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Aquinas Sports

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THE
PLAYOFFS!

Royals Ready For Playoffs Jenkins Scores 1,000th Pt.

U OF S 74 — WILKES 62

Following their tough loss to Seton Hall, the Royals returned to their more reasonable competition in the MAC when they faced the Wilkes College Colonels for the second time this season. In the season's opener, the Royals had handled the Colonels with some ease, 85-69, but this game, on the road, proved a bit more trying.

From the opening tap, Wilkes played a deliberate offensive game, with the intention of keeping the run-and-shoot Royals away from the ball as much as possible. When the Colonels finally unleashed their artillery, they most frequently ordered sophomore Rubin Daniels to use his long-range gun. And the skinny wing-man responded with six conse-

During the second half, the Colonels slowed their pace even more as they taunted the anxious Royals into making mistakes. Looking offensively powerless and defensively dejected, the befuddled Royals scored but four points in the first six minutes of the second period, all of them on two jumpers by Tim Foley. With 9:17 remaining, the score read 53-51.

Then, Coach Volpe pulled the surprise maneuver of the evening: He ordered his charges to freeze the ball so as to draw the Wilkes defenders to the outside. This was meant to give more room to the big men, of whom Witaconis was the bigger and, thus, the more readily scoreable. In the final six minutes of the game, Charlie netted eight points and he and the quick Moylan combined to

night in years for a University of Scranton basketball team. First, they won another game as convincingly as ever. Second, they clinched a spot in the MAC playoffs by virtue of that win. Third, their captain and leader and all-around good guy, Rhett Jenkins, became the sixth player in U of S history to score 1000 points in his career. What a glorious night!

Fully aware of the importance of that game, the aroused Royals blitzed the startled Moravian Greyhounds from the start. All five of the starters scored as the Royals ran to an early 10-4 lead. Moravian's only means of retaliation came from the shooting of sophomore guards Tom Bonstein and Bill Kemmerer. Still, the Royals' rebounding and running kept the situation happily under control and, within moments after the Royals had taken that early lead, the thoughts of the eagerly hungry fans turned to Jenkins' 1000th point, which was to be his 21st of the game. Glad to please and obviously eager himself, the fluid Jenkins moved outside and attracted defenders as molasses attracts gnats. With the ball, he was a constant threat to either drive or shoot from where he stood and his subsequent feints drew the stings of the gnatty Greyhounds. And so, he converted foul shots with delightful ease while his helpful teammates assisted him nicely.

Midway through the first period, Denny Melofchik took the spotlight as he sank six long jumpers in a row. Then the Royals led, 35-21. When Chick finally relinquished the stage, Charlie Witaconis hopped on and up to the offensive backboard, which he controlled with savage effectiveness. Charlie needs rebounds in order to score and he certainly scored against Moravian. Silent Bob McGrath made two points' worth of noise at the buzzer, at which time the Royals led, 47-36.

In the second half, the Greyhounds were able to cut the Royals' lead to nine early in the period but it wasn't long before Witaconis, Jenkins, McGrath, and Bobby Moylan combined to roar for 16 straight points and an unapproachable 70-46 lead with 11 minutes remaining. Moments later, Mister Jenkins stood at the foul line for the first of two free throws. Almost expectedly, he failed to convert. But, since he rarely misses two free throws in succession, he calmly converted the second and thus scored the 1000th point of his two-year career. The game ended nine minutes and forty-four seconds later.

AFTERTHOUGHTS — This may have been the Royals' greatest effort of the year. . . . Everyone played brilliantly, shooting 65 percent from the floor. . . . Typical was Witaconis' 12 of 16 and Melofchik's 7 of 9. . . . Charlie was high scorer with 33, while Jenkins netted 25. . . . The Greyhounds frozed he ball during the final three minutes but *nothing* could really cool off the Royals that night. . . . Nothing at all.

