

Ambrosi's Conversion to Safety Benefits Him, Team

By KEENAN WEATHERFORD
Sun Sports Editor

Just a few months ago, Anthony Ambrosi probably couldn't have guessed that his first touchdown as a varsity player would come out of the hands of Yale's quarterback. The junior safety was the starting tailback as a freshman on the junior varsity squad and saw time on the special teams units as a sophomore, but knew an opportunity when he saw it.

"It was really a spur of the moment decision," Ambrosi said of his conversion to safety. "Coming into training camp, I had no thought of playing defense, but a few days into camp, the running backs coach pulled all the running backs aside and told us ... that there was opportunity on the defensive side of the ball, maybe a better shot to get on the field. As a junior, I really just wanted to get on the field and contribute to the team, so I hopped on the opportunity."

Defensive coordinator and safeties coach Clayton Carlin liked what he saw from Ambrosi. Fast-forward to last Saturday; in his first career start at safety, Ambrosi nabbed an interception from Bulldog quarterback Patrick Witt and returned it 20 yards for the deciding score in Cornell's 14-



TINA CHOU / SUN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Answering the call | Senior safety Frank Morand (22) left Cornell's season opener against Bucknell on Sept. 27 with a knee injury, paving the way for Anthony Ambrosi, a former tailback, to fill in for him.

12 win over Yale. Cornell's defense shone brightly in the win, containing the Yale offense for just 296 yards. The Red secondary held Witt to 180 yards on 21-of-54 pass attempts, and grabbed three interceptions, all in the second half and all by Cornell safeties. In addition to his pick-six, Ambrosi broke up three pass-

es, twice on third downs.

"We knew every time we stepped on the field that we had to execute," Ambrosi said. "We looked inward in the second quarter when we realized the offense was struggling moving the ball and said 'hey guys, if they're not going to score it looks like we're going to have to.'"

And score Ambrosi did, putting Cornell up, 14-6, with 6:18 to play in the third quarter. Witt partially redeemed himself against the Cornell defense later in the game, leading the Bulldogs down the field on a 12-play, 47-yard drive with just 1:35 to play that set up the potential tying two-point conversion. But

Ambrosi and the defense held firm when it mattered most, stifling the Bulldogs' conversion attempt and cementing the win, Cornell's second upset in two years over the Bulldogs and its first road Ivy win since 2005.

Ambrosi blitzed numerous times against Yale, picking up two tackles for loss but no quarterback sacks. Although he never got to the quarterback, Ambrosi realized that Witt was relying on short one- and three-step drop-backs, and took advantage for the interception. Ambrosi's pick might have been the play of the game on Saturday, and Carlin is giving the safety all the credit.

"He just played it well," Carlin said. "He read the quarterback's eyes, I don't think the quarterback ever saw him. He caught the ball well, took it right out of the air. And then he was gone after that. It was a simple three-deep coverage that executed very well."

Although it's a small sample of games, Ambrosi doesn't seem to be having too many problems adjusting to his new position. The 5-9, 198-pounder played outside linebacker and defensive back in high school and prep school, so he had some experience on the defensive side of the ball.

"We try to get the right people

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The Hypocrisy Of 'Choking'

For those who didn't know, I'm a homegrown Californian. Yes, I'm one of those exotic specimens from beyond the Rockies, where people surf to school, nerds are the kings of cool

ing" towards another playoff bid after our mercenary of a team broke up after they choked in the World Series. Who can blame them; if they continued to live in San



Rahul Kishore

The Guru

and of course it's sunny all year round. Unluckily, I'm part of the "uncool" part of California. I call San Francisco home — you know, the other big city in California? Yeah, the one with the hippies and a mayor with more sex scandals than Bill Clinton in his prime — yes, that

Francisco they probably would have ended up like Barry Bonds, a sour aftertaste of what once was a delectable blueberry scone (probably from that clear liquid the trainer rubbed on it; he calls it the "special" sauce). I'm sure Barry knows what I mean.

I'm a Giants fan, which means that I've settled for the fact that my team is going to suck for 20 years, get my hopes up in October and then fail me once again. I'm one step above a Chicago Cubs fan, a torture that only the Devil could come up with.

Giants fans haven't had much to care about recently; we're a pretty cynical bunch. Bonds was actually the one thing we could pride ourselves on, in that "our guy has got more stuff running through his system than a crack addict" kind of way. He did make San Francisco look good; well, until

As any true Giants fan will tell you, the Giants are "build-

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M. Icers Picked to Finish 2nd in ECAC

By KEENAN WEATHERFORD
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After suffering a 5-0 loss to Yale in the 2009 ECAC Hockey championship game, the men's hockey team was picked to finish second in the league behind the Bulldogs in the upcoming season. The Red finished behind the Bulldogs in the coaches' and the media poll, which were released by the league on Monday. Junior forward Riley Nash, who led the team with 35 points last season, was named to the coaches' and media all-league team. His older brother, senior defenseman Brendon Nash, was

named to the media all-league team.

Yale edged out Cornell by a 117-113 margin in the coaches' poll, and just a 278-272 margin in the media poll, the slimmest margin between the top-2 teams in eight years. The Red lost several key players to graduation after the 2008-09 season, but returns both Nash brothers, forwards Colin Greening and Blake Gallagher and goalie Ben Scrivens, all seniors. Greening and Gallagher finished second and third on the team behind Riley Nash. Scrivens posted a 22-10-4 record in the 2008-09 season. Princeton

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TINA CHOU / SUN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Clan o'Riley | Junior forward Riley Nash, who plays on the men's hockey team with his brother Brendon, led the Red with 35 points last season and was named to the coaches' and media all-league team.