2018
A SEASON FOR THE AGES

* * *

Tigers Go Undefeated for First Time in 54 Years

Members of Princeton's 2018 unbeaten team celebrating their final victory, over Penn at Princeton Stadium, November 17. Quarterback John Lovett, no. 12, hoists the Ivy Trophy.

Four ‘66 members of the Tiger Email Group at Princeton Stadium, Brown game, Oct. 6: Lanny Jones, Jim Merritt, Henry Von Kohorn, and Bert Kerstetter. Photo by a fifth member, Charles Plohn ’66. Bert was a fullback on the Tigers’ 1964 undefeated team. Henry wrote the postgame reflections that form the core of this narrative.

COVER PHOTO PRINCETON ATHLETICS

The following is a game-by-game recap of the 2018 Princeton football team’s 10-0 season, its first undefeated season since 1964; the Tigers outscored the opposition 470-130 (average score: 47-13). It is a compilation of lightly edited pieces taken from the web pages of P.U.’s Department of Athletics (goprincetontigers.com) and the Princeton Football Association (princetontigersfootball.com), supplemented by postgame analysis from Henry Von Kohorn ’66 (HVK) and additional comments from an informal email group of Tiger fans: Charlie Ganoe ‘51, Bob Varrin ‘56, John O’Brien ‘65, Rick Bowers ‘66, Lanny Jones ‘66, Bert Kerstetter ‘66, Ron Landeck ’66, Jim Merritt ‘66, Kit Mill ’66, Charles Plohn ’66, Glenn “Merc” Morris ‘72, and Mike Morandi *83.

— Jim Merritt ’66

Henry Von Kohorn’s season-end postscript:

Well before the start of the 2018 football season, I noticed that for the first time, Princeton would be playing Butler in Indianapolis. I emailed my Princeton best friend and former roommate Norm Tabler, suggesting that I use the game as an excuse to come for a visit. The game turned into a surprising blowout for Princeton, and, since it wasn’t televised, I decided to email my impressions of the game to some fellow Princeton football fans. I got positive feedback – including the suggestion that I write reports about future games. I told myself that I would keep doing so until we lost. We never did. Thus, serendipitously, I have my own written record of this historic Princeton football season.

* * *

9.15.18: Princeton 50, Butler 7

goprincetontigers.com:

It was easy to wonder how the Princeton offense might look when it was somebody other than Chad Kanoff behind center for the first time in 30 games. It took all of 26 seconds to get an answer.

Princeton opened its 2018 season in thrilling fashion Saturday night at Butler, as the Tigers posted a 50-7 victory over a Bulldogs team that came into the game unbeaten and had a win over a FCS Top-25 program in Youngstown State. Senior quarterback John Lovett accounted for four touchdowns, including a game-opening 63-yard scoring pass to All-American Jesper Horsted that ignited a 44-point first half.

Princeton scored early and often in the first half, and then dominated time of possession in the second half in the Tigers’ most dominant season opener in decades. Lovett threw two touchdown

passes to Horsted (66 and 15), and rushed for two touchdowns of his own during an all-Princeton opening half. Senior tailback Charlie Volker added touchdown runs of 2 and 19 yards to close the first half, and then spent most of the second half with his fellow starters watching the Tiger depth maintain control of the game.

The Tiger defense was just as spectacular, limiting Butler to one scoring drive and fewer than 300 total yards. Senior captain Mark Fossati had a team-best seven tackles in his first game back from his 2017 season-ending injury, while James Johnson added six while leading the Tiger defense during the second half. Sophomore Samuel Wright had four tackles, including two for loss, as well as a sack and forced fumble, while both Ben Ellis and Joey DeMarco had fumble recoveries.

Princeton set the tone immediately. On the second play from scrimmage, Lovett lofted a perfect pass down the right sideline, which allowed Horsted to sprint past his man, run under the ball and take it home for the 66-yard score. Horsted moved from seventh to fourth on the all-time receiving yards list for Princeton after catching seven passes for 140 yards, and he is now only two touchdown catches away from Derek Graham's career record of 19.

Princeton rushed for 326 yards, with Volker leading the way (14-162). Lovett and sophomore Collin Eaddy combined for 94 yards, while Ryan Quigley and Trey Gray took control in the final period.

Both lines were terrific throughout the game. The offensive line, which featured a trio of new starters, opened holes in the run game and gave Lovett time to throw. The defensive line continuously pressured Butler quarterback Will Marty, who averaged fewer than 6.0 yards per attempt in the first loss of the season for the Bulldogs. Jay Rolader and Matthew Jester also had sacks for the Tigers, while Anthony Siragusa had two of Princeton's eight tackles for loss

Score by Quarters

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	F
Princeton	17	27	0	6	50
Butler	0	7	0	0	7

* *

HVK:

My Princeton roommate, Norm Tabler, and I have stayed close over the years. He lives in Indiana, so, being slightly loony, I decided to meet up with Norm and his wife and go to the game. Right from the start, it was shocking. Seldom have I seen such a dominant performance. Basically the game was over at the half.

We literally did everything we could do to run out the clock in

the second half. We hardly ever passed, and we generally waited until there were less than 10 seconds on the play clock before calling signals. It seemed to me that we could easily have scored 75 points. And Butler was supposed to be pretty good. They were the only 2-0 team that any Ivy team played over the weekend, and one of their wins was over a ranked opponent, Youngstown State. That said, who knows if Butler is any good at all. They looked totally impotent against us. Their band was way better than ours.

Here are my takeaways. We seem to be talented, very deep, and well-coached. Several freshman got playing time. The running game was superb, and it seems we have three, maybe four, very good running backs. Lovett can throw as well as run. The kicking game looked solid, and the defense gave up very little. My concerns were 1) pass protection — not as good as last year, and 2) Lovett's propensity to run and try to get the extra yard, thus exposing himself to injury. We can't afford to lose him.

Holuba [senior defensive lineman Kurt Holuba] re-injured his ACL in practice and seems to be done. Heartbreaking. But we do have depth in the defensive line.

At the airport going home, I chatted briefly with the head of the Princeton Football Association, Steve Simcox '83, who said that both of our upcoming opponents, Monmouth and Columbia, are very good. We should know a lot more about our team by the time we get to October. In the meantime, let the speculation begin!

Butler finished the season 4-7.

* * *

9.22.18: Princeton 51, Monmouth 9

goprincetontigers.com:

It's not easy to overshadow a quarterback who throws five touchdown passes and rushes for another, or a fellow receiver who catches 11 passes for 179 yards. But Jesper Horsted did just that during a record-setting performance in Princeton's dominant home-opening rout of Monmouth Saturday in front of 11,000+ fans on Community and Staff Day. Horsted broke Princeton's all-time touchdown receptions record during the Tigers' 51-9 victory over a Hawks team that reached the NCAA tournament last year.

Horsted entered the game two touchdowns shy of Derek Graham's record of 19, which he set during the 1984 season, but he cut that deficit in half with a 3-yard score in the first quarter. That was a historic play in its own way, as it was the first to ever be reviewed at

John Lovett rushing against Monmouth.

Princeton Stadium. The Ivy League adopted the replay rule this past season, and officials determined that Horsted did have possession of the ball in the end zone, a play that opened an early 14-3 lead.

The record-tying score came late in the 2nd quarter, a double move that left his defender in the dust for a 29-yard touchdown. By the time John Lovett rushed for a 7-yard score early in the third quarter, the outcome seemed well in hand.

Horsted ended the game with eight catches for 150 yards, neither of which were actually team highs. Classmate Stephen Carlson was just as spectacular, scoring two touchdowns to go along with his 11-for-179 effort, including a 24-yard score in the first quarter that opened a 7-3 lead. Lovett ended the day 21-for-27 with 332 passing yards and five touchdowns, as well as 71 rushing yards and another score.

The defense carried over from its dominant showing at Butler and once again held an opponent to single digits. Senior linebackers Tom Johnson and Mark Fossati shared a team high with nine tackles apiece, while Princeton added five sacks and an interception by T.J. Floyd. Princeton continuously pressured Monmouth quarterback Kenji Bahar and the explosive Hawks offense, and it ended the game with seven tackles for loss, four quarterback hurries and three breakups. Jackson Simcox and Mike Wagner each had solo sacks for the Tigers, who have yet to allow a second-half point this season. Princeton also held Monmouth to only five third-down conversions on 14 attempts.

Monmouth's best offensive play of the game actually served as a spark for the Tigers. On the Hawks' first play, running back Pete Guerriero, a MAAC sprint champion, broke through the line and seemed destined for an 85-yard touchdown. Senior safety Ben Ellis ran him down inside the red zone, and the defense responded by holding Monmouth to a field goal. The Tigers would allow only one more score the rest of the day.

* *

HVK:

Though the final scores were similar, the Butler game was not as close as the score indicated, while the Monmouth game was closer than the score. Monmouth was a considerably better team than Butler, yet we seemed to handle every challenge they threw at us. The defense made big plays when it counted, and our variety of offensive weapons was more than Monmouth could handle.

That said, think of what we haven't done in either game. We haven't used multiple quarterbacks in the backfield; we haven't run a reverse; we haven't thrown to our tight end or to any of our backs; we haven't run screens or draw plays. In other words, nothing tricky. I think that the coaches are saving some of these things for games when we find ourselves challenged, and they don't want video for other teams to analyze.

Columbia is 2-0 and looks pretty good — they beat us early last year before we had multiple injuries and they'll be at home — but if we get a big lead, I predict that we'll see the freshman quarterback, Brevin White. Two other quarterbacks got snaps yesterday. It's now time to see what the future looks like.

[Note: Freshman QB Brevin White played on the scout team and didn't get into a single game all year.]

* *

Jim Merritt's reply:

It occurred to me that [Coach Bob] Surace hasn't used any of his usual dazzle-dazzle (two and even three QBs on the field at the same time), probably because he hasn't needed to. I like that he's played more of a ball-control offense, tiring the other team's defense while keeping ours rested.

Hard to believe that after two games we've outscored our opponents 101-16. This can't last. I want to see us win a few close games against worthy opponents like Columbia, Penn, Dartmouth, Yale, and Harvard (although I wouldn't object to a few more blowouts).

I'm urging ESPN to hire you as a commentator.

Monmouth finished the season 8-3.

* * *

9.28.18: Princeton 45, Columbia 10

goprincetontigers.com:

Columbia entered its 2018 Ivy League opener Friday night with the nation's second-ranked rushing defense, a unit that allowed only 70 rushing yards through the first two weeks combined.

Princeton brought the fifth-ranked rushing offense in the nation, and a quarterback who hadn't even shown his full arsenal of run plays through the first two weeks, and took full control of its third-straight blowout win to end a dominant September.

The Tigers rushed for 360 yards and scored 25 points over a 6:32 stretch midway through the game, and the defense continued its stretch of second-half shutouts, to post a 45-10 victory over the Lions in a battle of unbeatens on national TV.

An offensive unit that has put up staggering numbers through the first two weeks did so again, and once again it was reigning Ivy League Player of the Week John Lovett who led the show. Lovett rushed for a career-high 174 yards on 17 carries (10.2 average), and he added a pair of touchdowns on the ground to go along with two TD passes to Stephen Carlson. Sophomore running back Collin Eaddy had the best game of his young career, rushing six times for 102 yards, including a 66-yard touchdown run early in the third quarter.

Lovett and Eaddy became the first Princeton tandem to post 100-yard performances in the same game since Judd Garrett and Chris Hallihan did so against Cornell on Nov. 18, 1989. That offensive line was led by senior center Bob Surace, the ninth-year head coach who oversaw Princeton's third straight victory by at least 35 points this season.

Those victories don't come without strong defensive performances, and the Tigers continued their strong play in New York City. T.J. Floyd became the first Princeton player to record two interceptions in a game since Anthony Gaffney did so four years earlier at Columbia, and Princeton added a trio of sacks to keep the Lions from making any noise during the second half. Mike Wagner had two sacks in the win, including one that forced a fumble in Princeton territory. It was recovered by Ben Ellis, who led Princeton with seven tackles in the win. Eight players had at least four tackles for Princeton, which set the tone immediately after a special teams miscue by the Tigers.

Columbia returned the opening kickoff 93 yards to set up a

golden opportunity at the Princeton 7-yard-line. Three plays later, the Lions were kicking a field goal from the 8, a massive victory for the Tiger defense. Princeton quickly responded, as Lovett hit Carlson down the left sideline for a 37-yard touchdown pass; the Tigers' next drive ended with Lovett scoring on a 22-yard rush, one of several times the senior quarterback gashed the aggressive Columbia defense with his legs.

Columbia would get within 13-10 in the second quarter and had the ball with a chance to take the lead, but Princeton took control from there. A third-and-short stop set up an 80-yard scoring drive for the Tigers, which ended with a Lovett dive from inside the 1. After the first of two Floyd interceptions, Lovett rolled right to force the defense to commit, and then hit Carlson along the sideline for a score. Nicolas Ramos hit a 19-yard field goal on the final play of the half, and Eaddy sprinted through a hole and went untouched from 66 yards out to grab full control of the win.

* *

Jay Greenberg, princetontigersfootball.com:

Thirty-six years, nine Ivy titles, and 250 career wins for Al Bagnoli, and he doesn't remember seeing anything like this. "There was a very impressive football team you saw today," said the Columbia coach. "I go back a long way and, for a quarterback, a running game and an offensive team, it would really be a stretch to think there has ever been anything better."

Princeton stretched the Robert E. Kraft Field lengthwise, widthwise, and from ear to ear inside the flummoxed Lions' craniums in running over Columbia, 45-10, Friday, just like the Tigers had run over Butler and Monmouth the first two weeks. This time the Tigers ran up 540 yards, 363 on the ground, 176 of them by quarterback John Lovett, who scored two touchdowns and threw for two more to Stephen Carlson.

Carlson had just five catches and Jesper Horsted only two, and that wasn't for any lack of trying, so determined was Offensive Coordinator Sean Gleeson to get Columbia out of its stacked box. The Pandora turned out to be Lovett. He ran it in from 22 and from one, and, perhaps even more importantly, had a 36-yard run on a cutback that got the Tigers, who had been stopped on consecutive series, going again just when it looked like Columbia, down, 13-10, was going to make it a game.

The once and maybe again Asa S. Bushnell Cup winner as Ivy Ofensive Player of the Year went outside mostly, on called plays and some broken plays, reading some superb blocks, carrying out sublime play fakes, and making excellent decisions throughout. All

the single covering the Lions did on Carlson and Horsted ultimately did them no good. While Charlie Volker, who scored a touchdown, was used mostly as a decoy for Lovett's legerdemain, Collin Eaddy ran for 102 yards, 66 of them on the third play of the second half for another touchdown.

