

Catholic and Camden

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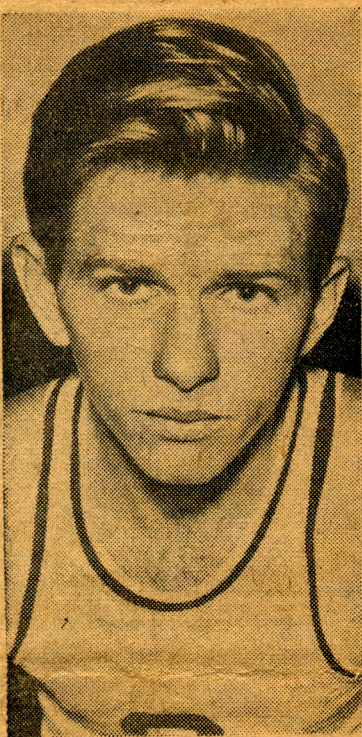
M'GRAW'S 2 FOUL GOALS GIVE 'IRISH', 42-41, WIN

Blakermen End Long Losing Streak by Outplaying 'Colls' in 39-33 Victory

DI SERVIO, QUICK STAR FOR PURPLE AND GOLDS

Followers of both Camden High and Camden Catholic should be in high spirits today, despite the rainy weather.

The Purple and Gold basketmen,



JACK MCGRAW

seeking to break into the win column since January 7, finally snapped the jinx in the last half of a twin-bill at Convention Hall last night. They picked on Collingswood, leading contenders for the Camden-Suburban League championship, to gain their first major triumph of the season. The score was 39-33. It was one of the biggest surprises of the basketball season.

In the other part of the dual attraction, the "Fighting Irish" put on a stirring second-half rally to upset Merchantville in a hair-raising tiff. The "Merchants," who led most of the battle, genuflected by a 42-41 score.

The two clubs will close their regular season on March 1, when they pair off in a city series game. A win for Camden Catholic would enable them to finish in a tie for the city championship with Woodrow Wilson High, while a loss would give the latter combination undisputed possession of the title.

Last night's games were loaded with tingling moments and had a crowd of 1900 on their feet throughout.

While it was a heart-breaker for Merchantville to lose, the "Irish"

deserve plenty of credit for they were forced to stage one of the toughest uphill fights witnessed here for some time.

McGraw's Fouls Decide

And it remained for young Jack "Muggsie" McGraw to come through when the chips were down. Only 54 seconds of the game remained and the "Merchants" were leading 41-40 when Jack stepped on the 15-foot mark to calmly sink a brace of penalty casts to give the Barrymen a hard earned victory and to also send the Green and White followers into wild demonstration.

During the major portion of the game, the "Irish" were forced to play without the services of their star center, Bob Olesiewicz, who in the first five minutes of the game had three personal fouls inflicted upon him. He was then removed from the game by Coach Barry and Tom Kenney, who replaced him, did nobly in a substitute role. "Ossie" did get back into the game in the second quarter, but left it for good shortly after the third session opened, but his loss only made the locals fight that much harder to finally gain the victory.

Not once during the first half did Catholic hold the lead, the "Merchants" going into the third period on the long end of a 26-17 count. But when they resumed action the "Irish" started percolating and drew within two points of the "Merchants" at 32-30.

Caridi Puts Irish Ahead

McGraw knotted the count with a field goal and Caridi followed with another two-pointer to put Catholic out in front for the first time. McGraw added a foul to make the count 35-32. Merchantville then started a scoring spree with Joe Heckers sinking a pair of double-deckers and Bob Emerson one to give Bob Elder's charges a 38-35 margin.

Caridi dropped in a free throw, but Heckers again found the cords for a two-pointer and Fetterman added a foul for Merchantville's final point of the fracas.

With only about two minutes to go Catholic began its winning spree when Kenney caged a field goal and Schmid duplicated to make the count read 41-40. At this point with only 54 seconds remaining, McGraw was fouled in the act of shooting and made good both tosses to clinch the battle in Catholic's favor.

McGraw paced the attack for Catholic with 11 points on four field goals and three penalty casts, while Schmid was a close second with nine counters. Emerson, Howard Straub and Heckers sparkled on the offense for Merchantville, the former pacing his mates with 14 points on six field goals and two free throws.

MERCHANTVILLE					CAM. CATHOLIC				
Fld	FT	P	P		Fld	FT	P	P	
Fett'man.f	0	2	2	2	Caridi.f...	1	1	2	3
Heckers.f	4	2	3	10	McGraw.f	4	3	4	11
Sleeth.c...	1	2	3	4	Oles'icz.c	1	4	4	6
Straub.g...	5	1	1	11	Puc'ski.g	1	1	2	3
Emerson.g	6	2	5	14	Ack'm'n.g	2	0	1	4
Grane.f...	0	0	1	0	Kenney.c	3	0	1	6
					Franks.g	0	0	0	0
					Schmid.g	4	1	1	9
					Heigh.f...	0	0	0	0
Totals...	16	9	15	41	Totals...	16	10	15	42
Score by periods:									
Merchantville	14	12	6	9	41			
Cam. Catholic	4	13	13	12	42			