

Tiger's Lair

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Princeton stunned by Yale in overtime

By Justin Feil

The Princeton University football team, its coaches and fans, may need a pacemaker by season's end.

For the third time this season, the Tiger lost in heartbreaking fashion on the final play of a game. It was the third different way, following a Hail Mary against Columbia and an overtime touchdown pass by Harvard.

Saturday, after Yale tied the game on the final play of regulation, it was a Princeton fumble in overtime that gave Yale a 27-24 win in front of 16,369 Princeton Stadium fans. It made for a difficult Senior Day for the Orange and Black.

"I told them obviously they played with the emotion and intensity to win the game," said **Princeton Head Coach Roger Hughes** after his team slipped to 2-7 overall, 2-4 in the Ivy League. "We didn't make the plays on both sides of the ball to knock Yale out. No one play wins or loses this game for us. There were a number of plays along the way that obviously dictated the outcome of the game, whereas one play at the end appears to have."

There haven't been too many tougher losses for the Tiger during the nation's second-longest rivalry. Princeton led the 126th meeting with Yale for all but the second overtime series when the Bulldogs were held to a 26-yard field goal for a three-point lead that ultimately was the difference.

Princeton had a chance to tie or win the game on its second possession of overtime, but on its first play **B.J. Szymanski '05** fumbled at the 5-yard line after a 20-yard completion from **Matt Verbit '05**, and Yale pounced on the loose ball to end the game.

Princeton had a chance at the end of regulation to put away the Bulldogs, who improved to 6-3 overall, 4-2 in Ivy play. The



Frank Wojciechowski/Princeton Packet

Branden Benson '05 spins to try to elude a Yale tackler in the first half at Princeton Stadium Saturday.

Tiger took control of the ball with 7:49 left in the fourth quarter and drove deep into Yale territory after converting a fourth-and-1 from its own 41 and a third-and-5 from the Yale 38.

On fourth-and-1 from the Yale 23, Verbit ran a bootleg to the right for a first down that would have given Princeton the chance to run the clock down to mere seconds as Yale still had two time-outs. But a holding penalty negated the first down, backed the Tiger up 10 yards and forced a punt.

Colin McDonough '07's 25-yard pooch punt set Yale back on its own 8-yard line with 1:03 remaining. The Bulldogs moved efficiently and meticulously down the field, throwing nothing more than 8- and 9-yard passes until they reached their own 45. A 14-yard pass from Alvin Cowan to Nate Lawrie was followed two plays later by a

strike on the sidelines to Ron Benigno to move the ball to the Tiger 22 with seven seconds left. Chandler Henley then went high over **Tim Strickland '07** for a leaping touchdown in the left corner, and the extra point sent the game to overtime.

"We tried to mix up both zone and blitz in the secondary," Coach Hughes said. "It's just a deal where they executed at that time and certainly we didn't. You take 59 minutes of the game, our defense played outstanding against the No. 2 team in the country in total offense."

Yale, which came in averaging 481 yards per game, was held to 231 for the first 58:57 of the game. The Bulldogs finished with 364 total yards. Princeton had a balanced 442 yards for the game as Verbit finished 18-for-29 for 265 yards and two touchdowns

See *STUNNED*, Page 2

GAME STATISTICS

PRINCETON	7	10	0	0	7	24
Yale	0	3	7	7	10	27

HOW THEY SCORED:

1st Quarter: 11:06, P — TD, Veach, 20-yard run, McDonough kick.

2nd Quarter: 11:45, Y — FG,

Troost, 23; 6:03, P — FG,

Javarone, 25; 2:33, P — Szymanski, 29-yard pass from Verbit, McDonough kick.

3rd Quarter: 4:27, Y — TD,

Benigno, 8-yard pass from Cowan, Troost kick.

4th Quarter: 0:00, Y — TD, Henley, 25-yard pass from Cowan, Troost kick.

Overtime: 15:00, P — TD, Veach, 25-yard pass from Verbit,

McDonough kick; 15:00, Y — TD, Faherty, 3-yard pass from Cowan, Troost kick; 15:00, Y — FG, Troost, 26.

	PRI	Y
First Downs	23	24
Rushes/Yds	46/177	43/129
Passing Yds	265	235
Comp/Att/Int	18/29/0	21/44/0
Plays/Yards	75/442	87/364
Return Yds	73	76
Punts/Avg	6/33.5	6/35.8
Penalties/Yds	8/87	5/31
Fumbles/Lost	2/2	0/0
Intercept/Yds	0/0	0/0
Possession Time	31:09	27:48
Attendance:	16,369	

PRINCETON PERFORMANCE

OFFENSE:

RUSHING: Veach, 25-130, 1TD; Verbit, 11-32; Benson, 9-14; Walz, 1-1.

