

REDEFINING SUCCESS

After posting a 10-0 record and taking home a second consecutive Ivy League title in 2014, Harvard football faces a daunting task: improving upon perfection.



ON THE COVERS



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PREVIEW FOOTBALL 2015



SPREAD SEASON PREVIEW

The Ivy League boasts several legitimate contenders in 2015 that will look to deny Harvard its bid for a third consecutive championship. If the Crimson is to achieve its ultimate goal, it will need to prepare for every team's best shot.

FROM THE EDITORS

When wide receiver Andrew Fischer leapt across the goal line on November 22, 2014 in the waning moments of The Game, Harvard notched an Ivy League championship in front of a capacity crowd and national audience. It also achieved perfection—literally—in the form of an undefeated season.

“I don’t think it’ll ever get more exciting than this,” Harvard coach Tim Murphy said.

The 2015 Crimson faces an unenviable challenge—how to improve on an undefeated season. While last year’s season certainly can’t be topped, the ultimate goal remains the same.

The tools are there for success. Talented skill position players will spearhead the Crimson attack, while a veteran secondary and linebacking corps anchor the defense.

But several bolstered Ivy League rivals are vying for the same crown and have the Harvard game circled in red. The Crimson must get used to playing with a target on its back.

— SD, SL, DS

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NO LACK OF SKILL

By **SAM DANELLO**
CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

From returning key players to maintaining game strategies to repeating season goals, the dominant theme for the 2015 Harvard football team is continuity.

Perhaps no group illustrates this trend more clearly than the collection of skill players who will catch passes, find holes, and throw blocks this season.

The continuity is staggering: Seven of the eight leading receivers from last year have returned, and the Crimson brings back the players responsible for 79 percent of its rushing yards.

Back is senior Paul Stanton, the All-Ivy rusher who averaged 110 yards per game and led Harvard with 11 touchdowns.

Back is senior wide receiver Andrew Fischer, the man who won the Harvard-Yale game by hauling in a last-minute touchdown.

Back is junior starting tight end Anthony Firkser, fifth-year wideout Seitu Smith II, and a slew of other experienced offensive weapons.

In fact, maybe the only thing that is new is a preseason conviction that the 2015 offensive unit can reach historic heights.

“With our depth this year, we have the potential to be one of the best offenses that this program has ever seen,” Smith said. “We have all our skill guys returning.... We’ve won three titles since I’ve been here, so I stick to the claim.”

Much of this hype depends on the play of Smith and Fischer, the pair of off-field friends who have competed both with and against each other since Fischer arrived on campus in 2012. Even back then, Smith said that he saw potential in Fischer, but it would have taken a true yogi to envision this level of success three years later.

“I’ve known Fisch since before he even got in and that he was going to come in and have a major role,” Smith said. “From there, it’s just me and him, and we’ve been rolling since.”

For the second-consecutive season, Smith and Fischer will crouch down at the line as the team’s starting wideouts. In 2014, they combined for 75 catches and they show no signs of slowing.

Fischer is the more talkative one, bouncing up and down the sideline during end-of-practice scrimmages and chirping at any unlucky cornerbacks. Last Sat-

urday, when the Crimson squared off against Rhode Island in Kingston, R.I., he was one of the first players out of the halftime locker room, and he sprinted out the full 100 yards before pulling into the team’s bench.

By contrast, Smith seems to have adopted the demeanor of the team’s elder statesman. In a group interview with other receivers, he spoke first and immediately placed attention on “the young guys.”

“As a unit, we haven’t lost too much at the skill positions,” he said. “Justice, Adam Scott, and a couple others have been really explosive for us, and we have a promising future.”

A promising future, yes, but also a promising present. Against the Rams, senior quarterback Scott Hosch targeted the duo early on, as both Smith and Fischer topped 50 yards.

Off-field closeness complements on-field success. As blockmates, Smith and Fischer spend much of their time together in what they described as an atmosphere of “friendly competition” in just about all spheres of life—even when playing EA Sport’s FIFA.

“It’s just the competitive drive regardless of the activity,” Fischer said. “That’s the mentality that we both have, and that’s what allows us to be so successful.”

Yet the unique aspect of this year’s team is that the expectations extend beyond this pairing. Take the senior Stanton, who has now scored 30 touchdowns in his Crimson career, second-best in school history.

Stanton has seen heavy usage since his freshman year, when he had just 28 carries for 171 yards and a touchdown. He is a tough-nosed running back that hits holes hard and opponents harder.

Last season, Stanton finished with 990 yards on the ground, behind only Tyler Varga, the former Yale standout who signed with the Indianapolis Colts after graduation.

Stanton is also a receiving threat out of the backfield, topping 100 yards in each of the last two years. This ability has special value in an offensive scheme that values short routes early in the game to establish an offensive rhythm.

“Overall we have a lot of dynamic athletes,” Fischer said. “The depth allows us to do more with our offense, get away from the bread-and-butter plays, and expand our playbook.”



ONE MORE GO

Senior wide receiver Andrew Fischer returns to lead the Crimson offense. Y. KIT WU—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

And Harvard returns yet another more skill-position starter from last year’s Harvard-Yale game. In 2014, Firkser tied Fischer with four touchdown catches; in the season opener against Rhode Island, the 220-pound tight end racked up 78 yards.

Fellow tight end Ben Braunecker was not far behind. On Saturday, he scored a late touchdown—a lofted pass from the 19-yard line—to build on a strong 2014 campaign in which he totaled 227 yards.

Experience lies up and down the rest of the roster, as tight ends Ryan Halverson and Jack Stansell—a junior and sophomore respectively—and junior wide receiver Joseph Foster have also returned.

The positional depth is so great that

as a reporter, it is difficult to know who to talk to. Any of eight or nine players could answer questions about personal development, team psyche, and season expectations.

However, it makes life easier when multiple players give the same answer. Such was the case last week when Fischer, Smith, and Foster were asked about individual goals for the season.

Foster stepped forward on that one: “Get a ring,” he said. “Same thing every year.”

