

Penn Downs Yale, Clinches Title Tie

By **GORDON S. WHITE Jr.**

Special to The New York Times

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 28— After Pennsylvania trounced Yale tonight, 98-73, to assure the Quakers of a tie for the Ivy League basketball championship, Coach Chuck Daly shrugged and said, "As always it boils down to the last game of the year."

With some help from Brown, Penn could have won its sixth straight Ivy crown tonight. But Princeton, which is only a game back of the Quakers, beat Brown while Penn was winning before only 3,706 persons in the Palestra.

As a result, Penn can win the title tomorrow night by defeating Brown, regardless of what Princeton does against Yale on the last night of the Ivy campaign.

Of course, if Penn loses tomorrow and Princeton wins, they will finish tied and there will be a playoff next Thursday night at St. John's University in Jamaica, Queens. The Ivy League winner will gain a spot in the National Collegiate tournament and will play its opening-round game at the Palestra March 15.

In three of the last five seasons Penn won the Ivy title in the final game. The Quakers did not need a playoff in those five straight Ivy championship seasons.

It was not until the second half tonight that Penn demonstrated anything like cham-

pionship style. Yale, which has a 2-11 Ivy won-lost record, built a 20-8 lead in the first seven minutes by hitting well from outside and running fast enough to drive inside before the much bigger Quakers were able to get back on defense.

But Penn, which is 22-4 over all, gained a 39-36 lead at intermission and then ran 17 straight points to open the second half. Mark Lonetto, who finished with 15 points, scored the first 7 points in the second half as the Quakers went on to their 13th straight victory.

Penn's stuttering in the early going was understandable. The Quakers, who started the season with a dozen players, were down to nine tonight, which is ample for them in the Ivy League but could pose serious depth problems in the National Collegiate tourney.

Ron Haigler, the senior star from Brooklyn, sprained his left ankle badly three weeks ago and is still below par. However, he scored 20 points tonight to become the second highest Penn scorer, behind Ernie Beck, who made 1,827 points (1951-53). Haigler's three-year total is 1,519 points.

It was Haigler's two baskets before the half that put Penn ahead for good.

The New York Times

Published: March 1, 1975

Copyright © The New York Times