

Tiger's Lair

September 20, 2004 The Official Publication of the Princeton Football Association Vol. CXXXVI, No. 4

Verbit, Wu lead Tiger offense to win over Lafayette, 35-18

By Justin Feil

For the first time since it opened Princeton Stadium with a win in 1998, the Princeton University football team won a season opener.

The Tiger used a late first-half touchdown to pull away on its way to a 35-18 win over Lafayette before 8,691 at Princeton on Saturday night. It was the most points by a Princeton team in a season opener since a 41-36 win over Cornell in 1982.

"Frankly, before the game I was nervous they were too pumped up for the game," said Head Coach Roger Hughes, who celebrated the first opening-game win of his five-year tenure. "We had to bring them in and calm them down."

The Tiger had plenty to be excited about after scoring three touchdowns in the first half, including a 4-yard run by Matt Verbit '05 on the final play of the second quarter. Princeton then ground out one touchdown

in the third quarter before opening the fourth with a 50-yard touchdown pass from Verbit to Eric Walz '07.

Lafayette entered the game with the No. 2 overall defense in Division I-AA, but after surrendering just 13 points total in their first two games they had allowed 14 less than two minutes into the second quarter. Princeton finished with 410 total yards against the Leopards, who fell to 2-1 this season.

The Princeton defense stopped a key early drive with an interception by Abi Fadeyi '06 in the end zone. The Tiger also had better success against Joe McCourt, the only opposing running back to rush for more than 100 yards against Princeton in each of the past two seasons. McCourt was held to 53 yards rushing. The Tiger defense also recorded three sacks.

"I'm very excited for our team," Coach Hughes said. "I'm pleased with how we



Frank Wojciechowski/The Princeton Packet Clinton Wu '05 holds off a Lafayette defender in the first half at Princeton Stadium Saturday night. played."

The Tiger never trailed in this one. Af-
See *VICTORY*, Page 2

From the President ...

As the Tigers kick off the '04 season, we at the **Princeton Football Association** want to wish the student athletes, coaches, and the rest of the staff the best of luck and success. We have watched their dedicated preparation throughout the off season and pre-season and know that they are poised for a winning season.

I want to let all Princeton Football supporters know that the PFA had a successful campaign in '03-'04 by every measure. We hosted a number of successful events; we had great interaction with the student athletes in career nights; we provided summer employment to enable many of the athletes to stay and train on campus during the summer (with the University's cooperation); our communication with the University administration, from Athletics to Development, to Admissions,

to the President and Trustees, all improved; our membership was broadened and contributions were up substantially. For all of this we send thanks to everyone involved.

However, the past year will only be meaningful if we continue the momentum into this season. We have begun a new fiscal year and need your continued involvement and financial support. Believe me, our student athletes are worth it.

Please look for important dates and events in this Tiger's Lair and on our updated website. Contact me anytime at fjvuono@16wmarketing.com. Spread the good word. I look forward to seeing many of you this weekend in San Diego and hopefully after many victories in the coming weeks. Go Tiger!

Frank J. Vuono '78

GAME STATISTICS

PRINCETON	7	14	7	7	35
Lafayette	0	6	0	12	18

HOW THEY SCORED:

1st Quarter: 8:00, P — FG, Fields, 16.

2nd Quarter: **13:08, P — TD, Mancl, 4-yard pass from Verbit, Javarone kick;** 3:54, L — TD, Maurer, 1-yard run, pass failed; **0:00, P — TD, Verbit, 4-yard run, Javarone kick.**

3rd Quarter: **0:48, P — TD, Veach, 2-yard run, Javarone kick.**

4th Quarter: **14:51, P — TD, Walz, 50-yard pass from Verbit, Javarone kick;** 12:05, L — TD, Hurt, 2-yard run, pass failed; 3:33, L — TD, Hurt, 3-yard run, pass failed.

