

Villanova 79, Rutgers 68

La Salle 80, Penn 73

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 12 (AP) — Michael Brooks scored 27 points and Mo Connolly had 18 tonight to lead La Salle to an 80-73 triumph over Penn in the second game of a college basketball doubleheader at the Palestra tonight. In the first contest, Rory Sparrow hit a 15-foot turnaround jump shot at the buzzer to give Villanova a 70-68 victory over Rutgers.

La Salle (16-7) led by 48-35 at half-time and by 56-38 on Brooks's basket with 16:06 left. The Quakers (11-8) gradually cut into the deficit behind the outside shooting of James Salters, who hit a jumper with 3:20 to play to bring Penn to within 71-64. But the Explorers, who went the last 9:11 without a field goal, used six foul shots by Brooks and four by Connolly down the stretch to help stave off Penn.

The victory in the first game put Villanova, 18-5 over all, in sole possession of first place in the Eastern Eight conference with a 7-2 mark. Rutgers fell to 11-11 and 6-3.

Rutgers led by 39-34 at halftime. The teams battled evenly in the second half, with 5 points the biggest difference. With 43 seconds left, Sparrow made two free throws to give the Wildcats a 68-66 edge. But Daryl Strickland tied the score with 23 seconds to go. Tom Sienkiewicz led Villanova with 19 points while Sparrow had 17. Kelvin Troy hit 27 for Rutgers.

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