Fischer nodded, Smith nodded, and the interview ended like that.

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The offensive linemen are charged with one job—stopping the defense. Y. KIT WU—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

LINE OF DUTY

KEEPERS OF THE OFFENSE

Though you won't see their names all over the stat sheet, the offensive line plays a crucial role in Harvard's scoring attack.

By **SAMANTHA LIN**
CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

The moment the ball is snapped, it becomes the center of attention for most of the players on the field.

On a run play, attention is concentrated on the handoff between the quarterback and running back and the subsequent movement of the ball downfield. In a passing sequence, receivers are locked in a carefully synchronized dance between themselves, the ball, and the passer.

The 11 players on the other side similarly have an interest in the pigskin—whether to sack the quarterback before he can air it out, pick the ball out of midair, or pry it out of a running back's hands.

While each position may serve a unique purpose, if a different-colored jersey ends up with the ball at the end of the play, it's a good sign for the defense. But there are, on every play, five players whose job will always be the exact opposite. That is, rather than seek the ball, it is their sole duty to keep the other team away from it. They may not fill "skill positions," but anyone who sees them face up against charging 250-plus pound defensive linemen would be hard pressed to deny their abilities, despite their absence from the box score.

They are the offensive linemen and, for Harvard football, they are a critical component of the team's current 15-game winning streak, second only in Division I football to Ohio State's 16.

Given the injuries to many of the offense's skill position players throughout the 2014 season, the undefeated record is slightly surprising. The starting quarterback appeared in only four games all season; Each of the two leading rushers missed significant portions of the season due to injury; And before the year even began, a receiver and tight end—both of whom were seniors expected to have pro-

ductive seasons—were sidelined for the campaign.

A key reason that Harvard's 10-0 record was at all a possibility given the fluctuation in last year's attack was the offensive line. No matter who was under center or in the backfield, the 2014 O-line consistently created wide running lanes and protected passing pockets. Largely due to its efforts, the Crimson ended with the second-most prolific offense in the Ancient Eight behind Yale—a team that started a Clemson transfer at quarterback and a running back now suiting up for the Indianapolis Colts.

"It was certainly one of the best [offensive lines] we've ever had," Harvard coach Tim Murphy said.

Anchored by then-senior center Nick Easton '15, the Crimson was second in the FCS in tackles for loss allowed (behind only FCS national champion North Dakota State) tied for second in the Ancient Eight with 5.5 yards per rush, and allowed just 11 sacks on the year.

Harvard may have graduated left guard Michael Mancinelli '15 and lost Easton to the San Francisco 49ers, but the

2015 edition of the line will still feature seniors Adam Redmond, Cole Toner, and Anthony Fabiano, all three-year starters. The continuity of the unit's prowess and wealth of experience was on display last Saturday in the tilt with Rhode Island, when Crimson quarterback Scott Hosch had a career passing day under ample protection from the line, throwing for 336 yards and three scores.

"We're confident playing together," Redmond said. "We know what we're doing on every play. I know where the guy next to me is going to be, he knows where I'm going to be, and that just makes us work as one unit every play, and that makes the job easy."

Joining Redmond, Toner, and Fabiano are junior right tackle Max Rich and sophomore right guard Larry Allen Jr., both of whom have had limited game-time experience.

Though Rich and Allen Jr. have big shoes to fill, the stability of a group over the last few years that has enabled rushers Treavor Scales '13 and senior Paul Stanton to notch their places in the Harvard record books predicts another productive

offensive line, something Murphy attributes to recruiting practices.

"We want guys that are really tough and competitive," Murphy said. "It isn't good enough to be a great athlete, a big guy, if you're really not a tough guy because it's one of those jobs that to take pride in it, there's no real sense of glory.... You have to have that mentality that I'm going to work every day not expecting a big paycheck. But I really enjoy what I do."

Redmond, Toner, and Fabiano may never score a touchdown, and they may never feature prominently—if at all—in a box score. But for these three seniors, the payoff isn't in the individual glory. It comes through the unit—"tied together like elephants on a string," as Murphy puts it—paving the way for the guys around them to move the ball down the field.

"When the offense succeeds, we succeed, so we take pride in all of that on the field," Redmond said. "We have a lot of fun out there."

