

Stall Helps Penn Beat Princeton

By PAUL L. MONTGOMERY

Special to The New York Times

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 11—Pennsylvania took the lead in the Ivy League basketball race tonight with a painfully patient 43-39 victory over Princeton at the Palestra.

The Quakers, off to a slow start this season with a 5-5 overall record, beat their perennial rivals with an 11-minute four-corner stall in the second half after they had acquired a 2-point lead.

For minutes at a time during the stall, Penn passed around and through the shuttling Tiger defense without attempting a shot. In one 10-minute stretch before the last-minute scramble, the Quakers took only two shots — both by Keven McDonald and both good.

The victory, Penn's third in the Ivy League without defeat, was salted away in the last minute by Mark Lonetto, who made a foul shot and then stole the ball from Tim Olah of Princeton with six seconds to play for an easy layup.

The House Divided

Penn's uncharacteristic tactics divided the crowd of 4,770 on the Quakers' home court in downtown Philadelphia between those happy with the crawl toward victory and those crying for more action.

Chuck Daly, the Penn coach, said his decision to go to the four-corner stall with a 2-point lead was made on the spur of the moment.

"We've had 12-point leads and lost games this season, so it was time for a re-evaluation," he said. "I wanted to see what would happen, maybe force them to come out a little bit and eat up three or four minutes of the clock."

Daly said that he had watched films of other teams that had used the four-corner against the tenacious Princeton defense this season and liked what he saw.

"They pack it in the middle and don't come out at you," the coach said. "We were just waiting for a little mistake, and when we saw one, we went to the basket."

Thonx to the Bronx

Daly used three guards—Donetto, Bobby Willis and Stan Greene—for much of the time. Willis, a playmaking star at James Monroe High School in the Bronx two years ago, did most of the ball-handling for the Quakers and provided energy for the Penn offense when he came off the bench early in the game.

Willis and another sophomore star from the Bronx, Tony Price of Taft High, are the core of the Penn team, along with McDonald. Daly said he did not start Willis tonight because the playmaker had seemed lethargic in the team's victories over Harvard and Dartmouth over the weekend.

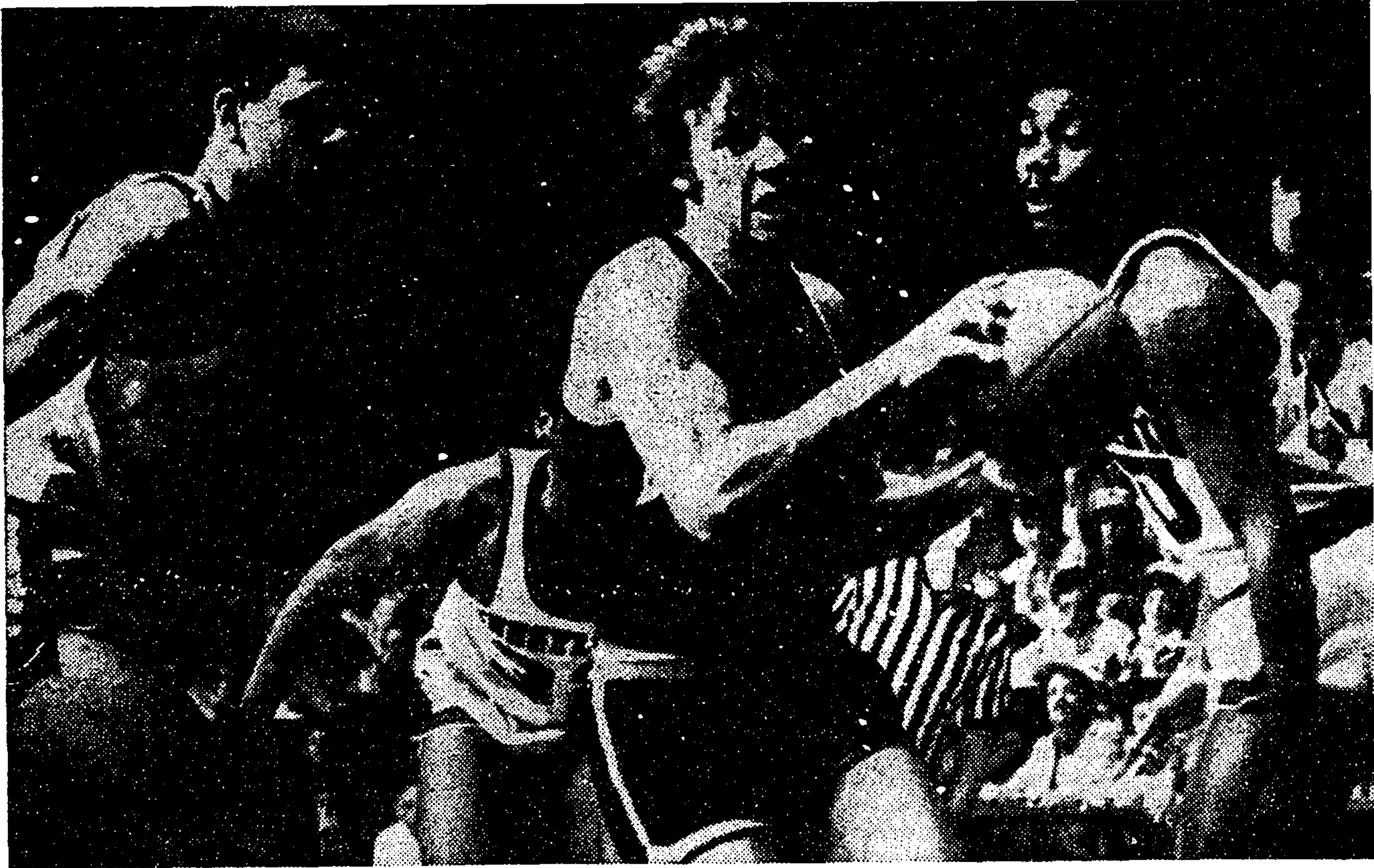
"I think Bobby's been feeling the pressure," said Daly. "There's been a lot of pressure on some very young people on this team."

