

# THE POTENTIAL PERFECT 10

This year's rendition of The Game has the potential to be the 10th straight win for Harvard, as well as giving this seniors the opportunity to be the first class to claim the Ivy league title all four years.

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HARVARD-YALE PREVIEW

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*Going for the tenth straight win against Yale for the Crimson, the 133rd rendition of The Game will have the potential for Harvard to clinch a share of the Ivy League title.*

FROM THE EDITORS

On the single day Harvard students don as much school spirit as state schools, Harvard-Yale is a great opportunity for campus to enjoy a day of tailgating and stepping away from work. Just as important, however, is the 133rd playing of the Game. The 2016 edition could go down as one of the most historic ones as the Crimson goes an unprecedented decade of success against the Bulldogs while the Class of 2017 aims to be the first class to win at least a share of the Ancient Eight. With this in mind, we're proud to present the 2016 HY Supplement.

— GP,JS,SD, JF, ASV

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# RECEIVERS, ROOMIES

The duo makes up one third of the Crimson's receiving yards this season. FIONA LEWIS—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

**TWICE THE RECEPTION**

Sophomore wide receivers Justice Shelton-Mosley and Adam Scott see each other a lot—in their double, in economics classes, and on the field. Their bond only makes them better.

By **GANT PLAYER**  
CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

The first thing sophomore Justice Shelton-Mosley hears every morning is gospel music blaring from down the hall. Roommate and fellow receiver Adam Scott is already awake and getting ready to head across the river to the football facilities at Dillon Field House. By the time Shelton-Mosley is ready to go, Scott is already gone.

Their days usually follow a similar schedule. Get up early, head to the Field House, go to class. They always have a little time mid-day during the week to hang out and take naps. But being student-athletes in-season, that time is usually short. Unlike normal college roommates, most of the time spent between the two players is in class or on the field.

This season, Scott and Shelton-Mosley have become the focal points of Harvard's receiving game. The roommates have missed a combined seven games throughout the season, yet they total a third of the team's receiving yards. Shelton-Mosley and Scott are second and third on the team in total yards, respectively. Scott has also scored three touchdowns in only four games, the second highest mark on the team.

It's interesting trying to compare the two players. On one hand, the two sophomores are remarkably similar. Both are relatively undersized (Scott is 5'7", Shelton-Mosley is 5'9") and rely on their quickness and speed to get open.

When asked his favorite route to throw to each receiver, senior quarterback Joe Viviano jokingly said "deep," highlighting just how fast the players are. They've become the focal point of the team's offense as the season has gone on.

But talking to them, differences become apparent. Scott is energetic and always has a smile on his face. He's personable and charismatic. Shelton-Mosley, on the other hand, is subdued. He's

well-spoken, but tends not to wear his emotions on his sleeve.

That difference is shown in the way they play the game. Watching the Crimson play, it never seems like Shelton-Mosley is having as big a game as he is. He quietly runs near-perfect routes, making 10 to 15 yard catches down the sideline. But when he gets free, it's clear that he's the best player on the field. His football instincts are unmatched at this level.

The energy of Scott, however, is palpable. Viviano believes the Texas native is the fastest player on the team, and that quickness is shown as soon as he gets the ball in his hands. Scott relies on quick screens and short routes in order to showcase his talents. He's fast, and he uses that to his advantage. There isn't a player in the Ivy League that can catch him.

"They're both unbelievable," Viviano said. "Justice is probably a little bit better route runner, Adam is just better with the ball in his hands as soon as possible."

Defending the two players is also an exceptionally different task according to cornerback and captain Sean Ahern. Depending on the position they've lined up at, the difficulty changes.

"[Scott is harder to cover] in the slot," Ahern said. "He's a little shiftier....

They're both great players, they both bring it every single day, and they both love to compete so it's nice to have those two guys on offense."

The two players have taken remarkably different paths as well. Shelton-Mosley became a star last season. The Sacramento, Calif. native was the Ivy League Rookie of the Year and was on the All-Ivy first team as a returner, second team as a receiver. He racked up 589 yards and seven touchdowns as a freshman.

Scott, on the other hand, has been plagued by injuries throughout his short career. He was forced to sit out most of last season, only catching passes in three games.

