

# 20 years later, Grady makes it Garden party

BY BILL TRAVERS  
Daily News Sports Writer

Welcome back! The present Madison Square Garden is about 15 blocks south of the old place. And the players in yesterday's city PSAL championship weren't even born when Jefferson's Tony Jackson set the PSAL playoff record with 54 points. Or knew of the huge crowds that witnessed the great duels between Boys High's Connie Hawkins and Wingate's Roger Brown. But the important thing was that the PSAL was back in the Garden after a 26-year absence, and Grady made the most of it with a 71-61 victory over Manhattan Center last night to capture the Class A championship. And 6,352 fans were on hand to enjoy it.

**Real 'city' title**  
With the victory, the Falcons will play CHSAA champion Cardinal Hayes for the city championship tomorrow. But that game will be 250 miles away in Glens Falls, in the semifinal of the state Federation championship. And not here in the Big Apple, where it belongs. Grady (25-1) dominated the early minutes last night and held a nine-point lead (35-26)

**FLASHES**  
Andrew Jackson's 6-6 junior **Crafton Ferguson** won the slam-dunk contest. . . . **Tamara Aponte** of Evarder won 3-point shooting contest. . . . Grady beat MC 78-75 in OT in semis of Doc Turner Classic at Christs. — Travers

going into the final 16 minutes. It was 13-2 after just three minutes, then 19-12 after one quarter and the nine-point edge at intermission. Grady shot 52% for the half, the Rams shot 40%.

But in the second half, the Rams (21-5) met the challenge, with Donald Graham, scoreless in the first half, and David Sweeting, the team's top scorer all season, leading the way. Manhattan Center tied it at 45-45 on a running one-hander by Sweeting.

**Like a see-saw**

But Jack Ringel's squad wasn't to be denied. The game went back and forth until six minutes remained. At that point, MC took a 54-51 lead on Graham's third tri-fecta of the half (he wound up with 13 points overall).

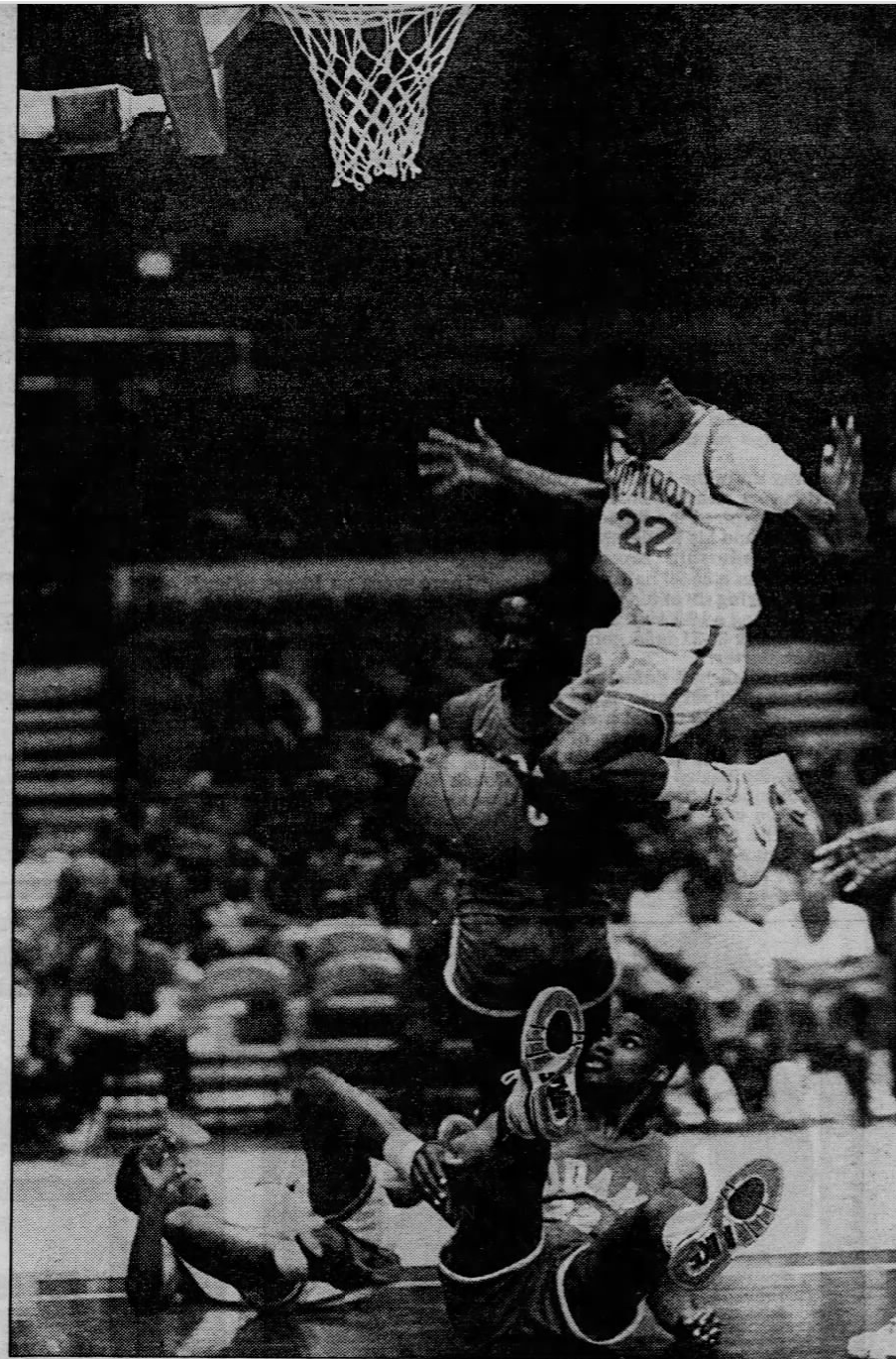
But Grady came back, running off eight unanswered points for a 59-54 lead, with Maurice Brown and James Hector starting the run with a jumper and rebound basket, respectively.

