

Tiger's Lair

November 5, 2007

The Official Publication of the Princeton Football Association Vol. CXXXIV, No. 9

Penn stymies Tiger in defensive struggle

By Justin Feil

PHILADELPHIA — Penn football Coach Al Bagnoli thought the offensive displays put on by his team and Princeton University set football back 20 years.

Princeton Head Coach Roger Hughes thought it was worse.

"I think that game set offensive football back about 50 years," said the Tiger head coach. "We didn't execute."

Offensive execution was at a minimum in a 7-0 win by Penn before 12,397 on Saturday at Franklin Field. The Tiger fell to 3-5 overall, 2-3 in the Ivy League with the defeat while Penn improved to 3-5, 2-3.

"I think our defense played the best they've played all year," said Princeton running back Rob Toresco '08. "You ask them to hold Penn to seven points, you expect the offense to score some points. Hats off to our defense. They gave us plenty of opportunities, plenty of great field position to do something with. We just did not do anything."

The closest the Tiger came was when Toresco took a pass down the middle from Greg Mroz '08 on the Tiger's first possession of the second quarter and rambled 66 yards before he was chased down at the Penn 4-yard line. After two unsuccessful runs, Mroz's pass to Toresco was intercepted by Britton Ertman in the end zone.

"Robbie was open in the flat," Coach Hughes said. "The ball got



Wes Shim/Daily Princetonian

Greg Mroz '08 throws downfield against Penn on Saturday at Franklin Field.

tipped and the Penn kid made a recovery. It got tipped and it was just enough for a Penn player to make an interception."

To make matters worse, Mroz suffered a concussion tackling Ertman on the return. Mroz did not return. He was joined on the

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From the President

Ugh! It's hard to find positives about the first shutout of the Tigers under Coach Hughes. Injuries to our two top receivers and quarterback could not be overcome. The only silver lining was the stellar play of the Tiger defense, led by linebacker Tim Boardman '08 and Collin McCarthy '09.

Hopefully the Tigers can get healthy and rally for victories against Yale and Dartmouth to salvage a .500 season. The seniors will try to keep the team focused to help them avoid a losing season for the first time in their Princeton careers.

I encourage those of you who have not registered yet for the upcoming Captain's Dinner on Friday to please do so. We are honoring Bill Powers '79 and the Ivy Championship team of '92. Many of Bill's and the '92 squad's teammates will be there. You can register and pay online at www.princeton.edu/football/

[pfaevents.html](#). I hope to see a big turnout for Yale weekend. Our senior student-athletes deserve a great crowd for their last Princeton home game.

By now you've received a second solicitation letter from the PFA. Keep in mind that Bill Powers' gift was meant to be an inspiration for others to step up. The program continues to need broad support of generous supporters like you. Please help insure the long-term success of Tiger Football by contributing. The terrific Tiger student-athletes who are the latest members of this brotherhood are depending on you. Believe me, they are most deserving of your support.

Go Tigers!

Frank Vuono '78
President/CEO

GAME STATISTICS

PRINCETON 0 0 0 0 0
 Pennsylvania 0 0 7 0 7

HOW THEY SCORED:

1st Quarter: None.

2nd Quarter: None.

3rd Quarter: 12:43, P — TD, Sandberg,
 26-yard run, Samson kick.

4th Quarter: None.

	PU	UP
First Downs	14	15
Rushes/Yds	33-95	44-148
Passing Yds	167	116
Comp/Att/Int	15-30-1	13-28-0
Plays/Yards	63-262	72-264
Return Yds	30	48
Punts/Avg	9-37.1	12-36.1
Penalties/Yds	1-15	8-53
Fumbles/Lost	1-0	0-0
Intercept/Yds	0-0	1-38
Possession Time	26:20	33:40

Attendance: 12,397

PRINCETON PERFORMANCE**OFFENSE:**

RUSHING: Foran, 13-36; Toresco, 5-20; Culbreath, 8-20; Simnick, 1-10; Lagomarsino, 6-9.

PASSING: Foran, 13-27-0-91; Mroz, 2-3-1-76.

RECEIVING: Toresco, 4-69; Berry, 4-49; Culbreath, 4-22; Circle, 1-15; Staser, 1-8; Peacock, 1-4.

DEFENSE:

SACKS (U/A): Buchignani, 1-0; Song, 1-0; McCarthy, 1-0.

INTERCEPTIONS (No./Yds): None.

