

# Oh, What a Night!

## Owls Outlast 'Nova In Big 5 Masterpiece

By KEVIN MULLIGAN  
Daily News Sports Writer

The roadblocks went up at 10:45 p.m., sealing off a six-block portion of Broad Street from the rest of North Philadelphia traffic.

At midnight, cars still were being detoured around Temple University's campus. No one seemed to mind. Horns still were honking, Philadelphia police cars, their blue and red lights spinning, were everywhere, for all the right reasons.

Hundreds of students, forming a spontaneous victory parade, were still marching up Broad Street. Rest assured they weren't heading home. Many of them probably headed out into the chilly night reluctantly.

It's always tough walking away from a framed masterpiece.

Last night's was air-brushed — in front of a standing-room-only throng, approximately 100 media members and a national cable TV audience — by two artists who spent 40 minutes creating dazzling new colors to dab onto the McGonigle Hall canvas. Today, it is a collector's item.

Temple 98, Villanova 86. Only the Palestra witnesses of No. 2 La Salle's memorable 74-67 survival of No. 7 Villanova in 1969 can relate to last evening's beauty.

"Tonight was as good a basketball game played in this city in a lotta, lotta, lotta years," said Rollie Massi-

mino, Villanova's coach. "A lotta years. You go back to, I don't care, 1965 or wherever the hell you go back to. There haven't been many basketball games that've been played like that.

"They are... that was a national championship kind of a game to-night. Just one of the best games that I've been involved with, I'll be very honest with you. A great, great game."

Harold Katz, the 76ers' owner, was there, seated at the left hand of Temple president Peter Liacouras. Katz has not seen better basketball this season. W. Wilson Goode, the mayor, was there. He can only wish his underlings would execute so well.

In its first game as America's No. 1-ranked college basketball team, Temple more than answered its Call To Glory.

"We were flawless, almost," nipped Mike Vreeswyk, Temple's 67 junior. "And so was Villanova. I guess you could say they brought out the best in us."

Temple, following the lead of Howie Evans (school-record 20 assists, 17 points) and freshman Mark Macon (career-high 31 points) committed just one turnover in the second half, six overall, and was a perfect 14-for-14 at the foul line in the final two minutes.

The 194 Owls were, in a word, See **TEMPLE** Page 86



Staff Photography by George Reynolds

Temple's Jim Perry squeezes between Villanova's Tom Greis (left) and Rodney Taylor to put up shot

**INSIDE**

Sixteen days of competition among the world's finest athletes on snow and ice begin this weekend and the Daily News has a 20-page pullout section that will have you fully prepared. Inside is a comprehensive grid of ABC's 94½ hours of TV coverage; on-site reports by Rich Hofmann and columnist Bill Conlin; a fun-to-read history of the Winter Games; statistics and detailed explanations of how each event works and which Americans are expected to compete for medals. **Section 8.**

Also, up-to-date coverage from Calgary and the final part of Ray Dinger's series on The USA's Best Bets. **Pages 81-78.**

**WINTER OLYMPICS** Complete TV Listings

Reliving the Feb. 10, 1988 Temple-Villanova Classic  
Through the Pages of the Daily News and Inquirer

Compiled by Bob Vetrone Jr.

# INDEX

- ▶ **CLASH HAS PEOPLE LOOKING AHEAD** (Feb. 5/Kevin Mulligan)
- ▶ **TEMPLE MIGHT BECOME NO. 1 IN POLLS** (Feb. 8/Kevin Mulligan)
- ▶ **TEMPLE CLIMBS TO TOP OF POLLS** (Feb. 9/Kevin Mulligan)
- ▶ **WILDCATS FUELED BY LATEST POLLS ...** (Feb. 10/Dick Weiss)
- ▶ **... AS CHANEY TAKES ON HIS CRITICS** (Feb. 10/Kevin Mulligan)
- ▶ **DICK WEISS SIZES UP VILLANOVA** (Feb. 10)
- ▶ **KEVIN MULLIGAN SIZES UP TEMPLE** (Feb. 10)
- ▶ **OWLS OUTLAST NOVA IN BIG 5 MASTERPIECE** (Feb. 11/Kevin Mulligan)
- ▶ **MACON, EVANS LIFT OWLS TO 98-86 WIN** (Feb. 11/M.G. Missanelli)
- ▶ **BOX SCORE**
- ▶ **OWLS NEED A LARGER SHOWROOM** (Feb. 11/Stan Hochman)
- ▶ **EVANS DEALS 20 ASSISTS IN OWLS WIN** (Feb. 11/Dick Weiss)
- ▶ **EVANS' GAME IS ONE TO REMEMBER** (Feb. 11/Jayson Stark)
- ▶ **WITH THE PRESSURE ON, THE OWLS COOKED** (Feb. 12/M.G. Missanelli)

# VILLANOVA-TEMPLE CLASH HAS PEOPLE LOOKING AHEAD

*Feb.5, 1988 / Philadelphia Daily News*

**By KEVIN MULLIGAN**

The heading at the top of the page says "TV Weekend," but only on special occasions (and slow weekends) do we stray ahead to midweek TV happenings.

Villanova vs. Temple Wednesday night at McGonigle Hall is one of those special occasions.

Unless you're one of the chosen 4,800 — yes, Temple has oversold McGonigle's 4,500 capacity — the only place to catch the long-awaited City Series showdown will be on PRISM at 9 p.m. Out-of-town cable subscribers can tune in USA Network, which will carry the game nationally outside PRISM's blackout radius.

PRISM analyst Ed Stefanski, the former Penn guard, has tabbed Wednesday's matchup "the most anticipated game, locally, since Villanova-Georgetown (NCAA championship) in '85."

"We've been lucky to have a lot of great games and great teams in Philadelphia the last few year," said Stefanski, who will be joined at courtside Wednesday by PRISM play-by-play voice Jim Barniak. "But I don't think any of them compare to the interest in this one. I think they could've sold 20,000 (tickets), no problem."

That Temple didn't, and chose to keep the game on its home floor rather than move it south to the Spectrum, gives the fifth-ranked Owls (17-1) a huge advantage against Rollie Massimino's Wildcats (15-6), according to Stefanski.

“I don’t think there’s a coach in the Atlantic 10 or the Big 5 who likes playing there,” he said. “It’s got nothing to do with the place itself, it’s just that Temple plays with so much confidence there. No matter how the game goes, no matter how bad Temple might be playing, it’s like they know they’re going to come back and win.

“It’s unfortunate that so many people will be shut out, but I can see Temple’s point of view. They went to duPont (Villanova’s campus arena) twice last year, and now it’s their turn for the home court. How many coaches in the country would be willing to give up the home court in a game like this? It gives Temple a big advantage right off the bat.”

Stefanski, his arm twisted tightly behind his back, is predicting a 68-65 Temple victory. “No more spags (spaghetti) at Rollie’s for me,” he said.

Stefanski does not, however, rule out a Villanova upset if the Wildcats can accomplish the following:

► Control Temple’s outside game. “I think Villanova will definitely go man-to-man,” Stefanski said, “and try to take the perimeter away from them. I think the popular theory on beating Temple now is to try to shut down (Mark) Macon, (Howie) Evans and (Mike) Vreeswyk and take your chances inside. Villanova matches up real well out there with (6-6 Doug) West or (6-7 Mark) Plansky on Vreeswyk, (6-5 Gary) Massey on Macon, and the (Kenny) Wilson-Evans matchup should be fun to watch. Temple’s size and strength inside could be a big problem, though, because they really don’t have anyone to guard (6-9) Tim Perry.”

► Make it difficult to get the ball inside. “If Villanova can contain Temple’s perimeter offense and deny the pass inside, Villanova can win,” Stefanski said. “Rhode Island did a good job outside Sunday (in a 77-70 loss to Temple), but couldn’t deny the pass to Perry where he likes to get it, and he killed them.

“One thing is a lock,” Stefanski added. “Rollie is not going to sit back and let Temple beat him by shooting ‘threes.’ I think that will be their main focus defensively. Offensively, if Villanova shoots it well from outside and forces Temple to go ‘man,’ I think they’ll win. La Salle got Temple to go man-to-man, and should’ve won the game. Temple’s a different team when they have to come out and chase.”

But when they turn out the lights Wednesday night in McGonigle Hall, Stefanski feels you’ll be able to look at the rebounding totals and find the winner.

“Whoever controls the boards will win,” he said. “And I think that’s where Temple will win it.”

# TEMPLE MIGHT BECOME NO. 1 IN POLLS

*Feb. 8, 1988 / Philadelphia Daily News*

**By KEVIN MULLIGAN**

Philadelphia could boast the No. 1-ranked team in college basketball at this time tomorrow.

The 18-1 Temple Owls.

No. 1 in the nation.

It could happen today in balloting by the Associated Press (media) and United Press International (coaches) panels. The reason it could happen is that every team ranked ahead of Temple suffered setbacks since last week's voting.

The AP poll will be released later this evening for publication tomorrow.

The Owls, fifth in last week's AP rankings and fourth in UPI's, last night were voted No. 1 in the CNN/USA Today Top 25 that appears in today's editions of USA Today. Those rankings are determined by a panel of 32 media voters.

"The polls do not concern me," Temple coach John Chaney said. "I have no comment on that possibility, because to me, what's important is not to be first in February. Being first last is what counts."

The Owls' only loss this season came against No. 2 Nevada Las Vegas, 59-58, the only Top 20 team they have faced thus far. This past week, Temple routed both Duquesne, 110-70, and Rutgers, 84-53, to raise their record to 12-0 in the Atlantic 10 Conference.

“Obviously, we’re very, very proud of them,” said A-10 commissioner Ron Bertovich. “The great thing right now is that everyone in the league is on the same page, proud as hell with what Temple is accomplishing.

“If they’re No. 1, it’d be tremendous. We’ve worked so hard to become a good conference, and to have the No. 1 team in the country immediately makes people notice. Who knows? Rhode Island may crack the Top 20 or (CNN) Top 25, too, after beating West Virginia (74-71 yesterday) in Morgantown (W.Va.). That would make it a great week for the Atlantic 10.”

Meanwhile, every team ranked above the Owls in both polls suffered defeats this week. Here is the chain of events that could lead Temple to the top of the polls:

► No. 1 Arizona (21-2) fell to Stanford, 82-74, last Thursday, but rebounded to clip California, 74-62, yesterday. The Wildcats are No. 2 in the latest CNN/USA Today Top 25.

