

Flying Out Of the Gates

Big plays help Cornell drop Bison for first win of 2009

By KEENAN WEATHERFORD
Sun Sports Editor

Saturday was an ideal end to what was surely a long off-season for fans of Cornell football. With the weather hovering around 56 degrees and not a cloud in the sky, Cornell started its season with a statement — a 33-9 win over Bucknell that showcased the team's strengths without revealing many weaknesses. Offensively, head coach Jim Knowles '87 threw the kitchen sink at Bucknell's textbook defensive schemes, and was rewarded with both big plays and steady drives. On defense, Cornell bent under the pressure of the Bison's rush, but never broke, registering two red zone stops and allowing Bucknell to convert only 5-of-18 third downs.

"Not a lot went well for us," said Bucknell coach Tim Landis. "I thought Cornell did very well in all aspects of the game and they certainly deserved the win today."

Though the win was largely due to Cornell's big-play weapons on offense, it was the Red defense that actually notched the team's first points of the season. The teams traded three-and-outs to open the game, then junior Drew Alston's punt rolled all the way to the Bucknell three-yard line. The Bison rushed for two yards on its first play of the



TINA CHOU / SUN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Breaking the plane | Sophomore wide receiver Shane Savage (25) dives into the end zone to put the Red up, 33-7, near the end of the third quarter in Saturday's game against Bucknell.

drive, but senior running back Josh Lee fumbled in the end zone and then fell on the ball for a safety.

Alston's punt was the first act of a field-position battle that favored the Red all game long. Of his eight punts, six pinned the Bison inside their own 20-yard line.

"Field position was huge," Knowles said, "especially against their option and shotgun-style running attack. ... Field position, converting in the red zone, winning the turnover battle ... it's not rocket science and you need to have a team who believes in it and understands it, and that's what we did today."

A 15-yard return by senior Bryan Walters started the Red's next drive on its own 47-yard line, and set the stage for an eight-play, 53-yard drive featuring clutch passing from senior quarterback Ben Ganter and capped off by a 1-yard rush into the end zone by senior running back Randy Barbour. Ganter, who completed 17-of-25 passes for 172 yards and two touchdowns, displayed good pocket presence on the drive, connecting with senior wideout Horatio Blackman twice and sophomore wideout Shane Savage once. Savage, Blackman and Walters each notched five

PLAY OF THE GAME



TINA CHOU / SUN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Red ran its version of the "wildcat" offense, with senior Stephen Liuzza (12) taking the snap, several times on Saturday. With 7:11 remaining in the first half, it paid off in a big way. Liuzza faked a hand off and broke left, racing up the sideline thanks to effective downfield blocks by the wide receivers. He cut back around the 15-yard line and carried it into the end zone for a 65-yard touchdown run, putting the Red up, 23-7.

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	BUCKNELL				
	CORNELL				
Game:	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Bucknell	7	0	0	2	9
Cornell	9	14	10	0	33

Field Hockey Downs Penn, Lehigh to Stay Undefeated in 2009

Red off to best start in program's 37-year history

By JANE PETERS
Sun Staff Writer

The Red field hockey team had a historic weekend in Pennsylvania, where it extended its winning streak to six games to break the 37-year old program's record for most consecutive wins at the start of the season. Cornell came away from the Keystone State with two thrilling victories against Penn and Lehigh.

On Friday night, the Red (6-0, 1-0 Ivy) defeated the Quakers, 3-2, in the Ivy League opener and carried the momentum through the weekend to down the Mountain Hawks, 1-0, yesterday afternoon.

Junior attacker Catie De Stio racked up all four goals on the weekend, including two game-winners, to represent the Red's offense. Senior goalie Mel Jue had a combined 11 saves for the defense in the wins.

Déjà vu sank in after the final horn of regulation Friday evening as the Red was forced to settle the score of its first Ancient Eight contest of the season in sudden death. Cornell repeated last Saturday's success, capturing yet another suspenseful overtime win against Penn (2-4, 0-1 Ivy). In contrast to its triumph over Lock Haven a week ago, the Red went ahead, 2-0, early

in the first half, but lost the lead with less than three minutes left in game when the Quakers took advantage of a penalty corner to tie the game at two goals apiece. De Stio, who was three-for-five on the day, netted the deciding goal off of a breakaway just 22 seconds into the extra period.

Junior midfielder Kate Thompson was an offensive catalyst, responsible for creating the rebound that De Stio slapped past Penn goaltender Kieran Sweeney 10 minutes into the first stanza. Thompson's initial rip from outside the circle was kicked aside, but De Stio anticipated the deflection to give the Red a 1-0 edge. In the second half, De Stio slipped the ball out of the reach of



EMILY BURKE / SUN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

See FIELD HOCKEY page 20 **Scoring machine** | Senior Catie De Stio scored three to lead the Red over Penn.

INSIDE SPORTS

Swept at Home

The volleyball team lost all three of its matches in the Cornell Invitational.

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Scoreless Weekend

The women's soccer team couldn't manage a goal against nationally-ranked George Mason and William and Mary. The team fell to 1-5-1 on the season.

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Sprint Drops Close One

The sprint football team fell to Penn, 20-14, in the first game of the season. Senior running back D.J. Schiavetta led the team with one rushing and one receiving touchdown.

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Battle of the Meadowlands

The New York Jets backed up their talk, upsetting the New England Patriots yesterday at the Meadowlands. The Jets had not defeated the Patriots at home since 2000.

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