

Tiger's Lair

October 30, 2006

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Cornell pins 14-7 loss on Princeton

ITHACA, N.Y. — The No. 15 Princeton Football team played with fire all season, and on a cold, rainy day in Ithaca, the Tiger was finally burned.

Princeton had won three games already this season when losing the turnover battle, but a trio of turnovers were too much to overcome against a determined Cornell squad, which ended Princeton's undefeated streak at seven games with a 14-7 win before 2,852 at Schoellkopf Field.

The Tiger had also come back from second-half deficits in four wins this season, and they looked in position to come up with a fifth Saturday afternoon. Trailing 14-7 with 2:29 remaining, quarterback Jeff Terrell '07 engineered a drive that began at Princeton's own 15-yard-line. He completed a pair of first-down passes to R.C. Lagomarsino '09, then another to Jake Staser '08 that put Princeton in Cornell territory for the third time of the fourth quarter. Passes to Brendan Circle '08 and Rob Toresco '08 put the ball at the Big Red 25-yard-line, but Terrell's next pass was picked off by Matt Grant at the Big Red 8-yard line with 22 seconds remaining.

That was the third turnover of the day for Princeton, and each cost the Tiger dearly. The first was an interception that was picked off by Tim Bax and returned to the 1-yard line, where Cornell scored one play later. The second came off a Big Red blitz, when Terrell was hit from the blind side and fumbled in Cornell territory during the frustrating fourth quarter.

Princeton outgained Cornell 328-274, thanks in large part to a



Nicole Llera/The Daily Princetonian

Jeff Terrell '07 gets protection from his offensive line against Cornell on Saturday in Ithaca, N.Y.

solid performance by Lagomarsino. He rushed 10 times for 80 yards and caught two passes for 25 yards. Toresco added 46 yards rushing and Princeton's lone touchdown, while Staser led all receivers with 73 yards on four catches.

Unfortunately for Princeton, the offensive star was Cornell running back Luke Siwula, whose bruising carries kept drives alive and took valuable time off the clock. He led all players with 98 yards rushing, and many of them came after the first Princeton defender

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From the President

Well, the tremendous run of our Tigers came to a screeching halt this weekend at Cornell.

This was the prototypical "trap" game, on the road in bad weather on extinct AstroTurf, sandwiched between the emotional Harvard victory and next week's critical Penn game, coming after mid-term week on campus. Despite the efforts of the coaches to get the student-athletes ready, conditions and a tough-at-home Cornell squad could not be overcome.

The Tigers showed they don't go down without a fight, though. Repeatedly the Tigers came up big, fighting back from a 14-point deficit, holding Cornell on short yardage situations. In fact, the team drove 85 yards for one score and again from deep in its own territory, with no time outs, coming up short with an interception on Cornell's 7-yard line with just seconds remaining.

Ultimately, the Tigers could not overcome turnovers and

mistakes.

So now things have, as usual, tightened up in the race for the Ivy title. The Tigers can still win the league title. Only Yale remains undefeated in the league. Next Saturday brings a showdown at home with Penn, then a battle at Ivy leading Yale.

I hope no one out there quits on this team. These student athletes have repeatedly shown they have tremendous character and deserve our support. I am sure they will rebound from this setback as they have many times in the past.

I hope to see you rooting the team on to victory at Princeton Stadium this Saturday and at the Yale Bowl next week.

Go Tigers!!

Frank J. Vuono '78
President/CEO

GAME STATISTICS

PRINCETON	0	0	7	0	7
Cornell	0	7	7	0	14

HOW THEY SCORED:

1st Quarter: None.

2nd Quarter: 4:10, C — TD, Siwula, 1-yard run, Zell kick.

3rd Quarter: 7:29, C — TD, Canty, 40-yard pass from Ford, Zell kick;

3:22, P — TD, Toresco, 2-yard run, Louden kick.

4th Quarter: None.

	<u>PU</u>	<u>CU</u>
First Downs	17	16
Rushes/Yds	31-120	42-129
Passing Yds	208	145
Comp/Att/Int	14/33/2	13/19/1
Plays/Yards	64/328	61/274
Return Yds	29	76
Punts/Avg	6/37.7	5/35.2
Penalties/Yds	3/25	4/44
Fumbles/Lost	3/1	1/0
Intercept/Yds	1/0	2/41
Possession Time	28:10	31:50
Attendance:	2,852	

PRINCETON PERFORMANCE**OFFENSE:**

RUSHING: Lagomarsino, 10-80; Toresco, 7-46, TD; Ploszek, 5-0; Terrell, 9-(-6).

PASSING: Terrell, 12-32-2-208.

RECEIVING: Staser, 4-73; Toresco, 4-32; Lagomarsino, 2-25; Circle, 2-22; Berry, 1-28; Brigham, 1-28.

DEFENSE:

SACKS (U/A): None.

