

The Monmouth University men's basketball team was in the midst of a wild comeback from a 16-point deficit at Wagner College's dingy, dank, dark Sutter Gym, a place that was a house of horrors for Monmouth. In the final minute, Tony got so excited he kicked out the wires of NMCX, knocking them off the air. Those who were listening to that game did not hear William Lewis game-winning basket. A couple of days later, Wayne Zoke, who loved to bust Tony's closest friends, said to Tony, "You have a way of endearing yourself to people."

March 1996, NEC Tournament Semifinal. It looked like another year where Monmouth was going to fall agonizingly short of making the NCAA Tournament. The Hawks were down five in the final minute when John Gairaldo hit a 3-pointer from downtown Poughkeepsie. Then, with Marist up 3, Mustafa Parksdale nailed a 3 while getting fouled out of seconds left. Tony leapt out of his chair in excitement. I admit I did, too. Monmouth won the game, 51-56. Four days later, it beat Rider, 60-59, at Boylan Gym and had its first trip to the NCAs.

-- Steve Falk