TACKLES (U/A): McCarthy, 9-5; Boardman, 6-6; Kelleher, 5-2; Callahan, 4-1; Karacozoff, 3-2; Buchignani, 3-0; Song, 2-1; Koch, 1-2; Cates, 2-0; Gallagher, 2-0; Kopolovich, 1-1; Culbreath, 1-0; Cerreta, 1-0; Pritchard, 1-0; Mroz, 1-0; Stem, 0-1; Lichtenstein, 0-1; Lagomarsino, 0-1.

Struggle

Continued from Page 1

bench by receivers Will Thanheiser '09 and Brendan Circle '08, also injured early in the game.

"The loss of Greg and Brendan Circle and Will Thanheiser, all within the same 10 plays, (meant) we were playing Trey Peacock ('11) and Matt Ransom ('11) at receiver pretty much the whole second half," Coach Hughes said. "I think they're going to be very good players, but Adam Berry ('09) was giving a tutorial every play as to what everyone was going to do. The combination of those losses certainly made us different.

"Will and Greg both have concussions. Circ' had a hip pointer. He tried to go at halftime and loosen up with it and he just couldn't be effective with it," the coach said.

Take away the big gain and the numbers were not pretty. Princeton had just 99 yards of offense in the first half, two-thirds of it coming on the big pass to Toresco. At halftime, Princeton had just four first downs. Penn only had seven and fewer yards of total offense with 82. Princeton sacked Penn quarterback Bryan Walker three times and had nine tackles for losses.

"Overall, we did play pretty strong," said linebacker Tim Boardman '08, who finished with 12 tackles, second only to Collin McCarthy '09's 14 for the Tiger. "The exception was we couldn't stop the screen play. That hurt us huge on second- and third-and-long. We have to get off the field and let the offense get on there and try to score."

The Tiger offense never got closer than the Penn 29 after the interception return. Princeton's defense, however, yielded little as well. Joe Sandberg scored on a 26-yard run as the Quakers put together a 60-yard drive to open the second half. Penn never got closer than the Princeton 49 the rest of the game, even after recovering an onside kick following its touchdown.

"Defensively, we defended some bad field position," Coach Hughes said. "I was proud of our defense for that. But at times, we need to tackle a lot better. Our special teams, especially our kickoff and kickoff return team continue to hurt us a little bit. We have to get those things straightened out."

Princeton will host Yale at 1 p.m. on Saturday in its final home game of the 2007 season. The Tiger defeated the Bulldogs last year to earn a share of the Ivy League title with them.

"We'll be up for them," Boardman said. "It's homecoming. It's Yale and we have a strong rivalry with them. They're coming for some revenge after we beat them last year. It'll be Senior Day for Robbie and I. There will be a lot of emotion and passion."

Emotions were mixed between anger and frustration after Saturday's loss. Coming off the high of the Cornell win the week before, there was no indication of the flat performance ahead.

"We had fall break last week and we'd done what we had done the last two years during that time," Coach Hughes said. "I thought we had great practices. I thought our kids were pretty focused, but when we got on the field, we just didn't execute.

"In offense, what happens if you get one person having a breakdown, you can take him out," he added. "But it was a different person on various plays. Every time we got something going, we'd have a miscue. We had the quarterback get stepped on and fall down on third-and-8. If you could pinpoint one person, you replace him. It was a situation where we weren't in sync offensively, we weren't executing like we needed to."

Bill Foran '08 returned to engineer the offense after missing the Cornell game due to a concussion. He finished 13-for-27 for 91 yards. He was sacked three times. Toresco, Berry and Jordan Culbreath '10 had four catches apiece. Culbreath, the reigning Ivy League Offensive Player of the Week, was held in check with 20 yards on eight carries. Foran led the Tiger with 36 yards rushing on 13 carries.

It was a difficult day to get anything going with the teams combining for 21 punts. They might have had 22, but Princeton succeeded in faking one on its first possession of the fourth quarter. Three plays later, however, Ryan Coyle '09 was launching another punt into a frustrating afternoon sky.

"It's not only frustrating for the coaching staff, but for the players, and for the program in general," Coach Hughes said. "One of the things we try to pride ourselves on is the consistency with which we play, the intensity and passion with which we play the game every week regardless of the situation. And we're not. Clearly, we need to find that answer and find it quick.

"We have Yale coming in and they're pretty good and then we go up to Dartmouth and they're always tough up there. We have two left to win and we're going out to practice and play like we're going to win them."

TIGER PLAYER PROFILES

What is the greatest challenge for you as a member of a team defending its Ivy title?

One of the hardest things for a team to recognize coming off of a title season is the path it took to get that title and all of the hard work that had to be put in each and every week. More importantly, coming off of a season in which we only lost once, we can't expect to win games just by stepping on the field. We certainly need to feed off the momentum from last season, but we need to recognize that a lot of the games we won last season could have gone either way and that it was our hard work and ability to focus late that helped us pull out those close wins which is an edge we can't afford to lose.