PRINCETON ATHLETICS

Lovett scoring at Columbia.

"Can't stop the run, obviously it opens up a lot of other things," said Bagnoli. "Kudos to them. It's very impressive to see Lovett live. He is a big strong athletic kid and to his credit he is actually throwing the ball a lot better than he did two years ago."

Lovett hit one bomb, to Carlson for a touchdown on the first Tiger series. The quarterback's so-so 12-for-22 was mostly a reflection of the determination of Princeton to both run the ball and take some shots.

"We were hoping to hit more of them and didn't but it did set some things up for the running game," said Surace. "That is a hard team to run against but Sean (Gleeson) had a really good game plan. We opened some things up." Fair to say, Lovett did, too.

In a reference to the University of Connecticut's women's basketball coach and his greatest player, Surace added, "The great Geno Auriemma used to say, 'I have Diana Taurasi and you don't.' That's the way I felt in the first half about John. He is playing at a level that is just exceptional, including his decision making and his finish. When the great quarterbacks get in the game, the rest of the guys' tempos pick up."

Lovett has yet to throw an interception in three games and the Tigers have not fumbled the ball. "To beat them you are going to have to win the turnover battle, and convert a lot of third downs," said Bagnoli. "They do a great job of protecting the ball; they do a great job in the red zone scoring touchdowns. That's a pretty lethal combination."

The Tigers suffered some shaky moments in the first half and yet still came out with a 30-10 lead. Will Johnson had to save a touchdown on a Will Allen 91-yard runback of the opening kickoff to the

Princeton six. The defense responded; Columbia settled for a 25-yard Chris Alleyne field goal, and Princeton immediately answered in seven plays, culminating in a 37-yard touchdown pass down the sideline from Lovett to Carlson, Allen this time becoming the victim.

George Triplett fumbled the hold on the PAT and the Tigers had squandered a point. Nevertheless, they forced a punt and Lovett ran for 48 yards of a 78-yard drive, including the final 22 on a quarterback sweep – don't read that often do you? – behind a pile-driving block by right tackle Reily Radosevich. This time Triplett got the ball down and Nic Ramos put Princeton up 13-3 and seemingly back in groove.

That only was until a personal foul penalty following a stuffed first-down run got Columbia going on a methodical 13-play 75-yard drive, culminating in a Ty Lenhart 2-yard dive. The Lion line had clearly won the battle, some missed tackles by Princeton hardly helping.

So it was a one-score game at 13-10 and seemingly not for long, after Princeton went three-and-out and Columbia drove again to a fourth-and-one at the Princeton 33. This time it was the Lions' turn for a brain cramp – a false start. Bagnoli decided to punt, Columbia couldn't keep it out of the end zone, and, having dodged that bullet, Princeton began to roll like ball bearings loose around a plate.

Lovett got outside again for a 36-yard yard run all the way to the Columbia 18 and Eaddy powered to the seven. On third-and-six, Lovett appeared to score on a quarterback draw, but the review showed his knee down with the ball just short. So it took another play for him to take it in easily behind the blocks of Radosevich, Graham Adomitis, and Stephen Carlson.

At 20-10, Princeton had some breathing room back. And then the defense rose with a suffocating play. Safety T.J. Floyd impressively tracked a tip into an interception, setting up Princeton again at the Lion 34. From the six, Lovett rolled, Carlson toe-tapped his second touchdown reception to make it 27-10, and, with 1:50 on the clock, Princeton was still not done for the half. A third-down drop of what would have been a first down enabled the Tigers to get the ball back in enough time for an Eaddy run, a Carlson catch, and another Lovett run to the three, enabling a 19-yard field goal by Ramos as time expired.

Whatever rest halftime afforded for worn-down Columbia, it took just three plays for the Tigers to go for the jugular. Eaddy went off left tackle and, thanks to another crushing seal of the outside by Adomitis, ran 66 yards for a touchdown. Volker's seven-yard run completed a 49-yard drive. Mike Wagner's strip and Ben Ellis's

recovery foiled a late third-quarter Lion opportunity.

Floyd came up with a second pick – his third in two weeks – and Surace ran clock in the fourth quarter for a third straight week. Princeton has outscored its three opponents by 146-26, with plenty of points still in its pocket, thanks to sportsmanship more than anything. But as much room as was created for, and by, Lovett Friday night, the Tigers still see opportunity for improvement.

"To sit here with 45 points and still see so many things we didn't execute?" said Lovett. "That's a great feeling."

* *

HVK:

I have only a few comments about the Columbia game itself, as all three of our games have been surprisingly similar. In each case, our opponent was highly touted, yet in each we've taken our foot off the accelerator with at least a quarter to go. We've had very few penalties, no turnovers, and no serious injuries that I know of. We gave up long opening kickoff runs against Monmouth and Columbia. That didn't happen in our first game, as we received the opening kickoff at Butler. We continue to avoid trick plays, though we did run one reverse at Columbia. Our passing game wasn't nearly as strong on Friday as it was in the prior two games, but Lovett was sensational running the ball. None of us wants to see too much of that, as an injury to Lovett could be devastating. I don't think he ran the ball in the second half. We are very physical and seem to wear the other team out.

If we ran up the score against Columbia, I had predicted that we would see highly touted freshman Brevin White at quarterback. That didn't happen. FYI, we don't bring a full squad to away games. I looked in vain for #6 on the sideline, but I don't think he was there. He wasn't in Indianapolis either. I'm assuming that the coaches know how to manage the expectations of a player who was recruited by Alabama.

So — it's hard to not think about the U-word. How good are we? As Mike Morandi pointed out in a previous email, Dartmouth will be a test. They've beaten three pretty good teams very soundly and in recent years have given us fits even when we've been good. Just how good have our opponents been? It's hard to say. Butler has won each of its other three games, one against a good opponent. Monmouth is 3-1 against their other opponents. They did lose badly to Eastern Michigan, which has beaten Purdue. Columbia won both of their other two games but didn't have much of a margin against a very weak Georgetown team. I've never checked out the various rating systems, but based on the results so far, I would have

to say that we'd be favored to win every game we play from now on, except for maybe Dartmouth. At least we play them at home. Anything can happen in the Ivy League, though, and I wouldn't be icing any champagne just yet.

* *

Johnny O'Brien:

The only comment I'll add is how impressive our rebuilt O-line has played both to enable our running success and for pass protection. They were the biggest question mark coming into the season. We knew our defense would be good but to be holding opponents to a single-digit average is exceptional!

* *

Merc Morris:

The defense has been stout (perhaps unexpectedly so). Most importantly (to my eyes) has been the offensive play calling, a much, much improved mix of runs, run-pass options and fairly simple pass routes. Against Columbia, Lovett threw twice to Horsted on quick, sharp slants, an effective tactic for blitz-heavy defenses. From other friends I learned that Volker's number was not called frequently because the coaches were dialing up Lovett — Collin Eaddy showed what happens if you bring the DB's too close to the line with that quick-strike TD run. For the first time in many seasons, I feel that whoever is calling the plays is more responsive to the flow of the game. This has much to do with the good results.

Columbia finished the season 6-4.

* * *

10.6.18: Princeton 66, Lehigh 7

goprincetontigers.com:

When the 23rd-ranked Princeton football team came to the sideline after 15 minutes, it seemed to be locked in a battle that would test the Tigers in the second half for the first time this season. By the time the second half came, that battle had long been decided.

Princeton set a single-game record for total offensive yards (733) and improved to 4-0 for only the second time since 1995 with a 66-7 victory over Lehigh Saturday afternoon on Powers Field. The victory gives the Tigers a perfect record in their three non-league games, and now allows them to turn their total focus on the Ivy League championship chase. It matched the most points Princeton has scored in a game since the 1934 season opener, a 75-0 win over Amherst. Princeton did score 66 in a 1950 win over Williams; the

Tigers won their 28th national championship that season and had a junior in its backfield named Dick Kazmaier.

A shovel pass to an in-motion Collin Eaddy went for a 10-yard score early in the second quarter, and, following a defensive stop, John Lovett connected with Tiger Bech on a wide-open 70-yard strike on the first play of the ensuing drive to open a 21-7 lead. Another stop and a one-yard scoring run by Charlie Volker, his second of the game, and Princeton was back where it's been for most of the 2018 season — well in control.

From the start of the second quarter, Princeton scored on eight of nine drives, including seven touchdowns, to blow the game wide open. Two of the final three touchdowns came via Ryan Quigley, while Jesper Horsted added to his Princeton record with his 21st career touchdown reception and freshman Dylan Classi caught his first career touchdown catch.

Meanwhile, the defense allowed only one Lehigh score the entire game, and that came on a short field after Princeton's first turnover of the season. A stripsack by Joey DeMarco recovered by Jay Rolader and an interception by freshman Christian Brown ended two of Lehigh's drives, while a swarming defense limited All-American running back Dominick Bragalone to only 2.4 yards per carry. Ben Ellis led Princeton with seven tackles, while DeMarco added six and a pass breakup to go along with his stripsack. Once again, head coach Bob Surace was able to use the majority of his roster during the second half, as 17 different players had multiple tackles in the win.

Two-time reigning Ivy League Offensive Player of the Week John Lovett was as spectacular as ever, completing 20 of 28 passes for 288 yards and three touchdowns, while he also rushed 12 times for 111 yards and a score. Both Quigley and Volker rushed for a pair of touchdowns; the second Volker score moved him into eighth place on Princeton's all-time touchdown rushes list with 25 scores. Steve Carlson caught seven passes for a game-high 112 yards, while Horsted added five catches for 59 yards; his receiving yards made him the fourth player in Princeton history to record more than 2,000 career receiving yards.

* *

Jay Greenberg, princetontigersfootball.com (1):

Another day, another 50-plus points, another 733 total yards. Seven Tigers scored the nine touchdowns in a 66-7 rout of Lehigh Saturday, five by pass and four by run. Princeton can beat you short — Charlie Volker getting in from the one and Ryan Quigley from the nine – or long – Tiger Bech on a 70-yard pass and run, and Volker on a 52-yard streak down the sideline. But the common denominator in this weekly devastation that has Princeton so far outscoring its four opponents 212-33 is its utter domination up front.

PRINCETON ATHLETICS

Lovett doing his thing against Lehigh.

The Tigers' 354 rushing yards Saturday, bringing their season total to 1,311 – an average of 327 for the season – were again not padded by Bob Surace's mercy running of the clock from the middle of the third quarter. Princeton had 186 rushing yards Saturday at the half, when it led 31-7, even after not getting off to a particularly good start.

The only slowing of the Tigers in this game was done to themselves with two first quarter holding penalties, and the only stopping of them was by a Jacob Bermelin fumble that set up the Lehigh score. The Mountain Hawks presented the fourth straight defensive front that couldn't slow John Lovett but he's not the surest thing on third-and-four since, well, John Lovett in 2016, without this pile-driving offensive line. And the Princeton offense is not getting the ball back – it forced four three-and-outs and ended another one play Lehigh series with a strip sack by Joey DeMarco – without an overwhelming performance by the run defense.

Dominick Bragalone, Lehigh's All-American, needed 22 carries to gain 55 yards. He is big and strong and quick, and except for one time, when he dodged a blitz by Mark Fossati and made first down on Lehigh's one scoring drive, Bragalone got nothing, just like everybody else who has tried to run the ball against Princeton. A total of 352 yards, an average of 88 per game, is all the Tigers have given up.

Last year the Tigers' run defense through their first six contests – the last a rout at Harvard, before the cumulative loss of nine defensive linemen – was good too. But not this good. Tom Johnson made first team All-Ivy a year ago with a tireless 95 stops, but the first sign of a leaky defense against the run is when linebackers have to make too many tackles. Johnson had just three on Saturday, and although Fossati had six, and safety Ben Ellis seven, Princeton's third leading tackler was defensive end DeMarco. His six tackles included a sack that forced a fumble.

The decline of last year's defense culminated with the late-season losses of Kurt Holuba, Joe Percival, and Matt Hampson. But it

really began when Joey DeMarco was not in school. A year later, the one Princeton D-lineman being used for every down – run or pass – is on his way to All Ivy consideration.

"I love having my Joey back." says Johnson. "He's a beast.

The Tigers can do this by committee. But it helps to have the chair that DeMarco is becoming. "He is so strong for a guy that tall, but still can bend," said Surace. "He is really coming into his own.

Jake Strain and Jay Rolader, the other two starters up front, last year were gone by Game Two. This time, during another absence of Holuba, the depth provided by Simeon Lane, Sam Wright, Joe Percival gets stronger by the week as freshman who have a chance to be far above average are getting significant playing time in these second halves.

A missed tackle by Winston, a sophomore reserve cornerback, gave Lehigh its one touchdown. Otherwise, bees don't swarm with the glee and instincts of Tiger tacklers. Cut back on one of them, there's another one there.

"I was not happy with the mistakes in the first half," said Surace. "But as I told our guys at halftime, the reason we led 31-7 was because of the effort on both sides of the ball."

Volker went untouched on a 52-yard off-tackle run to put Princeton up 7-0 after the usual one possession. Lehigh, going for it on a fourth-and-eight at the Princeton 11, made it on Winston's whiff. Meanwhile, the first two holding calls of the season – on George Attea and Cody Smith – complicated two drives but did not stop then. Volker had finished the first and Collin Eaddy did the next by taking a quick flip from Lovett and winning the race to the flag.

Tiger Bech was open by 15 yards on the throw-and-run of 70 to boost the lead to 21-7. And after Lovett got outside for 17 yards on third-and-three, Volker finished the next drive. Nick Ramos kicked a chip shot field goal before the half. And after the intermission, Lovett ran for 16 for one score, and then found Jesper Horsted for another.

Like every team in the Tigers' way this season, Lehigh looked simply exhausted by the effort of both Princeton lines. The slick cutbacks by Volker and Lovett on their TD runs were made possible only because their offensive line held their blocks. We will figure out how good Butler, Monmouth, Columbia, and Lehigh are at the end of the season. Don't need that long to be enjoying something special. The 773 yards were the most in a game in 149 years of Princeton football. And this was the largest margin of victory by the Tigers since beating Williams in 1950.

* *

Jay Greenberg, princetontigersfootball.com (2):

After losing by 35 points last week, Columbia coach Al Bagnoli recognized Princeton's 2018 offense as an outlier, probably the best he had ever seen on an Ivy team in his 27 years coaching in the league. After Lehigh became the Tigers' latest victim, 66-7, on Saturday Coach Andy Coen offered a different context.

"They're just a better football team than we are, clearly," Coen said. "And there are reasons why they are. When you look out and their threes [third-string players] are beating our ones, that pretty much says it all. Give me the scholarship money the Ivies give that they say they don't, but they do, then it would be a whole different look."

