

Penn Wins But So Does Princeton

By GORDON S. WHITE Jr.

Pennsylvania is hanging in there and the Ivy League basketball battle isn't settled quite yet.

The Quakers managed to beat Columbia, 61-56, last night in one of the season's most ragged games. Meanwhile, Princeton was whipping Cornell, 69-56. This left Princeton, the defending Ivy champion, one game ahead of Penn with two home league games remaining for both.

Columbia, playing its final home game of the season, was eliminated from any chance at the Ivy title. Although that disappointed the 3,250 fans in Levien Gym and other Columbia supporters, this young Lions' team gave them much to be happy about this season. They even led the league through the first six games. The Lions will be heard from in the future.

But as to last night's affair, Coach Tom Penders of Columbia said: "We were very sloppy. They were very sloppy. I think it set basketball back 30 years."

Maybe Penn can be forgiven for such sloppy play, particularly at the start. The Quakers fell behind, but their coach, Chuck Daly said: "Being down after Sunday night was the thing. It really was our guttiest performance of the year because of that."

Little Hope for Quakers

Penn had been upset Sunday night at Cornell as Princeton was beating Columbia and the Quakers fell from a tie with the Tigers for the lead. Little hope remains of Penn catching Princeton. The teams don't meet and all the Tigers have to do is beat Brown and Yale this weekend.

Daly said, "There was a lot of scurrying around out there but nothing much happened."

That was about it and Columbia led at intermission, 20-18, despite shooting only 27.6 percent from the floor. Penn, however, shot only 25.7 percent from the floor. The players missed the whole point of the game—get the ball in the basket.

Penn improved its shooting more in the second half than Columbia did. Keven McDonald, Penn's strength inside and leading scorer, led the second half work with six field goals in 11 attempts. He had shot only 2 for 10 in the first half. He finished with 19 points.

Penn hit on 60.7 percent of its second-half shots. The Lions made only 42.3 percent. Columbia was "more sloppy" than Penn, as it turned out.

Columbia's early lead was a result of Penn hitting on only two of its first 11 shots as the Lions moved to a 12-4 advantage. Then Columbia began shooting poorly and didn't score a field goal for the next 7½ minutes as Penn came back.

The Quakers passed Columbia with 8:30 to go in the game on a basket by McDonald at the end of a two-on-one break. Following a few ties, Penn went ahead to stay on a 3-point play by Mark Lonetto with 2:47 remaining.

Some Realism From Daly

Ricky Free was the Lions' high man with 15 points, but he hit on only four of 10 from the field.

Penn's Ivy League won-lost record is now 10-2; but Princeton is 11-1. Columbia is 7-5.

Asked if he thought, realistically, Penn had a chance at the title Daly said: "It's not very good. Princeton is just a solid club. But we did well to win here because it would have been so easy to cash in our chips."

Penn entered the season as the favorite to win the Ivy League championship based on size, strength and talent. But the Quakers have had too much trouble winning on the road.

Penn was forced to play last night without a regular starter, Tony Price, who was sidelined with a hip injury. But Columbia has been without Juan Mitchell, a regular, for the last four league games.

Princeton 69, Cornell 56

ITHACA, N.Y., Feb. 28 (AP)—Frank Sowinski and Bill Omeltchenko of Princeton combined for 39 points tonight as the Tigers posted a 69-56 Ivy League victory over Cornell.

The victory kept Princeton in first place in the league with an 11-1 record, 19-4 over all. Cornell is 6-17 and 3-8 in Ivy play.

Princeton opened a 15-point halftime lead, 36-21, making 70 percent of its shots from the field. The Tigers made only nine field goals in the second half, but they converted 15 of 21 foul shots to preserve their lead.

Sowinski, who ranks third in the nation in field-goal percentage, made eight of 10 from the field and added four free throws for 20 points. Omeltchenko scored 19.

Manhattan 92, Seton Hall 81

Special to The New York Times

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J., Feb. 28—Manhattan College, producing a 50-point second half, rallied to defeat Seton Hall University tonight, 92-81, and gain a spot in the Eastern College Athletic Conference metropolitan-area playoffs.

The Jaspers, now 13-12, will face St. John's at Fordham University Thursday night. The Pirates, already in the playoffs, face Army the same night at the St. Peter's gym in Jersey City in the other opening-round game. It was the third loss in the last four starts for Seton Hall, which fell to 17-9. In all three losses, the Pirates dissipated a halftime lead.

Glenn Mosley, with 26 points and 18 rebounds, and Greg Tynes, with 26 points, were the only Pirates in double figures. The victors had Steve Grant, with 26 points, Ricky Marsh, with 23, and Dino Larry, with 16.

The loss ended the Pirates' 22-game home winning streak.

St. John's 62, Holy Cross 61

WORCESTER, Mass., Feb. 28 (AP)—Glen Williams, a senior, sank a free throw with 3 seconds left to give St. John's a 62-61 victory over Holy Cross tonight in the regular-season finale for both. Williams, the Redmen's top scorer with a 22-point average, got 14 tonight. His teammates, Cecil Rellford and George Johnson, had 18 points each.

St. John's, finishing with a 20-8 record, and Holy Cross, 21-5, are in the E.C.A.C. postseason competition beginning Thursday.

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