

Bears Topple Albany; Face Plattsburgh

BY DAN WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

Fighting their way back from an unaccustomed 10-0 deficit, the Potsdam College men's basketball team warded off a determined Albany State quintet 75-69 Saturday night in jam-packed Maxcy Hall.

Potsdam, now 16-0 and winner of 48 consecutive games, has no time to rest. Plattsburgh State, an 84-79 overtime loser to the Bears in December, will invade Maxcy Hall Wednesday night in an important SUNYAC East battle.

The Great Danes, one of Potsdam's most hated rivals, stunned the overflow crowd and the Bears by running off 10 consecutive points to open the game. But, the Bears fought back slowly, regaining the lead with two minutes left in the first half.

Potsdam now has won 41 straight home games and 66 of their last 67, dating back to the 1982-83 season.

But, for awhile Saturday, it looked like the streaks were in jeopardy.

Albany hit their first five shots, while Potsdam was icy cold from the floor.

A plethora of fouls whistled against the Great Danes helped propel Potsdam back into contention midway through the first half. Eventually, the Bears led 37-35 at intermission and never again trailed.

Leading the Potsdam charge in the second half were Barry Stanton and Joe Smith. Stanton finished with 15 points and had a vicious alley-oop slam dunk late in the game. Smith came off the bench to pump in 12 second half points on a variety of jumpers and drives to the hoop.

Brendan Mitchell added eight of his 13 points in the second stanza. Also in double figures for Potsdam were Steve Babiarz (12 points) and Drew Gregoire (10). Stanton added a career high seven blocked shots, while Gregoire dished out five assists in a stellar floor game.

Albany, now 12-5, was paced by

senior forward Adam Ursprung's 15 points. Brett Axelrod added 11 points and 10 rebounds and Morrison Teague contributed 11 points. Point guard Mike Cinque doled out eight assists.

Potsdam shot a shivering 36 percent in the first half and came back with a 56 percent effort in the second half. Albany connected on 45 percent of their field goal tries (57 percent in first half).

New Paltz Falls

New Paltz was the Bears' 47th victim, falling to Potsdam 71-59 Friday night in a game which wasn't nearly that close.

Potsdam exploded out of the blocks for a 27-6 lead midway through the first half, and then coasted home with a 42-22 halftime lead.

Babiarz had an outstanding game, scoring 18 points and handing out eight assists to lead the Bears. Mitchell contributed 15 markers and Stanton added 10.

Thirteen Bears saw action in the first half and all 15 played in the game.

New Paltz rallied a bit in the second half thanks to some fine play by hulking Larry Phoenix (12 points). John Bowe, averaging over 25 points a game, was held to 15 (5-20 FG) by the Bears. Zerick Wynn added 10 points for the Hawks.

Plattsburgh arrives Wednesday night with revenge on their minds. In the third game of the season, Potsdam averted an upset in Plattsburgh by rallying from a 14-point deficit midway through the second half to post an exciting 84-79 overtime win.

Junior transfer Holman Harley is averaging nearly 30 points a game and has scored 81 points in their last two contests against Albany (39) and New Paltz (school record 42). Other top Cards are Guy Garrow, Rudy Outlaw, and Marty Saford.

Borsato Leads Knights To 5-4 Win

In the annual Sunday afternoon game at Walker Arena, the Golden Knights came from behind to defeat the Stingers of Concordia 5-4.

Concordia's Brian Borsato logged his third career four-goal game. Borsato, a junior, climbs to 38th on the Knights all-time scoring list with 103 career points (43-60).

The Knight offense was in overdrive all game, feeding Stinger netminder Dave Sharpe a steady diet of shots, totaling 73 by the end of the game. Sharpe lived up to his name, making 68 saves, 31 in the first period alone.

Clarkson Coach Cap Raeder said,

"The first period was one of the best periods of hockey we've played all season. We put 33 shots on net."

Clarkson's first goal came in the second period when Borsato's shot found its way into the net. Mark Tretowicz also assisted.

Less than two minutes later, in another 5-on-3 situation, junior Jean Rouleau launched a cannon from the blue line that zoomed past Sharpe to make the score 2-0.

Clarkson goalie John Fletcher, the leading netminder in the ECAC, made nine saves in the period.

In contrast to the first period, the second stanza was "one of the worst periods we've played all

season," lamented Raeder.

Freshman goalie Erik Baker, making his first varsity appearance of the season, kept the Stingers at bay. Baker made 10 saves, but the team fell behind 4-2 on four unanswered goals.

"I'm happy about the way we came back today. Lately we've been coming back, but falling just short. Today, we came back and won the game," said Raeder.

The comeback, in the third period, could have been called the "Luc Borsato Show." Borsato wasted no time getting the Knights back into the game, taking a picture-book feed from linemate

Steve Williams and punching it in the net 23 seconds into the period.

