

Harvard Comeback Subdues Penn, 28-17

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PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 15 — For Joe Restic, the Harvard coach, the current football season has been one of the most frustrating in his 10 campaigns directing the Crimson.

Early in the fall, he seemed to have the potential to win the Ivy League championship. But two of his key players, Brian Buckley and Ron Cuccia, were injured and the Crimson was crippled.

But both played today and Harvard, after a chilling start, rebounded to defeat Penn, 28-17, for its seventh victory in nine games. For Penn, the defeat was its eighth in nine contests.

But more important, Harvard's triumph kept the Crimson in the race for the Ivy League championship. Harvard now is tied for second place with Dartmouth and Cornell, behind Yale, with 4-2 records.

"We really have been two different teams this year," said Restic, "the team with Buckley and the team without Buckley. He is the key to our success.

"When he was injured, we lost two games, our only two losses. So that tells without my saying anything how important he is to us."

Harvard Goes Ahead

Even so, things looked dark for Harvard at the start. Penn got off fast, almost before the Crimson could get organized, and quickly ran up a 14-0 lead.

Harvard managed to get one touchdown back with less than two minutes remaining in the first quarter, then went ahead in the second quarter and led at the half, 21-17. The Harvard backs sputtered and tore huge pieces out of the Penn line.

But instead of the game turning into a runaway, the Penn defense tightened and it kept the Crimson in check until Restic's club scored its final touchdown halfway through the final quarter. At that, the Penn point production was the highest of any team this season against Harvard with the exception of Dartmouth, which scored 30.

Buckley passed for two of the four Harvard touchdowns — the first and the last. The first, to Jim Callinan, was for 13 yards and the second, to Chuck Marshall, was for 41 yards. At one point in the first half, he completed eight passes in a row.

The first Penn score was directly attributable to Tony Liberatore's recovery of a fumble by Paul Connors. That gave the ball to Penn on the Harvard seven. Two plays later, with the ball down to the two, Steve Rubin rushed around left end for the score.

Just three minutes later, with the ball on the Penn 45, Gary Vura let go a bomb down the middle right into John Montesanti's arms, and Penn was two touchdowns ahead and Harvard appeared to be operating in a state of confusion.

But on the next series, Harvard drove 80 yards in 10 plays, culminated by Buckley's first scoring pass. Nine of the thrusts were on the ground.

Penn wasn't quite finished, though. With the ball on the Harvard 12, and fourth down and four yards to go, Dwyer, who had made both extra points earlier, kicked a field goal. That, however, was the end of the Penn offensive.

Harvard began a drive on its own 24 right after the field goal and 12 plays later had scored again. Connors made up for his fumble by going the final five yards. Still, Harvard was behind.

Just before the end of the half, Tom Beatrice carried one yard through center to send Harvard into the lead. Buckley, who completed nine of 13 passes for 111 yards, connected with five passes during the drive that started on the Harvard 32.

That score gave Harvard some breathing room. But its offense sputtered until midway in the fourth period when Buckley got off his second touchdown pass. The drive started on the Harvard 13 and slowly ate up yardage on the ground until Buckley got in position for his long toss to Marshall.

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