Unlike his roommate, Scott's breakout came this season. His injury troubles carried over to the beginning of this season. He's only played in Harvard's last four games, but he's made a tangible impact.

Being injured and watching Shelton-Mosley have the season he did certainly gave Scott a new perspective on the game.

"It was a time where I really just got to be a student of the game," Scott said. "Just watching him... do big things really motivated me to get back on the field."

It's clear that being roommates had an impact on the two receivers. Ac-

ording to Shelton-Mosley, there are plenty of advantages to having a roommate who plays the same position as himself. They're able to watch film together in their room outside of regular practices and discuss their releases and route-running.

Disadvantages?

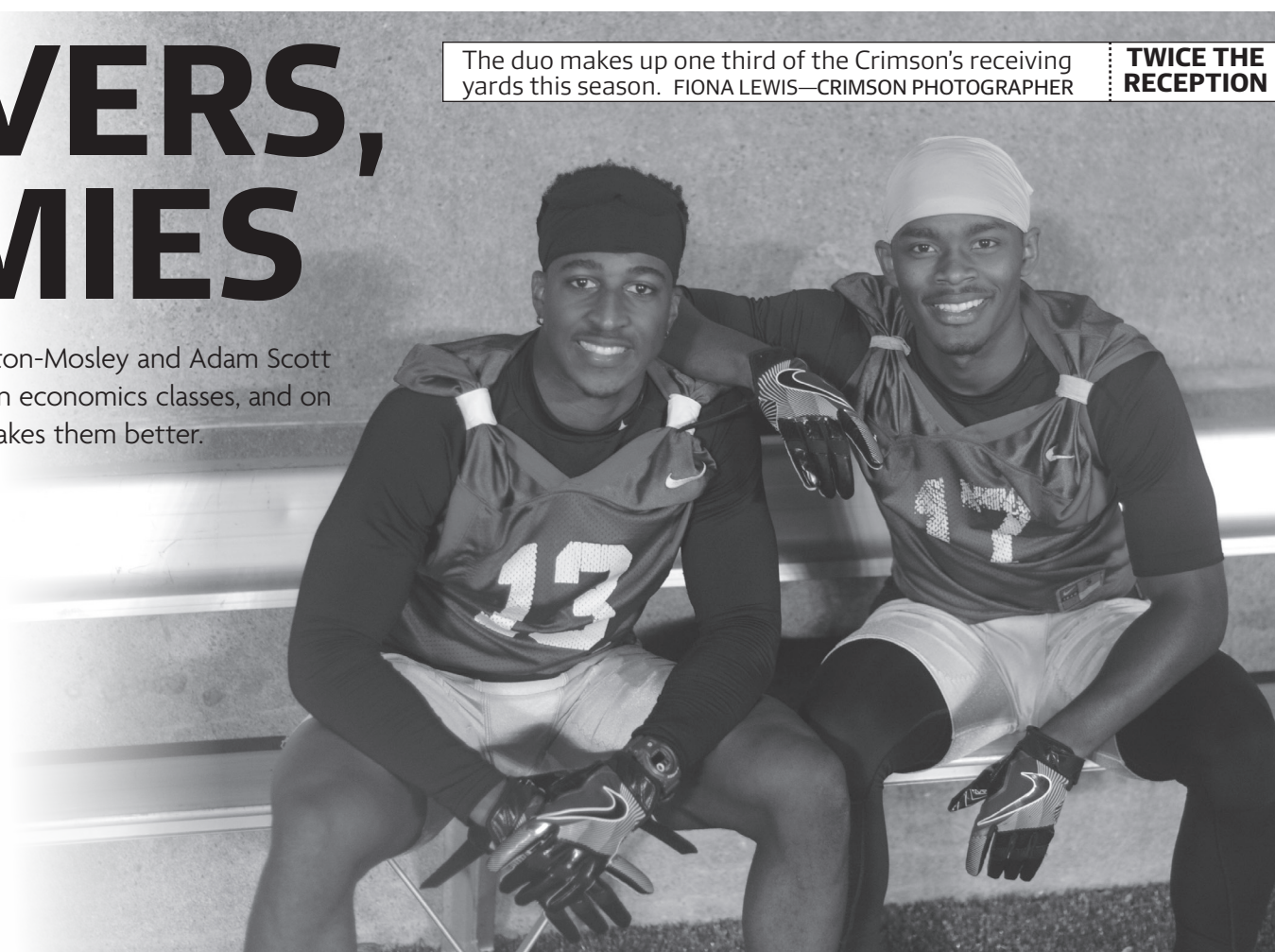
"This guy stays up 'til like, three, four a.m. every morning," Shelton-Mosley said.