► Nevada-Las Vegas (No. 2 AP, No. 3 UPI) was bumped off by host California-Santa Barbara, 71-66, Saturday for the second time this season to fall to 20-2.

► Brigham Young (No. 3 AP, No. 2 UPI) was handed its first loss of the season, 102-83, by host Alabama-Birmingham Saturday and is now 17-1.

► Duke (No. 4 AP, No. 5 UPI) fell to visiting North Carolina State, 77-74, Saturday, before coming back to edge Notre Dame, 70-61, yesterday at home.

Those were just four of the 10 Top 20 teams handed losses Saturday. Others to lose were Georgetown (No. 14 AP, No. 13 UPI), Vanderbilt (No. 15 both polls), Iowa State (No. 16 AP, unranked UPI), Illinois (No. 17 both polls), Florida (No. 19 AP, No. 20 UPI) and St. John’s (No. 20 AP, No. 18 UPI).

And yesterday, Michigan became the weekend's 11th Top 20 victim. The No. 11 Wolverines lost at home to No. 6 Purdue, 91-87.

“I think John (Chaney) will be the first to tell you that the polls are for the fans, and not his basketball team,” La Salle coach Speedy Morris said. “But it'd be a tremendous thing for Temple University, the Big 5 and Philadelphia basketball. I think everyone does well when one of our teams do well. I think they should be No. 1, and I'm real happy for John and his kids. They deserve a lot of credit, but I know they're not satisfied yet. They'll be the first to tell you they've got a lot of work to do.”



# TEMPLE CLIMBS TO TOP OF POLLS

*Feb.9, 1988 / Philadelphia Daily News*

**By KEVIN MULLIGAN**

*(Editor's Note: At the time, it was believed that no Philadelphia team had ever been ranked No. 1. But since then, the Associated Press has archived every poll it ever released and in fact, La Salle had been ranked No. 1 early in both the 1952-53 and 1954-55 seasons.)*

The Temple Owls became the first No. 1-ranked college basketball team in city history last evening when the Associated Press released its weekly Top 20 rankings.

The Owls, 18-1, jumped from fifth place with 23 first-place votes and 1,204 points from the AP's nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters after a week in which 13 Top 20 residents, including last week's Top 4, lost at least once.

Temple, which also was selected first in United Press International's poll selected by a panel of coaches, is the fifth team to hold down the No. 1 ranking this season. In order, Purdue (19-2), Arizona (21-2), Oklahoma (20-2) and Pittsburgh (16-2) were closely bunched in the Top 5, with No. 6 North Carolina (16-3), Nevada-Las Vegas (20-2), Brigham Young (17-1) and Duke (16-3) — tied for eighth — and Kentucky (16-3) rounding out this week's Top 10.

Villanova (16-6), Temple's opponent tomorrow night at McGonigle Hall, rejoined the Top 20 at No. 20 following victories over Georgetown and Boston College.

John Chaney, the Temple head coach, saw his team's rise to the top of the national poll as one small step for his Owls, but one giant step for Big 5 basketball.

"No question about it, there's a great deal of satisfaction," he said at yesterday's Herb Good Basketball Club luncheon. "I just feel it's a good thing, not just for Temple, but for our area as I see it. Because I don't take myself out of this house, this family, so to speak, in terms of the Big 5.

"I think it's good we're getting some attention in this area, and that we're the guys that are out in front that's doing it. I'm proud of that fact, yes. Without question, I'm proud of that. And if Jim Boyle's (St. Joe's) group, or Rollie Massimino's (Villanova) group were doing it, I certainly would feel a part of that, just as I did when Rollie's group won the national championship (1985). I felt pretty proud going to the NCAAs and running my mouth off, saying they (Villanova) were gonna win, and that they were from Philadelphia.

"Certainly I know it means a lot to Temple University, I know it means a lot to Temple alumni, and I know it means a lot to the fans. And without question, I know it means a lot to the players and people out there who are interested in Temple. I understand that. But for me, personally, I have to make sure I don't get caught up in the frenzy of this thing, because my overall concern is to make sure that we do not lose sight of what we're trying to accomplish.

“Being first last is more important than anything I can think of.”

Purdue improved from sixth to second with 16 first-place votes and 1,191 points after defeating then-No. 11 Michigan, 91-87, on Sunday. Arizona, which had held the No. 1 position for six weeks — including the last four in a row — dropped to third with 15 first-place votes and 1,162 points, 28 more than Oklahoma, which jumped from seventh. The Sooners won both their Big 8 Conference games last week, beating Kansas and Missouri.

Arizona suffered its second defeat of the season when it lost a Pac-10 game at Stanford, the first conference loss for the Wildcats.

Pittsburgh, the only other team to receive first-place votes (2), finished with 927 points after beating then-No. 20 St. John’s in its only game of the week. North Carolina jumped two places to sixth with 905 points, five more than Nevada-Las Vegas. UNLV was second last week, but lost to Cal-Santa Barbara for the second time this season. The Runnin’ Rebels had a chance to take the No. 1 spot after Arizona’s loss, but failed, as did previously unbeaten Brigham Young.

BYU suffered its first loss Saturday at Alabama-Birmingham and fell from third into a tie for eighth with Duke at 859 points. Duke won three games last week, but the Blue Devils were beaten at home by North Carolina State, 77-74.

Kentucky rounded out the Top 10 for the second consecutive week with 749 points, 48 more than Syracuse. Following Syracuse in the Second 10 were Michigan, Iowa, Kansas State, Bradley, North Carolina State, Vanderbilt, Wyoming, Indiana and Villanova.

# WILDCATS FUELED BY LATEST POLLS ...

*Feb.10, 1988 / Philadelphia Daily News*

**By DICK WEISS**

When Temple emerged as the No. 1 team in the country this week, the news spread across Villanova's Main Line campus like wildfire.

It also stoked a flame within 'Nova coach Rollie Massimino, who is viewing tonight's Villanova-Temple showdown at McGonigle Hall as more than one of the most anticipated City Series matchups in years.

"Now that they're No. 1, it's gigantic," Massimino said. "It turns into a national game. Any time you beat No. 1, whether it's a Temple or a North Carolina, it has to put you back in the national picture."

Massimino's teams have been in this kind of situation before. The Wildcats put themselves on the basketball map in the 1982-83 season when they stunned Michael Jordan and top-ranked North Carolina, 56-53, in Chapel Hill, N.C. Two seasons later, of course, there was the 66-64 upset of No. 1 Georgetown in the title game of the NCAA Tournament.

Tonight, though, is different. This is Temple vs. Villanova, and the Owls are No. 1.

"I think that should help us motivationally," said Tom Greis, Villanova's 7-2 sophomore center. "How many times in your career do you get the opportunity to play No. 1? If you can knock them off, it has to be a great sense of accomplishment."

Greis, who Temple coach John Chaney calls "one of the best centers in the country" and who might be the most improved player in the country, should hold the key to the Wildcats' chances. He already has shown that he

is capable of glamour performances. He shot a perfect 8-for-8 and scored 20 points in Villanova's 80-78 victory over Syracuse, and delivered 21 points and nine blocked shots in the Wildcats' 64-58 win over Syracuse.

But both of those games were played at the Spectrum, where Massimino tried to have tonight's matchup moved. Instead, the 'Cats will have to take a bus trip up Broad Street to Temple's arena, because the Owls have the rights to the game under a home-and-home contractual agreement. And at McGonigle, Temple is almost invincible.

"It's a real pit," Massimino said. "A tough place to play. The crowd is right on top of you and so is the band."

The setting, however, is just part of the problem Massimino faces tonight. "Temple comes at you with so many weapons," he said.

Those weapons include shot blocker Tim Perry, wing shooters Mike Vreeswyk and Mark Macon, lead guard Howard Evans and the 6-10 Ramon Rivas. The Owls are a well-coached team that has been able to make the most of each possession, and they usually shoot better from the outside at home than on the road.

Temple (18-1) has defeated Villanova (16-6) the last three times the teams have met, and in order for the 20th-ranked 'Cats to have a shot this time, they will have to play a near-perfect game. That means making sure Greis stays out of early foul trouble, getting leading scorer Doug West more involved offensively, controlling tempo, keeping unforced errors to a minimum, rebounding at the defensive end of the floor and playing Massimino's multiple defenses effectively.

Greis no doubt will be double-teamed whenever possible by Perry and Evans, who likes to slide down from the foul line when Temple sets up in its 2-1-2 zone. If Greis cannot free himself up, it will be up to West, who only has three field goals in his last two games, and the steady Mark Plansky to pick up the scoring slack.

Rebounding is another problem. In the win over Georgetown, the Wildcats were outrebounded, 42-29, and saw the Hoyas put up 74 shots from the floor. Fortunately for Villanova, Georgetown shot just 32.4 percent.

“The biggest area we have to worry about is rebounding,” Plansky said. “You give Temple two or three shots, they’re going to put it in. We have a lot of respect for Temple. They play basketball the way it was meant to be played.”

Villanova, of course, is once again doing the same. The ’Cats, playing essentially with the same personnel that went 15-16 last season, are the surprise team in the Big East Conference. In addition to Syracuse and Georgetown, Villanova also has knocked off two former Top 20 teams, Illinois and St. John’s.

But, with the possible exception of Pitt, Temple might be the best team Villanova faces this season. The Owls, in fact, already have left an impression on Massimino. He showed up at the writers’ luncheon the other day wearing a cherry red sweater.

“I told John, if you can’t beat ’em, you may as well join them,” Massimino said.

# ... AS CHANEY TAKES ON HIS CRITICS

*Feb.10, 1988 / Philadelphia Daily News*

**By KEVIN MULLIGAN**

John Chaney feels the only people who continually stick his No. 1-ranked Temple basketball team under a magnifying glass and entertain themselves by finding imperfections are Philadelphians.

Not Atlantic Coast Conference fans. Not Big 8 fans. Not Metro Conference fans. Rather, people right here in his own back yard. In the city. In the suburbs. In the tri-state area. And it eats at him terribly.

“I think the only people who criticize us are people in this area, who say, ‘They shouldn’t be in the damn Top 20,’ ” Chaney said at Monday’s Herb Good Basketball Club luncheon. “I get criticized and asked, ‘Why are we a top team, when we’re in the Atlantic 10?’ I get that question asked a lot by people who really don’t give a damn about Temple , and they say we shouldn’t be (ranked so highly). Maybe they’re right, I don’t know.