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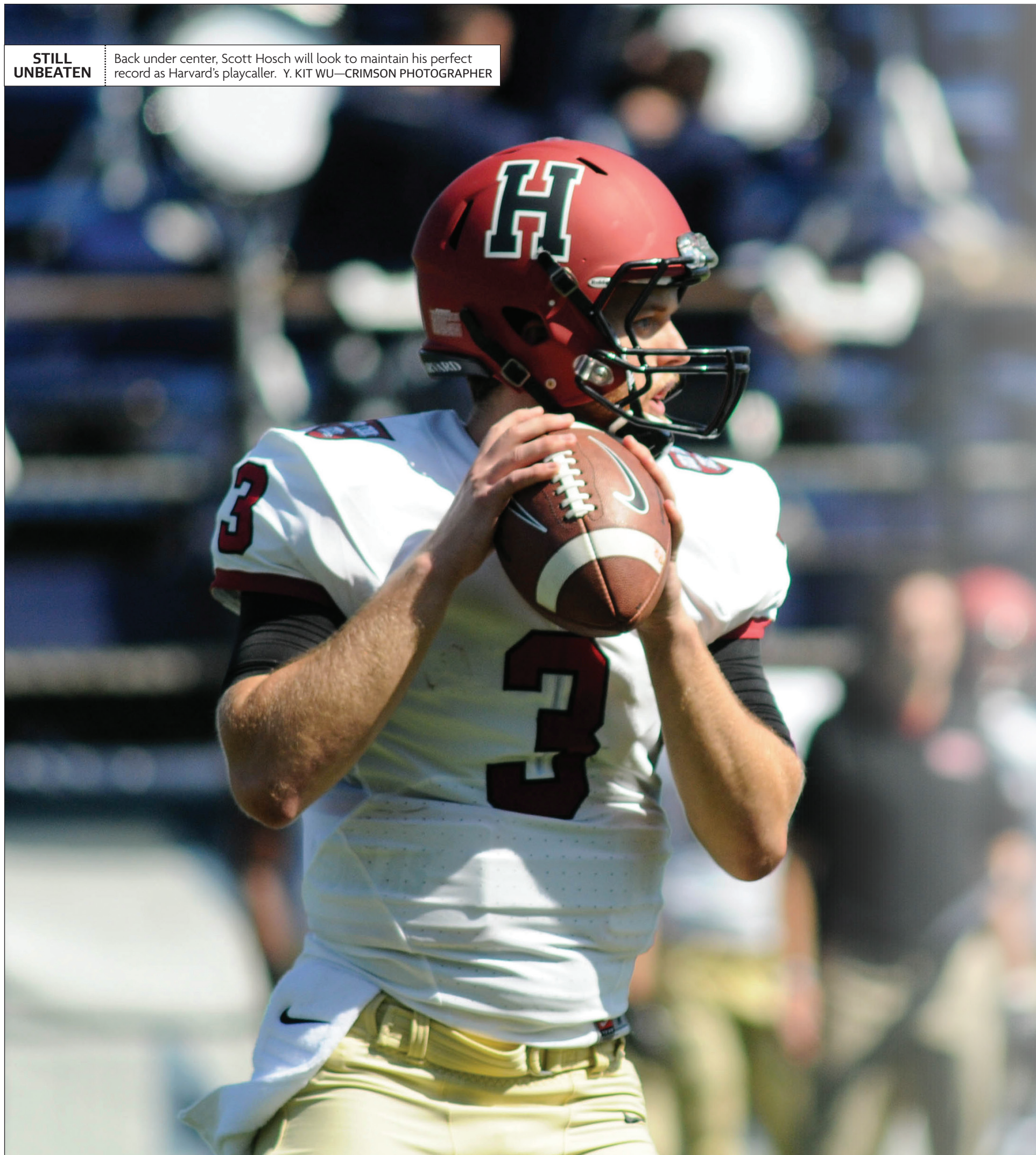


With a core of returning upperclassmen, the offense line is ready to pave the way for Scott Hosch, Paul Stanton, and the rest of the Harvard attack. MEGAN M. ROSS—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

**LINING
UP**

**STILL
UNBEATEN**

Back under center, Scott Hosch will look to maintain his perfect record as Harvard's playcaller. Y. KIT WU—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER



SEASON PREVIEW: POST PERFECTION

After a record year that yielded just the third undefeated season in a century, the Harvard football team will need to up the ante in a league characterized by increasing parity if it hopes to win its third consecutive Ancient Eight championship.

By **DAVID STEINBACH**
CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

The Harvard football team has a target on its back.

Winning three out of the past four Ivy League championships will do that to you. So will notching an undefeated season in 2014. And so will winning 15 straight games, finishing no lower than third in the Ancient Eight since 2001, and being picked to end up at the top of the conference once more this season.

When opponents look across the ball and see Crimson helmets staring back, a new level of intensity emerges. It is no understatement to say that, for nearly every team in the Ivy League, Harvard is the game circled in red on the schedule.

“Who is Princeton’s biggest rival? It’s really us,” Harvard coach Tim Murphy said. “Who is Dartmouth’s biggest rival? It’s really us. Who is Brown’s biggest rival? It’s really us. Who is Penn’s biggest rival? It’s really us. You get that every single week. So if you have any hint of sort of looking past a team in our league, you’re dead, because we are everybody’s big game.”

Add the fact that there are no playoffs or postseason games in the Ancient Eight, and every contest suddenly has the potential to be season-defining. With only seven conference games, one loss can be decisive—so you’d better focus on the matchup right in front of you.

That’s the philosophy the 2014 Crimson embraced, when the team’s unblemished final record masked the adversity it faced throughout the campaign. Midway through the season, Harvard managed to outlast a feisty Dartmouth squad in a dogfight. The team needed a furious fourth-quarter comeback to hold off Penn. And it took a 35-yard touchdown pass in the waning moments of The Game for the Crimson to top Yale.

Things won’t get any easier for Harvard in 2015.

Both the Big Green and the Bulldogs will likely be improved. Yale returns quarterback Morgan Roberts at the helm of an attack that ranked first in the conference last year in scoring, rushing, and passing offense. Meanwhile, according to the football blog College Sports Madness, Dartmouth boasts both the projected Offensive and Defensive Ivy League Players of the Year in quarterback Dalyn Williams and linebacker Will McNamara.

In years past, the road to an Ivy League championship for the Crimson has often gone through Princeton. But this season, in addition to what will inevitably be a high-stakes showdown with Yale, the biggest game may come under the lights at Harvard Stadium against Dartmouth in week seven.

“If they stay healthy, [these] will probably be the best Dartmouth and the best Yale teams we’ve seen in at least the last 15 years,” Murphy said.

Only time will tell if Harvard is up to the task, but the program can approach the season confidently due to the return of a host of experienced faces on both sides of the ball. Senior quarterback Scott Hosch, who led the Crimson to six victories in 2014, had the best statistical game of his career in a season-opening 41-10 win against Rhode Island, throwing for 336 yards and three touchdowns.

“[Hosch] is a more polished, confident, and productive quarterback than he was a year ago, to the point where I’m going to go out on a limb and say there’s no question in my mind that he’ll be one of the top offensive players in the Ivy League,” Murphy said.

The offense boasts a number of additional threats who will help Hosch light up the scoreboard. Running back Paul Stanton and wide receiver Andrew Fischer are established seniors and are coming off first- and second-team All-Ivy seasons, respectively. Senior wide receiver Seitou Smith II, along with tight ends se-

nior Ben Braunecker and junior Anthony Firkser, add needed depth to the aerial assault.

While the offense has the potential to be explosive, the defense seems equipped to be stifling. It all starts with a senior linebacker corps of captain Matt Koran, Eric Medes, and Jacob Lindsey, which Murphy says may be as good a trio as he’s ever had at Harvard in terms of leadership and production.

