

Tiger's Lair

October 1, 2001

The Official Publication of the Princeton Football Association

Vol. CXXXIII, No. 3

PRINCETON 44 COLUMBIA 11

Tiger mauls Columbia for Ivy win

By Justin Feil

When it was over Saturday night at Princeton Stadium, the Tiger had claimed a complete and satisfying victory over Columbia, 44-11.

Princeton trailed Columbia, falling behind 3-0, in the first quarter before putting up 34 points on its way to its first victory of the 2001 season before 13,559 appreciative fans in the home opener. Afterward, the emotions overflowed for the Tiger, who improved to 1-0 in the Ivy League and 1-1 overall.

"I'm so proud of this team," said Princeton **Head Coach Roger Hughes**, apologizing through his tears. "The emotion and frustration of all last year and this year to this point is coming through right now. We kept telling the kids, 'Believe, believe, believe. Keep working hard.' They paid a tremendous price this summer, and last week we were frustrated again with a number of things we did. We said, 'Hey, we're going to be good if you just keep believing in yourself. Keep working, keep working, keep working.' And they've done it."



Frank Wojciechowski/The Princeton Packet

Quarterback Dave Splithoff '04 looks downfield against Columbia Saturday night at Princeton Stadium. Splithoff threw for two touchdowns and ran for two more in the Ivy League victory.

It was a joint effort as the Tiger offense and defense took turns battering Columbia. The Lions finished with just 93 total rushing yards and had four turnovers, three that were interceptions. On offense, Princeton showed the kind of balance it's been seek-

ing. Princeton had 191 yards rushing to go with 217 yards passing.

Columbia scored first when it converted an interception of Princeton's **David Splithoff '04** into three points. It was a rare *See VICTORY, Page 2*

From the President ...

The aftermath of the attacks by terrorists on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon has been a difficult time for all of us and the campus and team is no exception. Even though canceling the Lafayette game is not consequential in the overall scheme of things, it does mark the time in a special way for the players.

I was a member of the 1963 team which was about to play its last game against Dartmouth when news of President Kennedy's assassination on Thursday altered events for that weekend. The game was rescheduled for the following week-

end which was the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Many of the same issues were discussed then as they were today. We certainly learned, as today's team has probably learned, also, that events outside the University community can have a profound impact on our campus.

News has come out that a number of former players were in those buildings. Luckily, all of them escaped and some in very dramatic fashion. Maybe, just maybe their participation in football helped them in a very difficult situation.

Stanislaw Maliszewski '66

GAME STATISTICS

PRINCETON	7	10	17	10	44
Columbia	3	0	8	0	11

HOW THEY SCORED:

1st Quarter: 6:25, C — FG, Warren, 27; 1:48, P — TD, Splithoff, 2-yard run, Northrop kick.

2nd Quarter: 5:55, P — TD, Splithoff, 12-yard run, Northrop kick; 0:00, P — FG, Northrop, 38.

3rd Quarter: 9:54, P — FG, Northrop, 22; 7:19, P — TD, Opara, 78-yard pass from Splithoff, Northrop kick; 4:48, P — TD, Dillon, 31-yard pass from Splithoff, Northrop kick; 1:57, C — TD, Reese, 1-yard run, Reese rush.

4th Quarter: 11:01, P — TD, Roser-Jones, 41-yard interception return, Northrop kick; 5:15, P — FG, Northrop, 36.

	PRI	CU
First Downs	18	18
Rushes/Yds	42-191	30-93
Passing Yds	217	215
Comp/Att/Int	12/20/1	19/37/3
Return Yds	214	137
Punts/Avg	2/37.5	4/39.3
Penalties/Yds	6/32	4/41
Fumbles/Lost	1/1	2/1
Intercept/Yds	3/101	1/10
Possession Time	31:56	26:11

Attendance: 13,559

PRINCETON PERFORMANCE

OFFENSE:

RUSHING: Atkinson, 18-115; Splithoff, 10-51, 2 TD; Veach, 5-12; Opara, 2-10; Mancl, 1-2; El-Amin, 3-1; Bowden, 1-1; Benson, 2-(-1).

PASSING: Splithoff, 11-19-204, 2 TD, 1 INT; Danielewicz, 1-1-13.

RECEIVING: Chiusano, 4-19; Opara, 3-126, 1 TD; Dillon, 1-31, 1 TD; Morrison, 1-18; Baumwoll, 1-13; Lindell, 1-8; Bowden, 1-2.

DEFENSE:

SACKS: Mueller, 1-5; Currey, 1-4.

INTERCEPTIONS: Roser-Jones, 2-92, 1 TD; Snyder, 1-9.

TACKLES (unassisted-assist):

Mueller, 4-3; Farrell, 3-4; Perry 4-2; Currey, 4-2; Ganter, 3-2; Micsky, 3-2; Kongsli, 2-3; Simbi, 0-4; Roser-Jones, 2-1; Babinecz, 2-1; Keasey, 1-2; Kirby, 2-0; Snyder, 1-1; Pilcher, 0-2; Opara, 1-0; Lebeis, 1-0; Brown, 1-0; Anderson, 1-0; Scott, 0-1; Weiss, 0-1; Jackman, 0-1.

