No revenge; Football loses to Yale again

By Brad Holzwarth
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

“We owe Yale a payback,” were junior David Dugan’s words when asked about the team’s looming match up. Since 1903, Yale has been Holy Cross’ nemesis, winning 22 of 25 meetings - including the last eight. Saturday was supposed to be a day of redemption.

The previous year both teams entered with records unblemished and it was Yale that emerged unscathed after a blistering offensive first half, and managed to hold off a late Holy Cross rally that left them 33-27 victors. It was supposed to be a game of revenge. However, Bulldog quarterback Peter Lee had other ideas.

Lee lead his unproductive and stagnant offense down field to produce not only one heart stopping touchdown to bring his team within two, but also to setup fifth year senior place kicker, Justin Davis. With the wind at his back, Davis’ 24 yard field goal through the uprights to cap off a four seconds left, found its way into the Bulldog’s end zone.

The previous week he ran for 95 yards on 16 carries. But as the final seconds ticked off, junior Ryan Rolfert booted a 40-yard field goal through the uprights to give Holy Cross their first lead of the contest, 16-14. Blake, Siaki, and Dugan combined for 29 tackles on the day.

The turning point for Yale came when senior Ray Littleton drove 53 yards out to put Holy Cross up 22-14 and seemingly put the game out of reach for the Bulldogs whose offense had failed to produce any threat after their second touchdown.

Yale defense stood tall and forced the Crusaders to look to Rolfert once again. He connected from 23 yards out to put Holy Cross up 22-14 and seemingly put the game out of reach for the Bulldogs whose offense had failed to produce any threat after their second touchdown.

The game ended with an unexpected turn of events. Lee mounted a 16 play, 93-yard drive concluding with a pass hitting senior Billy Brown in the end zone with 3:33 remaining. The two-point conversion failed leaving the score at 22-20. The ensuing onside kick failed; however, the Yale defense would not relinquish and forced Holy Cross to punt. With the ball on their own 18 with 1.36 to go, Lee marched down the field converting a fourth and opportunity and setting up Davis. With four ticks left on the clock, the Crusaders watched in horror as Davis’ kick split the uprights and gave Yale its ninth straight victory over Holy Cross.

Yale remains atop the Ivy League, upping their record to 3-0. Holy Cross falls to 2-1 but remains undefeated in the Patriot League. Their revenge versus the Bulldogs will have to wait another year as the curse still clouds overhead. The Crusaders will travel to play Pennsylvania over Columbus Day break before returning to Fitton Field to take on Dartmouth.