

Sports

Hoosiers snare NCAA title on Smart play

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Keith Smart, a junior college transfer, scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half, including the game-winning five seconds left Monday night to give Indiana a 74-73 victory over Syracuse and earn Coach Bob Knight his third national basketball title.

Smart also intercepted Derrick Coleman's floor-length desperation pass as time ran out.

Syracuse had a chance to win but Howard Triche missed the second of two free throws with 38 seconds left, and Coleman missed a 1-and-1 with 28 seconds remaining.

In between, Smart, a quick 6-foot-guard, grabbed the rebound of

Triche's miss and drove for a goal to cut the Orangemen's lead to 73-72. He hit the game-winner from just inside the 3-point mark at the baseline as the Hoosiers finished the season with a 30-4 record.

Knight joined the select company of UCLA's John Wooden, with 10, and Kentucky's Adolph Rupp, with four, as coaches who have won more than two NCAA crowns. Knight, who won titles in 1976 and 1981, saw the fulfillment of the recent adjustments he made. Previously, he was reluctant to sign junior college transfers and had been opposed to using zone defenses.

But those changes helped Knight share the Big Ten title with Purdue

this year and ultimately took him to New Orleans.

Steve Alford, Indiana's all-time leading scorer, added 23 points, hitting seven of 10 from 3-point range. His only other goal was a layup.

Forward Daryl Thomas added 20 points and Dean Garrett, another junior-college transfer, had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Syracuse, which shared the Big East title with Pittsburgh and Georgetown, got 20 points from point guard Sherman Douglas, 18 from center Rony Seikaly and 12 from guard Greg Monroe.

Coleman, a 6-9 freshman, grabbed 19 rebounds, two short of the tournament record set by Bill

Spivey in Kentucky's championship win over Kansas State in 1951.

Indiana trailed most of the first half, but two straight 3-pointers by Alford put them in the locker room at halftime with a 34-33 lead.

Indiana took a 41-37 lead in the second half, but Syracuse outscored the Hoosiers 15-3, with reserve Derek Brower contributing five points and Seikaly four points for a 52-44 lead.

The Hoosiers bounced back with a 10-0 run as reserve Joe Hillman made two steals and Garrett blocked shots by Seikaly and Coleman. Smart's jumper capped the run for a 54-52 Indiana lead.

Syracuse came back with seven

straight points, the last on Douglas' 3-pointer.

Indiana came back to tie it at 61 on a basket by Smart. After three more ties, Seikaly scored with 2:03 remaining. He was fouled on the play, but missed the free throw.

Smart then tied it at 70 with a quick move to the basket with 1:20 left.

Triche then made a goal with 56 seconds remaining for a 72-70 Syracuse lead. Smart, from nearby Baton Rouge, then missed a shot, with Triche grabbing the rebound. But Smart came back to hit the final two baskets.

As Coleman went to the free throw line with 28 seconds left after

being fouled by Smart, no Syracuse players joined him along the lane. When he missed, Indiana had an easy rebound. Smart, named most valuable player, then took over.

Syracuse, bidding for its first NCAA basketball title, finished the season 31-7. The Orangemen's only other Final Four appearance was in 1975, and they finished fourth.

Indiana won its fifth title overall, also winning in 1940 and 1953 under Coach Branch McCracken.

Syracuse, a poor free-throw shooting team with a 64 percent mark this season, made only 11 of 20 Monday night. Both teams shot 48 percent from the field, and Syracuse outrebounded the Hoosiers 38-35.

SU's dreams end at FT line Coleman fails to hit key free throw

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — It was 30 seconds to victory for Indiana and a half-minute of broken dreams for Syracuse.

Trailing 73-72, Indiana called time out with 30 seconds to play in the championship game of the NCAA basketball tournament.

Two seconds after play resumed, Derrick Coleman, the 6-foot-9 Syracuse freshman, was fouled by Keith Smart and went to the line to shoot 1-and-1.

"There was no emotion," Coleman said. "I just knew that if I made the free throws, I'd put my team ahead for good."

The free throw was short, and Smart hit a baseline jumper at the other end with five seconds to play, giving Indiana the national title with a 74-73 victory.

Coleman had stood alone at the free throw line. Rather than string players along the foul lane, Syracuse Coach Jim Boeheim opted to pull back on defense.

"We didn't want them to get a basket on the transition," Boeheim said. "We had the lead and

we weren't worried about scoring."

Coleman said the coach told the team he didn't want anyone to foul trying to rebound a missed free throw, and so four Syracuse players were sent back to Indiana's end of the floor.

"We tried to call time out, all of us tried, but they didn't hear us. I don't think they could hear us from all the noise."

