Sports

Catholic Downs William Paterson for Division III Title

Hank Kurz Jr. AP Sports Writer

SALEM, Va. (AP) - Pat Maloney didn't remember the fourth 3-pointer he hit to help lift Catholic to its first NCAA Division III men's basketball championship Saturday night. He'd imagined the fifth one 1,000 times.

Maloney hit the last two of his five 3-pointers 1:03 apart in the final minutes, ending William Paterson's last rally and giving the Cardinals a 76-62 victory in their first trip to the championship.

With Catholic ahead 57-53, Maloney padded the cushion by swishing a 3-pointer from the right corner with 2:58 left. After Rashaan Barner's tip-in at the other end, Maloney hit from about 26 feet with 1:55 left.

"The shot clock was running down and I think everyone thought (Andy) Rice was going to make a move to the basket," Maloney said. "I was open. I was deep, but he found me and I just turned and let it fly. ... That definitely was a shot that you end practice with yelling 3-2-1."

The basket gave the Cardinals a 63-55 lead, and when the Pioneers had to foul, Catholic didn't cooperate, finishing 32-for-42 from the line.

With Catholic shooting 46 percent and hitting 8 of 16 3-pointers, the storyline also centered on William Paterson star Horace Jenkins, who arrived as the No. 4 scorer in the nation but endured a miserable day.

Jenkins scored 21 points, but was 7-for-25 from the field and 0for-11 from 3-point territory until he made a meaningless one with 24 seconds left.

"I never really got a good look at the basket," the 6-foot-1 Jenkins said. "They did a tremendous job taking my driving lanes away."

Unable to get himself untracked, he said Maloney's late shots were "back-breakers. Everything we had left, they kind of broke our spirit."

And now, in a city where Georgetown is king and Maryland is just up the interstate, Catholic has grabbed a rare share of the publicity.

"Tonight was pretty much like our whole season," Maloney said, noting that four players finished with between 12 and 17 points. "We really don't have a standout. Everybody picks a different game to step up."

The victory was the 100th for a senior class that includes Maloney, fellow guards Rice and Tim Judge. The Cardinals twice reached the final 16 before losing, and last year were eliminated in the final eight.

"We've been through a lot," said Rice, who led the Cardinals with 17 points and five assists. "We've played some pretty big games, and we've lost some tough ones, and now we've won the most important one."

The Cardinals (28-5) led until the Pioneers (26-5) went ahead 46-45 on three free throws by Jenkins with 10:12 remaining. The game was tied at 48 and 50, but the Cardinals pulled away for good behind Rice and Maloney.

Rice gave them the lead for good when he hit his second 3-pointer with 5:45 left, and Judge made it 56-51 when he turned a steal into a breakaway layup and three-point play just over a minute later.

From there, Jenkins tried to carry William Paterson back into it, but the nation's No. 4 scorer at the Division III level didn't have it in him.

The victory was the 16th in a row for the school from Washington, D.C. The loss was just the second in 23 games for William Paterson.

Judge and Matt Hilleary added 12 each for the Cardinals.

Muffeed Thomas added 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Pioneers.

2001 NCAA Division III Women's BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

