

Cagers bank 88-83 'gift'

Doaty, Angstadt get career marks

By RICK STARR
Collegian Sports Writer

For Bucknell, last night's gut-wrenching, overtime 88-83 loss to Penn State in Rec Hall was "a homer, a gift, a game decided by the officials and not the players."

By the end of the game Bison coach Jim Valvano was seething with anger, furious at his fourth straight loss. Unable to stand still, unable to control his voice, he let all his frustration hang out.

"This was one of the worst ref jobs I've ever seen," Valvano began. "The kids did a good job, but I get very upset when the game is decided by the refs and not the kids. When it comes to that final call, the final thing, the whistle gets caught down here." Valvano said, touching his throat.

Bucknell was unhappy with the second half officiating in general, but it was one play, Lion forward Kevin Burke's defense of Bison guard Tom McLean's breakaway layup, that focused the anger.

The shot went slamming off the backboard, and with it Bucknell's chance for a four point lead with 48 seconds left in overtime.

The referee said it was a blocked shot, a clean move by Burke. Valvano disagreed.

"McLean tells me he was pushed in the back," Valvano said. "I'd like to see films of it. I asked the ref and he said to me, 'I was right there and the kid blew the layup.' But in a pressure game, you tend not to get any calls. I'm not sure what it is.

"I have the upmost respect for officials, basketball is the toughest, the quickest," Valvano said. "But they didn't call it. They let it go. The consistency of this type of thing is what gets me. I think the game was given to State — a gift. I don't want to take anything from their people, but that's how I feel."

As he continued, Valvano began to calm down. He chose his words more carefully.

"We're not really attacking the officials or Penn State as people, but we're 0-4 and it's not fair to the kids," Valvano said. "We did enough things to lose, that's one of the things about this game. It's an L, and it's over. If I can be corny for a moment, my kids have the character to come back. My kids are not discouraged."

McLean also differs with the official judgement on the play. Asked if he was fouled, McLean said, "Yes, from the rear and across the head. If the ref is on the play he should be conscious of it. Yes, I was fouled and the ref should have called it."

McLean also contends Burke grabbed the rim and net, a goaltending violation. Burke had another side of the story.

"McLean smiled at me after the play was over, so I guess he thought I fouled him," Burke said from the more sedate Lion locker room. "One of our assistant coaches told me it looked like a clean block, but naturally it would look clean from our side."

"I think it was a clean block," Burke continued. "But that doesn't matter. It's the man with the striped shirt, it's what he thinks that matters. There's a tendency when you play on the road to feel you're getting screwed, but I'm not agreeing whether they did get a home job or not. The fouls weren't only called on them."

Penn State rebounded McLean's miss and Lion

guard Tommy Doaty scored on the fast break to tie the game at 83-83 with 44 seconds remaining.

Penn State guard Jim Ouderkirk added on a point with 19 seconds to go to make it 84-83 after Lion center Randy Meister grabbed a crucial rebound. Bucknell's Rodger Clark missed the final Bison attempt at the win with three seconds remaining. Burke grabbed the clinching rebound, and he and Meister finished out the game at the foul line, each earning both attempts to give the illusion of a safe 88-83 win.

Penn State took a 47-41 lead into the halftime locker room after a hot-shooting half by Doaty. With his dead-center long bombs, Doaty had 15 points by the half. For Doaty and forward Dave Angstadt, last night's game produced career high point totals of 22 and 16 respectively.

Bucknell meanwhile did most of its first half attacking from close range, seldom shooting from longer than 12 feet. Ouderkirk, who played the entire game without a rest until being slightly injured late in the second half, had 10 points by the half while Angstadt was in with 11.

Meister started the second half with three fouls and it took Bucknell a minute and a half to put him back on the bench with his fourth. Romel Raffin, Penn State's 6-8 backup center, replaced him, but was also in foul trouble until he bit the dust with 14 minutes remaining.

While Meister watched, Ouderkirk put on a shooting exhibition, hitting five straight long jumpers that gave Penn State its biggest lead of the night at 66-53 with 13:13 left to play.

At that point Bucknell almost lost it, but the Bisons stopped missing, put it back together and four and a half

minutes later they had it tied 67-67.

At this point Meister was sent back into the lineup, and made several crucial moves as the score moved through the 70's, with ties at 75, 77 and 79.

