

Bonnies Miss After Two N.I.T. Wins

Loss To Bradley Eliminates Injuns In Semi-Final Game

The unseeded St. Bonaventure Brown Indians failed, in their fourth straight attempt, to cop an NIT championship, but succeeded in capturing the hearts of New York's basketball fans.

Entering the initial encounter against the Crusaders of Holy Cross with a virus-ridden Tom Stith the Bonnies ran into the incredible shooting of Jack (The Shot) Foley. The Crusaders managed to hold the Bonnies to a 41-41 half time standstill; but Big Tom poured seven straight points through at the start of the second frame to put the game

on ice. "The Shot" proved to be one of the most exceptional shooters the Bonnies have ever seen as he hit with amazing accuracy from all angles of the floor.

Redmen Crushed

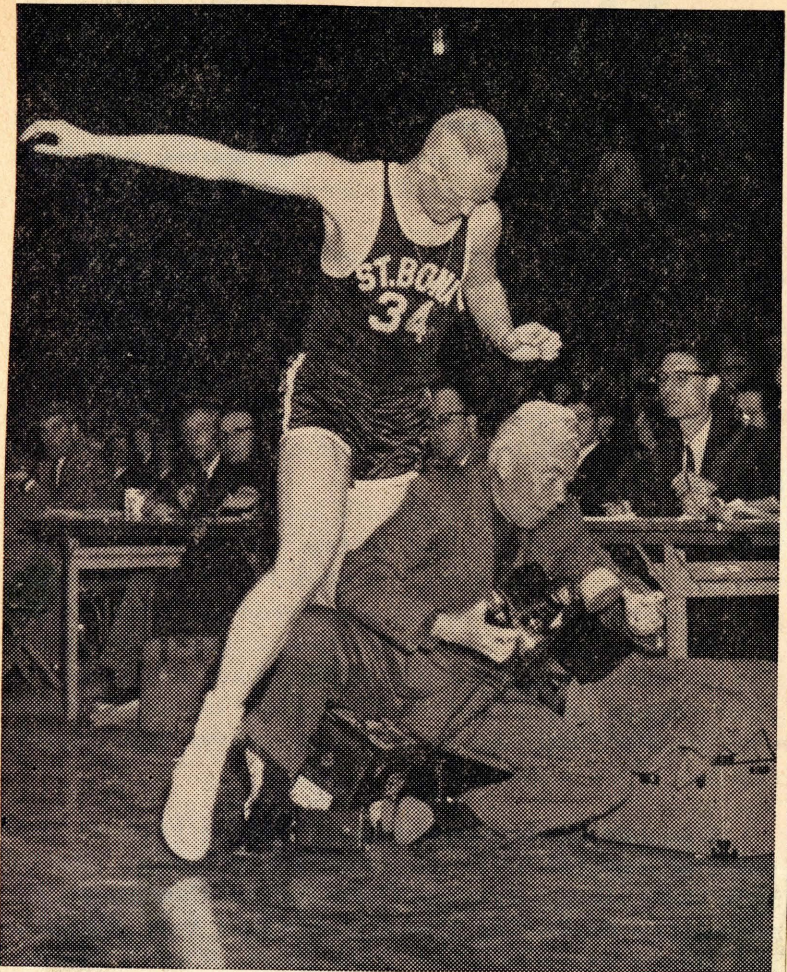
The Bonnies then entered the quarterfinals against defending St. John's of Brooklyn, a slight three point favorite. No one in the vast Madison Square Garden was prepared for the outcome. Ed Petrovick was still on the bench with a shoulder injury and Ed Donovan started Orire Jirele in his spot. The Little O came through with the top performance of his career. Along with Sam and Whitey Martin and

the Donovan Press the Bonnies made short work of the Redmen by stealing the ball seen will. Redmen coach Joe tried every possible back combination to halt the Bonnies to no avail. When the final gun went off the Bonnies had dealt a devastating 106-71 beating.

Bradley Breaks Bubble

The New York Press was now claiming the Bonnies as the darlings of the NIT and their next foe would be the top seeded Bradley Braves. It was here, in this semi-final match, that the Bonnies balloon broke and the fellow who broke the bubble was little Mike Owens. The redheaded whiz did what no one else had been able to do single handedly, he broke the Bonnie Press.