Apart from a defensive line that lost the significant talents of Zack Hodges ’15 and Obum Obukwelu ’15, there is continuity at nearly every other position. That can only mean good things, given that the 2014 Crimson ranked first in the FCS in terms of scoring defense, surrendering just 12.3 points per game.

“We basically set the standard for ourselves [last year], and we won’t stop until we become the number one defense in the FCS,” said senior defensive end James Duberg.

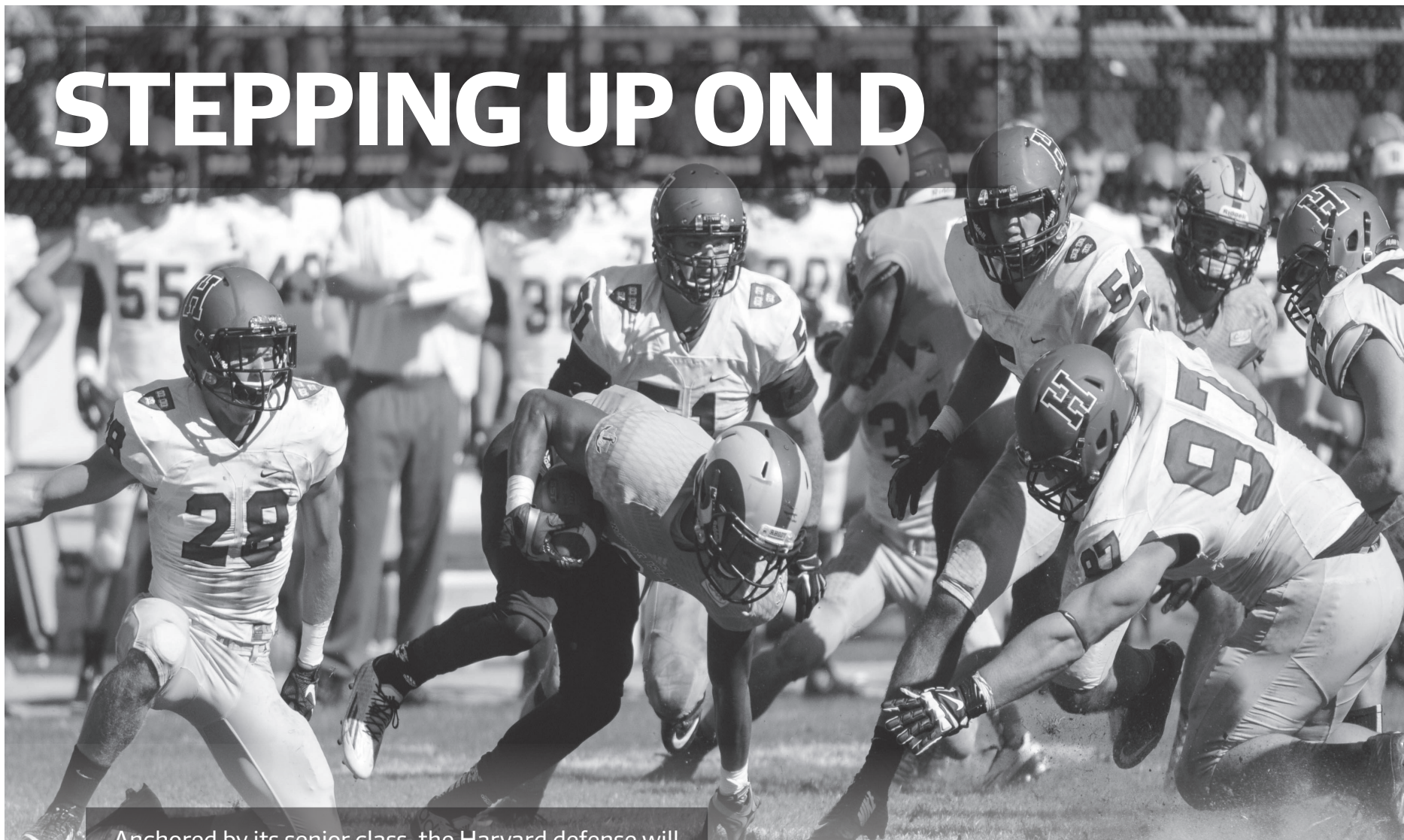
“If the offense turns the ball over on their own 20-yard line, the defense needs to go in and hold them to either a field goal or get a turnover,” Koran added. “I think that was a big thing for us last year.”

You can’t improve on perfection. That’s why both Harvard players and coaches have repeatedly emphasized that this is a new season, a new team. And with a new year come different challenges. The 2015 Crimson will need to develop its own identity, and it will need to do so quickly—because each week, the next opponent will be looking to knock Harvard off its throne.

“It’s going to be an extremely competitive league, more so than ever,” Murphy said. “You put it all together, and you just better concentrate on having a good day, because everybody’s good. You can’t take anyone lightly.”

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STEPPING UP ON D



Anchored by its senior class, the Harvard defense will play a crucial role in the team's attempt to emerge on top of the Ivy League for the third straight year.

After conceding only 12.3 points per game in 2014, Harvard held URI to 10 in week one. Y. KIT WU—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

HOT PURSUIT

By **DAVID STEINBACH**
CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

The defining moment of the 2014 Harvard football season came with 60 seconds left in The Game. A 35-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Conner Hempel to junior wide receiver Andrew Fischer propelled the Crimson to a 31-24 victory, an Ivy League championship, and an undefeated season.

In that moment, it was all about the offense. But the iconic sequence belies how Harvard actually arrived at that point.

Indeed, throughout the 2014 campaign, it was the defense that kept the Crimson within striking distance when the offense was struggling to click. It was the defense that finished the season allowing an average of just 12.3 points per game, good for the lowest total in the FCS.

As Harvard football enters 2015, it will rely on its defense once more as the program seeks its fourth Ancient Eight title in five years. A veteran unit anchored by the leadership of captain and linebacker Matt Koran will seek to provide the stability last year's defense brought

every Saturday. The squad hopes to play with the mentality that, no matter who suits up on

I think all around defensively, we're just one really good unit. I think a huge part of that is just our energy and the leadership we bring on the field... We're flying around, we're talking, we're yelling, and we're making big plays, big hits.

