

Tiger's Lair

September 29, 2008 The Official Publication of the Princeton Football Association Vol. CXXXV, No. 3

Tiger gives Lehigh the boot with final-second field goal

By Justin Feil

Two pre-teens lined up on Powers Field at Princeton Stadium on Saturday night to practice the same game-winning field goal they had seen an hour before from the Tiger's Connor Loudon '09.

Louden, whose first field goal was blocked to set up Lehigh's lone score, was true on a 32-yard field goal as time expired in a 10-7 win over a Mountain Hawks team that has been difficult for Princeton to beat. Princeton's win was just its second in the last 10 meetings with Lehigh.

"It feels really good," said Loudon, who also kicked a game-winner to beat Dartmouth in overtime in the 2007 season finale. "I just wanted to reward all the players and coaches for their hard work. When it went in, I felt awesome for everybody."

The Tiger evened its record at 1-1 in front of 8,836 and dropped Lehigh to 1-2, thanks to some late-game heroics from all three facets of the team.

First, the defense stopped the Mountain Hawks as they drove toward their own potential game-winning score. With 55 seconds left in the game, co-captain Matt Koch '09 and a host of Tigers plugged Adam Watson's fourth-and-1 plunge to give the Princeton offense the ball back at its own 33-yard line.

"The big stop on fourth and inches will be a huge confidence builder for us," said Princeton Head Coach Roger Hughes, "and hopefully will help us mature as a defense."

The offense wasted little time in moving into Loudon's range. On its first play, Tiger quarterback co-captain Brian Anderson '09 hit Will Thanheiser '09 down the right sideline for a 46-yard gain. It was a play that Anderson had suggested to Coach Hughes. Coach Hughes listened.

"With waning seconds, if you get a big play to start with, then you're in control," Coach Hughes said. "We were going to throw it down the field."

He added, "Brian trusted Will enough to



Frank Wojciechowski/The Princeton Packet
Jordan Culbreath '10 carries for second-quarter yards against Lehigh Saturday night.

put the ball where Will could adjust to it and he made a great adjustment on the ball and

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From the President

It's hard to believe a 10-7 victory could be this emotional and this uplifting, but the Tiger's 10-7 win over Lehigh this Saturday was "all that."

Coach Roger Hughes called it the best 10-7 game he has ever seen. As I've mentioned, this team seems to have the closeness and team spirit that was so apparent with the '06 Ivy champion Tiger squad.

To this Saturday's supporters it was great to see the team so fired up and enthusiastic when one critical play after another was made in the closing seconds to enable kicker Connor Loudon '09 to boot the winning field goal with no time remaining. (I'm told Loudon assured his coach "this kick is through" during Lehigh's timeouts in an attempt to "ice" the kicker).

The fact that every facet had to make a play to win — defensive stop, offensive drive, special teams execution — gave the coaches another chance to emphasize that games are won as a team.

There were many stars in this win. Some obvious (even though the score didn't reflect it, the offense moved the ball all day); Jordan Culbreath '10 ran for 126 yards, Will Thanheiser '09 had nine catches for 120 yards, punter Ryan Coyle '09 averaged 48.7 yards, and tight end Joe Magro '09 had some key catches.

QB Brian Anderson '09 was 20-29 (with a few drops, at that) for over 240 yards. However, the play that typified Brian's effort was on a blocked field goal in the first half. Lehigh had blocked it and their LB picked it up with about a seven-yard

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GAME STATISTICS

PRINCETON 0 7 0 3 10
 Lehigh 0 7 0 0 7

HOW THEY SCORED:

1st Quarter: None.

2nd Quarter: 7:18, L — TD, Fitzgerald, 7-yard pass from Clark, Leo kick;

4:57, P — TD, Culbreath, 1-yard run, Louden kick.

3rd Quarter: None.

4th Quarter: **0:00, P — FG, Louden, 32.**

	PU	LU
First Downs	21	14
Rushes/Yds	38-148	30-69
Passing Yds	244	169
Comp/Att/Int	20-29-0	14-27-1
Plays/Yards	67-392	57-238
Return Yds	31	84
Punts/Avg	3-48.7	4-41.8
Penalties/Yds	2-10	4-38
Fumbles/Lost	0-0	0-0
Intercept/Yds	1-0	0-0
Possession Time	32:45	27:15

Attendance: 8,836

PRINCETON PERFORMANCE

OFFENSE:

RUSHING: Culbreath, 20-126, 1 TD; Zimmerman, 3-11; Thanheiser, 2-10; Anderson, 13-1.

PASSING: Anderson, 20-29-0-244.

RECEIVING: Thanheiser, 9-120; Magro, 3-67; Zimmerman, 3-19; Berry, 2-23; Peacock, 2-10; Ransom, 1-5.

DEFENSE:

SACKS (No./Yds): Jackson, 1-10; McCarthy, 1-10; Britton, 0.5-5; Karacozoff, 0.5-5.