Penn was the preseason favorite in the Ivy League until its slow start and Princeton's fine showing two weeks ago in an upset of Notre Dame. Tonight's loss was the Tigers' third in 12 games and their first in the Ivy League.

Pete Carril, the Tiger coach, lamented the defeat. Nursing a frazzled stump of cigar, the excitable coach said the cause was unforced turnovers as much as anything else.

"There was one time we were up by 5 and we lost the ball without getting off a shot the next four times down the floor," he noted.

The Tigers took an early 10-point



Associated Press

Princeton's Rich Rizzuto driving for two points between Penn's Keven McDonald, left, and Tim Smith at Philadelphia

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Stall Clicks as Penn Sends Princeton to 43-39 Ivy Loss

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lead, mostly on the outside shooting of Frank Sowinski. The junior forward hit all four of his shots from the floor and all five from the foul line in the first half, but saw the ball infrequently thereafter.

When Princeton's outside shooting cooled, Penn scrambled back into the game, leaving the floor behind by only 24-22 at the half. Early in the second half, Penn tied things on a jump shot by Rice, went ahead on two foul shots by McDonald, and then went into its stall.

Rich Rizzuto, a junior, started in the backcourt for Princeton in place of Bill Omeltchenko, an important player for the Tigers. Omeltchenko underwent an appendectomy last Saturday and is not expected to return to action till Jan. 29, when Princeton plays Penn at home.

Marquette 74, Air Force 56

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo., Jan. 11 (AP)—Butch Lee scored a career-high 33 points and 11th-ranked Marquette ran off 7 unanswered points midway through the first half to coast to a 74-56 college basketball victory tonight over the Air Force Academy.

Ahead by only 16-14 after a brief Air Force surge to close an early deficit, Marquette answered with its own rally, increasing the margin to 9 points, and expanding it steadily throughout the game.

American U. 81, Temple 64

Earlycomers to the Palestra in downtown Philadelphia saw American University of Washington, D.C., easily defeat Temple, 81-64. The American Eagles, winning their seventh game against five defeats, used a sticky zone defense and the height advantage of Howie Lassoff at center to send the

Owls to their fifth defeat in a row, which evened Temple's record at 6-6.

Lassoff, a 6-foot-9-inch junior, several inches taller than anyone else on the floor, scored 21 points and pulled down eight rebounds.

American opened with a zone press, shifting into a 3-2 zone. The Owls, looking tight, lost the ball often with Lassoff cashing in steal after steal. Midway through the first half, the Eagles burst out to a 16-point lead.

After Lassoff acquired his fourth foul with 11 minutes left in the game, Temple crept to within 6 points on the shooting of Marty Stahurski and Bruce Burnett. The Owls' switch from a zone to a man-to-man defense hampered American's inside game. However, Lassoff returned, the Eagles went into a slow four-corner offense and the game was soon over.

Providence 86, Connecticut 71

PROVIDENCE, R.I., Jan. 11 (AP) — Bob Cooper scored 22 points to lead Providence College to an 86-71 victory over Connecticut tonight. The Friars, who have an 11-2 won-lost record, were in command all the way. Providence held a 42-32 lead at the half and made liberal use of its reserves in the closing minutes.

East Carolina 51, Davidson 49

DAVIDSON, N.C., Jan. 11 (AP)—East Carolina fell behind, 15-6, in the first half but rallied and then pulled several clutch plays in the final minutes to defeat Davidson, 51-49, in a Southern Conference basketball game tonight.

Davidson dominated the game's opening minutes, stopping East Carolina with a tight zone defense. But the Pirates used several long range jumpers by Don Whitaker and Jim Ramsey to go ahead and grab a 32-22 lead at the half.

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