

OFF
THE
BACKBOARD

By J. E. O'BRIEN

FOR A WHILE last night it looked like old times at the Tech gym—times when basketball points were precious and forwards and guards and centers didn't romp around like two-year-old colts and a popcorn vendor could make change without missing four baskets.

There was the half-time score—Tech, 10; Cathedral, 10—and you knew it was correct for its keeping was in the capable hands of Brother Mel and Coach Robert Ball. Mr. Ball seemed especially delighted with the state of affairs at the midway point, since he is one of the old school that believes a two-pointer should be shot with two hands and that a firework has no place except in a hose house.

Really, friends, you don't realize what a comfort it is to follow a game of roundball and be able to keep up with the scoring. But if we were able to keep up with the scoring, Cathedral wasn't able to keep up with Tech until the final few minutes of that first half when a couple of free tosses by Ott Hurrie and Jim O'Neal squared things. Up to that time the Greencads had managed to stay a head in front of the Irish, while Cathedral's Hurrie was careful not to bump the injured nose of Tech's Roy Hurley, and young Hurley was showing the same regard for Hurrie's sore proboscis.

MAYBE THIS retarded style of play was more what the crowd wanted, for the gentleman to our left said Tech's yelling was its loudest of the season. After all, a cheer leader can't do much with a couple hundred youthful throats if he works in perpetual fear of being flattened on a fast break.

But this peaceful pace was gone when the third quarter opened, and most of the blame can be laid on a tow-headed Tech sophomore who goes under the monicker of Bob Wilson. Young Wilson, who isn't very long or very wide, shot thrice from the field during this eight minutes and made every one and did the same stunt from the free throw bar. All of Wilson's field goals were from the outfit, where a guy has to depend on his eye and not his height or mobility.

Thanks to Mr. Wilson, Tech had a 25-20 lead at the three-quarter mark, and the situation wasn't what Coach Joe Harmon would have called pleasant. But his Irish, under the guidance of Hurrie, clipped the Greencads' margin to three points and managed to stay within this distance for a while.

THEN WILSON connected again from the free bar, Hoot Meyer slipped under and Harry Hagan showed his marksmanship at the foul line. Meanwhile, Cathedral was being forced to work under a close guard and couldn't shake anybody loose. The final score, if you haven't heard, was Tech, 34; Cathedral, 26.

Through the courtesy of the gentleman to our left, we can tell you that Tech buckled 11 of 41 field goal attempts for a mark of .288, while Cathedral scored direct hits on 10 of 52 tries for a .192 percentage.

This same gentleman to our left—who is a rabid Tech supporter, even though his dad teaches at Howe—said the Greencads are hitting the basket now the way they should and he said as he left that we might warn Rushville to beware Wednesday night.

Mr. Ball shook his head as he left and muttered something about the kids running their legs off these days.

Cage Scores

STATE COLLEGES
Indiana, 48; Kentucky, 45.
Indiana State, 31; Cornell, 31.
NEW YORK COLLEGES
Princeton, 30; Michigan, 29.
LaSalle, 41; Santa Clara, 35.
Creighton, 37; Michigan State, 23.
Cornell, 47; St. Louis, 42.
Pittsburgh, 48; Ohio State, 34.
Cornell, Wayne, 35; East Claire (Wis.), 32.
Georgia, 32; Florida, 65 (overtime).
Davis-Elliott, 49; Houston College, Jersey, 48.
Duke, 48; North Carolina, 46.
St. Mary's, 44; Utah State, 42.
Denver, 38; Western, 32.
HIGH SCHOOLS
Tech, 34; Cathedral, 26.
Virginia Poly., 42; Langley Field, 41.

Gets Ace at 62

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Dec. 31 (CNA)—Pop Galligan, 62, pro at the Capitol View Golf Club, got his first hole in one in 50 years recently, scoring an ace on a 165-yard par 3 hole.

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