

Tiger's Lair

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Leopards pin Tiger with second loss

By Justin Feil

For the second straight week, the Princeton University football team dropped a 28-13 decision to a Patriot League opponent. Saturday, it was Lafayette that jumped to a 28-0 lead in a game that followed too closely the script from last week's loss to Lehigh.

Lafayette scored on its first three possessions as Joe McCourt scored on runs of 1 and 3 yards as well as a 9-yard pass reception from Marko Glavic. Glavic scored on a 3-yard keeper with just 14 seconds left in the first half before the Tiger mounted another last-gasp comeback before 7,107 at Fisher Field in Easton, Pa.

McCourt, the last opposing running back to reach the 100-yard rushing mark against Princeton nine games ago, did so again Saturday. He finished with 108 yards on 29 carries. Glavic completed 19 of 33 passes for 160 yards and the one touchdown.

"We knew they had both weapons in their arsenal," said Princeton Head Coach Roger Hughes. "And we knew they were going to use them a lot all day. We prepared for them. It just didn't work out."

Things started ominously for Princeton as Lafayette took the opening kick, drove 80 yards in 18 exhausting plays that consumed 6 minutes, 54 seconds before McCourt scored on third-and-goal from the 1. It was the Leopards' fifth successful third-down conversion on the drive. Making things more difficult on the day was



Xochiquetzal Martinez/Daily Princetonian
Tiger defenders Justin Stull '06 (left) and Joe Weiss '04 combine to stop Lafayette at Fisher Field Saturday.

the loss of **Blake Perry '04**, who returned to cornerback after starting at free safety last week. Perry suffered a high ankle sprain on a tackle in Lafayette's first series.

The Tiger had the ball just four plays on its first possession when

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From the President ...

I had the opportunity to meet with our entire coaching staff this preseason and come away thoroughly impressed with their dedication to the Tiger cause and their work ethic.

However, I also was quite surprised by some of the shortcomings they must overcome as they try to put a winner on the field. While the challenges are too numerous to mention, I will tell you that this coaching staff is by no means a spoiled bunch. The PFA absolutely needs to step up and help this staff be successful, and that must come by increased funding from our organization. So please spread the word and help us increase contributions and membership.

As a result of my appeal in the first of this season's Lairs, I

received the following response:

"I am one of the Association's supporters who never played a down but simply believe that a strong football program is essential to keeping up the morale of the student body and the alumni. I am also convinced that such a program protects the integrity of our diplomas."

I am truly inspired by this type of response, and motivated to reach our PFA goals ASAP. I will continue to pass along such sentiments. Hopefully you react the same way I do. Keep those messages coming.

Frank Vuono '78

GAME STATISTICS

PRINCETON	0	0	7	6	13
Lafayette	15	13	0	0	28

HOW THEY SCORED:

1st Quarter: 8:06, L — TD,

McCourt, 1-yard run, Davis kick;

3:18, L — TD, McCourt, 3-yard run, O'Connor rush.

2nd Quarter: 13:34, L — TD,

McCourt, 9-yard pass from Glavic,

Davis kick; 00:14, L — TD,

McCourt, 3-yard run, kick failed.

3rd Quarter: 1:19, P — TD, Walz, 19-yard pass from Verbit, Bishop kick.

4th Quarter: 9:53, P — TD,

Benson, 1-yard run, kick failed.

	PRI	LC
First Downs	25	21
Rushes/Yds	32-140	47-142
Passing Yds	253	160
Comp/Att/Int	20/43/0	19/33/0
Plays/Yards	79/393	80/302
Return Yds	88	96
Punts/Avg	2/34	4/45
Penalties/Yds	9/75	8/65
Fumbles/Lost	3/2	1/0
Intercept/Yds	0/0	0/0
Possession Time	22:11	37:49
Attendance:	7,107	

PRINCETON PERFORMANCE

OFFENSE:

RUSHING: Veach, 9-55; Benson, 11-55; Verbit, 11-28; Fields, 1-2.

PASSING: Verbit, 20-43-0-253, 1 TD.

