

RETTON KNEW HE'D STEAL BALL FOR THE 'PLAY OF THE NIGHT'

St. Joe's Coach Had It All Mapped

THERE were many plays that coaches would have considered "the ball game" but the news sheeted them off through them, and came out with one as the outstanding play of the first round of the NCAA Regionals here last night.

It was the steal of Ronnie Retton, the diminutive West Virginia guard with only 26 seconds to play in the fabulous game against St. Joseph's. Only seconds before Lee Patrone of the Mountaineers had huddled high in the air, stolen St. Joe's pass, and relayed to Rocky Bolyard, who had tried a shot and missed. That's when the great Jerry West stole the rebound from a St. Joe player and dumped it in, giving West Virginia a one-point lead.

Then St. Joseph's called time out. When the ball was put into play again, Retton dashed in, stole the inbound pass, and was away for a perfect layup.

I knew 100 percent that Retton after the game. "I'd been staying back on that inbound play all night. So I faked going back and it was there."

To add to the mystery of that particular play, Coach Jack Ramsay of St. Joe's had a miniature blackboard at his side and diagrammed the shot his warriors were supposed to take. But Retton took care of all that.

Other fine plays of the night were St. Joe's Joe Gallo's series of jump shots that almost gave him an impossible to overcome lead, and Boston's three-point play by lanky Ed Washington that clinched Navy 57-51. Nobody can ever forget West's six baskets and four free throws in the sensational comeback by West Virginia either.



RETTON

The Big Crowd: One Got Bounced

THE crowd was jumping. It couldn't help but be. The West Virginia-St. Joseph's game demanded a blood-pressure check as the two staged one of the great battles in the Coliseum for any court's history.

It was a polite, mannerly group of spectators—with only one being given the bum's rush by police for over-exuberance. It checked at the "back" of St. Joseph's answer to the Boston University "remote" chairs, broadest direct from the gymnasium in Reardon, gave everyone a conversational topic. One of the Myers Park cheerleaders, who offered a "plasma" tank to the visiting contingent, got so excited she fell to the floor, needed assistance in getting up.

Navy had a handful of uniformed, pleasantly loud young men sounding off behind its bench. Fred Schaus, the West Virginia coach, had to suffer through his team's first half cold spell with the shouts of St. Joe cheerers directly behind his bench. It's a wonder the Mountaineers heard any instructions.

There was more noise at the Coliseum than in any game this year as West Virginia and the Hawks went to the wire. This was a far different scene from last year's conservative examination of the Maryland-Temple thriller.

One Mountaineer fan held a placard which read: "West (By God) Virginia on one side, 'Hass Hell' on the other. There was plenty of the latter. No instructions were necessary.



SHEIK

The Big Team: More Than Talent

COACH Fred Schaus' experience in pro basketball is reflected in the hell-for-leather style of his West Virginia Mountaineers, our Team of the Night, but the story of this club is that intangible that cannot be installed even by a coach of Schaus' stature. . . . He called it "heart" . . . Down 18 points at one stage, the Mountaineers rallied to squeeze out St. Joseph's, 65-62. . . . It marked the 14th time this season the Mountaineers have trailed at halftime. Of those 14, WVU has won 10. . . . It is that kind of team.

The man who has brought them back so often from the brink of defeat did it again last night. That's Jerry West, a genuine All-American. . . . Hidden hard by defensive ace Joe Spratt in the first half, West had only a dozen points in intermission. . . . It was clear that if West Virginia was to win, he would have to be the man to get things started.

Moving into the pivot in the second half, he poured in 24 points, most of them after Spratt had fouled out. He had six of the Mounties' last ten field goals and added seven free throws for 19 points in the last eight minutes, winding up the night with 36. . . . But West was not fighting the battle alone. Lee Patrone made a valuable interception.

Ronnie Retton made an even more valuable one, turning it into a score that gave the Mounties a three-point lead with only a few seconds remaining. . . . Nine men saw action. All helped. Patrone and Willie Akers had 13 points apiece, Rocky Bolyard ten. . . . It is a deep, talented, gutsy, racehorse team which apparently has conquered a longstanding tournament jinx. It is a team which could go all the way.

