

Tiger's Lair

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Overtime victory over Penn arranges showdown at Yale

By Justin Feil

Roger Hughes has been coaching Princeton Football for seven seasons, and been in coaching since 1982. He could be in coaching for another 24 years and probably still not be in another game like Saturday's 31-30 double overtime win over the University of Pennsylvania.

Princeton receivers coach Scott Sallach thought as much as they stood on the sidelines watching the final plays unfold.

"He said, 'This is the most bizarre game I've ever been affiliated with.'" Coach Hughes recalled after his team improved to 7-1 overall, 4-1 in the Ivy League before 14,385 at Princeton Stadium. "It really is. You couldn't have scripted it for a movie any better."

Princeton saw a 14-point fourth-quarter lead slip away, but found a way to stay one game behind Yale in the Ivy race. After a scoreless first overtime in which neither team could make a field goal, the Tiger started the second overtime on offense. A holding penalty put Princeton at the 35-yard line, but Brian Brigham '07 made a leaping

catch of Jeff Terrell '07's pass at the 3-yard line to put the Tiger in scoring position. Three straight plays netted two yards.

On fourth down, Princeton elected to leave its offense on the field. Penn's defense stopped Rob Toresco '08's initial dive at the goal line, and a defender grabbed one of his feet. As he started to lunge again, Penn's Scotty Williams started to pull Toresco's upper body back. That's when Toresco tossed the ball back eight yards to Terrell who ran it around right end into the end zone. Connor Louden '09 followed with the all-important extra point.

"I was just hoping he could hear me because I knew I had a free lane to the end zone," Terrell said. "And from my point of view, it didn't look like Rob was going to get in there. There were about seven or eight guys on him. I just screamed to him and he made a good play and threw me the ball."

Added Toresco: "I heard him yell something, I turned around and just let it go."

"You have to find a way to win. If you play football long enough, it's a heads-up play. You know it's fourth down and the



Frank Wojciechowski/The Princeton Packet
Brian Brigham '08 is unable to hang onto this pass in first half action against Penn on Saturday at Princeton Stadium.

game's on the line. You have to do something, find a way to get the ball in the end zone."

Penn instantly diffused the momentum with a 25-yard touchdown from Rob Irvin to
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From the President

Whew! I don't know where to start to describe this week's exciting double-overtime Tiger victory. I have to say I saw many a loyal Tiger fan signal to me that this might be "déjà vu all over again." However, in a bizarre twist that comes with winning seasons, fullback Rob Toresco '08 used his head as he was stopped on fourth down at the goal line and pitched back to quarterback Jeff Terrell '07, who scooted around right end for the go-ahead touchdown. Watching Penn botch a short field goal attempt and then the tying extra-point kick in overtime brought back bad memories of past games gone wrong for our side.

This year, though, we've made the breaks go our way.

As for all the positives, our Tigers earned the right to go to New Haven next Saturday and play the Elis for a potential Ivy Championship, which would be our first since 1995. This was the Tiger's first victory over Penn at home since 1992. The win improved this year's record to 2-0 in overtime and to 6-2 during Coach Hughes' tenure.

Standouts included backup quarterback Bill Foran '08 who, as the coaches have gradually worked him more into the offense, had 84 yards on six carries, twice downed punts inside the 5-yard line, and made numerous special-teams coverage tackles. Linebacker Brig Walker '07 had tackles all over the field and forced a fumble.

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GAME STATISTICS

PRINCETON 7 10 0 7 7 31
 Pennsylvania 0 7 3 14 6 30

HOW THEY SCORED:

1st Quarter: 10:20, P — TD, Circle, 25-yard pass from Terrell, Louden kick.

2nd Quarter: 14:39, PA — TD, Cisler, 1-yard run, Stine kick; 4:24, P — TD, Staser, 9-yard pass from Terrell, Louden kick; 0:00, P — FG, Louden, 22.

3rd Quarter: 10:31, PA — FG, Lepisto, 38.

4th Quarter: 14:55, P — TD, Circle, 5-yard pass from Terrell, Louden kick; 11:07, PA — Irvin, 1-yard run, Lepisto kick; 0:39, PA — Carre, 16-yard pass from Irvin, rush failed.

OT: P — Terrell, 1-yard run, Louden kick; PA — Carre, 25-yard pass from Irvin, rush failed.

	PU	UP
First Downs	25	22
Rushes/Yds	49/218	27/174
Passing Yds	227	355
Comp/Att/Int	21/36/2	23/44/1
Plays/Yards	85/445	71/529
Return Yds	72	121
Punts/Avg	3/34.0	5/44.8
Penalties/Yds	6/60	5/55
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	1/1
Intercept/Yds	0/0	1/13
Possession Time	34:08	35:52
Attendance:	14,385	

PRINCETON PERFORMANCE

OFFENSE:

RUSHING: Foran, 6-84; Toresco, 19-66; Lagomarsino, 11-41; Terrell, 9-24, TD; Ploszek, 4-3.