PASSING: Verbit, 18-29-0-265, 2TD.

RECEIVING: Szymanski, 5-83, 1TD; Morrison, 5-62; Veach, 4-61, 1TD; Dekker, 2-35; Walz, 2-24.

DEFENSE:

SACKS (U/A): Borelli, 1/0; Stull, 1/0.

INTERCEPTIONS (No./Yds): None.

TACKLES (U/A): Perry, 6/6; Stull, 3/8; Brown, 3/6; Kirby, 3/4; Snyder, 3/4; Borelli, 4/2; Weiss, 4/0; Artis, 2/2; Kelly, 1/3; Fadeyi, 2/1; Strickland, 2/0; Pilcher, 1/1; Starrett, 1/1; Splithoff, 0/2; Jameson, 0/2; Lebeis, 1/0; Johnson, 1/0; Erb, 0/1; Walker, 0/1.

Cost

Continued from Page 1

while **Jon Veach '05** led the rushing attack with 130 yards on 25 carries.

Even with Yale's momentum-breaking score, the Tiger regrouped quickly. Veach caught a 25-yard touchdown pass from a scrambling Verbit in the first overtime possession to open a 24-17 lead for Princeton, but Yale answered in four plays with a 3-yard touchdown pass of its own.

"If you look at our games, we're one play away," said Veach, who also had four catches for 61 yards. "One play the other way in Columbia, Harvard and Yale, and we have one loss in the league and we're still battling for a title. So we're not far off. The coaches are doing a great job. Games go that way. You have to deal with it.

"I think we should have confidence. We've played with every team. We made a lot of mistakes against Penn, but take that game away and we've played with every team in the league. We know we can beat every team. We're one step away."

Princeton looked in control with a 17-3 halftime lead but failed to take its momentum from the first half on its first drive of the second half. A dropped pass eventually forced Princeton to punt. McDonough's best punt of the game, a 52-yarder, put Yale at its own 3-yard line.

But the Bulldogs then responded with an impressive 97-yard drive to pull within seven points, 17-10, when Cowan found Benigno in the left corner of the end zone on an 8-yard fade pass over Strickland.

The Tiger couldn't find another score until overtime and Yale found the game-tying touchdown on the final drive of regulation. It was a complete reversal from the first half, when Princeton started so well offensively and defensively.

Old Nassau took the opening kick 73 yards for a 7-0 lead. Veach carried five times for 44 yards, including a 20-yard run for the Tiger's first score just 3:54 into the first quarter.

Yale got on the board when it capped a 15-play drive with a 23-yard field goal to cut the Tiger's lead to 7-3 with 11:45 left in the second quarter. Yale had the ball first and goal at the 10, but a run and pass moved them only to the Princeton 2 before the Tiger's **Blake Perry '04** threw Robert Carr for a 4-yard loss to force the field goal.

The Tiger was able to answer on its ensuing possession with a field goal of its

own, but could have had more. A clipping penalty nullified Veach's apparent second touchdown of the game and Princeton settled for a 25-yard kick by **Derek Javarone '06** to end a 15-play drive.

The Tiger defense again came up with a key stop on its second straight possession, this one on fourth-and-3 on its own 43, and the Princeton offense quickly turned it into points. On its first play, Verbit was hit hard but had enough arm strength to reach tight end **Jon Dekker '06**, who rumbled 30 yards to the Yale 29. Verbit then found Szymanski streaking down the left sideline for a 29-yard completion and a 17-3 Princeton lead.

After the Tiger defense held again, the Princeton offense drove 75 yards, but could not add to its lead when Javarone's 42-yard field goal attempt was partially blocked as the first-half horn sounded. It was a play all too familiar to the Tiger — one that haunted Princeton at the end of another heartbreaker.

"I'm hugely disappointed," Coach Hughes said. "I thought we had done the things to win the game, and when you're playing a good team like Yale, they made the plays when the game was on the line to win. We need to learn to do that."