Their relationship extends well beyond the field, though. They spend most of their time outside of football in the same classes, as both are economics concentrators. They also spend a lot of time outside of football and class together. According to senior quarterback Joe Viviano, they both love to dance. They're also, at least in their opinion, fashionable and try to outdress one another. It's always a competition, but as with all competitions, someone has to win.

"Dance moves over to Adam," Viviano said. "It's competitive, but you can't beat [Scott]."

As for who earns the title for the better dresser is? Both captain Sean Ahern and Viviano had the same answer: Justice.

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# WAVE THE RED FLAG



By **JACK STOCKLESS**  
CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

Harvard-Yale is the one game every fall that attracts enough fans to fill Harvard Stadium to the brim. Even the wooden bleachers, hidden under the overhang at the very top of the stadium, are sold out.

Temperatures usually plummet to the low 40s, and blustery New England fall winds make the experience a lot less comfortable for fans than a typical game in mid-September. But the Harvard faithful still show up in droves, driven not necessarily by the quality of the teams but instead by the ancient rivalry between these two Ivy League institutions.

It would take a miracle to pick out any one individual out of the teeming sea of Crimson and Blue. However, noticeable or not, the Little Red Flag waves on.

The legend goes that in 1884, Frederick Plummer, a freshman at the College, cobbled together a pennant adorned with a large “H.” Plummer traveled to New Haven to watch Harvard clobber Yale, 52-0, and the rest is now history. Out of this one fan’s remarkable dedication, a tradition was born.

Harvard has a rich history that stretches back to the 1600s, and its football team is steeped in similarly deep tradition. It plays its home games in a Coliseum-like structure, and the Ivy League was one of the birthplaces of the sport. Appropriately, the flag had to be passed down to the next generation of loyal supporters of Crimson football.

The convention became that the flag would be awarded to the fan who had attended the most Harvard-Yale games in his lifetime, but it eventually became clear that it would be an impossible task

to verify individuals’ attendance records. In 2001, the criterion was changed, and it was designated that Harvard’s No. 1 fan would carry the flag to avoid controversy.

The Friends of Harvard Football decided this fan was Pittsburgh native Bill Markus ’60. For the last 15 years, he has been the chosen flag bearer on the one day of the year it makes an appearance in public.

“It’s kept in a secret location that even I do not know,” Markus notes. “I’m handed the flag that day, and I surrender it as soon as the game ends. I guess there’s a desire not to have any anti-Harvard forces capture the flag, whether it be MIT or Yale.”

In 2009, the “most games attended” tradition was resurrected in a campaign led by Spencer Ervin ’54. A new flag was constructed, and now Paul Lee ’46 proudly waves the replica.

Saturday marks Lee’s 74th appearance at the Game, breaking the record set by Allen Rice ’02 and Dick Bennink ’38. Lee’s dedication to his alma mater’s team is quite literally second-to-none.

Along with people like Lee and Markus, the flag is one of the constants for Harvard in an ever-changing football landscape, albeit a rather inconsequential constant.

“It’s the kind of arcane nonsense that people enjoy,” Ervin remarks. “But I will say this, it meant a great deal to both Paul Lee and Dick Bennink.”

A banner sewn in 1884, repurposed, and then replicated. It is clear that traditions are not taken lightly in Cambridge. The persistence of these flags is due almost entirely to the vested interest many long-since graduated alumni still have in the team.

Take Ervin, for example. Despite saying that the flag is not important in the grand scheme of things, he did take the time to write to Harvard Magazine to implore those in charge to reinstate the flag’s original purpose. Ervin had the interests of Lee and his constant dedication to the program foremost in his mind.