	PRI	LC
First Downs	23	15
Rushes/Yds	38-183	44-135
Passing Yds	227	154
Comp/Att/Int	18/26/0	12/23/1
Plays/Yards	64/410	67/289
Return Yds	177	97
Punts/Avg	4/25.5	7/36.1
Penalties/Yds	7/76	7/63
Fumbles/Lost	1/1	0/0
Intercept/Yds	1/0	0/0
Possession Time	30:07	29:53
Attendance: 8,691		

PRINCETON PERFORMANCE

OFFENSE:

RUSHING: Benson, 17-81; Veach, 15-59, 1 TD; Fields, 3-35, 1 TD; Verbit, 3-10, 1 TD.

PASSING: Verbit, 18-26-0-227, 2 TD.

RECEIVING: Wu, 7-108; 3-9, Mancl 1 TD; Fields, 2-30; Benson, 2-15; Walz, 1-50, 1 TD; Davis, 1-7; McCareins, 1-6; Veach, 1-2.

DEFENSE:

SACKS (U/A): Keasey, 2-0; Kelly, 1-0.

INTERCEPTIONS (No./Yds): Fadeyi, 1-0.

TACKLES (U/A): Stull, 6-8; Keasey, 5-7; Browne, 4-5; Mueller, 1-7; Kelly, 4-3; McCareins, 4-1; Williams, 2-3; Strickland, 2-3; Borelli, 1-2; Ochotorena, 1-2; Artis, 2-0; Fadeyi, 1-1; Walker, 1-0; Brigham, 1-0, Javarone, 1-0.

Victory

Continued from Page 1

ter both teams failed to score on their first possessions, Princeton capitalized on great field position for its first touchdown.

Greg Fields '06, who set up the Tiger offense in Lafayette territory with a 27-yard punt return, took a hand-off on a misdirection run to the left and followed fullback Joel Mancl '05 and receiver Clinton Wu '05 16 yards into the end zone. Derek Javarone '06's extra point gave the Tiger a 7-0 lead seven minutes into the game, the only score of the first quarter. The touchdown capped a 42-yard drive that took just four plays and 1:56.

"When he touches the ball," Coach Hughes said of Fields, "things are going to happen."

Fields played a big role Saturday in setting up the offense with great field position. He returned six punts for 87 yards and ran three kickoffs back 78 yards. Fields also caught two passes for 30 yards and rushed three times for 35 yards.

"Any time you get it on a short field, it certainly helps your production offensively," Coach Hughes said. "And who's responsible for that? The defense for stopping them, and No. 2, Coach (Don) Dobes worked with our punt blocking and Fields on those returns."

Lafayette had a chance to tie it on the ensuing possession, but after driving 65 yards to the Princeton 14-yard line, Fadeyi ended the 13-play drive by intercepting a Brad Maurer pass in the end zone. It was Fadeyi's first career interception.

The Tiger extended its lead to 14-0 1:52 into the second quarter on Mancl's first career touchdown, a 4-yard pass from Verbit that completed an eight-play, 80-yard drive. The big play came when Verbit hit Wu with a 41-yard pass on the second play of the drive. Wu, who had broken ahead of his defender before the ball arrived, slowed and jumped back across the defender to complete the play that moved Princeton into Leopard territory.

Wu, who had five career receptions coming into the season, left the game when he injured his knee in the final 30 seconds of the first half on his seventh catch of the night. Wu fell awkwardly after planting to make the catch at the Lafayette 12-yard line. Hughes said afterward that Wu is expected to miss the remainder of the season with what was preliminarily diagnosed as a torn knee ligament.

"He was playing so well," Coach Hughes said. "He pivoted on his foot in the grass. He heard it pop when he caught the pass and it's an ACL."

Wu's replacement, Jay McCareins '06, picked up double duty and moved from cornerback to wide receiver to make a key third-down catch on the next play. That catch moved the ball to the Lafayette 4-yard line where, after using its final time out with second ticks left on the clock, Princeton got a huge play from Verbit. The senior quarterback rolled left looking for a receiver and then plunged headfirst into the end zone with a determined dive as the halftime clock expired. The Tiger took a 21-6 lead into the locker room.

