National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball tournament game, scored a career high of 37 points to lead Penn to a 92-83 victory over St. Bonaventure in the first round of the Eastern regional before a sellout crowd of 9,208 at the Palestra.

The 20th victory in 27 games for Penn, the Ivy League champion, came after Villanova, 22-8, had also advanced with a 103-97 triumph over La Salle in the opening game of the doubleheader.

Both triumphs were fashioned much in the same manner. Penn and Villanova both trailed at halftime and both then took control early in the second half and coasted to victory.

McDonald, the unanimous choice as the Ivy League player of the year, kept the foul-riddled Quaker team from total collapse in the first half with 19 points, and he then paved the way for his team's 62 percent shooting in the second half. The Bonnies tried to stop McDonald with a zone defense, and later Tim Waterman and Greg Sanders took turns guarding him man-to-man. Nothing worked. McDonald made 16 of his 25 shots and grabbed 11 rebounds.

'Waited Long Four Years'

"This was my first N.C.A.A. game," said McDonald, "and I've been waiting a long four years for it. It wasn't supposed to happen this way, when I first came here, but a lot of things happened to us in the last two seasons that kept us from winning the Ivy title."

Princeton won the Ivy League championship the last two seasons. The league winner receives an automatic tournament bid.

"Our victory was a good one for Ivy League basketball," said Bob Weinbauer, who became the Penn head coach three weeks before the season started when Chuck Daly joined the Philadelphia 76ers of the National Basketball Association as an assistant coach. "We try to impress our players

that we can play with anybody in the country."

Weinbauer said St. Bonaventure's major problem had been its inability to handle McDonald and Tony Price inside.

"We did pretty much what we wanted to do in the first half," said the Quaker coach. "Our problem was that 18 of the Bonnies' 42 points were transitional ones. We talked about that at halftime and corrected it."

St. Bonaventure led, 42-37, at halftime, and its advantage could have been bigger if it had made its free throws. The Bonnies went to the free-throw line for 22 shots and made 14. By comparison, Penn had five free throws and hit on three.

The Points Game

Rollie Massimino, the Villanova coach, plays a game with his team in which he tries to predict the number of points the opponent will score. Massimino writes the figure on a blackboard at the pregame meeting.

"I figured La Salle for 66 points and Mike Brooks for around 22," said Massimino. "I didn't want the game to be a shootout. We got into a shootout with them earlier in the season and got beat."

Massimino was wrong on all counts. Villanova's 22d victory in 30 games was a shootout. La Salle scored 97 points and Brooks, the Explorer center and one of the outstanding players in the East Coast Conference, finished with 35 points.

From the start the Philadelphia rivals engaged in a shootout in which both teams ran the fast break extremely well. After five minutes of play and with the score tied at 16-16, La Salle had made 8 of its 11 shots and Villanova had missed only four times in 11 tries.

Neither team was able to muster more than a 4-point lead in the first half. La Salle, shooting 57 percent, led at halftime, 49-46. The 6-foot-7-inch Brooks, considered one of the outstanding sophomore big men in the nation, made seven of his eight shots in the first half, and James Connolly was five for eight and Jim Wolkiewicz was five for seven.

Villanova rallied in the second half and caught La Salle at 53-53 on a jumper by Reggie Robinson after 3:10 had elapsed. Rory Sparrow's 18-foot jumper then put Villanova ahead to stay, 55-53.

The Wildcats shot 67 percent in the second half as they were able to get the ball inside to their big men, Alex Bradley, Keith Herron and Robinson. Villanova also got some fine outside shooting from Sparrow.

The 6-7 Bradley and the 6-6 Robinson had 22 points each. Herron, the highest scorer in Villanova history, finished with 24.

'Had to Get Ball Inside'

"We felt we had to get the ball inside to win," said Massimino, "and we did that especially well in the second half. Getting the ball inside is our game and when you get some good outside shooting from Rory, that's a bonus."

Sparrow, the 6-1 backcourt man, got off to a poor start. He made only one off to a poor start. He made only one picked up two quick fouls. But Sparrow finished with 19 points and eight assists.

"In the second half," said Sparrow, "once we took the lead, La Salle was forced to go out of their zone and into a man, and I was able get myself free."

Brooks led La Salle with 45 points on 14-for-17 shooting.