

Syracuse Eliminated — Shot by McKoy Thwarts Rutgers

By MALCOLM MORAN

Special to The New York Times

GREENSBORO, N.C., March 16 — The code was passed on, from Joe Lapchick to Lou Carnesecca, and it will be passed on again.

For nine years, Carnesecca sat next to Lapchick on the St. John's bench, and for nine years he learned at St. John's that you do not use a zone defense.

"I detest to use it," Carnesecca said.

He detested it a little less tonight, when a 3-2 zone and a converted rebound by Wayne McKoy with five seconds to go helped St. John's to defeat Rutgers, 67-65, and advance to the final of the East regional basketball tournament. The Redmen, the 10th-seeded team in the region and the 40th and last team selected for the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament, will play against Pennsylvania, seeded eighth, on Sunday. The Quakers defeated Syracuse, 84-76, in the first semifinal game before a disappointing crowd announced as 9,102 at the Greensboro Coliseum.

The victory was the third of the last five for St. John's that had been won in the final seconds. The last time the Redmen had gone this far in the tournament was in 1952, when they lost to Kansas in the national championship game. If Pennsylvania wins on Sunday, it would become the first Ivy League team to reach the national semifinals since the 1965 Princeton team.

"Here we are," Carnesecca said. "The undies."

That was short for underdog.

