

Columbia Routs Cornell For 5th in Row by 80-52

By PAUL L. MONTGOMERY

Columbia played Cornell in a basketball game last night at Levien Gymnasium and about the only trouble the Lions had was with their locker-room showers.

Columbia won going away, 80-52, after leading, 50-26, at halftime. Cornell, whose won-lost record is now 1-10, was never in the game. Afterward, the Lions found no hot water in their showers and had to troop down a corridor wrapped in towels and into other quarters for the postgame ablutions.

It was the Ivy League opener for both teams. Columbia, with an 8-3 record, is enjoying its best start since 1969-70. The Lions have won five in a row, and all four games at home.

There was a cheerful crowd of 2,250 on hand for the ragged contest—many more than were expected because of the snow and intersession.

"We played really good D all night," said Tom Penders, the Columbia coach. "But there wasn't much O in the second half."

Ricky Free, the leading scorer with 19 points and the leading rebounder with 14, said things got a little dull in the second half when Columbia was 30 points ahead.

"At times it got boring," the high-flying sophomore said. "We expected them to come out pretty fired up, and we didn't want them to surprise us. Seeing as how they weren't fired up, we let up."

The Lions played a sniping, trapping man-to-man defense that bothered Cornell all evening. The Big Red had 32 turnovers, compared with 18 for Columbia.

Alton Byrd, Columbia's demon sopho-

more playmaker, leading the Lions' running game off steals and rebounds, finished with 10 assists. Byrd already has 108 assists, with 15 games left. The Columbia record for assists is 140, set by Elliott Wolfe in 1970-71.

Columbia got scoring help from their bench in the first-half surge that made the rest of the game a laughing matter. Gene Bentz, a substitute, got 14 points, most of them on radar-directed passes from the 5-foot-8-inch Byrd driving the middle and passing off to the corners.

Penn 87, Tulane 64

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 15 (AP)—Keven McDonald scored 30 points and Tony Price, a sophomore, added 21 points and 16 rebounds in leading the University of Pennsylvania to an 87-64 victory over Tulane at the Palestra today.

In the second game of the double-header, the 7-foot Donn Wilber scored 7 of his 20 points during a second-half La Salle surge that carried the Explorers to a 69-61 victory over St. Joseph's.

Fairfield 95, Yale 57

FAIRFIELD, Conn., Jan. 15 (AP) — Steve Balkan's 22 points paced Fairfield University tonight as the Stags trounced Yale, 95-57. The Stags (8-5) also got 16 points from Mark Young. Yale, which dropped to 3-9, got 11 points from Carnell Cooper and 10 from Tim Jones.

UConn 68, Harvard 64

STORRS, Conn., Jan. 15 (AP) — Joe Whelton's four free throws in the final minute enabled the University of Connecticut to post a 68-64 triumph over Harvard tonight.

The New York Times

Published: January 16, 1977

Copyright © The New York Times