

# Tiger's Lair

October 4, 2004

The Official Publication of the Princeton Football Association Vol. CXXXVI, No. 6

## Tiger scores overtime win at Columbia

By Justin Feil

NEW YORK — Better to win ugly, than to lose pretty.

That's how the Princeton University football team felt after a 27-26 overtime win over Columbia on Saturday.

Princeton, which defeated the Lions 27-24 in overtime in 2000, survived 11 penalties that cost them 101 yards and three turnovers — including one deep its own territory and one when it was deep in Lions' territory — to ruin a spirited Columbia effort in front of 10,823 on hand for Columbia's 250th anniversary festivities at Wien Stadium.

Several times it looked as if the big crowd would be rewarded, but the Tiger was able to make the plays to win it. Princeton has never lost two straight to the Lions in the history of the 130-year series. The win was Princeton's sixth over the Lions in their last seven games.

Columbia scored a touchdown on the first possession of overtime when Rashad Biggers scored on a 17-yard run, but



Paul Chin/Daily Princetonian

**Jay McCareins leaps to make one of his three receptions against Columbia Saturday at Wien Stadium.**

Princeton's Jay McCareins '06 blocked his second kick of the day to limit the Lions' lead to 26-20.

"I was hoping the wing would have a short memory," McCareins said. "But they actually put a different guy in, and I don't think he was used to how hard we were coming off the ball. The guy inside me, Abi Fadeyi ('06), did a real good job and got his inside shoulder turned."

On Princeton's first overtime possession, quarterback Matt Verbit '05 scrambled for 18 yards on fourth-and-5 to set up Jon Veach '05's 1-yard touchdown two plays later. Derek Javarone '06's extra point then won the game to send the Tiger to its first 3-0 start since 1995. Columbia fell to 0-3.

"What a difference a year makes," said Princeton Head Coach Roger Hughes, whose team lost on a Hail Mary pass on the final play last year. "I feel for the Columbia players and the organization. They deserved to win it a lot of times, just like I thought we deserved to win it, too."

"One thing we worked very hard on in the off-season and in the fall camp is

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### From the President ...

On this glorious Sunday afternoon in the New York area, I'm still on an emotional high from having witnessed the courageous victory achieved yesterday by our Tiger student athletes in front of a Columbia Homecoming packed house (250th anniversary).

I can tell you from first-hand experience, this season's Tiger is truly a different breed of cat. I urge you to get out and witness this team and observe how they pull together when faced with adversity, especially how they play their hearts out for a supportive coaching staff.

I could go on about our impressive 3-0 start, but this week I'd like to pass on the following e-mail message sent from one of our distinguished supporters, Peter Milano '55 P'88, to Head Coach Roger Hughes:

"Roger, Congratulations on a great win at Columbia! It might have been a little 'ugly' in some people's minds, but not mine; it's the kind of game we have lost in years past, so it's heartening to see us prevail! Sorry I wasn't there to see it, but some of us '55ers will be at Colgate this week to cheer the Tigers on!

"I must tell you about how I heard about the game result:

"I was in Princeton Saturday attending a Princeton Project 55 board meeting and a reception, in celebration of the 15th anniversary of the founding of PP55. The reception was at 12 Stockton St. (home of PP55), and President Shirley Tilghman was our special guest. There were 50-60 other folks there from various classes. Shirley arrived a little after 4 p.m. and asked

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## GAME STATISTICS

<b>PRINCETON</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>27</b>
Columbia	0	6	0	14	6	26

## HOW THEY SCORED:

1st Quarter: None

2nd Quarter: **8:14, P — TD,**

**Benson, 1-yard run, Javarone kick;** 4:28, C — TD, Otis, 7-yard run, kick failed.

3rd Quarter: **3:24, P — FG,**

**Javarone, 25.**

4th Quarter: 11:49, C — TD,

Biggers, 3-yard run, Rudd kick;

**7:31, P — TD, Veach, 4-yard run,**

**Javarone kick;** 2:11, C — TD,

Oluwole, 4-yard run, Rudd kick;

**0:05, P — FG, Javarone, 21.**

Overtime: 15:00, C — TD, Biggers,

17-yard run, kick blocked; **15:00, P**

**— TD, Veach, 1-yard run,**

**Javarone kick.**

	PRI	C
First Downs	22	26
Rushes/Yds	45-180	57-239
Passing Yds	205	98
Comp/Att/Int	19/33/1	14/29/0
Plays/Yards	78/385	86/337
Return Yds	127	178
Punts/Avg	4/41.5	6/31.3
Penalties/Yds	11/101	7/54
Fumbles/Lost	4/2	0/0
Intercept/Yds	0/0	1/12
Possession Time	26:33	33:27

Attendance: 10,823

### PRINCETON PERFORMANCE OFFENSE:

**RUSHING:** Benson, 13-70, 1 TD;

Veach, 17-67, 2 TD; Fields, 4-37;

Verbit, 10-20; Moore, 1-(-16).

