

Tiger's Lair

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Tiger dominates play in win over Cornell

By Justin Feil

Princeton's defense recorded a sack on Cornell's first play and intercepted a pass on the Big Red's final offensive play. In between, they thoroughly dominated Cornell with four sacks and three turnovers in a 28-6 win Saturday before 14,037 on a balmy day at Princeton Stadium.

The Tiger improved to 2-5 overall, 2-2 in the Ivy League with its first win at home this season, while Cornell dropped to 1-6, 0-4 with its sixth straight loss. Princeton will play at unbeaten Pennsylvania, a 24-21 winner over Brown, at 1 p.m. Saturday in a game that still has Ivy title implications. Dartmouth defeated Harvard for the Crimson's first loss of the season one week after Princeton lost, 43-40, in overtime in Cambridge.

"I'm very proud of how our kids came back from what we thought was a very emotional loss last week against Harvard in overtime," said Princeton **Head Coach Roger Hughes**. "We really thought we had a chance to win that game. And that's been a problem, keeping the emotion high and intensity high. For the last three years, we've struggled against Cornell and I was very concerned about it.

"But I give the kids credit and the seniors credit. They called some people out last night and all week long and I thought we played and practiced with a lot of emotion and a lot of intensity. We started the game right. We talked about the fact we had played five straight quarters of high-intensity Princeton-type football. Today, we wanted to run that string of quarters to nine, and we did."

It was there from Princeton's first defensive play. Princeton linemen **Peter Kelly '05** and **Joe Weiss '04** had sacks on two of the first three Cornell plays to force a punt, and **Greg Fields '06** returned the Big Red punt to the Cornell 32-yard line. Princeton scored on the next play as **Jon Veach '05** was uncovered after he went in motion to the two-receiver side and glided down the left sideline as **Matt Verbit '05** sent an arcing pass his way for the easy catch and score. **Colin McDonough '07's** first extra point of the season made it 7-0 with 11:15 left in the first quarter. "Jon came back and said, 'You put that a little too high. You scared me,'" said Verbit, who finished the game 13 for 23 for 239 yards and three touchdowns. "Coach told us in practice yesterday that that was going to be a touchdown. I dropped back and both their guys ran with the slants. There was nobody out on Jon so I kind of lofted



Frank Wojciechowski/The Princeton Packet

Jon Veach '05 cruises through the Cornell defense in the first half Saturday at Princeton Stadium.

it up there for him."

Twenty-two seconds later, Princeton made it 14-0. Cornell starting quarterback Mick Razzano fumbled the ball while evading a closing **Alan Borelli '06** on Cornell's first play of its second possession, and Weiss fell on it at the Big Red 23.

"The biggest thing with this week was we caused turnovers," said Weiss, a senior All-Ivy player. "Every week, our coaches put us in the right spots. These guys came up and made big plays when they had to. It's a major factor in causing turnovers.

"On the Tiger offense's first play, Verbit found a streaking **Blair Morrison '04** down the right sideline this time for another Princeton touchdown, and McDonough's second extra point gave Old Nassau a 14-0 lead with 10:53 to go in the first quarter.

"That was pretty quick," Verbit said of the back-to-back passes.

"It's a little deceiving because our defense and special teams got us the ball in great situations," Coach Hughes said of the offensive efficiency. "The nice thing is we've gotten a short field in the past and we haven't taken advantage of it. Today we did."

See *TIGER*, Page 2

GAME STATISTICS

PRINCETON	14	7	0	7	28
Cornell	0	0	0	6	6

HOW THEY SCORED:

1st Quarter: 11:15, P — TD, Veach, 32-yard pass from Verbit, McDonough kick; 10:53, P — TD, Morrison, 23-yard pass from Verbit, McDonough kick.

2nd Quarter: 3:05, P — TD, Dekker, 16-yard pass from Verbit, McDonough kick.

3rd Quarter: None.

4th Quarter: 8:44, P — TD, Veach, 4-yard run, Javarone kick; 3:16, C — TD, Kellner, 16-yard pass from Busch, rush failed.