Victory

Continued from Page 1

mistake by the Tiger quarterback and an even rarer Lion highlight. The Lions had the ball first-and-goal from the Princeton 9, but had to settle for a field goal after Tiger cornerback **Paul Simbi '03** and linebacker **Chris Roser-Jones '02** broke up back-to-back passes.

Splithoff began the day just 4-for-9 in the first half, but helped establish the running attack that was so vital to Princeton's success. He scored twice on short runs as Princeton built a 17-3 half-time lead.

"As the game goes on, your confidence just builds," said Splithoff, who finished the day 11-for-19 for 204 yards and two touchdowns while running for 51 yards and 10 carries that included two touchdowns.

"When you get confidence, sometimes you just make plays. It's all about making plays, and our confidence grew as the game went on," Splithoff said.

After Columbia scored, Princeton put plenty of points on the board. The Tiger used **Cameron Atkinson '03** and Splithoff to answer the Lions and take its first lead, 7-3. The two traded off on big plays as the Princeton used 10 plays to drive 78 yards, the last two when Splithoff danced over the left side for a 2-yard touchdown run.

"We have big athletes up front," explained Atkinson of the running game's success. "I knew they were going to produce, I just didn't know exactly when. This week, they were physical, they blew them off the ball. The run game was great."

It helped Atkinson celebrate his 20th birthday in style as he amassed 115 yards on 18 carries, good for 6.4 yards per rush. And he continued to get chances because the Princeton defense found ways to get the ball back in the hands of the offense.

Linebacker Roser-Jones was step-for-step with his man 20 yards down field when he reached up to intercept a pass at the Princeton 25 yard line. He followed a host of blockers 51 yards down the left side until he was taken down from behind at the Columbia 24.

It took the offense just six plays to capitalize, when Splithoff scrambled 12 yards for a touchdown on third-and-11. Unable to find a receiver, he tucked the ball and shot through the right side, then dived into the end zone to give Princeton a 14-3 lead.

"Our defense did a phenomenal job of creating turnovers and this week we turned them into points," Hughes said.

Roser-Jones proved that Princeton did not even need the offense on the field as he supplied six points by returning his second interception of the night 41 yards for a score with 11:01 to play in the fourth quarter. It was a fitting finish for a Princeton defense that played so well.

Princeton had built a two-touchdown lead at half-time after its defense forced a Columbia punt and the Tiger got a 40-yard return from **Andy Bryant '03**. Princeton took over at the Columbia 45 and proceeded to use the remainder of the first half to move 24 yards before **Taylor Northrop '03** booted a 38-yard field goal as the half expired for a 17-3 lead.

Princeton added to its lead right out of the locker room, marching 69 yards in 5:06 before Northrop hit a 22-yard field goal to up the lead, 20-3. The big play on the drive was Splithoff's pass to **Chisom Opara '03** on a crossing pattern. The wide receiver turned it into a 33-yard gain to put the ball at the Columbia 21.

"The nice thing was we had success in virtually every facet of our game, which then opens up all the other facets that we can use," Hughes said.

Opara took it all they way the next time as he and Splithoff connected on a 78-yard touchdown pass, the longest touchdown pass in Princeton Stadium history, to build Princeton's lead to 27-3.

"We came out and started to use what was effective in the first half, make it look like that, and run the play-action pass off of it," Hughes said. "Dave did a great job."

Princeton regained the ball in excellent field position when the Tiger defense continued its domination with a stop on fourth-and-1. The Lions gave the ball to Johnathan Reese, but he was met initially by defensive tackle **George Pilcher '04**, who penetrated the Columbia line quickly, and then **Blake Perry '04** and a host of Tigers who did not allow a yard.

Now the Tiger took just two plays before Splithoff rolled left and hit **Brendan Dillon '03** with a 31-yard touchdown strike to make it 34-3.

"I think tonight we clicked and I still think we can get better," Splithoff said.

Northrop nailed a 36-yard field goal with 5:15 left to end the scoring and send Princeton into the locker room a very happy and confident squad, ready to begin preparation for next Saturday's visit from Colgate to Princeton Stadium.

TIGER PLAYER PROFILES

As a Princeton Football player, what — or who — motivates you?

Motivation, perhaps, is one of the most underrated and unseen characteristics of my personality. As far as being a football player, I look inside myself most often for motivation. I love to have fun out on the football field, using my body to physically dominate other men. It's all part of the game, but there is something that every man feels when he steps up against an opponent, whatever it may be, and he defeats it. It's a feeling of accomplishment; a feeling of pride.

I find that when I'm off the field, I hold myself high with a great deal of pride for what I have done with my life, and I remember not to ever let myself, my family, or my friends be embarrassed by something I do or don't do.

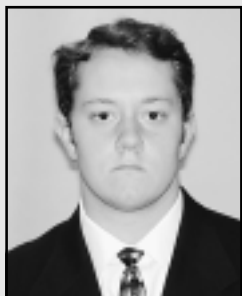
I suppose it all comes down to the fact that no matter what other people say or think about me, motivation for my life has to come from within. It has to start in my heart, in my soul. And it has to run throughout my body and mind continuously, as the fuel that drives the machine. I have to be the best, I have to not only win, but dominate. I need to be the one on top, I need the respect of my peers and foes, and I need the love of my close friends and family.