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

TACKLES (U/A): Cody, 4-6; Jackson, 2-7; Britton, 0-9; Cates, 4-1; Karacozoff, 2-2; Kopolovich, 2-2; Kelly, 0-4; Gallagher, 2-1; Ploszek, 1-2; Roque, 1-2; McCarthy, 2-0; Koch, 2-0; Buchignani, 0-2; McGrath, 1-0; McCray, 1-0; Berry, 1-0; Anderson, 1-0; Boyer, 0-1, Newell, 0-1.

Boot

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caught it. Your playmakers have to make plays when the game is on the line.”

Anderson and Thanheiser connected again for a short 6-yard completion. Anderson finished with 244 yards passing. Thanheiser had nine catches for 120 yards.

“They spent all July and all August together throwing, so they have a great feel for each other and a great confidence in each other,” Coach Hughes said. “That’s frankly why the play happened to get us in position to get us the field goal.”

Jordan Culbreath ’10 ran for two yards, then took a carry to the middle of the field to set up Louden’s kick. After a Lehigh time out designed to freeze the senior placekicker, he delivered the game-winner.

“I definitely felt the pressure,” Louden said. “I think it’s impossible not to in a situation like this. And I was expecting them to ice me. As a kicker you have to like that situation. Then it’s easier to deal with it.”

The first half featured end-to-end offense from Princeton as it rolled up 238 yards, but had difficulty scoring. The Tiger reached the red zone on its first two drives of the game, but did not score on either.

“We didn’t score, so we have to make a couple of adjustments, there,” Coach Hughes said. “Overall, I thought we really picked up where we left off last week and continued to move the ball.”

Lehigh scored first after Heath Brickner blocked Louden’s 29-yard field goal attempt and Al Pierce returned it all the way to the Princeton 8.

“It does (linger) a little bit,” Louden said of the blocked kick. “That’s the biggest thing — getting it out of your mind. You can’t let it affect your next kick.”

Two plays later, J.B. Clark hit Mike Fitzgerald on a 7-yard pass in the back of the end zone. Lehigh would not score again and never got closer than the Princeton 32 on its final drive.

Help celebrate retirement of Princeton No. 42

The Princeton Department of Athletics, in conjunction with the Princeton Football Association, Friends of Basketball and Princeton Varsity Club, will hold a celebration on Friday, Oct. 24 honoring Dick Kazmaier ’52 and Bill Bradley ’65 that will culminate in the retirement of the No. 42 at Princeton University.

This distinct occasion will allow Princ-

etonia held Matt McGowan, who had been averaging close to 100 yards rushing per game, to just 83, 29 of which came on the Mountain Hawks’ final drive. They also limited Clark to 169 yards passing and Jeff Jackson ’10’s first career interception halted one Lehigh drive in the first half.

“I thought our defensive confidence grew as the game went along,” Coach Hughes said. “As the fourth quarter started, I really felt like they came up with big stops and got our offense the ball a number of times and we didn’t move the ball well enough on offense to capitalize.”

Princeton, however, capitalized when it had to most. The Tiger answered Lehigh’s score with a swift drive to tie it, 7-7, with 4:57 left in the first half. Anderson’s 46-yard pass to tight end Joe Magro ’09 set up an eventual 1-yard touchdown run by Culbreath, who ran 20 times for 126 yards Saturday.

In the final minute, the Tiger offense displayed confidence, despite turning the ball over on downs and then punting on the next three possessions of the second half. Neither team had punted in the first half.

“Brian is an excellent quarterback,” Louden said. “I had all the faith in him as well as our offensive line, the whole offense and even before that, our defense to stop them to give us a chance to get back down the field.”

Princeton had a chance to score on its first possession of the game. It drove to the 1-yard line, but could not score in four rushing attempts. Princeton’s second long possession of the game ended in Louden’s kick being blocked. By the end of the game, however, the young fans were imitating only the kick that earned the Tiger its first win.

“You always get a rush on any field goal,” Louden said. “I was definitely upset about the blocked kick. I wanted to make up for it.”

etonia to celebrate the tremendous accomplishments of two special individuals who have personified the student-athlete ideal.

The evening begins with a cocktail reception at 7 p.m., followed by a program that will include remarks from both Dick and Bill at 8 p.m. Formal invitations with more details will be mailed shortly. Be on hand for an event that will be sure to be a special part of Princeton athletic history.

TIGER PLAYER PROFILES

What is your greatest challenge as a Princeton Football player?

My greatest challenge as a Princeton Football player is keeping my academic life separate from my athletic life. Academic responsibilities can get very demanding and cause a lot of mental stress which makes it difficult to transition focus completely to football.

Why did you choose Princeton for your athletic and academic career?

I had the opportunity to experience Princeton when I visited my brother and sister during their undergraduate time here. From then on I knew Princeton would be a great place for me.

When you are on the field, who or what inspires you?

As a kicker I'm not on the field for very long, nor do I exert a lot of physical energy. Therefore, my teammates inspire me to do well so that I can reward them for their hard work.