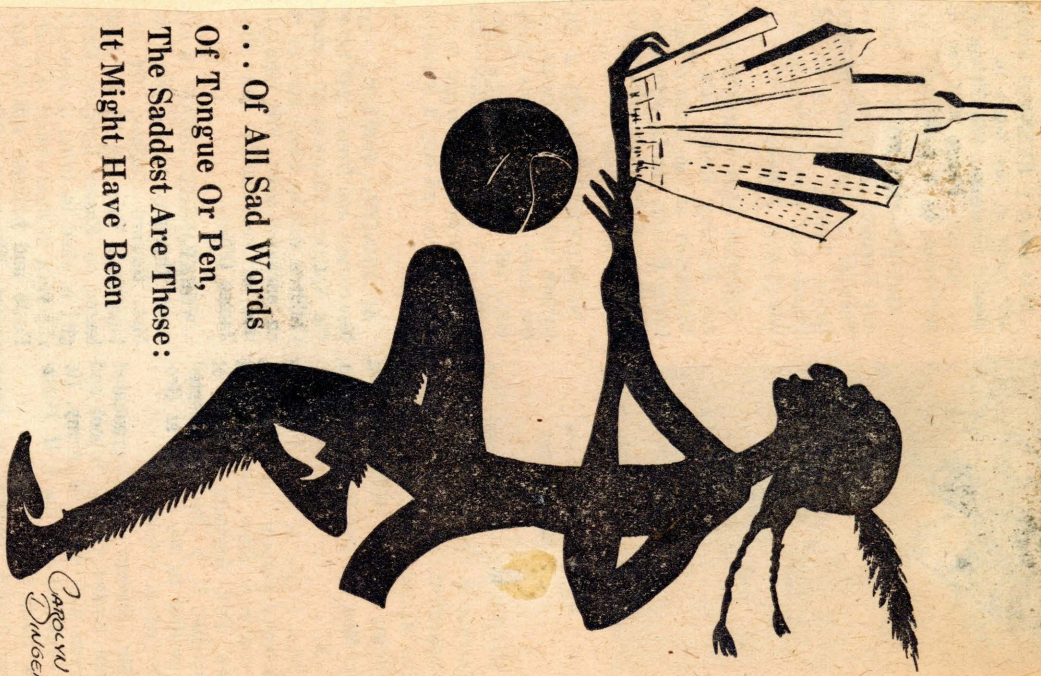
Owens showed some of the slickest ball handling we've ever seen in dribbling past the backcourt and feeding his big men for easy layups and an 81-71 victory.



THE BONNIES' WHITEY MARTIN runs smack into a photographer who couldn't quite get out of the way in NIT action at Madison Square Garden. The mishap occurred in the Bonnies' Consolation loss to Utah State.

St. Bona:

Talk Of Manhattan Before Bradley Game



... Of All Sad Words
Of Tongue Or Pen,
The Saddest Are These:
It Might Have Been

Let's Look Ahead—
With Apologies
To Bradley's Chet

BY MIKE ABDO
Times Herald Sports Editor

NEW YORK CITY — With due apologies to Bradley's Chet Walker and his orange juice-dope scare the other NIT night, let's advance the script a year.

This is 1961 and another National Invitation Basketball Tournament.

St. Bonaventure, in its fifth straight NIT under genius coach Ed Donovan and on the wings of everybody's all-American Tom Stith's 50 point lollapaloozer production over Providence, the vaunted Bonnies have won their first game of the 1961 NIT.

IT'S TWO HOURS before Bonnat's highly-publicized meeting with Bradley, the 1960 NIT champ ... NYC's basketball enthusiasts are wild about the Bonnies and home-grown boy Tom Stith ... Tom, nervous stomach and all, is in his 18th floor room of the Manhattan Hotel.

the door and bring the juice in to me.)

(FRED MOVES toward the door, pushing past assistant manager Shaw. Mike pleads: "No, don't open the door. Don't bring in the juice." Freddy opens door, steps into hallway and, several seconds later, returns to room.) Fred: "He wasn't there. Funny, he must have suspected we knew what he was trying to do. Humm, yeah, funny.")

(Four hours later, in jubilant Bonnie locker room deep in the recesses of Madison Square Garden. The Brown Indians of Ed Donovan are whooping it up. They have just crushed Bradley. New York scribes are raving about college basketball's best-ever team. Donovan asks for silence.)

Coach: "Men, I'm proud of you. My cup of joy is a full one. One thing, though, Freddy, how come you never told me you had a 75 point game in your system?"

Freddy: "Hah coach, it was nothing, I had it in me all the time."

JUNIOR YEAR, NEW YORK CITY