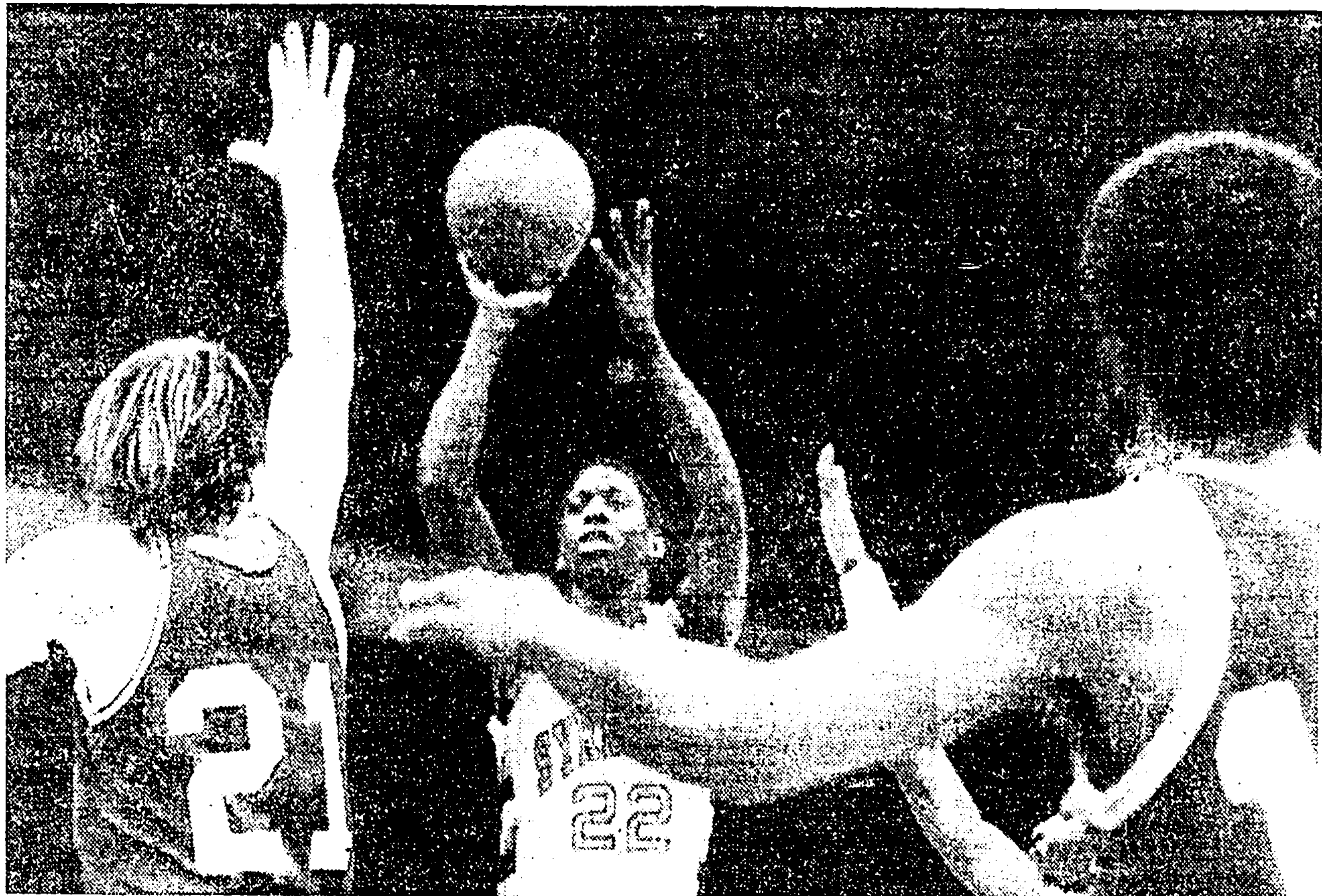
St. John's fell behind by as much as

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James Bailey of Rutgers going up to score over block attempt by St. John's Wayne McKoy during the first half of game last night in Greensboro, N.C.



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Eddie Moss of Syracuse shooting over Pennsylvania defenders in first half of East regional semifinal last night

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10 points late in the first half. The Redmen went ahead by a point on a layup by Frank Gilroy, a sophomore forward, 90 seconds into the second half.

Then there were serious problems: McKoy was charged with his fourth foul almost three minutes into the half, Gilroy picked up his fourth 29 seconds later. Then, 33 seconds after that, Ron Flair, a sophomore forward, was given his fourth.

Switch to the Zone

It was then that John Kresse, the assistant who will leave for the College of Charleston after this season, talked his boss into using a zone.

"To try to slow Rutgers down," Kresse said. "To try to preserve our foul situation. And we really had a small team out there, and we could collapse on Bailey."

"You can stop anybody if you put three or four guys on him and give up the 15-foot jumper," said Tom Young, the Rutgers coach. After early success against the zone, however, the Scarlet Knights would not try to shoot over it. "There's no sense in us trying to come down and beat them from 20 feet," Young said.

With the score tied at 65 and Rutgers in possession, Reggie Carter, a junior guard, forced Daryl Strickland of the Knights into a five-second violation. The ensuing jump ball went to Rutgers, and Strickland was fouled, but he missed the first shot in a one-and-one situation with 40 seconds to play.

Again, the Duke Play

"I knew it was win or lose," Strickland said. "I didn't go up there thinking win or lose, I went up there thinking win. It was just off. My follow through was bad."

Gilroy took the rebound. The Redmen held the ball until they called time out with 17 seconds to go, and Carne-secca called the same play that beat Duke last Sunday. Carter took the same jump shot from the right baseline with 8 seconds to go, but this time he missed. The ball went to McKoy on the right side of the lane, and he made his shot before he came down.

Rutgers missed its last chance when a half-court pass to Tom Brown, a senior guard, bounced off him and rolled out of bounds.

Pennsylvania built an early 17-point lead over Syracuse in the first game, as Tony Price, a 6-foot-7-inch senior from the Bronx scored 14 of his 20 points. Eight of those points came during a 20-4 streak over a 6-minute-30-second stretch. Price also had seven rebounds and six assists.

Penn Quickness Tells

The Quakers had watched films of the Syracuse team this week, but that was not the same team they played against tonight. The Orangemen had a 26-3 record; they were eighth in one of the two polls. They were seeded fourth in the region, the highest one to survive last weekend.

"I thought Syracuse was going through the motions in the first half," said Tim Smith, a 6-5 Penn senior who scored 18 points. "They weren't playing their game. They just fell apart in the first half. When we watched films of them, they were very good getting back on defense. Tonight they were kind of slow."

The two Syracuse starting guards, Marty Headd and Hal Cohen, were overmatched by the quicker Penn guards, James Salters, a 5-11 junior, and Bobby Willis, a 6-2 senior.

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