With 35 seconds left in regulation play, Penn State put on a stall for the final shot, a long jumper which Doaty missed. Bucknell rebounded with four seconds remaining, but couldn't score after a time out.

With the score knotted at 79-79, the teams moved into overtime.

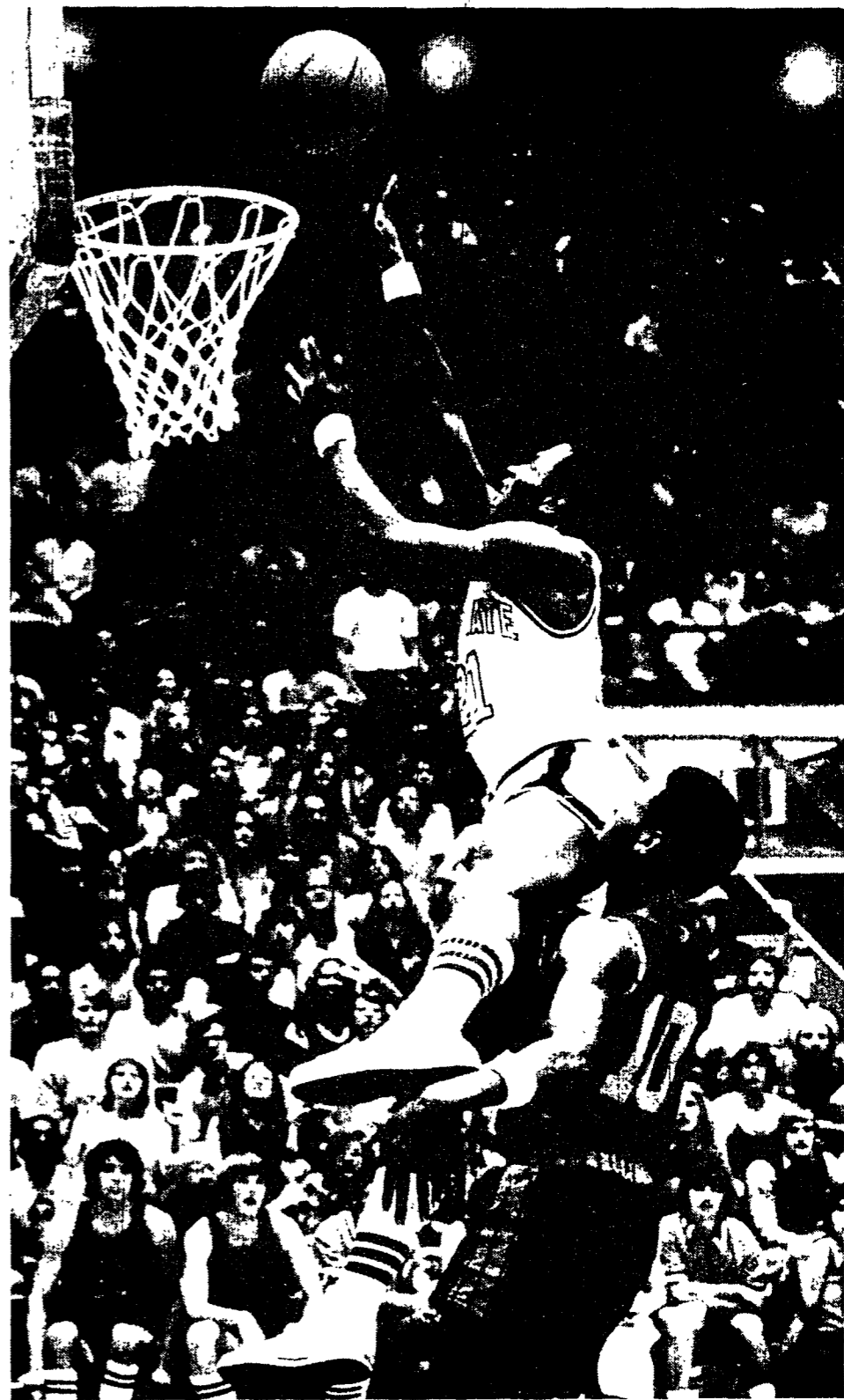
After a minute's play, Bucknell took a two-point lead on a shot by forward John Calloway, but Penn State tied it again at 81-81 with a Meister tip-in.