	PRI	CU
First Downs	17	13
Rushes/Yds	44-162	30-28
Passing Yds	239	202
Comp/Att/Int	13/23/1	20/39/1
Plays/Yards	67/401	69/230
Return Yds	66	155
Punts/Avg	7/39.7	11/32.7
Penalties/Yds	9/80	2/18
Fumbles/Lost	2/1	2/2
Intercept/Yds	1/16	1/0
Possession Time	31:44	28:16
Attendance:	14,037	

PRINCETON PERFORMANCE
OFFENSE:

RUSHING: Benson, 6-65; Veach, 14-47, 1 TD; Verbit, 8-33; Szymanski, 1-12; Fields, 2-8; Ellerbee, 2-(-1); Lee, 1-(-2).

PASSING: Verbit, 13-23-1-239, 3 TD.

RECEIVING: Morrison, 3-66, 1 TD; Walz, 2-49; Dekker, 2-37, 1 TD; Szymanski, 2-22; Bly, 2-18; Veach, 1-32, 1TD; Mancl, 1-15.

DEFENSE:

SACKS (U/A): Weiss, 2/1; Fadeyi, 1/0; Browne, 0/1.

INTERCEPTIONS (No./Yds): Brown, 1/16.

TACKLES (U/A): Stull, 4/6; Snyder, 3/4; Weiss, 3/4; Fadeyi, 5/1; Kirby, 3/3; Strickland, 3/2; Perry, 4/0; Browne, 0/4; Splithoff, 2/1; Borelli, 2/1; Artis, 1/2; Brown, 1/2; Walker, 1/2; Shields, 2/0; Starrett, 2/0; Bowden, 1/0; Javarone, 1/0; Kelly, 0/1; Pilcher, 0/1; Jameson, 0/1; Ochotorena, 0/1.

Tiger

Continued from Page 1

Princeton had another golden opportunity after **Abi Fadeyi '06** blocked his second punt in two weeks to give the Tiger offense the ball at the Cornell 42, but Verbit's long pass to **B.J. Szymanski '05** was intercepted in the end zone to end the first quarter.

The Tiger, however, was not dissuaded. Princeton was able to avoid a potential disaster on its first possession of the second half when **J.J. Artis '07** recovered Fields' fumbled punt return at his own 12-yard line. The Princeton offense took over and drove 88 yards, consuming 5:19 of the clock, before Verbit found his third different receiver with a touchdown pass. Tight end Jon Dekker '06 got just enough separation and went down low to grab Verbit's 16-yard scoring strike with 3:05 left in the first half.

At the half, Princeton had 224 yards of offense — 150 of it on passes — to Cornell's 70. Princeton, which had almost 600 yards of total offense last week, had a balanced 401 yards of total output on the day.

On the other side, Princeton's defense held Cornell to minus-2 yards rushing and 41 yards of total offense in the first 15 minutes. In the second quarter, the Tiger allowed just 29 yards and one first down. In all, Cornell punted eight times in the first half, had one blocked punt and lost a fumble. The Big Red rushed 30 times for 28 yards in the game and had just 230 yards of total offense.

A 38-yard field goal attempt by Cornell to start the third quarter hit the left upright and bounced out, and neither team had any better scoring chances in the quarter. In the fourth quarter, McDonough was wide left on a 27-yard attempt shortly after Verbit barely overthrew Szymanski on what would have been a 40-yard touchdown.

The Orange and Black came right back after a Cornell punt when Veach put the finishing touch on a 59-yard drive with a 4-yard touchdown run to open a 28-0 lead with 8:44 left in the game. Veach's run was set up by two big plays. On the first play of the drive, Verbit faked an end-around play to **Eric Walz '07**, then hit the freshman receiver who continued uncovered down the right sideline for a 37-yard pick-up. On a second-and-13, Verbit hit Dekker down the

middle for a 21-yard completion to move the ball in position for Veach's second score of the game.

"The two throws that Matt Verbit made to the tight end, one to score on the throw-back and one to put us in position to score the last touchdown, were phenomenal," Coach Hughes said. "And Jon Dekker, I think, is going to be a force in this league at tight end.

"Those are things that we had the potential to do all year, but were just spasmodic and didn't have the consistency that we do now, which is what really pleases me."

Princeton's first defensive unit held Cornell scoreless before the Big Red managed its only touchdown of the game against the Tiger reserves with 3:16 left. The game was well in hand thanks to the Tiger's ability to capitalize quickly on its defense's strong start.