RECEIVING: Morrison, 7-111; Szymanski, 4-47; Walz, 2-25, 1 TD; Wu, 2-25; Dekker, 2-20; Fields, 2-13, Veach, 1-12.

DEFENSE:

SACKS (U/A): Stull, 0-2; Holuba, 1-0; Borelli, 0-1; Lebeis, 0-1.

INTERCEPTIONS (No./Yds): None.

TACKLES (U/A): Stull, 3-9; Weiss, 5-5; Strickland, 4-4; Micsky, 3-4; Borelli, 3-4; Jameson, 3-3; Brown, 3-2; Kelly, 0-5; Artis, 4-0; Perry, 1-2; Kirby, 1-3; Snyder, 1-2; Brigham, 2-0; Brielmaier, 1-1; Lebeis, 0-2; Holuba, 1-0; Gueits, 1-0; Fadeyi, 0-1; Bahlert, 0-1.

Loss

Continued from Page 1

Greg Fields '06 took a swing pass and fumbled after a 3-yard gain. Lafayette recovered at the Princeton 33. Seven plays later, McCourt went through the left side for a 3-yard score. To add insult to injury, back-up Lafayette quarterback Mike O'Connor was able to pick up the botched extra-point snap and find the left corner of the end zone for a two-point conversion, and with 3:18 left in the first quarter Orange and Black trailed 15-0.

After three plays netted but three yards, the Tiger punted back to Lafayette, which drove 64 yards in 10 plays, the final nine yards for the touchdown on a pass to McCourt in the left flat on third-and-6. Princeton did not stop Lafayette on a third-down play until 7:44 remained in the second quarter, and by then trailed 22-0. Lafayette held a 9-minute, 40-second time of possession and 30-7 total offensive plays advantage in the first quarter.

"We came out flat," said Coach Hughes, who is 0-2 for the first time since the 2000 season. "I noticed it in the pregame, I told the team that ahead of time. I certainly don't have an answer for it. It's my responsibility to make sure we're ready to go.

"The disturbing and frustrating thing is I thought we had one of our best weeks of practice from the standpoint of intensity, focus. All the things that pointed to us playing a much better first quarter were certainly there. We'll go back and re-evaluate and may change how we practice a little bit. But certainly we can't spot good teams like Lehigh and Lafayette 14 points and try to claw from behind."

Lafayette needed just five plays after the second Fields fumble of the game set up the Leopards at the Princeton 23 to increase their lead to 28-0 as the extra-point kick failed.

For the second straight week, Princeton can look to its second-half effort as an example of how it needs to begin the game 7 p.m. Saturday when it hosts Columbia in its Ivy League opener.

"One of the benefits of having two non-league games before we get into the Ivy League is a chance to hopefully get a few mistakes corrected," Coach Hughes said. "We certainly made some corrections defensively. We need to make some better ones. Offensively, we have to do a better job protecting Matt. We corrected our run

game to some extent. Now we have to make sure we correct our protections and our execution of our screen game."

Unlike last week when the Tiger didn't find the end zone until the fourth quarter, **Matt Verbit '05** connected with **Eric Walz '07** for the wide receiver's first career touchdown, a 19-yarder, with 1:19 left in the third quarter to pull Princeton to within three scores at 28-7. Verbit finished his second start of 2003 with good numbers again — 253 yards on 20 of 42 passing as well as 28 yards rushing. He was sacked four times.

Blair Morrison '04 led the Tiger receiver corps. He had seven catches for a career-high 111 yards. Last week's leading receivers, **B.J. Szymanski '05** and **Jon Dekker '06**, did not have a catch between them in the first half. Szymanski finished with four grabs for 47 yards. Dekker caught two passes for 20 yards.

Princeton made things interesting when **Branden Benson '05** scored on a 1-yard run with 9:53 left, but the **Elliot Bishop '06** kick failed to make it 28-13. Bishop was used for extra points in place of **Derek Javarone '06**, who missed the extra point against Lehigh. Bensen finished tied with **Jon Veach '05** with 55 yards rushing. Bensen rushed 11 times, Veach nine.