Ten minutes later, the hats flew as Borsato tipped in the rebound to tie the game. On the point in between, in one case, Borsato watched the game-winner with 7:11 remaining in the contest.

Sophomore Jason Poirier came out of the bullpen to stand between the pipes for the third stanza. He turned away all seven Concordia shots to record the win.

The Golden Knights, at 10-9 overall and 6-6 in the ECAC, have a big weekend of league action coming up. On Friday, the University of Vermont will pay a visit to Walker Arena, followed by the RPI Engineers Saturday night.



HIGH FLYING SOPHOMORE — Potsdam College's Joe Smith, shown here against New Paltz, scored 12 second half points to help the Bears defeat rival Albany State. (Dan Williams photo)

Massena Edges Potsdam Icers

The bounces still aren't going Potsdam's way in hockey.

Potsdam High School hockey coach Jerry Patterson and his troops are still very frustrated with the way things are going for them. After a 7-2 start, the Stoners have struggled, winning just one of their last six contests.

The Stoners will try to find the win column twice this week as they host Thousand Islands Wednesday and Canton Saturday afternoon.

Saturday night, the bad luck continued. Powerful Massena High, unbeaten and top-ranked, handed the Stoners their second one-goal loss to the Red Raiders this winter, a 5-4 decision in Massena.

The Raiders, 12-0 in league play, remained perfect thanks in part to a two-goal, two-assist performance from Rob Chilton. Bill MacQuaig contributed a goal and three assists and Tom Dion had three set-ups. Others scoring goals for the winners were Matt Hart (1-1) and Ken Hurlbutt.

Potsdam was paced by junior Rich Denicourt (1-2), Kip Lebel (1-

1), Dave Roda (1-0), and Rob Scott (1-0). Dan Carey and Rob Boak each added two assists for Patterson's sextet.

Ed Thomas was busy stopping 21 shots in the net for Potsdam. His counterpart, Greg Jeffrey, registered 16 saves for Massena.

Salmon River shocked the Stoners with a 4-3 win last Wednesday. Chris Thomas scored twice and Tom Barnes and Ron Lewis each added one tally to pace the Shamrocks' upset win.

Denicourt again was the scoring leader for Potsdam, tallying two goals, while Dan Adams scored once.

Ed Thomas had another good night, stopping 23 shots. Mitch Cook, one of the league's hottest goaltenders, was called upon to make 18 saves.

N-N Wins
Tough Norwood-Norfolk spurred past St. Lawrence Central 6-3 Saturday afternoon.

Joe McKenna scored two goals and set another up, while teammates Phil Jenner (1-1), Todd

Charland (1-1), Chad Fayette (1-1), and Bob Myers each scored one goal.

The Larries picked up scores from Jamie Sutton, Jacques Perrier, and Scott Lantry.

Gary Gushlaw stopped 15 shots for N-N, while Matt Tessier kicked aside 18 N-N shots.

Potsdam Rips N-N

Potsdam High's girls basketball team earned their second win in five league starts last Tuesday, defeating rival Norwood-Norfolk 61-49.

Seniors Katie Baker and Kelly Norman combined for 41 points to pace the Stoners. Baker tallied 23 points to break out of a mild slump, while Norman added 19 markers.

N-N's Lynn Reed scored 17 points in defeat. The Flyers are 1-4 in NAC Division I play.

Potsdam's game Thursday night against Tupper Lake was cancelled due to snow and will be played tomorrow (Wednesday) night.

Ski Trail Notes

BY JERRY C. LEEK

Last week's storm was a classic northeaster. Moving right along the coast, it caused those strong northeasterly winds to blow as far inland as eastern Ontario and western New York. Chatham, Mass., had hurricane force winds of 76 miles per hour. Most places from Virginia to Maine got from one to two feet of snow. Tupper reported about 20 inches and Whiteface announced that their trails had two feet. Snow fell as far south as Atlanta, Ga. Ski conditions are just about perfect in the east. While last Friday and Saturday were quite cold and windy, it was very nice Sunday. Normally after the big storms it gets cold and windy, but as soon as the wind dies down, there is good skiing and it is easy to keep warm if there is no wind and the sun is shining. Temperature is not very important once the wind dies down if you are properly dressed.

Because of the wind on Saturday, I decided to cross country ski at Clarkson Seven Springs. There must be over four feet of snow in the woods now and the base on the trails there are tremendous. On cold windy days cross country skiing is always a better bet because it is so hard to keep warm riding up those chair lifts.

There is good news from

Whiteface Mountain. The new lift is now open. It is a triple to the summit where the downhill was run in the 1980 Winter Olympics. The opening of this lift is a special treat. There is an intermediate trail that comes down from the summit so you do not have to be a gold medalist to enjoy the view and tremendous thrill that it gives. I have not skied up there since 1976 which was the last time that the upper mountain was open to the public.

