

Redmen Miss Last 3 Shots

By MALCOLM MORAN

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GREENSBORO, N.C., March 18 — As the clock ticked 08. . . .07. . . .06, St. John's University's last shot for a chance to reach the Final Four became a second and a third shot. But the shots did not go in, and the University of Pennsylvania won the National Collegiate East regional basketball final today, 64-62.

"A deuce separates us from Salt Lake City," said Lou Carnesecca, the St. John's coach. Instead, it will be Penn going on to Salt Lake City, where it will meet Michigan State in the semi-final round next Saturday.

"I don't remember it," said Bobby Wallis, Penn's senior guard, of St. John's final shots.

He had to be reminded that Tom Calabrese had missed an open 20-foot shot, Gordon Thomas had missed a 10-foot follow, and Ron Plair had missed a 6-foot rebound. It was Plair's only miss of the day, although the official score sheet said Plair had made all nine of his shots.

"I was standing there looking at the ball bounding and them taking a second and third shot," said James Salters, Penn's junior guard. "I thought, 'Come on, somebody, let's get the rebound, let's get the rebound.'"

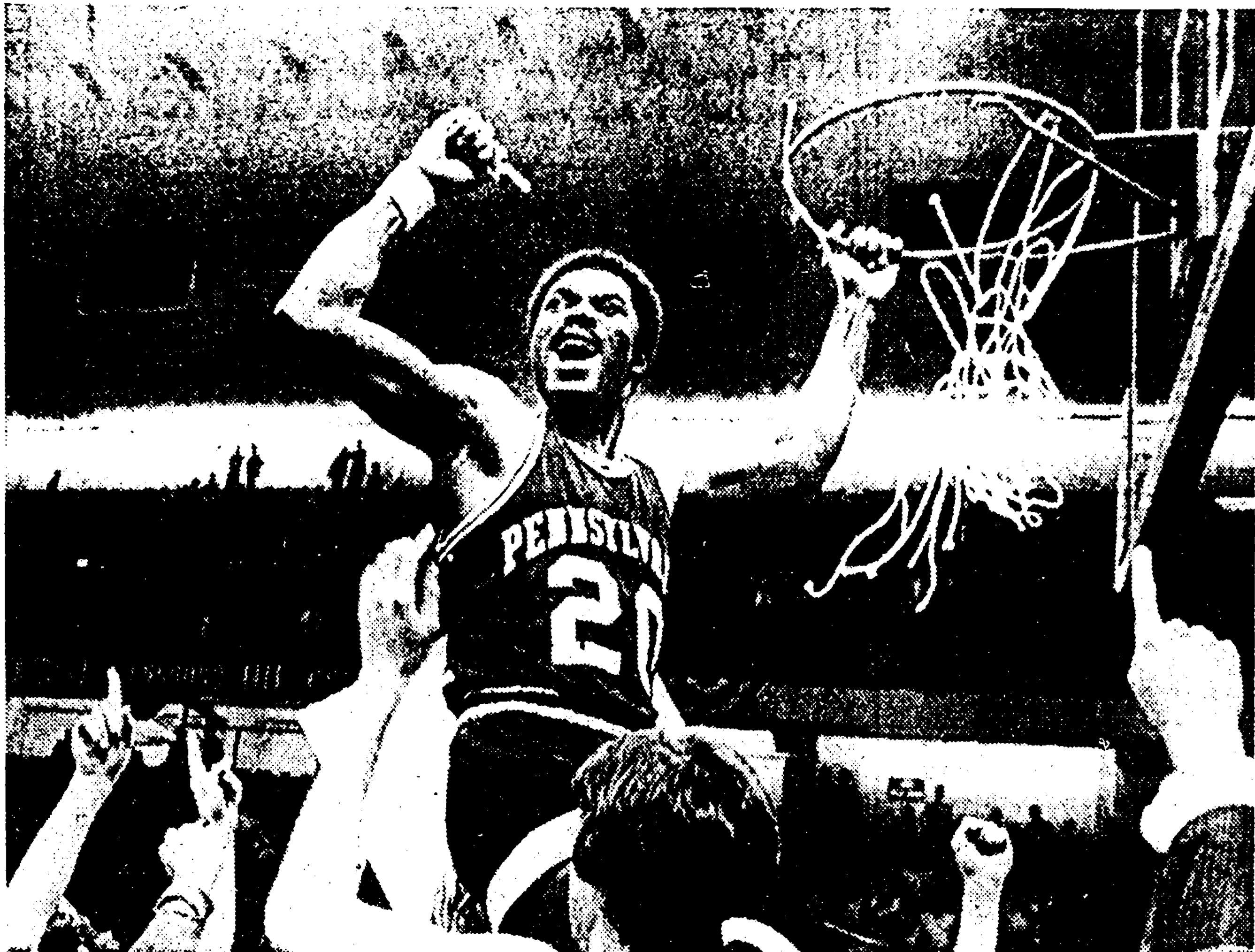
"I was just praying that we could get our hands on it," said Tony Price, the senior forward who tied Plair with 21

