

# Tiger's Lair

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Frank Wojciechowski/The Princeton Packet  
**Jordan Culbreath '10 on his way to a second-quarter touchdown Friday night at Princeton Stadium.**

## Princeton freezes Big Red with Friday-night victory

By Justin Feil

Jordan Culbreath '10 made some explosive runs in his most significant playing time of the season, and Princeton Football Head Coach Roger Hughes had an important sprint of his own as the Tiger held off Cornell, 34-31, Friday night before 5,773 at a rainy Princeton Stadium.

Culbreath, filling in for an injured Kenny Gunter '10, carried 11 times for 145 yards and a pair of long touchdown runs. His first, a 49-yarder, gave the Tiger a 14-7 lead in the second quarter of a seesaw game. His second, a 58-yarder, put Princeton ahead for good, 34-31, with 6:41 left in the fourth quarter.

"It was nice to get out there and contribute to the win," said the sophomore running back. "I'm just glad we actually won. That makes everything better."

Coach Hughes wasn't able to suit up in the new orange jerseys Princeton wore for the first time this season, but the former Doane College tight end showed wideout speed as he made a crucial time out call to ice Cornell

kicker Peter Zell with nine seconds left.

"I looked over and I thought the official was standing by me and he had moved," Coach Hughes said. "So I had to actually run and scream at the top of my lungs. I just got the time out in time." The whistle blew just before the ball snapped and Zell kicked it through the uprights. "He made it by a bunch. He split the middle. It would have been good by about 55," Coach Hughes said.

Instead, Zell had to attempt the kick again, after Hughes called yet another time out to ice him. The plan worked as Zell had the distance again, but the ball sailed outside the right upright with five ticks left on the clock as the home team prevailed for the fifth straight time in the series.

"Our kids just hung in there, hung in there," Coach Hughes said, "and finally got a break to go our way."

With the win — broadcast nationally on ESPNU — Princeton improves to 3-4 overall, 2-2 in the Ivy League. Cornell

See *VICTORY*, Page 2

## *From the President*

Too bad the inclement weather limited the crowd on this rainy Friday night, as the Tigers and Big Red put on a great show that was carried on national TV by ESPNU (more on that later).

This was a real gut check game for the Tigers, coming after three straight losses and on the heels of midterm week. Cornell, led by impressive quarterback Nathan Ford and running a pro-fense for the first time in recent memory, had all the momentum, after two straight impressive comeback wins.

However, our '08 student-athletes like Toresco, Mroz, Kelleher and Circle wouldn't let our younger team members roll over and accept losing. So this was either the confirmation or the coming out party for a number of sophomores. From the class of '10 LB John Callahan, DB Dan Kopolovich, DB Cart Kelly (of ESPNU "Summer House" fame) and RB Jordan Culbreath

(ironically, filling in for another sophomore, injured RB Kenny Gunter '10) all had outstanding games. Culbreath had 145 yards on 11 carries, including some highlight-reel game-breakers. In fact, ESPN thought so, including one of Culbreath's runs in its "Plays of the Day."

This game came down to the last play, where Coach Hughes' own "icing" time out negated an accurate 47-yard field goal, only to have the subsequent Cornell attempt miss wide right. The icing was a reversal of a tactic that Cornell's coach Jim Knowles employed on Princeton's field-goal attempt just before halftime. Only in the Tiger's case, Coach Hughes called for a fake kick, which holder Brendan Circle '08 ran in for a Tiger touchdown.