— Derrick Coleman

"I felt confident at the line, but I knew when I released it that it was off to the right," said Coleman, a 69 percent free-throw shooter who missed two of his four chances Monday night. "I wasn't nervous at all. It was like any other free throw."

Syracuse tried to call a timeout after Smart's go-ahead basket, but four seconds ticked off the

clock, leaving only one second for a desperation attempt. Smart intercepted the inbound pass at halftime as the final buzzer sounded.

Syracuse guard Greg Monroe said both he and senior teammate Howard Triche had tried to call the timeout immediately.

"I saw three seconds left," Monroe said. "I was near half-court and Howard was right near the referee and they didn't see it."

"We tried to call time out, all of us tried, but they didn't hear us," Coleman said. "I don't think they could hear us from all the noise."

"It wasn't the foul shot that lost the game," Boeheim said. "It came down to the last shot and they happened to have it. We did everything we could to win."

"No one has to walk off the court feeling bad," Boeheim said. "There's nothing I can say to make them feel better, but they gave it a great effort."

"There's only one team better, and that isn't by much."

Knight makes wise move in halftime talk with Smart

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Indiana Coach Bob Knight made a wise move when he collared Keith Smart for a strategy session at halftime of the NCAA basketball tournament championship game.

"Coach Knight talked to me at halftime and told me I would have to get into the game — not just get into the game, but to hit the gaps and take the jumper," Smart said.

"I was only taking what was given to me," said Smart, who scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half. The last two came on a baseline jumper with five seconds left that provided Indiana a 74-73 victory over Syracuse for the school's fifth national title.

It was a performance that earned Smart the most valuable player award.

Just as Knight had before him, Smart came to realize that Syracuse was pressuring Indiana's All-American guard, Steve Alford. So Smart got the ball instead, scoring 14 points in the last 9½ minutes.

Syracuse also tried to deny the middle to center Daryl Thomas, so Smart was consistently able to move inside during the final minutes. He made his game-winning basket from 16 feet.

"The play was designed to go to Steve, but he was heavily covered," said Smart, a junior-college transfer from nearby Baton Rouge. "Daryl did the smart thing, I guess, by dropping it back to me."

"I don't believe this," Smart added. "I may sit down sometime next week and it'll dawn on me."

Syracuse Coach Jim Boeheim said the Orangemen did a solid job of containing Smart "most of the time, but he broke loose at the end."

Syracuse forward Howard Triche, who was guarding Smart on his game-winning shot, gave his opponent all the credit.

"He came up with a pretty good shot and made an excellent play," Triche said.

Alford scored only one basket in the final 11:39, that coming on a fast-break layup with 4:05 to play. Smart, however, picked up the slack.

"We had never panicked, not one time this year," Smart said. "If Steve is covered, someone is going to step forward. Tonight, it was my turn."

"It was a team effort the whole night," he said. "That shot there, anyone on the team could have made that shot. I didn't look at the clock, but I knew the time was running out."

Hoosier fans' celebration pure 'chaos'

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — Indiana University fans poured into the streets for a spontaneous celebration Monday night after the Hoosiers clinched the NCAA basketball championship with a one-point victory over Syracuse in New Orleans.

"This is bedlam, chaos, completely frantic," Matt Lucas, a cook at the popular student hang-out, Bear's Place, said after the 74-73 win.

"It kept you on the edge of your seat the whole time," said Ken Bonningson of Clyde, Ohio, in town for a convention. "That's the kind of game you hope you see once in a while."

Screams, fireworks and blaring horns could be heard across the southern Indiana campus and around the surrounding area.

Students also ran through the Memorial Union on campus shouting IU slogans and cheering.

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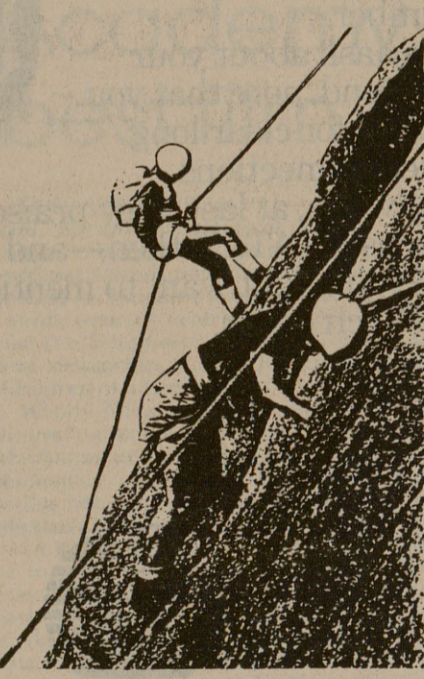
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