

Indians lose to Mounts in playoff



Looking a bit like Mighty Mouse, Indian Kris McCue sails past 6-4 and 6-5 foot Mounts. McCue was the only Indian who managed to break through Ephrata's zone defense with much success. He scored 14 points in the game. McKercher scored 16, Fellenbaum 10 and Miller 4.

The Donegal basketball team had a bad night at Hempfield last week, when the Ephrata Mountaineers outscored them 70-46 in the Lancaster-Lebanon League playoff. (The Mounts dropped their title to Cedar Crest at Hershey on Friday in overtime.)

Donegal will take a shot at Distric 3 AA honors beginning this Friday, when they challenge Lancaster Catholic at Penn Manor.

There were a lot of good reasons for Ephrata's victory over Donegal. The Mounts are a taller team, and they have the stamina to keep up with Donegal's fast-paced style of play.

But the Indian's biggest problem last Wednesday was in their own fingertips. They just couldn't hit the basket.

The Indians had a well-deserved reputation as expert marksmen during their 14-0 regular season. Against Ephrata, they sank only 19 of their 66 field goal attempts.

Their characteristic 50 percent accuracy would have given them the game.

Why couldn't the Indians shoot? Maybe it was the huge gym and the sold-out crowd and the pressure of a big game.

The Mounts grabbed the lead and the psychological

edge early in the game, but the Indians stayed right at their heels until halftime.

John Fellenbaum brought Donegal to within a point of the Mounts with a jump shot in the second period. After that, Ephrata's zone defense congealed into a thick mass of bodies under the basket.

The Indians had to settle for outside shots—the kind of shots they have been sinking all year. They missed.

The Mounts, with 6-5 Bob Gungelman and 6-4 John Von Nieda under the boards, grabbed 2/3 of the resulting rebounds.

The shorter Indians countered by taking their chance with the outside shot, then sending the whole team after rebounds.

With every man on the Donegal squad rushing at the basket, the Mounts were able to set up a fast break. The Indians had to run like supermen to catch up.

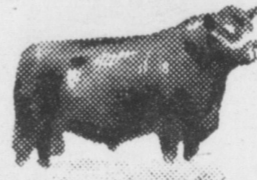
Then effort was too much. The Indians began to weaken physically.

Their shooting got wilder, and the pressure leaked out of their defense.

The Mounts were able to play their relaxed, careful game. They set up plays neatly, and got lots of easy inside shots.

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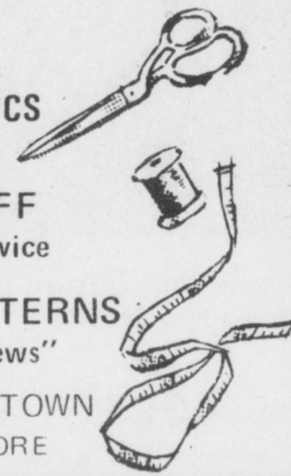
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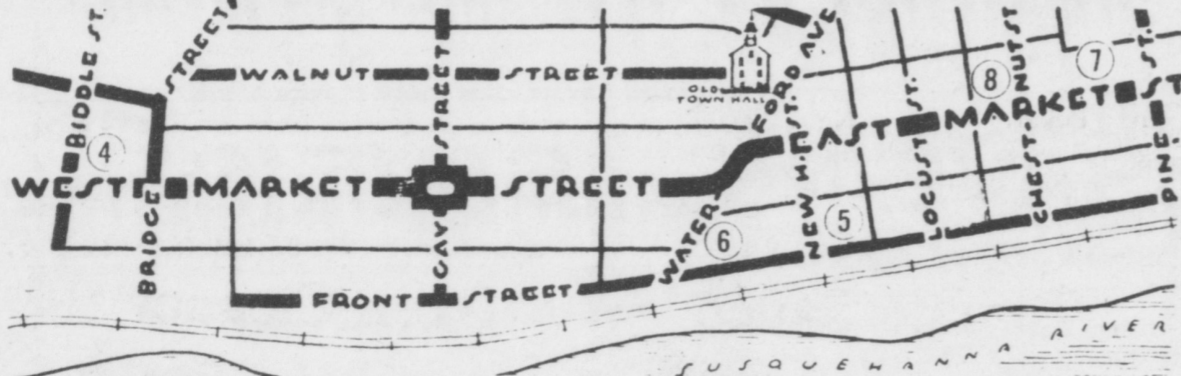
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