

## Soccer Summary

### Men's Soccer

The Crimson (4-3, 1-0 Ivy) lost three games on the road in early season play, but was undefeated on its home turf. Senior Michael Fucito (see "Back on the Field," September-October 2008, page 65) leads the team in goals, followed closely by Andre Akpan '10. But it was Kwaku Nyameke '10 who secured the

team's first Ivy win, 1-0 against Yale, when he blasted a loose ball off a free kick into the Yale net.

### Women's Soccer

The women booters (4-3-3, 1-1-0 Ivy) have been paced this season by freshman phenomenon Melanie Baskind, who leads the team in points. Against Yale, which the Crimson defeated 3-1, Baskind scored the game-winning goal and added two assists.

fairs: they look a bit like on-side kicks, except the football has been replaced by a hard, white tennis ball. Defenders don plastic masks and crowd inside the net while the offense stands around a white semicircle 15 meters from the goal. A player standing to the side of the goal starts the action by passing the ball to a "stick stopper" crouched at the top of the semicircle. As defenders pour out of the net, the stick stopper feeds the ball to a striker who cracks it into the scrum. Polet is the team's primary striker.

She began playing field hockey at the age of six, when her parents returned to

the Netherlands from Malaysia and joined a local cricket and field-hockey club. The club acted as a social hub, too, with lunches and Sunday dinners. It also extended its hospitality to visiting teams. "You know your opponents because you've played them multiple times," she explains. "You serve them food and you talk. It's very different" from the United States, where the away team generally loads up its bus and leaves directly after the game.

In her teens, Polet decided to apply to a private international high school and moved to Hong Kong on her own. (She arrived at Harvard expecting to concen-

trate in East Asian studies, but a desire to focus more broadly on international development led her to switch to social studies.) Once there, instead of suiting up for a team of Dutch expatriates, she joined a local club. "I wanted to integrate," she recalls, "and it was cool because I got to play for the under-21 team and travel with them."

At Harvard, the amount of conditioning the team did surprised her, but she soon grasped its importance: "If your legs are not tired," she points out, "your skills are not going to break down." By her sophomore year, she was starting regularly. The team, she says, also helped her adapt to American life.

But adjusting to yet another culture hasn't dulled her wanderlust, something she thinks she inherited from her parents, who now live in London. (Her father's former job at Unilever required frequent moves.) "We just grew up that way, a very nomadic family," she says. "I've been here for four years. I kind of want to move out, see new places." Wherever she goes after graduation, Polet hopes to keep playing field hockey. It's nice, she says, that even in an unfamiliar place, she can play a familiar game.

—PAUL GLEASON

## Bumps in the Road

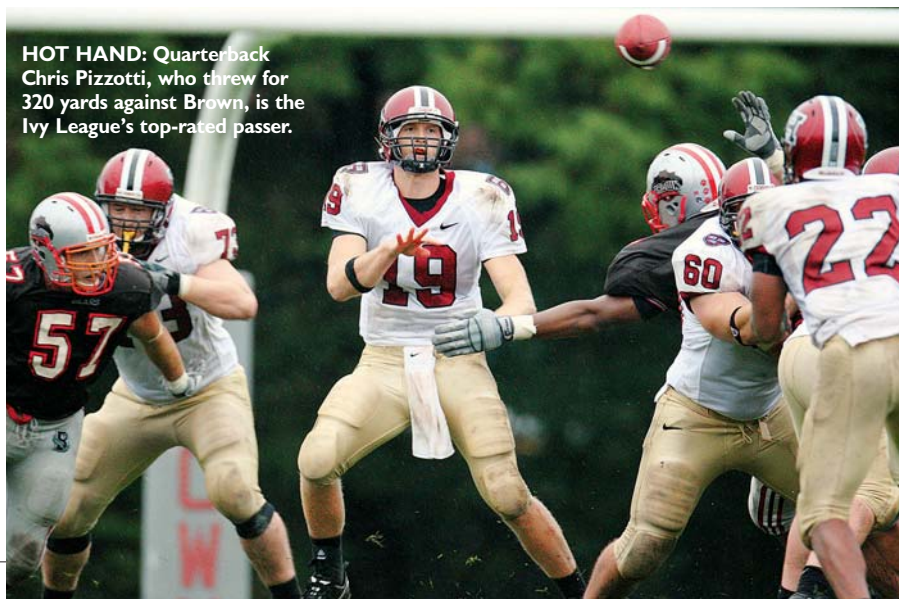
FOR THE FOURTH time in the 15-year reign of head coach Tim Murphy, the football team entered the Ivy League lists as defending champions. The 2007 squad—like those of 1997, 2001, and 2004—had gone unbeaten in Ivy play, finishing with a 37-6 demolition of previously undefeated Yale. This year's preseason media poll picked the archrivals as co-favorites to win the league (followed at a distance by Brown and Penn), but both hit speed bumps in their first Ivy outings: Harvard lost a 24-22 squeaker at Brown, while Yale was upset by an unheralded Cornell team, 17-14.