Lee has now attended 74 editions of the Harvard-Yale rivalry, and he may have set a mark that will never be equalled. From his days as an undergraduate to the present, he has been an unwavering supporter. One man, however, is on a quest to unseat him.

“I don’t think that I, by any stretch of the imagination, will ever hit 74 games, nor do I want to,” Ervin says. “But Paul has a son, Jeffrey, who said, ‘Someday I’m going to beat my father.’”

Markus’ dedication to the program is also indicative of the overall dedication of older fans to the team. The pervasive feeling among current students and recent graduates is that the game is a social event first and a football game second, but fans who are at Harvard Stadium or

the Yale Bowl solely for football are still well-represented.

Markus says he attends each of Harvard’s 10 games each season. He even dealt with a broken-down car en route to New Haven one year. Markus eventually hailed a cab just south of Boston, and after the driver nearly took a wrong turn that would have sent him to Cape Cod, he arrived in New Haven just in time for the game.

Along with Lee, Markus has a compelling case for the team’s most loyal supporter.

“It’s something that I really enjoy doing, and it’s a chance to inject a little Harvard spirit,” Markus says. “I just hope it continues long after I’m gone.”

Maybe this flag custom is only an afterthought among the grand spectacle that is Harvard-Yale. But perhaps it is not just a coincidence that Harvard is 14-1 in the fifteen years that Markus has dutifully waved the Little Red Flag.

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# THE GAME PREVIEW

*Hoping to lift itself from mediocrity, the Yale squad can disrupt Harvard's quest for the fourth straight Ivy League title in the 133rd rendition of The Game.*

By **SAM DANIELLO**

CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

After the graduation of 14 All-Ivy players, an epidemic of injuries, and nine weeks of bruising play, Harvard football once again stands on the brink of an Ivy League championship.

Beat Yale, and the Crimson will secure a fourth-straight Ancient Eight title for the first time ever.

Lose, and Harvard will go down as a team that squandered considerable talent and nullified a nine-year winning streak in The Game.

The pressure is high, and by no means is the Crimson perfect. The program has lost twice—to Holy Cross and Penn—and eked out its last three victories by a combined 12 points.

Still, Harvard (7-2, 5-1 Ivy) has plodded on. At the start of the season, the Crimson shouldered immense expectations and strove for a historic goal. Now everything has reduced to a single con-

test.

Yes, the journey ends here—at Harvard Stadium, on Saturday afternoon, and in the 133rd playing of The Game.

“The main thing is pride,” captain Sean Ahern said. “There’s so much pride between the two programs. It goes back over 100 years.... It’s for the guys who came before and built the program to what it is now.”

Last week, the Crimson could have clinched a piece of the Ancient Eight crown by downing second-place Penn. But the Quakers defended their home turf, scoring two touchdowns in the final 15 seconds to claim an epic 27-14 win.

For the moment, then, Harvard, Penn, and Princeton each possess one conference loss—which means that, for each program, a victory this weekend would lock up a share of the championship.

The Quakers play at Cornell. The Tigers host Dartmouth. And Crimson players? Well, they

have a matchup of their own.

“Every year, no matter what the records are or what’s at stake, Harvard-Yale just has a different feel about it,” senior quarterback Joe Viviano said. “That’s really why you come here.”

In the long history of The Game, no program has ever built a winning streak as long as the one that Harvard now enjoys. Nine games. And if the Crimson wins, then it will push that streak to double digits for the first time.

Harvard’s destruction of Yale plays into a larger narrative of dominance. The Crimson has not had a losing campaign since 1998. In 23 seasons with Harvard, Murphy has grabbed nine Ivy titles; one more in 2016 would tie him for most all time with Carm Cozza, the Bulldogs’ coach from 1965 to 1996.

The Crimson’s hopes rest largely on the defensive line, which gives up a mere 92 rushing yards per game. The senior Cerberus of Langston Ward, Doug Webb, and James Duberg anchors

RYOSUKE TAKASHIMA—CRIMSON STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



the unit, but sophomore D.J. Bailey has morphed into a monster of his own, leading the team with six sacks.

Last Friday, that defensive line held Penn to a lackluster 21 rushing yards on 20 tries and gave the offense an opportunity to sneak back into the game. Which the offense did, powered by key throws from the senior Viviano.