Bucknell's Sam Stettler then drove around Meister to once again put the Bison's up by two at 83-81.

Bucknell then went to the stall after regaining the ball on an Ouderkirk missed shot with 1:26 to go. The strategy didn't work though, as Bison guard Gerry Purnell walked with the ball.

The ball changed hands two more times before McLean picked off Burke's pass to set up the breakaway that caused all the commotion.

	G	F	T
Bucknell	6	3	15
Purnell	1	0	2
Oristaglio	7	4	18
Stettler	4	2	10
Clark	2	0	4
Heblich	0	0	0
Gravely	0	0	0
McLean	8	0	16
Werner	1	0	2
Griffin	1	0	2
Calloway	4	4	12
Grenoman	0	2	2
Totals	34	15	83
	G	F	T
Penn State	10	2	22
Doaty	6	4	16
Angstadt	11	1	23
Ouderkirk	2	2	6
Burke	6	4	16
Meister	1	1	3
Raffin	1	0	2
Preston	1	0	2
Totals	37	14	88



Tommy Doaty gets 'way up there for two more

Photo by Steven Adkins McCurry



Randy Meister cannot remain in this position if Penn State is going to achieve the potential it shows

Photo by Eric Felack



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Problems in Penn State pivot

"We've still got a long way to come," Jim Ouderkirk said last night. Another six feet, nine-and-one-half inches would be great for starters.

Six feet, nine-and-one-half inches just happens to be the official Penn State press guide measurement of Randy Meister's height. And Meister, the Lions' senior center, looks to be what's keeping Penn State from having some kind of a fair-to-middlin' basketball team.

Personal fouls forced John Bach to sit his big man down in the first half of Penn State's 88-83 win, with time enough for backup Romel Raffin to pick up his own four personals before the halftime buzzer. Penn State had a 46-41 edge, but was losing defensive rebounds and suffering accordingly.

Randy returned for the second stanza, but at 18:33 another no-no, his fourth, again drew the curtain. Raffin fouled out at 13:59 and Bach went to Bill Botts, an inexperienced junior.

Finally, after Penn State's 66-53 lead toppled to 67-65, Meister returned to the action. He managed to maneuver for a few baskets in key situations, but Penn State's overall showing had to make you scream for a big man. The Lions are gradually picking up that running game. There were full-court passes like the team must've been watching Tom Shuman during the Pitt football game. The shooting was no less than efficient. But when 6-2 Tommy Doaty has got to get in there and scrape for a rebound, neither running nor sweat nor chalk nor blackboards will help.

Bach knows problems

"We know that we have rebounding problems," and obviously relieved Bach said later. "We also know that we have to work with Meister and Raffin.



Jeff Young
Sports Editor

Botts hurt his ankle Friday. Chris Erichsen hasn't cleared up his academic problems yet. We aren't gonna be a good team until we solve our rebounding problems."

But Bach was not inclined to blame the difficulties on Raffin, a sophomore with much to learn, or any of his other reserves. He lamented Meister's foul troubles.

"A lot of it is he's just foul-prone. He falls into the damn things. I told him he's gonna have to rise above it. It upsets our offense, upsets everything."

Meister himself appears uncertain, unclear as to the situation.

"The trouble's mainly within myself," he said. "I don't know. I haven't been able to get myself moving, to get myself into the game until late. I guess I just have to get into 'em really early."

Bach has been quoted as saying that the season rests on Meister, "or at least on his example." After going into overtime with a team that they could've blown off the floor, the Lions can hardly think otherwise. Bach has also been quoted as saying that Meister has "other goals, academic goals" on his mind. This is indeed admirable, but here's hoping

that while on the court, such goals are being nudged aside for field goals. Or, what looks more important right now, rebounds.

Where are the fans?

Meanwhile, Meister was not alone in his apparent slumber. A crowd of fans seemed little more than listless for nearly the entirety of the regulation 40 minutes. It took a last-ditch battle and an overtime period to shake them up.

Penn State is obviously not what's called a basketball school but from the sound of things Rec Hall might've been hosting one of those junior high school games where the cheerleaders seem so ineffectual because nobody else is interested.

"I hope people saw that we have improved our offense," Bach said later. "It's been a long time since we scored 88 points in a game. They're much more competitive than last year. I told 'em they're a gutsy bunch."

