



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.