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

Princeton really was an easy decision for me. What I really fell in love with was this campus' unique ability to compete at the highest level athletically, academically and socially. I can remember hearing Coach Hughes explaining that college wasn't just

a four-year decision, it was a 40-year decision, and I really took that comment to heart. I recognized that the networks the university and its football team created for me was unmatched anywhere else in the country and I was truly excited to sign on and be apart of something very special.

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

I get motivation to perform well from my teammates when I am on the field. I want my teammates to have complete trust in me to be able to do my job and do it well, and that trust only comes from doing it day-in and day-out when you step on that field. And since I will have to face a lot of these guys throughout my entire life, I want them to be able to say that I was a pretty good ballplayer when it is all said and done.

Please tell us about your career plans.

Upon graduation I hope to be able to start a career in finance. I feel the fast-paced and competitive environment that finance


Culbreath leads list of Princeton players receiving Ivy League honors

Three Princeton players have received recognition from the Ivy League for their play against Cornell.

Running back Jordan Culbreath '10, of Falls Church, Va., was named Offensive Player of the Week for his play in the Oct. 26 win over Cornell. He averaged 13.2 yards on 11 carries and rushed for 49- and 58-yard

touchdowns. Culbreath became the Tiger's first 100-yard rusher since the 2005 season finale and his 58-yard touchdown run, which came in the fourth quarter, was shown as SportsCenter's No. 1 play.

Two Tiger players were named to the league's Honor Roll. Linebacker John Callahan '10, of Dallas, Texas, recorded nine



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Joe Cerreta
6-2, 195 pounds
Uniontown, Ohio
Defensive back

Two-time first-team all-county and all-league selection as both a defensive back and wide receiver at Perry High School. ... also lettered in basketball and baseball ... National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society member.

demands really adheres to my strengths as an individual and is a career that will continue to challenge me each and every day.

tackles, including 2.5 for loss, and added 1.5 sacks and a forced fumble in the Tiger's win. Wideout Brendan Circle '08 of Villa Park, Calif., ran a fake field goal for a 22-yard touchdown. He also caught five passes in the win, which made him the seventh player in Tiger history to record at least 100 receptions in a career.

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.

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.

Tiger Zone upcoming live/archived football events (all times Eastern):

Wednesday, Nov. 7	Noon	Weekly coaches press conference (Yale week) LIVE
Saturday, Nov. 10	4:30 p.m.	Yale game post-game press conference
Wednesday, Nov. 14	Noon	Weekly coaches press conference (Dartmouth week)

LIVE

Saturday, Nov. 17	Noon	Princeton Football at Dartmouth LIVE
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Visit GoPrincetonTigers.com, sign up and become a member of Tiger Zone to *experience the tradition* of Princeton Football.

PFA CALENDAR**Nov. 9****Captain's Dinner****Cocktails: 6:30 p.m.****Dinner: 7 p.m.**

**Hyatt Regency Princeton
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and Princeton Football 1992**

**For information call:
(609) 258-3514; e-mail:
football@princeton.edu**

Nov. 19**PFA Donald B. Lourie '22****Football Banquet****Hyatt Regency Princeton**

F.Y.I.

- **Ticket Information:**
(609) 258-3538
- **Tiger SportsLine:**
(609) 258-3545
- **Football Office:**
(609) 258-3514
- **Radio Broadcasts:**
WPRB FM 103.3 (Princeton U.)
www.GoPrincetonTigers.com
- **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

Please send contributions to:
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e-mail: Football@princeton.edu

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IVY LEAGUE RESULTS

	Ivy	Overall
Yale	5 0	8 0
Harvard	5 0	6 2
Dartmouth	3 2	3 5
PRINCETON	2 3	3 5
Brown	2 3	3 5
Pennsylvania	2 3	3 5
Cornell	1 4	4 4
Columbia	0 5	1 7

Nov. 3

Yale 17	Brown 7
Harvard 27	Columbia 12
Dartmouth 59	Cornell 31

2007 Schedule

September	PU	OPP
15 Lehigh	21	32
22 at Lafayette	20	14
29 Columbia	42	32
October		
6 Hampton	27	48
13 at Brown	24	33
20 at Harvard	10	27
26 Cornell	34	31
November		
3 at Pennsylvania	0	7
10 Yale	1 p.m.	
17 at Dartmouth	12:30 p.m.	

NEXT WEEK

Princeton
vs.
Yale
Saturday, Nov. 10
1 p.m.
Princeton Stadium

YES Network