Before Saturday, Lehigh had won five of its six previous meetings against Princeton. Coen's teams are 13-16 against Ivy teams during his 12-year tenure, 5-6 since the Patriot League began giving full athletic scholarships in 2013. These are not numbers that reflect a gross competitive disadvantage by schools that Lehigh can choose, or not choose, to schedule.

"I just want to be clear than our guys are not on scholarship," said Bob Surace after learning of Coen's comments on Sunday. "So many don't receive financial aid at all. It's an insult to insinuate that they are coming here for free because they are football players. I don't want that misconception out there. Our players are not getting one dollar more than any Princeton student who needs financial help. It insults the hard work our guys are doing, the strength and performance development staff is doing, and the work our coaches do to develop relationships and recruit kids that fit our program. The vast majority of the students on our team are in work-study. We even have kids in work-study who are not receiving any financial aid, getting up early and working in dining halls in addition to everything else they have to do. Andy is a good guy. I hope he was misquoted. I just don't want it out there that we give athletic scholarships. Because we don't."

When a team is winning this big, the running-up-the-score police inevitably will investigate. Saturday was the first time in the four routs that the Tigers, who led 31-7 at the half, scored more points in the second half than the first. Two of the touchdowns came via the pass.

In their brief post-game conversation at the end of the game, Coen did not indicate any displeasure to Surace about his tactics. In conceding how many third-and-fourth stringers were playing in second half, the coach was trying to make a point about a perceived competitive disadvantage. But no matter how thoroughly a bench is cleared, eyebrows will be raised.

Surace, who during a 2-18 start lost games 34-0 to Brown, 52-10

to Penn, and 42-14 to Columbia, always says he remembers being on the other end. But you can't reign in the enthusiasm of kids wanting to show what they can do, or just hand the ball off on three up-the-middle runs and then punt. With the Princeton reserves on defense playing as well as they did Saturday that would only have prolonged Lehigh's agony.

"There are 25 minutes to go in the game and there are only so many plays you have that you can run," said Surace. "Almost every run we have has something attached to it where we might throw it, depending on the look we get. We are just running our offense, keeping it simplistic like we do in JV games. And the best way to get the game over is to get first downs and take almost all the time you are allowed before the next snap. Like the last three weeks, all we tried to do was keep the clock running. The 32-yard touchdown (from Cole Smith to Dylan Classi) was 10-yard route on fourth-and-ten and Dylan broke it. We were not taking deep shots or running trick plays."

Yes, with the exception of two holding calls, a turnover leading to the Lehigh touchdown, and a missed tackle on the third-and-ten scoring play, the Princeton performance Saturday looked just as good to Surace on film as it did live.

Actually, it was even better. "When we left the game, special teams probably were the last thing on my mind," said the coach. "But watching it again, they were much better than the week before, when we had our struggles. We almost hit a couple of punt returns early; one of them by Tiger (Bech for 43 yards) before the half helped set up a score. Austin Carbone did a really good job on a kickoff return (of 30 yards). George (Triplett) had a 45 yarder on his only punt and we were clean in all the other areas."

Freshman strong safety Christian Brown, already a stalwart on special teams, is making an impact in the defensive backfield, too. He had an interception Saturday and a fumble recovery that wasn't, it being overturned on replay because the runner was deemed down. "On the interception, Christian was coming from behind, timed it perfectly, and had a great break on the ball," said Surace. "He was holding it very loose and we'll work on taking care of it better. But he was very active."

* *

HVK:

I'm having trouble getting used to this.

Another blowout much like the last three, only this time, when we took our foot off the gas, the car didn't slow down. Late in the game we played our third and fourth string quarterbacks (really

fourth and fifth string if you assume that Brevin White is really #2), and gave them a chance to throw. They connected repeatedly with accurate throws to receivers whom we hadn't seen before. Honestly, have you ever seen so few dropped passes? I was conflicted about this strategy, thinking that we shouldn't be running up the score. But we may need these backup quarterbacks someday (I hope not), and giving them some real life action is probably a good idea.

We had our first two fumbles of the year and lost them both. One was on an end-around and the other on what looked like a pass to a running back and then a lateral back to the quarterback — in other words, both trick plays. On the first, the ball carrier, Birmelin, appeared to get hurt, but that was the only injury I saw all day. The first fumble, at our 32, led to Lehigh's only touchdown, which they scored on a 4th and eight situation from the ten-yard line. In that circumstance — early in the game and down only 7-0 — any sane coach would have kicked a field goal.

According to the PU write-up, the 733 yards gained were the most in program history, but, then again, we've only been playing for 149 years.

The schedule from now on is all Ivy League, all six games on Saturday, and all starting between noon and one o'clock — so the team should be able to get into a predictable practice pattern. Four games are at home; two — Harvard and Yale — are away.

So, now all I can think about is what might go wrong. The most obvious concern is Lovett. We have a lot of horses, but I sure don't want to find out what happens if he isn't available. Like last year, other injuries could be problematic, but it seems to me that we are very deep. The second is that we start looking ahead. I shouldn't say this, but I simply can't see us losing to Brown — the spread will be enormous. The Harvard game could be a trap, though. Special teams are a bit of an issue. We've given up a couple of long kickoff returns; our punts seem vulnerable to blocks. (we need to get better at this, but given how little we punt, we don't get much chance to improve); and we haven't yet tried a long field goal.

Can't wait 'til next Saturday.

Lehigh finished the season 3-8.

* * *

10.13.18: Princeton 48, Brown 10

goprincetontigers.com:

Junior quarterback Kevin Davidson, replacing injured John Lovett, took the first snap of the game, knowing an entire fan base

Linebacker Mark Fossati pursuing Brown wide receiver Livingstone Harriott.

wondered how he would handle his first collegiate start at quarterback. A few seconds, and 39 yards later, those questions were put to rest. The Princeton offense was in good hands, especially since four of those hands belonged to Jesper Horsted and Stephen Carlson.

The All-Ivy League wideout duo combined to catch 21 passes for 296 yards and three touchdowns Saturday to lead Princeton (5-0, 2-0 Ivy) to a 48-10 victory over Brown during Alumni Weekend on campus. Davidson, who made his first collegiate start after Lovett suffered an injury against Lehigh, was terrific against the Bears; he completed 26 of 39 passes for 304 yards and four touchdowns, including a 62-yard strike to Horsted during a 28-point first half.

While the offense continued to roll, the defense did what it has done all season and overwhelmed Brown while the outcome was in doubt. Princeton allowed a total of only 67 yards during the first half, and the first second-half touchdown that the Tigers allowed all season came with Princeton ahead 42-3 in the fourth quarter. Senior captain Mark Fossati led Princeton with 12 tackles in the win, including two for losses, while sophomore Samuel Wright added two of the Tigers' five sacks. As a unit, Princeton had 10 tackles for loss, and it ended the game in style with the first career interception for freshman Manus McCracken.

The dominating defense happily continued to get their teammates the ball throughout the first half. Princeton opened the game with a 75-yard scoring drive that ended with a screen pass touchdown to Quigley, and then Davidson connected on a strike to Horsted for a 66-yard score later in the quarter.

After a short punt by Brown, following a drive that netted minus-6 yards, Davidson found a leaping Horsted along the left side of the end zone for a 21-0 lead. Horsted ended the game with 13 catches for 169 yards and two TDs; he now stands third all-time in Princeton catches (157), and he is one receiving yard behind Chisom Opara for third in that career category as well. His two touchdown catches only built on his own record, which now stands at 23.

Carlson added a TD catch of his own to move to third on Princeton's all-time touchdown catches list (16), and then Princeton turned to the ground and its powerful senior standout Charlie Volker. One year after Volker scored four touchdowns in a 53-0 win at Brown, the two-sport standout rushed 13 times for 102 yards and two scores, including a 37-yarder to start the fourth quarter. Volker moved into the Top 10 in career rushing yards at Princeton (1,769), and he tied Cameron Atkinson for seventh on the career rushing touchdown list (27).

Princeton now stands at 5-0 for the first time since 2006 and only the second time since 1995, and it remains one of two teams in Ivy play with a 2-0 record (Dartmouth). After playing three of four at home, the Tigers will head to Cambridge, Mass., next Saturday for a noon showdown against Harvard, a game that will be streamed live on ESPN+. The Crimson will come into that game with the momentum from Friday night's last-second win over Holy Cross.

[Note: Lovett, who actually broke his left wrist in the Lehigh game, returned for the Harvard game wearing a large cast on his left forearm; he played with it for the rest of the season.]

* *

HVK:

After Saturday's win vs. Brown, I can say with absolute assurance that we will not have a losing record this year.

This was another blowout, and not unexpected. Brown does not have a strong team. I was surprised that Lovett didn't play. The buzz in the stands was that he has a left wrist injury that's not too serious. Who knows whether any of this is true. Considering that this was his first start, Kevin Davidson played a fine game, but we all want Lovett back. I also saw Jesper Horstad with ice on the side of his knee in the 4th period. He was walking around and didn't appear to be in any serious distress.

As has been the case with most of our games, this one wasn't as close as the score made it seem. After pulling ahead early, we seemed to lose our competitive edge, and Brown scored twice after halftime, the only second half points we've given up all year. We have five games left, and while we should be favored in each, none

of them is a slam-dunk. (Basketball metaphor, I know.) The trick is to avoid looking ahead.

I had some time on my hands this week, so I decided to do a little research which you may find of interest. You may have heard that in 2018 Princeton recruited the highest rated class of players in the FCS. On its face, this sounds good, but, if you're like me, the FCS may be something of a mystery. It turns out that FCS stands for Football Championship Subdivision. It's what used to be called Division 1-AA. (Major football programs belong to the FBS – the Football Bowl Subdivision – formerly Division 1-A). There are about 125 schools in the FCS, and FCS teams have a sanctioned NCAA year-end playoff to determine a national champion. The Ivies choose not to participate.

North Dakota State, ranked #1 this year, is a perennial champion. Other schools that have won championships include James Madison, Appalachian State, and Villanova. Some FCS schools (not us, of course) offer football scholarships. They can award the equivalent of 63 full scholarships to as many as 85 players. So, if we have the #1 recruiting class out of 125 schools in the FCS, that must be pretty good, right? It should allow us to dominate the Ivies for several years, correct?

However, consider these statistics: The #2 recruiting class in 2018 – Yale; the #6 recruiting class in 2018 – Harvard. The #1 recruiting class in 2017 – Harvard; the #5 recruiting class in 2017 – Yale; the #30 recruiting class in 2017 – Princeton. The #2 recruiting class in 2016 – Yale; the #8 recruiting class in 2016 – Harvard; not on the list in 2016 – Princeton.

The science of recruiting is inexact. Dartmouth, for example, hasn't made the top 30 in the past three years, and they're doing just fine, thank you. Still, it's nice to be #1. And it's nice to have a coach who seems to be able to identify talented players irrespective of their rating and convince them to play at Princeton.

Meredith and I are taking off on a long-planned 10-day trip through the south, so I won't be going to Cambridge next week. I do plan to watch the game on ESPN+, so I'm sure that I'll have something to say next week. To avoid tempting fate, I intend to keep doing this until we lose – which I hope won't be anytime soon.

Brown finished the season 1-9.

* * *

10.20.18: Princeton 29, Harvard 21

Jay Greenberg, princetontigersfootball.com:

An attacking Harvard defense and a windy day did no favors to

PRINCETON ATHLETICS

Linebackers Tom Johnson (34) and Joe Percival (91) close in on Harvard QB Tom Stewart.

John Lovett's accuracy numbers on Saturday, as he was under 50 percent (15-for-31) and threw for only one touchdown. But behind the statistics and damn lies was one unassailable truth: Princeton 29, Harvard 21, to stay unbeaten in six games. In five of them quarterbacked by Lovett, he remarkably has yet to throw an interception.

"It helps that we have good strong receivers who, when we put the ball into the right positions, the worst case is going to be an incompletion," said Coach Bob Surace Sunday. "We are making good decisions and John is throwing the ball accurately; there were some tight windows that he fit the ball into. When you throw it as much as we do there always are going to be two or three throws a game a quarterback would like to have back. It's when you get to seven or eight that you get into trouble. And we haven't been anywhere near there."

After yielding to Kevin Davidson for the 48-10 win over Brown, Lovett returned wearing a wrap on his left forearm. "I didn't see any restrictions on him," said Surace. "He seemed comfortable and had his highlights. There are very few athletes who could do what he did after dropping that one snap, picking the ball off the ground with the rush in his face and throwing it 50 yards downfield to give Jesper (Horsted) a chance to go up and get it. That was the best we had been contained by a pass rush. At times we weren't doing a good job against even a four-man rush. The score was 10-7 for what seemed like an eternity and there was no panic by John, no forcing the ball. It was go on to the next play, really good to see."

Horsted had to fight for virtually all of his 10 catches in a tour-

de-force that undoubtedly put him closer to being drafted into the NFL in April. The just-described second-quarter catch – which put Tavish Rice in position to hit a 24-yard field goal – was not the best, nor, probably, was even the one-handed grab against press coverage that had just preceded it.

"I think the best catch Jesper made didn't count," said Surace. "They called it out of bounds but I'm not sure it was; they should have reviewed it. I think it shocked everybody, including the official, that he caught that ball. What human being has that kind of arm length and concentration to get that?"

Going three-for-three on fourth downs enabled Princeton to win on a day it went only five-for-18 on third downs. The Tigers, simply too good to stop for 60 minutes, eventually made some plays, including Horsted's 20-yard touchdown catch on a slant, thanks to textbook body position and an on-the-money throw by Lovett. Finally, Princeton had extended its lead after a string of five punts on seven possessions, the other two leading only to two field-goal attempts.

"We had a first down (catch by Graham Adomitis) overturned and another on a third down when the formation was deemed illegal," said Surace. "And the penalties (three to kill one drive) really hurt, have to be cleaned up. But credit Harvard for being very physical. In the pros, you can't have legal contact after five yards but in college that is not illegal; you can grab, hold, or do whatever until the ball is in the air. The defensive backs get a lot of leeway because the officials don't want to call it every play. I think that's something college football has to look at because it is getting out of hand. But that's the way the game is now and Harvard was athletic, smart and aggressive in disrupting the rhythm of our routes, especially when we were out of pocket. There were a lot of good battles. We won our share but they made some plays."

Junior Tavish Rice, who had relinquished the placekicking duties while kicking off and building up strength from an off-season surgery, took over Saturday from sophomore Nico Ramos. "They really have been close (at practice) the last couple of weeks in terms of their accuracy," said Surace. "And when only 62 guys can travel, it saved us a roster spot. They know the competition is going to be ongoing the next four weeks. I like putting them under pressure in practice because hopefully it will pay off if we have to make a pressure kick at some point."