“But I think we’ve earned our (18-1) won-and-lost record, and I think we’ve represented ourselves quite well against the competition we’ve been involved with in and out of our conference. We don’t have to answer to those people.”



The subject of Temple’s strength reared its head again this week for one reason: No. 20 Villanova (16-6 and the second-place team in the powerful Big East Conference at 8-3) will be at McGonigle Hall for tonight’s City Series showdown with the top-ranked Owls.

The game, sold out for months, has been the source of what was believed to be the hottest local basketball ticket in recent history. It also is the most anticipated matchup of area teams since Villanova's shocking 90-47 rout of previously unbeaten Penn in the NCAA Tournament's East Regional final in 1971.

"We're excited about it," Chaney said. "I think it's an opportunity for both teams, because I think that while one team goes on from that game, the other team will be close behind."

It also is another opportunity for Temple to refute its critics' contentions that playing a steady diet of Rutgers, Massachusetts, Duquesne, George Washington and St. Bonaventure eventually catches up with a good team.

The Owls, however, are 40-13 against non-conference opponents since 1983-84, Chaney's second season. They are 4-2 vs. Villanova and 5-4 vs. the Big East over the past five seasons. This season, the Owls are 6-1 outside of the disappointing A-10, with their only loss coming at Nevada-Las Vegas, the only Top 20 team they have played to date.

Villanova, on the other hand, already has played eight games against teams that have been in the Top 20 — Illinois, Iowa, Auburn, St. John's (twice), Syracuse, Pittsburgh and Georgetown.

Temple's most notable non-conference victories have been over Southern (17-4), the Southwestern Athletic Conference leader; South Carolina (14-5), the Metro Conference co-leader with Florida State; and La Salle (16-9), the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference leader.

After tonight, Temple will close its season with home games against George Washington and Penn State, road games at No. 6 North Carolina, West Virginia and Duquesne, a home game with West Virginia and a March 2 meeting with St. Joseph's at the Palestra.



Only vast improvement by the Atlantic 10's numerous also-rans — a pipe dream considering their remote locations and losing traditions — will allow Temple to someday stop hearing the “weak schedule” rap. Until that happens, Temple will continue to be victimized by association. A victory over the Wildcats would help to dispel some of that local thinking.

“It's very meaningful to us,” said the Owls' Mike Vreeswyk. “Not only because they're a Big 5 rival and we know their players from the summer leagues, but they're from the Big East, and they're one of the better teams in the country. A win over them would be significant for us.”

Chaney, however, isn't so sure.

“It just seems like regardless of what you do or who you beat,” he said, “it doesn't make any difference. I don't think we're carrying the Atlantic 10 on our shoulder. I don't look at it in that manner. There's eight or nine real tough teams around the country that we play, year in and year out. But I can't answer, year in and year out, someone putting up another fence in front of us.

“People asking, ‘Is your Atlantic 10 team better?’ or, ‘Could you do this in that conference?’ I just can't deal with that. We are on a course that says we're doing some things right as I see it, or I'm sure people outside this area wouldn't have looked at us and said, ‘Let's make them (No. 1).’ ”

It will be interesting to see how the Owls handle the pressure of playing their first game as the nation's No. 1-ranked team.

“It's exciting for everybody in this area,” Chaney said. “Not just John Chaney and Temple University. It becomes even more exciting when somebody on the eve of the game says Temple University is ranked No. 1. It was exciting playing Villanova when they were ranked and we weren't, and when they were the national champions. So we know how they'll feel coming into our house.”

# DICK WEISS SIZES UP VILLANOVA

*Feb.10, 1988 / Philadelphia Daily News*

**Strengths:** No. 1 is Tom Greis. The 7-2 sophomore struggled at times as a freshman but he has developed into one of the better centers in the country in less than one year. No. 2 is Rollie Massimino's coaching. Massimino has shown a unique ability to control tempo and short-circuit teams with multiple defenses. Villanova has held 15 opposing teams to 65 points or less, and only five of the Cats' 22 opponents have shot better than 50 percent. No. 3 is balance. Villanova has the ability to put five players in double figures. No. 4 is experience. The 'Cats are a year older and seemingly wiser at every position now that Greis has come out of his cocoon and 6-6 sophomore forward Rod Taylor is healthy.

**Weaknesses:** Greis tends to be foul-prone. He also might have difficulty freeing himself up offensively if Temple, which matches up extremely well defensively, effectively double-teams the ball. The 'Cats are a fair rebounding team at best and tend to struggle off the defensive boards against aggressive teams such as Auburn, Georgetown and Pitt.

And then there is Doug West. The 6-6 junior is more of an enigma than a weakness. He is Villanova's leading scorer (14.9 points per game), but has failed to get himself involved offensively the last two games.

**What Villanova Must Do to Win:** Do not look for Massimino to play any junk defenses, or to use sixth man Gary Massey in a box-and-one against Mark Macon. The Wildcats will try to keep it simple, and hope to disturb Temple's shooters with their multiple defense. 'Nova will have to keep the Owls off the boards, keep turnovers to a minimum and try to prevent Temple from shooting over 45 percent.

**Prediction:** The 'Cats are improved, but the Owls have more constants to draw from, particularly in a game that is being played on their homecourt. Temple will win, 62-55.

# KEVIN MULLIGAN SIZES UP TEMPLE

*Feb.10, 1988 / Philadelphia Daily News*

**Strengths:** For Temple, it starts with McGonigle Hall, where the Owls have won 78 of their last 80 regular-season games. And then there is the fact that Villanova is catching the Owls at a time when they are playing their best basketball of the season. Witness their 28-for-54 (51.9 percent) shooting from three-point range over the past three games. Freshman Mark Macon is 10-for-16, Howard Evans 6-for-12 and Mike Vreeswyk 15-for-28 during that stretch.

The Owls also have 6-9 power forward Tim Perry, who Villanova cannot match up with and expect to contain. Another hot shooting night by coach John Chaney's three perimeter men could spring Perry for a monster game.

Defensively, Chaney focuses his attention on shutting down one or two key players. Tom Greis and Doug West are those players tonight. Fact: In 17 of Temple's 19 games, the opposing team's most important player has failed to reach his average.

**Weaknesses:** Pass the magnifying glass. They are hard to find. If there is one thing Villanova will not allow Temple to get away with, it is the Owls' tendency to quick-shoot outside, especially against the tight, man-to-man pressure Rollie Massimino will throw at them tonight.

**What Temple Must Do to Win:** It is simple: Get Perry involved early and keep him involved, and get quality stretches from 6-10 Ramon Rivas and 6-11 Duane Causwell on the foul-prone, 7-2 Greis. Shooting 45 percent, coupled with the usual excellent defensive effort, should ensure a "W."

**Prediction:** Look for Evans to get Kenny Wilson in foul trouble early, thus forcing Villanova to use 6-7 forward Mark Plansky at the point. Shortly thereafter, Temple's guards will take control and make off with a 75-68 victory.

# Temple Collects A Masterpiece

Continued from Back Page

devastating. They shot a season-sharp 55.6 percent from the floor (35-for-63) and 9-for-13 (69.2 percent) from beyond the three-point arc. Their 18-for-33 (54.5 percent) second half was topped only by their 17-for-30 in the first 20 breathtaking minutes. The last time a Temple team shot better was Dec. 8, 1986, when the Owls drowned Penn., 103-67, by draining 35 of 60 shots (58.3 percent) and 11 of 20 "threes."

Villanova's near-perfection was not far behind. The 20th-ranked Wildcats (16-7) shot 51.7 percent from the floor (30-for-58), were impressive from the three-point line (10-for-23) and the foul stripe (16-for-18), and emptied Massimino's file cabinet attempting to solve Temple's relentless offense.

The Wildcats' ease simply ran dry two minutes from the masterpiece's completion. Villanova, down 86-81 with 1:42 left, came up empty on seven of its final eight shots — all three-pointers. Temple controlled every long rebound and outscored the Cats, 12-5, with all of the Owls' points coming at the foul line.

When it finally ended, players and coaches hugged, and the estimated 4,800 — 300 over capacity — who stayed on their feet for the final five minutes joined in a boisterous, pom-pom-waving rendition of Kool & the Gang's "Cel-a-brate good times, C'mon."

"I guess we get a chance to stay No. 1 for one more day, maybe," Temple coach John Chaney said. "I think it showed the emergence of character in a team, in young men, from both teams."

Chaney said he and Massimino could have spent the evening sitting out on Broad Street munching from a bag of peanuts. "The players just played themselves into a win, as I see it," he said. "That wasn't something I orchestrated. There was nothing I had to do with it. Those kids just played great, great basketball."

Showing remarkable cool under the heat lamp that comes with being No. 1, Temple kept counterpunching

Villanova's best shots in a game that produced 23 lead changes and four ties.

The last lead change came courtesy of a Vreeswyk three-pointer with Doug West sticking to his jersey. It gave the Owls a 69-67 lead seconds after West cut off a Rodney Taylor screen to drain a tough 18-footer and give Villanova its final lead, 67-66.

Vreeswyk's bucket seemed to say, "We're not going anywhere." His teammates rode that confidence wave to a 76-69 lead by outscoring the Cats, 7-2, in a 3:07 span helped by two Kenny Wilson turnovers, a Tom Greis traveling violation and a Tim Perry rejection of a Mark Plansky drive.

Ramon Rivas and Macon placed the spike over Villanova's heart. Rivas capped the spurt with a lefthanded follow of a Perry miss, and Macon lofted a 12-footer over Plansky along the left baseline.

The resilient, Big East-tested Cats kept firing, closing to 81-75, and in control of the ball, with 3:24 showing. But Perry, who swatted away a season-high seven shots, refused to let Villanova any closer. On Nova's most crucial possession, the 6-7 Taylor spotted a seam, drove strongly into the lane and went up for a running one-hander. Perry met him at the summit, rose and turned the ball backward at its peak. Greis caught Perry's swat, pump-faked him in the lane and loaded a "jumper," underestimating Perry's amazing quickness off his feet.

As Greis committed, Perry recoiled and re-elevated, his seemingly endless arms outstretched above him. Greis, the 7-2 sophomore, had no choice but to try to shoot around Perry. It caught only rim, Perry, realizing all the way that he would alter it was down and up again in time to snatch the rebound and outlet to point man Evans. Evans chewed some clock, swung it to Macon, and Macon found Vreeswyk streaking to the corner off a Rivas down screen. Vreeswyk squared, caught Macon's pass and, in one-motion, nailed a three-pointer for a 84-75 Temple lead.

