

# Tiger's Lair

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Frank Wojciechowski/The Princeton Packet  
**Defensive back Dan Kopolovich '10 breaks up a Columbia pass.**

## Tiger rallies past Columbia

By Justin Feil

It was feast or famine for the Princeton Football team in a 42-32 win over Columbia on Saturday.

The Tiger punted only once against the Lions, and alternated between scores and turnovers on its possessions. Princeton gained a season-high 570 yards of offense against a Columbia defense rated second in the Ivy League, but the Tiger needed that offense to overcome four turnovers while winning Princeton's Ivy opener before 7,926 at Princeton Stadium.

R.C. Lagomarsino '09 rushed for a pair of touchdowns, including the go-ahead score with 13:42 left in the fourth quarter as Princeton improved to 2-1 overall, 1-0 in the Ivies. Bill Foran '08 also scored a pair of rushing touchdowns and passed for 236 yards, and his backup, Greg Mroz '08, led two touchdown drives in relief.

That offensive showing helped overcome the Lions' Craig Hormann's 275 yards passing and Jordan Hill's 105 yards rushing against the Ivy's top-rated Princeton defense as Columbia fell to 1-2 overall, 0-1 Ivy League. It was the second straight week that the Tiger had to rally in the fourth quarter for a win.

"We certainly find ways to keep games close," said Princeton Head Coach Roger Hughes after his team beat the Lions for the fourth straight time. "I'm very complimentary of Columbia taking advantage of our mistakes."

The Tiger won in part because it did not allow the Lions to take advantage of four mistakes, all by Foran. Needing a spark for the offense, he was replaced by Mroz in the third quarter after turnovers ended back-to-back possessions. The Princeton defense did not allow a score following a turnover. Andy Shalbrack's 56-yard interception return in the second quarter was the only score Columbia got from a Princeton turnover.

The Tiger offense, on the other hand, turned three Lions' turnovers into 21 points. Kevin Kelleher '08 led the Princeton defense with two interceptions.

"When we're in a dogfight like that, when it is a close game," the senior safety said, "I knew I had to step up and make a play and go find the ball."

Kelleher halted Columbia's drive for a potential tying field goal with his second pick of the game with 4:44 to go. Leading, 35-32, he intercepted Hormann's deep pass

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## *From the President*

Once again the Tigers played the role of "Cardiac Kids" before winning their Ivy opener and gaining their second win in a row.

For once our sizable home crowd (I was shocked at how few Columbia supporters were there) thought this might be a "rocking chair" game as the Tigers roared to a 21-3 lead late in the second quarter. However, the Lions rallied to take a 24-21 lead, and the Tigers once again had to prove their resilience. These student-athletes, with senior leadership on defense from Tim Boardman '08 and Kevin Kelleher '08, and on offense from Brendan Circle '08 and Rob Toresco '08, never panic and know how to come from behind.

The Tigers' versatility was demonstrated when QB Greg Mroz '08 stepped into a "saver" role and led two clutch scoring drives

before QB Bill Foran '08 returned and led another scoring drive to cement the victory. This is a testament to our program, where our recruiting efforts now are affording us some much needed student-athlete depth.

All told, the offense generated 570 yards against Columbia, previously the number two defense in the Ivies. Still, the Tiger defense spent entirely too much time on the field, as our offense turned the ball over whenever they weren't scoring. The coaches will get this corrected in a hurry.

This Saturday the Hampton University Pirates (3-1) will come to town for the first game ever between our conference and a historically black university. They have a serious football tradition and were ranked number 12 in the NCAA Championship

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## GAME STATISTICS

**PRINCETON 7 14 0 21 42**  
Columbia 3 14 7 8 32

### HOW THEY SCORED:

1st Quarter: 7:06, C — FG, Rocholl, 20; **2:31, P — TD, Foran, 4-yard run, Loudon kick.**

2nd Quarter: **10:02, P — TD, Teresco, 32-yard run, Loudon kick; 3:53, P — TD, Lagomarsino, 5-yard run, Loudon kick;** 2:14, C — TD, Knowlin, 69-yard pass from Hormann, Rocholl kick; 1:44, C — TD, Shalbrack, 56-yard interception return, Rocholl kick.