Please tell us about your career plans.

I plan on attending medical school next year. I'm currently in the process of applying to various schools.

Is there anything about yourself you'd like to share with your fans?

My father, Barry Loudon, played football for Yale, but I think he still cheers for me when we play them.



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Connor Loudon**6-4, 200 pounds****Vienna, W. Va.****Placekicker**

A psychology major at Princeton, he was all-state, all-conference and All Mid Ohio Valley as a senior kicker, punter and wide receiver at Parkersburg High School ... was a four-year letter winner in basketball.

Tiger Football Notes:

Princeton travels to Columbia on Saturday (1:30 p.m., Wien Stadium) to open the Ivy League season for both teams. Princeton has won four straight against the Lions, including last season's 42-32 shootout. ... In November, Princeton will take part in two nationally televised games. On Nov. 7, the 100th meeting between Princeton and Pennsylvania will be seen live on ESPNU (DirecTV 609) at 7 p.m. from Princeton Stadium. The 131st meeting between Yale and Princeton can be seen on the Versus network (DirecTV 608) live at noon on Nov. 15 from New Haven. ... This season the Tigers have 14 starters who return from the 2007 team, including All Ivy defensive linemen co-captain **Matt Koch '09** and **Pete Buchignani '09** and first-team All Ivy punter **Ryan Coyle '09**. Princeton has four players who were starters on the 2006 Ivy League championship team: offensive lineman **Mark Paski '10** and **J.P. Makrai '10** and defensive lineman Buchignani and **Tom Methvin '09**. ... The Tiger offensive line boasts a wealth of experience this season, as Makrai and Paski are three-year starters while **Andrew Hauser '10**, **Marc Daou '10** and **Matt Reynolds '09** all had started at least one game in their career coming into the current season. ... Quarterback **Brian Anderson '09** and linebacker **Steven Cody '11** were named to the Ivy League Honor Roll on Sept. 22.

President

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head start. Brian would not give up and ran him down at the Tiger 8-yard line. Even though Lehigh scored (it was the only time they were inside the Princeton red zone), the effort was unbelievable. In fact, one offensive lineman was overheard saying "that is why I love blocking for Brian."

The defense also was outstanding. Our strong defensive front lead by Matt Koch '09 and Pete Buchignani '09 came up big in key situations. Linebacker Steve Cody '11 was everywhere, as was Jeff Jackson '10. Jackson filled in for the recently injured defensive leader John Callahan '10 and hurt his knee in the first half. The trainers thought Jeff might also be out for the rest of the game, but he played the whole second half and had two big plays, including a sack that stopped a fourth-quarter drive. One trainer said after the game that was one of the gutsiest efforts he had seen.

I have been privileged to be in the Tiger locker room after games when emotions ran high, but I am told none topped the emotion last night. LB Scott Britton '10 took over the tradition that Tim Boardman '08 established the last few years

with his "Our House" routine (you have to be there sometime to experience this and the scoring "countdown.") Here's hoping Scott gets to repeat that routine each of the remaining home games.

Unfortunately, the coaches informed me this week that injuries have sidelined LB Callahan and RB/LB Jonathan Meyers '12 for the rest of this season, which adds to the list that includes RB R.C Lagomarsino '09.

These injuries can just be devastating, but the chemistry and make-up of this year's squad, as evidenced by this last character-building victory, bodes well. With Yale and Harvard losing in the first week in surprising upsets, the race for the Ivy title is now wide open, and this Tiger squad has its sights set.

The Tigers open their Ivy season this week at Columbia. There are many alums planning events in the New York City area for this game. Please get out to give these student athletes the support they deserve.

Go Tigers!

Frank Vuono '78

President

F.Y.I.

- **Ticket Information:**
(609) 258-3538
- **Tiger SportsLine:**
(609) 258-3545
- **Football Office:**
(609) 258-3514
- **Radio Broadcasts:**
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

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IVY LEAGUE RESULTS

	<u>Ivy</u>	<u>Overall</u>
Brown	1 0	2 0
Cornell	1 0	2 0
Harvard	0 1	1 1
Yale	0 1	1 1
PRINCETON	0 0	1 1
Pennsylvania	0 0	0 2
Dartmouth	0 0	0 2
Columbia	0 0	0 2

Sept. 27

Brown 24.....	Harvard 22
Cornell 17.....	Yale 14
Towson 31.....	Columbia 24
New Hampshire 42.....	Dartmouth 6
Lafayette 24.....	Pennsylvania 17

2008 Results

	<u>PU</u>	<u>OPP</u>
September		
20 at The Citadel	24	37
27 Lehigh	10	7
October		
4 at Columbia		
11 at Colgate		
18 Brown		
25 Harvard		
November		
1 at Cornell		
8 Pennsylvania		
15 at Yale		
22 Dartmouth		

NEXT WEEK

Princeton
at
Columbia

Oct. 4
1:30 p.m.
Wien Stadium
New York