**PASSING:** Verbit, 19-33-1-205.

**RECEIVING:** Dekker, 5-46; Fields,

3-49; McCareins, 3-42; Davis, 2-

19; Brigham, 2-14; Veach, 2-12;

McNair, 1-15; Mancl, 1-8.

### DEFENSE:

**SACKS (U/A):** Stull, 0-2; Browne,

1-1; Borelli, 1-0; Keasey, 1-0;

Williams, 0-1.

**INTERCEPTIONS (No./Yds):** None

**TACKLES (U/A):** Keasey, 8-5; Stull,

6-7; Artis, 8-4; Borelli, 5-7; Mueller,

4-7; Browne, 2-6; Fadeyi, 3-4;

Strickland, 4-1; Williams, 1-4;

Ochotorena, 1-2; McCareins, 0-3;

Kelly, 1-1; Javarone, 1-0; Davis, 1-

0; Song, 1-0; Meehan, 1-0;

Brigham, 0-1

## Scores

*Continued from Page 1*

making plays to win games. I have told our team all along that no other team works harder at or is more prepared for the last few minutes of the game. I think all of our hard work and their resolve paid off."

After Columbia took a 20-17 lead with 2:11 left in regulation, Princeton marched 64 yards to get the tying 21-yard field goal from Javarone with five ticks left. On the drive, Princeton converted twice on Verbit-to-McCareins connections in crucial situations. On fourth-and-6 at its own 37, a crossing pattern to McCareins picked up 14 yards. On third-and-3 from Columbia's 45, McCareins' leaping grab between two defenders picked up 21 yards and put Princeton in field-goal position.

McCareins, who caught three passes for 42 yards, also had three assists from his cornerback position on defense and returned two kickoffs for 55 yards.

"Clearly, he's the guy that we want people throwing at when he's on defense and he's the guy we want catching it when we're on offense and touching it on special teams," Coach Hughes said. "He's a big-time playmaker and we looked like pretty smart coaches today using him all over the place."

Princeton needed some big plays after handing Columbia several golden opportunities with mistakes. The Lions were led by a career-high 137 yards rushing by Biggers.

But Columbia's mistakes proved larger than Biggers, who set up the Lions' third touchdown of the game with 43 yards rushing on the drive.

Two penalties kept the ensuing Tiger drive alive to give the Orange and Black the lead at 17-13. A third-down completion for no yards that would have forced a field-goal attempt was nullified by a roughing-the-passer penalty against the Lions. Three plays later, a Columbia sack went for naught when Verbit was grabbed by the face mask. On the next play, Veach fought in for a 4-yard touchdown run and Javarone's extra point gave the Tiger a four-point lead with 7:31 left in regulation.

Columbia took its first lead, 13-10, with 11:49 left in the fourth quarter on a 4-yard run by Biggers. Just two plays before, the Lions converted a key third down from the Princeton 11 on a 4-yard pass. Princeton had extended its lead to 10-6 with 3:24 left in the third quarter. After the Tiger defense kept Columbia pinned inside its 10, Greg Fields '06 returned the punt 38

yards to the Lions' 10. Three plays netted just two yards before Javarone hit on a 25-yard field goal.

But those points were a bonus. They came after Columbia failed to capitalize for a third time on a Princeton turnover Saturday. Branden Benson '05 fumbled at the Columbia 4 as the Tiger sought to finish off an 80-yard drive.

Princeton also survived its first-half miscues. In the first quarter, after Verbit fumbled while scrambling, the Lions took over at their own 31-yard line but could only move 32 yards before a sack by Justin Stull '06 and Chris Browne '05 forced a punt.

The Lions recovered the ball in even better position after Verbit's pass went off Brian Brigham '07's hand and into the arms of a Lions' linebacker to open the second quarter. The ball was returned to the Princeton 31 and the Lions moved to the 15 where McCareins blocked a 33-yard field goal try.

