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Big Red Freshmen Beat Penn As Wood Picks Up 252 Yards

By MARTIN P. KRASNER

The future of Cornell football looked extremely bright from Schoellkopf Field Saturday. The best freshman campaign in a decade came to a close with a convincing 27-15 victory over Penn.

About the only regrets the varsity might have about this year's frosh, who missed an undefeated season by one point, is that it won't be able to take advantage of the talented newcomers to the Cornell football scene until next September.

No doubt the varsity could find good use for the likes of frosh quarterback Gary Wood who put on a show which would have pleased the most critical of football audiences in Saturday's game.

Wood passed and ran for a total of 252 yards. This is far and away the best performance on record for a frosh back at Cornell.

But there were more than statistics in Wood's case. Until the morning game, there was grave doubt about Wood's availability. He had injured his foot in practice a week ago and had to play with a special shoe. His play calling, his maneuvers in the backfield, his runs and passes and his defensive play left little to be desired.

The rest of the backfield was quite impressive. Mike Strick matched Wood's ground yardage and was no less successful as a passing target for the quarterback.

Joe Robinson, appropriately nicknamed "The Tank" by his teammates, played his role of the team "bread-and-butter" man well. Paul Shank, who plays opposite Strick at halfback, gave the other members of the backfield an occasional rest by reeling off a good gain of his own.

Cornell started moving midway through the first quarter in Saturday's game. Its first touchdown drive started back on its own 11.



GARY WOOD is snowed under by a horde of Penn tacklers after picking up six yards late in Cornell's 27-15 victory over the Quaker freshmen.

A Wood-to-Strick pass moved the Red to Penn's 45. Two plays later, Wood zig-zagged 43 yards to an apparent touchdown, but Cornell was ruled guilty of illegal motion in the backfield.

After the penalty was marked off, Wood tried a run identical to his nullified touchdown and picked up 12 yards. Moments thereafter, Wood hit Bill Ponzer, his favorite target, with a touchdown pass on a 34-yard play.

Four Penn downs later, Cornell was on the march again. This time 15-yard runs by Wood and Shank put Cornell in scoring position on

the 20. From here, Wood passed to Robinson for the second Cornell touchdown.

Before Cornell sewed up its third tally of the first half, Penn got a word in edgewise. John Owens took off on a 74-yard end run after he found the middle closed. Penn added two extra points on a pass for the conversion.

This was not the last Cornell was to hear from Owens, who took a pass from Mike Kennedy for Penn's second-half touchdown and gained 134 yards rushing.

Cornell scored its third touch-
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down on a drive which began on its own 18. Two passes and 21-yard run by Wood set up the touchdown on Penn's 12. Strick ran the remaining yardage, and Cornell led 20-8 at halftime.

After intermission Cornell almost duplicated the touchdown play which had beaten Colgate two weeks earlier. Peter Gogolak came in for an apparent field goal attempt of the day for Gogolak, who instead of holding for the kick stood up and passed to Shank for a 21-yard gain and a first down. Penn held fast, however, and then blocked an attempted field goal.

This was the only field goal attempt of the day for Gogolak, who had already succeeded on six occasions earlier in the season. Gogolak did convert all three placement attempts after the Cornell touchdowns.

Cornell's final touchdown came on a 19-yard pass play from Wood to Strick. This completed a three-play drive, in which Wood passed to Burt Page for eight yards, pitched back to Shank, who ran for 31 yards, and then completed his third touchdown pass of the afternoon.

Cornell's line put up its usually fine defensive showing and gave the backfield the best protection it has enjoyed this season. John Moran, Dan O'Day, Gene Kunt and George Tebbetts were outstanding up front.