MATT KORAN
Senior linebacker

the other side of the ball, the Crimson will play lights out from the first snap.

"I think all around defensively, we're just one really good unit," Koran said. "I think a huge part of that is just our energy and the leadership we bring on the field... We're flying around, we're talking, we're yelling, and we're making big plays, big hits."

Entering last season, Harvard had a number of question marks on the defensive side. While the defensive line boasted several established playmakers, the secondary featured consider-

able turnover and a host of unproven faces.

This year, most of those question marks are gone. To be sure, the unit loses the leadership and playmaking abilities of a host of 2015 standouts: defensive linemen Zack Hodges and Obum Obukwelu, linebacker Conner Sheehan, and defensive back Norman Hayes. But overall, the continuity is striking.

The top-ranked FCS scoring defense returns a trio of starters at linebacker, as well as three more in the secondary. Among these, senior linebacker Eric Medes is a three-year starter, and senior defensive back Sean Ahern was named First Team All-Ivy in 2014. Koran's leadership, both on and off the field, has received praise from his coach and teammates.

When Harvard suits up Saturday under the lights against Brown, the Crimson faithful can rest slightly easier knowing that five of the team's six leading tacklers last year will still be on the field.

"We've all played together before; we all have been on an undefeated team," senior defensive back Chris Evans said. "Because of that, we know what it takes to win, [and] we know how to instill what we do every day in practice

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY

SEASON SCHEDULES

Men's Ice Hockey

DATE	SCHOOL	TIME/RESULT
Oct. 31	@ DARTMOUTH	W, 7-0
Nov. 1	DARTMOUTH	W, 5-2
Nov. 6	YALE	7 p.m.
Nov. 7	BROWN	7 p.m.
Nov. 13	@ QUINNIPIAC	7 p.m.
Nov. 14	@ PRINCETON	7 p.m.
Nov. 27	NOTRE DAME*	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 28	TBD*	4 p.m.
Dec. 4	@ UNION	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 5	@ RENNELAER	7 p.m.
Jan. 1	FERRIS ST.**	5 p.m.
Jan. 2	TBD**	5 p.m.
Jan. 7	BOSTON UNIVERSITY	7 p.m.
Jan. 9	QUINNIPIAC	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	ST. LAWRENCE	7 p.m.
Jan. 16	CLARKSON	7 p.m.
Jan. 22	@ COLGATE	7 p.m.
Jan. 23	@ CORNELL	7 p.m.
Jan. 29	PRINCETON	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 1	BOSTON COLLEGE	5 p.m.
Feb. 5	@ BROWN	7 p.m.
Feb. 6	@ YALE	7 p.m.
Feb. 8	BEANPOT FINAL	TBA
Feb. 12	RENNELAER	7 p.m.
Feb. 13	UNION	7 p.m.
Feb. 19	CORNELL	7 p.m.
Feb. 20	COLGATE	7 p.m.
Feb. 26	@ CLARKSON	7 p.m.
Feb. 27	@ ST. LAWRENCE	7 p.m.



BC | FEB 1

Boston College stands in the way of Harvard's first Beanpot final since 2008. Boasting the nation's top stable of freshmen and veteran goaltending in Thatcher Demko, the Eagles entered the season No. 1 in the USCHO.com poll. Although BC has since lost top recruit Jeremy Bracco to the OHL's Kitchener Rangers with his departure in late October, the Eagles will still bring plenty of talent to TD Garden, including forwards Alex Tuch and Colin White and defenseman Ian McCoshen.

NOTRE DAME
Nov 27

Harvard will make its program's first appearance in the Notre Dame-hosted Shillelagh Tournament on Black Friday. Seniors Thomas DiPauli, Steven Fogarty, and Mario Lucia figure to lead the Fighting Irish this year on offense, while sophomore Cal Peterson will look to build off of his .919 freshman save percentage.



QUINNIPIAC | JAN 9

After losses in consecutive years to Yale in the Rivalry On Ice, Harvard will look farther down Whitney Avenue for a Madison Square Garden opponent. After a contentious ECAC semifinal loss to the Crimson in Lake Placid, the Bobcats have won their first six games this season with senior goaltender Michael Garteig and preseason All-ECAC selection Sam Anas.



FERRIS STATE | JAN 1

After an 11-year absence, Harvard will make its fourth-ever appearance in the 25-year-old Mariucci Classic, starting with Ferris State on New Year's Day. Connecticut and tournament-host Minnesota will play the Friday night cap to decide who will play Harvard in the tournament final or consolation the next day.



@ YALE | FEB 6

Goaltender Alex Lyon leads ECAC Hockey's media preseason favorite into 2015-2016 season. In his sophomore season last year, the Ken Dryden Award-winner led the nation in save percentage (.939), goals against (1.62), and shutouts (7). He will have help on the blueline from All-American senior defenseman Rob O'Gara.

Women's Ice Hockey

DATE	SCHOOL	TIME/RESULT
Oct. 23	@ DARTMOUTH	L, 2-1
Oct. 30	CLARKSON	T, 0-0
Oct. 31	ST. LAWRENCE	W, 3-2
Nov. 6	@ YALE	7 p.m.
Nov. 7	@ BROWN	4 p.m.
Nov. 13	UNION	7 p.m.
Nov. 14	RENNELAER	4 p.m.
Nov. 18	NEW HAMPSHIRE	7 p.m.
Nov. 24	NORTHEASTERN	7 p.m.
Nov. 27	@ MINNESOTA DULUTH	5:07 p.m.
Nov. 28	@ MINNESOTA DULUTH	2:07 p.m.
Dec. 4	@ PRINCETON	7 p.m.
Dec. 5	@ QUINNIPIAC	4 p.m.
Jan. 2	BOSTON PRIDE	4 p.m.
Jan. 8	CORNELL	7 p.m.
Jan. 9	COLGATE	4 p.m.
Jan. 15	@ ST. LAWRENCE	7 p.m.
Jan. 16	@ CLARKSON	4 p.m.
Jan. 19	BOSTON COLLEGE	7 p.m.
Jan. 23	DARTMOUTH	4 p.m.
Jan. 29	QUINNIPIAC	3:30 p.m.
Jan. 30	PRINCETON	4 p.m.
Feb. 2	BOSTON COLLEGE	TBA
Feb. 5	BROWN	7 p.m.
Feb. 6	YALE	4 p.m.
Feb. 9	TBA	TBA
Feb. 12	@ RENNELAER	7 p.m.
Feb. 13	@ UNION	4 p.m.
Feb. 19	@ COLGATE	7 p.m.
Feb. 20	@ CORNELL	7 p.m.