Princeton immediately capitalized with an 11-play, 57-yard drive that rode the running of Benson. The senior accounted for 52 of the 57 yards, including the final yard when he got in on second effort from the Columbia 1-yard line. Javarone's extra point gave the Tiger a 7-0 lead with 8:14 left in the half, but Columbia was quick to answer.

The Lions drove 66 yards in 10 plays before Jeff Otis scored on a 7-yard scramble. Columbia missed an opportunity to tie it, however, when the extra point was wide.

Princeton ended an ugly first-half performance with a botched shotgun snap and a sack on an attempted Hail Mary in its final two possessions.

"I thought we did things to keep Columbia in the game," Coach Hughes said. "I'm not taking anything away from Columbia. They had a great scheme. They took us out of some of our play-action pass game.

"Offensively, I thought they ran the ball very well at times, but by the same standpoint, we're on the 3-yard line and we fumble. It's a whole different game if we score a touchdown. It felt like if we could just get our feet on the ground and get some rhythm offensively, we'd be fine.

"Defensively we have to tighten up the penalties. We had way too many penalties that kept drives going. I don't feel like we escaped but I do feel like clearly we could have played better."

## 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 40<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:football@princeton.edu) or by phone at (609) 258-3514.

## President

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me if I knew how the game was going. I told her I was about to call Dick Thompson '55 to get an update and would let her know. When I called Dick we had the ball on our 40 with less than two minutes to go. I stayed on the line and he recounted what happened, play by play, until we kicked the field goal with a few seconds left. I told Dick I'd call him back during the OT; I didn't update Shirley, since we were in the middle of 'speech making' about PP55, including remarks she had to make.

"I finally got back to Dick at about 5 p.m., just after the game ended. Without giving me the score, he walked me through the OT period, play by play again. You can imagine my anxiety as he did.

"When he finally got to the dramatic end of the story I could hardly contain myself. I rushed back to the reception room and asked the group if they were interested in the status of the game — they sure were! I then walked them through the last two minutes as Dick did, and the OT dramatics as well, ending with the winning extra-point kick! The room erupted in applause and you can't believe the look of delight and excitement on Shirley Tilghman's face. Frankly, I haven't gotten as

emotional as I was about a game in a long, long time! The entire day could not have ended on a more pleasing note if we had scripted it ahead of time!

"On behalf of the Class of '55 and PP55, please pass along our congratulations and thanks to the coaching staff and the team for a great win and for helping to make our anniversary celebration a great success. It's one example, among many, that the combination of accomplishment and excellence in scholarship, extra-curricular activities (especially athletics), civic engagement, alumni support and University leadership at every level, are what set Princeton apart from every other college in the country.

"See you next week in Hamilton, N.Y.!

"Regards, Pete Milano '55"

That about says it all. Just one reminder; we are into a new fiscal year and need your financial support to continue the momentum of recent accomplishments. Look for a solicitation letter from Matt Whalen '88 soon. Thanks for your continued support. Go Tiger!

*Frank Vuono '78*

## Ivy League honors two Princeton players

Two Princeton Football players have been honored by the Ivy League for their play against the University of San Diego Toreros.

Linebacker Zak Keasey '05 was named Defensive Player of the Week and defensive back Brandon Mueller '05 was named to the league's weekly honor roll.

Keasey made two solo tackles, nine assists, recovered a fumble, knocked down one pass and intercepted another to help the Tiger preserve the win.

Mueller had eight tackles, including the sack that forced a fumble that was returned by a teammate for a Tiger touchdown.

## 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**

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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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## TIGER'S LAIR

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### IVY LEAGUE RESULTS

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

Oct. 2

Brown 20	Rhode Island 13
Harvard 38	Lafayette 23
Towson 21	Cornell 11
Yale 31	Colgate 28
Pennsylvania 35	Dartmouth 0

### 2004 RESULTS

	P	O
<b>September</b>		
18 Lafayette	35	18
25 at San Diego	24	17
<b>October</b>		
2 at Columbia	27	26 OT
9 at Colgate	1 p.m.	
16 Brown	1 p.m.	
23 Harvard	1 p.m.	
30 at Cornell	Noon	
<b>November</b>		
6 Pennsylvania	1 p.m.	
13 at Yale	Noon	
20 Dartmouth	1 p.m.	

### NEXT WEEK

**Princeton**  
at  
**Colgate**

**1 p.m.**  
**Andy Kerr Stadium**  
**Hamilton, N.Y.**