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## GAME STATISTICS

**PRINCETON 7 20 0 7 34**  
Cornell 7 14 10 0 31

## HOW THEY SCORED:

**1st Quarter: 12:36, P — TD, Mroz, 12-yard run, Loudon kick;** 0:00, C — Canty, 17-yard pass from Ford, Zell kick.

**2nd Quarter: 13:38, P — TD, Culbreath, 49-yard run, Loudon kick;** 7:50, C — TD, Canty, 12-yard pass from Ford, Zell kick; **3:41, P — TD, Toresco, 7-yard pass from Mroz, attempt failed;** 1:21, C — TD, Barbour, 5-yard run, Zell kick; **0:19, P — Circle, 22-yard run, Loudon kick.**

**3rd Quarter: 10:09, C — TD, Ford, 2-yard run, Zell kick;** 4:25, C — FG, Zell, 26.

**4th Quarter: 6:41, P — TD, Culbreath, 58-yard run, Loudon kick.**

	PU	CU
First Downs	15	26
Rushes/Yds	39-277	34-83
Passing Yds	96	335
Comp/Att/Int	10-24-1	37-49-3
Plays/Yards	63-373	83-418
Return Yds	137	178
Punts/Avg	7-37.4	2-35
Penalties/Yds	4-35	4-20
Fumbles/Lost	0-0	3-3
Intercept/Yds	3-35	1-5
Possession Time	25:46	34:06
Attendance: 5,773		

## PRINCETON PERFORMANCE

## OFFENSE:

**RUSHING:** Culbreath, 11-145, 2TD; Mroz, 8-64, 1TD; Toresco, 7-26; Circle, 1-22, 1TD; Thanheiser, 1-8; Lagomarsino, 8-8; Berry, 1-3; Heavenrich, 1-1.

**PASSING:** Mroz, 10-24-1-96, 1TD.

**RECEIVING:** Circle, 5-62; Toresco, 3-18, 1TD; Heavenrich, 1-11; Thanheiser, 1-5.

## DEFENSE:

**SACKS (U/A):** Karacozoff, 1-0; Callahan, 1-1; McCarthy, 0-1.

**INTERCEPTIONS (No./Yds):** Kelly, 1-35; Cates, 1-0; Kopolovich, 1-0.

**TACKLES (U/A):** McCarthy, 8-6; Karacozoff, 1-9; Callahan, 3-6; Cates, 5-3; Boardman, 5-3; Stem, 2-5; Kelly, 4-1; Buchignani, 2-2; Koch, 1-3; Culbreath, 1-3; Kelleher, 1-3; Kopolovich, 1-3; Britton, 0-4; Ploszek, 1-1; Williams, 1-1; Thanheiser, 0-2; Toresco, 1-0; Song, 1-0; Staser, 1-0; Paski, 1-0; Simnick, 0-1; Cerreta, 0-1; Berry, 0-1; Boyer, 0-1; Gallagher, 0-1.

## Victory

*Continued from Page 1*

dropped to 4-3 overall, 2-2 in conference play. Princeton plays at Penn noon on Nov. 3, a game to be broadcast on Comcast's CN8 cable channel.

"Going into the stretch run of our season, we needed this for our confidence," Coach Hughes said.

Coming off its midterm exam week, the Tiger withstood a big test from Cornell, which had won two straight, including a win the week before over Brown.

"They're a great team," said cornerback Dan Kopolovich '10. "We expected them to give us a good game up to the end and, sure enough, they did."

Just as Culbreath helped ignite an offense led by quarterback Greg Mroz '08, who started in place of the injured Bill Foran '08, Kopolovich was able to guide an opportunistic defense. He had a pair of interceptions and a fumble recovery. The Tiger caused six Cornell turnovers.

"Turnovers play a huge part in who's going to win and who's going to lose," Kopolovich said. "Luckily tonight we were able to get more turnovers than what we usually do."

On Cornell's first possession, John Callahan '10 blindsided Cornell quarterback Nathan Ford and Matt Koch '09 recovered at the Big Red 26. Four plays later, Mroz scored his first career rushing touchdown on a 12-yard draw.

It wouldn't take Princeton long to score after Cornell tied the game on the first of two Ford-to-Zac Canty touchdown passes. Again on the Tiger's fourth play, Culbreath helped open a 14-7 lead in a wild second quarter that saw the teams combine for 35 points.

Cornell used a blocked punt to set up another Canty touchdown catch, but Princeton regained the lead on a 7-yard laser from a scrambling Mroz to Rob Toresco '08, who stepped through one tackle to reach the end zone. A bad snap cost the Tiger any opportunity to attempt an extra point but Princeton held the lead, 20-14. When Cornell scored on its next possession, Zell's extra point put the Big Red ahead by 21-20 with 1:21 to play in the first half.

