

# DiGregorio Has 30--Maryland Bows, 103-89

By GORDON S. WHITE Jr.

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CHARLOTTE, N. C., March 17—Although Ernie DiGregorio, one of the nation's best shooting guards, fouled out with 11½ minutes remaining, Providence held its lead and even increased it to defeat Maryland, 103-89, today in the East Regional final of the National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball championship.

Few, if any, of the 11,400 fans in Charlotte Coliseum and the millions watching on national television, could have given Providence much chance after the Friars' outstanding shooter and ball-handler left the game.

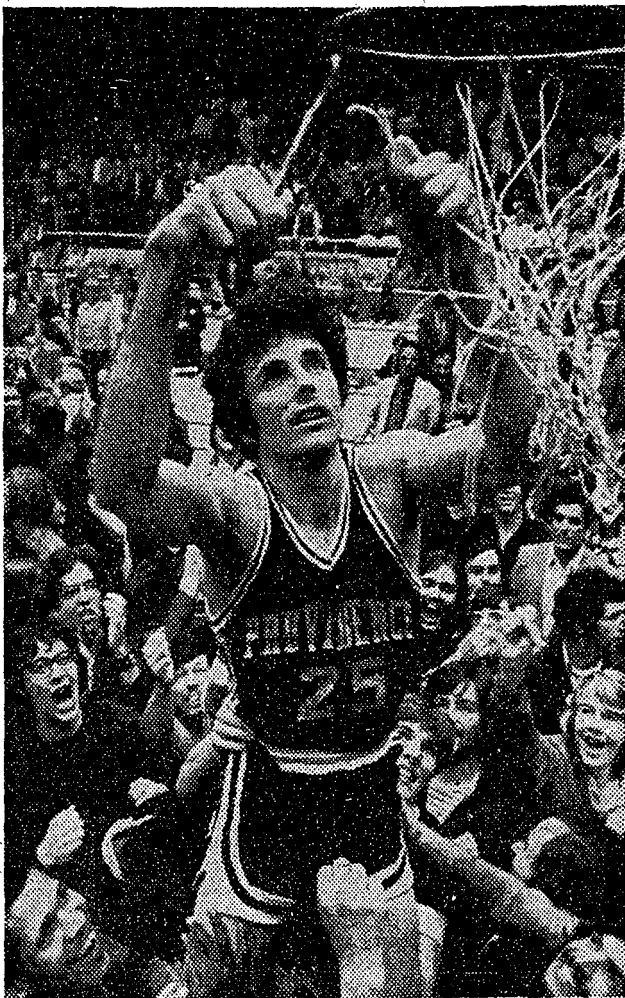
## Lead Appears Smaller

Providence had a 12-point lead (71-59) at the time, but the lead appeared much smaller with the 6-foot senior sidelined. A man who can hit from 30 feet or inside, he had scored 30 points in 27 minutes, making his last 2 points on a driving layup that felled Maryland's Len Elmore. That was DeGregorio's fifth personal foul and put him out of the game.

Providence advanced to the N.C.A.A. semifinals at St. Louis, where the Friars will meet the midwest regional winner next Saturday.

DiGregorio made 24 points in the first half but went to the dressing room with four personal fouls. Coach Dave Gavitt of Providence didn't hesitate in starting the little

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United Press International

**Kevin Stacom of Providence cutting down the net after team downed Maryland for East Regional victory in Charlotte, N. C., yesterday. Score was 103 to 89.**

# PROVIDENCE TOPS MARYLAND, 103-89

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shooter in the second half and everyone knew the way things were going, it would be just a matter of time before DiGregorio drew his fifth and fouled out.

Each of the fouls was an offensive foul—a rarity for such a fine playmaker and ball-handler.

After the game, DiGregorio said, "I was unhappy with the calls, most of them. When I fouled out, I was scared but still had great confidence in the guys. They were super."

DiGregorio, who scored 18 points when Providence beat Penn in the East semifinal round Thursday night, was the unanimous choice of 71 sports writers for the all-tournament team and the choice of 65 as the outstanding player in the East regional.

Syracuse defeated Penn, 69-68, on Rudy Hackett's basket with 6 seconds remaining in the consolation game for third place. The Quakers held a 15-point lead with 13½ minutes to go.

Providence, which is ranked fourth in the nation, trailed Maryland, 51-50, at intermission. A fast tempo in the first half resulted in the lead changing 11 times.

Gavitt said, "The situation didn't look bright at half-time with my little Italian friend . . . carrying four fouls. But I told the team to play defense. I told them I didn't think Maryland is a good defensive team so go out there and play tough defense."

Maryland did not play nearly so strong a defense as Providence. It was the failure of the Terrapins' 1-3-1 zone press early in the second half that enabled the Friars to get just the lead they wanted. Providence just released quickly and the defense was left far behind. The Friars scored 10 straight points to lead, 62-53, after 3½ minutes of the second half.