The 220-pound Viviano embodies the following paradox: How fast can a man with two broken feet run? Pretty darn fast, it turns out.

After breaking both his feet in separate incidents as a junior, Viviano has emerged as one of the shiftest Crimson quarterbacks in recent years. He has topped 10 rushing attempts in all but one start and scored five touchdowns.

Success through the air has come and gone in spurts. The senior has completed 62 percent of his throws for 14 touchdowns and eight interceptions.

But against the Quakers, Viviano tossed three picks before halftime to dig a 14-3 hole.

“It wasn’t Joe’s best game, but I know he’s a good quarterback,” Murphy said. “We believe in him. He’ll certainly be ready to play this week.”

Whenever Viviano passes, he tends to focus on three players: senior Anthony Firkser, and sophomores Justice Shelton-Mosley and Adam Scott.

Firkser is the latest in a line of dominant tight

ends. At 230 pounds, the NFL prospect mixes bowl-you-over power with catch-me-later speed. He puts up 15 yards per grab and leads all targets with seven touchdowns.

Although Shelton-Mosley has notched a single score, he has caught at least five passes every time that he has taken the field. He has sure hands and silky strides—assets that distinguish him as a kick returner.

Scott shares the workload with Shelton-Mosley, which is fitting because the off-field roommates also share a double.

Thanks to a lingering muscle injury, the 5’7” Scott didn’t see action until late October, but he has electrified the Ancient Eight ever since. Averaging 80 all-purpose yards a game, Scott blows past opponents on screen passes, jet sweeps, and quick slants.

These receiving weapons might cause nightmares for a Bulldogs secondary that allows 296 passing yards per contest. In terms of scoring defense, Yale ranks last in the league by nearly a touchdown, conceding over 36 points per outing this season.

“When you analyze the athletes they have on the field, they have a ton of great athletes,” Murphy said. “Depth doesn’t seem to be an issue for Yale. They just haven’t put it all together.”

Injuries have plagued the Bulldogs through-

out the year. Three quarterbacks have started games, and three running backs have topped 100 rushing yards.

However, Yale seems to have settled on a solid duo in freshman quarterback Kurt Rawlings and freshman running back Alan Lamar. In week five, Rawlings led the Bulldogs to a stirring win against Columbia, and the 5’9” Lamar has averaged 4.4 yards per carry.

The safety position is one source of veteran talent for Yale, as four-year starter Foyesade Oluokun and junior Hayden Carlson man the position. Back-end talent compensates for upfront weakness, as the Bulldogs are tied for last in the Ancient Eight with 15 sacks.

In any rivalry game, however, past performances mean little when the two opponents take the field.

Harvard has played nine games so far. But practically and emotionally, the results of the first nine mean nothing without a triumph in the finale.

Just ask Murphy, who has overseen 22 editions of The Game. His final thoughts?

“Expect the unexpected,” the coach said. “It’s the Harvard-Yale game.”

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# HIT IT IN THE MORNING

While most only see the finished product that comes out to play over the course of 10 fall weekends, those 600 minutes of game action are a microcosm of the early morning and late nights for the team.

By **CADE PALMER**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Walking down JFK St. away from the bustle of Harvard Square, one will eventually cross Memorial Drive and reach the Charles River.

The Anderson Bridge spans the width of the Charles. It marks the divide between Cambridge and Allston, but for Harvard football players, it marks a different divide.

Crossing this bridge in the dark is almost an everyday task for the Harvard football team. The players pass by Weld Boathouse, leaving their academic responsibilities behind for a while and preparing for the daily grind of morning workouts. The first whistle of their day sounds before the sun rises and the last after it sets.

Between 6:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. players hurry from workouts to class to practice, attempting to fit in time for a large lunch and various naps. Afterwards, between dinner and showering, homework still awaits.

“Shoot it’s tough, because you stay up until like 2 o’clock in the morning doing a p-set and then you have to wake up at like 5:30,” said sophomore wide receiver Justice Shelton-Mosley. “A lot of guys will be sleeping on the bus or the shuttle as we get to the locker room.”

While the actual lift starts at 6:30, players’ days begin much earlier.