TIGER NOTES: Quarterback **Matt Verbit '05** has moved into sixth place in career passing yards at Princeton with 2,909, before the Yale game. He can tie teammate **Dave Splithoff '04** for fifth place if he averages 268.5 yards passing in each of his final two games. ... Wide receiver **B.J. Szymanski '05** is averaging 20.5 yards per catch this season, which would be a single-season record if he did not make another reception. He would also own the Princeton career record for yards per reception. ... **Blair Morrison '04** caught nine passes for 121 yards against Penn, both career highs. ... **Jon Veach '05** has scored eight touchdowns in the last four weeks for Princeton. No other Tiger player has six touchdowns this season. ... **Justin Stull '06** is on pace to become the first Princeton player to make 100 tackles in a season since **Jim Salters '99** did it in 1998. ... Stull had 12 tackles against Penn, 10 on his own. He also had three tackles for losses, one sack and forced one fumble. ... Defensive end **Tim Kirby '04** is the Tiger's active career leader in tackles. He is tied for the this season's team lead in sacks with four. Stull and **Joe Weiss '04** share the mark.

Hank Towns takes a bow after 34 years

By Jerry Price

The summer of 1986. That was the summer Hank Towns coached the Mitchell Davis American Legion team, a team with no tradition and, as it has turned out, no future, to the New Jersey state finals.

That's when I first met Hank. He was the manager of the feel-good team that summer; I was a reporter for a local paper, sent off to write about him.

He wore the black-and-gold uniform with the MD hat, and he was in charge. Confident. Strong. Sharp. Funny. He got his point across with that deep, powerful voice that he never needed to raise.

The summer of 1986. That was about the halfway point for Hank Towns at Princeton. Sixteen years in the books. And now 17 more years have passed.

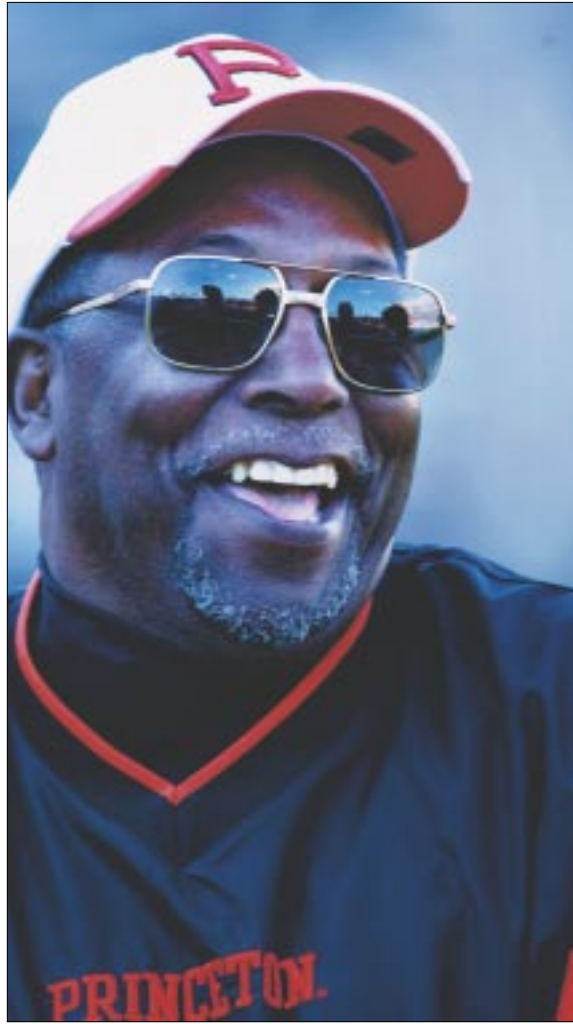
Can it really be 17 years later? He hasn't aged a day. He's still confident. He's still strong. He's still sharp. He's still funny. That voice still gets your attention and keeps it and makes you do exactly what it tells you to do, all without ever changing, possibly because his everyday speech borders on a yell.

After 34 years, today is his last football game at Princeton as the university's head equipment manager. Next Saturday at Dartmouth is his last football game, period. A few more months, and then it's off to retirement.

Let the accolades and honors and tributes begin.

And know this: Hank Towns, when he retires, will take his rightful place as one of the greatest figures in the history of Princeton athletics.

It is probably no exaggeration to say that Hank Towns has interacted directly with more athletes in his time at Princeton than any other person who has ever worked in the department of athletics. He has worked under all four men who have held the position of director of athletics. He has been here through four university presidents, through six head football coaches, through an expansion in the athletic



Frank Wojciechowski/Princeton Packet
Hank Towns, who will retire as head equipment manager after 34 years at Princeton, enjoys a moment on the field Saturday at Princeton Stadium. He was presented with a plaque at the field and was honored at a Princeton Football Association dinner Saturday night.

program that has seen the number of varsity teams at Princeton more than double.

Hank Towns was a great athlete at Trenton High School, and he played football for Eddie Robinson at Grambling. After about 10 years of doing clerical work in the area, he came to the Princeton department of athletics in 1970.