3rd Quarter: 8:23, C — TD, Knowlin, 11-yard pass from Hormann, Rocholl kick.

4th Quarter: **13:42, P — TD, Lagomarsino, 8-yard run, Loudon kick; 11:16, P — TD, Staser, 1-yard pass from Mroz, Loudon kick;** 7:25, C — TD, Russell, 5-yard pass from Davis, Paulin, pass from Hormann; **1:29, P — TD, Foran, 8-yard run, Loudon kick.**

	PU	CU
First Downs	29	21
Rushes/Yds	52-267	25-118
Passing Yds	303	278
Comp/Att/Int	21/35/2	23/43/2
Plays/Yards	87/570	68/396
Return Yds	137	139
Punts/Avg	1/49	4/38.8
Penalties/Yds	7/64	7/43
Fumbles/Lost	3/2	1/1
Intercept/Yds	2/34	2/56
Possession Time	32:47	27:13

Attendance: 7,926

### PRINCETON PERFORMANCE

#### OFFENSE:

**RUSHING:** Foran, 16-84, 2TD; Toresco, 11-61, 1 TD; Lagomarsino, 11-46, 1TD; Gunter, 7-27; Mroz, 6-22; Thanheiser, 0-27.

**PASSING:** Foran, 15-27-2-236; Mroz, 6-8, 67, 1TD.

**RECEIVING:** Circle, 8-140; Toresco, 5-52; Lagomarsino, 3-28; Staser, 2-31, 1TD; Berry, 1-32; Gunter, 1-11; Thanheiser, 1-9.

#### DEFENSE:

**SACKS (U/A):** None.

**INTERCEPTIONS (No./Yds):** Kelleher, 2-34.

**TACKLES (U/A):** Boardman, 3-8; Kelly, 8-0; Kopolovich, 1-7; Kelleher, 1-5; Koch, 0-6; Callahan, 0-6; Cerreta, 1-3; Stem, Jon, 0-4; Williams, 0-4; Carter, 0-4; Buchignani, 0-4; Newell, 1-2; Cates, 0-3; Song, 0-3; Methvin, 1-1; Ploszek, 1-0; Britton, 0-1; Culbreath, 0-1; McCarthy, 0-1; Berry, 0-1.

## Rallies

*Continued from Page 1*

in Princeton territory. Barely three minutes later, Foran, back in the game after Mroz's hand was injured, ended the Tigers' 57-yard drive with an 8-yard run for an insurance touchdown with 1:29 left.

"I'm proud of our team," Coach Hughes said, "to come back and take control of the game when the game's on the line."

Princeton outscored Columbia, 21-8, in the fourth quarter. The Tiger also held a commanding 21-3 lead with 3:51 left in the second quarter, but that lead evaporated before the half ended.

Columbia scored a field goal on its first possession, but it was the Tiger who scored touchdowns on three of its first five possessions to take command.

Foran was being wrapped up for a sack when he kept the first touchdown drive alive with a third-down pass to Brendan Circle '08 before taking the ball 16 yards on a misdirection play inside the 10. Circle would finish with eight catches for 140 yards.

Princeton took its first lead as Foran started left with an option run, stopped and froze the Columbia defense with a step back to the right, then turned and burst to the left corner of the end zone for a 4-yard touchdown late in the first quarter.

Pete Buchignani '09 pressured Hormann into a juggling interception by Kelleher, his first of the year. Three plays later, Rob Toresco '08 gave the Tiger a 14-3 lead with a 32-yard run.

The Tiger expanded its lead to 21-3 after driving out of the shadow of its own end zone. Foran completed passes of 27 and 32 yards on the 96-yard drive that finished with Lagomarsino running up the middle for a 5-yard touchdown.