“Once we get into the locker room and the weight room, we’re focused on getting better,” Shelton-Mosley said. “But up until that point we’re pretty tired and just looking forward to when the lift is done.”

In season, players lift in the morning on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday, and the team splits itself into “cards.” The advanced card is made up of athletes who are getting to see a lot of time on the field and lifts only

on Tuesday and Sundays, with Sunday being a recovery lift. The cards below that are reserved for athletes who haven’t been playing and are working towards starting positions. These players lift all three days.

“This is because the goal is just to maintain what we’ve acquired through the off-season,” senior defensive tackle Doug Webb said. “Whereas we’re trying to build up the other developmental pairs who aren’t getting reps on the field throughout the season.”

In addition to the workouts are the actual practices, which have been in the afternoon for the last 23 years.

“One hundred percent of the practices, the meetings, start at three o’clock and the practice starts at four,” coach Tim Murphy said. “The kids have a very specific schedule for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. It’s identical so they can set their schedule to it.”

For the players and coaches, these afternoon practices extend into the early evening. Following the three o’clock meetings are 24 five-minute practice periods, and by the time the team huddles up after the twenty-fourth block, it is usually well past 6 p.m.

“We certainly try to get out by six everyday,” Murphy said. “Whether it’s 6:05 or 6:10 by the time you huddle and talk a little bit. Occasionally it’s five or 10 minutes longer.”

While the Harvard football team exclusively holds its in-season practices in the afternoon, several local teams, including Boston College, hold morning practices. Morning practices are better logistically, but they can leave players drained for the rest of the day.

“[Morning practices are] something you do have to think

about just because there are a fair number of players that do miss practice or miss meetings, which certainly makes it challenging to have afternoon practices,” Murphy said. “But we just felt more comfortable having the ability to get the kids as much rest as we can in season, and meet with them prior to practice, which would be very challenging if you’re having a six a.m. practice.”

That’s just the in-season schedule. Out of season, players engage in a much heavier workout schedule, only then they attempt to gain weight rather than just maintain it. Following the season, winter lifts are held for an hour and 15 minutes in the mornings on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. During the spring, the team holds 12 spring practices. Working three days a week for four weeks, these practices begin at 6:30 in the morning.

“We were the first ones to even have workouts in the morning,” Murphy said. “I think the bottom line is that it guarantees you’ll have your whole team. It’s just really challenging to try to run a practice if you’ve got anybody, or several players, missing because they have class conflicts. So that can be challenging in terms of getting them enough repetitions, getting everybody in sync.”

The most difficult part for the athletes isn’t so much waking up early to workout. Rather, it’s maintaining the rigorous schedule of a Division I athlete while trying to simultaneously excel at an Ivy League academic institution.

“I think the biggest thing is that you get to sleep early enough on the day before and on Monday,” sophomore linebacker Anthony Camargo said. “Also, after the lift and everything, you’re going to be exhausted so you’ve got to make sure you get a good breakfast.”

Harvard’s class

schedule helps a bit. Since there are few courses that meet at 8 a.m., players can finish their workout in time to grab a nap before class.

“Most classes here don’t really start until after eight o’clock,” Camargo said. “If you get showered and ready and get back to breakfast, you can get maybe a 30 to 45-minute nap before class. If I don’t get that little nap in, I’ll be nodding off throughout the day, and it’s extremely hard going on five to four hours of sleep depending on what time you fell asleep the night before.”

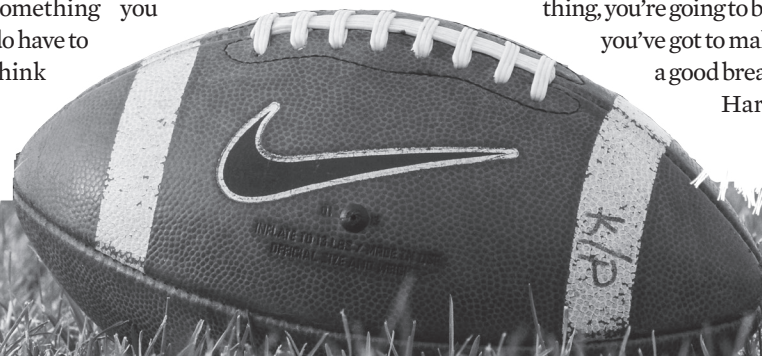
Naps become a key source of refreshment for the players throughout the day. That, and careful planning, are the keys for staying on top of their work.

