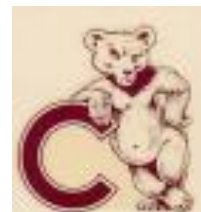




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by
Rich Coyle '68



Overlapping Seasons

The busiest times of the school year, sports-wise, are in November (and a few weeks on either end) and March (ditto) when one sports season isn't over and the next season is already underway. We're in one of those periods, with five fall teams still in action, while many of the winter sports teams are also doing their things.

Out with the Old

Four Cornell teams finished their seasons last weekend.

1. After a frustrating stretch, **Men's Soccer** ended on a winning note by besting Columbia in overtime, 2-1. This game resembled some Big Red wins earlier in the season—fall behind, get a late tying goal, and then get an even later winning goal. In this game, the Red's tying goal came in the 73rd minute and the winner came in the seventh minute of overtime. **John Searce '20** got the first goal and **Charles Touche '21** scored the game winner, with an assist from Searce. Touche finished the season with eight goals and 18 points, one goal and two points ahead of **Emeka Eneli '22** for the team lead in both categories.

With the win, the Big Red finished the season with an 11-6 overall record. Its 4-3 record in Ivy play was good for fourth place, three spots ahead of the Red's predicted finish of seventh. And two of Cornell's three league losses were in overtime, to Yale and Dartmouth. Win both of those games and Cornell, not Princeton, would be the league champion. As it was, the Big Red's eleven victories were tops in the league and its RPI rank of 50 was second only to Dartmouth. Finally, let's not forget that three-fourths of this team was underclassmen. Cornell graduates just one senior, two-year captain **Ryan Bayne '19**. (Ryan has one year of eligibility left but, because of Ivy league rules, will likely need to use it elsewhere if he elects to keep playing.)

The All-Ivy selections were announced yesterday. Touche was named to the first team. Eneli and classmate **Tate Keir '22**, a defender, were second-team, and Searce received honorable mention. Eneli was also named the Ivy Rookie of the Year. All will be back next fall, which augers well for next year and beyond. (Up to a point—Princeton had nine All-Ivy selections, only two of whom are seniors.)

2. **Volleyball** also concluded a successful season on a winning note, defeating Brown in Providence in four sets. That followed a three-set loss to Ivy champion Yale the night before. I watched most of the Yale match and a bit of the Brown match. Yale, which won the league title with a 13-1 record, was better than the Big Red but not by that much. After losing the first set, the Red had late leads in the second and third sets (22-20 in the second; 21-17 in the third) but could not hold them. Cornell is still not as good as Yale and Princeton, but the gap is closing.

The Big Red finished the season 14-10, 9-5 in the Ivy league, good for third place, one spot ahead of their preseason ranking. The 14 wins were the most since 2006 and these were the first consecutive seasons with winning records overall and in the league in 12 years. Prospects for the future also look good. While four seniors who were steady contributors will graduate the top five in terms of sets played all return and four other members of the 13-player regular rotation will also be back. The list of returnees includes all four players who were named today to the All-Ivy teams: second teamers **Samanta Arenas '20**, **Jenna Phelps '20**, and **Jillienne Bennett '22**, and libero **Lily Barber '20**, who received honorable mention.

3. **Women's Cross-Country** ended its season on an upbeat note, finishing fourth of the 35 teams competing at the NCAA Northeast Regional. The Red beat out traditional powers Syracuse, Providence and Iona, as well as two Ivy League teams, Brown and Harvard, that bested Cornell at Ivy Heptagonals. But here's the rub—the first three spots all went to Ivies: Columbia, Dartmouth (both of whom qualified for NCAA finals) and Yale. The one-two-three-four finish of Ivies in the Northeast Regional was unprecedented. Princeton, which competed in the NCAA's Mid-Atlantic Regional, came in second there and also qualified for this Saturday's national finals in Madison, Wisconsin. What that tells me is that in cross-country, as in several other sports, the Ivy League is getting much stronger and Cornell will have its work cut out for it if it hopes to compete in the future for Ivy championships.