PASSING: Terrell, 21-36-0-227, 3 TD.

RECEIVING: Circle, 9-96, 2 TD; Brigham, 5-71; Berry, 2-25; Shields, 2-18; Staser, 1-9, TD; Toresco, 1-9; Ploszek, 1-(-1).

DEFENSE:

SACKS (U/A): Walker, 1-2; Stem, 1-2.

INTERCEPTIONS (No./Yds): Kelleher, 1-13.

TACKLES (U/A): Walker, 4-7; Strickland, 5-2; Kopolovich, 3-2; Song, 1-4; Artis, 2-2; Stem, 1-3; Koch, 1-3; Hurley, 1-2; Steckel, 0-3; Methvin, 0-3; Kelleher, 2-0; Anderson, R., 2-0; Foran, 1-1; Berry, 1-1; Buchignani, 1-1; Boardman, 0-2; Meehan, 0-2; Cerreta, 1-0; McGrath, 1-0; Callaha, 1-0; Ploszek, 0-1; Dolan, 0-1; Williams, 0-1; Marshall, 0-1.

Overtime

Continued from Page 1

Matt Carre, but on the ensuing extra point, Ted Rosenbaum had a bad snap and Matt Reinert was forced to run for the two-point conversion. He was pushed out of bounds on the left side by Pat McGrath '08 after reaching the 2-yard line, setting off a Tiger celebration at midfield.

"To be able to have two wins in a row against teams of Penn and Harvard's quality," Coach Hughes said. "I think said wonders for where our program's come. We've changed the culture of the program and now we're in position to play for the championship next week and the week following."

Princeton will play at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday at Yale for a share of the Ivy lead with the Bulldogs, who rallied for a 27-24 win at Brown on Saturday to go to 5-0 in Ivy play, and Harvard, a 24-7 winner at Columbia, keeping pace with Princeton.

"We're going to have great focus and great intensity," Coach Hughes said. "My concern is that we're ready to play on Wednesday. We have to be ready to play Saturday. I think this group is going to be so pumped, we're going to have to be calming them down a bit."

It will take a bit to forget about the drama of Saturday's win over Penn, the Tiger's first ever in Princeton Stadium and first home win over the Quakers since 1992. Penn set a Division I record by playing in its third consecutive overtime game, all of which it has lost to slip to 4-4 overall, 2-3 in the Ivies. All three came in part because of kicking woes. Princeton had been in one overtime game this season, a 27-26 win at Colgate.

"We feel if we get to overtime we have an advantage psychologically," Coach Hughes said.

After a Penn score with 39 seconds left in the fourth quarter and subsequent extra point sent the game into overtime at 24-24, neither team scored in the first overtime. Penn's 20-yard field goal never got off as Reinert dropped the snap and was tackled short of a first down. Princeton's 34-yard field goal, which could have won the game to end the first overtime, was blocked by a host of Penn linemen.

"You have to spread it out over the whole game," Coach Hughes said. "There were a number of plays that happened on both sides of the ball that clearly could have changed the outcome."

It was Princeton that made the majority of the plays early in regulation, Penn that made them late. The Tiger jumped out to a 17-7 halftime lead. Princeton scored on its first possession of the game when

Terrell hit Brendan Circle '08 for a 25-yard score on third-and-12. It was the first of the day for Terrell, who went 21 for 36 for 227 yards, equaling his career high.

Penn answered with a 1-yard run with 14:39 left in the second quarter. But Terrell led the Tiger 85 yards for a 14-7 lead on another third-down completion to tight end Jake Staser '08. The drive was highlighted by Bill Foran '08's 20-yard speed sweep on fourth-and-three. Foran earlier had a 14-yard carry on the drive, and had a 27-yard run on the Tiger's second drive of the game. Foran, who lined up at quarterback for three plays Saturday, finished with six carries for a team-high 84 yards. He also downed two punts inside the 5-yard line and made a solo tackle on a kickoff.

"We have quarterbacks who are good athletes," Coach Hughes said. "You see Kenny Gunter ('10) going down on special teams. You see Bill doing that as well. The last drive really was because Bill downed it at the 1-yard line and we held them down there and scored."

Princeton expanded its lead on the final play of the first half with a 22-yard field goal from Louden to end a 74-yard drive.

Penn pulled within 7-10 when Braden Lepisto kicked a 38-yard field goal for the only score of the third quarter.