“If you have lift that day and practice, you’ve got to find the time to nap in between meals and class—otherwise you’re going to have a tough practice,” Webb said. “Just knowing the obligations you’re going to have... and then making the right choices so that you don’t put yourself in a bad position where you have three things due on top of football.”

“Obviously if you have buddies that are in similar courses, you guys can game plan and try to figure out how to best organize your time and schedule,” Webb added.

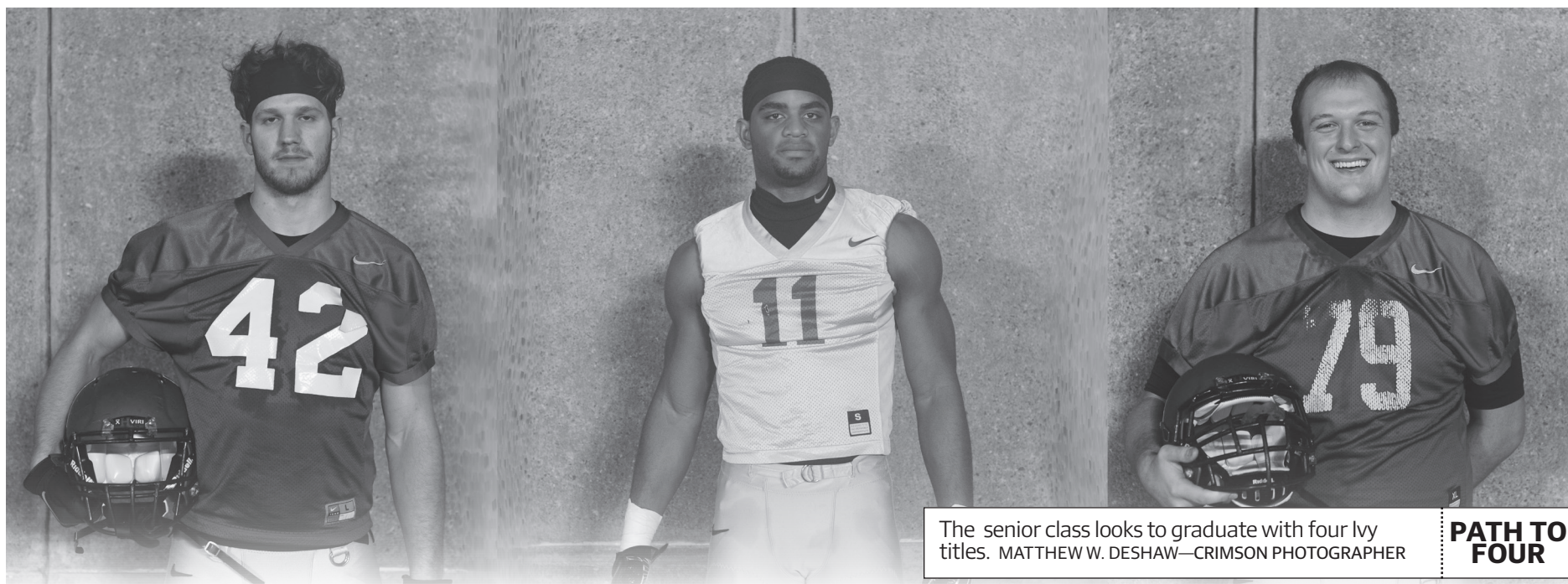
Yet between essays, problem sets, exams and sleep deprivation, the players refuse to let their workload distract them from being successful, on the field or in the classroom.

“We do our best to get sleep, but it’s hard with all the homework, papers, and tests that we have,” Camargo said. “But when we come out here we try to put everything that is affecting us on that side of the river in the back of our mind. If we’re tired and we’re sore or whatever, we just try to get as excited as we can and as pumped up as we can.”



