

Penn Defeats Princeton In Physical Battle, 49-44

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PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 28—Pennsylvania may have wrapped up the Ivy League basketball championship today as the Quakers survived a difficult, physical struggle with Princeton to beat the Tigers, 49-44, at the Palestra.

Michael Brooks scored 21 points and had 15 rebounds to lead La Salle to an 82-75 upset over Temple in an East Coast Conference Eastern Division game in the second half of the double-header.

This was only the third defeat, but the second in a row, for Temple, which lost to Syracuse on Thursday. The Owls have a 13-3 won-lost record, while LaSalle is 11-7, but 3-0 in the conference.

Penn's victory was its second of the season over Princeton and its fourth without a defeat in the Ivy League. Although the Quakers have 10 more league games to go, they probably got by their biggest hurdle, since they have no more games against Princeton, the defending champion.

Today's triumph came much less easily than Penn's 78-63 victory at Princeton two weeks ago, and it left more bitter feelings between the schools, which have long carried on a love-hate relationship in sports.

Price Sinks Free Throws

The two rivals slammed, battled and ran at each other right down to the wire until Tony Price sank two free throws with 14 seconds remaining to give Penn a 47-44 lead. Then Jim Salters dropped a basket from the right corner for Penn with five seconds to go, and most of the sellout crowd of 9,208, the biggest gathering of the season in this ancient arena, went wild with joy. The Penn fans obviously felt their team had all but won the Ivy title with this narrow and exciting triumph.

Of course, Columbia remained unbeaten in the league after Friday's victory at Yale, but the Lions have not met Princeton or Penn. They get their first test of this nature when they play at Princeton next Friday and here at Penn next Saturday.

Pete Carril of Princeton, the senior coach in the Ivy League, said, "I would say quite frankly that as far as we're concerned it's over [the Ivy League race]."

Referring to Columbia's possible chances, Carril said: "I don't see anyone beating them [Penn] twice." The eight Ivy teams play each of the other seven schools twice during a basketball season.

Bob Weinbauer of Penn, the newest head coach in the Ivy League, disagreed with Carril, a man with 11 seasons in the league. Weinbauer said: "We're human. It's not over. We lost at Cornell last year, remember. Anyone can beat you in this league."

Of course, Penn did not go on to win the Ivy title last year and did not beat Princeton twice last year.

Carril, in addition to describing the way the league race will end up next month, expressed resentment over some of the things that happened in the physical game today.

He was particularly upset over an incident early in the game when Price, Penn's junior forward from Taft High School in the Bronx, hit Bob Roma of Princeton across the face with his forearm. The blow nearly felled Roma, who staggered backward but kept his feet.

The incident occurred at 3:37 of the first half, and Carril became so upset that he drew a technical foul for complaining that the officials did not call anything against Price.

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Associated Press

Abdel Anderson of Rutgers chasing a loose ball in Piscataway, N.J.

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