U OF S 95, MORAVIAN 68
February 16, 1967 was the biggest



In The Maze

by

ALAN MAZZEI

To be an active member of the "Angry Young Sports Editors' Association of Lackawanna County" better known as AYSEALC, one must take an active interest in those activities which attract the attention of the more experienced and dubiously more knowledgeable sports editors in the county. When AYSEALC asked us to broaden our horizons and to painfully leave our little world for a while to see how the big boys spend their space, we purchased some daily newspapers, two to be precise, and immediately discovered that we had never before mentioned the one sport that outranks all of the others in local press preference. How could we be so short-sighted? How could we be so blind as not to publicize that sport of action, "the family-fun game", bowling.

We shuddered when AYSEALC threatened impeachment. We trembled whenever anyone mentioned a *spare* tire or a pants *pocket* or a newspaper *strike*. In desperation, we humbly begged the Association's forgiveness and promised to inform our ignorant readers that such a sport as bowling was truly worthy of all of its publicity. We must confess that our humility was not sincere but merely necessary for survival. But, a promise is a promise and we did promise.

To fulfill our pledge, we immediately turned our unwilling attention to this university's exciting intramural bowling program, whose schedule was conveniently nearing the end of the first half of play. Fortunate we were to witness the match that decided the first-half title. Going into the third and final game, "Is Good" led "We Five Guys" by just nine pins. A victory by "Is Good" would give that team the crown. What excitement!

The excitement didn't last long. The five boys from "Is Good" rolled their opponents under the alley and demolished them by 235 total pins. How did they do it? By totaling 1040 in their third game. That is, each of the five men averaged 208 pins in one game. The exact scores were: Bill Noreika, 191; Jack Garipey, 194; Ron Cronkey, 202; Frank Egan, 207; and Jim Puleo, 246. We were sincerely impressed and thus slightly embarrassed.

An interesting sidelight to the success story of "Is Good" is the fact that every one of the five bowlers is helping to finance his education by working in a supermarket. Recently we stopped at Garipey's place of employment and observed his form as he rolled a pink grapefruit into ten cans of chicken noodle soup. Splat.

ROYALS REVIEWED

U of S 82, Upsala 76

Following a week's layoff due to final exams, the Royals travelled to East Orange, N. J. for an MAC battle against the Vikings of Upsala College. This marked the first Scranton game since the loss to Albright.

The game with Upsala was as lackluster a performance as the Royals have made all year and was definitely their poorest successful effort of the season. Fortunately, the Vikings appeared to want to lose a little more than did our floundering Royals.

U of S 79, Moravian 66

The Royals made a pilgrimage to the Holy City of Bethlehem and were blessed with a victory. In defeating the Moravian Greyhounds in the first game of a home-and-home series, the Royals showed welcome signs of their early-season form. Without question, this win was the best "team" effort of the year to date.

Every one of the five starters hit double figures, with Rhett Jenkins and Bob McGrath pacing the attack with 37 points between them. Their buddies, Bobby Moylan, Charlie Witaconis, and Dennis Melofchik, contributed 35 more among them.

