five overtimes

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nt Joe had lost dicia Dobbels fouls, so Cudinbar came off the slack with and clutch

an emotional re were times ball inside, got tough defense 'Smith said. mes when we ig and weren't ratience on ofalso had some hrow line, but e been due to

45 of 81 field of 12 three-34 of 58 free ern succeeded (.414), two of 0) and 36 of 54 e Lady Norse 79-59, but the s (31-17) and

the overtime e kept telling and something his team has me all season long and now they should know they can come back against anyone."

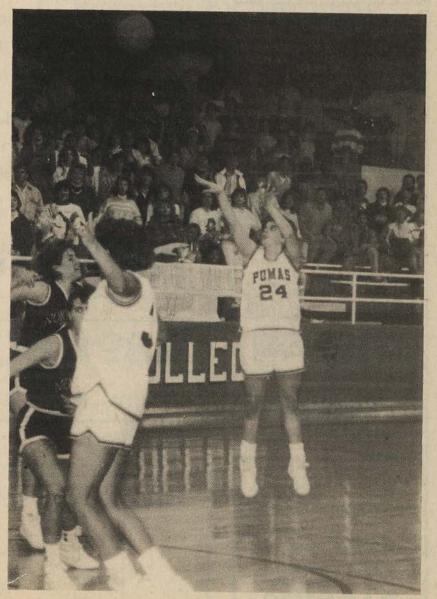
Smith admitted the contest put him through a psychological wringer: "I thought we had it won a few times, and I agonized when I thought we had lost it," he said. "I was trying to think ahead to necessary strategies all the time, but I've never experienced so many highs and lows in one game."

The win gives the Pumas a 24-2 season record and moves them into first place in the GLVC with a 13-1

mark; Northern drops to 24-2 and second place in the conference at 12-2.

Saint Joe could clinch a tie for the GLVC crown by beating IUPU-Fort Wayne Thursday, and if that happens, Smith said the Pumas may be able to look back on Saturday's win as their ticket to the NCAA tournament.

Smith didn't lose his sense of humor, either. His first remark in a postgame interview was: "This game will wreck our defensive average."



Tom Sulliva

Saint Joseph's Jeannette Yeoman (24) unleashes the field goal that pulled the Pumas into a 77-77 tie and forced the first overtime during the Pumas' record-setting 131-130 win over Northern Kentucky Saturday night in Alumni Fieldhouse.