In The Clutch, It Was Mr. West

EVERY inquirer who approached Boston Coach Matt Zunic last night on the subject of his team's promoters to halt West Virginia in tonight's NCAA Eastern Regional final got the same answer: a dissertation on the excellence of Mountaineer star Jerry West.

So dangerous did West prove himself in guiding a 95-92 West Virginia triumph over St. Joseph's that aside from establishing himself as the man of the hour, he convinced all onlookers that stopping the Mounties is a clear-cut matter of stopping him.

Figures showed that when the chips were down last night St. Joe was unable to accomplish that task. Just at the time that the Mountaineers seemed about to be swept out of the Coliseum by a bulging Hawk led West bag repeatedly unclogging his 63-minute playmaker's arteries. This result, he scored six of the last 10 West Virginia field goals, seven of eight personal free throw attempts and 19 of his team's final 31 points, all within the last explosive eight minutes.

Furthermore, there were the intangible contributions. When St. Joe attempted to throw in the ball for its carefully planned last-second shot, the Hawks to the man kept one eye on West, knowing of his great defensive ability and fearing a total interception. But while they worried over West, 57 Ronnie Retton bolted away with the ball and the basket that clinched the game.

Such a basketball player is Jerry West.



WEST

SPORTS THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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By Bob Quincy Charlotte News Sports Editor



Red is Almost A Grandpa

THIS WAS THE TOURNAMENT. Frank McGuire, the North Carolina coach, consoling Ben Carnevale of Navy, after the shocker to Boston University. . . . Now Ben knows how I felt last Tuesday. Said Frank. . . . Red Brown, the West Virginia athletic director, making new friends and informing those around him. "I'm excited for lots of reasons—a win, yes, but I'm due to become a grandpa any day now."

Jack Ramsay of St. Joseph's, being told his team, although losing, participated in one of the finest games ever seen. "That's nice and I'm sure Freddie Schaus can appreciate that distinction more than I." Joe Conway, the referee of the first tilt. "I haven't worked this hard in weeks."

Everyone wondered if Boston University's "Chinese" defense, which is a combination of zone, man-to-man and catch-up catch, could be inspired to halt West Virginia's fast break—and particularly Jerry West— tonight. One coach's observation: "Neither West Virginia nor St. Joe have bothered to learn the meaning of defense. They're the Rocky Marcianos of basketball."

J. D. Morrison, the fellow with the wonderful voice, was drowned during his halftime solo of "Old Man River" when Boston and Navy came on the court, wanted to shoot and forget the musical bit. . . . There were plenty of compliments for the emceeing job done by Bob Probenace at the "Tip-Off" luncheon prior to the games. . . . He called "em loud and clear, with a minimum of wasted gas."

McGuire Watched Spratt's Great Moves

BOSTON'S most proud of its win-up this season. The Terriers, with 26,000 in school, finally got a new gym this season. . . . It seats a modest 1,000, but is a far cry from the Y.M.C.A.'s used as a home ground in that season. "Imagine," said a staunch backer, "what being in the finals means. Last year we closed out to a few hundred spectators. Now we'll play—win or lose—to almost 12000!"

Press Marathons, the Clemson coach, writing a column on strategy for a morning newspaper—and transcribing his notes in shorthand. . . . It's the first game I can recall in which Press didn't chew through a towel. . . . Bones McKinney, the Wake Forest coach, in the stands displaying mixed emotions. . . . His old coach, Ben Carnevale, losing to his old teammate, Boston's Matt Zunic.

Carnevale pointing out: "We were dead, played poorly. But maybe that's what can be said of North Carolina when we licked them at New York. I think it's best to give the other team credit rather than to berate your own. Perhaps we were dead because Boston was so good. Perhaps we were really not dead but we don't want as because we were up to the occasion."

There will be a consolation game tonight, but few coaches are for it. . . . Pointed out the Middle coach: "Our season ends with Boston University. Where is there to go?" . . . Jack Ramsay of St. Joe took his loss to West Virginia harder than any he's received as a coach. . . . He took the Hawks as his own in 1936, has nursed them into a real striking force. They're clever, exciting.