The Brown game, played in a downpour, was a hard-fought affair in which a few inches of soggy turf proved decisive. With Harvard behind, 24-16, and time running out, the deft passing of quarterback Chris Pizzotti '08 ('09) generated a 70-yard drive

that advanced the ball to the Bears' three-yard line. Backup quarterback Liam O'Hagan '08 ('09) then threw a scoring pass to receiver Matt Luft '10, cutting Brown's lead to 24-22. A two-point conversion would

have evened the score, and with only 1:03 to play would almost surely have forced an overtime tie-breaker. But a roughing-the-quarterback penalty put the ball on the one-and-a-half-yard line, limiting Har-

**HOT HAND:** Quarterback Chris Pizzotti, who threw for 320 yards against Brown, is the Ivy League's top-rated passer.





**LIVING LARGE.** At Dillon Field House, the football squad now suits up in opulently refurbished rooms. Lining the walls are 114 cherrywood lockers with crown moldings, equipped with built-in safes and wooden seats. Structural columns are encased in “Shaker-design custom hardwood cherry.” Sports mantras (“Pride,” “Commitment,” “Tradition,” “10,000 Men of Harvard”) are inscribed on ceiling soffits, and one wall displays a mural depicting high moments from seasons past. Two multimedia stations feature 46-inch flat-panel TVs, video projectors, and iPod docks; a refrigeration unit stores beverages and ice cream. Overseen by head coach Tim Murphy, the gutting and rebuilding of Dillon’s ground floor was finished last summer. Visitors’ locker rooms were “touched up,” but not transfigured.

vard’s tactical choices, and Ben Jenkins ’10, a former defensive back, was sent in to run the ball up the middle. The Bruin defense saw it coming and stacked him up inches short of the goal line.

Harvard had also played catchup a week earlier, but successfully. Opening at the Stadium against nonleague rival Holy Cross, the team trailed after three periods, 17-6, but struck for three late touchdowns

sophomore receiver Marco Iannuzzi for the first one and scoring the other two on short-yardage carries.

The squad rebounded from the Brown loss with a convincing nonleague win at Lafayette. The Leopards had just beaten Penn, bringing their record to 3-0, but Harvard built a 24-13 halftime lead and cruised to a 27-13 victory. Tailback Cheng Ho ’10 ran for 108 yards and a touchdown, Pizzotti

to pull out a 25-24 victory. Pizzotti accounted for all three, throwing a 68-yard pass to

hoisted a 67-yard scoring pass to receiver Chris Lorditch ’11, and the defense, led by tackle and captain Matt Curtis ’09, had three quarterback sacks and two interceptions. Sophomore kicker Patrick Long nailed field goals of 41 and 45 yards; the second was Harvard’s longest since 1993.

**TIDBITS:** Brown’s rain-soaked win—its first over Harvard since 1999—positioned the Bears as front-runners in the Ivy title chase. Brown last won the league in 2005, when its sole defeat in a 9-1 season was a 38-35 overtime loss to Harvard.

Friday night lights: The Holy Cross open-

## The Force Was With Them

**If you were among** the 40,000 who saw the 1968 Harvard-Yale game, you sensed an invisible hand shaping the waning minutes of play. Yale’s heavily favored team held a 29-13 lead, but an improbable combination of breaks and derring-do enabled Harvard to score 16 points in the last 42 seconds and gain an astounding 29-29 tie.

“You got the feeling that the universe had shifted...that some kind of weird force had descended on the Stadium,” recalls former Yale tackle Tom Peacock in *Harvard Beats Yale 29-29*, a new documentary by Kevin Rafferty ’70. Screened at this fall’s Toronto film festival, the 105-minute movie alternates game-action footage and commentary by 50 former combatants. Though the outcome is clearly telegraphed by the title, suspense mounts as the clock winds down and the Stadium’s shadows lengthen.

Filmmaker Rafferty, whose previous films include *The Atomic Cafe* and *Blood in the Face*, is a New Yorker whose grandfather, father, and uncle all played football at Yale. He witnessed The Game from the Harvard side. Two years ago, anticipating the fortieth anniversary of the contest, he bought a “slightly dinged-up” ’96 Audi and added 15,000 miles to the odometer as he crisscrossed the country to interview 61 ex-players. They included backup quarterback Frank Champi ’70, whose heroics sparked Harvard’s rally; Brian Dowling, Yale’s prodigious quarterback; team captain and halfback Vic Gatto ’69; actor-director Tommy Lee Jones ’69, the sole returning starter on Harvard’s offensive line; and Pete Varney ’71, the burly end who caught

Champi’s game-tying two-point conversion pass with no time left on the clock.

A *Variety* review describes the interviewees as “almost uniformly witty, charming, funny, and reflective.” Their reflections touch on the politics and *Zeitgeist* of the Sixties, but are mostly about the game and what it meant to the participants. “There was the initial shock of the universe going haywire,” muses Mick Kleber, a Yale tackle, “but after that it came to me, almost like an epiphany, that I was just so fortunate to have been in that game, to have had that experience. I couldn’t be sad about it.” Yale defensive captain Mike Bouscaren candidly admits he tried to injure the high-flying Champi in order to sideline him. “I’m glad that we lost,” he adds, “because if we had won, I probably would have had more difficulty becoming just a regular person—a person who understands that life is not fair, that you can’t win all the time, and that it’s good to be humble.”

