

The Cornell Daily Sun
Sports

Football Opens Ivy League Play Against Yale

By ZACK SLABOTSKY
Sun Senior Writer

The football team opens its conference schedule with a game against Yale (1-0, 0-0 Ivy) tomorrow. The Red (1-0, 0-0 Ivy) will travel to New Haven, Conn. to face its Ivy rivals during the first weekend of in-conference Ancient Eight play.

Football

Cornell



VS.



Yale

Tomorrow, 12 p.m.
New Haven, Conn.

Last season, the Red snapped a three-game losing streak against the Bulldogs. Cornell held on for a 17-14 victory in what was probably the team's biggest win of the season. The Red prevailed in large part due to a dominant performance from its defense.

"[We] played very aggressively on defense," said head coach Jim Knowles '87. "We were on the attack. We blitzed a lot; we blitzed about two thirds of the time."

Those blitzes resulted in five Cornell sacks. Thanks in part to those sacks, Cornell also managed to hold its Ivy League foe to zero net rushing yards. The feat was especially impressive considering that Mike McLeod, who had a brilliant rushing career at Yale, was in the backfield. McLeod did not manage a single



TINA CHOU / SUN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pass it on | Senior quarterback Ben Ganter (13) hands the ball off to freshman line-backer Nick Mlady (33) during the Red's 33-9 home win over Bucknell last Saturday.

rush of more than eight yards in the game. Senior safety Frank Morand said the team is focused on shutting down the run again.

"[The key on defense is] shutting down the run game," he said. "We also have to protect our end zone, especially when they get down in the red zone."

Cornell's defense will have to adjust its scheme this season, as the Bulldogs

have new starters at quarterback and running back.

"At running back obviously they graduated a great, great player [McLeod]. They have some young talent [at that position]," Knowles said. "[At quarterback], they have a transfer from Nebraska [Patrick Witt] who has a very strong arm and a quick release."

Knowles indicated that the team will

open the game with a defensive strategy similar to what it employed a season ago, but will be quick to adapt based on what happens on the field.

"We certainly have the blitz in our plan," he said. "The thing with blitzing is you've kind of got to see how it works

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Jim Knowles '87

and see how the other team is picking it up because you can get burned by it too."

The Red has not beaten an Ivy League team away from Ithaca since 2005. A win this weekend would end that streak.

"On the road more, we need a little more focus," Morand said. "It's about getting our minds right in a different setting."

Jack Siedlecki, who led the Bulldogs to two Ivy League titles, stepped down as Yale's football coach after 12 seasons in charge. Yale hired Tom Williams, who previously worked as a defensive assistant for the Jacksonville Jaguars, to take his place. Williams is the first African-

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Volleyball Looks to Recover Quickly in Ivy League Opener

Red to play Columbia on the road

By JOHN W. FORMAN
Sun Senior Writer

With only three days to recover from a 3-0 loss to cross-town rival Syracuse, the Red opens its Ivy League schedule tomorrow in New York City, taking on Columbia. Cornell will also finish off its non-conference schedule, taking on Hartford tomorrow as well.

When the Red (2-8) made the trip to Syracuse (10-4) Wednesday night, nobody was hoping for a repeat of last year's 3-0 win by the Orange. But that's exactly what they got, falling in straight sets, 25-20, 25-15, 25-12.

"We started off really strong, but we just weren't able to close," said head coach Sarah Bernson. "Our discipline broke down. We haven't gotten to that point yet of pushing through and finishing a set. When [our opponent] challenges us at those key moments — that's what we need to work on."

After beating Syracuse in the race to 20 points in the first set, the Red stagnated and failed to win another point. After the come-from-behind victory in game 1, the Orange never looked back, winning games 2 and 3 without skipping a beat.

"I think we lost a bit of confidence after the first game, because we had been doing well but couldn't finish strong," Bernson said. "Our chemistry broke down and we weren't trusting our teammates as well as we had been in the first set."

"I think we just need to have a little more trust in each other," said senior captain Megan Mushovic, echoing the sentiments of her coach. "Unfortunately in volleyball, the little mistakes add up quickly in a game to 25. We just struggled, but we're definitely staying positive coming into the weekend."

Cornell will open up tomorrow with its first Ivy League contest, taking on Columbia (7-4) at 11 a.m. and following that up



DAN SALISBURY / SUN SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Here's to things looking up | The Red hopes to rebound in three days' time from its 3-0 loss to local rival Syracuse. Cornell is looking to start Ivy League play tomorrow with a clean slate.

with a 4:30 p.m. match against Hartford (6-7) in Columbia's Levien Gymnasium. For the

Red, the most important aspect of the weekend isn't finishing up its non-conference schedule, but rather opening its Ivy schedule.

"In years past, we've used the start of the Ivy League to have a fresh start," Bernson said. "So we really feel that even though we didn't play well last night, we have a fresh start [tomorrow]."

Cornell beat the Lions in both of their matches last season, winning 3-2 in the second contest. The Lions finished last sea-

son in last place in the Ancient Eight, going 0-14 against Ivy competition.

But there are some new faces making an impact for the Red's traveling partner. The Lions are led by freshman outside hitter Megan Gaughn, who already has 178 kills, averaging 3.96 per game. Freshman Erin Longinotti is second on the team with 98 (2.23/game), and setting the two newcomers is another freshman

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INSIDE SPORTS

It's All in the Past

The men's soccer team looks to have a short memory as it takes on Long Island at home following a tough loss.

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Going for Perfection

The field hockey team looks to remain undefeated going into its seventh game of the season, a home contest against the Columbia Lions tomorrow afternoon.

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Fourth Time's a Charm?

The women's soccer team will face off against Columbia this weekend in an effort to notch its second win of the season. The Lions have won the past three contests, however.

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