"Timmy didn't score a lot of points (14, 6 rebounds)," Chaney said, "but he orchestrated a force. Villanova knew he was in that pivot all the time, and that really opened some things for us. That's the way good teams got to be great teams, when players don't allow their ego to get them."

By the time Vreeswyk's "three" fell, Temple had emptied Villanova's rifle rack.

"We just wouldn't let Villanova beat us," said Rivas, who scored 11 and swept 7 boards.

## Vreeswyk in Need Of Eye Examination

Long after the Temple locker room emptied last night at McGonigle Hall, Mike Vreeswyk began wondering what today will bring.

The Owls' 6-7 junior revealed that he will be examined by an eye specialist today at Temple University Hospital, after sustaining what he said felt like "a cut pupil" in his left eye.

Vreeswyk took a Mark Plansky finger nail in the eye during a scramble for a loose ball with approximately 13 minutes left in the Owls' 98-86 victory over Villanova last night.

"It's painful," Vreeswyk said, after a 19-point performance. "I don't know what it is right now, but it feels like it pierced the eyeball. It feels like it's on fire. I just hope it's nothing serious."

— Kevin Mulligan

The Owls' 1-2-3 frontline rotation of the 6-9 Perry, 6-10 Rivas and budding 6-11 sophomore Duane Causwell eventually wore down Greis and Taylor, the Wildcats' only inside weapons.

The vastly improved Greis scored 16, but ran out of gas in the second half, when he scored just six points, with no rebounds and just four shots after an impressive first half.

West, who torched the Owls' zone with 20 first-half points, 18 of them



The long arm of Temple's Tim Perry lays down the law to Villanova's Mark Plansky. Staff Photographs by George Reynolds

coming on a Villanova record six three-pointers, was unable to maintain that pace after Chaney switched to a well-disguised combination matchup/man-to-man, with Vreeswyk shadowing West. The 6-6 junior got just five shots and scored just seven points in the second half.

Wilson, in his finest game as a Cat, did everything he could to keep Villanova breathing down the stretch, eventually finishing with 25 points and nine assists.

It was Villanova's misfortune that the only kids in the gym better than Wilson last night were Temple's guards, Evans and Macon. Pick a superlative, think big, and you might approach describing their performances.

Macon, unfazed by the atmosphere, hit 14 of 20 shots, including both of his three-pointers. Evans came with four rebounds of an eye-popping triple-double, adding six rebounds

and a pair of key steals to his other staggering numbers. His 20 assists were two shy of the NCAA record (22) held by someone from Baptist College named Tony Farris. He did it last Feb. 9.

"How can you describe how he played?" Rivas asked. "Up here is where he played." His right hand was stretched high overhead.

"He's as good a backcourt kid as there is in the United States," Massimino gushed.

"I think he orchestrated a great game," Chaney said. "I just thought he was exceptional in what he did tonight in terms of being what we've asked him to be."

Later, in a near-empty Owls locker room, Evans said, "This tastes so good."

"Maybe there's not a No. 1 jinx," Vreeswyk said. "I've always thought if Mark's hitting his shots, I'm hitting my shots, it's going to be over

because we're hitting 'threes' and the other teams coming down are shooting 'twos.' With Timmy playing defense like he did and Ramon being a force like he was, Duane controlling, Howie dominating — that's tough for anyone."

"We hit on all five cylinders tonight."

"This is one of the first times in 42 years of coaching basketball that I really don't feel upset about losing," said Massimino, whose team departed immediately and showered at Villanova. "You always find a way of getting yourself somewhat disgruntled about the way your team played (or didn't). But I can't tonight."

"They're not real," he said of Temple. "They continue to shoot like that, there's no one in the country that can beat 'em."

"The most satisfying part is we played like champions," Vreeswyk said. "We really did."

# OWLS OUTLAST NOVA IN BIG 5 MASTERPIECE

*Feb.11, 1988 / Philadelphia Daily News*

**By KEVIN MULLIGAN**

The roadblocks went up at 10:45 p.m., sealing off a six-block portion of Broad Street from the rest of North Philadelphia traffic.

At midnight, cars still were being detoured around Temple University's campus. No one seemed to mind. Horns still were honking. Philadelphia police cars, their blue and red lights spinning, were everywhere, for all the right reasons.

Hundreds of students, forming a spontaneous victory parade, were still marching up Broad Street. Rest assured they weren't heading home. Many of them probably headed out into the chilly night reluctantly.

It's always tough walking away from a framed masterpiece.

Last night's was air-brushed — in front of a standing-room-only throng, approximately 100 media members and a national cable TV audience — by two artists who spent 40 minutes creating dazzling new colors to dab onto the McGonigle Hall canvas. Today, it is a collector's item.

Temple 98, Villanova 86.

Only the Palestra witnesses of No. 2 La Salle's memorable 74-67 survival of No. 7 Villanova in 1969 can relate to last evening's beauty.

"Tonight was as good a basketball game played in this city in a lotta, lotta, lotta years," said Rollie Massimino, Villanova's coach. "A lotta years. You go back to, I don't care, 1965 or wherever the hell you go back to. There haven't been many basketball games that've been played like that.

“They are ... that was a national championship kind of a game tonight. Just one of the best games that I’ve been involved with, I’ll be very honest with you. A great, great game.”

Harold Katz, the 76ers’ owner, was there, seated at the left hand of Temple president Peter Liacouras. Katz has not seen better basketball this season. W. Wilson Goode, the mayor, was there. He can only wish his underlings would execute so well.

In its first game as America’s No. 1-ranked college basketball team, Temple more than answered its Call To Glory.

“We were flawless, almost,” nitpicked Mike Vreeswyk, Temple’s 6-7 junior. “And so was Villanova. I guess you could say they brought out the best in us.”

The 19-1 Owls were, in a word, devastating. They shot a season-sharp 55.6 percent from the floor (35-for-63) and 9-for-13 (69.2 percent) from beyond the three-point arc. Their 18-for-33 (54.5 percent) second half was topped only by their 17-for-30 in the first 20 breathtaking minutes. The last time a Temple team shot better was Dec. 8, 1986, when the Owls drowned Penn, 103-67, by draining 35 of 60 shots (58.3 percent) and 11 of 20 “threes.”

Temple, following the lead of Howie Evans (school-record 20 assists, 17 points) and freshman Mark Macon (career-high 31 points) committed just one turnover in the second half, six overall, and was a perfect 14-for-14 at the foul line in the final two minutes.

Villanova’s near-perfection was not far behind. The 20th-ranked Wildcats (16-7) shot 51.7 percent from the floor (30-for-58), were impressive from the three-point line (10-for-22) and the foul stripe (16-for-18), and emptied Massimino’s file cabinet attempting to solve Temple’s relentless offense.

The Wildcats’ easel simply ran dry two minutes from the masterpiece’s completion. Villanova, down 86-81 with 1:42 left, came up empty on seven

of its final eight shots — all three-pointers. Temple controlled every long rebound and outscored the 'Cats, 12-5, with all of the Owls' points coming at the foul line.

When it finally ended, players and coaches hugged, and the estimated 4,800 — 300 over capacity — who stayed on their feet for the final five minutes joined in a boisterous, pompon-waving rendition of Kool & the Gang's "Cel-a- brate good times, C'mon."

"I guess we get a chance to stay No. 1 for one more day, maybe," Temple coach John Chaney said. "I think it showed the emergence of character in a team, in young men, from both teams."

Chaney said he and Massimino could have spent the evening sitting out on Broad Street munching from a bag of peanuts. "The players just played themselves into a win, as I see it," he said. "That wasn't something I orchestrated. There was nothing I had to do with it. Those kids just played great, great basketball."

Showing remarkable cool under the heat lamp that comes with being No. 1, Temple kept counterpunching Villanova's best shots in a game that produced 23 lead changes and four ties.

The last lead change came courtesy of a Vreeswyk three-pointer with Doug West sticking to his jersey. It gave the Owls a 69-67 lead seconds after West cut off a Rodney Taylor screen to drain a tough 18-footer and give Villanova its final lead, 67-66.

Vreeswyk's bucket seemed to say, "We're not going anywhere." His teammates rode that confidence wave to a 76-69 lead by outscoring the 'Cats, 7-2, in a 3:07 span helped by two Kenny Wilson turnovers, a Tom Greis traveling violation and a Tim Perry rejection of a Mark Plansky drive.

Ramon Rivas and Macon placed the spike over Villanova's heart. Rivas capped the spurt with a lefthanded follow of a Perry miss, and Macon lofted a 12-footer over Plansky along the left baseline.

The resilient, Big East-tested 'Cats kept firing, closing to 81-75, and in control of the ball, with 3:24 showing. But Perry, who swatted away a season-high seven shots, refused to let Villanova any closer. On 'Nova's most crucial possession, the 6-7 Taylor spotted a seam, drove strongly into the lane and went up for a running one-hander. Perry met him at the summit, rose and turned the ball backward at its peak. Greis caught Perry's swat, pump-faked him in the lane and loaded a "jumper," underestimating Perry's amazing quickness off his feet.

As Greis committed, Perry recoiled and re-elevated, his seemingly endless arms outstretched above him. Greis, the 7-2 sophomore, had no choice but to try to shoot around Perry. It caught only rim. Perry, realizing all the way that he would alter it, was down and up again in time to snatch the rebound and outlet to point man Evans. Evans chewed some clock, swung it to Macon, and Macon found Vreeswyk streaking to the corner off a Rivas down screen. Vreeswyk squared, caught Macon's pass and, in one-motion, nailed a three-pointer for a 84-75 Temple lead.

"Timmy didn't score a lot of points (14, six rebounds)," Chaney said, "but he orchestrated a force. Villanova knew he was in that pivot all the time, and that really opened some things for us. That's the way good teams get to be great teams, when players don't allow their ego to get them."

By the time Vreeswyk's "three" fell, Temple had emptied Villanova's rifle rack.

"We just wouldn't let Villanova beat us," said Rivas, who scored 11 and swept seven boards.

The Owls' 1-2-3 frontline rotation of the 6-9 Perry, 6-10 Rivas and budding 6-11 sophomore Duane Causwell eventually wore down Greis and Taylor,



the Wildcats' only inside weapons. The vastly improved Greis scored 16, but ran out of gas in the second half, when he scored just six points, with no rebounds and just four shots after an impressive first half.