There was a series of stupid mistakes which led to closing of the upper mountain mainly created by former management personnel who were not skiers. The Department of Environmental Conservation just did not know how to run a ski area. Donald Adams, former manager, who was a skier did the best he could from 1970 to 1975 when he left. Before Robert Perrone, the present manager, took over in 1978, a lot of mistakes were made during this interim period. The old number six chair was dismantled because the manager said it was too windy to ski up there and the chairs kept blowing over the wires.

Because of the dismantling, Whiteface was no longer the mountain with the highest vertical drop in the east, a drop of 3,200 feet. The old number six lift was shortened

by some 400 feet in vertical drop and only went about two thirds up the mountain compared to where it had been before.

As far as I was concerned, the DEC had ruined the mountain for no reason. The majesty of the view was lost. There is nothing like it in the east. It was true that occasionally several chairs would have to be simply put back making it hard to maintain since 1962 when the number six lift was built.

There was never a reason to dismantle the old number six lift except to build a better one as present management has done. After the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) took over the management of Whiteface Mountain, the ORDA wisely kept Robert Perrone as the managing operator of Whiteface. It has taken since 1980 to correct the many mistakes of this interim DEC management. Now Whiteface has the snowmaking and lifts that it needs to make it one of the best mountains to ski in the east. It now once again has the highest lift serviced skiing in the east with the exception of some ski areas in West Virginia and North Carolina which are really too far south for consistent skiing. I am looking forward to skiing those trails from and the summit once again including that new intermediate one.



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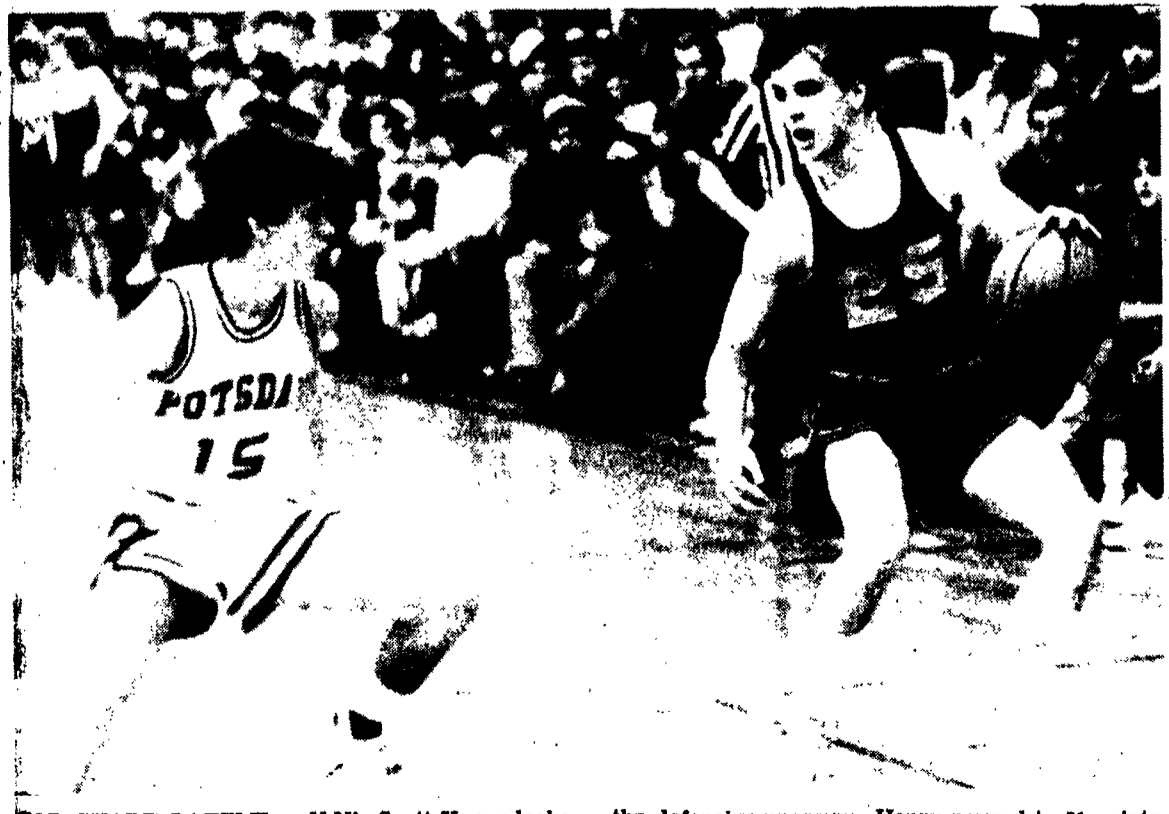
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TOP GUARD BATTLE — N-N's Scott Henry looks for an opening while Potsdam's Kyle Matott applies the defensive pressure. Henry poured in 21 points. (Dan Williams photo)