22:01 minutes, against 20:45 in 2008. The Blue was held to 66 yards rushing and 43 in the air a year ago, against 54 yards and 36 yards a year later. Yale made six first downs in 2007, five in 2008. It didn’t lose a fumble in the 2007 game, but lost three this time. Never in the modern history of the Harvard-Yale series have the sons of Walter Camp had their clocks cleaned so thoroughly in consecutive games.

Tidbits: Quarterback Chris Pizzotti was selected by the league’s eight head coaches as the Ivy player of the year. The fifth-year senior, whose strong right arm helped Harvard to consecutive championships, was one of seven Crimson players named to the all-Ivy first team. For the second year, Pizzotti received the Crocker Award as the team’s most valuable player.

Armed and dangerous: Pizzotti finished with impressive career statistics. He passed for 5,949 yards, had 455 completions, 41 touchdowns, and threw 37 touchdown passes. The only Crimson quarterback to put up bigger numbers has been Neil Rose ’03 (5,949 yards, 455 completions, 41 touchdown passes). Harvard won 20 of the 21 games that Pizzotti started and finished.

Aerial circus: Pizzotti threw 17 touchdown passes this season, five of them covering more than 50 yards. Junior Matt Luft led Harvard’s receivers with 54 catches for 914 yards and five touchdowns. He had more than 100 receiving yards in five of his games. In the Columbia game Luft caught six passes for 110 yards and a touchdown, while sophomore Levi Richards made seven receptions for 103 yards and two scores. Harvard hadn’t had two 100-yard receivers in a game since November 1975.

On call: Liam O’Hagan, an honorable-mention all-Ivy quarterback in his sophomore year, missed most of the 2007 season with an injury and was granted a fifth year. He saw spot duty in goal-line situations and on kicking teams. With Harvard leading Dartmouth 26-0, O’Hagan stepped in at quarterback under orders to run the ball. He picked up 66 yards on his own, and the offense closed out a 368-yard rushing day with 32 consecutive running plays—a sequence perhaps unmatched since the legalization of forward passing in 1906.

It’s up, it’s good: Patrick Long’s field goal in the Yale game was his thirteenth of the season, tying a single-season record shared by Charlie Brickley ’15 (1912) and Matt Schindel ’08 (2004). His 45-yarder at Lafayette was Harvard’s longest since the 1993 season.

House of horrors: The 24-21 win over Penn was Harvard’s fourth in five years, but only its second at Franklin Field since 1980. Though first place was at stake, the game drew only 7,352 spectators.

Hot ticket, cold day: The Yale game was a Stadium sellout, as it has been each year since 1998. Official attendance was 31,398.

Sports Roundup

Men’s Soccer
The Crimson (12-6-0, 5-2 Ivy), undefeated at home, just missed capturing the Ivy title. In post-season NCAA play the thirtieth-ranked booters fell in the second round to the University of South Florida, number eight. Four players made the first all-Ivy team, including junior Andre Akpan, who has now surpassed Chris Ohi ’64 as the Crimson’s all-time leading scorer.

Women’s Soccer
The women booters (10-3-5, 5-1-1 Ivy) won the Ivy League championship by beating Columbia 2-1 on a penalty kick with nine seconds left in double overtime before falling in the opening round of post-season NCAA play. Freshman Melanie Baskind was named Ivy League rookie of the year.

Men’s Basketball
After a 3-11 season last year, the netmen (3-2, 0-0 Ivy) were picked to finish fourth in the Ivies this year, thanks to an expected boost from a strong recruiting class. But in early November, freshman star Andrew Van Nest suffered a season-ending shoulder injury that may hurt the hoopsters’ chances in Ivy play.

Women’s Basketball
After winning a piece of the Ivy title two years in a row, the netwomen (4-2, 0-0 Ivy) hope to repeat in 2009. With its strong roster of returning players, Harvard was again a preseason favorite.

...Yale hadn’t been blanked by Harvard since 1992, nor shut out by anyone since 1997. Four days later, Jack Siedlecki retired as coach. He’ll remain at Yale as an assistant director of athletics. Siedlecki, 57, had a record of 70-49 over 12 seasons; he was 4-8 against Harvard.

Laurels: Since the start of formal Ivy League play in 1956, Harvard has won six outright championships and shared the title seven times. The most recent back-to-back championships came in 1982-83.

Streak: Crimson teams have won seven or more games in each of the past eight seasons—an Ivy League record, and Harvard’s best eight-year run since 1903-1910.

Honors: Joining Chris Pizzotti on the all-Ivy first team were captain and defensive tackle Matt Curtis ’09, cornerback Andrew Berry ’09, linebacker Glenn Dorris ’09 and Eric Schultz ’09, offensive tackle James Williams ’10, and receiver Matt Luft ’10. Freshman defensive back Matt Hanson was named Ivy rookie of the year. Defensive tackle Carl Ehrlich, of Bethesda, Maryland, and Pforzheimer House, will captain the 2009 squad.

Viva voce: Noah Van Niel ’08, the versatile fullback of the 2007 team, returned to the Stadium to sing the national anthem before the Yale game. A tenor, he is currently training for an operatic career at Philadelphia’s Academy of Vocal Arts. You may never hear the anthem sung better at a sports event.

~ “CLEAT”