Kentucky Right For Tournament Hatchet

ELMER Gibb, University of Kentucky scout, tossing his arm in the air, "What's this good for now?" after learning the Wildcats had lost to Louisville in the playoffs at Evanson. He had been here taking notes on the progress of the season. "It's really not too surprising. We have too many sophomores to be a tournament team. Tournaments are made to attract—top soph to me."

McGuire of North Carolina marveled at the way Joe Spratt of St. Joseph's handled West Virginia's Jerry West before fouling out in the second half—after which West ran east, north and south with points. . . . "That bit of defense was beautiful," said McGuire, "and Spratt is to St. Joe what Doug Mac is to us. Why am I so interested? We play West Virginia next season, that's why."

J. Earl Thompson's NCAA tournament members (approx. of 100 of them who helped the tournament become a rising success, prancing around in their neat green jackets. Said Belmont Abbey's Al McGuire: "What be a tribute to the coming of St. Patrick's Day. We Irish are a fine race." . . . Earl Butch, the ex-Chancellor now coaching at Catawba (and upset victor over Lamar Rhyne in the North State show), spectating with his usual calm.

Tommy Bell, the official from Lexington, Ky., points out this will be his last year as a referee. . . . "I'll devote next winter to my law practice," said Tommy. "I'm not giving up football, but I'm definitely saying goodbye to basketball." . . . AD Brown of West Virginia, one of Charlotte's real boosters, saying to listeners: "What do I really not of the District Three being held here. Well, I'll tell you—this place does a good enough job for the National finals."

All-American Is The Boy

West Wand To End BU Cinderella Tale?

Mountaineers Favored Over Terriers In Final

By RONALD GREEN News Assistant Sports Editor

BOSTON University's Terriers, little Cinderella boys from a big city, may see the coach speeding them toward the NCAA finals revert to a pumpkin tonight when West Virginia's All-American Jerry West begins to wield his magic wand.

The Terriers and Mountaineers meet tonight at 9 p.m. in the Coliseum in the Eastern Regional final. The winner will advance into the national finals at Louisville next week. Navy and St. Joseph's, losers in the opening round last night before 11,500 fans, will eliminate 77 in consolation games.

Boston is truly what Coach Matt Zunic described as a "Cinderella" team. The Terriers moved out of a YMCA gym and seated only 100 people into major college basketball this year and, with two victories in tournament play thus far, have come at least one game beyond what was expected of them.

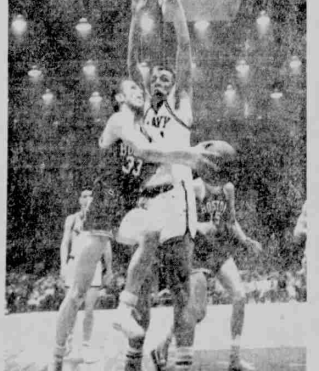
They tipped favored Navy 65-55 in overtime last night to put a thrilling finish on an evening that opened with a bang when West Virginia rallied from 18 points down to knock off powerful St. Joseph's, 95-92.

The hour of reckoning appears finally to be at hand for the Terriers. When Zunic said last night, "Our problem against West Virginia will be stopping West and the fast break," he probably hit upon the note of doom.

There appears no way Boston can stop West without surrendering too heavily to contain the remainder of the hell-for-leather Mountaineers. St. Joseph's tried to do just one of the best defensive men in Philadelphia college history, Joe Spratt. Despite some excellent work by Spratt before he fouled out, West kept pumping in points and when his guardship was gone, he filled the basket to the brim, finishing with 36 points.

All-American from Calicut Creek, W. Va., scored six of WVU's last ten field goals and guided seven free throws on eight attempts for a total of 29 points. The Mountaineers last 31 points. It was the heart and soul of the WVU comeback.

TONIGHT, West Virginia will go



BIG MAN'S IN THE WAY

Boston University's Jack Leaman (33) drove hard for this basket, but only to be confronted by 64 Jay Metzler of Navy. Despite the block, Leaman, a back-court bomber, hit for 13 points against the Middies.



A RIDE REPAID . . . Jerry West, whom Mountaineers rode to win, return the favor.

