

sports

Givens leads Kentucky to hoop crown

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Explosive Jack Givens, continually finding seams in the Duke zone, fired in a near-record 41 points Monday night, and Kentucky's pressure-proof Wildcats roared to a 94-88 victory over the Blue Devils in the championship game of the 40th NCAA basketball tournament.

The Wildcats, playing under what Coach Joe Hall called the most intense pressure of his six-year career at Kentucky, clinched their fifth national title behind a brilliant one-man show by their 6-foot-4 senior.

The left-handed Givens scored 23 of his points in the first half to power the nation's No. 1 team to a 45-38 lead at intermission, then continued his one-man assault on the basket in the second half.

Duke was able to stay in the game in the first half by virtue of its brilliant free throw shooting. The nation's top foul-shooting team made its first 12 attempts from the

line and finished with 20 of 21 for the half.

Givens sank three baskets during an 11-2 burst as the Wildcats moved into a 66-50 lead with 12:42 left in the game. That mountainous 16-point lead was enough for Kentucky to withstand a flurry by the Atlantic Conference playoff champions, who fought back valiantly but could get no closer than four points.

In fact with a lead of seven points, Hall began to substitute. Then, finding his team's lead slowly eroding, he had to let his regulars return to the game. Givens performance was just three points shy of the record for an NCAA championship final set by Bill Walton, who scored 44 points for UCLA in this same building against Memphis State in 1973. At that time, the building was known as the St. Louis Arena; it is now called the Checkerdome.

A crowd of 18,721 gave Givens a standing ovation, roaring his nickname of "Goose" as the brilliant Kentucky forward left the game with 26 seconds remaining. He later returned with the rest of the starters.

The Blue Devils made a frantic rally near the end of the game and cut Kentucky's once-formidable lead to 92-86 after Hall had removed his seniors from the lineup in the last half-minute.

Then, with 10 seconds left and Kentucky's regulars back on the floor, Mike Gminski hit a 15-foot jump shot to trim it to 92-88. But Givens, Rick Robey and company held to clinch the Wildcats' victory.

After Kentucky broke Duke's full-court press, James Lee, considered by many the best sixth man in college basketball, put the finishing touches on the triumph

with a dazzling slam dunk in the closing seconds.

The victory was especially sweet for Hall, who had insisted in his pre-game press conference Monday that his senior-studded team had faced almost unbearable pressure during the season because of its top national ranking for all but two weeks of the year. He also talked about pressure from the Kentucky fans, who wanted nothing less than a national championship from the start of the season.

They were pinned with the label

"the Fold-up Five" by some of their hard-line fans, even though they lost just two games in 32 all year.

Hall, however, was greeted by the song, "My Old Kentucky Home," as he stepped to center court to receive the NCAA championship trophy, the burden of the tough year having been lifted from his shoulders.

In the consolation game, Arkansas took third place by beating Notre Dame 71-69 on Ron Brewer's turn-around jumper from the top of the key at the final buzzer.

Baseball out of A's hassle

NEW YORK (AP) — Commissioner Bowie Kuhn said Monday that Oakland A's owner Charles O. Finley's refusal to accept certain non-financial terms for selling his team and having it transferred to Denver has caused baseball to withdraw from negotiations.

"We are terminating our efforts to work out a solution to move Oakland to Denver," Kuhn said.

Originally, Finley had balked at paying more than \$1 million of the \$3.25 million required to settle the A's lease with the Oakland Coliseum stadium. But Kuhn said money was no longer a problem and that Finley's original commitment of \$1 million would be sufficient.

"We've told him that if the other matters could be worked out the money would not be a problem," the commissioner said.

Bliss sixth at nationals

Scott Bliss was the only Oregon wrestler to place in the NCAA wrestling meet held at Maryland, March 16-18.

Bliss finished sixth in the 150-pound class after losing twice to top seed Joe Zupan of Oklahoma. Zupan finished fifth in the weight division.

Seniors Dan Hollembaek and Randy Besaw both won opening matches, as did sophomore Don Brown, but all were eliminated in subsequent rounds.

Iowa upended defending champion Iowa State for the team title.

Prep gymnasts sign with Ducks

The top two Oregon prep women gymnasts have signed letters of intent to attend the University and compete for Henriette Heiny's squad.

Sara Gustafson from Parkrose High won the state all-around title last fall while Dawn Haberland of Sunset High was second.

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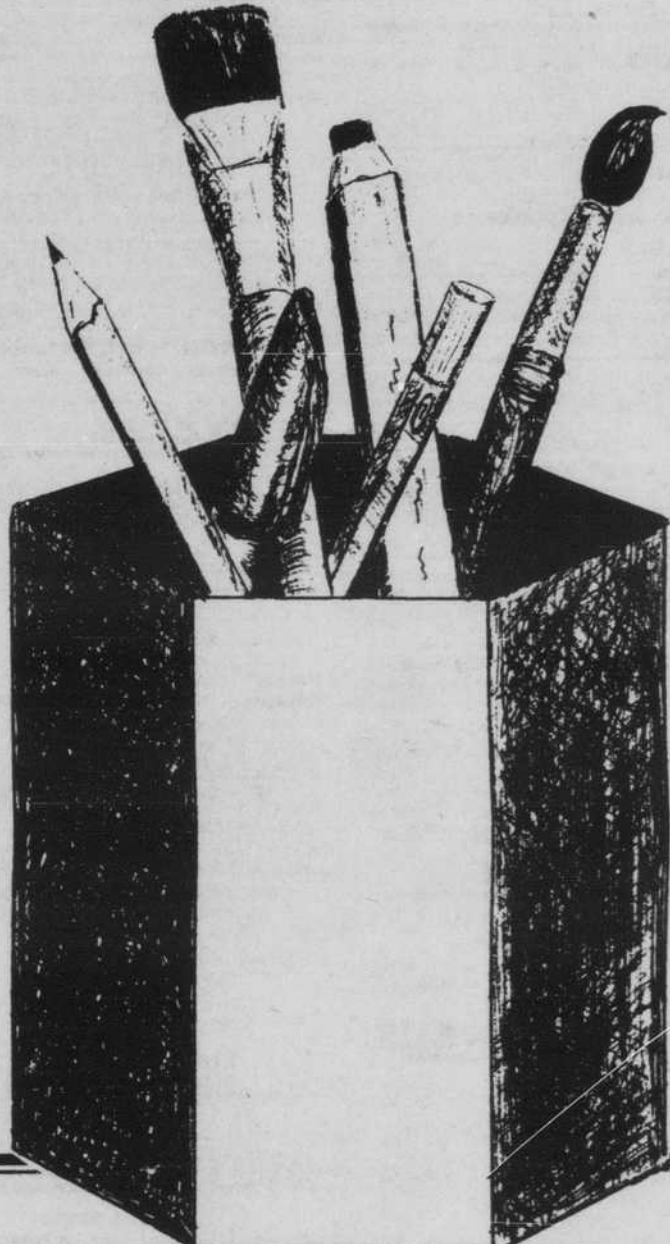
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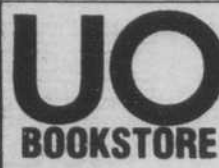
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