Bach said he felt proud of his team last night, but it's doubtful from observing the crowd that they realized much of what was going on down there. Penn State fans have proven themselves a spoiled lot during football season and they may eclipse that performance at their present rate.

FREE THROWS—Last night was the 600th game of Bach's career. Lifetime, he stands at 346-254 for a .376 winning percentage...With his 23 points, Jim Ouderkirk led the cagers for the second game in a row. He now averages 16.6 a game... Bucknell guards Gerry Purnell and Tom McLean impressed with their moves and scoring (16 for McLean, 15 for Purnell). "We knew they had quick guards," said Bach. He may really know it before they graduate, with McLean a sophomore and Purnell a freshman.



Photo by Eric Felack

John Bach makes a point here. He knows he's got more to make

Eight teams prepare for football playoffs

NEW YORK (AP)—Now that the National Football League knows which eight teams will be in its playoffs beginning Saturday, Dec. 21, the next question is what the matchups will be.

The last vacant playoff berth was nailed down Monday night by Washington when the Redskin victory over Los Angeles ended the slim National Conference hopes of the Dallas Cowboys and Detroit Lions.

The Redskins join St. Louis, Minnesota and Los Angeles in the NFC playoffs with Oakland, Miami, Buffalo and Pittsburgh set for the AFC's post-season action.

In the AFC, Oakland, the West

Division champion, will host East titlist Miami on Dec. 21 and Buffalo, the wild card team, will be at Central Chicago Pittsburgh the next day.

The NFC picture isn't quite as simple. Minnesota, the Central champion, will be at home on Dec. 21 and West champion Los Angeles, will be at home the next day.

The missing NFC detail at the moment is just where Washington and St. Louis will play. The two teams are tied for the East Division lead with 9-4 records with one week left in the season. Washington plays Chicago and St. Louis hosts the New York Giants Sunday.

Under the NFL's tie-breaking formula, if the Cardinals beat the

Giants they will win the division no matter what the Redskins do against Chicago because St. Louis beat Washington in their two meetings this season.

The East champions will play at Minnesota while the other East playoff club becomes the wild-card team and opens in Los Angeles.

All four first-round playoff games will be nationally televised with doubleheaders both days. The winners advance to conference championship games scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 29.

Site priorities for the NFC title game are East, Central, West. That means that with either St. Louis or Washington, both East teams,

playing Central champion Minnesota in the first round, the winner of that game will host the title game.

In the AFC, championship game site priorities are West, Central, East. If Oakland beats Miami in the first round, the Raiders would host the title game. If the Dolphins win that first game, they would host the championship game only if Buffalo beats Pittsburgh. Should the Dolphins and Steelers win their playoff openers, the AFC title game would be played in Pittsburgh.

The conference champions meet in the Super Bowl Jan. 12 in New Orleans.

Meanwhile, the other 18 NFL teams finish their season Sunday.

Braves bomb Sixers

BUFFALO (AP)—Randy Smith and Garfield Heard led a third-quarter rally which helped the Buffalo Braves to a 101-91 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers last night in the National Basketball Association.

The Braves got eight points from Smith and six from Heard and a star defensive performance from each as they out-scored the 76ers 32-15 in the third quarter and took charge.

Buffalo shot 58 per cent in that period to Philadelphia's 28 per cent and out-rebounded Philadelphia 21-13 for an 81-63 lead. It was only 49-48 Buffalo at the half after the 76ers scored nine points in a row before intermission.

Bob McAdoo was Buffalo's high scorer with 25 points. He added 21 rebounds. Heard contributed 19 points and 16 rebounds, and Smith had 18 points. Heard also had five blocked shots and a couple of steals.

Fred Carter scored 20 points while Doug Collins added 19 to the Philadelphia offense.

Farkas paces women to 19th straight victory

Penn State's women bowlers ran their consecutive win streak to 19 in a row yesterday as the Lady Lions out-rolled Edinboro 2459-2178 in Rec Hall.

Amy Farkas lead the Penn State gal keepers with a high series of 540 (197-179-164). The junior had the highest series for either team.

The surprise of the match was that Penn State's number one bowler, Pat McCellan could not make the contest. McCellan was the top scorer on last year's team.

The Lady Lions are 1-0 so far this year. Edinboro's record was evened up at 1-1. The women travel to Glenville this Saturday.

— Brian Miller