



**CCWW Sports Report No. 602
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by
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Without any Cornell football to tell y'all about yet, it's another light week of Big Red sports. So that means another pretty short report. Let's get to it.

What a difference a week can make. With no recent info other than the unexplained loss of two significant 2017 contributors who had remaining eligibility and an Ivy media poll picking Cornell **Men's Soccer** to finish next to last, I expressed concern about the upcoming season. Scratch that. With a roster of eleven sophomores, ten freshmen, and just one senior, the Red opened the season with two impressive road victories, shutting out Binghamton, 2-0, and taking down St. Francis (Brooklyn), 4-2. I then learned from Andy Noel's weekly wrap that Cornell's freshman class was ranked by one recruiting service as the seventh-best in Division I. Wait a sec! Seventh? In the whole country? Wow! On Friday, the Big Red defeated Bingo, capitalizing on an early goal (third minute) by **Tyler Bagley '21** and a late (as in *very* late) first half goal by **Emeka Eneli '22**, who scored with as the clock expired. Goalkeeper **Ryan Shellow '20**, one of the few upperclassmen on the team, stopped all five Bearcat shots on goal.

Sunday's 4-2 win—a blowout by soccer standards—was over a team that made the NCAA tourney last fall. The Big Red surrendered an early penalty kick goal but then scored four straight before giving up a meaningless tally in the final minute. Eneli started the scoring in the 39th minute with his second goal in as many games. **Charles Touche '21** set up the goal by intercepting a clearing pass. A minute and a half later, **George Pedlow '21** gave the Red the lead with an assist from captain **Ryan Bayne '19**, the team's lone senior. Right after halftime, the Eneli/Touche combo struck again, this time with Touche getting the goal and Eneli the assist. Another newcomer, transfer **John Scearce '20**, completed the Cornell scoring with a penalty kick in the 63rd minute. Shellow had five saves in the win.

Eneli seems like the real deal. Last year he played on a national champion club team, and was named an All-American. His Cornell debut—two goals and an assist in two games—earned him the first Ivy League Rookie of the Week award. Next up for the Big Red is a visit to Lafayette on Friday and their home opener on Monday night against Syracuse, a game that will be streamed on ESPN+ at 4:00 p.m. PDT.

Volleyball also got off to a solid start, winning two of three matches at the Cornell Invitational, including a victory over previously-undefeated Buffalo. The Big Red won five-set matches over Buffalo and Siena, before falling in three closely contested sets to tournament champion St. John's. (Buffalo, St. John's and Cornell all finished the event with 2-1 records but the Red Storm lost fewer sets and took home the tournament title on that basis.) **Lily Barber '20** and co-captain **Carla Sganderlla '19** (making a strong comeback after missing most of 2017 with an ACL injury) were both named to the all-tournament team.

The Red will have another challenge this weekend when they travel to Houston for the "Flo Hyman Collegiate Cup." (FYI, Flo Hyman was the University of Houston's first female scholarship athlete (in 1974) and went on to become a three-time All-American, 1976 national collegiate player of the year, captain of the 1984 silver medal winning USA Olympic volleyball team, and a member of the International Volleyball Hall of Fame. Ms. Hyman died suddenly during a match in Japan in 1986, at the age of 31. The cause of death was an aortic dissection due to an undiagnosed genetic defect.) The Big Red will play four matches in Texas, including one against the undefeated (8-0) host Cougars on Friday evening.

Let's move on. After graduating all five scorers who took the Red to fourth place at last fall's Heps, **Men's Cross-Country** is rebuilding this year. The first results are encouraging: no team scores were kept at last week's Bucknell Bison Open, but Cornell runners took first, fourth and sixth. **Tomás Reimer '19** won the race and freshman twins **Matt Fusco '22** and **Greg Fusco '22** finished fourth and sixth, respectively. Penn would have won if team scores had been kept, but the Big Red can be encouraged by its overall

performance. The Red's top seven, the metric often used to measure cross-country depth, included just the one senior and five freshmen. The men are off this week but the women open their season in a meet at Penn State.

Field Hockey got off to a rough start, getting blasted by Bucknell, 5-0, and then losing to Lock Haven, 3-1. Things don't get any easier right away as Cornell visits a ranked Rutgers team on Friday before returning to Ithaca for its home opener against Rider on Sunday.

Like I wrote above, what a difference a week can make. A week ago, **Women's Soccer** had in one game moved halfway to last year's win total and 40% of the way to last year's goal total. That was then. Three games and one week later, the Big Red is still halfway to last year's win total. The 2-0 and 2-1 losses to Buffalo and Siena were disappointing but those are pretty good teams. Yesterday's 1-0 loss to Le Moyne—a D-II team, for Chrissakes—was something else. I watched most of the game, although I missed the Le Moyne goal, and Cornell dominated the play and the statistics. But it lost.

Finally, we have a developing story on Cornell **Polo**. The *Daily Sun* reported yesterday that men's and women's coach **David Eldridge '81**, the winningest coach in Cornell history, has been placed on administrative leave and is being asked to retire. The story is here: <http://cornellsun.com/2018/09/05/eldredge-81-winningest-coach-in-cornell-athletics-history-placed-on-leave-with-future-in-doubt/>.

That's it for this week. Football preview next week. **GO BIG RED!**