"With the exception of the turnovers we had, I was pretty pleased with how our offense produced today," Coach Hughes said.

The next two possessions of the game tightened things. The Lions scored their first touchdown on a 69-yard completion from Hormann to Austin Knowlin, who finished with 146 yards receiving on six catches. They closed to 21-17 on Princeton's next possession when Shalbrack stepped in front

of a Foran pass and ran back the interception 56 yards for his first career touchdown.

"When Bill has the ball, something's going to happen," Coach Hughes said. "He has done a good job of his decision-making on the field.

"He creates some things with his feet. And that's sometimes what you're going to get. You live by the sword and die by the sword. That's why we love having him in the offense because something's going to happen."

Columbia opened the second half with an 80-yard drive capped by Knowlin's second touchdown catch, this one on a screen. The Lions 21<sup>st</sup> unanswered point gave them a 24-21 lead. It was their last lead of the game despite several Princeton miscues.

"When the game was on the line, our defense came through," Coach Hughes said.

When Foran fumbled Princeton's first possession of the second half and was intercepted on the second possession of the half, the Tiger defense held, but Coach Hughes went with Mroz, who also saw action in the season-opening loss to Lafayette.

"I felt like we just needed a spark," Coach Hughes said. "Greg is certainly a different style. As a defense, you get all geared up to play Bill. Then Greg comes in and he can throw it around pretty good."

Mroz drove the team 80 yards in 11 plays on his first possession behind center as Lagomarsino gave the Tiger the lead for good, 28-24, with an 8-yard run in which he bounced off the pile before fighting for the last five yards.

Following a fumble recovery by Blake Williams '08 after a hit by Tom Methvin '09, Mroz moved the Tigers 31 yards for the score. He found tight end Jake Staser '08 for a 1-yard score with 11:16 left in the game. Staser had his first two catches of the season Saturday.

A halfback pass from Davis to Jamal Russell cut the Princeton lead to 35-32 before the Tiger defense buckled down over the final five minutes.

Princeton goes for its third straight win when it hosts Hampton at 3:30 p.m. Saturday in the first meeting between the non-conference teams.

## PFA CALENDAR

**Nov. 9**

**Captain's Dinner  
Hyatt Regency Princeton  
Honoring Bill Powers '80  
and Princeton Football 1992**

**Nov. 19**

**PFA Donald B. Lourie '22  
Football Banquet  
Hyatt Regecy Princeton**

## TIGER PLAYER PROFILES

**What is the greatest challenge for you as a member of a team defending it's Ivy title?**

The greatest challenge as a member of a team defending it's Ivy title is maintaining the same approach and focus that brought us success last season.

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

I chose Princeton for my athletic and academic career because of the unique opportunity to play football at a high level and also get an education from the best school in the country.

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

Winning last year, and past success, has inspired me on the field. Getting a taste of what it takes to be great and striving to consistently achieve greatness is very

inspirational. My teammates are also very inspirational. We only get to play 10 games a year, so trying to make the most of those games and never letting a teammate down is something that inspires me on the field.

**Please tell us about your career plans.**

As of now, I'm not exactly sure what I want to do. Ideally, I would like to work in Washington, D.C., for a year or two and then go to law school. But until then, I'll be thinking of a brilliant invention to make some quick cash.

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

I enjoy golfing ... and may have seen some of you travel the Pennsylvania Turnpike during the summer of 2004 when worked as a toll booth operator.



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**Grege Mroz**  
**6-2, 200 pounds**  
**Greensburg, Pa.**  
**Quarterback**

Threw for 1,100 yards and 15 touchdowns as a senior at Greensburg Central Catholic ... lettered four years in football, basketball and baseball ... was a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society.

## Princeton players receive Ivy League honors

Three Princeton Football players have received special recognition from the Ivy League for their play in the first two games of the season.