West, who torched the Owls' zone with 20 first-half points, 18 of them coming on a Villanova record six three-pointers, was unable to maintain that pace after Chaney switched to a well-disguised combination matchup/man-to-man, with Vreeswyk shadowing West. The 6-6 junior got just five shots and scored just seven points in the second half.

Wilson, in his finest game as a 'Cat, did everything he could to keep Villanova breathing down the stretch, eventually finishing with 25 points and nine assists.

It was Villanova's misfortune that the only kids in the gym better than Wilson last night were Temple's guards, Evans and Macon. Pick a superlative, think big, and you might approach describing their performances.

Macon, unfazed by the atmosphere, hit 14 of 20 shots, including both of his three-pointers. Evans came within four rebounds of an eye-popping triple-double, adding six rebounds and a pair of key steals to his other staggering numbers. His 20 assists were two shy of the NCAA record (22) held by someone from Baptist College named Tony Fairly. He did it last Feb. 9.

"How can you describe how he played?" Rivas asked. "Up here is where he played." His right hand was stretched high overhead.

"He's as good a backcourt kid as there is in the United States," Massimino gushed.

"I think he orchestrated a great game," Chaney said. "I just thought he was exceptional in what he did tonight in terms of being what we've asked him to be."

Later, in a near-empty Owls locker room, Evans said, “This tastes so good.”

“Maybe there’s not a No. 1 jinx,” Vreeswyk said. “I’ve always thought if Mark’s hitting his shots, I’m hitting my shots, it’s going to be over. Because we’re hitting ‘threes,’ and the other teams coming down are shooting ‘twos.’ With Timmy playing defense like he did and Ramon being a force like he was, Duane contributing, Howie dominating . . . that’s tough for anyone.

“We hit on all five cylinders tonight.”

“This is one of the first times in 32 years of coaching basketball that I really don’t feel upset about losing,” said Massimino, whose team departed immediately and showered at Villanova. “You always find a way of getting yourself somewhat disgruntled about the way your team played (in defeat). But I can’t tonight.

“They’re for real,” he said of Temple . “They continue to shoot like that, there’s no one in the country that can beat ’em.”

“The most satisfying part is we played like champions,” Vreeswyk said. “We really did.”

# Temple rally tames 'Nova

## Macon, Evans lift Owls to 98-86 win

By M. C. Missanelli  
*Inquirer Staff Writer*

There were no gimmicks at McGonigle Hall last night. No shaved heads, no juggling of a school mascot, no ugly banners.

Temple and Villanova got together last night to do one thing: play ball. And that they did.

The No. 1-ranked Owls outlasted Villanova (No. 20 AP), 98-86, before an overflow crowd of more than 4,500. And what those in person — and a national cable television audience — saw was that both teams have taken a proper place among the nation's basketball elite.

It was a game with so many great moments, so many electrifying plays, so many emotional highs that there is not enough newspaper to expound. So here's a brief listing:

- Temple point guard Howie Evans finished with 17 points, 20 assists and one turnover in 40 minutes. His Villanova counterpart, Kenny Wilson, finished with 25 points and nine assists. Evans' 20 assists broke a school record and were just two short of the NCAA mark of 22.

- Owls freshman Mark Macon finished with a career-high 31 points, including two three-pointers. His 'Nova counterpart, Doug West, had 27 points, including 20 in the first half, and shot 7 for 13 from the three-point line.

- Nine players ended in double figures as the team's combined for 184 points in a game that, believe it or not, had great defensive intensity. The 98 points scored by Temple were the most against a Villanova team since South Carolina's 96 against the Cats in 1976.

- There were 24 lead changes in the game and four ties.

- The Owls shot 55 percent from the field and 69 percent from three-point range, while Villanova shot 50 percent and 45.

- Temple's Tim Perry had 14 points and tied his season-high with seven blocked shots.

But in the end, it was Temple's poise and savvy down the stretch, and the incredible shooting of forward Mike Vreeswyk, that were the deciding factors in the Owls' first defense of their top ranking.

After breaking through for a short lead in the latter part of the contest, Temple buried 14 straight free throws over the last two minutes to hold off Villanova. Vreeswyk, who had only three points in the first half, buried 16 in the second, including four three-point goals.

"I thought it was one of the best basketball games played in this city in a lot of years, a lot of years," Villanova coach Rollie Massimino said. "You can go back to whenever."  
(See TEMPLE on 4-E)

## Evans' game is one to remember

By Jayson Stark  
*Inquirer Staff Writer*

He is the man who conducted a symphony that will play on in our minds for decades.

He is Howie Evans, the point guard on the No. 1 team in this land. And last night, in a basketball game that will forever be a part of Big 5 lore, he was the guy most responsible for turning a mere athletic event into an experience that transcended the normal definition of the word *game*.

"Tonight," said his coach, John Chaney, "Howie Evans just *made* us a good basketball team."

Temple beat Villanova, 98-86, but it couldn't have happened without Howie Evans.

Mark Macon scored a career-high 31 points and looked more like Byron Scott than a college freshman. But that couldn't have happened without Howie Evans, either.

Temple had five players score in double figures, shot 55.6 percent from the field, buried 69 percent of

its three-pointers (9 of 13) and committed just one turnover in a riveting second half. But none of that could have happened without Howie Evans.

On the most important night of his brilliant four-year career, Howie Evans had the game of his life.

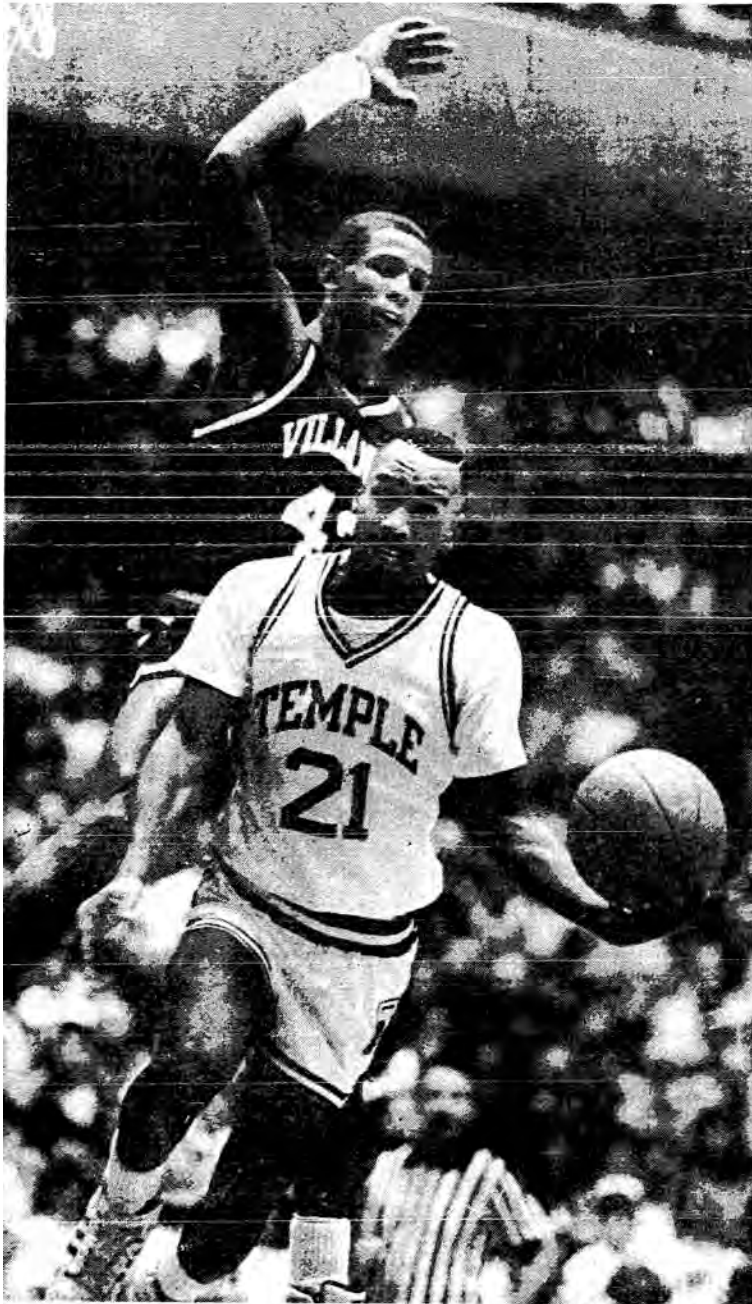
He dished out 20 assists, which broke a Temple record he had been stalking for two months. He coupled those 20 assists with exactly one turnover. One.

That news was relayed to Chaney after last night's game. He listened to the numbers. He turned and stared at Evans.

"How many turnovers did he have?" Chaney asked. "One? Why the hell did you have one turnover, Howie? Geez."

Oh, there were 17 big points, too. And his standard 9-for-10 performance at the foul line. And two steals. And six rebounds (four more than Villanova center Tom Grvis pulled

(See EVANS on 4-E)



Temple's Howard Evans, who dished out a school-record 20 assists, moves by Villanova's Doug West.

The Philadelphia Inquirer / RON CORTEZ

# MACON, EVANS LIFT OWLS TO 98-86 WIN

*Feb.11, 1988 / Philadelphia Inquirer*

**By M.G. MISSANELLI**

There were no gimmicks at McGonigle Hall last night. No shaved heads, no mugging of a school mascot, no ugly banners.

Temple and Villanova got together last night to do one thing: play ball.

And that they did.

The No. 1-ranked Owls outlasted Villanova (No. 20 AP), 98-86, before an overflow crowd of more than 4,500. And what those in person — and a national cable television audience — saw was that both teams have taken a proper place among the nation's basketball elite.

It was a game with so many great moments, so many electrifying plays, so many emotional highs that there is not enough newspaper to expound. So here's a brief listing:

► Temple point guard Howie Evans finished with 17 points, 20 assists and one turnover in 40 minutes. His Villanova counterpart, Kenny Wilson, finished with 25 points and nine assists. Evans' 20 assists broke a school record and were just two short of the NCAA mark of 22.

► Owls freshman Mark Macon finished with a career-high 31 points, including two three-pointers. His 'Nova counterpart, Doug West, had 27 points, including 20 in the first half, and shot 7-for-13 from the three-point line.

► Nine players ended in double figures as the teams combined for 184 points in a game that, believe it or not, had great defensive intensity. The

98 points scored by Temple were the most against a Villanova team since South Carolina's 96 against the Cats in 1976.

- ▶ There were 24 lead changes in the game and four ties.
- ▶ The Owls shot 55 percent from the field and 69 percent from three-point range, while Villanova shot 50 percent and 45.
- ▶ Temple's Tim Perry had 14 points and tied his season-high with seven blocked shots.