Zach Kelly took back the holding duties from punter George Triplett three weeks ago. "I just think I was putting too much on a freshman's plate," said Surace. "I want him concentrating on punting. And Zach has been outstanding as a holder. There is no drop off there."

A blocked point after touchdown — the fourth on a place kick this season — enabled Harvard to hang around and forced Princeton to cover two onside kicks. But on the brighter side of the special teams were 80 yards in punt returns by Tiger Bech. One that was broken for 39 yards is destined to make a very exclusive list of the most dynamic offensive plays of the season.

"My goodness, he made the guy miss who was flying down there and he just weaved his way through and got us in plus territory," said Surace. "I thought our blocking was good and on that long one, Will Johnson made a really mature decision. Out of seven or eight blocking (on punt returns), one of them probably is going to get beat. When that happens, you have to find somebody else. Will trusted Tiger to make the one guy miss, found another guy to block and sprung the whole thing."

It was a senior thing to do by the backup cornerback and special teams stalwart. And it was not the only wise upperclassman decision of the day that Surace cited. With the Tigers still needing a first down to put the game away and Harvard putting nine guys in the box, the decision was made to send Charlie Volker wide on a second and nine from midfield.

"With them having all those guys in the middle, it was a really good discussion between Sean (offensive coordinator) Gleeson and Andy (offensive line coach) Aurich about what play would be better," said Surace. "The only thing I added on the phones was to remind Charlie to stay in bounds. There comes a trust with seniors that Charlie would handle it right." Volker turned the corner untouched and went 50 yards for a touchdown.

On a day of big defensive plays, the five big second-half stops on third and fourth downs that got Princeton the ball back got the most attention, but there were plenty more players who came up big.

"Delan (Stallworth) really was great in the run game," said Surace. "They attacked him a couple time with screens and he made some good tackles. Ben Ellis is playing really good football that is not always showing up on the stat sheet. He is so sound in his responsibilities. Our inside 'backers (Tom Johnson, 10 tackles, Mark Fossati five) were really good. And T.J. (Floyd) made an outstanding play on the (second quarter end-zone) interception (off a flea-flicker).

"Harvard doesn't do a lot of trick plays. But preparing for Brown, we had much practice against them, and a week later T.J. really played that well, first in reading it and then the catch. There were three guys there, and he went up and grabbed it."

Credit largely to the Crimson defensive front, it was not a banner day for the Tigers offensive linemen, although it did appear they had more left in the end to finish three drives than did the Harvard D-line. But throughout the game fullback Cody Smith and tight end Graham Adomitis excelled. "Graham also made a really great first down catch on our first drive, dragging a guy (five yards) for a first down," said Surace. "That was a really big play leading up to that (first quarter) score."

* *

HVK:

I've been sitting in a hotel room in Asheville, N.C., watching the ESPN+ telecast of the game. How lame can you get? This will likely be the only game this year that I won't attend in person, and, given the way it went, I thought that my absence might have jinxed us. However, we all know how it came out – we remain alive to fight another day. And didn't we all know that at some point we were going to run into a tough game? This one was a character builder, for sure.

I have a series of random comments, none of which are particularly insightful.

1) Harvard is better than its record. They have some great athletes at running back and on the defensive line. If their quarterback had hit – and his receivers hadn't dropped – a few key passes, we would have been in deep trouble. We couldn't run up the middle against them, and they pretty much stopped Lovett's running game.

2) Until the last three minutes, our defense was superb. I think that the freshman defensive back, Christian Brown, who allowed a receiver to get behind him, is a substitute for C.J. Wall who is hurt. How badly, I don't know.

3) Lovett wasn't Lovett today. His passing was off the mark, and he broke very few runs. Some of that was due to Harvard's pressure, but I can't help thinking that his injury contributed.

4) We were penalized much more than in earlier games. Again, this may have been due to Harvard pressure, or it may have been nerves. Who knows?

5) Several players came off the field injured, far more than in prior games. I don't know if any of the injuries were serious, and Bob Surace doesn't divulge this sort of information.

6) We have to do something about our placekicking.

7) It is hard to know how good we really are. The only team we've played with a winning record is Monmouth, and their opponents don't seem strong.

8) I was enormously impressed by the quality of the telecast and the commentary. We've come a long way from the Ivy Digital Network. Thank you, ESPN.

Next week is going to be very interesting. Both Dartmouth and Princeton are playing tough opponents at home – Harvard and Cornell, respectively. These are classic trap games. Both teams need to avoid looking ahead to their November 3rd showdown. That won't be easy by any means.

Harvard finished the season 6-4.

* * *

10.28.18: Princeton 66, Cornell 0

goprincetontigers.com:

Eleven different Princeton players combined to rush for 358 yards and seven touchdowns, while their defensive teammates came up with four interceptions and pitched their first shutout of the season, to keep the 17th-ranked Tigers unbeaten with a dominant 66-0 victory over Cornell. That win, combined with Dartmouth's 24-17 home win over Harvard, sets up an all-unbeaten showdown on Powers Field next Saturday at 1 p.m.

There is plenty of time to talk about that game — and we will — but there is also plenty to reflect on from another dominant perfor-

PRINCETON ATHLETICS

Tiger defense swarms Cornell running back Harold Coles.

mance from Princeton's first 7-0 team since 1995.

The 66-0 win is Princeton's largest margin of victory in an official Ivy League game — the league formed in 1955 — and the most Princeton has ever scored against Cornell in a series that dates back to Nov. 14, 1881. The scoring outburst matches the most Princeton has scored in a game since 1934 ... and also the most Princeton has scored this month; the Tigers defeated Lehigh 66-7 back on Oct. 6.

Senior quarterback John Lovett rushed the ball 19 times for 159 yards and scored the 37th rushing touchdown of his career, and he added a 12-for-16, 133-yard passing performance that included a touchdown pass to Graham Adomitis. Senior running back Charlie Volker moved into a tie for fourth place on Princeton's career rushing touchdown list when he scored on a trio of 1-yard runs during a 45-0 first half. Volker now has 32 scores on the ground, which ties him with Judd Garrett '90; he moved ahead of College Football Hall of Famer Cosmo Iacavazzi '65 on his second touchdown.

The short touchdown runs were symbolic of the short fields that Princeton kept getting, courtesy of a swarming defensive effort. Anthony Siragusa had a team-best seven tackles, but 15 different Tigers had at least three tackles in the shutout. Princeton added four interceptions in the win, including two for team leader T.J. Floyd, who now has six on the season. That total is the most since Jay McCareins '06 had nine during his 2005 All-America season. Jeremiah Tyler and Trevor Forbes also had interceptions for Princeton, while Samuel Wright had a sack to go along with his five tackles.

Cornell actually forced a quick punt on Princeton's first drive, but the Tigers followed that by scoring touchdowns on their next six drives, and capped the half with a 37-yard field goal by Nicolas Ramos. After missing on their first third down opportunity of the game, Princeton converted on their next nine and had full control of the game by the time both teams went to halftime. The second half saw three players score their first career touchdowns, including a pair of Smiths (Cody and Cole) and Zachary Keller, who scored on a 24-yard quarterback keeper.

Where Princeton's offense hit maximum efficiency by the middle of the first quarter, the defense never let Cornell get comfortable. Princeton limited the Big Red to only five conversions on 14 third downs, and then they were a perfect 4-for-4 on fourth down stops. The defensive line pressured starter Dalton Banks, who was limited to only 70 passing yards, and Joey DeMarco batted the pass that was ultimately intercepted by Tyler. Cornell was limited to only 139 yards rushing, despite the fact that head coach Bob Surace was able to use most of his reserves throughout the second half. The shutout

was Princeton's first since a 53-0 win at Brown last season.

Princeton will now face #20 Dartmouth, which ended a 14-game losing streak to Harvard Saturday with a 24-17 home win, next Saturday at 1 p.m. on ESPN+, as well as NBC Sports Philadelphia and NBC Sports Boston. This will be the first time two undefeated Ivy League teams will meet in November since Nov. 6, 1993, when Penn defeated Princeton 30-14 at Franklin Field. It will also be the first time that Princeton and Dartmouth have both been undefeated for a November showdown since 1935, when Princeton earned a 26-6 victory in the "Snow Game," one of the most famous games in program history; a fan rushed from the stands that game and briefly played on the Big Green defensive line late in the fourth quarter.

* *

Jay Greenberg, princetontigersfootball.com:

Neither rain, wind, heat from Dartmouth also going to 7-0, nor the gloom from the remnants of Hurricane Willa stayed the Princeton couriers from their appointed rounds on Saturday.

Well, to be absolutely accurate, there were two drops and a punt on the first Princeton series that, for about a second-and-a-half, seemed to confirm expectations of a long, tough slog through the elements and what had appeared to be a seriously-testing Cornell defense. But that was before two interceptions and a high snap on a punt were converted into three Princeton touchdowns in four-and-a-half minutes and the Tigers were hoofin' without a care through the puddles like Gene Kelly.

It was 28-0 one minute into the second quarter and 45-0 at the half on the way to a 66-0 victory, the largest margin ever by Princeton over an Ivy opponent since the formation of the league in 1955. And, considering the competition and the weather, this probably was the best show yet by the incredible 2018 offense. The Tigers, hitting 50-plus points for the fourth time, are unbeaten after seven for the first time since 1995, to set up Princeton's first all-undefeated November game – against Dartmouth next week on Powers Field at Princeton Stadium–since 1993.

Offensive coordinator Sean Gleeson pared down the playbook to a point to allow for the conditions; the Tigers took fewer shots than usual. But John Lovett, any wind in his face quickly turned to wind at his back as he ran for 159 yards, still was 12-for-16 passing before Bob Surace began emptying the bench one series into the second half. "We've had practices in conditions that were worse," said Lovett.

The run was working so well against a team that had been anything but porous that there was no reason but to keep pounding – and cutting and carrying defenders. Charlie Volker scored on three

one-yard runs to reach 32 touchdowns in his career, passing Cosmo Iacavazzi and tying Judd Garrett '90 for fourth on the all-time list.

The Tiger defense made play after play to set up drives; second and third teamers even getting two fourth quarter, fourth-down, stops when Cornell threatened for the first time since Trevor Forbes foiled a drive with an interception on the first Big Red series. Two more picks and a punt block quickly followed that play by Forbes to give Princeton short fields. And red zone execution — ultimately the Tigers were nine for nine with eight touchdowns put the game out of reach at warp speed.

Joey DeMarco tipped a Dalton Banks pass, enabling a Jeremiah Tyler interception and two Lovett runs later, Volker took it in from the one to make the score 7-0. Freshman Harrison Caponiti got a hand on a punt for second time this season, this one after a high snap set off a merry chase inside the five-yard line, and an end-around to Tiger Bech and a Lovett 13-yard dodge – completed with a lowered shoulder – enabled Volker to go in from the one again to extend the lead to 14-0.

Two plays later, Delan Stallworth converged on receiver Owen Peters just as the ball arrived and the ball popped up conveniently into the hands of T.J. Floyd for the first of his two interceptions. He returned to the nine and, from the three, Jesper Horsted took a pitch from Collin Eaddy on an end-around and waltzed into the end zone. Princeton led 21-0.

Another in a season-long series of highlight-film catches by Horsted – the flag was in the air for interference – set up the Tigers at the three, and Lovett made the pylon with ease one play later to extend the score to 28-0.

The Big Red had seen the videos obviously. And they still looked dazed. Volker completed a nine-play, 55-yard drive and Graham Adomitis was wide open for his first touchdown of the year when Lovett pulled up after one step toward the line and threw. The Tigers were well on their way for their eighth touchdown of the half, but for a Reily Radosevich holding penalty, and settled instead for a Nico Ramos 37-yard field goal at the first-half buzzer.

After a failed Cornell onside kick to start the second half – covered by special-team whiz Jordan Argue — Cornell's David Jones got rare position on Horsted in the end zone and picked Lovett for his first time all season. But he didn't get benched for that; it was simply time for Surace to run clock and get his good soldiers on the field. Two of them – Kevin Davidson and Cody Smith — combined on a seven-yard third quarter touchdown.

Two more reserve quarterbacks — Zach Keller and Cole Smith —

ran for fourth-quarter touchdowns, after the rain pretty much had ended, but the only thing that really even had been debilitating on this day was the Princeton defense, not the conditions.

"The forecast had said winds of 30-40 miles an hour," said Surace. "But it wasn't as bad on the field. When you looked up, the flags were whipping, even on the goal posts, but other than some of the deep balls, it wasn't really affecting the underneath coverage. There was a little wind in our face but our guys are good at catching the ball. Our guys are from Long Island, Buffalo and Minnesota. The elements shouldn't be something to concern us."

Neither should anything apparently, as three wins away from fulfilling their fondest desires, the Tigers continue to take it one practice, down, and game at a time. "I'm really proud," said Surace. "Midterms, wind, rain, all these things can distract you and they stayed focused all week. It showed in how we executed. It was awesome. We'll start with Dartmouth tomorrow. One of the reasons we are where we are is we have had tunnel vision."

* *

HVK:

It was nice to be back in the seats for yesterday's game against Cornell. The weather forecast called for heavy rain and wind; the flaws that showed up in last week's Harvard game were cause for concern; and there was fear that Princeton might be looking forward to next week's matchup with undefeated Dartmouth. (It's okay to use the U-word when referring to others.) But, to evoke the late sportscaster Warner Wolf, "If you had Cornell and 65 points, you lost!"

Based on its prior record, Cornell may well have been the best team we have played thus far. After all, they had beaten a Harvard team that gave us fits. On the first series, we punted. After that Cornell couldn't stop us – 45 points in the first half, and 21 more in the second, using mostly bench players and as much clock as we could.

Despite the offensive numbers, it was the defense that ignited things, with three first-quarter interceptions – two on tipped balls. Cornell showed signs of being able gain yardage, but after we started rolling, the fire went out of them. Cornell's highly touted running back, Coles, gained 13 yards on eight carries.

The second-half performance, both on offense and defense, demonstrated just how deep we are. There is a lot of talent on our team that doesn't get much chance to play.

Lovett was his old self. When he's right, he plays with an infectious abandon, and yesterday he was right, especially his running game. His last play from scrimmage, early in the second half, was

his first interception of the year. It's probably good to get that out of the way. We have to hope that Lovett stays reasonably healthy the rest of the season. This morning Meredith and I were walking our new puppy, Scooter, and saw Lovett in front of Small World. He was wearing a Red Sox cap, so yesterday was doubly good for him. (The Sox had won the World Series.) He said that he felt fine and that he enjoyed using the cast on his left wrist as a club.

