

Tommy Was An Irish Ball Of Fire

Refs Tip: Kansas Has 'Secret Weapon' Like Kearns

By Bob Quincy

Charlotte News Sports Editor



Rosie MVP But Guard Was Rage

PHILADELPHIA—The dawn was cracking the Philadelphia darkness yesterday morning when the voice of thunder, Ray Reeve of WMAL in Raleigh, and I stepped into the airport coffee shop.

The waitress had not looked me in the eye for she brought me orange juice, which was immediately sent back to the kitchen for the thick plasma of tomato. Reeve was poking into half a grapefruit when we noticed the two fellows at the counter.

"Referees?"

"Yeah! That Italian fellow (Louis Filippi) and Joe Conway."

The two, who had worked the Eastern Regionals, were awaiting their eggs, over light. A conversation was struck up and since Joe was from Wisconsin and Louis from Minnesota, we took liberty of assuming they might have worked a Wilt the Stilt game.

"We have," the two said in unison.

What chance would North Carolina have against this fabled giant should the two clubs reach the semifinals in Kansas City next Saturday night, we wondered?

"Oh," said Conway, "Chamberlain can be defended—to some extent—and North Carolina has personnel that could do it. One mistake so many make, however, is regarding Kansas as only The Stilt. He has some pretty good kids with him, especially one of the guards. Little guy can do tricks."

"Yeah, like that Kearns of Carolina," said Filippi. "Everybody hears about Rosenbluth and you see the team and suddenly there is that little guy making great plays. Who's he? They all ask. He's just the guy who kills you, that's all."

Cohen Calls Him Best He's Played

"THING about playing Kansas," injected Conway, "is control. Carolina showed it could handle the ball in the playoffs here. It's a must against Kansas. You have to make the good shot. Else the big guy has the ball and is off."

"But don't forget the little guys on the team," warned the dark, placid-eyed Filippi. "Just like Kearns..."

Kearns, the thick-shouldered, solid-legged guard, was a word that quickly circulated around Eastern Regionals. Lennie Rosenbluth, after Carolina had planted the kids of death on Syracuse, 67-58, here Saturday night, had been voted the tournament's most valuable.

Certainly next in line would have to be Kearns, maybe first, in the opinion of rival players.

Like Vinnie Cohen, the flashy Negro who paced the scoring for both teams with 25 for Syracuse. Dressed and saving goodby to a spectacular career for the Orangemen, Cohen stepped upon the floor of the Palestra and looked at a sheet containing the game summary.

"I don't feel bad about getting beaten," he said softly. "It's the nation's No. 1 team and it proved itself great. You can feel it playing against them. They're wise and have know-how."

"Of course, we knew we had to face a tough team in Rosenbluth—and he was plenty good like they say. But to me Kearns was the boy. He was the boy of the tournament."

McGuire Says Press All Tommy Needed

In the three Carolina victories, Kearns had scored 16 against Yale, 19 against Canisius, and 22 against Syracuse. He drove for the bucket with the awesome defiance of a stunt driver ripping a wall of flame. He made seemingly impossible shots.

"Kearns is the best guard I've seen all season," said Cohen. "It's not so much his ability to score, which you see in the box score. It's his passing and play-making and moving those big men where he wants them. Great dribbler, too."

Some scenes flash to the North Carolina dressing room—some minutes after a victory.

Kearns is stretched on the training table, awaiting Trainer John Laezy's treatment of a heel blister. A guard of the Palestra walks in beaming proudly. He had become a Carolina roster during the tournament and was as thunderous in his applause, the fans carried him off on their shoulders at the conclusion.

He tapped Kearns on the leg.

"My name is Fred Weber," he said. "You . . . you were tremendous. I've never seen such a performance . . . Go all the way. You boys can. You're my boys. I love you guys."

It was Frank McGuire's suite at the Penn-Sherwood Hotel.

"The answer to Tommy's playing. The press. Yale put it on, Canisius put it on, Syracuse put it on. Putting the press on Tommy is like leaving the combination on a vault for a bank robber."

Tommy stole the show.

Happiest Birthday For Pat

PHILADELPHIA—Mrs. Pat McGuire, the charming wife of the North Carolina coach, sat back and said, "It's the nicest birthday present I've ever had."

She spoke of her husband's team capturing the Eastern Regionals of the NCAA—and their invitation to Kansas City.

"What's more," said Irishman Frank, beaming after blasting Syracuse, 67-58, for the title, "St. Patrick's Day is tomorrow. I can't wait to go to church. I sincerely mean that."