@ MINN. DULUTH
Nov 27

For the first time as a head coach, Minnesota Duluth's Maura Crowell will face her old team for the first time in the first of two games over Thanksgiving Day weekend. Crowell coached at Harvard for five seasons and served as the team's interim head coach during the 2013-2014 season as Crimson head coach Katey Stone oversaw Team USA's preparations for the Sochi Olympics. UMD won 20 games last season at a .608 clip.



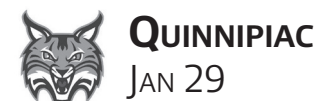
BOSTON PRIDE | JAN 2

The Crimson will share the Bright-Landry Hockey Center with the Boston Pride, one of four teams in the inaugural National Women's Hockey League. The co-tenants will meet for their first game of 2016 in exhibition play. The Pride will feature former Harvard players Jillian Dempsey and Marissa Gedman, in addition to former Wisconsin standout and two-time Olympian Hilary Knight.



BC | FEB 2

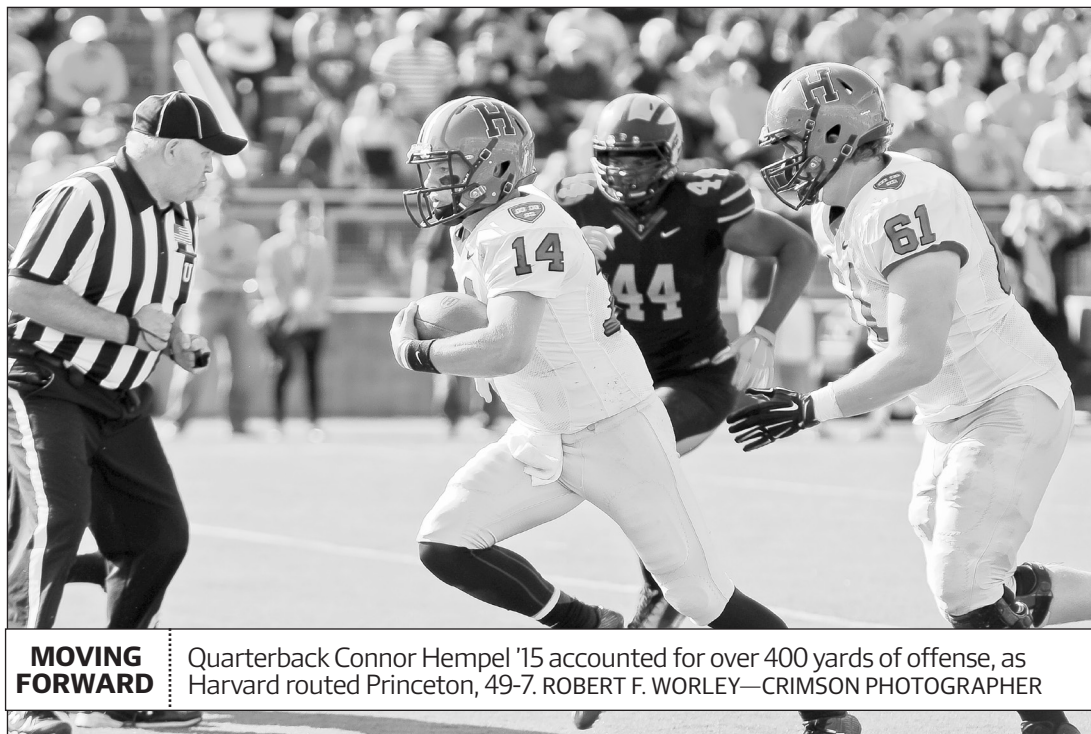
The 2015 Beanpot finalists will meet on the same side of the bracket in 2016. In their first meeting of 2014-2015, the Eagles routed the Crimson, 10-2, but fell to Harvard in one-goal games in the Beanpot final and NCAA tournament semifinal. BC's only other loss last season came to fellow Beanpot rival Boston University. Led by Patty Kazmaier Award winner Alex Carpenter, the Eagles have won all 10 of their 10 first games in 2015-2016.