Dartmouth and Princeton have played two common opponents – Harvard and Columbia. Harvard gave us both trouble. We beat Columbia far more soundly than did Dartmouth. Nonetheless, both Dartmouth and Princeton have thoroughly dominated their opposition. I saw a bit of the Yale-Dartmouth game on TV, in which Dartmouth showed off a very solid running game. Our defensive line will be severely tested.

Jim Merritt's stats a couple of weeks ago setting forth our recent record against Dartmouth [1-7] quantified the disquiet I have about next Saturday. In the past, Buddy Teevens has had our number. Overall, though, you have to feel optimistic about our chances. This Princeton team is special. Hopefully we'll finally pay back Dartmouth for that infamous loss in 1965. Fifty-three years is a long time to wait!

Cornell finished the season 3-7.

* * *

11.3.18: Princeton 14, Dartmouth 9

goprincetontigers.com:

The emotions that poured from Powers Field seconds after the final whistle — and the effort over 60 grueling minutes that drove some to postgame tears — were befitting of a game that will move into the ranks of the biggest in Ivy League history. The 14th-ranked Princeton Tigers hadn't played a game of that significance in 25 years, and they hadn't won one in far longer, but they used every ounce of emotion and effort to keep pace with #20 Dartmouth, and then they thrilled an energetic home crowd with a fourth quarter comeback that few will forget.

Princeton moved to 8-0 for the first time since 1995 and grabbed sole possession of first place in the Ivy League (5-0) with a 14-9 comeback win over Dartmouth in front of 8,014 fans at Princeton Stadium. The Tiger defense shut Dartmouth out for the final 52:10 of the game, more than enough time for 2016 Bushnell Cup winner John Lovett to score the final touchdown his team needed to grab the program's biggest win in a generation.

Jesper Horsted running against Dartmouth behind blocking by Alex Deters (66).

Lovett capped a four-play, 34-yard drive (which was nothing compared to what the Tigers had done only minutes earlier) with a five-yard score on a quarterback sweep to give Princeton its first lead of the day with 6:33 remaining in the game. The defense answered with a 3-and-out, highlight by a third-down sack by Mike Wagner, which forced a Dartmouth punt with just over 5:00 remaining. Princeton drove to the Dartmouth 25, but a Big Green defense that had been impressive all day picked up a fourth down stop to give its offense one final chance.

A critical tackle for loss by Jeremiah Tyler took the Big Green out of its comfort zone, and two consecutive incompletions gave Princeton the ball back needing only one first down to ice the game. Sophomore Collin Eaddy picked up the first eight yards on two runs, and junior Ryan Quigley iced the win by dragging the Dartmouth defense past the marker.

Lovett ended the game with 22 carries for 53 yards and two touchdowns, which moved him ahead of former teammate Quinn Epperly '15 and into second place on Princeton's career rushing touchdown list with 39. He also completed 22 of 30 passes for 161 yards, including nine to senior wideout Jesper Horsted, who helped change the complexion of the game with two incredible catches on a 23-play, 91-yard drive that last 8:59 and amounted to zero points.

How did a drive that ended without points change a game? Dartmouth, the first team to hold a second-half lead over Princeton this season, had controlled field position throughout the third quarter until the Tigers went on their 23-play journey across Power Field. It ended with another 4th-and-short stop inside the 10, but it

left Dartmouth in the shadow of its own end zone against a Princeton defense that didn't allow a single first down over the final 25:29 of the game. The Big Green didn't manage any yards on the ensuing drive, and a short punt and seven-yard return by Tiger Bech set up Princeton at the Dartmouth 34-yard-line.

Thirty-four yards later, Princeton finally had its lead.

Both teams traded touchdown drives to open the game, but both defenses settled right afterwards and started throwing haymakers the rest of the afternoon. Dartmouth had a second-quarter sack to open a 9-7 lead that stuck on the scoreboard far longer than most likely expected, but the Tiger defense never allowed that advantage to grow. Senior captain Tom Johnson had a team-high 10 tackles, while defensive backs Delan Stallworth and Ben Ellis added nine apiece. Wagner, whose sack remained one of Princeton's biggest tackles of the season, added seven, while Mark Fossati, Jay Rolader, and T.J. Floyd had six apiece.

Princeton limited Dartmouth, the second-ranked offense in the Ivy League coming into the game, to 213 total yards in the game. The Big Green was limited to only three third-down conversions in 12 tries, and they were kept out of the end zone after Dartmouth had driven to the Princeton 2 late in the second quarter. A false start moved it to the 7, and Dartmouth could only manage three more yards before a low snap threw off a field goal attempt, that went wide.

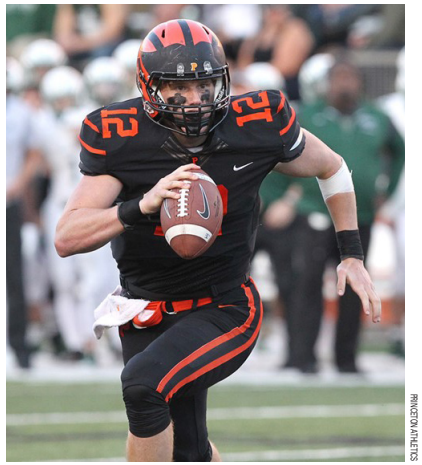
STATS:

	Dartmouth	Princeton
Total Yards	213	310
Pass Yards	103	161
Rushing Yards	110	149
Penalty Yards	8-62	3-21
1st Downs	13	23
3rd Downs	3-12	8-16
4th Downs	0-1	2-4
Time of Possession	28:59	31:01

* *

Jay Greenberg, princetontigersfootball.com:

It's a beautiful thing in and of itself, being 8-0 and in control of your own title destiny headed into the final two weeks of a season. But under the skin of an ugly 14-9 score Saturday was so much more meaning for the Tigers than merely survival. "There is such beauty in just a four-yard run against that Dartmouth defense," said Bob Surace. "You execute perfectly to get four yards and you think 'that should have been ten.'"



PRINCETON ATHLETICS

Lovett on a Dartmouth scramble.

One of the best offenses in Ivy League history went up against one of its all-time defenses Saturday on Powers Field and both exceeded the hype – not in yards or thrills, but plain, unrelenting, resolve. Probably the best way to explain that – and certainly to the point of how Princeton broke Dartmouth's heart in delivering its first loss, was that the Tigers won the game, essentially, on a drive that in the end failed.

Down 9-7 by the margin of a first-quarter safety, starting from their own three with 4:31 to play in the third quarter, Princeton used 22 exacting, painstaking, willful plays to reach a fourth-and-one at the Dartmouth five.

Inch by inch, it was a work of art. Jesper Horsted got Princeton off the goalline with a catch at the 15, and then took the ball away from DeWayne Terry at the 28 before making an astonishing one-hand gorilla-glue grab at the Dartmouth 39.

From there, twice John Lovett made it on fourth down before Horsted fought with a bubble screen to the five, where the ball remained up until a fourth-and-one. Princeton was a chip shot away from a one-point fourth-quarter lead but with less than 11 minutes to go, Surace decided to go for the touchdown. "We had made it twice already on fourth down in that drive," said the coach. "We had been going for it (on fourth-and-one) all year. I won't bore everybody with the analytics. But if you have confidence in your defense that you will get the ball back in plus territory, then you go for it. We only need six inches, it wasn't fourth-and-three."

Nigel Alexander and Perry Jackson combined to stop Lovett and Princeton got nothing out of 23 plays for 91 yards in 8:59 but field position. Which only turned out to be everything.

The Tigers stopped Jared Gerbino, who had been 202 yards of unstoppable in Dartmouth's 54-44 win a year ago. Then Jeremiah Tyler and Joey DeMarco teamed up to tackle Rashad Cooper on a vanilla Dartmouth choice of a run on third-and-ten. Tiger Bech steamed back seven yards on a 35-yard punt before 15 yards were tacked on for a facemask penalty on Jake Moen. Considering how

difficult had come the yards all day, Princeton was set up again at the almost too-good-to be-true Dartmouth 19.

Lovett to Horsted got the ball to the nine. Ryan Quigley, who had become the lead back after Charlie Volker's first quarter injury making a tackle on an interception, pounded to the five and Lovett, so little room to cutback all day, found a seam from there that put Princeton ahead for the first time, 14-9.

There was still 6:33 to play, but a Tiger defense that had given up a 75 yard, 14-play first possession of the game touchdown drive, was, by the fourth quarter in almost total control. Mike Wagner had a sack on third down to force one punt and after the Big Green defense kept Dartmouth alive with another fourth down stop of Lovett at the Dartmouth 22, Tyler wrecked the next series, too with a tackle of Cooper for a huge loss on a second-and-two.

Dartmouth punted again after a fourth down deep sideline prayer failed, but on third-and two for Princeton at the Dartmouth 19, this struggle to the death still wasn't put away until Quigley did it with six of the hardest-earned yards of the long, bruising, and riveting day. "They got me but I kept driving with my knees," said Quigley. "There was a hole to the left that my line had made for me and I hit it with full force. It was big enough to get me through."

It was a fitting ending to an utter classic that will find its place among the greatest victories in 149 years of Princeton football. Yep, it was that good as a standalone, never mind what happens the next two weeks.

"A slugfest that lived up to everything everybody said it would be," Surace called it. Of course, there will be no consolation if the Tigers – who have the tougher remaining games (at Yale and against Penn) than Dartmouth, which goes to Cornell and closes with Brown – don't seal the deal on a special season now. But after Saturday it's harder than ever to imagine any danger of these guys, methodical as they are in running up a 45-0 halftime deficit as they are in a struggle to the end, getting ahead of themselves.

"I can't thank our seniors and leaders enough," said Surace. "Nobody panicked. (Even with) turnovers, a fourth-down stop, all those things that happened in the course of the game, they had a great deal of belief in each other and the coaches have a great deal of trust in them. After we got stopped, (Defensive Coordinator) Steve Verbit was tremendously positive in the huddle sending his guys out."

Dartmouth earned most of its grinding 75 yards with the opening kickoff, except for the final 13, when an obvious blown coverage left Robbie Mangas wide open in the end zone to take a pass from Jared Gerbino 7-0 lead. The Tigers answered immediately

with a 75-yard drive highlighted by three first-down catches by Horsted, and Lovett's three-yard touchdown run tied the score.

Princeton then got a midfield stop but a Dartmouth punt downed at the seven, and a false start against center Alex Deters asked for trouble. It came in the person of Seth Simmer, who powered up the middle to bury Lovett in the end zone for a safety and a 9-7 Big Green lead.

The unperturbed Tiger defense got a stop after the free kick though. Quigley caught a pass for a first down and ran for another before a penalty for grabbing Collin Eaddy's facemask at the end of the run set up the Tigers grandly at the nine. Next play, Lovett saw a wide-open Stephen Carson in the end zone but not flashing safety Ryan Roegge, who intercepted.

The Tigers were driving again when Lovett lost the handle on a snap; Simmer making another play to fall on the ball at the Dartmouth 47. The Big Green went to air, Derek Kyler finding Hunter Hagdorn at Princeton 18, before two false start penalties inside the five and a bad snap on a wobbly short field-goal attempt enabled the Tigers to go to the locker room down just 9-7.

"Talk about an emotional peak for them," said Dartmouth Coach Buddy Teevens. "No points. It hurt us."

Thereafter, Dartmouth had just two first downs. Princeton's lane discipline and physicality against a huge and strong Big Green offensive line held Gerbino to just 36 yards and Cooper to 60. Gerbino ended up with the same yards per carry, 2.6 as Lovett, a reflection of a game of inches, but Dartmouth threw only 21 times for 103 yards and Teevens said it wasn't because of the wind, more the plan.

Meanwhile Lovett was 22-for-30 for 161 yards, all of them so hard earned. Horsted would up with nine catches, his longest being for just eight yards, but eight proud yards nevertheless. "Fun football," he called it. Actually 66-0 over Cornell looked like more fun to fans who went through the ringer Saturday with so much at stake. But in the end there was much more than just a feeling of relief, but pride. The Tigers can win 'em big and they can win' em tough.

"No one has stopped us like that," said Teevens. "In the second half they contained Gerbino and we didn't make the plays we needed to in critical situations. They put 11 guys on the line of scrimmage essentially and we didn't answer it. We needed perfection and didn't get it."

* *

Mike Morandi:

Watching from my den in San Francisco, I was impressed by the immediate response of the offense after Dartmouth's opening drive

to the end zone. But I was even more impressed by the D regrouping and dominating. Dartmouth doesn't have the multiple weapons of the Tigers; easier to defend, I suppose (but I will leave that up to Bert et al. who actually know something about football). The game was tighter than it needed to be as Lovett was a bit off in committing two turnovers on drives that should have produced 10-14 points. Not sure what happened to Volker; TV announcers didn't seem to know either but I presume he got hurt. [He suffered a concussion and missed the Yale game, returning for Penn.] Horsted made Lovett look good on a few passes. Just can't tell from my den how big a factor the wind was in adversely impacting passes. It was good to see Surace allow himself to celebrate. This team wants a title too much to let Yale and/or Penn get in the way.

* *

Jim Merritt:

I was there and a nervous wreck throughout. It was a huge relief when the Tigers finally punched in their second touchdown, in the fourth quarter, and it was nice to see it set up by a pass to Horstead and a Ryan Quigley run and then Lovett going in for the score.

This has to be some sort of classic defensive game determined in part by which team made the fewest errors (I think we may have had a slight edge over Dartmouth, thanks to the two or maybe three facemask calls against them). And the defense's ability, time and again, to hold them when it counted on third and fourth down was astonishing. If the Tigers go on to win their next two games this may rank as one of the great games in the program's 149-year history.

Note that the season isn't over till it's over. Princeton's last two opponents, Yale (away) and Penn (home), won't be pushovers — Yale is 4-3, 3-2 Ivy, and Penn is 6-2, 3-2. Meanwhile, Dartmouth's opponents are Cornell (3-5, 2-3) and Brown (1-7, 0-5). Dartmouth is almost certain to win both games; if so they could win the Ivy title if we lost both of ours, or share the title if we split.

* *

HVK:

I concur with Jim Merritt's sentiment. After the game I had an overwhelming feeling of relief. In the past, we've seen too many of these matchups that have gone the wrong way. These were two great teams with outstanding defenses. Consider that prior to playing Princeton, Dartmouth had averaged 35-plus points per game. The Princeton defense didn't allow a single point in the last 52 minutes of the game and didn't yield a first down in the last 25 minutes. It must be said, though, that our offense didn't fare much better. Having averaged 51 points in our

prior seven games, Dartmouth gave us all of 14.

After Dartmouth's first touchdown drive, I honestly didn't know how Princeton was going to cope with Dartmouth's running game, especially their offensive line. Their left tackle, an NFL prospect I'm told, is 6'7", weighs 325 lbs., and fronted many of their running plays. Somehow we found a way to stop them. I credit the coaching for coming up with a solid, risk-averse game plan and sticking to it. Dartmouth is also very well coached, the one major difference today being penalties. We had only three, while Dartmouth had eight, some coming at inopportune moments. We were more disciplined.