The Tiger reached the Cornell 22-yard line before lining up for a field goal. Twice Cornell called time out to ice Connor Loudon '09, but it was for naught. Princeton faked the field goal and holder Brendan Circle '08 dashed 22 yards down the left sideline for a touchdown to make it 27-21 going into the half.

"We had the play called when they called the first time out," Coach Hughes said. "We were going to run it all the way through. It didn't get down to: he called two time outs

and made me mad. We were running the fake all the way."

The Tiger's momentum did not seem to carry into the third quarter. Princeton could not move the ball past midfield. Meanwhile, the Big Red took the lead on a 2-yard run by Ford followed by a 26-yard field goal by Zell to make it 31-27. That's when the Princeton defense buckled down.

"First of all, we didn't tackle well. We let them get a lot of extra plays," Coach Hughes said. "We started tackling more and bringing more pressure. We tried to cut down the lanes (Ford) could run around with and it ended up working out. I credit our defense for getting the turnovers for us."

Cornell looked headed for a score on its third straight possession of the second half, but after a reception, Kevin Kelleher '08's hit popped out the ball and Kopolovich dived on it before it could squirt out of bounds. Princeton gave it right back on a tipped pass that was intercepted, but a sack by Joel Karacozoff '10 pushed Zell's errant field goal attempt back to 39 yards.

"I thought we started executing the stunts we were calling and the blitzes we were calling and I thought our defensive line kicked it into gear," Coach Hughes said. "They really started coming off the ball and making some plays."

After the teams exchanged punts, Culbreath wriggled through a pair of would-be tacklers on an option and followed some timely blocking down the left sideline for the go-ahead touchdown.

"I couldn't be more proud of the kid because of how hard he works in practice," Coach Hughes said. "He's one of those kids that it's all about the team, it's all about doing everything right."

But with 6:41 left, there was still plenty of time for another Big Red rally. Cornell made it just 13 yards before Kopolovich fully extended on a dive to haul in his second interception of the game.

"Actually right before we came on the field," Kopolovich said, "Coach (Eric) Jackson told us to watch for the deep stuff. It was easy because he told us."

Princeton failed to run out the clock, but Cornell fumbled the ensuing punt to give the Tiger another chance. Old Nassau turned the ball over on downs with 2:01 left, putting the game in the hands of its defense. Princeton kept Cornell just far enough away to be out of Zell's range.

"I was glad to see our defense get up and make some stops at the end of the game when they had to," Coach Hughes said. "That was crucial, especially Dan Kopolovich. I can't say enough about what Jordan Culbreath did tonight. He kind of had his coming-out party."

## TIGER PLAYER PROFILES

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

The greatest challenge for our team in its quest to repeat will come from being adequately prepared for what the opposition is going to give us. Many of the things that were successful for us last year may not be available as our opponents try to take them away. Knowing this, it will be imperative that we are simply more prepared than they are to anticipate and adapt as we need to.

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

I really felt the small-town feel of Princeton was the right choice for me. Given that it was the No. 1 school in the country I knew I would be getting a top-quality education. Aside from academics, I was drawn in by the family appeal that Coach Hughes runs the football program with. I came from a

high school that was run very similarly and I felt like I could thrive in an environment that continued these core values.

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

When I am on the field, I am inspired by my family and my teammates. I have been fortunate enough to have my parents at every game since early sophomore year and to have them there, given the influence that they have had on my life, really inspires me. With all the time that we spend together as teammates, we really are out on the field playing for one another. It inspires me to know that every person is counting on me to do my job just like I count on each of them to do theirs.

**Career plans:**

I would like to pursue a career in the finance industry on the west coast to utilize my economics course work.



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**Brendan Circle**  
**6-0, 200 pounds**  
**Villa Park, Calif.**  
**Wide receiver**

Was named all-league, all-county and all-CIF as wide receiver, cornerback and holder at Lutheran High School ... lettered as a sprinter and jumper for the track team ... named Player of the Year for the basketball team.