4. **Men's Cross-Country**, which two weeks ago finished last at Heps, was 16th at the Northeast Regional. It was a small victory in that the Big Red did manage to beat out one Ivy, Yale, which finished 17th, with 63 more points than the Red.

And Then There Was One [Team]

Football is the only fall team still playing; their last game—the annual battle with Columbia for the “coveted” Empire State Bowl—will take place in New York City on Saturday. You can catch the action on ESPN+ beginning at 10:00 a.m. PST. A Big Red win would give them four victories for the year, three in the Ivy League. Both totals would match the highs during the **David Archer '05** coaching era. It won't be easy; the Lions beat the Red last fall and are five-point favorites.

Cornell's hopes for a winning Ivy season ended last weekend with a 35-24 loss at home to Dartmouth. The game generated an odd line score. Dartmouth outscored the Big Red 35-0 in the first and third quarters, while the Red outscored the Green 24-0 in the second and fourth quarters. The game's momentum kept flipping. The Big Green scored on three long drives to start the game, looking unstoppable, and then was stopped and failed to score again in the half. Dartmouth marched down the field with the second half kickoff and after that had trouble moving the ball, scoring again only because of Cornell fumble deep in its own end. For the Big Red, the situation was reversed. After the Red's first three drives of the game fizzled (one on a bad snap over the head of QB **Dalton Banks '19**; one on an interception; and one three-and-out that included a sack of Banks) they scored on their next three. In the second half, the Big Red moved the ball better on each drive and eventually scored a touchdown with just under four minutes left.

Because of how Dartmouth burst out of the gate, it never seemed like Cornell was in the game. Yet the final score wasn't that bad and a few events could have changed the outcome. Let's look at the second half. Leading 21-17, Dartmouth started the half with a 75-yard drive. But it wasn't that easy—the Big Green had to convert a third-and-five and a third-and-ten just to get out of their own end. After the teams traded short possessions, the killer miscue of the game occurred. The Red had a back in motion who ran in front of Banks as the ball was being snapped and deflected the hike to the ground. Dartmouth recovered on the Cornell seven and quickly scored. On its next drive, Cornell showed some spark, converting both a third down and a fourth down before failing to convert a fourth down in Dartmouth territory. After an interception in the end zone by **Lance Blass '21** gave Cornell the ball back, the Red again moved the ball into Dartmouth territory but a sack of Banks forced a. The next Dartmouth drive netted 45 yards and died when the Big Green could not convert a fourth down from the Cornell 32. But the drive ate up over five minutes of clock and along the way Cornell used (wasted?) a timeout.

The Big Red then put together an impressive 70-yard touchdown drive in just two minutes. Banks completed all five of his passes, including a 31-yarder to **Lars Pederson '19** and a three-yard TD pass to Pederson. That ended the scoring. The Red could not get its act together to kick off and had to waste yet another timeout before even attempting an onside kick, which failed. With only one timeout left, Cornell could not stop the Big Green from running out the clock.

But in an alternative reality—one without that botched snap and the wasted timeouts—Cornell gets the ball back for a final drive needing just a touchdown to win. Banks continues to complete passes and the Big Red pull off the upset. It did not happen but it wasn't that far from happening.

Banks had a good game. He was 28 for 40 for 263 yards and two touchdowns. He also ran for 58 yards on 10 carries, most of those runs resulting in first downs. **Harold Coles '20** had two touchdowns, one rushing and one receiving. Pederson, Coles and **Owen Peters '19** each had five catches and **Tommy McIntyre '20** had four. **DJ Woullard '19** had an interception and Blass had 15 tackles to go along with his interception. **Jelani Taylor '19**, who could only play in the second half because of a targeting penalty the previous week, had eleven tackles.

And Actually There's One More [Individual]

In addition to the football team, one other Big Red fall sports athlete will be in action this Saturday. **Taylor Knibb '20** will continue her amazing fall by running in the NCAA championship cross-country meet in Madison. Taylor qualified as an individual with her fifth-place finish at the Northeast regional.