"We had to respond to what they'd done," Coach Hughes said. "We'd been in situations like that before and not finished. They did a good job and you can see (Verbit)'s a good runner. He's a much better athlete than people think and he was not going to be denied."

The Leopards had found their lone score of the first half when successfully completed a 13-play drive before the Tiger's final first-half possession. But Lafayette mishandled the extra-point snap and fired incomplete to make it 14-6 with 3:54 left in the first half.

Princeton didn't lose a step in the second half, building a three-touchdown lead late in the third quarter when Jon Veach '05, who played despite a sprained right knee, carried on eight of the Tiger's nine plays, including a 2-yard run for the co-captain's first touchdown of the season. With the extra point by Javarone, the Tiger held a 28-6 lead as the fourth quarter began.

The Tiger stretched its lead to 35-6 on the first play of the fourth quarter, a perfectly thrown strike from Verbit to Walz, who was streaking down the middle of the field. Lafayette scored twice in the final 12 minutes, but by then the Tiger had the game well in hand.

"I can't say enough about Matt's performance," Coach Hughes said of the senior signal-caller, who moved into fourth place all-time in passing yardage ahead of Dave Splithoff '04. "He put the ball where he needed to. He was smart with the football and he directed us. Guys rallied around him."

Princeton looks to improve to 2-0 on the road for a first-ever meeting with San Diego Saturday.

Alumni, friends to attend dinner to fete McCandless

Invitations will soon be arriving for the Princeton Football Association's dinner honoring former head coach Joey L. "Jake" McCandless '51.

The dinner will be held following the Princeton-Harvard football game on Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village. Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m.

The occasion also recognizes the 40th and 35th anniversaries of the Ivy League championship Princeton teams of 1964 and 1969, on which Coach McCandless played instrumental roles.

McCandless was a member of three Princeton varsity teams, and returned to serve as an assistant coach to the legendary Dick Colman in the '60s.

He succeeded Colman as head coach in 1969 and led the Tiger to a 6-3 season, sharing an Ivy League title.

Princeton family, friends, classmates, teammates and former players are invited to attend the event. Cost is \$150 per person (\$125 for members of the classes of 2000 through 2004 and 1951). Black tie is suggested.

For more information please contact the Princeton Football office by e-mail at football@princeton.edu or by phone at (609) 258-3514.

Princeton presents fanfest for home football games

A new pre-game "Tiger Town" fanfest, a "5th Quarter" dedicated to Princeton fans and ticket promotions for area youth football players and cheerleaders, public service heroes and the Boy and Girl Scouts of America highlight an expanded promotional calendar for Princeton Football in 2004.

As part of this season's "Football. Family. Fun ... (for) \$5" campaign, all these elements and more are available to Princeton fans.

Fans are invited to attend the new "Tiger Town" free of charge with their game ticket. This interactive fanfest will include bounce houses, face painters, a chance to take a picture with the Princeton Tiger as well as live performances by the Princeton band and cheerleaders.

Located on the southeast concourse of Princeton Stadium, Tiger Town will be open from one hour prior to kickoff until halftime of every home football game and will also feature "Meet the Tigers" autograph sessions when fans can meet their favorite Princeton athletes in person.

The "5th Quarter" is a new post-game fan event sure to please fans of all ages. Soon after the conclusion of each game, 15 minutes will be placed on the game clock. Fans will then be invited onto the field to get a "final quarter" feel by reliving their favorite football moments or impersonating their favorite Tiger on the Princeton Stadium turf.

Princeton Athletics has designated the

Oct. 16 game against Brown as Heroes Day. All public servants — from police officers and firefighters to members of the military — will be offered \$2 advance sale general admission tickets.

The Oct. 23 game against Harvard will feature a halftime "Kick for Cash" contest. One lucky fan will have a chance to kick a field goal and win \$25,000, courtesy of Citizen Watch. In addition, the Harvard game will feature the halftime on-field "Parade of Champions" presentation, which will recognize Princeton championship teams from the 2003-04 season.