Not everyone viewed the event as numinous. To the late Fritz Reed ’69, a tackle whose 26-yard run with an errant pitchout set up Harvard’s third score, “it was really exhilarating, but it was a football game. That’s all it was. It wasn’t even for a major championship.” (Both teams finished unbeaten and shared the Ivy title.)

Champi has the last word: “I think we all won. If it wasn’t for that game, none of us would be remembered today. Both teams have a small place in football history.”

*Harvard Beats Yale 29-29* opens November 19 at the Brattle Theatre and at New York City’s Film Forum. (The film’s title originated as a headline in the Harvard Crimson.) Overlook Press will publish *Harvard Beats Yale 29-29* in book form in 2009.

er was just Harvard's second nocturnal football game, and the first to be held on a Friday. The 20,462 attendees were treated to an improved Stadium sound system and a new video scoreboard that offers instant replays. The first night opener took place a year ago and drew 18,898 fans.

**Bombs away:** With Pizzotti's strong arm and a clutch of nimble receivers, Harvard may have the Ivies' best aerial attack. A fifth-year senior who sat out the 2005 season with a back injury, Pizzotti got the starting job a year ago and posted the second-best single-season passing numbers in Harvard annals. He threw for 370 yards against Holy Cross, for 320 at Brown, and for 231 at Lafayette. Iannuzzi, who also returned kicks, had 11 catches in the Holy Cross game, and Luft made 10 receptions at Brown.

**The Game:** The annual clash with Yale kicks off at the Stadium at noon on November 22. A halftime ceremony will mark the fortieth anniversary of the legendary 29-29 tie of 1968 (see "The Force Was With Them," page 79). ~"CLEAT"

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## ALUMNI

# At Home with Old Age

*Reimagining nursing homes*

AS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER at an AARP workshop on elder care, William Thomas, M.D. '86, is telling the story of Eos, the Greek goddess who fell in love with the Trojan prince Tithonus. The couple lived happily until one day Eos saw something strange poking out of her husband's head. "'What is *that*??'" Thomas shrieks in mock shock and disgust as the audience laughs. "Well, it was a *gray hair*." Soon, Thomas continues, the prince's entire head was white and he grew older and older—but he could not die because he had been made immortal. His once booming voice became feeble, and his strong legs and shoulders shriveled up. In the end, Eos took pity on him and turned

him into a grasshopper. "The myth," Thomas tells his audience, "offers the proposition that old age is inside of us; it is welded to the human condition."

An internationally known geriatrician, Thomas is used to lecturing about the need for attitudinal adjustment when it comes to aging. Growing old entails "elements of decline, [but] the larger truth," he maintains, "is that aging is a complex, multifaceted, and poorly understood component of *normal human development*."

Thomas takes this holistic view to work every day. A bullish reformer, he has spent his career pushing for seismic cultural and economic changes in long-term care and public policy toward aging, which has meant challenging the

## Men's Basketball Exonerated

**An inquiry** by the Ivy League into allegations of improper recruiting by the Harvard men's basketball program and of lowered standards of admissions for the team—raised initially in a March 2008 *New York Times* article—has determined that no violations of either National Collegiate Athletic Association or Ivy League rules occurred. In addition, the league's routine annual review of admissions standards found that all admitted Harvard recruits met the requirements mandated by the league, which issued a statement on September 3 that read, in part:

Harvard Head Coach Tommy Amaker and Assistant Coach Kenneth Blakeney were completely forthcoming in their participation in this inquiry, and interviews with others who were involved, as well as a thorough examination of relevant records, corroborated that the coaches' contacts with prospective student-athletes and their families were entirely consistent with NCAA and Ivy League rules.

"We're very pleased with the outcome," Harvard athletic director Robert L. Scalise said after the results became public. "It was what we had expected it to be," he added. "We have a pro-

gram that abides by the letter and the spirit of NCAA and Ivy rules and we want to continue that."

"This matter got a lot of attention because it was raised in the press," said Jeff Orleans, executive director of the Ivy League (see "Questions about Recruiting," May-June, page 76). "The admissions part was a non-story, in the sense that the reporter could have simply waited until the admissions decisions were known, instead of asking people to speculate."

As for the alleged recruiting violations, which centered on the fact that assistant coach Blakeney had played basketball—before Harvard hired him—with a prospect, Orleans said the committee conducting the investigation asked three questions: Was Blakeney a Harvard employee? Was he a Harvard representative? Was he trying to recruit athletes to Harvard at the time of these activities? "The answer was no in each case," Orleans noted. Such issues arise and are investigated routinely in Division One athletic programs; what made the Harvard instance unusual, he said, "was the level of attention that was focused on it."

Orleans did indicate that the allegations have prompted the league to begin "discussing with all the schools the importance of being very clear about the employment relationship and how it develops. That way," he added—given the public perception that the periods before and after someone is hired "shade together"—"they can avoid even the appearance of impropriety."