Since then, he has missed one football game, the 1987 game at Brown, which he missed due to a death in the family. He is the first one in the locker room for a football game, and he doesn't leave until hours after the game has ended.

From my perspective, I've always thought of Princeton University as having an interesting dichotomy. This is a place for greatness. It is a place that

demands excellence in everything and never accepts less.

To an 18-year-old, a 20-year old, a 22-year-old, this can be a conflicting message. Simply by being here, you are instantly part of that excellence. It must be easy to forget that there are others who know more than you do. Surely, it would be easy to lose one's grounding in this situation. That's why this university needs its balances, its conscience, if you will.

I would say that in the department of athletics for the last half-century or so, there have been two people who have fulfilled that role more so than anybody else. One is Pete Carril, the Hall-of-Fame basketball coach who spent 29 years here. The other is Hank Towns.

There is no pretense with either one of them. They give it to you straight, and it's up to you to take it. Both judge you strictly by your character.

Their message has come in their work ethic, in their dedication, in their knowledge, in their honesty. It tells the talented young men and women that nothing is free, that they have been given some great gifts and some great opportunities, but that ultimately, they must earn their reward.

If you think that lesson isn't appreciated, then check out the unfettered affection that is felt towards Hank Towns today. More than anything, Hank is loyal to his people, the men and women who coached and played at Princeton during his tenure. They come back and seek him out, often with the next generation in tow.

He remembers them all, of course, remembers their good points and their bad, remembers their good games and great moments and tougher times.

They all know that Hank Towns is at least partly responsible for what they have become. He has touched thousands here. He has left a legacy at this university that few can match.

He'll be missed.

Jerry Price is associate director of athletics in charge of media relations.

Princeton Football family recalls Hutch

Princeton University, and the extended Princeton Football Family in particular, recently lost one of its most beloved and dedicated members. Thomas J. Hutchinson '70, "Hutch" to all his numerous friends and admirers, succumbed to cancer on Aug. 29 after a grueling three-year battle.

Teammates and other classmates learned of his passing through a poignantly understated e-mail, which read "I am profoundly saddened to tell you that our friend, classmate and brother passed away shortly after 10:00 a.m. this morning." While the fight in which Hutch was engaged was well known to all, his matter-of-fact stoicism and ever-present keen interest in the well-being of others often served to mask the seriousness of his own condition. Thus, the news of his death had an unbelievable air about it despite our knowledge of that possibility. Princeton, and particularly his classmates and teammates, will greatly miss this staunch supporter and stalwart.

Hutch was a defensive standout throughout his years at Princeton in spite of knee injuries that allowed him to become more familiar than perhaps he ever wished to be with the quality of Princeton's trainers and their facilities. Hutch earned his Varsity P in 1968 and 1969. In the

latter year he was accorded the designation "Captain of the D" for his roll in the evolution and success of a team that went from losing its opening game against Rutgers 0-29 on national TV in the College Football Centennial to a 35-7 "upset" victory over Dartmouth in the season finale. This win capped a 6-1 Ivy campaign and secured a share of the Ivy League title for the Tiger, a feat that, sadly, would not be matched for 20 years.

Hutch's contribution to the success of the 1969 Tigers was underscored by his being named the recipient of the Dr. Harry R. McPhee Award, which "is awarded annually to that member of the varsity football team who by his ability, conduct and attitude has most clearly demonstrated in the best Princeton tradition the qualities of leadership and the spirit of amateur athletics." Just as Hutch applied these qualities to all he did — on and off the field — so, too, did he carry them forward into life after football. Hutch refined and perfected his leadership abilities to the ongoing benefit of family and friends, teammates and classmates, business associates and community alike, and the eternal gratitude of all.

In honor and acknowledgement of all Hutch meant to his team, his class, and those who had the plea-

sure of his association, members of his beloved team of 1969 joined his wife Janice, other family members, classmates and friends for a Memorial Service at Murray Dodge on Saturday, Nov. 15.

This celebration of Hutch was presided over by teammate and former roommate Arnie Holtberg '70. Janice was presented with a 3-by-5-foot Princeton flag that, on the day of his passing, was carried by classmate H. Kirk Unruh to all the places that were special to Hutch. It was flown over Nassau Hall, taken to the Chapel, brought to the stadium and laid on what would have been the 50-yard line of Palmer Stadium, and it was flown over Tiger Inn and, finally, the E-Quad.