But in the end, it was Temple's poise and savvy down the stretch, and the incredible shooting of forward Mike Vreeswyk, that were the deciding factors in the Owls' first defense of their top ranking.

After breaking through for a short lead in the latter part of the contest, Temple buried 14 straight free throws over the last two minutes to hold off Villanova. Vreeswyk, who had only three points in the first half, buried 16 in the second, including four three-point goals.

"I thought it was one of the best basketball games played in this city in a lot of years, a lot of years," Villanova coach Rollie Massimino said. "You can go back to whenever and you won't find a basketball game played the way this one was."

"Rollie and I could have stood on Broad Street and ate peanuts; this was a game for the players," Temple coach John Chaney said. "I don't think I ever had control of it. It was nothing I orchestrated. The players played themselves into a win."

Villanova tried to exploit Temple's 1-3-1 zone with the three-point shot, and was largely successful thanks to the long-range sniping of West. The 6-foot-6 junior guard buried his first two three-pointers early in the contest as 'Nova ran out to an 8-3 lead. For the half, West shot 6-for-9 from three-point range.

Massimino, as expected, threw a variety of defenses at the Owls, switching constantly from man-to-man to zone. West opened on Macon, then yielded briefly to Mark Plansky. Rodney Taylor played Perry. The Owls countered by channeling the ball to Ramon Rivas in an effort to get Tom Greis in some foul trouble. But Rivas missed his first three shots and Greis did not commit a foul in the first half. However, Temple knocked down a few three-pointers to get back into the contest.

“We weren’t that upset (when Villanova took an 8-0 lead),” Evans said. “Villanova is an emotional team. They came out emotional and hit their shots. We knew it was only a matter of time before we hit ours.”

The pace was usually frenetic with Temple running more than it has perhaps all year, due mainly to its proficiency on the defensive boards.

Macon, who ignited the crowd with a soaring baseline move for a dunk, was involved in a variety of pivotal plays in the first half.

On one, he missed a breakaway dunk when West made a late chase. But the freshman came back minutes later to strip Greis, and then receive a pass from Evans for a layup. That made the score 35-32, Temple’s biggest lead of the half.

But West tied the score on a three-pointer, then came back to give Villanova the lead with another three-pointer after two free throws from Evans.

Macon and Evans then sandwiched field goals around a short jumper from Greis to give Temple a 41-40 halftime lead.

One of Temple’s keys in the second half was its ability to harness West, who got only five shots in the second half and was only 1-for-4 from three-point range.

“We disguised our defenses, but basically, we were in a match-up zone that got out a little more on West,” Chaney said.

West’s last three-pointer of the game, in the early minutes of the second half, gave Villanova a 47-43 lead. And with 14 minutes remaining, the Cats led by five, 57-52. But then Temple started its climb.

A Perry block led to an Owls possession that resulted in a Macon three-pointer with 9 minutes, 37 seconds left that gave Temple a 66-65 lead. West hit a jumper, but Vreeswyk buried a three-pointer and Macon hit a jumper to make it 71-67, Temple. Villanova never did get back the lead and, with just under five minutes to go, Temple led, 76-69.

From there, the Cats could never get it under five. And then came the run of 14 straight free throws, including six by Evans and four by Rivas.

“I guess,” an exhausted but happy Chaney said, “that they’ll let us keep No. 1 for a couple of days.”

# BOX SCORE

## TEMPLE 98, VILLANOVA 86

Feb. 10, 1988/McGonigle Hall

### VILLANOVA (16-7)

Player	Min	FG-A	FT-A	R	A	PF	Pts
Mark Plansky	38	3-10	0-0	7	9	4	8
Rodney Taylor	27	3-7	4-4	8	0	5	10
Tom Greis	35	8-12	0-1	2	0	2	16
Kenny Wilson	40	8-11	8-9	2	9	4	25
Doug West	33	8-15	4-4	3	0	4	27
Gary Massey	24	0-3	0-0	2	0	1	0
Barry Bekkedam	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Team				4			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>30-58</b>	<b>16-18</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>86</b>

**Three-Point Goals:** 10-22 (West 7-13, Plansky 2-6, Wilson 1-3).

**Steals:** 1 (Wilson 1).

**Turnovers:** 12 (Greis 4, Wilson 3, Plansky 2, West 2, Bekkedam 1).

**Blocked Shots:** 3 (Greis 2, Plansky 1).

### TEMPLE (19-1)

Player	Min	FG-A	FT-A	R	A	PF	Pts
Mike Vreeswyk	40	6-10	2-2	4	0	3	19
Tim Perry	40	6-15	2-2	6	1	0	14
Ramon Rivas	23	3-8	5-7	7	0	4	11
Mark Macon	40	14-20	1-3	3	2	2	31
Howard Evans	40	3-6	9-10	6	20	3	17
Duane Causwell	17	3-4	0-0	4	0	3	6
Team				2			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>35-63</b>	<b>19-24</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>98</b>

**Three-Point Goals:** 9-13 (Vreeswyk 5-7, Macon 2-2, Evans 2-4).

**Steals:** 6 (Macon 3, Evans 2, Causwell 1).

**Turnovers:** 6 (Perry 2, Rivas 2, Evans 1, Causwell 1).

**Blocked Shots:** 7 (Perry 7).

<b>Villanova</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Temple</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>98</b>

**Officials:** Jody Silvester, Gene Monje, Tom Fraim.

**Attendance:** 4,500.



# OWLS NEED A LARGER SHOWROOM

*Feb.11, 1988 / Philadelphia Daily News*

**By STAN HOCHMAN**

Michelle Rosewoman's Trio played the Nite Owl Pub last night. Soft, lyrical jazz.

Howie Evans and his Quintet played McGonigle Hall. Sizzling, taut, pulsating Dixieland.

Temple's campus was alive with the sound of music.

Rosewoman deserved a loftier, lovelier room, a wider stage.

And Evans and his rambling, raucous, reach-for-the-stars band? The incredibly talented, remarkably slick young men who pounded out a syncopated, 98-86 victory over Villanova?

"Bill Cosby called this afternoon," Temple president Peter Liacouras said, "and he said now is the time to strike for the new facility. He's thinking 20,000 seats, multipurpose, a center for therapy for the disabled, a place to hold our convocations."

Cosby thinks he's Kublai Khan, decreeing a stately pleasure dome where Wilkie Buick now stands. Xanadu.

"We've got the land, we could get it done in two years," chortled Liacouras, clutching his lucky Greek cap, his hoarse throat hidden behind his lucky polka-dot ascot.

The time is now. Start tomorrow. Get it done before Mark Macon's senior year. Panel it with silk to match his jump shot; light it with lasers to match his steely stare; wrap it in ribbons to match his incredible gifts.

“I think 12,000 seats might be more realistic,” said Liacouras.

“Tennish,” said athletic director Charles Theokas. “Tonight was the first rocket in the drive for a new facility.

“People said you’ll never get fans to come uptown. We were able to diffuse that. Bring good teams and they’ll come.”

That’s what last night’s warmup at Sullivan Hall was all about. Movers and shakers, moving and shaking in a meeting room with medieval dimensions, brought together in anticipation of a wonderful college basketball game to be played in a too-small arena.

They announced the crowd at 4,500 because they don’t want the fire department squawking. It was more like 4,800, and that’s a crying shame, because last night’s ballgame was one of those unforgettable dramas, a game fit for the Spectrum, for the Superdome, for the Taj Mahal.

“That,” sighed Rollie Massimino, “was a national championship kind of game. One of the best I’ve ever been involved with.”

Massimino coached the losing team.

“Rollie and I might sit on Broad Street and eat a bag of peanuts,” said John Chaney. “I could never get a handle on the game.

“The players just played themselves into a win.”

It was Ali and Frazier, without the gloves. It was Marty Liquori and Jim Ryun that unforgettable afternoon at Franklin Field, without the cleats.

It was Green Bay and Dallas without the snow and ice. It was exciting and passionate and intense and shrill and highly skilled all at the same time.

“The key person was Howie Evans,” Chaney said. “He orchestrated a great game.”

Like Toscanini, like Stokowski, like Muti. Evans scored 17 points, grabbed six rebounds, dished out 20 assists.

“As good a backcourt kid as there is in the United States,” gushed Massimino.

Evans was wonderful. So was Mike Vreeswyk, with his three-point mortars from the corners. So was Tim Perry, swatting away seven Villanova shots; so was Ramon Rivas, pounding back the occasional miss; and so was Duane Causwell in 17 minutes of relief of Rivas.

It's too late for them, they'll be gone before the car lot is leveled and the architects finish their blueprints and Cosby runs enough fund-raisers.

But there is time enough to get it done before Macon takes his dazzling talents to the next level. The lad deserves a wider stage, a brighter room, a much, much bigger crowd.

“Everybody has to realize,” said trustee Iz Schrager, “that a university is there for the purpose of giving young people the opportunity to get an education.

“However, we live in a real world. The average American knows Notre Dame because of its football team. They know Indiana University because of basketball. They don't really know if they're good universities or not. Look at Fordham when they had the iron men. That's what people knew. You can't swim against the tide.”

Iron men, blocks of granite, it's all the same. Liacouras may have been premature with his “Final Four in '84” prophecy, but Chaney has gathered a talented, disciplined group and they looked like they deserved their ranking at the top of basketball's jumbled heap.

“Sure, we’d have to stay good to justify a new arena,” said Schrager. “The only way to stay good is to get great athletes. The only way to do that is to be good.”

Last night’s game would have packed the Spectrum. But Temple played at Villanova last year, and it was their turn to host the game on campus.

“The marginal dollars,” said Temple vice president Pat Swygert, “can’t replace the excitement of this afternoon’s pep rally and this evening’s excitement.

“This all started last year when we played UCLA on campus. They came from Westwood to North Philadelphia. This just continues that momentum.”

Does it make sense to build an arena on Broad Street, when the Spectrum exists, when the Palestra has 8,700 seats and a rich history?

“It would be a mistake,” said state legislator Steve Friend, a Villanova graduate. “They fill McGonigle Hall, and it becomes a snake pit. If a new arena wound up half-empty they’d lose the homecourt advantage.”

“They’d have to settle on a number (of seats),” said Fred Shabel, once athletic director at Penn, now president of Spectacor, a parent company that includes PRISM and the Spectrum.

