

# Kearney stopped one game short of state finals

## Overtime defeat ends 22-4 season

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

GLENS FALLS — Did it count, or didn't it?

Only the videotape knows for sure.

This game's most pivotal basket won't be found in any scorebook. It was a basket which prompted Bishop Kearney to go from happy delirium to shock in a matter of seconds.

An official ruled that Patrick Goode's layup had not beaten the clock for a 51-49 win, so the Kings still had four more minutes of basketball in front of them.

Goode on the other hand, believes his shot should have counted.

"I think so, yeah. The ball was just out of my hands and the buzzer went off," stated Goode, a senior guard.

Instead, overtime followed, and the Kings eventually ended up on the short end of a 63-54 loss to Poughkeepsie in Kearney's first appearance ever at the state Final Four.

The Class B semifinal contest was held Saturday morning, March 18, at the Glens Falls Civic Center. Kearney's magnificent 1994-95 season ended with a 22-4 record.

Poughkeepsie (23-3), a Section 1 team, went on to defeat Amsterdam of Section 2, 62-53, for the state championship on March 19.

Saturday's final point differential failed to reflect the even terms on which Kearney battled the Pioneers from the opening tip until midway through the fourth quarter. BK led most of regulation play, and never trailed by more than two points prior to overtime. The score was tied 13-13 after one quarter, and BK led 25-24 at halftime and 35-33 after three periods.

But after the Kings tied their biggest lead of the day at 45-37, Poughkeepsie stormed back with a 10-2 surge, capped off by Tim Breault's three-point basket with 2:25 to go that knotted the score at 47-47.

Senior forward Adam Randall then made two free throws to give the Kings a 49-47 edge, and the Pioneers' Nykee Williams responded by scoring with 1:10



Bishop Kearney coach Ed Nietopski comforts senior guard Patrick Goode following the Kings' state Class B semifinal game last Saturday, March 18. BK lost to Poughkeepsie, 63-54, in overtime.

to go to make it 49-49.

Kearney then worked the clock down, but Goode missed a baseline jumper with :10 to go. Williams was fouled with :07 left, yet failed on the front end of a one-and-one opportunity.

That miss enabled BK to rebound and set up Goode's controversial play in which he cut swiftly to the Poughkeepsie hoop, only to lay the ball in just a fraction too late in the eyes of the officials.

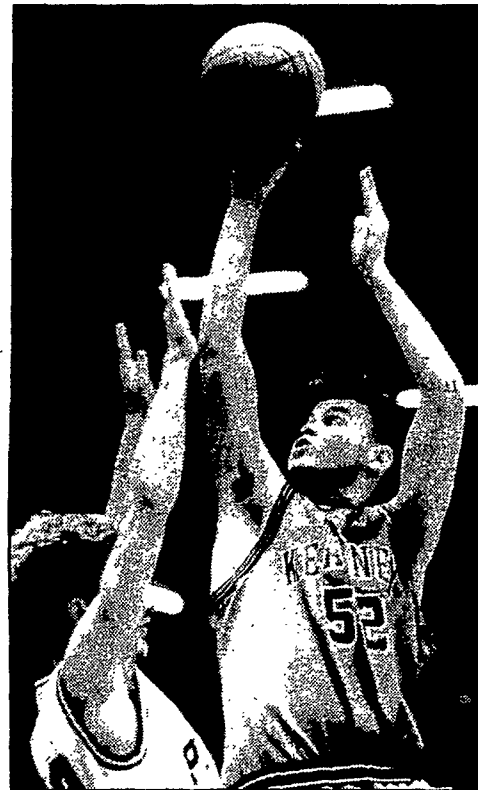
Although Goode — as well as hundreds of Kearney supporters who journeyed to the Adirondack region for this game — felt otherwise, BK Coach Ed Nietopski had no beef after the game.

"The ref made a good call. The call was right," said Nietopski.

The Kings never led in overtime. Goode's basket with 1:41 to go brought Kearney to within 57-54, but the Pioneers rattled off the game's final six points.

Randall topped the Kings with 19 points, going 9-for-10 from the foul line. However, BK's other players went just 10-for-21 on free throws and the team made only 16 of 48 shots from the field.

"We were just out of sync, and they had a great team and great talent," said



BK senior forward Adam Randall, who led the Kings with 19 points, shoots over Poughkeepsie's Tim Breault.

Randall.

"I felt very uncomfortable throughout the whole game. I don't know why; it was just the atmosphere," remarked senior forward Vernon Banks, who led BK with 14 rebounds but only had eight points.

Goode and his brother Kevin, a junior guard, each finished with 10 points. The Pioneers' Williams led all scorers with 22.

Nietopski acknowledged his players' erratic performance, but he also showed compassion for the pressure they faced in attempting to advance to the state finals.

"This was probably one of our weakest offensive games all year long. I think that sometimes kids put a little too much pressure on themselves, but when you look at the possibilities (of winning a state title), I can understand," remarked Nietopski, who was named this year's Section 5 Class B Coach of the Year.

"We missed a lot of shots and two or three breakaways, but, God! This is the semifinals of the states and the kids are trying so hard. They played as well as they could have played under the circumstances," the BK coach added.

Last Saturday's defeat ended the basketball team's finest in school history. Kearney set a team record for wins in a season; won its second consecutive Section 5 Class B title; defeated Pittsford Sutherland in a state-qualifier game; and earned its trip to Glens Falls by defeating Olean of Section 6 in state quarter-final play.

Of BK's stalwart starting five — Randall, Banks, the Goodes and senior center Mark Jensen — only Kevin Goode will return next year. The four seniors will leave Kearney having enjoyed a 37-12 record over the past two seasons.

In addition to its basketball talent, this group enjoyed a tremendous closeness as well.

"I think the most important thing is that we all get along, both on and off the court," Randall commented.

"Ever since we were freshmen, we said we wanted to go to states as seniors — and we made our goal," said Patrick Goode. "We've been through thick and thin together."

"They're great guys," Nietopski observed. "I'd like to adopt them all, I'm telling you!"

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