IN THE Carolina dressing room, the players began wondering who their opponent would be in the semifinals at Kansas City.

Word hadn't been received that Michigan State kayoted Kentucky, 86-67, for the right, Kansas meets San Francisco.

"Whoever it is," said Guard Bob Cunningham, "is going to have to play us. We don't have to play anybody."

CUNNINGHAM was asked about the Tar Heels slowing their attack in the second half against Syracuse. They had a nine-point edge at intermission, simply making it.

"We just wanted to be sure we held the advantage," said Cunningham. "We wanted to wind-dribble care by how much."

SYRACUSE rated one of the few teams to have out-rebounded the Tar Heels this year. Did it by 57-47.

One reason was Joe Quigg's slowly coming into form. An injury kept Quigg from a starting role, when Joe entered the game, he wasn't his old self because of a hip injury.

"The first few minutes were torture," said Quigg. "Then I guess I got loosened up—and for the pain went away."

He got seven rebounds the second half.

McGUIRE at the Syracuse game.

"If we had relaxed and played our normal game, I believe we could have won by 20 points or so. We wanted to be sure. I told the kids before the game we could beat them by 18 or 20."

MARC GULEY, Syracuse coach: "They're a fine team, sound in every respect. We were horrid on foul shooting the first half and it knocked us out. I won't say we could have beaten them tonight—they're No. 1 and there's no use in broad speculation. I think we should have given them a much closer game."

McGUIRE on strategy: "Gary Clark was a 25-point night for Syracuse against Lafayette—and Vinnie Cohen does poorly. Yet, Cohen is their big boy and usually scores despite all. So we concentrated on holding Clark and figured Cohen would be back in form."

Answer: Cohen gets 25—but Clark is held to 11.

The Record Book

North Carolina	G	F	P	FT	REB
Rosenbluth, L.	8	14	2	23	1
Brennan, J.	7	14	1	11	1
Lois, C.	6	15	0	1	1
Kearns, G.	4	11	3	32	1
Cunningham, B.	4	10	2	2	1
TOTALS	29	64	8	70	5
Syracuse (58)	3	12	4	18	2
Snyder, J.	3	8	2	4	1
Clayton, C.	3	12	1	1	1
Clark, G.	3	11	3	3	1
Brennan, D.	3	11	3	3	1
Collier, J.	3	11	3	3	1
Albanese, C.	3	11	3	3	1
Collier, J.	3	11	3	3	1
Schumler, G.	3	11	3	3	1
TOTALS	24	52	27	28	5
Balance score: North Carolina 28, Syracuse 28.					

PHILADELPHIA (AP Photo)

'Pack Gridders Charged

RALEIGH (AP)—Three North Carolina State College football players accused of peeping into a window at Peace Junior College last Saturday night will be tried in City Court Thursday.

The three, charged with trespassing and being peeping toms, were listed by police as Darrell C. Dess, 21, of New Cottle, Pa.; Peter Anthony Bazanos, 19, of Staten Island, N.Y.; and Thomas Katich, 21, of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Katich is a top quarterback on the State football team. Bazanos is an end and Dess is a tackle.

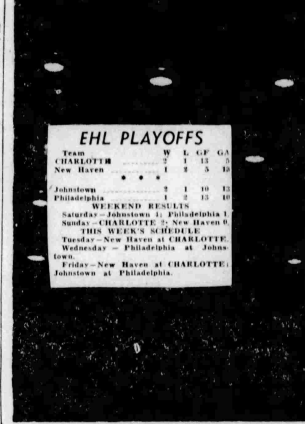
Police Officers C. R. Beck and C. J. Swelker said the trio was arrested around 1:25 a.m. after officers found them slumped in their car . . . like they were asleep.

The officers quoted the State students as saying, "We had dates with some girls at the college at 1:20 a.m."

"Well, the kid is a little wild. But, man! What a fast ball!"



PHILADELPHIA (AP Photo)



THE CLOCK AND THE CHEER . . . the final horn sounded, the scoreboard read 2-0, goalie Les Binkley skipped up the ice.

Warner Has Brass Worried

Bees Get Ex-Belmont Star; 25 Players Launch Workouts

By RONALD GREEN
Charlotte News Sports Writer

FERNANDA BEACH, Fla.—Jimmy Hall, a former Belmont High School star, has solved Charlotte's first base problems—at least temporarily.

The husky youngster was assigned to the Hornet club yesterday. A former Gastonia Legion star, he was voted Rookie of the Year while performing for Superior, Wis., of the Class C Northern League.