KENTUCKY IS ROUTED

LOSE OR NOT, LOUISVILLE IS WALKING ON THE CLOUDS

By JERRY LISKA Associated Press Sports Writer

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP)—The NCAA basketball tourney ended for the defending champion Kentucky scarcely before it started because of a stem-winded rival from the blue grass state, Louisville's spunky Cardinals.

Louisville last night knocked second-ranked Kentucky out of the Midwest Regional, 76-61, for the Cardinals' first ever triumph over the Wildcats in 34 years.

Tommy, Louisville faces Big Ten champion Michigan State for the right to advance to the NCAA finals in Louisville next weekend. But even if the Cardinals stumble against the great rebounding Spartans, they'll be walking on clouds for some time.

Louisville overcame a 15-point deficit to win a 15-point first half deficit to upset Kentucky which was seeking an unprecedented fifth NCAA title.

MICHIGAN STATE won the other Midwest opener before a capacity 2,200 Northwestern University's McGaw Hall, staying off Marquette, 74-69. Marquette and Kentucky meet in tonight's consolation game.

Last night's tumble was the first meeting between Kentucky and Louisville since the 1911 NCAA regional at Raleigh, N. C., when the Wildcats eliminated the Cardinals, 79-64.

Louisville and Kentucky met only twice in regular season play, in 1922 when Kentucky triumphed 35-14 and 1939 when Louisville scored its only previous victory, 32-22.

Although the experts thought Louisville came to Franconia just for the ride, owing a lackluster 17-10 record, Coach Bernie Hickman and his Cardinals threw a shocker at Adolph Rupp and his Wildcats.

TOURNEY NOTES:

Navy Fell Much Like Manhattan

By The News Sports Staff

This year's show was strangely like last in ultimate outcome. Manhattan, which had beaten West Virginia in the New York playoffs, was replaced by Navy, the team named "disciplines" which opened UVA's year. Navy suffered first round losses. Dartmouth kept the Jaspers here last season? First game after their most thrilling win.

Most unusual twist was St. Joseph's calling two time outs in a row. Life in the game—without the ball being put back into play. Said Red Joe Conway: "I'm sure it's the real I'm going home and read my book."

Most of the coaches visit me here look for the future of the NCAA's at Louisville to end with Kansas State meeting Michigan State for the National Championship. Both have size, savvy and experience. Navy can equal West Virginia for stamper.

Thoughtful Profiles: Jerry West, Tom Mix, the mascot; Boston University's Cinderella kids; Navy, the clock-maker crash; St. Joe, so near—yet so far.

ALL-AMERICAN Jerry West was the crowd to surrender when West Virginia fell 34 far behind as 18 points against St. Joseph's, as his finish will testify.

"I was in my staff to use," he said. "We've been behind so many times this year, it feels almost natural. This club never gives up."

MOUNTAINEER Coach Fred Schaus' strategy in his strategy against the Hawks briefly: "I won't let the strategy which won this game. It was what the kid did. . . . Ben's steal. Patrone's steal. West's big layup. Those were great plays but they weren't unusual. Those things have been happening all year."

"It will be a long time before West Virginia has a team with the guts, the heart, the intangibles of this club."

After the terrific West Virginia-Joseph's game was over somebody approached North Carolina Coach Frank McGuire and asked: "Do you think this team should ever return to the Atlantic Coast Conference?"

"No, I do not," replied McGuire. "And why not?" spoke up another fellow. "The fans love it."

"Yeah, but it absolutely kills the coaches," said McGuire.

SOME FANS wondered if Boston Coach Matt Zunic was going to desert his team at all. He stood at the Coliseum doorway and headed deeply of the night air for ten minutes, then went in to talk to his team. "I always wait awhile," he said. "I give the boys a chance to eat their oranges and so forth, and don't get them upset, then I go in."

Pro Basketball By ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS BY AP/WIDE WORLD



A PAIR OF IRISHMEN MEET—AGAIN

Belmont Abbey Coach Al McGuire (left) was named the nation's Catholic "Coach of the Year" last night and the first to congratulate him was UNC's Frank McGuire. Frank used to coach Al at St. John's.