In with the New

Six winter sports teams were in action last week. As you might have guessed, the results were mixed, with wins, losses and ties aplenty. Here's the rundown:

1. **Men's Hockey** continues to put that opening weekend sweep at the hands of Michigan State in the rearview mirror. Last weekend the Big Red used some combination of conveyances to travel to Marquette, Michigan, home of the Northern Michigan Wildcats. Despite a short bench due to several injuries, the Red won twice, by scores of 3-2 and 3-1. On Friday, the Big Red goals were scored by **Michael Regush '22**, **Cam Donaldson '21** and **Beau Starrett '19**. Saturday's goals (all on power plays) were scored by Regush, **Alec McCrea '19** and **Morgan Barron '21**. Both of Regush's goals turned out to be game winners, and Michael was rewarded with ECAC Rookie of the Week honors. **Mitch Vanderlaan '19**, with three assists, was the Red's high scorer for the weekend.

Cornell is now on a four-game win streak but its poll standing, which had tanked after the losses to Michigan State, has not moved up that much. The Big Red are 17th in the USCHO poll and are the first team out in the 15-team USA Today poll. The Red will get their chance to move up this weekend as they host Quinnipiac on Friday and Princeton on Saturday. Both teams are ranked ahead of the Big Red. Both games will be at 4:00 p.m. PST and will be streamed on ESPN+.

2. I have mixed feelings about **Women's Hockey's** two ties at Mercyhurst. You will recall that Cornell had to play these games without **Kristin O'Neill '20**, **Micah Zandee-Hart '20** and **Jamie Bourbonnais '20** (not to mention coach **Doug Derraugh '91**), all off with Hockey Canada's Women's National Team at the Nations Cup in Saskatchewan. On the one hand, playing two road games without their three best players against a pretty good team and not losing is probably more than we might have anticipated (especially after the Big Red lost to Brown in their first game after the WNT departures). On the other hand, it was disappointing that the Red had a three-goal lead in Saturday's game but could not hold it. **Maddie Mills '21** had two goals and an assist in the 4-4 tie. Sunday's game was a scoreless tie. Cornell was outshot 30-18, but **Marlène Boissonnault '20** (who did not play on Saturday) stopped all 30 shots to preserve the tie.

Cornell's record now stands at 4-1-2. The Red are sixth in both polls. This weekend, with a full roster, the Big Red will travel to Quinnipiac and Princeton. Both games will be streamed on ESPN+, Friday at 3:00 p.m. PST and Saturday at noon PST.

3. **Men's Basketball** split two games, blowing by an overmatched D-III team, SUNY Canton, before shooting miserably and losing to Colgate, 73-57. The Big Red are now 2-1. The Red's non-conference schedule continues this week with three games—a Thursday home game with Delaware, a Saturday visit to New Jersey Institute of Technology, and a Tuesday game at UConn. The Delaware game will be on ESPN+ at 4:00 p.m. PST, the NJIT game will also be on ESPN+ at 1:00 p.m. PST and the UConn game will be on ESPN3 at 4:00 p.m. PST.

4. **Women's Basketball** opened the season by splitting two games, losing at Binghamton before defeating Albany at home. **Laura Bagwell-Katalanich '20**, a transfer from Penn, led the Red in scoring with 14 points in each game and posted a double-double against Albany, by adding 16 rebounds to her 14 points. The Big Red were supposed to play at Colgate on Thursday but that game was postponed because of weather. The Red will host UMass-Lowell on Saturday 9:00 a.m. PST on ESPN+.

5. Men's and Women's **Swimming and Diving** began their season by hosting Harvard and Dartmouth in a tri-meet. The men split, losing to Dartmouth but defeating Dartmouth; the women lost to both schools. Each team had one event winner, **Helen Hsu '19** in the women's 100 backstroke and **Ryan Brown '20** in the men's 200 breaststroke. Both teams are back in action this weekend, hosting Penn and Princeton in tri-meets.

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