However, Sweeting, the 6-3 senior guard who had a game-high 28 points, then hit three straight buckets and the Rams went up 60-59 with 2:41 left.

Then, however, Hector, the MVP with 23 points and 14 rebounds, and Brown led Grady on a 12-1 run to sew it up.

Hector was unstoppable underneath, as Manhattan Center assistant coach Robert Pagan had feared. "We're happy to be at the dance," he said before the game. "But if Hector decides to take the lead, it could be a short dance."

Hector took control and the dance was over for Manhattan.



**MUST COME DOWN:** Monroe's Lamont Hamilton seems to be saying 'look out below' but Addams' Deimen Chisolm keeps his eyes on the ball. Story on Page 64. JOHN ROCA DAILY NEWS

# Martin manages Artis, wins over Shore

By DIANE BRUNO  
Daily News Sports Writer

August Martin's Rhonda Singleton has only the utmost respect for South Shore's Katasha Artis.

That's why, with 1:35 left in yesterday's PSAL city championship at Madison Square Garden, Singleton stood up from her seat on the Angels bench and applauded as Artis left the game for good.

"Katasha is a great player," said Singleton who had 15 points, six rebounds and five steals en route to earning her second straight MVP award in August Martin's 69-39 championship victory.

"I wasn't worried that she'd explode. I thought with five

players on her, she wouldn't be able to."

Singleton knows Artis' moves and vice versa. They play on the same outside-league team, Mika, in Brooklyn.

"We're like sisters," Singleton added. "I'm glad she made it to the Garden with us."

The victory is August Martin's fourth straight city title and seventh in the last eight years.

Artis, who averages 27 points a game and posted one 72-point game this season, scored 25 yesterday, but was 8-of-26 from the field. Fatigue, and being followed (mostly by Martin's Erica Ross) everywhere she went,

hampered her. "It was real difficult," said the 6-0 Artis, who also collected 16 rebounds. "But I just wanted to keep on playing hard. It wasn't like I wasn't ever going to get a chance to play in the Garden again."

"We anticipated a person on Katasha the whole game," said South Shore coach Barry Goldsmith. "We needed more offense, but we didn't get it because of their defense."

Martin led 15-9 after one quarter, but in the first 4:10 of the second quarter, the Angels outscored South Shore, 15-1, to take a 30-10 lead. Michelle Reed (13 points) had five points in the run and Carrine Jones (12) had four.

The Vikings (22-2) pulled to within 30-17 with 2:02 left in the half, but went into the locker room trailing 32-17 at halftime. Artis (25-1) had 13 of the 17. The Angels opened it up to 48-28 after three and 61-30 with 5:00 to play. "We knew if we could stop their best player, it would frustrate the rest of the team."

"We had to take her out of the game," Singleton said of Artis. "But she's got a lot of heart. I admire that."

Ascher, while happy that his Angels advance to the state Federation tournament, was not completely happy with the Angels' performance yesterday. Nor was Singleton. The Angels had 29 turnovers and countless missed layups.

"Winning is one thing," said Singleton, who fouled out with 3:42 left in the game, "but learning from your mistakes is another. And we made a lot of them. I'm glad we came out with the 'W' but I was disappointed with the way we played. We can't make those mistakes against the top teams next week."

Next up for Martin is the state public school winner, which will be decided this weekend. Martin travels to Poughkeepsie next weekend to defend its state Federation Class A title.

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