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Tim Smith of Penn being held aloft by happy Penn supporters as he celebrates victory by cutting down net from basket

Penn Beats St. John's, 64-62

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points and was named the most valuable player of the regional. "Do anything. Tap it out. Go out of bounds."

The ball finally landed in Price's hands, and he was fouled. When he missed the free throw, St. John's had one last chance with two seconds to play. It was not until a full-court pass was intercepted by Vincent Ross, a freshman forward, that the Quakers became only the second Ivy League team to win the East regional and advance to the national semifinals since the National Collegiate Athletic Association began the regional format in 1952. The first Ivy League team to win this regional was Princeton in 1965 with Bill Bradley.

In two other attempts to reach the Final Four, in 1971 and 1972, the Quakers lost one-sided games to Villanova and North Carolina.

8-Point Lead Evaporates

The Quakers had an 8-point lead with 16 minutes 46 seconds to play, but that lead disappeared in a little more than four minutes. Price took his team's only shot in that stretch, a driving layup over Frank Gilroy, St. John's sophomore forward. The Quakers lost a loose ball, missed on an alley-oop pass to Price and committed two walking violations and a three-second violation.

Price picked up his fourth foul with 12:51 to play (he did not play for the last 5:59 of the first half because of foul trouble). Sixteen seconds later, Wayne McKoy, St. John's sophomore center, tapped in a missed shot to tie the score at 40-40. Soon after, the Quakers called a timeout, trailing by 4 points.

With McKoy and Reggie Carter, a

junior guard, both in foul trouble, Carnesecca reluctantly went to a 1-2-2 zone defense, just as he had done in the semifinal victory over Rutgers.

"Some people don't like roast beef," Carnesecca laughingly said yesterday when asked about the zone. "I just don't like it. That's why I can't teach it . . . It can make a fair shooter good and a good shooter great."

Salters made a shot from the left corner to bring the Quakers within 2 points, 47-45. Then Tim Smith, a senior forward and a 48 percent shooter who had made just two of his first eight shots, hit three long ones within the next 2½ minutes. The third one put Penn back in front, 53-52, with 5:44 to play.

'Keep Shooting'

"The coach told me to keep shooting the ball," Smith said about the instructions he received from Bob Weinbauer, the Penn coach. "Last year I would have taken a couple of shots, missed them, and I wouldn't shoot for the rest of the game. I worked on that last summer."

The lead changed four times in the last six minutes, and the score was tied three times. Most of that time, St. John's had to play without Carter, who fouled out with more than four minutes to go.

Even in the first half, however, the emotion rocked back and forth as first McKoy, then Price, had foul trouble; as St. John's, then Penn, seemed to take control; and finally as the lead changed in the final minutes.

"I've never been in a game that went back and forth like that," Smith said.

The Redmen finished with a 21-11

won-lost record and missed a chance for their first trip to the national semifinals since 1952. Penn is now 25-5.

The only other New York City school to reach the Final Four was the New York University team led by Tom (Satch) Sanders, which beat West Virginia (with Jerry West) and Duke in the 1960 regional.

Salters vs. Johnson Next

Some of the Quakers said it had not yet hit them that they would be going to Salt Lake City. Salters, who is generously listed as 5 feet 11 inches, joked about being matched against Earvin (Magic) Johnson, Michigan State's 6-8 sophomore.

"He has to match up with us," Salters said.

As soon as the game ended, while the Quaker fans mobbed the team on the floor of Greensboro Coliseum, which was less than half-filled with 7,213 fans (capacity is 15,850), Salters ran into the locker room when he felt tears fill his eyes. "It was coming," he said, "so I tried to get away for a while. I was crying with a smile on my face."

Salters came back out as his teammates used their trainer's tape-cutter to snip the cords from both baskets. When they ran off the floor, Price heard a voice from the stands calling out his name: "Anthony! Anthony!"

When he looked up, Price saw his mother. She had not been at Raleigh, N.C., last Sunday, when Penn beat North Carolina. Price had wanted her to be there.

She was crying as she reached down from the stands and hugged her son, the most valuable player.

"I felt like crying, too," Price said.

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