I have felt all year that we have a way of wearing down the opposition. Whether this is due to better conditioning, more depth, or both I don't know, but I think it happened again today. After being more or less even statistically at the half, we wound up with 50 percent more yardage for the game.

The team had to feel good only being down two points at the half after having made a series of uncharacteristic mistakes. Given the paucity of points, the last series of the half, during which Dartmouth came up dry after having first and goal on the one, seems vital in retrospect.

On the downside, Volker sat out the remainder of the game after suffering an injury late in the first half. It looked like he was going through a concussion protocol on the bench. I hope that he'll be able to play against Yale and Penn, though Eaddy and Quigly are more than capable back-ups.

Lovett wasn't himself today, with an end-zone interception and a fumble. Dartmouth obviously applied a lot of pressure on him, and my guess is that he was pushing just a bit too hard. But he was a warrior at the end when he was most needed.

I used to think that if we started playing decent football, the crowds would start to appear at Princeton Stadium. I no longer feel this way. Today's matchup couldn't have been more appealing, yet the announced crowd was just a bit over 8,000. Welcome to the new normal.

Next week brings Yale, an away game, as was the game against Harvard. This change to our historic schedule has brought much negative commentary. I'll have something to say about that below.

I'll be there sitting next to my Yalie brother on the Yale side. Some things – mainly family things – are unavoidable. Yale led the Ivy League last year and was favored this year. They have talent but have suffered some important injuries – to their quarterback and to last year's all-Ivy rookie running back. Nonetheless, they clobbered Brown today. We should be favored, but we may suffer a

letdown, we're away, and it's the Ivies. I agree with Mike, though, this team wants the title badly and will make the needed effort.

In past years, the game against Dartmouth would have capped off the season. Obviously this is no longer the case. Going forward, Penn rather than Dartmouth will be our year-end game, and as mentioned before, Yale and Harvard will either both be away or both at home. It's a mystery to me how the new Ivy schedule came about. I'm a contrarian on this matter, though, and I actually think that the schedulers have done us a favor. First, every other year there will be a marginal weather benefit playing Dartmouth in Hanover earlier in the season.

Second, as a long-tern fan, and notwithstanding my traditionalist tendencies, I'm hoping that will put an end to the "Big Three," a fiction that I have never understood. Harvard's big rival is Yale, and vice-versa. Their game is "The Game," and the attendance shows it. Only Princeton seems to think that the Big Three is a thing. To Harvard and Yale, Princeton is an afterthought – at best, we're a junior partner.

Penn is our big rival in basketball, and it isn't much of a stretch to begin to think of them as our big rival in football. Their geographic proximity is a plus, and the senior partner in this relationship is clear.

Which brings me to my final anti-traditionalist point – let's have a bonfire at the end of the season if we win the Ivy League title – which is what most of us care about. Winning two games does not make a successful season. It wasn't too long ago that we had a Big Three bonfire immediately after losing the last game of the season to Dartmouth. It felt really foolish.

Just sayin'.

* *

Rick Bowers:

Great insights again, Henry. My only argument with you is that historical rivalries are important to programs, unless there is a negative reason for them to exist. They keep the fans and students aware of the history of the program — and the players also. They give character to the season. Tradition is important — to the alumni and hopefully to the students.

A lot of major programs across the country have more than one trophy or rivalry with their opponents during the season, even if they are "fiction". The fans and the media and the players care. The University of Iowa, for instance, now has 5. Interestingly enough, this phenomenon seems to be confined to one sport — football.

We can afford more than one "traditional rivalry." The "Big

Three" have historically competed academically and I think it's significant that they compete athletically. Eliminate this and replace it with Penn, and I think you will take some spirit and vitality out of the program. Why not just create an additional rivalry with Penn? Think big.

Go Tigers! Beat Yale. It still matters to me.

Dartmouth finished the season 9-1.

* * *

11.10.18: Princeton 59, Yale 43

goprincetontigers.com:

Princeton head coach Bob Surace turned to his son A.J. before Saturday's rivalry showdown with Yale and predicted sophomore tailback Collin Eaddy would have a 150-yard game that day. Ten seconds into the game, he was halfway there.

By the end, he was well past it, and his team was among the elite in program history.

Eaddy rushed for a career-high 266 yards, the most since Jordan Culbreath '11 rushed for 276 in the 2008 season finale, and Princeton rushed for seven touchdowns in a wild 59-43 victory over Yale in the 141st meeting between the two rivals. Princeton clinched at least a share of its 12th Ivy League title — as well as its second in three years — and its first 9-0 start since 1964 (when there were only nine games in the season).

One week after the Princeton defense carried the day in a 14-9 battle between unbeaten Ivy programs, it was the Tiger offense that dominated in the Yale Bowl. Specifically, the Princeton run game accounted for 489 yards and had three different players both rush for more than 100 yards and score multiple touchdowns.

Eaddy, who got the day started with a 75-yard rushing touchdown on the opening play, led all Tigers with three rushing touchdowns, while junior Ryan Quigley added a career-high 113 rushing yards and two touchdowns on the day. Senior John Lovett added 110 yards and a pair of rushing touchdowns, which gives him a share of the Ivy League record for consecutive games with at least one rushing TD (19).

Lovett also completed 13 of 19 passes on a cold, blustery day at the Yale Bowl, including a 52-yard touchdown pass to Jesper Horsted. It was the Princeton record 25th career touchdown catch for Horsted, who is only five catches behind Kevin Guthrie (193) for the most in program history.

He can try to break that record next Saturday, when Princeton

PRINCETON ATHLETICS

Collin Eaddy rushed for 266 yards and three touchdowns against Yale.

tries to win an outright Ivy League title and complete its first perfect season (Ivy and overall) since 1964 when the Tigers host Penn at 1 pm; the game will be streamed live on ESPN+.

The Princeton defense may have given up the most points it has all season — Yale quarterback Griffin O'Connor broke the school's single-game passing yards mark in a comeback effort — but the Tigers also forced four turnovers that helped Princeton either build the big lead, or hold on in the end. Nobody was more disruptive early than Jeremiah Tyler, who had an early interception that set up Eaddy's second touchdown, and then tipped a pass that was intercepted by Tom Johnson.

The biggest defensive play belonged to senior co-captain Mark Fossati, who ended Yale's final comeback attempt with a pick along the Princeton sideline in the game's final minutes. After the Bulldogs had gone on a 22-7 run to get within two possessions, Fossati jumped an outside route and got one foot inbounds to secure the win, a title and Princeton's first H-Y-P bonfire since 2013.

Sophomore Delan Stallworth had a team-high eight tackles in the win, while Johnson had seven, including a sack and his interception. Fossati ended the day with four tackles and a pair of interceptions.

Special teams also had arguably its best day of the season. Sophomore Nicolas Ramos broke the school's single-season record for extra points, and he added a 25-yard field goal, while freshman punter George Triplett had the best day of his career, averaging 46.2 yards on four punts.

The Princeton football team did more than simply clinch at least

a share of the 2018 Ivy League championship Saturday. The Tigers also broke into the Top 10 in the AFCA Coaches Poll, and they grabbed the majority of the Ivy League Player of the Week awards.

Princeton is now ranked ninth in the AFCA Coaches Poll, which is the highest Princeton has been ranked in either poll since Division I-AA/FCS level began in 1978. Princeton also moved to #11 in the FCS Stats media poll; both are two spots higher than the previous week. This is the highest any Ivy League team has been ranked since 1993, when Penn moved to #8 in The Sports Network I-AA poll.

Princeton also earned the Ivy League Co-Offensive (Collin Eaddy), Defensive (Mark Fossati), and Special Teams (Nicolas Ramos) Player of the Week honors.

Eaddy had the sixth-highest single-game rushing total in Princeton history when he rushed for 266 yards and three touchdowns in the 59-43 win over Yale. Fossati picked up his second Defensive Player of the Week award this season after recording two interceptions against Yale. His second touchdown clinched the victory and the Ivy title after Yale rallied to make it a two-possession game. Fossati, who also earned the Defensive Player of the Week honor following the win over Brown, shares the team lead in tackles with Tom Johnson (58).

Ramos earned his second Special Teams Player of the Week award over the last three games, and he did it while breaking Princeton's single-season record for extra points made. He went 8-for-8 at the Yale Bowl and now has 50 extra points on the season, and he added a field goal, his seventh in eight attempts.

* *

HVK:

Yesterday morning, a memorial service was held for legendary, 32-year Yale football coach, Carmen Cozza, who had died earlier this year at the age of 87. With a few minutes left in the first half and the score 35-7 Princeton, the public address announcer asked all Yale alumni who had played for Cozza, to stand. I turned to my Yalie brother who had gotten us tickets on the Yale side and allowed that maybe for this game Ol' Carm was better off under the grass.

Jim Merritt texted me at about that time and asked whether the Yale stands were quiet. I wrote back to say that the fans were leaving in droves. That included my brother and his wife whom we agreed to meet at their home after the game. It was windy and bone-chilling cold, and with the score 42-14 at the half, I really couldn't blame them. Meredith and I headed over to the Princeton side and sat next to Bert Kerstetter and Kit Mill in what sunshine

there was, but things didn't get any warmer. Despite the small crowd, the concession stands ran out of coffee and hot chocolate. For about two minutes, we had snow flurries. Massive numbers of time-outs and play reviews lengthened the game to 3 ½ hours, plus. By the end, my hands were shaking like Ricky Ricardo on maracas. (I know, I'm old.)

I really detest the Yale Bowl. It remains a grass field, which sounds good until the muddy surface adversely affects the game. Because of the gradual raking of the seats, in order to get high enough to see the action, you wind up far from the field. A white elephant, the Bowl seats a bit over 60,000 on narrow wooden benches. With an announced crowd of just under 13,000, it looked particularly naked yesterday, especially after the first half when the few remaining bodies on the Yale side looked like corpses frozen in place, waiting for loved ones to be notified.

What about the game itself? There was no feared post-Dartmouth letdown. In less than a minute the score was 14-0, and my brother calculated that if the scoring rate were to continue, the final score would be 840-0. As you know, it didn't quite work out that way. Though Yale had real trouble stopping our offense, and though their highly-touted freshman quarterback, O'Connor, had trouble getting started, by the time the game was over, he had broken the single game Yale passing record – this against an excellent Princeton defense. Together, the teams broke the scoring record for a Princeton-Yale game. Much of Yale's passing yardage was gained against a strong wind. The Yale receivers often seemed well covered, yet invariably came down with the ball and looked every bit the equal of Horsted and Carlson. With all of their best receivers coming back, their outstanding runner, Dudek, back from injury, and with a more-experienced O'Connor, all I could think of was the problems we're likely to have next year.

Yet we did win, and the game was never truly in doubt. Well, maybe after Yale was successful on a two-point conversion, and the margin was reduced to 16 points. I confess that I then began thinking of 1968's "Harvard Beats Yale 29-29," when Harvard scored 16 points in the last 42 seconds to tie a heavily favored Yale team. But thankfully our outstanding linebacker and captain, Fossati, made a critical interception – our fourth – and a few knees later the game was over.

Why did we win? Largely it was the result of an outstanding running game. I was sorry that Volker, a senior, was kept out due to last week's concussion, but Eaddy and Quigly were superb, gaining almost 400 yards and accounting for five touchdowns. The

expectations for Lovett are so high that we think of his 126 yards gained, 13-19 passing, and three touchdowns passing and running, as ordinary. Yesterday, as he has all season, he dealt successfully with a series of high snaps from center. As always, his presence was critical to our success.

Our kicking game was problem-free. Uncharacteristically, we were far more penalized than Yale – 103 yards vs. 10. Fortunately, we continue to be disciplined on turnovers. We had none, and Yale had four. In the end, that may have made the difference. So much of football is psychological/emotional. One has to give credit to Yale for not giving up, even under the most adverse circumstances. At 42-7, they could easily have checked out.

With the win, Princeton locked up a share of the Ivy championship. (The Ivies contest seven championships in the fall: men's soccer – we won the title; women's soccer – we shared the title; men's cross country – we won the title; women's cross country – we finished fourth; women's volleyball and field hockey – we finished 2nd in both. Four titles, two seconds, and a fourth – not bad.)

A win over Penn next week will give us the undisputed football championship, the first one since 1995. Starting that year 8-0, we struggled at the end, losing to a 2-6 Yale team in week nine, then tying Dartmouth with a field goal on the last play of the last game to garner the title. I don't see this year's team struggling. Penn has a decent record, but we should be heavily favored coming in. As I think we all know, 1964 was the last u-word team. The members of that team, many of whom I've seen in the stands for this year's games, seem to think that 53 years is long enough to have that distinction.

* *

Johnny O'Brien:

I loved how our Tigers came out the opposite of "flat" after our historic win last week! That's a very encouraging sign that Surace & staff are getting our Tigers' motors to rev at optimal speeds each week. We will need to count on that vs. Penn and I believe we can.

One tactic that I will never understand is to go entirely to a "prevent D" so early in a blowout game when pass pressure has shut down the opponent. The prevailing rationale is that you don't want to give up big plays and scores quickly. But when that's exactly what your prevent D is doing, isn't it worth risking a return to the D which worked? Thank God and Fossati's parents for his game-ending interception!

* *

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Final
Princeton	21	21	10	7	59
Yale	0	14	14	15	43

* *

ESPN:

FIRST QUARTER	PRIN	YALE
TD 14:50		
Collin Eaddy 75 Yd Run (Ramos, Kick)	7	0
1 play, 75 yards, 0:10		
TD 14:06	14	0
Collin Eaddy 17 Yd Run (Ramos, Kick)		
1 play, 17 yards, 0:05		
TD 10:22	21	0
Ryan Quigley 37 Yd Run (Ramos, Kick)		
5 plays, 64 yards, 2:05		
SECOND QUARTER		
TD 14:28	21	7
Alan Lamar 1 Yd Run (Galland, Kick)		
10 plays, 78 yards, 4:25		
TD 12:34	28	7
Ryan Quigley 18 Yd Run (Ramos, Kick)		
6 plays, 67 yards, 1:50		
TD 6:21		
35 7		
John Lovett 3 Yd Run (Ramos, Kick)		
11 plays, 52 yards, 4:57		
TD 4:08	42	7
Jesper Horsted 52 Yd pass, John Lovett (Ramos, Kick)		
2 plays, 54 yards, 0:45		
TD 1:23	42	14
JJ Howland 7 Yd pass, Griffin O'Connor (Galland, Kick)		
7 plays, 75 yards, 2:45		
THIRD QUARTER		
TD 13:34	42	21
JP Shohfi 40 Yd pass, O'Connor (Galland, Kick)		
5 plays, 75 yards, 1:26		
FG 10:19	45	21
Nicolas Ramos 25 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 65 yards, 3:08		
TD 4:35	52	21

Collin Eaddy 1 Yd Run (Ramos, Kick)		
10 plays, 74 yards, 4:30		
TD 2:31	52	28
Alan Lamar 9 Yd Run (Galland, Kick)		
5 plays, 75 yards, 2:04		
FOURTH QUARTER		
TD 14:23	59	28
John Lovett 8 Yd Run (Ramos, Kick)		
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:08		
TD 12:10	59	35
Spencer Alston 2 Yd Run (Galland, Kick)		
5 plays, 75 yards, 2:13		
TD 8:42	59	43
Reed Klubnik 27 Yd pass from Griffin O'Connor		
(O'Connor Pass for Two-Point Conversion)		
6 plays, 76 yards, 1:50		

Yale finished the season 5-5.