“I remember when I was at Duke and I scouted Utah. Jack Gardner was the coach, used to keep a quart of milk on the bench and gulp it during games.

“He loved sellouts in his old 4,500-seat arena. He liked the idea. You build too big a place and those empty seats can be depressing.

“Perhaps a 6,000-seat, multipurpose building with squash courts and an indoor track, and community involvement, so that it’s not just for 15 basketball games.

“And then, if you have a game with special appeal, like tonight’s game, you bring it to the Spectrum and draw 17,000 or 18,000.”

It could happen as early as next year, a four-team “tournament” with North Carolina and North Carolina State coming to town to play Temple and Villanova on back-to-back nights.

The Temple talk about a new building doesn’t thrill Big 5 director Dan Baker, but it doesn’t chill him either.

“We’re in the second year of a 10-year agreement to continue to play one another,” he said. “We’ve adapted to survive, as opposed to becoming extinct.”

“That had to be the best ballgame played in this city in a lot of years,” said Massimino, who could not fault the gallant way his players scrapped.

Villanova got 27 points from Doug West and a gritty 40-minute virtuoso performance from Kenny Wilson and tough rebounding from Rodney Taylor and Mark Plansky and alert defense that somehow was riddled by Temple’s shooting.

“I put 59 on the board,” Massimino sighed, referring to the number of points he wanted to hold Temple to.

“What happened? They put the ball in the god-blessed hole.”

The 4,800 who crammed into McGonigle were blessed. They stuck around when it was over, reluctant to leave, savoring the aroma, the memories of Perry soaring to snuff a shot or Macon walking a high wire near the baseline.

You wouldn’t keep a van Gogh in the attic or a Rembrandt in the basement and it would seem a shame if Macon has to play the rest of his career at cramped McGonigle.

“They’re going to be a good team as long as John Chaney is here,” said Sonny Hill. “So a big new arena makes sense. You want to grow, why not take a giant step?”

The sleeping giant of a university seems to be awakening to the sound of music. It may be time for Liacouras to pass his lucky hat, for Cosby to do a benefit concert or two.

We can’t be sure how Macon feels about the issue. Chaney has ruled him off-limits to the media.

“I don’t want someone taking him out to leftfield and kicking him around,” Chaney rasped.

Relax, coach. Off what we’ve seen so far, Macon could take a covey of media out to left, right or centerfield and tie us all in knots.

# Leading Man

## Evans Deals 20 Assists in Owls' Victory

By **DICK WEISS**  
Daily News Sports Writer

Nate Blackwell and Howie Evans. For three seasons, they had been inseparable parts of the Temple backcourt.

Blackwell graduated last year and went off to play briefly in the NBA with the San Antonio Spurs and Golden State Warriors. But when the top-ranked Owls renewed their City Series rivalry with Villanova last night, you knew he would find his way back to McGonigle Hall.

Blackwell called for a ticket at the last moment and wound up sitting in Temple president Peter Liacouras's seat. He also wound up in the locker room before the game to give a pep talk to Evans, who has shifted over to replace Blackwell as Temple's starting lead guard.

"He was back massaging Howie's head, telling him not to be a bumper car and to make sure he stayed within his element," Temple coach John Chaney said.

Blackwell is starting to do a pretty fair imitation of Chaney. And Evans is starting to do a pretty fair imitation of Blackwell. Evans played the finest game of his career in the Owls' 98-86 victory over the Wildcats.

The 6-1 senior scored 17 points, dished off a school record 20 assists (two shy of the NCAA record) and committed only one turnover in 40 minutes during a vintage City Series Classic that seems destined to be talked about in the same breath as the 1969 La Salle-Villanova matchup in years to come.

"This is one of the biggest games I've played in since I've been here," Evans said. "But we didn't want to make the game bigger than it was. Villanova is an emotional team and they hit a lot of shots early, but we were determined not to let that bother us. We weren't going to let them beat us here."

The Owls wanted to savor their new-found celebrity status after being selected No. 1 by both wire-service polls earlier in the week. And Evans's near-flawless, diamond-studded performance spoke volumes for the way Temple handled the pressure.

"The players weren't thinking about being No. 1 as much as they were focusing on beating Villanova," Evans said. "People have been saying we've been playing hash house teams. And Villanova has been beating some of the top teams in the country."

"Now, they [people] can talk all they want." Evans is a local kid who has climbed to the top of the mountain. He played his high school ball at West Philadelphia and seriously considered signing with Villanova. The Wildcats were looking for a lead guard to succeed Gary McLain. But before Evans could make up his mind, Villanova decided instead to go for Veltre Dawson, of Highland Park, Ill.

Dawson lasted only a year and a half on the Main Line before transferring to Evansville. Evans, meanwhile, has gone on to flourish in Chaney's highly disciplined environment. Ask Villanova coach Rollie Massimino about Evans these days and he offers only the highest praise.

"Howie Evans, I think, is as good a backcourt kid as there is in the United States," Massimino gushed. "He's very unselfish. He does so many things. He keeps himself under control. He creates havoc. And he makes people react differently to different situations."

Last night, Evans dissected Villanova's multiple defenses and constantly got the ball to Mike Vreeswyk and Mark Macon in the right spots at the right time. Vreeswyk shot 6-for-10, hit five three-pointers and scored 19 points. Macon responded with the best game of his career — 14-for-20, a pair of three-pointers and a season-high 31 points.

Macon, the best freshman talent in the country, could be a first-team All-America by his junior year if he continues to grow. Evans, sadly, might not even make first-team All-Big 5. But he is having the same effect on this gifted team that Jeffery Clark had on St. Joseph's in the 1981-82 season.

"Howie made all of us a good team tonight," Chaney said. "But we can't expect to do that every night. Our guys can fool you. But when they don't make [their shots], you can end up with fool's gold."

Evans was golden against the 'Cats. And the way he has played this season has further convinced Chaney that he made the right decision when he moved Evans from the more comfortable position of off-guard to the point.

"Actually, he didn't have a choice," Chaney said, with a laugh. "We talked about it all summer. It was either going to be him or Mark and I didn't know if Mark could handle me hollering and screaming at him. Howie had been with me three years, so I knew he could handle that part."

"But I didn't know if he could adapt to my value system. Sometimes guys say they can, but what comes out of their mouth doesn't always translate into what comes out on the floor."

Evans, whose nickname is "Money," has been mature enough to cash in on the transition. He leads the country these days in assist-turnover ratio, and is shooting 82.5 percent from the foul line after going 9-for-10 last night. Six of those free throws came in the final 1:50.

"I saw you miss one," Chaney said, trying to pick out the minute holes in Evans's game.

Chaney and Evans have a quiet bond that comes from the fact that they both grew up in the rugged Public League. Chaney was a great guard at Ben Franklin who went on to become a NABA legend at Bethune Cookman.



Staff Photography by G. Lela Grossmann

With Kenny Wilson flat on the floor, Howie Evans heads up court.

There is, however, one major difference between the two. Chaney played in relative obscurity at Bethune. Evans is playing under the glare of the national spotlight, which seems to be getting brighter with each passing day.

"It was really hectic the last couple of days," Evans said. "But coach Chaney has done a good job of keeping us away from all the media attention."

Chaney imposed a gag rule on his team this week until the game was over. When he

opened the floodgates, the media came surging after Evans.

"Coach," one writer said. "Howie had 20 assists tonight."

"He whoaaat?" Chaney said.

"How many turnovers did he have?" Chaney quickly asked.

"One," a writer shot back.

"What the heck did you do that for, Howie?"

Chaney said, looking in mock disgust at his near-perfect player.

# EVANS DEALS 20 ASSISTS IN OWLS WIN

*Feb.11, 1988 / Philadelphia Daily News*

**By DICK WEISS**

Nate Blackwell and Howie Evans. For three seasons, they had been inseparable parts of the Temple backcourt.

Blackwell graduated last year and went off to play briefly in the NBA with the San Antonio Spurs and Golden State Warriors. But when the top-ranked Owls renewed their City Series rivalry with Villanova last night, you knew he would find his way back to McGonigle Hall.

Blackwell called for a ticket at the last moment and wound up sitting in Temple president Peter Liacouras's seat. He also wound up in the locker room before the game to give a pep talk to Evans, who has shifted over to replace Blackwell as Temple's starting lead guard.

"He was back massaging Howie's head, telling him not to be a bumper car and to make sure he stayed within his element," Temple coach John Chaney said.

Blackwell is starting to do a pretty fair imitation of Chaney. And Evans is starting to do a pretty fair imitation of Blackwell. Evans played the finest game of his career in the Owls' 98-86 victory over the Wildcats.

The 6-1 senior scored 17 points, dished off a school record 20 assists (two shy of the NCAA record) and committed only one turnover in 40 minutes during a vintage City Series Classic that seems destined to be talked about in the same breath as the 1969 La Salle-Villanova matchup in years to come.

"This is one of the biggest games I've played in since I've been here," Evans said. "But we didn't want to make the game bigger than it was.



Villanova is an emotional team and they hit a lot of shots early, but we were determined not to let that bother us. We weren't going to let them beat us here."

The Owls wanted to savor their new-found celebrity status after being selected No. 1 by both wire-service polls earlier in the week. And Evans's near-flawless, diamond-studded performance spoke volumes for the way Temple handled the pressure.

"The players weren't thinking about being No. 1 as much as they were focusing on beating Villanova," Evans said. "People have been saying we've been playing hash house teams. And Villanova has been beating some of the top teams in the country.

"Now, they (people) can talk all they want."

Evans is a local kid who has climbed to the top of the mountain. He played his high school ball at West Philadelphia and seriously considered signing with Villanova. The Wildcats were looking for a lead guard to succeed Gary McLain. But before Evans could make up his mind, Villanova decided instead to go for Veltra Dawson, of Highland Park, Ill.

Dawson lasted only a year and a half on the Main Line before transferring to Evansville. Evans, meanwhile, has gone on to flourish in Chaney's highly disciplined environment.

Ask Villanova coach Rollie Massimino about Evans these days and he offers only the highest praise.

"Howie Evans, I think, is as good a backcourt kid as there is in the United States," Massimino gushed. "He's very unselfish. He does so many things. He keeps himself under control. He creates havoc. And he makes people react differently to different situations."

Last night, Evans dissected Villanova's multiple defenses and constantly got the ball to Mike Vreeswyk and Mark Macon in the right spots at the right time. Vreeswyk shot 6-for-10, hit five three-pointers and scored 19 points. Macon responded with the best game of his career — 14-for-20, a pair of three-pointers and a season-high 31 points.