"We ran the ball much more effectively than we did last week which is a positive sign," Coach Hughes said. "I thought Lafayette beat us in every phase of the game. They beat us in the kicking game. Twice we got in situations where we were trying to claw our way back in it, and gave up big returns. That hurt our momentum."

Lafayette converted a fourth-and-2 situation on its ensuing possession after it started in Princeton territory thanks to a 57-yard return by Larry Johnson.

Christopher Gueits '07's hit popped the ball loose from Glavic with five minutes left in the game, but the Tiger missed a chance to take over. When Princeton did get the ball back on downs, it drove 47 yards before Verbit was stopped short on an option on fourth-and-1 at the Lehigh 28.

"You have to give Lafayette some credit, too," Coach Hughes said. "It's not like we just played poorly. They executed very well."

Who or what influenced you to become a Princeton Football player?

The coaches and the campus atmosphere. I was impressed with the new staff that came in while I was being recruited and coming to visit the campus and getting a first-hand taste of what Princeton is all about made my decision easy.

As a Princeton student and football player, are you pursuing the same goals and dreams you had as a freshman? What where they then and what are they now?

The opportunity to play college football while receiving a great education were my primary goals when I came here. As a senior, I can confidently say that my expectations in both fields have been surpassed as both football and the academics have presented great challenges and greater rewards.

Has being a Princeton Football player changed you? In what way?

Definitely. My time-management skills and ability to perform under adversity have been heightened in all aspects of my life. In addition, Princeton Football has taught me that there are never excuses for anything and that I alone must take responsibility for everything I take on.

Please tell us about your post-college and career plans:

Initially, my plans are to relax! I want to take some time to do some traveling throughout the country and the world. Eventually, I plan on going to graduate school in history or politics.

70



Tom Murray '04

6-5, 265 pounds

Offensive line

Lawrence, Kans.

A politics major ... National Honor Society member ... lettered in football and baseball at Lawrence H.S. ... first team all-league and honorable mention all-state as a senior ... chosen for Kansas City Metro Bowl and East-West Kansas Shrine Bowl.

Tiger players receive Ivy League awards

Two Princeton Football players received weekly awards from the Ivy League for their play in the season opener against Lehigh.

Princeton punter Colin McDonough '07, of Milford, Iowa, was named the Rookie of the Week. He helped the Tiger in the battle for field position against No. 20 Lehigh, punting eight times and averaging 40.8 yards per punt. McDonough

had one punt that pinned Lehigh inside its own five-yard line.

Named to the league's weekly honor roll was linebacker Justin Stull '06, of Lititz, Pa. He made his first start and led the Tiger defense with 14 tackles (two solo), including four stops behind the line of scrimmage. He also defended a pass. Stull's tackle total more than doubled his total number of tackles from last season (six).

PFA Calendar of Events

Nov. 15 — PFA Fall Dinner, 7 p.m., Princeton Hyatt Regency — Head equipment manager Hank Towns will be honored.

Nov. 24 — Lourie Awards Banquet — Westin Hotel, Princeton.

February 2004 — PFA Senior Dinner — Time and location to be announced.

April 2004 — PFA Spring Barbeque — To follow the annual spring game.

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.

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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:

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IVY LEAGUE RESULTS

Harvard 52 Brown 14
Yale 21 Cornell 7
Pennsylvania 31 Lehigh 24
Columbia 19 Bucknell 16
New Hampshire 42 Dartmouth 17

Oct. 4

Pennsylvania at Dartmouth
Brown at Rhode Island
Colgate at Cornell
Northeastern at Harvard
Yale at Holy Cross

2003 RESULTS

		P	Q
September			
20	Lehigh	13	28
28	at Lafayette	13	28
October			
4	Columbia		
11	Colgate		
18	at Brown		
25	at Harvard		
November			
1	Cornell		
8	Pennsylvania		
15	Yale		
22	at Dartmouth		

NEXT WEEK

Princeton

vs.

Columbia

7 p.m.

Princeton Stadium