

**SPORTS**

# Thompson's Hoyas like a 'Holiday Inn'

The Georgetown Hoyas were to the 1984-85 college basketball season what Holiday Inns are to the motel business — no surprises.

When prognosticators looked before the start of the season at the Hoyas and their mysterious coach John Thompson, they saw long odds and short ends of the score for any of Georgetown's opponents.

They saw a team with four starters and the entirety of a deep bench returning from a national championship team chomping at the bit to surpass the achievements of the '83-84 Hoyas.

And they saw Patrick Ewing, the 7-foot behemoth with a competitive heart as gold as the medal he won leading the American team in the '84 Los Angeles Olympics, ready to complete a four-year college career that already included a national championship and two trips to the NCAA finals.

In other words, they saw mismatches, the reasons for the mismatches and a reasonable match of Thompson, Ewing and the championship trophy, be it in Seattle, Wash. or Lexington, Ky.

Well, the '84-85 season is now history, and the Hoyas had a few things happen on the way to Rupp Arena and their "Ol' Kentucky Home," even before they got ambushed by Villanova, 66-64.

First, Michael Graham, the shaved-headed intimidator that characterized the "Holy-terror Hoyas" of last season, flunked out of school. He enrolled at the University of Washington, D.C., across town and sat out this season.

The Hoyas missed him. Without Graham's rebounding, defense and intensity on the court, the early-season Hoyas were frequently outscrapped for loose balls on the glass and the hardwood.

Secondly, the Hoyas didn't roll over everyone they faced during the regular season.

Oh, sure, they beat up on Providence, Seton Hall and the University of Hawaii-Hilo (no kidding), but they fell a point short of St. John's (66-65 in Capital Centre and followed that loss with a three-point heartbreaker at the hands of Syracuse.

"Hoya Paranoia" had become a self-inflicted disease.

The one constant was Ewing. Opposing teams sagged in on him and denied him the ball. Opposing fans ridiculed his facial features and intelligence quotient.

**BRANDON BERRY**  
Sports Writer

But nothing bothered Patrick. He set a new Georgetown record for field goal percentage and improved every individual statistic from an already successful '84 season.

The Hoya team, as a whole, settled down and stopped trying to play like their predecessors and started playing a more finesse-oriented brand of basketball. And they started to win — and win big.

"It was all Ewing there for awhile," Thompson said. "Patrick Ewing has to rank as one of the best of all time because he's led his team to the championships so many times."

"And he's had some rough times in college, let me assure you. He's had to put up with cruelty and prejudice for four years."

The same could be said for the entire Georgetown team, including its coach.

When the Hoyas arrived in Lexington for this year's Final Four, a local columnist wrote a tongue-in-cheek article claiming that a criminal would be appointed to the Supreme Court before a black (Thompson) would replace retiring University of Kentucky Coach Joe B. Hall.

Thompson was not amused.

"I see absolutely nothing funny about racism," Thompson said. "It's just another example of what we have been working against all season long. It will certainly be nice when we can go out and just play basketball and leave the other things out of the game."

But the rest of college basketball could say the same thing about a team, so dominant, that it had to make up its own enemies.

Last night against Villanova in the NCAA finals, the Hoyas didn't get beat by racism, bad calls or CBS Billy Packer's forked-tongue. Georgetown got beat by a pasta-loving coach named Rollie Massimino and his Villanova Wildcats.

It's hard to believe. Nova wasn't even ranked in the Top 20 going into the Southeast Region of the NCAA tourney — and they defeated the seemingly undefeatable.

I guess, the "Beasts from the East" are really "Hoya Humans" after all.



Hog In The Dirt

Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Arkansas shortstop Derrick Richardson (26) reaches for the bag as Texas A&M first baseman Fred Gegan (24) waits for

the ball. A&M, who left with its head in the dirt Sunday, hosts a double-header against North Texas State at 5:30 p.m.

## Hoya dynasty falls at Wildcats' feet

Associated Press

Georgetown had won 17 straight games and completed the season with a 35-3 record and a 121-23 record during the four-year career of 7-foot Ewing, a four-time All-American. Villanova, 25-10, was beaten twice by the Hoyas during the regular Big East season, 52-50 in overtime and 57-50, and Georgetown entered the game a nine-point favorite.

"No one thought we could do it, but we did," Villanova Coach Rollie Massimino shouted afterward. And the round coach and his unranked crew from the Philadelphia suburbs had plenty of heroes to go around.

Dwayne McClain hit two free throws and Harold Pressley one of two to provide the margin of victory, with Georgetown's Michael Jackson completing the scoring with a field goal with four seconds remaining.

McClain paced Villanova with 17 points and 6-foot-9 Ed Pinckney, who battled Ewing in the pivot all night, scored 16.

The Wildcats also hit 22 of 27 free throws and matched the Hoyas on the boards with 17 rebounds. And they limited Ewing, the Hoyas' All-American center, to 14 points.

Georgetown was trying to become only the seventh team and the first since UCLA in 1973 to repeat as NCAA champions. They were being rated among the greatest teams of all time, after breezing through the last part of their schedule and looking stronger with each game.

But Villanova, which finished in a third-place tie in the Big East Conference with Syracuse, began a six-game winning streak in the tournament.

Then, upset victory was akin to that of North Carolina State, which won the NCAA title two years ago as an overwhelming underdog. But that N.C. State team finished with one more victory against its 10 losses, and the 16th ranking in the final pre-tournament poll. All Villanova had to show was hope as they

entered their sixth consecutive NCAA tournament, a competition they never had won.

The Wildcats pulled ahead 29-28 at halftime and after Ewing hit an opening jumper in the second half, they went up 36-30 with Harold Jensen's basket, a three-point play by Pinckney and a jumper by Gary McLain.

McClain's three-point play kept them up 41-36, but Georgetown came back and went ahead on David Wingate's jumper 42-41 with 9:49 remaining.

The lead changed hands five times, the last on a jumper by Pinckney, who was named the tournament Most Valuable Player.

Villanova hit six straight points, for a 59-54 advantage with 1:24 remaining.

Ewing's jam brought Georgetown to within 61-58 with 41 seconds left but McClain then came through with two more free throws.

Georgetown, the Big East tourna-

ment winner and the No. 1 ranked team for all but five weeks this season — following a Jan. 28 loss to Syracuse, 65-63 — was in its third championship game of the four-year Ewing Era, having won last year against Houston and losing by a point to North Carolina three years ago. Villanova, on the other hand, had made it to the final only once before, in 1971, when it lost to UCLA and later had the runner-up position stripped when it was found it star player Howard Porter had signed a pro basketball contract.

The Wildcats' only other trip to the national semifinals was in 1939, the tournament's first year. Then they were coached by Al Severence, the Villanova coach for 25 years. Severence died Monday in his Lexington hotel room, and the players dedicated the game to him. Ewing, the AP Player of the Year, hit seven of 13 shots from the field but grabbed only five rebounds.

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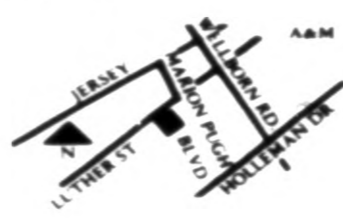


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