Boy and Girl Scouts of America will be the featured guests Nov. 6 when the Tiger lines up against archrival Penn. Scouts will be offered \$2 advanced sale general admission tickets for this game and participants in the popular "Reading With the Tigers" community summer reading program will be honored on the field at halftime.

The season finale, a Nov. 20 game against Dartmouth, will be Team Jersey Day, presented by Wegman's. All youth football players and cheerleaders who attend this game in their jerseys will receive free admission with an accompanying adult, compliments of Wegman's. This game will also feature the always exciting Amtrak "Punt, Pass & Kick" competition, when a lucky fan will have a chance to win a free Acela Express ticket by using his or her skills to advance the ball up the field and through the goal posts.

2004-05 PFA Events Calendar

Saturday, October 23

**PFA Captain's Dinner honoring
Jake McCandless '51;
Harvard weekend.**

Monday, November 22

PFA Lourie Awards Banquet

Thursday, Jan. 27, 2005

**Ivy Football Association Dinner,
Waldorf-Astoria, New York;
Honoree Gov. Bob Ehrlich '79**

February 2005

PFA President's Dinner

JOIN OUR TEAM

Become a member of the Princeton Football Association and receive Tiger's Lair each week throughout the season, including pre-season and post-season issues. Enjoy being a part of PFA events while supporting Tiger Football in the battle for Ivy League gridiron supremacy.

Name: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Please clip and mail with donation to:

Princeton Football Association,

ACCT. 41

P.O. Box 5357, Princeton, N.J. 08543-5357

F.Y.I.

- **Ticket Information:**
(609) 258-3538
- **Tiger SportsLine:**
(609) 258-3545
- **Football Office:**
(609) 258-3514
- **Radio Broadcasts:**
WHWH AM 1350 (Princeton)
WPRB FM 103.3 (Princeton U.)
www.GoPrincetonTigers.com
- **Princeton Athletics web site:**
www.GoPrincetonTigers.com
- **Princeton Football Association web site:**
www.princeton.edu/football

Princeton Football Association

is an organization of former players, alumni, parents, students, faculty, administration and fans which is dedicated to the preservation and improvement of Princeton's long and distinguished football tradition. Through members' generous financial support and voluntary service, the **Princeton Football Association** provides supplementary and necessary assistance to keep the program viable and competitive and is the sole support for some of the highest priorities of Princeton Football. All are welcome to join.

Frank Vuono '78, President

Please send contributions to:

Princeton Football Association

ACCT. 41, P.O. Box 5357

Princeton, N.J. 08543-5357

e-mail: Football@princeton.edu

www.princeton.edu/football

TIGER'S LAIR

Princeton Football Association

Princeton University
P.O. Box 71
Princeton, N.J. 08544-0071

1st Class Mail
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 186
Princeton, N.J.



IVY LEAGUE RESULTS

	Ivy	Overall
PRINCETON	0 0	1 0
Brown	0 0	1 0
Harvard	0 0	1 0
Pennsylvania	0 0	1 0
Yale	0 0	1 0
Columbia	0 0	0 1
Cornell	0 0	0 1
Dartmouth	0 0	0 1
Sept. 18		
Harvard 35	Holy Cross	0
Colgate 17	Dartmouth	15
Brown 35	Albany	7
Yale 24	Dayton	17
Pennsylvania 61	San Diego	18
Fordham 17	Columbia	14
Bucknell 15	Cornell	9

2004 RESULTS

	P	O
September		
18 Lafayette	35	18
25 at San Diego	1 p.m.	
October		
2 at Columbia	1:30 p.m.	
9 at Colgate	1 p.m.	
16 Brown	1 p.m.	
23 Harvard	1 p.m.	
30 at Cornell	Noon	
November		
6 Pennsylvania	1 p.m.	
13 at Yale	Noon	
20 Dartmouth	1 p.m.	

NEXT WEEK

Princeton
at
San Diego

4 p.m. (PST)
Torero Stadium
San Diego, Calif.