

Loss to Princeton Avenge'd by Penn

By GORDON S. WHITE Jr.

Special to The New York Times

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 28—To the Penn players, there was no place like home tonight as they gained sweet revenge by beating Princeton, 75—57, before 6,297 basketball fans at the Palestra.

It moved the Quakers into a tie for the Ivy League lead with Princeton and Brown—all with 3-1 won-lost records.

Princeton had the home advantage 24 days ago when the Tigers upset Penn, 50—49. That was a jolt to Penn, which is favored to win the Ivy championship for the sixth season in a row.

A few days after that setback, Penn lost its strongest big man, John Engles, for the rest of the season with a serious knee injury.

Coach Chuck Daly, smiling broadly for the last six or seven minutes of tonight's game, said in the dressing room:

"This was the best defense we've had against Princeton and maybe the best defensive game we've had since I've been here." Daly is in his fourth season.

The coach said, "They were all super. Ronnie [Ron Haigler] had a helluva game off the boards, shooting and doing a psyche job on Barnes Hauptfuhrer. Henry Johnson is playing super. Bob Bigelow is, too. It was a great job for everyone." Penn is 12-4 overall.

Bigelow, a 6-7 senior from Winchester, Mass., scored 22 points for the best game of his career. Haigler had 19 points and Mark Lonneto, a sophomore from Runnemede, N. J., had 18.

Haigler made 14 points in the first half. The senior

from Brooklyn, the Quakers' leading scorer, helped move Penn to a 32-18 advantage at half-time. He and Bigelow wound up with 10 rebounds each.

Princeton hit on only four of its first 15 field-goal attempts in the opening 10 minutes. During that time, Penn hit on 9 of 16 and held a 19-8 lead.

Princeton, hounded by the Quakers, went for a stretch of five minutes without scoring in the first half and then another scoreless stretch of 3 minutes 51 seconds.

Johnson, who replaced Engles in the starting line-up, scored 12 points and played well on defense. As a result, Daly has changed his opinion of the 6-11 junior from Tulsa, Okla.

When Engles was hurt two weeks ago against La Salle, Johnson went into the game and Daly said he played, "like a cream puff."

Tonight, Daly said, "Puff the Magic Dragon is also playing super."

The New York Times

Published: January 29, 1975

Copyright © The New York Times