QUINNIPIAC
JAN 29

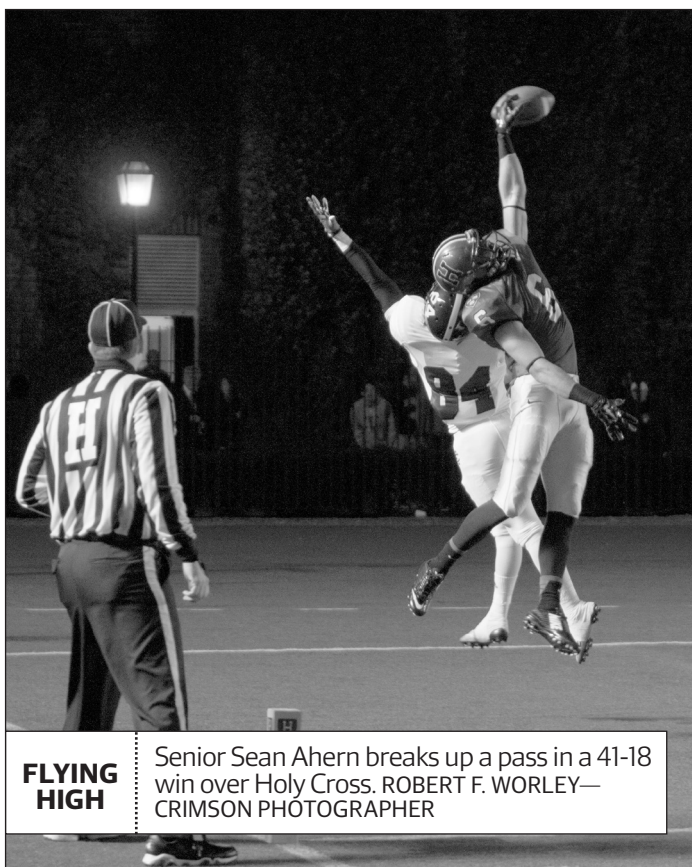
The Crimson's first-round 2015 NCAA tournament opponent has started the 2015-2016 season 5-1-1 under first-year head coach Cassandra Turner. The Bobcats return leading scorer Taylor Cianfarano, who paces the team this year with seven goals and 13 points through seven games. Freshman Melissa Samoskevich trails close behind with 12 points (3 G, 9 A) while junior goaltender Sydney Rossman has taken the starting reins from graduated keeper Chelsea Laden.

2014 IN PHOTOS

After having to settle for a share of the crown in 2013, the Crimson—led by the No. 1 ranked FCS scoring defense in the nation—went undefeated in 2014 to earn its third title in the past four seasons.



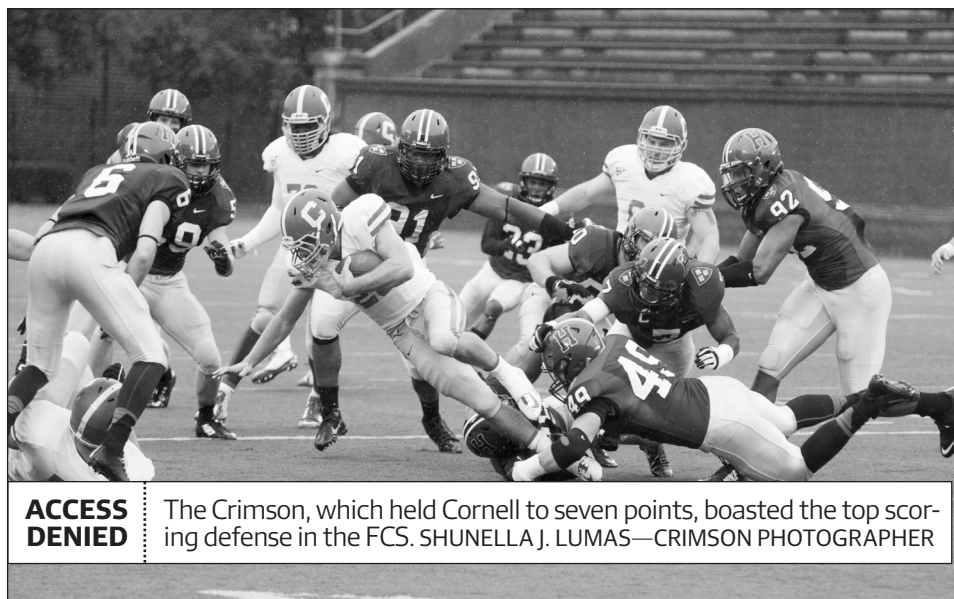
MOVING FORWARD Quarterback Connor Hempel '15 accounted for over 400 yards of offense, as Harvard routed Princeton, 49-7. ROBERT F. WORLEY—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER



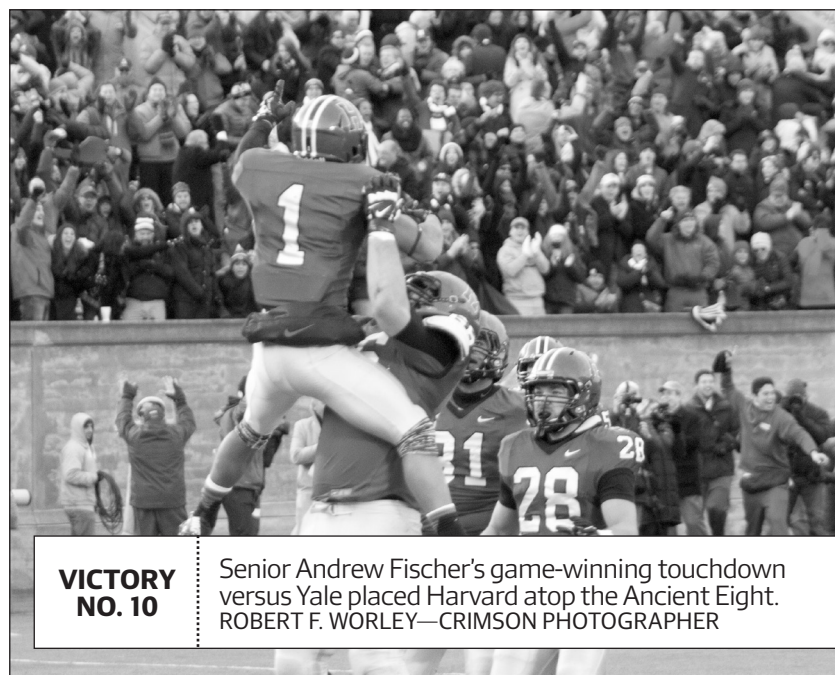
FLYING HIGH Senior Sean Ahern breaks up a pass in a 41-18 win over Holy Cross. ROBERT F. WORLEY—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER



COMPLETE CONTROL One of Harvard's most convincing wins of 2014 was a 45-0 beat-down of Columbia. SARAH P. REID—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER



ACCESS DENIED The Crimson, which held Cornell to seven points, boasted the top scoring defense in the FCS. SHUNELLA J. LUMAS—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER



VICTORY NO. 10 Senior Andrew Fischer's game-winning touchdown versus Yale placed Harvard atop the Ancient Eight. ROBERT F. WORLEY—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

AROUND THE IVIES

Despite Harvard's undefeated 2014 season, this year's Ivy League field is wide open, with challengers at every turn.