Macon, the best freshman talent in the country, could be a first-team All-America by his junior year if he continues to grow. Evans, sadly, might not even make first-team All-Big 5. But he is having the same effect on this gifted team that Jeffery Clark had on St. Joseph's in the 1981-82 season.

"Howie made all of us a good team tonight," Chaney said. "But we can't expect to do that every night. Our guys can fool you. But when they don't make (their shots), you can end up with fool's gold."

Evans was golden against the 'Cats. And the way he has played this season has further convinced Chaney that he made the right decision when he moved Evans from the more comfortable position of off-guard to the point.

"Actually, he didn't have a choice," Chaney said, with a laugh. "We talked about it all summer. It was either going to be him or Mark and I didn't know if Mark could handle me hollering and screaming at him. Howie had been with me three years, so I knew he could handle that part.

"But I didn't know if he could adapt to my value system. Sometimes guys say they can, but what comes out of their mouth doesn't always translate into what comes out on the floor."

Evans, whose nickname is "Money," has been mature enough to cash in on the transition. He leads the country these days in assist-turnover ratio, and is shooting 82.5 percent from the foul line after going 9-for-10 last night. Six of those free throws came in the final 1:50.

"I saw you miss one," Chaney said, trying to pick out the minute holes in Evans's game.

Chaney and Evans have a quiet bond that comes from the fact that they both grew up in the rugged Public League. Chaney was a great guard at Ben Franklin who went on to become an NAIA legend at Bethune Cookman.

There is, however, one major difference between the two. Chaney played in relative obscurity at Bethune. Evans is playing under the glare of the national spotlight, which seems to be getting brighter with each passing day.

“It was really hectic the last couple of days,” Evans said. “But coach Chaney has done a good job of keeping us away from all the media attention.”

Chaney imposed a gag rule on his team this week until the game was over. When he opened the floodgates, the media came surging after Evans.

“Coach,” one writer said, “Howie had 20 assists tonight.”

“He whaaaat?” Chaney said.

“How many turnovers did he have?” Chaney quickly asked.

“One,” a writer shot back.

“What the heck did you do that for, Howie?” Chaney said, looking in mock disgust at his near-perfect player.

# EVANS' GAME IS ONE TO REMEMBER

*Feb. 11, 1988 / Philadelphia Inquirer*

**By JAYSON STARK**

He is the man who conducted a symphony that will play on in our minds for decades.

He is Howie Evans, the point guard on the No. 1 team in this land. And last night, in a basketball game that will forever be a part of Big 5 lore, he was the guy most responsible for turning a mere athletic event into an experience that transcended the normal definition of the word game.

“Tonight,” said his coach, John Chaney, “Howie Evans just made us a good basketball team.”

Temple beat Villanova, 98-86, but it couldn't have happened without Howie Evans.

Mark Macon scored a career-high 31 points and looked more like Byron Scott than a college freshman. But that couldn't have happened without Howie Evans, either.

Temple had five players score in double figures, shot 55.6 percent from the field, buried 69 percent of its three-pointers (9 of 13) and committed just one turnover in a riveting second half. But none of that could have happened without Howie Evans.

On the most important night of his brilliant four-year career, Howie Evans had the game of his life.

He dished out 20 assists, which broke a Temple record he had been stalking for two months. He coupled those 20 assists with exactly one turnover. One.

That news was relayed to Chaney after last night's game. He listened to the numbers. He turned and stared at Evans.

"How many turnovers did he have?" Chaney asked. "One? Why the hell did you have one turnover, Howie? Geez."

Oh, there were 17 big points, too. And his standard 9-for-10 performance at the foul line. And two steals. And six rebounds (four more than Villanova center Tom Greis pulled down, for what it's worth).

But it was that assist record that Evans wanted the most.

"Something to tell my children about," he said.

And something to tell his good pals, Tim Perry and Mark Macon, about, too.

Two weeks ago, he bet Perry and Macon "five or 10 dollars" apiece that he was going to break Ricky Reed's record of 16 before he was through wearing that cherry-and-white uniform.

"See, I'm a gambler," Evans said, laughing. "I like money."

But in the three games since he made that bet, he racked up 10, 12 and 11. And while that's not too bad for your basic mere mortals, it wasn't enough for Evans.

"I was getting worried a little bit," he said. "There were times when I thought I had enough assists, and when it was over, I came up two short or three short. So it was funny, because tonight I was totally unaware that I had so many. I was just into the game so much, I didn't realize I had 20.

"I've been teasing Mark and Timmy, telling them that if they shot better, I wouldn't have any problems. But tonight they hit their shots . . . so I can get off their case now.

"I haven't collected yet. But I will, believe me."

He will collect the bets, and then he will go out and conduct the symphony some more. And the more Temple's song gets heard throughout the land, the more people will begin to realize just how much Evans has had to do with all this.

"I'm glad we're No. 1 now," he conceded last night, "because maybe somebody will take a look me and say, 'Who's running that ball club over there?' I think maybe I'll get some recognition now."

He has gotten his share around here at times. And he has managed to make himself third in the country in assists per game (8.7). But even in Philadelphia, he has nearly been overlooked in the stampede to get the scintillating Macon an instant induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Howie Evans hasn't complained about that, not even once. He's smart enough to realize that Mark Macon is a fairly instrumental cog in this machine, too. And he's also smart enough to realize that every time Macon buries a 22-footer, that has a chance to turn into a Howie Evans assist.

"People want to come and see Mark," he said. "But that's fine, because when they come and see him, they're going to see me, too — because I'm the guy passing Mark the ball."

Last night Evans did a lot more than just pass Macon the ball, though. For 40 minutes, he had to push the ball up the floor, figure out which of Rollie Massimino's 1,001 defenses Villanova was set up in, and direct the offense accordingly.

He did that to the tune of 20 assists and one turnover. In front of a roaring McGonigle Hall gathering that included two TV networks, one mayor, one owner of a pro basketball team (Harold Katz) and more than 4,500 other people who will never forget what they saw.

Twenty assists. One turnover in a game Massimino called “a national-championship kind of a game . . . as good a basketball game as has been played in this city in a lot of years.”

Twenty assists. One turnover. In his team’s first defense of its No. 1 ranking.

Twenty assists. One turnover. It doesn’t get much better than that, folks.

It doesn’t get much better than Howie Evans. The man who conducted a symphony we will all be humming for decades.

# WITH THE PRESSURE ON, THE OWLS COOKED

*Feb. 12, 1988 / Philadelphia Inquirer*

**By M.G. MISSANELLI**

As soon as the wire services released their latest polls earlier this week, the pressure of being ranked No. 1 descended on the Temple Owls.

Newspapers from throughout the country called the Temple sports offices looking for reaction. Local TV film crews camped out at the school's dormitories, hoping to get player interviews.

Even coach John Chaney wasn't safe.

"My phone has been ringing off the wall; I can't even go home," Chaney said. "When my wife's not crawling under the covers trying to hide, she's buzzing around cleaning the house in case media people drop over. My neighbors are coming to my front door yelling, 'Chaney, come out.' I'll tell you, it's been hectic."

People who wondered how the Owls would react to all the added pressure got their answer Wednesday night. The answer was that they reveled in it.

Temple defeated Villanova, 98-86, at McGonigle Hall in a game that many are calling the greatest in Philadelphia college basketball history. It was one of those good old-fashioned runs that appealed to the pride of every player and coach on the floor. It was a game certainly not soon to be forgotten.

"It was one of the first times in 32 years of coaching basketball that I really don't feel upset about losing," 'Nova coach Rollie Massimino said. "I always find a way of getting myself somewhat miffed about the way my team played. But this was an incredible game for both teams."



The game showed that Temple, now 19-1, can no longer be looked at as simply a half-court team. The Owls matched Villanova tempo for tempo en route to their second-highest point output of the season (they entered the game averaging 77 points a game). So efficient was their offense that Chaney, normally a stickler for an even pace, just sat back and enjoyed.

“I didn’t feel like I ever had control; it was a players’ game,” he said.

While most of the pregame attention was focused on the inside matchup of Temple’s 6-foot-9 Tim Perry and Villanova’s 7-2 Tom Greis, it was left to a pair of pint-sized point guards to steal the show. And steal it they did.

Villanova’s Kenny Wilson fashioned perhaps the finest game of his three-year career with a career-high 25 points and nine assists. Temple’s Howard Evans countered with 17 points and 20 assists, a total that broke the Temple one-game mark set by Rick Reed and fell just two short of the NCAA record.

So intense was the competition between the two guards that in one particular second-half moment, they almost came to blows.

“(Going against Wilson) was something I looked forward to,” Evans said. “He’s a great player, and I guess I’m considered to be a pretty good player. It was just pride. I told myself that I wasn’t going to let him come to our gym and be the key to the game.

“We wanted Villanova very badly. People have been saying that we haven’t been beating the top teams in the country, that we wouldn’t be this successful if we were in the Big East. But I think we proved a few things.”

And then there was Mark Macon, Temple’s basketball version of Baryshnikov. The 6-5 freshman added a few more startling moves to his already ample repertoire en route to a career-high 31 points. Macon’s baseline dunk in the first half — on which he flowed around defender

Rodney Taylor and soared to the hole a la Julius Erving — was a classic, as was his running, lefthanded hook in the second half.

“It’s great playing with Mark,” Evans said. “He’s such a great talent. Right now all I’m trying to do is get the most out of him. He was hot, so I tried to milk him until he was dry.”

There were 24 lead changes in the game and four ties. Nine players scored in double figures. Temple shot 56 percent for the game and an incredible 69 percent from three-point range.

“Every game I put a number on the board signifying the points we want to allow and in this game it was 59,” Massimino said. “And I usually pick it fairly accurately.

“They’re for real, no question. How far can they go? If they continue to shoot like that, they can go as far as they want.”

And so, Temple has survived its first test in its brief reign as No. 1 — with flying colors. What’s it all mean to Chaney?

“I guess it means that we have the chance to stay No. 1 for one more game, maybe, huh?” he said.

“I think the coach is really happy,” explained Evans. “He might not show it, but he’s just that type of guy. Every player and every coach, I believe, would like to have the opportunity to be ranked No. 1.

“I think after the season, he’ll be able to look back and enjoy it. But this is his way of demanding more, making sure we don’t get complacent.

“I’ll tell you one thing, I feel sorry for next year’s team,” Evans said.

“Because he’s going to want them to be just like us.”