Princeton was forced to punt on its next possession, and Foran pinned the Quakers deep when he knocked Colin McDonough '07's punt out of bounds at the 2-yard line. Penn punted back to Princeton and the offense took over at the Penn 42. Eight plays later, Terrell found Circle for a 5-yard touchdown that seemed to give Princeton solid control with a 24-10 lead. But 14:55 remained and Penn was able to claw back.

Penn scored on a 1-yard sneak with 11:07 remaining, set up by a diving 22-yard catch on fourth-and-18. Princeton again appeared in control after Foran downed a McDonough punt at the Penn 4 and then Doorri Song '08 recovered Joe Sandberg's fumble of a long screen pass reception.

The Tiger had to punt the ball back to Penn with 2:19 left. Two straight completions put the ball in Princeton territory. A penalty moved them back and soon the Quakers faced fourth-and-24 from their own 43. Irvin lofted a high pass for a 29-yard completion and three plays later, Irvin hit Carre for a touchdown to send the game into overtime.

And sometimes, there is nothing that can totally prepare you for an ending like Saturday's. No one, save for a screenwriter, could have come up with this ending.

"If you don't believe in God, I'll send you the tape," Coach Hughes said. "There was definitely some divine intervention."

TIGER PLAYER PROFILES

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

I selected Princeton as my school of choice because I felt it gave me the opportunity to succeed both in school and on the football field. When I visited the school, I had a great time and really liked all of the older players I met. The coaching staff did a good job of recruiting and made me feel that Princeton was the place for me.

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

My teammates and coaches obviously inspire me, but I think about winning the league championship, and that inspires me the most.

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

The Princeton Football experience has prepared me for my future in many ways.

I've been through good years and bad years (record-wise) and have kept working hard to try and put our team in a position to win the championship. So far that hard work has paid off and I feel that is one valuable lesson learned. Being a part of this team has also forced me to manage my time and work off the field. It has also forced me to be accountable because one blown coverage or play off will effect all 100 of us in the locker room. Everyone on our team knows that and we help pull each other together.

What are your career plans?

My career plans are kind of up in the air right now. I would really like to get into the commercial real estate market or take a year off and go to law school. I grew up in Georgia and have been in Princeton for the last four years so I would love to move west and spend some time out there, whether working or in school.



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Tim Strickland
6-1, 190 pounds
Cumming, Ga.
Defensive back

Earned all-state and all-area honors twice as a wide receiver and defensive back at North Forsyth High School ... named defensive player of the year in basketball and earned all-region honors as a shooting guard ... regional champion twice in 110-meter high hurdles.

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Chris Lee
6-4, 200 pounds
Ypsilanti, Mich.
Tight end

All-state, all-conference and all-area honors as a quarterback at Lincoln High School.

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

Academically, it was the clear choice. I was the first person from my high school ever to be accepted to an Ivy League institution. In addition to doing what was best for myself, I hoped that my choice would help open doors for others in my area.

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

My parents. They have worked very hard over the past 30 years, and they were lucky enough to be able to retire recently and do basically as they please.

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

The skill that I will use the most is time management. As Princeton Football players, we have more demands on our time than the typical student, and our time management skills allow us to compete on, and off, the field.

What are your career plans?

I am considering careers in either finance or with government agencies.

President

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My wife and I had the pleasure of watching this game from our President's Box seats as guests of Shirley Tilghman. It would be an understatement to say that she is an enthusiastic fan and supporter of our Princeton Football program. A locomotive to her for her support!

Now, on to New Haven for one of the biggest games in our program's

history. If you are within striking distance, please come out and get behind these Tiger student athletes. Hopefully the game won't be as gut-wrenching as this past week, but I can assure you it will be exciting and our players will leave everything they have on the field. Go Tigers!

Frank J. Vuono '78
President/CEO

Ivy Football dinner set for Waldorf-Astoria

The Ivy Football Association will honor Princeton alumnus Redmond C.S. Finney '51 at its annual dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on Jan. 25, 2007.

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

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

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	5 0	7 1
PRINCETON	4 1	7 1
Harvard	4 1	7 1
Cornell	2 3	4 4
Brown	2 3	3 5
Pennsylvania	2 3	4 4
Dartmouth	1 4	1 7
Columbia	0 5	3 5

Nov. 4

Yale 27 Brown 24
Harvard 24 Columbia 7
Cornell 28 Dartmouth 25

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	31	30 2OT
11 at Yale	12:30	p.m.
18 Dartmouth	1	p.m.

NEXT WEEK

Princeton
at
Yale

12:30 p.m.
Yale Bowl
New Haven, CT