Harvard’s season concludes on Saturday with the team’s annual matchup with Yale. MATTHEW W. DESHAW—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

**GETTING ON TOP**



The senior class looks to graduate with four Ivy titles. MATTHEW W. DESHAW—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

**PATH TO  
FOUR**

# One More Time

This Saturday against Yale, 23 seniors will suit up in Crimson for the final time in the Harvard careers

By **SAM DANIELLO**  
CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

The Last Lap takes place on Thursday night.

At the end of practice, with the rest of Harvard football still sweating beneath the stadium lights, the class of seniors will jog one loop around the field. Down the sideline, past the end zone, and back again.

Then they will line up and shake hands with everyone—freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and coaches. Whispered words. Sweaty hugs. Different people will use different phrases, but everyone will mean the same thing.

Congratulations. We made it. Thank you. Goodbye.

Twenty-three seniors. Some start every game and fill up the box score with yards and tackles. Others have never started, and never will.

Four from Texas, three from New Jersey, and three from Connecticut. The rest from around the country. Oregon and Wisconsin. Georgia and Pennsylvania.

No one weighs less than 180 pounds or stands below 5'11". No one has survived four years without bruises, scrapes, pain, and often worse.

At least two—offensive lineman Max Rich and half-back Anthony Firkser—have a serious shot at making an NFL roster. In earlier seasons, both players competed alongside teammates who later went pro, and those mentors had a significant impact.

“[Ben] Braunecker I probably got the most close with,” said Firkser, naming the Chicago Bears’ tight end. “He was the main guy I looked to in style of play and his attitude out there.”

“There were three, and they all graduated last year—Anthony Fabiano, Cole Toner, and Adam Redmond,” Rich said; each of those players made NFL teams in some capacity.

For the rest of Harvard seniors, though, odds are

that football will end when The Game does. On Saturday they will don pads, jerseys, and helmets. And later they will take all that off for the last time.

No senior class has accomplished what this one aims to do, namely win four straight Ivy League championships.

Already the cohort has won 35 games, yielding the third-highest winning percentage in school history. As freshmen, the players entered a dominant program, and they will leave one behind.

“A lot of guys in this current senior class are guys that maybe didn’t have the biggest role as freshmen,” safety Kolbi Brown said. “This being our time to shine, we’ve definitely stepped up to the plate and made a name for our class.”

However, the losses stand out more than the wins. There have not been many. One in 2013, when Princeton fought and fought for a 51-48 victory in triple overtime.

None in 2014. One in 2015, when Penn came into Harvard Stadium and ruined a perfect season with a 35-25 win. And then two in 2016, against Holy Cross and the Quakers.

Struggles have come in more mundane forms, too. Take the offseason routine of early-morning practices.

“It’s always tough in the winter,” Rich said. “It’s always tough when you’re working out at 5:30 in the morning. But that’s not really a low point; that’s when you’re grounding with your guys.”

Such strict discipline leads to attrition, as some players decide that other commitments matter more than football.

But for those who stick around, offseason exertion paves the way for in-season success.

And what success there has been. Heading into Saturday, the seniors have never lost to Yale. They have

beaten every Ivy team home and away and completed an undefeated season in 2014 with ESPN’s College GameDay in the background.

“Going 10-0 was one of the greatest feelings,” Rich said. “Beating Yale here—nothing was better.”

Besides the between-the-lines success, the seniors have forged that insular bond that results from competition. To an outsider, the depth of that bond is, and perhaps should be, unknowable.

Looking back on his career, Firkser identified his favorite moments as occurring not in games but in film sessions—those unscripted meetings when coaches cede the floor.

“Players are teaching each other,” Firkser said. “It’s the guys coming together as a stronger unit.”

That teaching finds a final expression after the last practice, when the Crimson gathers for a team dinner. Per a tradition that Harvard coach Tim Murphy started, each senior has an opportunity to stand up and address his teammates about what the last four years have meant.

Save for the team itself, no one hears what seniors say during the speeches. But recognizing the emphasis that Murphy places on “character,” chances are that the players talk about more than wins and losses.

From the opening day of practice, Murphy promises that Harvard football imparts values that extend beyond the football field. If so, then the last team dinner is both the first and final test of that promise.

“Just being a tough, mentally strong individual—that’s something that’s going to transfer into the real world,” Brown said. “There are ups and downs in life, and how you respond to those things defines who you are.”

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