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You're holding the last issue of the SPECTATOR daily bulletins on the basketball tournaments. Our work has been very rewarding due to the SPECTATOR interest. After all, basketball has tremendous spectator value.

The response to the opinion poll was overwhelming. The light cardboard ballot boxes were leaden with weight by last night.

As for the teams, we hope you had a good stay and a nice time; and we look forward to seeing you again next year. And for the home crowd - see you next Monday!

There was some scintillating basketball for one and all to watch at the Open Air Theatre on the penultimate day of the basketball feast. The tournament this year has had more than its fair share of nail-biting finishes - a tie between Podar and IIT(M) in the exhibition match, a narrow victory by 9 points for Nationals over New College on the same day, IIT(B)'s pipping of Stanley Medical College at the post 84-82,



SPECTATOR

Podar squeezing past PSG by the odd point in 159, IIT(M)'s close game with Joseph's Trichy (57-56) and finally IIT(M)'s undning in a Close Encounter of the Third Time yesterday, which was the first match to go into extra time.

Nationals have done it ~~once~~ - can they do it again? In their previous league encounter, the lead changed as many as three times before Nationals triumphed. Today one would also have the pleasure of watching stars like Sanath Kumar and Nazar shine together.

Meenaksni will take on Stella in today's final. The Stella team is embellished with a number of university stars, but ... one can never say.

The weather-gods were kind and the tournament went off without a hitch. The teams dished out some enthralling basketball and the hungry campus residents lapped it all up.

MEENAKSHI IN FINAL

Meenakshi College 55 (Shireen 13, Sowmini 13, Jayashree Menon 10, Annapoorni 10)

KVIIT 47 (Rajula 14, Shrimati 21)

Meenakshi led 28-21 at the break.

KVIIT was technically far superior. However, the poor rebound collection proved their undoing. They are at a handicap in this department of the game due to their short stature. They committed too many fouls too. Key players Kala Reddy and Rajula completed their quota very soon.

Meenakshi owe a lot to Sowmini. She is easily the best playmaker seen in the girls' tournament so far. Shrimati of KVIIT holds rich promise for the future. Well done, KVIIT girls.

The canteen volunteers are certainly not inn-experienced.

NATIONAL TOO GOOD FOR PODAR

National, Bangalore 102 (Sanathkumar 39, Suresh Babu 14, Anil Kumar 24)

R. A. Podar, Bombay 71 (K. Seshan 25, Gurudutt Nayak 12)

National played like a champion side. Everything they did was right, or otherwise everything went right for them. They notched up yet another three-figure score (Gavaskar watch out!) International Sanathkumar was almost literally head and shoulders above the rest. There was a touch of class about anything he did. Twice he sunk the ball into the basket facing away from it, and once he just tapped the ball in, just like a volleyball smash - OAT has never before witnessed such heady stuff.

Podar did put up a fight initially, but the Bangalore blitzkrieg (spearheaded by Sanathkumar, Raghavendra and Anilkumar) was a bit too hot to handle. Venkatesh, Seshan, Nayak and Ramakrishnan (They call him 'Srikanth') toiled in vain.

YESUDAS SHOW

There will be a light music performance by Yesudas and party in the OAT on Monday, 25 January 1982. Hostel residents may buy tickets and pay for them through their noses.... Oops, sorry, their mess bills. Tickets are also available at the Staff Club and Staff Canteen. Rush to avoid disappointment. Price: Rs 20, Rs 10, Rs 3.

STELLA WALK INTO FINAL

Stella beat Churchpark 47-12.

Stella, back from Neyveli, had a very easy time against their 'younger sisters' from Church Park. They raced to an unassailable lead and rested their frontline players. For Stella, Captain Bhanu Vasan (14) and Elizabeth Joseph (10) 'figured' prominently in the score-sheet.

IIT MADRAS SUCCUMBS IN A
CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE 'NEW' KIND

New College 72 (Nazar 36, Ravindranath 18)

IIT Madras 68 (Murali 18, Rajasekhar 15, Chandu 16, Venu 11)

New led 30-25 at half time.

What a match! Certainly not stuff for the faint-hearted. As always, 'Saar' made his entry with IIT(M) trailing. With four minutes remaining, New's Rajendran completed his quota of fouls (it was good News for IIT(M)). 43 seconds remained, the scores were almost equal and "Saar" had to leave the arena with a strained hamstring. This took the wind out of IIT's sails. Still they held on grimly. With just about nine seconds remaining New led 57-55. IIT(M) earned three free throws. Chandu converted two of them - 57-57. This was the score at the end of full time.

The match went into extra time (5 minutes). The match went into extra time (5 min.) IIT(M) fought like wounded soldiers. New clinched the lead (62-60) when Loganathan found the mark. Venu earned two free throws and converted both without much ado (62-62). This was the tally at the end of extra time.

So it was extra time again. Chandu basketed to put IIT(M) in the lead (64-62). The crowds were ecstatic. New quickly made it 64-64. Raja put the home team ahead (66-64) but Annadorai neutralised the effort (66-66). Now, Chandu missed two free throws and rival Nazar converted two (66-68). Nazar struck again (70-66).

Murali now missed two free throws but made up with a splendid basket (70-68). Nazar earned two free throws and he made no mistake (72-68). Then sounded the gong.

In this thrilling, tantalizing match of the two dark horses no punter could have predicted the winner at any point in the game. It was the most thrilling encounter in the tournament.

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