Lafayette 66, U of S 59

Two days after their heartening win at Moravian, the Royals slipped

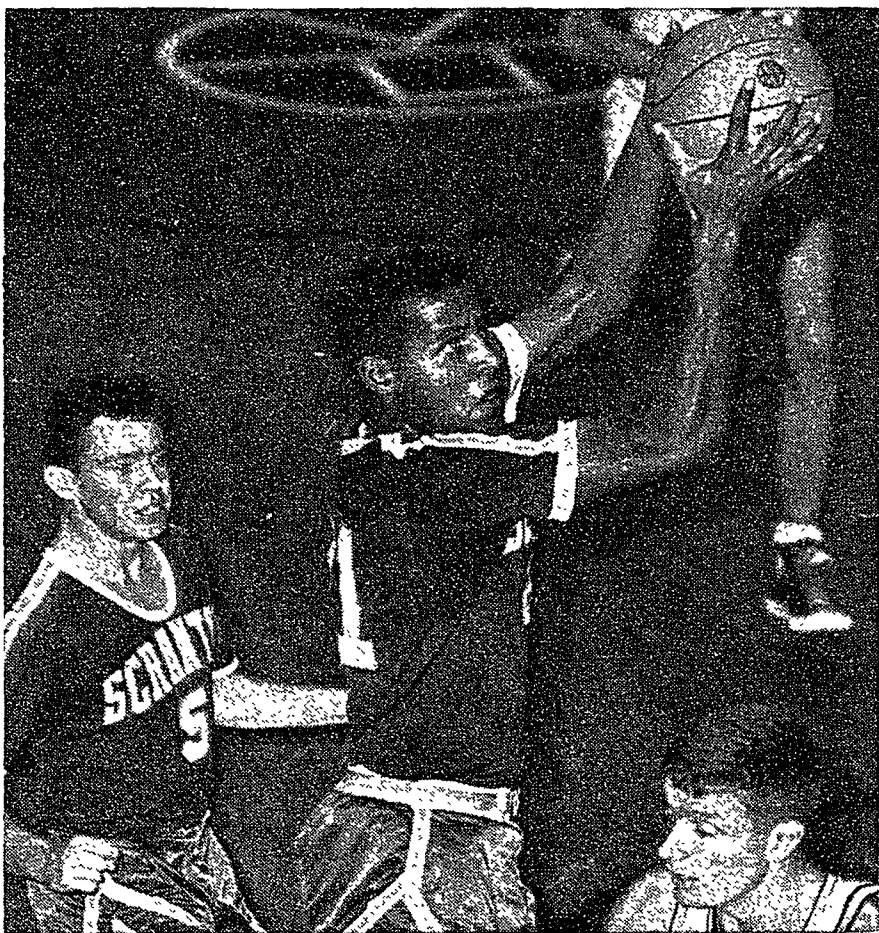
back into their recently developed sluggishness as they fell before the Leopards of Lafayette. The Leopards, having a disappointing season, with only two previous victories, hungrily outran the Royals in the first half and then slowed their attack and eased home at the final whistle.

U of S 104, Muhlenberg 82

Playing their fourth road game in eight days, the repentant Royals returned to early-season form against Muhlenberg, whom they defeated with surprising ease when the Royals' fortunes were low. The big win, a pick-me-up for Scranton players and fans alike, proved the best effort by the Royals since their defeat of Lycoming nearly four weeks before.

Seton Hall 80, U of S 71

The Royals returned to the friendly CYC court after four straight road games. Under normal circumstances, the boys would be expected to be "sky-high" regardless of whom they played. But, the night of February 9 showed the Royals at their emotional peak because their opponents were not of the ordinary MAC variety but of the major-college variety. Throughout the contest, the Pirates of Seton Hall were forced to beat back countless rallies by the Royals, who refused to be beaten officially until the clock ran out.



Rhett "The Jet" Jenkins pumps in another two points as he joins the University 1,000 points club. Jenkins' shooting power is expected to contribute to tomorrow's Royal Revenge on the boys from "Sleepy Valley." (Photo by Ingraffea)

cutive bombs among his 14 first-half points.

Meanwhile, the slowed-down Royals employed a miserably impotent double-post offense with Charlie Witaconis inside the foul circle and Rhett Jenkins under the basket. These two boys were expected to score "at will" because they enjoyed a great height advantage over their defenders. However, one scores only when one shoots and the two big men shot only 16 times, between them, during the entire game. Instead, the guards, Bobby Moylan and Denny Melofchik, contented themselves with attempting to match Daniels' exploits by freely launching missiles toward the basket. That they were reasonably successful gave the Royals a slender eight-point lead at the half, 42-34.

raise the margin to 10 with three minutes to go and to 12 by the end of the game.

AFTERTHOUGHTS—Once again, all of the Royal starters scored in double figures, with Moylan pacing the attack with 21. . . . As evidence of the inability of the little men to get the ball inside was the fact that Moylan and Melofchik attempted five more field goals than did Jenkins, Witaconis, and Bob McGrath combined. . . . Further evidence of the offensive immobility was the Royals' forsaking of foul shots. . . . They tried just 13, their lowest amount of the year. . . . The Wilkes gym was frigid and we played like penguins. . . . Let's go south—to Allentown, for instance.

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