

# COLUMBIA DEFEATS PENN. GAINS TITLE

## Lion Five Rallies for 63-58 Triumph and 21st Straight Despite Beck's 25 Points

By **LOUIS EFFRAT**

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PHILADELPHIA, March 3—Fifty years of basketball at Columbia failed to produce an unbeaten quintet, but in this, the fifty-first, the Lions have only one more river to cross in order to achieve that perfect season. Opportunity will knock on Columbia's door Wednesday night at Princeton, where Lu Rossini's lads will take the floor in the role of Ivy League champions.

They wrapped up that title, their eleventh, tonight before a howling crowd of 8,551 spectators at the Palestra with a notable 63-58 decision over Howie Dallmars' determined Pennsylvania squad, coming from behind so late as three and a half minutes before the final buzzer. It wasn't easy. In fact, it was one of the most rugged struggles of all twenty-one engaged in and won by the Lions this season, eleven in league competition.

Pennsylvania's one-man wrecking crew, the stylish sophomore, Ernie Beck, threw many a ball into the hoop and many a score into the Lions before they were able to breathe freely. Beck was great. Sensational as a scorer, spectacular as a rebounder and superb on defense, the 6-foot 3-inch ace of the Quakers still could not bring about Columbia's initial setback of the campaign.

### Beck Carries Attack

The 25 points produced by Beck, who has developed an uncanny jump-shot, made Penn the threat it was throughout the contest, but it is to the credit of the Lions, who were behind at the half, 34—31, that they were able to minimize the sophomore's outstanding work.

At 15:50 in the second period, after Beck had come through with a backhand lay-up that gave Penn a 58-57 edge, the New Yorkers, never forfeiting poise, capitalized on the fast-breaking attack that their young coach, Rossini, had installed when he took over for the ailing Gordon Ridings at the start of the season.

The Lions managed to get the ball into John Azary, who had

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hustled to his position in the bucket and Azary, playing with a wrenched left ankle, handed off to Tom Powers. Exactly three and a half minutes remained when Powers curled in the lay-up that made it 59—58 in favor of Columbia.

With three minutes to go and Columbia in possession, after Don Scanlon had missed the tying foul, the visitors went into a freeze. Then, with Allan Stein getting off a perfect pass, Jack Molinas, who played a fine second half, counted from underneath and it became 61—58 at 18:20.

However, Beck and Scanlon, the former with four fouls against him, represented menaces to Columbia and the Lions still had to move warily. Then, with a half-minute left, Powers drove in with a lay-up and the men from Morningside Heights were home free. They had captured their thirtieth game in a row over a two-season span.

## Score Tied 11 Times

Unlike in the season's first meeting between the quintets—Columbia won, 68—50, at home—this was a pulse-stopping encounter, in which the unbeaten Lions were fought to a tie eleven times, seven in the second half. Rossini's original strategy called for Azary to guard against Beck, who leads the Ivy League in points scored, shoot-

ing average and rebounds. Beck is the country's pace-setter in rebounds.

Azary, who had hurt his ankle in a practice session the night before, had trouble staying with Beck and, when the second half started, Molinas, himself an outstanding sophomore, took over the defensive chores against Beck. But, there was no stopping Beck tonight. With a little more help, Ernie might have fashioned one of the year's biggest upsets as he took the scoring honors.

Furthermore, Beck captured twenty-four rebounds. Scanlon clicked for 15 points, but where Penn had two men in double-figures, Columbia had four. Stein hit for 17, Molinas 16, Azary 11 and Powers 10. Azary, incidentally, needs only 15 points to make it 1,000 for his Columbia career.

The line-up:

COLUMBIA (63)							
	FG	ST	F	FT	Pts.	A.	PF
Azary, lf .....	4	10	3	3	11	1	2
Stein, rf .....	4	17	9	12	17	0	3
Sullivan .....	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Molinas, c.....	7	24	2	5	16	0	2
Reiss, lg.....	3	12	3	3	9	0	2
Powers, rg.....	4	8	2	2	20	2	3
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>22</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>
PENNSYLVANIA (58)							
	FG	ST	F	FT	Pts.	A.	PF
Brooks, lf.....	1	8	1	2	3	1	3
Davis, rf.....	3	12	2	2	8	0	3
Jeffries .....	0	3	0	1	0	1	0
Harter .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blaetz .....	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Beck, c.....	12	20	1	3	25	2	4
Scanlon, lg.....	7	15	1	2	15	1	4
Holt, rg.....	3	7	1	3	7	1	5
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>26</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>
Half-time score—	Pennsylvania		34,		Columbia		31.

Officials—Lou Eisenstein and Tony Gentile.  
KEY: FG, field goals; ST, shots taken; F, fouls; FT, free throws; Pts., points; A, assists; PF, personal fouls.

## EASTERN LEAGUE STANDING

	W.L.		W.L.
*Columbia .....	11 0	Harvard .....	3 8
Cornell .....	9 2	Yale .....	3 8
Penn .....	6 5	Dartmouth .....	1 10
Princeton .....	5 5		

\*Clinched title.

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