

Columbia Defeated By Penn

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Special to The New York Times

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 9 — Penn's chances for the Ivy League basketball title took a great leap forward tonight in the Palestra when the Quakers pulled away from Columbia in the second half for a 64-54 victory.

Penn remained undefeated in the league after six games, while the Lions' won-lost record in the league fell to 4-3. Columbia was a victim of 35-percent shooting in the second half.

Columbia, playing a steady, deliberate game in the opening 20 minutes, trailed by 7 points with five minutes to go in the half, but tied the game at 32-all by intermission.

Penn rallied at the outset of the second half, scoring 8 straight points. The Lions never caught the Quakers again, although they got to within 4 points, 48-44, with just a little more than 11 minutes remaining.

During the next four minutes Penn outscored Columbia, 7-2, ending Columbia's hopes for an upset.

Columbia Coach Praises Penn

To make matters worse, Alton Byrd, the Lions' point guard, fell heavily on his left shoulder and had to leave the game with 6:56 left. He tried to come back, but he was of little use in passing and setting up the assists that have been his specialty.

Buddy Mahar, Columbia's coach, did not think Penn's streak at the start of the second half was a key factor in the result.

"We played a great first half (58 percent shooting on 14 of 24)," Mahar said, "but you can't throw up 20-footers against a team like Penn.

"When they got ahead, we tried to run with them. We should have been working our patient game, working for the good shot. We tried to get back at them in a hurry instead of working away patiently at their defense, a 2-1-2 zone."

Mahar said he thought Penn would win the league title. "They have size, excellent ball handlers and shooters, and a strong bench."

Price Hits 1,000-Point Mark

The Quakers, showing fine balance with 32 points in each half, shot 46.3 percent for the game. Tony Price, Penn's fine forward, led his team with 16 points. His career total is 1,003, and he is the 17th player in Penn history to reach that figure.

Price, who got 10 of his points in the first half, reached the 1,001-point mark at 15:35. The game was halted and the former star at Taft High School in the Bronx was given the game ball. He received a standing ovation from the sell-out crowd of 9,208.

Penn, running its season record to 14-3, displayed such a tight defense that Columbia found it difficult to play its usual penetrating game. Byrd, normally a whiz at finding the open man with his quick passes, found Penn shutting off that part of Columbia's game.

The Lions were forced to shoot from outside. It worked well enough in the first 20 minutes, then fell apart after the intermission.

Juan Mitchell and Shane Cotner, the outside shooters, could not hit often enough. Cotner scored 12 points, 7 in the second half. Mitchell went scoreless in the second half and had only 6 points for the game. Only Ricky Free played consistently, scoring 8 in the first half and 9 in the second to lead the Lions. Mitchell was 0 for 7 from the floor after the intermission.

Columbia also failed to contain Penn's tough rebounding, being outfought off the boards.

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