NYU routs men’s basketball by 41

By Alison C. Morgan

The coach is talking about playing New York University (NYU) next year, the team that destroyed the men’s basketball team last Saturday, 107-66.

"What the Big Red did to us, it was like the Big Red to us, it was like the Big Red to us. They were better than us. They were better than us. They were better than us."

Bruce Mihura ’88, the tall dark-haired center, said, "We were worse than we thought we were going to be. We were worse than we thought we were going to be. We were worse than we thought we were going to be."

The Violets became Vini Flyroats at Rockwell Cage. They delivered a bouquet of balance and talent that was impossible to combat as they upstaged the Engineers.

Perhaps MIT had a small chance to become another Childs — that small Hawaiian school that somehow manages to beat the nation’s best. One of NYU’s losses was to Worcester Polytechnic Institute. MIT lost to Worcester as well, but not by forty points. "We didn’t expect a better game since we had scored 81 points," said NYU coach Mike McElroy. "We expected a tough game."

Mihura pulled up for a basket early on and the score was 9-5, NYU. Then the Violets impressed The Flower Press, and the Engineers became pressed flowers. NYU flattened MIT and ran off 12 straight points.

"The press changed the game," said Mihura. "We stopped our full court press with only six minutes to go."

The Violets closed their press always on Tech for 12 total minutes — 11 of which were steals.

The score was 23-11 after a Mike McElroy ’87 foul shot. McElroy, MIT’s scoring machine, played the Violets from the perimeter. He made his game-high 10-19. Poole, a forward, scored 1,000 points and everyone was divided.

MIT trailed by 13 with less than nine minutes to go in the first half. Craig Poole ’86 missed a fast break layup that was tipped in by McElroy. NYU ran off six unanswered points.

NYU scored six points to MIT’s two, 50-25, NYU. Randy Nelson ’86 wished MIT’s last points before halftime. He had twelve points on the night.

In the second half, Poole kissed it off the glass and was fouled out. NYU ran off 15 unanswered points.

"NYU is a balanced team," said Evan Pratt ’87. "They have five players who are 20-point scorers. They have five players who are 20-point scorers. They have five players who are 20-point scorers."

NYU delivered three shots to MIT’s one.

The visitor section of the arena became a wilderness. MIT’s 6-8 center Chris Knight led a semi-look to give NYU a 40-point lead. Mike McElroy, a 6-10 center from O’Connell, needed MIT’s heart in this game. "We were down by 40 points and everyone was diving for the loose ball."

MIT lost its second string in at the three-minute mark. The Violets started on the bench and cheered the reserves over the center mark.

The last time NYU met MIT on the court was Feb. 9, 1909, and the Violets were by 33 points. 43-13. Maybe the Engineers ought to wait another 77 years to play the Violets again. Just kidding.

"We play hard, we play together, and we expect that to happen," said Evan Pratt ’87.

Poole, a forward, scored 1,196 career points for sixth place on the MIT all-time scoring list. He offered his knees to basketball, and they’re like jelly now.

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