

Penn Tops Columbia And Keeps Ivy Lead

By DEANE McGOWEN

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PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 2 — Columbia, routed by Princeton Friday night, was a far different team tonight in the Palestra, although the outcome was the same for the Lions. Penn triumphed, 62-57, to maintain its hold at the top of the Ivy League with a 5-0 record.

The Lions gave the Quakers a lot more than they had bargained for, closing within 50-49 with about five minutes remaining in the game. Penn, however, made eight free throws and outscored Columbia, 12-8, the rest of the way.

Kurt Mahoney was the man who brought the Lions back from an 8-point halftime deficit, hitting for 13 points in the second half. Mahoney, who had been in a scoring slump for eight games, finished with a game-high 17 points. Penn's playmaker, Jimmy Salters of Hempstead, L.I., scored 16 to lead his club.

Mahoney Ends Slump

Mahoney broke out of his slump by hitting for four successive baskets from the baseline against a zone defense early in the final 20 minutes. Then he hit a couple of baskets against Penn's man-to-man alignment to keep the Lions in the game.

Penn, with superior height and talent, forged a 6-point edge with 3:39 left, then held on to preserve its ninth victory of the campaign against seven losses.

Columbia fell to 9-9 over all and 4-2 in the Ivy race.

Penn took a 33-25 lead at the half behind the inside shooting of Salters and Vincent Ross. Meanwhile, Kevin Best scored 9 points to help the Lions stay fairly close.

Trading Baskets

Mahoney took over after the intermission and Columbia almost came all the way back. Penn switched its defenses from zone to man-to-man, the latter having contained the Lions so well in the opening half.

Mahoney countered that strategy with his long shots and the Lions also began to gain some points inside as Richie Gorden and Best scored from underneath the basket.

"We never really had control," Bob Weinbauer, coach of the victors, said. "There were stretches in that second half where we just were trading baskets. We could not maintain any real momentum."

Free Throws the Difference

Weinbauer, asked if Penn might have taken Columbia too lightly, answered, "Look, it was a big game for them. If they had beaten us, they would have been right back on top of the league. So they really needed a weekend split and they almost got it."

"No, I don't think we regarded them too lightly. I think too many people thought we should have beaten them as easily as Princeton did. You just don't walk out on the floor and win games easily — not in this league."

Coach Buddy Mahar's club, which lost to Princeton by 27 points, shot a nifty 60 percent tonight. But he said, "Look at the column underneath, 38 percent from the free-throw line. That's been our big bugaboo all season, foul shooting." The Lions made just five of 13 while Penn made 18 of 21. That was the difference.

Also, Penn had George Noon, a 6-foot-8-inch center; Paul Little, a 6-5 forward, and Avery Rawlings, a 6-7 forward. Those three clogged the inside against the Lions, and the trio collected 23 points and 13 rebounds. Little had seven rebounds while six other Penn players each collected three. It was that sort of balance that also proved too formidable for the Lions.

Massachusetts 67, Harvard 44

BOSTON, Mass., Feb. 2 (UPI) — Dan Wright poured in 18 points and Curtis Phauls added 16 tonight as the University of Massachusetts snapped a 29-game losing streak by defeating Harvard, 67-44, in the consolation round of the Colonial Classic.

Capitalizing on a running offense, the Minutemen jumped to a 14-2 lead six minutes into the game. Phauls led all UMass scorers in the first half with 10 points. A Harvard forward, Mark Harris, poured in 11 of his 16 points to keep the Crimson within 35-25 at halftime.

UMass cruised to a 45-29 lead early in the second half as Wright led the 10-4 spurt with 6 points. The Minutemen opened their biggest lead, 62-42, with 3:46 remaining.

The victory elevated U-Mass to 1-16 for the season. Harvard dropped to 5-10.

Yale 80, Dartmouth 67

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 2 (UPI) — Steve Leondis scored a game-high 25 points and Frank Maturo hit for 13 in the second half, leading Yale to an 80-67 triumph over Dartmouth today. It was Yale's seventh straight, its longest streak in 17 years.

Leondis, a 6-foot-4-inch freshman, had 18 in the first half, when the Elis jumped to a 35-30 lead. Dartmouth closed to 35-32 on a layup by Cleo Robertson, but Maturo got 8 points in a 16-10 run to give the Elis a 51-40 advantage with 13:47 left. Dartmouth could come no closer than 4 the rest of the way.

Tim Daaleman had 17 points for Yale (3-2 and 10-5), while Dartmouth (1-3 and 4-11) was paced by Robertson's 19.

Georgetown 84, Connecticut 64

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (AP) — Craig Shelton and Eric Floyd scored 22 points each to lead Georgetown to an 84-64 victory over Connecticut in a Big East conference game today.

Shelton, who hit on 11 of 12 shots, and Floyd easily offset the shooting of Mike McKay, who scored 29 points for Connecticut (13-6).

Corny Thompson, who had been averaging 16.3 points a game, had 12 points today, but was in foul trouble for much of the second half and finally fouled out near the end of the contest. Georgetown raised its record to 15-5.

Northeastern 74, Wagner 71

Northeastern hit four free throws in the final nine seconds last night to defeat Wagner, 74-71, at the Cabot Gymnasium. Wagner had taken a 71-70 lead on a jumper by Scott Rodgers with 30 remaining, but Pete Harris hit two foul shots with nine seconds to play to give the Huskies the lead for good. Northeastern was led by Harris and Perry Moss, with 21 points each, while Wagner's Howard (Bones) Thompkins tallied 22 points. Northeastern is now 15-4, while Wagner fell to 11-7.

Iona 65, Fordham 59

Jeff Ruland and Kevin Hamilton scored 14 points each to lead Iona to a 65-59 triumph over Fordham Saturday night.

Alex Middleton added 11 points for the Gaels and Ruland pulled down 10 rebounds as Iona raised its record to 16-4. Mike Cooper led the Rams (7-11) with 15 points and Bill Calhoun had 14.

Iona scored 13 of the last 15 points of the first half to lead at halftime, 24-12. Fordham scored the first basket of the second half, but Iona ran off 12 straight points to take a 30-14 advantage, the Gaels' biggest lead of the game.