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Yesterday's fare was like the proverbial curate's egg - it was good in parts. While the Stanley-National and PSG-Jain matches were woefully one-sided, the New-IIT(B) encounter provided the thrills which built up to a shattering climax as the home team squeezed past favourites St.

Joseph's, Trichy.

Cheers were defeaming; so were the jeers. Horns and whistles and what not (reminiscent of the inter-IIT IIT(M) contingent) added to the cacephony.

The chief guest of the day was
Mr. Ramnath Narayanan. This alumnus
of New College was introduced to the
basketball team of his alma mater and
that of IIT Bombay. He was a keen
sportsman in his younger days, having
represented Madras University in bockey,
cricket and table tennis. "Basketball
is the only game I haven't played," he
told us.

K.R. TROPHY

We tried to analyse the possible winners. Here are the results.

KVIIT: Can win if they Incremin-t their height overnight (Goodness Growcious!). Technically, they are pretty competent.

STELLA: Can win, as their stella-r' team is a galaxy of state and university stars.

SHARADA: Can win if they beat Stella.

CHURCH PARK: Can win if the Lord Almighty parks on their side.

IIT MADRAS: Can win:

if they are given a super economy size basket to shoot at;

if the basket is kept at shoulder height;

if steps are provided to the basket;

if the backboard is a parabola with the basket at the focus;

if they are permitted to play with a tennis ball;

and if, after all this, they get a walk-over in every match.

PSG Arts beat AM Jain 98-79.

PSG Arts got the better of AM Jain in a Pool D league encounter. With that PSG Arts qualified for the quarters, with Podar topping the pool.

For PSG Arts Sundaravadivelu played a heavy innings to score 34. Rajasækhar with 22 and skipper Mustafa with 11 gave S. Vadivelu all the support he needed. AM Jain put up a fight spearheaded by Suryashekhar (28). S. V. Velu proved to be a smooth and prolific scorer.

Scores: PSG Arts 98 (Vadivolu 34, Rajasekhar 22, Mustafa 11); Jain 79 (Suryasekhar 28, Palani 12, Samson 13)

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STANLEY 'NATIONALISED' IN QUARTERS

National, Bangalore 110 (Sanathkumar 38, Anil Kumar 22, Suresh Babu 18, Venugopal 16)

Stanley Medical College 72 (Dr. Raja 28, Dr. Rajagopal 16, Mohanakrishna 22, Philip 10)

National would hever have imagined having such an easy win. Stanley played like a rather disinterested side and served the match on a platter. They were not even a pale shadow of the side that went down by a couple of points to IIT Bombay. Skipper Philip, normally a prolific sc rer, fetched only ten points. Not even an X-ray could explain the medicos' lackadaisical approach; perhaps only a CAT scanner can.

National grabbed the opportunity to notch up yet another century. The medicis could write no prescription for Sanathkumar. Anil Kumar and Suresh dahu too grabbed the opportunity to boost the total. The Podar-Notional semi-final today should provide rich fare if one goes by the form-book.

IIT BOMBAY BOMBED IN QUARTER-FIMALS

New College, Madras 77 (Nazar 36, Ravindranath 15, Andrapathy 10). IIT(B) 65 (Lt. George 29, Ashwin Doshi 14, Sabahnayagam 14).

The naval fleet was sunk all right, but it went down with guns blazing. The nuclear subs that did it came in the form of Nazar, Andrapathy and Ravindranath. Navyman George was the boy on the burning deck. As in their previous encounters the armada from the west coast relied heavily on the trio who figure prominently in the score-sheet.

In the ding dong battle the teams matched each other basket for basket except in the last few minutes. Towards the end New gained a slender lead and quickly widened the margin, thanks to superh marksmanship by Nazar and Gavindranath. At this stage panic gripped the Bombay ranks and this proved their undoing. Let alone Doshi and Sabahnayagam, even redoubtable George faltered and missed the basket many a time. Fortune, too, seemed to desert them. In the dying moments, with a reasonably comfortable lead behind them, New (understandably) slowed down the game. To counter this, the IITians resorted to desperate measures like full-court press, but to little avail.

New College will take on the other IIT in the fray - Madras - in the semis tonight.

PODAR BREEZE INTO SEMIS

Podar, Bombay 82 (Gurudutt Nayak 26, Seshan 24, Ramabhadran 16, Ramakrishnan 12)

St. Joseph's, Trichy 64 (Kathiresen 18, Vincent 17, James 12)

What happened to St. Joseph's Trichy? This highly fancied side was a mere paper tiger this morning. Did last night's encounter with IIT(M) and the nail-biting finish drain out their physical and mental resources? Or were they demoralised by their loss? Perhaps it was the absence of their coach Mr. Kasi that made all the difference in their last two matches. (Mr. Kasi rushed back to Trichy a couple of days back due to his brother's demise.)

On the other hand, the Bombay University champs looked a much improved side. They fielded Ramabhadras who flew in from Bombay on Friday night. At half time they led 44-26. Podar was well and truly in the driver's seat with a lead of 72-47 late into the second half, and St. Joseph's could not bridge the gap.

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IIT MADRAS WINS BY A WHISKER

As in the previous match against Kolar, Ramanujam made his appearance with the team trailing. At once, IIT(M) matched their highly-fancied rivals. With astute passes, Ramanujam delighted the crowd and created openings for Venu, Gadi, Murali and Chandu.

St. Joseph's made much headway through their ace shorters Kathiresan and Vincent. However, they committed too many fouls in the bargain. In fact, three minutes into the second half they lost John Jeyakumar Pandian. The Josephites were more than a little indignant at the refereeing. The home team combined beautifully and many a move was a real treat to the connoiseur.

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IIT (M) STORMS INTO SEMIS

IIT(M) is going from strength to strength. They ousted PSG Arts, Coimbatore 79-67. They were down 8-10 when Ramanu-gem entered the fray and he transformed the game as only he can. Murali (29) clicked and was in good form right through the match. PSG combined well and matched the home team. Their game centred around Mustafa, Sundarqvadivelu (23) and Rajasekhar (13). This trio did an extremely competent job.

IIT(M) take on New College in the evening. When asked about the prospects in the semis, Ramanujam remarked jccularly, "What can an OLD man do with a NEW College!"