"I'm extremely happy," Hughes said of the defensive performance. "Last week, we felt Harvard pushed us around a little bit. I think our defense came out, one, ready to play, and two, one thing with our game plan was we felt we needed to slant a little more, move some people around. I don't think Cornell was quite ready for that and I think that helped our guys get off to a quick start.

"And, again, I think the emotional level of our defense, initially in the game, they came right out and stopped them early and got us the ball back on a couple of quick turnovers. It's nice to get that kind of start. We've been on the other side of that where we've been the one turning the ball over, and hopefully this is a sign of maturity with this team."

Cornell finally got on the scoreboard when D.J. Busch hit John Kellner for a 37-yard touchdown. **Christopher Gueits '07's** tackle at the 1-yard line prevented the Big Red's two-point conversion attempt, and Szymanski covered up the ensuing onside kick. **Nick Brown '05** ended the final Cornell threat with his first interception of the season before the Tiger ran out the clock.

"As I've said all along, our goal is to be a better team when we finish the season than when we started," Coach Hughes said. "If you look at our progression, we're certainly doing that."

TIGER PLAYER PROFILES

Who or what influenced you to become a Princeton Football player?

My father influenced me from a young age to become a football player. He played through college and was instrumental in fostering my love for the game.

As a Princeton student and football player, are you pursuing the same goals and dreams you had as a freshman? What were they then and what are they now?

My goals have remained relatively the same. I wanted to excel both academically and athletically and feel

that I have accomplished that to the best of my abilities.

Has being a Princeton Football player changed you? In what way?

Being a Princeton football player has forced me to structure my life and manage my time in a way that I had never had to before.

Please tell us about your career plans:

I plan to work somewhere in finance/consulting and in time plan on getting my MBA.

44**Tim Releford '04****6-4, 220 pounds****Defensive back****East Hanover, N.J.**

Is the primary long snapper ... at Hanover Park H.S. lettered three times each in football and indoor and outdoor track ... was captain of three sports as a senior ... was all-conference, all-area, all-county and all-state as a senior ... group champion in the javelin ... majoring in operations research and financial engineering.

Ivy League honors Tiger players for efforts against Brown, Harvard

Princeton players have received Ivy League awards for their play against Harvard and Brown.

Tiger defensive standouts **Justin Stull '06** and **Tim Strickland '07** were named Ivy Defensive Player of the Week and Ivy Rookie of the Week respectively for their exploits in Princeton's victory over Brown.

Linebacker Stull had a career high 15 tackles as the Princeton defense held Brown to just one play of 20 yards or more, de-

spite being on the field for 95 plays.

Strickland, a defensive back from Cumming, Ga., had nine tackles and four passes defended and his first career interception against Brown.

In addition, running back **Branden Benson '05** was named to the Ivy League Honor Roll. He carried 22 times for 128 yards and scored two touchdowns in the victory over Brown.

Running back **Jon Veach '05** was named

Ivy League Offensive Player of the Week for his 205 yards rushing, two rushing touchdowns and one touchdown reception in Princeton's overtime loss to Harvard. Veach, from Mount Carmel, Pa., ended the game with 285 all-purpose yards.

Quarterback **Matt Verbit '05** of Newtown, Pa., was named to the Ivy League Honor Roll for his play against Harvard. He had a career-best 354 yards passing and threw three touchdown passes.

PFA Calendar of Events

Nov. 15 — PFA Fall Dinner, 7 p.m., Princeton Hyatt Regency — Head equipment manager Hank Towns will be honored.

Nov. 24 — **Lourie Awards Banquet** — Westin Hotel, Princeton.

February 2004 — **PFA Senior Dinner** — Time and location to be announced.

April 2004 — **PFA Spring Barbeque** — To follow the annual spring game.

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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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IVY LEAGUE RESULTS

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

Nov. 1

Pennsylvania 24 Brown 21
Yale 29 Columbia 14
Dartmouth 30 Harvard 16

2003 RESULTS

		<u>P</u>	<u>O</u>
September			
20	Lehigh	13	28
28	at Lafayette	13	28
October			
4	Columbia	27	33
11	Colgate	3	30
18	at Brown	34	14
25	at Harvard	40	43 OT
November			
1	Cornell	28	6
8	Pennsylvania		
15	Yale		
22	at Dartmouth		

NEXT WEEK

Princeton
at
Pennsylvania

1 p.m.
Franklin Field
TV — Comcast CN8