**Tiger Zone brings live Princeton Football video**

Tiger Zone, the exclusive video streaming home of Princeton Athletics, continues its lineup of Princeton Football events in 2007.

All weekly Wednesday press conferences with Head Coach Roger Hughes and select players and coaches, all post-game press conferences after Princeton football home games and nearly all games will be available exclusively in Tiger Zone. In addition, all events are available "On Demand" in TigerZone.

To subscribe to Tiger Zone, go to [www.GoPrincetonTigers.com](http://www.GoPrincetonTigers.com).

Below is a schedule of upcoming 2007 Princeton football video streaming events in Tiger Zone. Please note that the schedule is subject to change and will be updated on a weekly basis.

**THIS WEEK: Tiger Zone live/archived football events (all times Eastern):**

Wednesday, Oct. 31    Noon    Weekly coaches press conference (Penn week) **LIVE**  
 Saturday, Nov. 3        Noon    Princeton Football at Penn **LIVE**

**PFA CALENDAR**

Nov. 9

**Captain's Dinner**  
**Cocktails: 6:30 p.m.**

**Dinner: 7 p.m.**

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**President**

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While some of you may wonder why Princeton played a rare Friday night game, I want to assure you that the timing has some merit. This is the second consecutive year ESPN has carried a Tiger game nationally. The network does an absolutely outstanding job describing what Ivy football, and in particular Princeton Football, is all about. The announcers give background on the student-athletes, often including their high schools and their parents, while highlighting academic majors and classroom accomplishments. The broadcast is like a three-hour infomercial for our brand of college football.

Finally, I must note that the Tigers took the field in orange jerseys for the first time that I can recall. Coach Hughes surprised the players after they warmed up in their traditional uniforms. The effect was tremendous, and there was a noticeable lift in the student-athletes' spirits.

In the post-game locker room, the team carried on its usual

traditions of counting out the winning score and, led as is custom by LB Tim Boardman '08, did their "Our House" chant. However, a new twist was added, which may also catch on as a winning tradition. Recently kicker Connor Loudon '09 organized our players and entered a university dodge-ball contest, winning \$1,000 which was used for a new locker room stereo system. After the "Our House" chant, the speakers started blaring a song which inspired the players to break into a choreographed dance routine the likes of which most observers like me had never witnessed. The sheer joy and camaraderie of this "band of brothers" was a great thing to behold. All PFA supporters should be proud.

It was great to have fellow PFA board members Matt Whalen '88 and Pete Milano '88 attend this game. I hope to see more of you in the next few weeks, especially against Yale, when we will have the Powers Field dedication.

Go Tigers!!

**Frank J Vuono '78, President/CEO**

**F.Y.I.**

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- **Tiger SportsLine:**  
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- **Football Office:**  
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- **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

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### IVY LEAGUE RESULTS

	Ivy	Overall
Yale	4 0	7 0
Harvard	4 0	5 2
<b>PRINCETON</b>	<b>2 2</b>	<b>3 4</b>
Brown	2 2	3 4
Dartmouth	2 2	2 5
Cornell	1 3	4 3
Pennsylvania	1 3	2 5
Columbia	0 4	1 6

Oct. 27

Yale 28 ..... Columbia 7  
Harvard 28 ..... Dartmouth 21  
Brown 31 ..... Pennsylvania 17

### 2007 Schedule

September	PU	OPP
<b>15 Lehigh</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>32</b>
22 at Lafayette	20	14
29 <b>Columbia</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>32</b>
October		
<b>6 Hampton</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>48</b>
13 at Brown	24	33
20 at Harvard	10	27
<b>26 Cornell</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>31</b>
November		
3 at Pennsylvania	12 p.m.	
<b>10 Yale</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>	
17 at Dartmouth	12:30 p.m.	

### NEXT WEEK

**Princeton**  
**at**  
**Pennsylvania**

**Saturday, Nov. 3**  
**Noon**

**Franklin Field**  
**Philadelphia**

**Comcast CN8**