This special tribute is only a small indication of the measure of this man in the hearts and minds of those who knew him and benefited from his presence in their lives. The Princeton Football Association joins with the family, the classmates and teammates, friends and associates of Hutch, number 87, to mourn his passing, but to rejoice in his being.

The family has indicated that remembrances be directed either to St. Mary's Church in Milford, Conn., or to the Princeton Football Association.

Ivy League recognizes Princeton players for gridiron exploits

Three Princeton players have been awarded Ivy League honors for their play in recent weeks.

Colin McDonough '07 was named the Ivy League Rookie of the Week Nov. 3 for his punting and kicking in the Tiger's win over Cornell. The freshman from Milford, Iowa, aver-

aged 39.7 yards per punt, including one 52-yarder, and hit all three of his extra-point attempts in the 28-6 victory.

Justin Stull '06 was named to the league's Honor Roll Nov. 10 for his defensive play against Penn. The linebacker from Lititz, Pa., led the

Tiger with 12 tackles, including 10 solo stops. He also forced three fumbles.

Defensive end **Joe Weiss '04** had seven tackles and three sacks against Cornell and was named to the league Honor Roll for his play. Weiss, also recovered a fumble.

TIGER PLAYER PROFILES

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

My parents were especially influential in making me the person I am today. They have played a huge part in allowing me to achieve all the things I have achieved both on and off the field. I grew up in a family that loved sports, especially football, and ever since I was a little kid I could never get enough. I always had some sort of ball in my hand. I couldn't stand to be without one. Whether it was growing up watching the Bulls, pretending to be Michael Jordan making the game winning shot, or my former days as the gym class flag football hero, I dreamed that one day I'd be able to grow up and play at a school like Princeton where I would be offered a chance to excel both in the classroom and on the playing field. I am very fortunate to find myself where I am now.

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?

I couldn't have asked for a better four years than what I have had here at Princeton. My goals have remained pretty consistent since Freshman year. From the very start, I wanted to do well both in the classroom and on the football field. As a football player, my goal was to leave my mark on the program. I feel like

I have done just that. I wanted to leave a legacy to the younger classman, show them how rewarding hard work and an endless dedication to doing your best can lead to great things. Now that it's senior year, I look back at the time and wonder where it went. The ride was way too short, but I feel like I have come a long way, achieved a lot, and I'm proud of what I have done. That's all I could ever ask for.

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

Being a Princeton Football player made me a better person. It has taught many things in these last four years. It has showed me what hard work and dedication is all about. I have always worked hard, but I have learned that just working hard isn't enough. You have to work harder than everyone else, push yourself to the limit, to be the best. You can't just say you want to be good, it doesn't work that way. Football has taught me how to get through difficult times. It has taught me how to set goals, take steps to reach them, and then conquer them. It has taught me how to deal with adversity, how to overcome it, and how to make the most of a bad situation. Football has also taught me to appreciate what I have and where I'm at in life. I'm very fortunate, I realize that more and more everyday. It has taught me how to handle pressure, how to handle success, how to handle trying times, and how to be a leader both on and off the field. The lessons I've



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David Splithoff '04 6-2, 205 pounds D. back/Quarterback Glenview, Ill.

At Glenbrook South, lettered in football, basketball and baseball ... named league Defensive Player of the Year and Co-Offensive Player of the Year ... all-state, all-area and all-conference in football ... member of National Honor Society ... has thrown the four longest passes in Princeton Stadium history.

learned over the past four years are invaluable and will stick with me for the rest of my life.

Please tell us about your post-college and career plans.

I'd like to find a nice job coming out of school, in a few years go back to business school and get my MBA, find time to travel around and see the world, and make the most of being young.

PFA Calendar of Events

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

Feb. 26, 2004 — PFA Senior Dinner — 6 p.m., Princeton Club of New York.

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

JOIN OUR TEAM

Become a member of the Princeton Football Association and receive Tiger's Lair each week throughout the season, including pre-season and post-season issues. Enjoy being a part of PFA events while supporting Tiger Football in the battle for Ivy League gridiron supremacy.

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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	6	0	9 0
Yale	4	2	6 3
Harvard	3	3	6 3
Brown	3	3	4 5
Columbia	3	3	4 5
Dartmouth	3	3	4 5
PRINCETON	2	4	2 7
Cornell	0	6	1 8

Nov. 15

Brown 25	Dartmouth 21
Pennsylvania 32	Harvard 24
Columbia 34	Cornell 21

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	7	37
15	Yale	27	24 OT
22	at Dartmouth		

NEXT WEEK

Princeton
at
Dartmouth

12:30 p.m.
Memorial Field
Hanover, N.H.