There is a fire inside me, sparked long ago (presumably by my parents), and when I step on that field and make that block, or save my quarterback from some serious pain scorching from his blind side, when I hurt that defender who is trying to hurt my running back, when I look up at the end of the war and see that my team has won on the battlefield of men, that is when happiness is witnessed by me as a football player.

As a senior player, what advice do you have for this year's freshmen?

As someone who has been at this place for a few years now, I do think I have some good advice for the younger guys. There has to be a process when you are first starting out in a new place when you are inured to the environment and more importantly yourself. Going to extremes in any aspect of life, I find to be inappropriate.

I try to keep my days full, scheduling all that I want to do, while leaving some small time for myself. I push myself now, I push myself hard, and it's uncomfortable at times, but I know that nothing else I do in my life can possibly be as hard as these four years.



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Matt Peluse '02**Glen Rock, N.J.****6-5, 290 pounds****Offensive Lineman**

Prior to this season Peluse is the only Princeton offensive lineman to start a game. ... At Glen Rock High School he was valedictorian of his class and a National Merit Scholar as well as lettering twice in football and baseball. ... He was an all-state and all-county selection in football. ... His football team won a state championship his junior year, his baseball team won state titles his junior and senior years. ... He also played club ice hockey.

I enjoy this; you may not. The thing about Princeton is that there are so many venues for different people that you can probably find yours, no matter how much of an outsider you think you are.

I feel that the greatest happiness is found at this place when you do what you find enjoyable. So do it. But don't ever put yourself in a situation where you, your family, or your friends might be embarrassed for what you do or don't do. You have to wake up every day and look at yourself in the face, and when you can do this with pride, life is more enjoyable.

As a senior, what lessons from your Princeton Football experience will you take with you into the future?

Football is one sport, and I've played almost all of them, that really does draw a lot of parallels to real life. The discipline and mental toughness needed to get to meetings on time, to stay on sides, to know the plays, and not just what you do, but what the whole team does, and the intelligence required to anticipate what the opponent is going to do are things that cannot be just given to a man.

No matter what the genes, every life on this planet must learn how to live and be great, and playing football at Princeton has taught me how to streamline my day and rid it of wastes, how to bring my output up to and maybe even exceeding that of my competition, how to communicate effectively and efficiently with my associates, and how to suck it up sometimes when everything is going wrong and just get the job done.

Princeton Football demands that I be right all the time, and even though that rarely happens, it forces me to strive for perfection each and every minute of the day. In life, I'll have that competitive edge, that burning inside me to be my best, to understand the entire company and what everyone does to make it work, and I'll be strong enough to bounce back from a loss, learn from it and not make the same mistake again. I know what it's like to be in a close family, where no one is related to me. I know what mental pain is, I know what physical pain is, and I no longer consider either a great obstacle.

And after four years of Princeton Football, these things, as well as the serenity of knowing how well my life is going will easily be recognized as I stand with diploma in hand, with experiences taken to heart, with the echoes of the whistle resonating between my ears, alerting me that that play is over and I'm on to the next one in life.

Please tell us about your career plans.

I am uncertain of the exact path that I will walk in the years to come in my life. I know I will strive relentlessly to be the best in my field, to be the best man/husband/father, etc. that I can be, according to my standards, of course.

Right now, I hope to go into the business field, maybe get my feet wet before I start some of my own investments and opportunities. Perhaps I'll get my MBA while wearing those soggy shoes, or maybe I'll use my BSE in chemical engineering as a fallback to get some necessary capital.

Princeton has shown me quite a few doors that are supposed to lead to success, and I may open some of them and walk down their paths. I am just so extremely excited to be able to have the confidence that I am capable of adapting to and succeeding along almost all paths.

F.Y.I.

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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.

Stanislaw Maliszewski '66, *President*

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IVY LEAGUE RESULTS

Sept. 29

Pennsylvania 21 Dartmouth 20
Harvard 38 Lafayette 14
Yale 23 Holy Cross 22
Rhode Island 42 Brown 38
Colgate 35 Cornell 32

Schedule, Oct. 7

Holy Cross at Pennsylvania, 12:30 p.m.
Dartmouth at Yale, 1 p.m.
Fordham at Brown, 1 p.m.
Lehigh at Cornell, 1 p.m.
Northeastern at Harvard, 1 p.m.
Columbia at Lafayette, 1:30 p.m.

2001 SCHEDULE

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September

22 at Lehigh 10 34
29 Columbia 44 11

October

6 Colgate 1 p.m.
13 at Brown Noon
20 at Harvard 1 p.m.
27 Cornell 1 p.m.

November

3 Pennsylvania 12:30 p.m.
10 Yale 1 p.m.
17 Dartmouth 12:30 p.m.

NEXT WEEK

Princeton
vs.
Colgate
1 p.m.
Oct. 7
Princeton Stadium