DiGregorio was still in the game and he hit for 4 of those 10 big points. Marvin Barnes, Providence's big middle man, was scoring, too, and he was getting quick release tosses over Maryland for easy layups.

With this "comfortable" lead, Providence was able to play the zone defense it wants to play most of the time. At the start of the game and for those times Providence trailed, the Friars had to play man to man, a difficult task against such tall men as Tom McMillen, Elmore, Jim O'Brien and Owen Brown.

When DiGregorio left the game, Providence remained in a zone defense and it worked. For a while the Friars were even able to make quick-release and fast-break scores that kept them in front until Maryland became desperate as time ran out. Then the Friars easily increased the margin as those who felt Providence had to lose without Ernie D became believers.

The loss of such a player would be felt by any team and it should have been felt even more by Providence, which is not deep in talent. Basically a six-man team throughout the season, Providence used only

those six men against Maryland.

It was the work of Barnes, Fran Costello, Kevin Stacom, Charles Crawford and Nehru King that kept alive the Friars' chances for an N.C.A.A. title. Crawford and King are the fifth and sixth men, depending upon the situations.

McMillen, the 7-foot Maryland player, who confused a lot of college recruiters three years ago when he couldn't make up his mind on a college, did well in the first half. But when Maryland had its best chance to win, the lanky native of Mansfield, Pa., was no threat to the much quicker Friars. It was Elmore Providence feared under the boards. John Lucas, the amazing Maryland freshman who can drive inside and control his team well, was another problem.

But Elmore fouled out eventually and Lucas and Jim O'Brien were limited by the strong Providence zone. However, Lucas had 20 points.

Stacom scored 24 points. The 6-4 junior from Elmont, L.I., got two quick baskets just after DiGregorio left to give ample notice Providence was not giving up.

Maryland's Lefty Driesell,



Associated Press

Lefty Driesell, Maryland's coach, after Terrapins lost to Providence at Charlotte, N.C.

## The Box Scores

### FIRST PLACE

PROVIDENCE (103)		MARYLAND (89)	
FGM	FTA	REB	PF
DiGregorio	14 21	2 2	3 5
Stacom	10 17	4 5	2 3
Costello	2 5	4 4	6 4
Crawford	2 4	3 3	6 2
Barnes	8 18	3 5	15 7
King	7 9	1 3	7 1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>43 74</b>	<b>17 22</b>	<b>41 17</b>

MARYLAND (89)		PROVIDENCE (103)	
FGM	FTA	REB	PF
Lucas	9 20	2 2	6 5
Bodell	2 8	0 0	7 3
McMillen	10 16	5 5	6 4
O'Brien	3 9	2 2	3 1
D. Brown	1 3	0 0	1 0
Roy	4 5	0 2	5 3
Howard	2 6	0 0	0 1
O. Brown	2 4	0 0	1 0
White	0 1	0 0	0 0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>40 83</b>	<b>9 12</b>	<b>42 22</b>

Half-time score—Maryland 51, Providence 50.

Attendance—11,400.

### THIRD PLACE

PENNSYLVANIA (68)		SYRACUSE (69)	
G.	F.	G.	F.
Beecroft	3 4-4	10 20	3 0-0
Little Page	1 2-3	4 6	2 2-3
Bigelow	4 0-0	8 16	2 0-0
Haisler	9 0-0	18 36	9 2-3
Hankinson	6 5-5	17 34	6 0-0
Jablonski	0 0-0	0 0	0 3-4
Lewis	4 1-2	9 18	0 0-1
Varga	0 0-0	0 0	1 0-1
Finger	1 0-0	2 4	1 0-1
Batory	0 0-0	0 0	0 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>28 12-14</b>	<b>68 136</b>	<b>31 7-12</b>

Half-time score—Pennsylvania 35, Syracuse 29.

Fouled out—Wadach.

Maryland coach three years ago, he said he was going to make Maryland "the U.C.L.A. of the East."

Asked if he felt that maybe Providence was now "the U.C.L.A. of the East," DiGregorio laughed and said, "I don't know. But I'm sure Maryland is not."

The officials in today's East final were Jim Bain from the Big Eight Conference and Joe Shosid of the Missouri Valley Conference. Bain made the first personal foul call on DiGregorio, accusing him of charging into Bob Bodell while taking the ball over the mid-court line.

Some eyebrows were raised on that call as the players were moving side by side and it appeared that Bodell did not have a set defensive position. Following his third personal, DiGregorio was also charged with a technical foul for something he said but would not repeat after the game.

Syracuse won an exciting game for a consolation test. Penn tossed the ball in with 8 seconds to go and Syracuse trailing by a point. But Dennis DuVal of the Orange forced a loose ball, batting it away from John Beecroft. Hackett picked it up under the basket and just reached up to put the ball in for the victory.

who coached Davidson into two other N.C.A.A. tournaments, said, "I don't know what it is, but I've coached two teams in the East Regional that were leadin' at half-time and lost. I hate to let an opportunity like this slip through my fingers."

When Driesell became the