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

TACKLES (U/A): Boardman, 6-9; Methvin, 6-2; Stem, J., 2-6; Song, 5-1; Meehan, 1-4; McGrath, 2-2; Buchignani, 1-3; Kelleher, 1-3; Hurley, 2-1; Pritchard, 2-1; Kopolovich, 2-1; Artis, 2-0; Koch, 0-2; Marshall, 0-2; Strickland, 1-0; Walker, 1-0; Swisher, 1-0; Toresco, 1-0; Gunter, 1-0; Anderson, R., 1-0.

Loss

Continued from Page 1

got to him. Quarterback Nathan Ford added 125 yards passing and a touchdown, while receiver Zac Canty caught seven passes for 93 yards and a score.

The Princeton defense was led by Tim Boardman '08, who made a Princeton season high 15 tackles in the loss. Both Tom Methvin '09 and Jon Stem '08 recorded eight tackles apiece, while Doorri Song '08 added six tackles and one for loss. Tim Strickland '07 recorded his third interception of the season to go along with a pass breakup and a tackle for loss.

While disappointed by the defeat, Princeton knows it will head into November with a championship in sight. The Orange and Black is now 3-1 in the Ivy League and trails unbeaten Yale by one game. The Bulldogs defeated Columbia this week and will travel to Brown next week. If Princeton wins its final three games (home against Penn at 1 p.m. on Saturday, at Yale, home against Dartmouth), the Tiger will be 6-1 and claim at least a share of the Ivy League title. Harvard is the only other one-loss team in the Ivy League, and it will host Yale the final week of the season.

"I'm disappointed with our performance today, but I have to congratulate Cornell for a well-executed game plan against us," Head Coach Roger Hughes said. "I told the team afterwards that we have about 10 hours to mourn this one, and then we get back to work. We're still right in the middle of the Ivy League race."

Both defenses held firm early, although Cornell had the early advantage in time of possession and yards gained. The Big Red moved into Princeton territory but the Tiger was able to hold its ground and keep Cornell out of field-goal range. The Big Red defense was in top form early, keeping Terrell from completing any passes in the first quarter.

Terrell's first completion went to Adam Berry '09, a pass that went to midfield and at least tilted the field position battle in Princeton's favor. Cornell still moved the ball, going 66 yards on 12 plays, but again the Tiger was able to keep points off the board. A second-down tackle by Jake Marshall '07 and a third-down incompleting set up a 37-yard field goal try by Peter Zell. The kick hit the crossbar and bounced back into the end zone to keep the game scoreless.

The Cornell defense made sure the Big Red would get points on the board in its next possession. On third-and-long, Terrell's pass was intercepted by Bax and returned 41 yards down the right side of the field to the 1-yard line. Siwula took it in on the first play, and Cornell took a 7-0 lead with 4:10 remaining in the first half.

Princeton moved the ball into Cornell territory on its final drive of the first half, but a sack and an incompleting killed the effort and sent Princeton into halftime trailing 7-0. The Tigers gained only 13 yards on the ground and 56 through the air during the first half.

The deficit doubled in the first eight minutes of the second half, as Cornell completed a seven-play, 89-yard touchdown drive with a 40-yard touchdown pass from Ford to favorite target Canty.

Desperate to get back into the game, the Tiger offense got a 48-yard run on a draw play to Lagomarsino. Toresco followed with a run up the middle for 15 yards, and Terrell got Princeton into the red zone for the first time with a seven-yard keeper. Terrell hit Staser at the 2-yard line, and Toresco went in off the right side of the line for the score. It was an eight-play, 88-yard drive that sparked some life into the Princeton sideline.

Cornell picked up a pair of first downs on its next drive, but the Princeton defensive line held on third-and-short to force a punt, which was downed on the Princeton 7-yard line. The Tiger could only gain three yards and was forced to punt from its own end zone. Colin McDonough '07's kick went only 33 yards, and the Tiger defense was put in a crucial spot — any points at this stage of the game could be critical.

The Big Red looked like it had plenty of yards on a perfect screen pass to the weak side, but a clipping penalty brought it back and set up a third-and-three from the Princeton 36-yard line. Strickland stepped in front of a pass intended for Canty and picked it off at the 22-yard line.

Terrell opened the drive with a 36-yard seam pass to Staser, who dragged a defender five yards before being tripped up. Two short rushes and an incompleting brought up fourth-and-6, and Cornell got the ball back when Terrell's pass to Toresco was just out of reach. With 9:28 remaining, it was up to the defense to make another stand.

Princeton's next chance came after the Tiger defense stopped Siwula on fourth-and-1 at the Princeton 31-yard line. Terrell hit a 28-yard pass to Brigham and an eight-yard pass to Toresco before missing a slant to Circle. Princeton went for a quarterback draw on third-and-short, but Terrell was hit in the backfield and fumbled. Doug Lempa recovered near midfield, giving Cornell the ball with 3:56 remaining.