* * *

11.17.18: Princeton 42, Penn 14

goprincetontigers.com:

After a 10-game journey like none this program had seen in more than a century, the 2018 Ivy League champion Princeton Tigers finally took the cheese. It was a mantra of Bob Surace's throughout the season — don't take the cheese — to remind a team loaded with both talent and chemistry to never take their eyes off the ultimate prize, and to never be satisfied with the small victories along the way.

But it was after the 10th win, the culmination of the first perfect season at Princeton since 1964, when senior captain Kurt Holuba proudly brought bars of cheese into a locker room packed with emotional, joyous players who had just finished off a season they will never forget.

Oh, and there was an Ivy League championship trophy in there as well. That never hurts a celebration.

Led by a four-touchdown day by record-setting wide receiver Jesper Horsted, the Princeton football team fended off a mid-game surge by Penn and finished its 10-0 season with a 42-14 win in front of 7,756 fans at Princeton Stadium. Many of those fans rushed Powers Field after the final kneel-down by John Lovett, who broke an Ivy League record when he rushed for a touchdown in his 20th straight game.

Jesper Horsted in the open field against Penn. He scored three of Princeton's six touchdowns.

The victory clinched the fourth outright Ivy League title in program history, and the first since 1995. It was also the program's second 7-0 Ivy season since league play officially began in 1956, and it featured a moment in the winning locker room between the leaders of those teams, Lovett and College Football Hall of Famer Cosmo Iacavazzi '65. This was only the 13th 7-0 season in Ivy League history, and the first since 2014.

It was by no means easy, even if Princeton grabbed a 21-0 lead early in the second quarter. Lovett and Horsted connected on touchdowns of 42 and 3 yards, and Horsted added a 19-yard scoring run to help build the advantage.

The second touchdown of the game made the 2018 Princeton Tigers the highest scoring offense in Ivy League history. Princeton finished the season with 470 points, surpassing the previous record of 437 points, set by the 2013 Ivy League championship team. At least one former captain from that historic squad took the news well.

Only three teams in Ivy League history have ever gone over the 400-point mark, and two of them were led by Surace to Ivy League championships over the last six years; in fact, it hasn't been since the 1960s that three Princeton teams won Ivy titles over a six-year stretch (1964, 66, 69 and 2013, 16, 18). Princeton ended the regular season as the second-ranked scoring offense, the third-ranked total offense and the sixth-ranked rushing offense in the FCS.

Penn would score right before and after halftime to cut the deficit to seven points, and it had a drive to potentially tie the game, but a tackle for loss by Tom Johnson — who led the Tigers with 10 tackles and a sack in the win — helped thwart that Quaker drive. Princeton regained control on the next drive, going 80 yards in nine plays and finishing with a 20-yard touchdown pass to Horsted, the 28th of his record-setting career. Earlier on the drive, Horsted passed Kevin Guthrie to grab the Princeton record for career receptions; he ends his career with 196 catches and 2,703 receiving yards (which is second most in program history).

Princeton put the game away in the fourth with touchdown runs by Lovett — the record-setter — and Charlie Volker, who moved to seventh on the all-time Princeton rushing list with 1995 yards.

Johnson had team highs in tackles (10) and tackles for loss (2), and he had one of the team's three sacks. Fellow captain Mark Fossati added eight stops, while cornerback Delan Stallworth had nine. Senior Ben Ellis grabbed a tipped ball by Trevor Forbes to end a Penn drive in the second half, while seniors Joe Percival and Mike Wagner registered sacks in their final collegiate games.

The Princeton defense certainly shined in the national rankings as well. Princeton finished the 2018 regular season ranked fourth nationally in scoring defense, seventh in rushing defense and 11th in total defense. The unit's biggest moments came in Princeton's two closest games, narrow wins over both Dartmouth and Harvard, when they made one critical stop after another to either stay within two points (Dartmouth) or maintain a narrow lead (Harvard). Both units helped Princeton rank fourth nationally in turnover margin (+14).

The Class of 2019 ended their Princeton careers with a 28-12 record, the most wins by any Princeton class in more than two decades, and it was the first to win two titles in three years since the mid-1960s. Because Princeton played only nine games for much of the 20th century, this Princeton team is the first to complete an unbeaten, untied season with double-digit victories since 1903.

* *

HVK:

Following Princeton's surprisingly one-sided win over Butler in its first game, I concluded my email report with the following: "Let the speculation begin!"

The speculation is over – let the celebration begin!

I was elated with the win over Penn, but at the same time, I can't help feeling a bit wistful. It's been a great ride, and it saddens me that it's over. Was this the best Princeton team ever? They are certainly in the mix – the first undisputed Ivy title since 1995; the

first undefeated (the U-word is now permissible) team since 1964. I was on campus for the 1964 season. If Princeton has to wait 54 more years for perfection, I will be 128 and probably won't be going to Indianapolis for the Butler game.

It took a little longer for Princeton to put this one away than we have become accustomed to. Still, despite a missed field goal on our initial drive, we led 21-0 before Penn closed out the first half scoring with a touchdown. Penn completed a long pass for a touchdown to start the second half. We then scored the last 21 points – symmetrical halves. As has been the case for much of the season, Princeton wore Penn down, with the final scoring drive taking up much of the fourth quarter. Our defense gave up only two yards rushing for the entire game.

Lovett's passing wasn't precise, but he got the job done, time and again targeting his favorite receiver, Horsted, who was superb as usual. Lovett gained well over 100 yards rushing as well. Playing the last half of the season with a cast on his left arm, he was still good enough to be likely named the best Ivy offensive player of the year. One has the sense that Lovett simply wills the team to victory. He was a medical red-shirt this year as was linebacker Mark Fossati. Both captains, they were amply rewarded for their willingness to remain at Princeton for a fifth year.

A third captain, Kurt Holuba, also was a medical red-shirt, but was hurt again in pre-season practice. Bob Surace has said that Holuba is the best defensive lineman he has ever coached, and he was thought to be an NFL prospect. His loss was heartbreaking, yet he remained involved, coaching the linemen and inspiring the team.

In that regard, throughout the season, I was impressed by the discipline and maturity of this team, a credit to its leadership, both on and off the field. The absence of turnovers was remarkable; I don't think that our top three running backs had a fumble all season. Our freshman class was highly touted, yet few got much playing time. This was due both to the relative absence of injuries and to the depth of the team. Brevin White, the quarterback that Alabama recruited, didn't get into a single game.

Despite the fact that she's no longer at Princeton, I think that Janet Rapelye [dean of admission] deserves a big-time locomotive for admitting this team. I hope that her replacement will be equally supportive.

The image of coach Bob Surace jumping up and down like a 10-year-old after the final result of the Dartmouth game was clear has stayed with me. This morning, having arrived early at Jadwin Gym for a squash game, I went up to the football office and found

a bleary-eyed Surace. I thanked him and his team for giving us such pleasure over the past few months. He was happy to hear it, and he gave me the distinct impression that it won't be 54 years between perfect seasons if he has anything to say about it. I'm betting he's right.

Penn finished the season 6-4.

* * *

MISCELLANY:

Discussion re *New Yorker* writer Rogers Whitaker '22

Lanny Jones, 11.12.18:

Henry's sportswriting is reminiscent of Rogers E. M. Whitaker '22, who covered Ivy League football for many years for *The New Yorker* under the nom de plume of "J.W.L." I had lunch with him at Lahiere's once, and he told me one of his favorite Princeton tailbacks ever was Ron Landeck.

Ron Landeck:

Thanks for sharing that reminiscence. I read his column periodically in the day and enjoyed his unique style.

Tradition in our day had the Princeton Club of New York hosting the football team's seniors shortly after the season's end. I recall vividly an elderly alum in an aught class, which would place him in his eighties at the time, telling me that he remembered my first game (our season 1963 opener against Rutgers in which I started on defense at safety) when I played the final offensive plays at tailback and threw three passes. He said he knew then Princeton finally found a tailback who could throw the ball. It's been moments like that and reading what J.W.L had to say (and having shared the experience then and now with kindred devotees and wonderful people like you and Jim) that have made this remarkable sport and institution of Princeton football a life-long joy.

* * *

One of many thoughts I had following our defeat of Penn in the final game was that it had been 54 years since 1964, my junior year, when Princeton at 9-0 had last gone undefeated. To put that in perspective, 54 years before 1964 was 1910 — Hobey Baker's freshman year — when the Tigers finished with a 7–1 record. They won their first seven games by a combined score of 98 to 0, then lost the final to rival Yale, 5–3. Baker didn't join the varsity until 1911, when the Tigers went 8-0-2, outscoring the opposition 179-15.

— Jim Merritt

* * *

Postseason honors

Ivy League Coach of the Year: Bob Surace
Ivy League Offensive Player of the Year (Asa S. Bushnell Cup):
John Lovett (who also won the Bushnell Cup in 2016)

All-Ivy, First Team, Offense:
John Lovett, (Sr., QB, Wantagh, N.Y. — unanimous selection)
Jesper Horsted, (Sr., WR, Shoreview, Minn.)
Charlie Volker, (Sr., RB, Fair Haven, N.J.)
Graham Adomitis, (Sr., TE, Ross Township, Pa.)
Reily Radosevich, (Jr., OL, Manalapan, N.J.)
George Attea, (Sr., OL, East Amherst, N.Y.)

All-Ivy, First Team, Defense:
Mark Fossati, (Sr., LB, Upper Saddle River, N.J.)
Tom Johnson, (Sr., LB, Moorestown, N.J.)
T.J. Floyd, (Jr., DB, Jacksonville, Fla.)

All-Ivy, Second Team, Offense:
Steve Carlson, (Sr., WR, Jamestown, N.Y.)

All-Ivy, Second Team, Defense:
Mike Wagner, (Sr., LB, Victor, N.Y.)
Jeremiah Tyler, (So., LB, Detroit, Mich.)
Delan Stallworth, (So., DB, Cincinnati, Ohio)
Ben Ellis, (Sr., DB, Memphis, Tenn.)

All-Ivy, Special Teams:
Tiger Bech, (Jr., RS, Lafayette, La.)

All-Ivy, Honorable Mention, Offense:
Collin Eaddy, (So., RB, Raleigh, N.C.)
Alex Deters, (Jr., OL, Cincinnati, Ohio)

All-Ivy, Honorable Mention, Defense:
Joey DeMarco, (Jr., DL, Del Mar, Calif.)

* * *

Ivy League Records, 2018

Princeton 10-0, 7-0 Ivy [470-130]
W, Butler, 50-7 [4-7 final]

W, Monmouth, 51-9 [8-3 final]
W, Columbia, 45-10 [6-4 final]
W, Lehigh, 66-7 [3-8 final]*
W, Brown, 48-10 [1-9 final]
W, Harvard, 29-21 [6-4 final]
W, Cornell, 66-0 [3-7 final]
W, Dartmouth, 14-9 [9-1 final]
W, Yale, 59-43 [5-5 final]
W, Penn, 42-14 [6-4 final]tt
* Bob Surace reaches career winning percentage of .500.
tt Bob Surace reaches .533.

* *

Dartmouth 9-1, 6-1 Ivy [326-137]
W, Georgetown, 41-0 [5-7 final]
W, Holy Cross, 34-14 [5-6 final]
W, Penn, 37-14
W, Yale, 41-18
W, Sacred Heart, 42-0 [7-4 final]
W, Columbia, 28-12
W, Harvard, 24-17
L, Princeton, 9-14
W, Cornell, 35-24
W, Brown, 49-7

* *

Harvard 6-4, 4-3 Ivy
W, San Diego, 36-14 [6-6 final]
W, Brown, 31-17
L, Rhode Island, 16-23 [6-6 final]
L, Cornell, 24-28
W, Holy Cross, 33-31 [5-6 final]
L, Princeton, 21-29
L, Dartmouth, 17-24
W, Columbia, 52-18
W, Penn, 29-7
W, Yale, 45-27

* *

Penn 6-4, 3-4 Ivy
W, Bucknell, 34-17
W, Lehigh, 30-10 [3-8 final]
L, Dartmouth, 14-37
W, Sacred Heart, 31-27 [7-4 final]
W, Columbia, 13-10

L, Yale, 10-23
W, Brown, 13-7
W, Cornell, 20-7
L, Harvard, 7-29
L, Princeton, 14-42

* *

COLUMBIA 6-4, 3-4 Ivy
W, Central Conn., 41-24 [6-5 final]
W, Georgetown, 23-15 [5-7 final]
L, Princeton, 10-45
W, Marist, 34-24 [5-6 final]
L, Penn, 10-13
L, Dartmouth, 12-28
W, Yale, 17-10
L, Harvard, 52-18
W, Brown, 42-20
W, Cornell, 24-21

* *

YALE 5-5, 3-4 Ivy
L, Holy Cross, 28-31 [5-6 final]
W, Cornell, 30-24
W, Maine, 35-14 [9-5 final]
L, Dartmouth, 18-41
W, Mercer, 35-28 6-6 final]
W, Penn, 23-10
W, Columbia, 17-10
W, Brown, 46-16
L, Princeton, 43-59
L, Harvard, 27-45

* *

CORNELL 3-7, 2-5 Ivy
L, Delaware, 10-27 [7-6 final]
L, Yale, 24-30
W, Sacred Heart, 43-14 [7-4 final]
W, Harvard, 28-24
L, Colgate, 0-31 [11-1 final]
W, Brown, 34-16
L, Princeton, 0-66
L, Penn, 7-20
L, Dartmouth, 24-35
L, Columbia, 21-24