Until Hall's assignment, the Hornets were without a first baseman, veteran Harry Warner, who came to terms months ago, was counted on for front line duty, but he hasn't shown

up in fact. Washington officials are getting worried. They haven't heard from Warner since the contract signing.

MEANWHILE, manager Gene Verble sent his 25 players through their first spring drills here this morning. General conditioning exercises and a short batting session consumed the three-hour drills.

The Hornets really began their workouts under an 80-degree sun here yesterday, running through a two-hour informal drill "because we had nothing else to do," Verble explained.

The Hornets are one of seven teams working out on the three-conditioned diamonds here.

Chattanooga is the only Washington farm club drilling elsewhere.



WARNER VERBLE up in fact. Washington officials are getting worried. They haven't heard from Warner since the contract signing.

Classic's Most Valuable

DICKIE CULLER: JUST LIKE DAD

By JACK KISER

Dickie Culler pushed aside the damp towels and the sweat-soaked uniforms and gently placed the big trophy on the dressing room bench.

"I guess," he said, his boy-nest-door features composing a smile, "that Dad will have to put some of his hardware in storage to make room for this one."

The frugally-built (6 ft., 155 lb.) High Point guard was taking the plaqueta from his teammates. "You did the job, Dickie. You deserved it, Dickie," all in stride.

HE WIPED some finger prints from the gleaming Most Valuable Player award he had been presented after leading the North Carolina All-Stars to a 83-62 victory over South Carolina in the third annual Kiwanis basketball Classic at the Coliseum Saturday night.

"There were," the crew-cut lad continued, "a lot of boys out there who deserved it more than I did. Guess I'll have to cut it up in little hunks and give all of them a piece."

(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Walters)

BONES AND THE BEST . . . Deac assistant Bones McKinney presents The News' MVP award to Dickie Culler.

—The Last Seconds—
'Seemed Like Hours' -- Les

By BOB QUINCY

"THE last seven or eight seconds . . . well, seemed like seven or eight hours. Boy, was I happy when the horn sounded!" That was Les Binkley, the happiest goalie in hockey, speaking.

Playing his best game of the season, using his mitt with the speed of a cobra striking and kicking out pucks like Fred Astaire in a finale, Binkley led the Charlotte Clippers to a 2-0 victory over New Haven here yesterday.

It was a strange and tough game, fierce in competitive action and mixed with heart-grinding that rattled the aluminum roof of the Coliseum and angry words that would reddden the faces in an old soldiers' lane.

THE TRIUMPH sent the Clips in front, 2-1, in their opening playoff series with the fourth game to be played here tomorrow night at 8 o'clock.

Some of the twists:

Dougie Adams, who had been almost too sick to play, slammed the opening and deciding goal in the third period—as the first two had been a delight of blocks between Binkley and John Craig of the opposition.

The Blades let their own tempers out them of a chance to tie—and tempers are usually checked with care in a playoff.

"The officiating got so bad," luffed Ron Perry, the coach, "my guys couldn't contain themselves. Sure, it's not smart to come up short on ice with men in the penalty box. But the way the calls went—well, you can only stand so much."

THE BLADES, when they needed full strength most, had a major misconduct penalty against Claude Boleau and a minor bench penalty of two minutes, the latter for stick throwing by Ron Bonzie.

During the interim, the Clips' Jim McNulty, with New Haven having pulled goalie Craig, threw a punch at Boleau, sending the puck some 90 feet into the nets.

Binkley tossed his hands upward in jubilation at the conclusion.

"How long has it been since I had my last shutout," he said. "Years. I didn't get one last year and never in this league."

Typical Playoff Game: 'Everybody Goes For Broke'

Turnout of 4,664 for yesterday's Clippers playoff with New Haven was disappointing to officials of the club.

"Game was the hardest of year . . . Typical playoff game," said John Muckler, defenseman.

O'Hearn was presented the John J. Carlin award for EHL's top scorer by Mr. and Mrs. William Fischer of Baltimore—she being the daughter of donor.

Grandson John Carlin Biers was also on hand. "I've waited six years for this," said Bibber.

Russ Hann blamed no player for his eye wound. "Just an accident," he explained. "Stick hit me."

Clipper Boosters, with Jerry Ball entertaining, gave buffet for team after game.

Some 60 Boosters were on hand.

Next series scoring—Charlotte: Adam (LaLonde, Brophy), 14; McMillan (Kane), 20; Foster (tripoli), 11; Charlotte: New Haven: Boleau and Bonzie (throwing stick), 15; Bonzie (interference), 5.

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