DATE	SCHOOL	LOCATION	TIME / RESULT
19 Sept	RHODE ISLAND	KINGSTON, R.I.	W, 41-10
26 Sept	BROWN	CAMBRIDGE, Mass.	7 p.m.
2 Oct	GEORGETOWN	CAMBRIDGE, Mass.	7 p.m.
10 Oct	CORNELL	ITHACA, N.Y.	12 p.m.
17 Oct	LAFAYETTE	EASTON, Pa..	3:30 p.m.
24 Oct	PRINCETON	CAMBRIDGE, Mass.	12 p.m.
30 Oct	DARTMOUTH	CAMBRIDGE, Mass.	7:30 p.m.
7 Nov	COLUMBIA	NEW YORK, N.Y.	1 p.m.
14 Nov	PENN	CAMBRIDGE, Mass.	12 p.m.
21 Nov	YALE	NEW HAVEN, Conn.	2:30 p.m.



HARVARD

With 14 of last year's starters returning, including most of its skill players, the Crimson squad is the preseason favorite to take home its third consecutive Ancient Eight title. The veteran corps of linebackers will need to reinforce an inexperienced defensive line in Harvard's quest to post another perfect record and repeat last year's performance as the top-scoring defense of the FCS, which allowed just 12.3 points per game.

PLAYER TO WATCH PAUL STANTON

Senior running back

GP	AVG	YDS	TD
9	6.7	990	11

Stanton took second all-time in Harvard history in career touchdowns scored after the week one matchup with URI.



BROWN | SEPT 26

With a loaded backfield, veteran receiving corps, and fifth-year quarterback Marcus Fuller, Brown's offense is poised to do some damage this year. The Bears took a hit on the defensive side of the ball with the loss of linebacker Xavier Russo, who led the team last year with 80 tackles. An experienced defensive line will need to pick up the slack for a young secondary in order for Brown to be a serious contender for the title.

PLAYER TO WATCH BRIAN STRACHAN

Senior wide receiver

GP	REC	YDS	TD
10	56	668	7

After missing the majority of his sophomore year due to injury, Strachan has been a pivotal weapon for the Bears offense.



CORNELL | OCT 10

Coming off a 1-9 season in which its only win came against 0-10 Columbia, the Big Red will need an explosive year from senior running back Luke Hagy to live up an offense that averaged under 16 points per game in 2014. The defense impressed in a loss Saturday against Bucknell, but tough tests early on against Yale and Harvard will help predict if Cornell can post its first winning record since 2005.

PLAYER TO WATCH LUKE HAGY

Senior running back

GP	AVG	YDS	TotTD
9	4.9	734	6

Hagy has averaged over 900 all-purpose yards per season for the last three seasons.



PRINCETON | OCT 24

After a disappointing 5-5 season, Princeton—the 2014 favorite to finish on top—returns this season with a new rotation set of quarterbacks under center, having graduated Quinn Epperly and Connor Michelsen. The untested play-callers will be bolstered by the Tigers' running game, which notched over 300 yards rushing in week one against Lafayette, led by seniors Dre Nelson and DiAndre Atwater.

PLAYER TO WATCH SETH DEVALVE

Senior wide receiver

GP	REC	YDS	TD
2	19	243	1

DeValve played just two games due to injury in 2014. The senior, now back in action, will look to notch 1000 career receiving yards.



DARTMOUTH | OCT 30

The Big Green has perhaps the best chance of any Ivy squad to knock off the Crimson for the top spot, with its only conference loss last year coming at the hands of Harvard. Along with prolific quarterback Dalyn Williams, named the league's preseason Offensive Player of the Year, Dartmouth returns an imposing defensive unit-led by linebacker Will McNamara, who was tied atop the league in tackles last year and was tabbed as the preseason Defensive Player of the Year.

PLAYER TO WATCH DALYN WILLIAMS

Senior quarterback

GP	YDS/G	TD	INT
9	235.4	21	3

Williams was the league's 2012 Rookie of the Year and was also an All-Ivy First Teamer.



COLUMBIA | NOV 7

The Lions shook up the Ivy League when they hired Penn's coach of 23 seasons, Al Bagnoli. It remains to be seen whether or not Columbia will be able to break a 22-game losing streak. However, there were flashes of improvement in last week's loss to Fordham as the Lions managed to keep it close until the fourth quarter against the heavily favored Rams.

PLAYER TO WATCH SKYLER MORNHINWEG

Senior quarterback

203 GP	YDS/G	TD	INT
3	114.7	3	1

The Florida transfer started three games at UF and will attempt to be the first of the last five Columbia starting play-callers to win a game.



PENN | NOV 14

For the first time in 23 years, the Quakers will not have longtime coach Al Bagnoli on their sideline. Under new coach and previous defensive coordinator Ray Priore, the squad will attempt to bounce back from a lackluster 2-8 season in 2014. Though the team returns a prolific passer in Alek Torgersen, the Quakers will need to become a more effective red zone offense if they hope to challenge the top teams in the league.

PLAYER TO WATCH ALEK TORGERSEN

Junior quarterback

GP	YDS/G	TD	INT
10	268.9	14	11

Torgersen will look to improve on a breakout year in which he averaged over 250 yards of passing per



YALE | NOV 21

Behind senior quarterback Morgan Roberts, Yale is seeking revenge after losing the championship to the Crimson. However, last year's top offense in the Ivy League will be playing without powerhouse back Tyler Varga, who singlehandedly scored nearly 16 points per game last year. Yale will need to lean on its passing game and its more experienced defensive unit if it hopes to challenge Harvard or Dartmouth for the title.

PLAYER TO WATCH MORGAN ROBERTS

Senior quarterback

GP	YDS/G	TD	INT
10	323.0	22	9

Roberts threw a school-record 3,230 yards along with 22 touchdowns last year to tie the program record.