The defense held but was forced to use its time outs, and Nick Maxwell was able to pin Princeton at its own 15-yard-line with a low, line-drive punt. That set up Terrell's final drive, one which fell just short of yet another remarkable comeback.

TIGER PLAYER PROFILES

Why did you select Princeton for your academic and football career?

I liked the fact that Princeton had a rich history of both academic and athletic excellence. Not only has Princeton been number one on every poll ranking top undergraduate colleges but Princeton has also led the Ivy League in the most NCAA championships. This shows that here at Princeton athletics is a recognized and accepted part of the overall Princeton community.

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

I would have to say my friends and family. Even though they support me and say how proud they are of me regardless of how I play, I just want to make them even prouder.

How has the Princeton Football experience prepared you for Your future?

I've gained so many experiences from


playing football here at Princeton it's hard to just list a few. However, I would have to say one of the more important or life-changing lessons would have to be how to accept a loss and to win well. I think the coaching staff did a great job of humbling the team in the face of close wins and keeping everyone's heads up during the close losses.

What are your career plans?

Presently, I'm applying and interviewing for consulting and marketing jobs. I would also like to venture into the advertising and public relations field, as well. And there still is a distant hope that I might work for Princeton in Asia or do a fellowship here in the states.

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

I would like to say that I've had a tremendous time playing football at Princeton. And I would like to thank the fans, for they



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Cleo Kirkland
5-11, 205 pounds
Voorhees, N.J.
Running back

All-conference running back at Eastern H.S. ... National Honor Society member.

make everything possible and without your support there would be no me. Thank you all so much through the years, we all appreciate it.

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Kyle Vellutato
6-2, 290 pounds
Marlton, N.J.
Offensive line

Team captain at Bishop Eustace H.S. ... played one year at the Lawrenceville School.

Why did you select Princeton for your academic and football career?

Choosing Princeton as the place where I would pursue my academic and football careers was one of the easier decisions I have had to make in my life. I consider every aspect of this institution, from athletics to academics to the community, something that I am privileged to be a part of. Among the many reasons to choose Princeton, the tradition and pride of its students and alumni are most attractive.

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

When I am on the field, my family is my inspiration. I think of the sacrifices made

and the hard work of my parents to help me get here, and the competitive spirit my brother instilled in me growing up, all of which I wouldn't be here without.

How has the Princeton Football experience prepared you for your future?

My Princeton football experience has prepared me for the future by making me a more determined and hard-working person. Also, getting up for work will be easy after four years of 6 a.m. workouts.

What are your career plans?

My tentative plan for the future is law school and moving to Texas near my family.

Ivy Football Association will honor Finney

The Ivy Football Association will honor Princeton alumnus Redmond C.S. Finney '51 at its annual dinner in the Grand Ballroom at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in January.

The dinner honors former Ivy Football players who have honored their alma maters through their life achievements. Princeton's Red Finney is the retired headmaster and football coach of the Gilman School, Baltimore, Md.

He was named an All America football

player in 1950. He was all also an outstanding heavyweight wrestler and was a lacrosse midfielder. He was named a first-team All-American lacrosse player in 1951.

The dinner, honoring representatives of all eight Ivy institutions, will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2007. The event is chaired by Henry C. Higdon, Yale '63.

Princeton's Cosmo Iacavazzi '65 is president of the association.

For more information on the dinner go to www.ivyfootballassociation.org.

View game vs. Penn on cable, Tiger Zone

Princeton fans can view Saturday's game against Penn on Comcast cable or on Tiger Zone, Princeton Athletics' new online streaming video service.

Go to GoPrincetonTigers.com and click on the Tiger Zone button to sign up. In addition to Princeton Football games, Tiger Zone each week features Coach Roger Hughes' press conference at noon on Wednesdays.

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.

Frank Vuono '78, President

Please send contributions to:

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TIGER'S LAIR

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IVY LEAGUE RESULTS

	Ivy	Overall
Yale	4 0	6 1
PRINCETON	3 1	6 1
Harvard	3 1	6 1
Pennsylvania	2 2	4 3
Brown	2 2	3 4
Cornell	1 3	3 4
Dartmouth	1 3	1 6
Columbia	0 4	3 4

Oct. 28

Brown 30..... Pennsylvania 27 OT
Harvard 28 Dartmouth 0
Yale 21 Columbia 3

2006 Results

September	P	Opp.
16 at Lehigh	14	10
23 Lafayette	26	14
30 at Columbia	19	6
October		
7 at Colgate	27	26 OT
13 Brown	17	3
21 Harvard	31	28
28 at Cornell	7	14
November		
4 Pennsylvania	1 p.m.	
11 at Yale	12:30 p.m.	
18 Dartmouth	1 p.m.	

NEXT WEEK

Princeton
vs.
Pennsylvania

1 p.m.
Princeton Stadium
Comcast CN8