Tim Boardman '08 was named to the league's Honor Roll for his play against Lehigh on Sept. 15. A linebacker from Staten Island, N.Y., had a career game with 17 tackles. He made five solo stops and assisted on 12 others, with one tackle for loss and one pass break up.

On Sept. 24 punter Ryan Coyle '09 was named the league's Special Teamer of the Week when he averaged 45.3 yards per punt in six attempts against Lafayette. His average included a career-long kick of 69 yards in the first quarter. Coyle, of Princeton, N.J., in his first full season as the Tiger

punter is leading the league with a 43.0-yard average.

Quarterback Bill Foran '08 was named to the league Honor Roll for his play against Lafayette. Foran, from Dallas, Texas, completed 18 of 24 pass attempts for 190 yards and had third-down conversion passes of 15, 21, 22 and 37 yards. He also rushed for 45 yards and ran the offense without a turnover against a defense that had been ranked No. 1 in the nation in the 20-14 victory over Lafayette.

**NOTES:** Princeton's games at Brown (Oct. 13) and Harvard (Oct. 20) will be broadcast on the New England Sports Network. They will also be available on DirectTV Channel 623. Both games start at 12:30 p.m.

## Black Princeton Alumni hosting special events on Saturday

The Association of Black Princeton Alumni has planned a day of special events on Saturday, Oct. 6.

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the Center for African American Studies will hold an open house.

At 11 a.m. Professor Daphne Brooks of the Center for African American studies will give a lecture at McCosh 50.

From 1 to 3 p.m. the ABPA hosts its annual tailgate party under the tent near the observatory on FitzRandolph Road. The event is co-sponsored by the Black Student Union, the Black Graduate Caucus and Community House.

During the Princeton vs. Hampton football game (3:30-6:30 p.m.), featuring performances by the Princeton and Hampton bands at halftime, the ABPA will host a reception in the Class of 1956 Skybox at Princeton Stadium.

For more information contact Pam Price-Jones '00, Jacklyn Bruce '99 or Joe and Natasha Robinson '05. Group e-mail: tailgate07@gmail.com.

## President

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Division (previously I-AA) going into last week. The Association of Black Princeton Alumni and other university associations will co-host a tailgate party before the game by the observatory and a post-game reception in the Class of 1956 skybox. All former players and all PFA members are encouraged to attend. For more info see this page of Tiger's Lair.

I encourage all to attend this historic event and support another great Tiger Football squad. I look forward to seeing you there.

Go Tigers!!

**Frank Vuono '78**

**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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## TIGER'S LAIR

### Princeton Football Association

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### IVY LEAGUE RESULTS

	<u>Ivy</u>	<u>Overall</u>		
<b>PRINCETON</b>	1	0	2	1
Yale	1	0	3	0
Harvard	1	0	1	2
Dartmouth	1	0	1	2
Brown	0	1	1	2
Columbia	0	1	1	2
Cornell	0	1	2	1
Pennsylvania	0	1	0	3

Sept. 29

Rhode Island 49 .....Brown 42 2OT  
Yale 38 .....Holy Cross 17  
Cornell 45.....Georgetown 7  
Dartmouth 21 ..... Pennsylvania 13  
Lehigh 20 .....Harvard 13

### 2007 Schedule

September		<u>PU</u>	<u>OPP</u>
15	Lehigh	21	32
22	at Lafayette	20	14
29	Columbia	42	32
<b>October</b>			
6	Hampton	3:30 p.m.	
13	at Brown	12:30 p.m.	
20	at Harvard	12:30 p.m.	
26	Cornell	7 p.m.	
<b>November</b>			
3	at Pennsylvania	12 p.m.	
10	Yale	1 p.m.	
17	at Dartmouth	12:30 p.m.	

### NEXT WEEK

**Princeton**  
**vs.**  
**Hampton**

**3:30 p.m.**  
**Princeton Stadium**

**TV — CN8 (Comcast)**