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The New York Times/Jim Cummins

David Russell, left, and Wayne McKoy of St. John's trying to tap in a rebound in last night's 68-62 victory over Penn in the Joe Lapchick Memorial final.

St. John's Downs Penn, 68-62

By DEANE MCGOWEN

St. John's turned back a tough Penn team, 68-62, last night at Alumni Hall before a capacity crowd of 5,982. The victory gave St. John's the title in the Joe Lapchick Memorial tournament for the sixth straight year.

James Madison University of Harrisonburg, Va., won the consolation game, 49-47, over Weber State of Ogden, Utah, in overtime.

David Russell of St. John's, who scored 19 points in Friday's triumph over James Madison, had 19 against Penn, and he was voted the tournament's most valuable player. Russell, a 6-foot-6-inch, 205-pound forward, and Wayne McKoy, the 6-8, 235-pound senior center, combined their talents to give the Redmen this victory.

McKoy, stymied by Penn's tight man-to-man defense, got only 3 rebounds in the first 20 minutes and was held to 8 points. But before the game was over, McKoy had regained his form, finishing with 15 points and 8 rebounds. Russell also had 8 rebounds. Curtis Redding scored 12 points, after getting only 3 in the first half, and Frank Gilroy added 8 points. Russell and Gilroy fouled out.

"My kids made some big plays, they are maturing," said Lou Carnesecca,

the St. John's coach. "Garrison put it away with his free throws at the end." He was referring to George Garrison, St. John's sophomore guard, who scored the team's final 5 points.

"But the big difference was Wayne," Carnesecca said. "He didn't score too much in the first half. In previous years he would have become upset and would have fouled out. Now he doesn't get discouraged if he's not scoring. He stays in the game all the way and gets those rebounds for us. It makes a big difference to this team. He's in the game when we need him."

"I showed that I did my job," McKoy said. "I had a slow start, but Penn denied me the ball. I finally was able to get the ball more in the second half, and it helped the team."

St. John's overcame Penn's tight defense to gain a 35-34 edge at the half. Penn stayed close for the opening minutes of the second half, twice pulling into ties, at 38 and 43.

Redmen Pull Away

Then the Redmen scored 12 successive points that carried them to a 55-43 lead. The surge was engineered by Gilroy (4 points), Redding (4), McKoy (2) and Garrison (2).

The Quakers refused to quit, cutting

the deficit to 61-59 on a pair of 5-point bursts. But Penn was in foul trouble and lost its playmaker, Angelo Reynolds, on personal fouls with a little more than eight minutes remaining.

St. John's scored its final 7 points at the free-throw line. Russell hit 2 of 2; Garrison sank the last 5 in the bonus situation.

Penn fared poorly at the free-throw line, making 14 of 26; the Redmen sank 28 of 35. St. John's finished with 45 percent shooting from the floor, on 20 of 44. Penn shot 52 percent, on 24 of 46.

Oregon State 75, B.Y.U. 68

CORVALLIS, Ore., Nov. 29 (AP) — Steve Johnson and Ray Blume rallied Oregon State to a 75-68 victory over Brigham Young tonight. B.Y.U. held a 52-51 lead with 11:09 left in the game, but Oregon State outscored the Cougars 14-2 over the next three minutes to take a commanding 65-54 lead.

Johnson had the final 8 points in the Oregon State burst, including a pair of three-point plays.

The Cougars' Danny Ainge led all scorers with 22 points.

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