* *

BROWN 1-9, 0-7 Ivy
L, Cal Poly, 15-44 [5-7 final]
L, Harvard, 17-31
W, Georgetown, 35-7 [5-7 final]
L, Rhode Island, 0-48 [6-6 final]
L, Princeton, 10-48
L, Cornell, 16-34
L, Penn, 7-13
L, Yale, 16-46
L, Columbia, 20-42
L, Dartmouth, 7-49

* * *

BOB SURACE, PRINCETON STATS

year	overall	Ivy	Ivy ranking	cumulative win percentage
1. 2010	1-9	0-7	8	.100
2. 2011	1-9	1-6	7 (T)	.050
3. 2012	5-5	4-3	3 (T)	.233
4. 2013	8-2	6-1	1 (T)	.375
5. 2014	5-5	4-3	4	.400
6. 2015	5-5	2-5	6	.417
7. 2016	8-2	6-1	1 (T)	.442
8. 2017	5-5	2-5	7	.475
9. 2018	10-0	7-0	1	.533
Totals	48-42	32-31		.533

* * *

PRINCETON UNDEFEATED TEAMS

2018	10-0
1964	9-0
1951	9-0
1950	9-0
1935	9-0
1933	9-0
1922	8-0
1918	3-0
1917	2-0
1911	8-0-2
1906	9-0-1
1903	11-0

* * *

2018 Roster, By Position

Offense

2 Smith, Cole QB So. 6-1 200 Knoxville, Tenn. / Christian Academy
3 Tracy, John QB So. 6-3 215 Novi, Mich. / Walled Lake Western
6 White, Brevin QB Fr. 6-2 185 Stevenson Ranch, Calif. / Paraclete
10 Davidson, Kevin QB Jr. 6-4 225 Danville, Calif. / San Ramon Valley
12 Lovett, John QB Sr. 6-3 230 Wantagh, N.Y. / DeMatha Catholic
18 Keller, Zachary QB Jr. 6-4 225 Basking Ridge, N.J. / Seton Hall Prep
1 Eaddy, Collin RB So. 5-11 210 Raleigh, N.C. / Garner
20 Gray, Trey RB Fr. 5-11 180 Greenville, S.C. / Wren
21 Volker, Charlie RB Sr. 6-0 220 Fair Haven, N.J. / Rumson-Fair Haven
25 Quigley, Ryan RB Jr. 5-11 210 Lansdale, Pa. / Lansdale Catholic
32 Summerville, Dominique RB Sr. 5-7 165 Charlotte, N.C. / Myers Park
36 Caldwell, EJ RB So. 6-1 200 Columbus, Ohio / Upper Arlington
36 Kline, Davis RB Fr. 5-11 190 Everett, Pa. / Bedford
39 Smith, Cody RB Sr. 6-0 260 Lincoln University, Pa. / Bishop Shanahan
38 Raga, Rick FB Jr. 6-2 235 Cincinnati, Ohio / Moeller
27 Bobo, Carson TE Fr. 6-5 230 Birmingham, Ala. / Oak Mountain
32 Dumas, Caden TE Fr. 6-5 240 Holden, Mass. / Choate Rosemary Hall
80 Adomitis, Graham TE Sr. 6-4 250 Ross Township, Pa. / Pitt. Cent. Catholic
83 Caponiti, Harrison TE Fr. 6-4 230 Rye, N.Y. / Brunswick School
85 Johnson, Sam TE Jr. 6-3 230 Summit, N.J. / Delbarton School
86 Held, Riley TE So. 6-3 250 East Longmeadow, Mass. / E. Longmeadow
87 Buchanan, Adam TE So. 6-4 235 Lynnfield, Mass. / Buckingham Browne
3 Birmelin, Jacob WR So. 5-9 165 Royal Palm Beach, Fla. / P.B. Gardens
4 Horsted, Jesper WR Sr. 6-4 225 Shoreview, Minn. / Roseville Area
7 Bech, Tiger WR/PR Jr. 5-9 180 Lafayette, La. / St. Thomas More
9 Kelly, Zach WR Jr. 6-1 200 Clinton, La. / Silliman Institute
14 Polk, Michael WR Fr. 6-0 180 Long Beach, Calif. / Williston Northampton
16 Carbone, Austin WR So. 5-9 155 Richardson, Texas / Lloyd V. Berkner
19 Griffin, Andrew WR Jr. 6-1 210 Avon, Ind. / Avon
22 Classi, Dylan WR Fr. 6-1 190 Englewood Cliffs, N.J. / Bergen Catholic
33 Montgomery, Luke WR So. 6-1 205 Springfield, Mo. / Glendale
81 Parkinson, Alex WR Sr. 6-5 225 Mamaroneck, N.Y. / Mamaroneck
82 Goodhart, Cash WR So. 6-4 210 Sunnyvale, Texas / Sunnyvale
84 Carlson, Stephen WR Sr. 6-4 230 Jamestown, N.Y. / Jamestown
88 Iosivas, Andrei WR Fr. 6-4 190 Honolulu, Haw. / Punahou School
88 Parsons, Preston WR Fr. 6-5 230 Hanover, N.H. / The Hun School
89 Argue, Jordan WR Sr. 6-3 220 Hartland, Wis. / Arrowhead
97 Stroebel, Mitch WR Fr. 6-1 190 Saukville, Wis. / Cedarburg
53 Corso, Jack OL Sr. 6-3 260 Leesburg, Va. / Tuscarora
57 Radosevich, Reily OL Jr. 6-3 265 Manalapan, N.J. / Manalapan
60 Roberts, Ford OL Fr. 6-4 275 Duluth, Ga. / Greater Atlanta Christian

61 Attea, George OL Sr. 6-3 285 East Amherst, N.Y. / Williamsville North
62 Bourque, Bradley OL Sr. 6-2 250 Neptune Beach, Fla. / Duncan U. Fletcher
64 Zambrano, Zackary OL Fr. 6-4 290 Fort Lauderdale, Fla. / Am. Heritage
65 Scaglione, Connor OL Fr. 6-5 275 Cloister, N.J. / N. Valley Regional
66 Deters, Alex OL Jr. 6-2 275 Cincinnati, Ohio / St. Xavier
67 Byrd, Henry OL Fr. 6-5 265 Nashville, Tenn. / Ensworth
68 Hoffman, David OL So. 6-6 285 Basking Ridge, N.J. / Immaculata
69 Garfunkel, David OL Jr. 6-6 290 Yorba Linda, Calif. / Yorba Linda
70 Ryan, Christopher OL Sr. 6-5 275 Lombard, Ill. / Glenbard East
71 Aschenbrand, Luke OL Fr. 6-7 270 Phoenix, Az. / Pinnacle
72 Carter, Jack OL Fr. 6-5 275 Davidson, N.C. / William A. Hough
74 Ivanisevic, Nikola OL So. 6-2 275 Hinsdale, Ill. / Hinsdale Central
75 Ivanisevic, Stefan OL Sr. 6-5 280 Hinsdale, Ill. / Hinsdale Central
76 Guest, Andre OL Jr. 6-3 305 Trafford, Pa. / Penn-Trafford
77 Huth, Ryan OL So. 6-6 300 Cream Ridge, N.J. / Allentown
79 Holder, Brent OL Jr. 6-5 275 Chicago, Ill. / Marist

Defense

30 De Iuliis, Dawson S Fr. 5-9 200 Yardley, Pa. / St. Joseph's Prep
54 McNeil, Ryan LS So. 6-2 210 Marblehead, Mass. / St. John's Prep
59 Sayan, Chris LS Jr. 6-0 205 Leonia, N.J. / Bergen Catholic
49 Ndukwe, Uche DL Fr. 6-4 225 Dedham, Mass. / Noble and Greenough
51 Wright, Samuel DL So. 6-2 225 Lawrenceville, Ga. / Archer
52 Banjoko, Tola DL Fr. 6-5 225 Fort McMurray, Alberta / Episcopal
55 Strain, Jake DL Sr. 6-2 260 Springfield, Pa. / St. Joseph's Prep
56 Rolader, Jay DL Jr. 6-3 290 Atlanta, Ga. / Holy Innocents' Episcopal
73 Hampson, Matt DL Jr. 6-4 265 Pittsburgh, Pa. / Pine-Richland
78 McNamara, Emmett DL Fr. 6-2 235 Little Silver, N.J. / Red Bank Catholic
90 Holuba, Kurt DL Sr. 6-4 260 Ho-Ho-Kus, N.J. / Bergen Catholic
92 Lane, Simeon DL Sr. 6-1 265 Cincinnati, Ohio / St. Xavier
93 Kilander, Alex DL Fr. 6-2 265 Santa Margarita, Calif. / S. Margarita Catholic
97 Tomassetti, Charles DL Jr. 6-3 245 Massapequa Park, N.Y. / Farmingdale
98 DeMarco, Joey DL Jr. 6-4 265 Del Mar, Calif. / Torrey Pines
99 Wagner, Mike LB Sr. 6-1 235 Victor, N.Y. / Victor
96 Azevedo, Michael DE Fr. 6-4 250 San Diego, Calif. / Clairemont
5 Tyler, Jeremiah LB So. 6-2 215 Detroit, Mich. / Detroit Country Day
10 Williams, Chase LB Jr. 6-0 210 Atlanta, Ga. / The Westminster Schools
34 Johnson, Tom LB Sr. 6-0 225 Moorestown, N.J. / St. Joseph's Prep
33 Rudinski, Edward LB Jr. 6-3 240 Santa Monica, Calif. / Oaks Christian
37 Noel, Tavaris LB So. 6-1 215 Yorktown, Va. / Grafton
40 Orr, John LB Jr. 6-2 225 Nashville, Tenn. / Christ Presbyterian Academy
41 Simcox, Jackson LB Sr. 5-11 220 Westfield, N.J. / Westfield
43 Fossati, Mark LB Sr. 5-10 230 Upper Saddle River, N.J. / St. Joseph's

44 Bruce, Kevin LB Fr. 6-1 235 Needham, Mass. / Needham
45 Johnson, James LB So. 5-10 205 Moorestown, N.J. / St. Joseph's Prep
47 Beard, Daniel LB Fr. 6-0 190 Mobile, Ala. / St. Paul's Episcopal
50 Beagle, Zach LB Fr. 6-0 235 Rockledge, Fla. / Cocoa
50 McCracken, Manus LB Fr. 5-10 200 Mt. Carmel, Pa. / Mt. Carmel
58 Chambers, Sean LB So. 6-3 205 Geneva, Ill. / Geneva
59 Jester, Matthew LB Fr. 6-3 220 Spring, Texas / Klein
63 Hall, Ike LB Fr. 6-2 210 San Diego, Calif. / St. Augustine
66 Ison, Larkin LB Fr. 6-2 195 Augusta, Ga. / Westminster School
91 Percival, Joe LB Sr. 6-1 235 Melville, N.Y. / Saint Anthony's
94 Siragusa, Anthony LB Sr. 6-0 225 Chagrin Falls, Ohio / Walsh Jesuit
95 McDonald, Tyler LB So. 6-2 215 Clearwater, Fla. / Clearwater Cent. Catholic
2 Floyd, TJ DB Jr. 5-11 180 Jacksonville, Fla. / Bolles
6 Forbes, Trevor DB So. 6-0 195 Memphis, Tenn. / White Station
7 Santillo, John DB So. 5-11 190 Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. / Ponte Vedra
12 Shabazz, Sultaan DB So. 6-0 185 College Park, Ga. / Woodward Academy
13 Johnson, Will DB Jr. 5-9 175 Lexington, Mass. / Boston College High
15 Stewart, Brett DB Sr. 5-11 205 Garden City, N.Y. / Garden City
17 Stallworth, Delan DB So. 5-10 180 Cincinnati, Ohio / St. Xavier
18 Winston, Matthew DB So. 6-0 200 Hoschton, Ga. / Mill Creek
23 Frost, Phillip DB Jr. 6-1 185 Fort Worth, Texas / Keller Central
24 Ellis, Ben DB Sr. 6-1 205 Memphis, Tenn. / Briarcrest Christian School
26 Stern, Eli DB Sr. 6-0 195 Los Angeles, Calif. / Brentwood School
28 Brown, Christian DB Fr. 6-0 180 Delray Beach, Fla. / Atlantic Community
29 Novello, Ben DB Sr. 6-0 190 Tampa, Fla. / Berkeley Prep
29 Schneider, T.C. DB Sr. 5-9 185 The Woodlands, Texas / The Woodlands
31 Sullivan, Christian DB Jr. 6-0 195 Marietta, Ga. / George Walton
38 Rogers, Ché DB Fr. 5-11 160 Tacoma, Wash. / Stadium
38 Lawrie, Ian DB So. 5-11 175 Hague, N.Y. / Ticonderoga
83 Campbell, Tyler DB Jr. 5-10 200 Plano, Texas / Plano West

Special Teams
5 Triplett, George P Fr. 5-11 170 Elkins, W.V. / Elkins
8 Rice, Tavish P/K Jr. 6-2 235 Miami, Fla. / Belen Jesuit Prep
44 Mejia, Steven P/K Sr. 5-10 205 Doral, Fla. / Ronald Reagan Doral
46 Ferrer, Antonio P So. 6-1 220 Miami, Fla. / Ransom Everglades
48 Ramos, Nicolas P/K So. 5-11 185 Miami, Fla. / Ransom Everglades

* * *

Coaching Staff

Bob Surace, Charles W. Caldwell Jr. '25 Head Coach of Football
Steve Verbit, Senior Associate Head Coach & Defensive Coordinator
Sean Gleeson, Offensive Coordinator & Quarterbacks Coach
Andrew Aurich, Associate Head Coach, Run Game Coordinator,

Recruiting Coordinator & Offensive Line Coach
Stephen Thomas, Special Teams Coordinator & Inside Linebackers Coach
Mike Mendenhall, Outside Linebackers Coach
Marvin Clecidor, Defensive Backs Coach
Jamel Mutunga, Running Backs Coach
Mike Willis, Assistant Head Coach & Tight Ends Coach
Mark Rosenbaum, Wide Receivers Coach
Jason Mitchell, Director of Football Operations
Mike Tufo, Assistant Coach, Strength & Conditioning
Stacie Traube, Football Business Operations & Alumni Liaison

* *

Trainers: Charlie Thompson, George O'Neil
Team Physician: Margot Putukian

* *

Academic Faculty-Fellows:

Swati Bhatt
Bryant Blount
Patricia Fernandez-Kelly
Khristina Gonzalez
Eric Gregory
Gene Grossman
Kevin Hudson
Stan Katz
Jim Lanzi
Michael Litchman
Jessica Matzko
David Miller
Jeff Nunokawa
Monica Ponce de Leon
Ken Samuel
Jordan Taylor
Robert Tignor
Momo Wolapaye
Julian Zelizer

Design & layout by Jim Merritt '66

PRINCETON ATHLETICS

Senior members of Princeton's 2018 undefeated team.