



W. Cagers Pull Out Home Win, Make History



LIZ OLIVIERI / SUN STAFF

Charging ahead | Junior point guard Lauren Benson directed the Red's 58-54 win over Fairfield last night, leading Cornell in rebounds and assists, with seven and three, respectively.

By **JOHN W. FORMAN**
Sun Staff Writer

	FAIRFIELD	54	
	CORNELL	58	
Game:	1st	2nd	Tot
Fairfield	25	29	54
Cornell	24	34	58

junior guard Allie Fedorowicz each added 12 points, while Benson also led the team with seven rebounds and three assists.

The Stags had two players reach double-digits, led by 6-0 Baendu Lowenthal with 18 points and 6-0 Stephanie Geehan with 14 points and a game-high nine boards. Fairfield shot nearly identical 37.5 and 37 percent from the field in the first and second halves, respectively.

Heading into last night's game against Fairfield, senior captain Shannan Scarselletta was the only player on Cornell's roster with a 20-point performance under her belt.

In the Red's 58-54 win to extend its school-record home win streak to 11, Scarselletta became the only current Red player with a 20-point half under her belt.

The Red (4-3) went where its 6-1 captain led it all night, struggling to generate offense in the first half while Scarselletta notched only one point in the opening stanza, before breaking out for 20 more in the second half to finish with a career-high 21.

"We went in with a game plan — trying to get the ball inside to her and establish her game early," said head coach Dayna Smith. "In the first half, she wasn't being aggressive going to the hoop."

The Red didn't score until the fourth minute of the game and found itself down midway through the first, 19-10. Cornell finally showed some signs of life, putting together a 10-2 run to bring the home team within one point of the Stags (3-3).

The team's traded baskets over the closing minutes and went into halftime with Fairfield leading 25-24.

"We just emphasized at half-time that we need to get the ball to Shannan," said junior Virginia McMunigal. "We wanted to get her involved early, and she got herself open and I think mostly we did a good job getting the ball to her."

The Red certainly did. Scarselletta scored the first points after the intermission to give Cornell its first lead of the game, 26-25. After the Stags mounted another run to pull away and lead 41-36, Scarselletta scored five straight points to tie the game.

"We fed the ball in to her in the first four possessions of the second half," Smith said. "Fairfield had to make a little bit of an adjustment, and that opened up other things for us."

While the night belonged to Scarselletta, junior point guard Lauren Benson and

Cornell held the Stags to just 1-of-9 shooting from 3-point range.

Meanwhile, after shooting just 39.1 percent in the first half, Cornell shot a blistering 52.4 percent in the second while connecting on half of its 3-point attempts.

"I think the second half we kind of started clicking more offensively," McMunigal said. "We've been really trying to work our inside-outside game, and establishing our post game early was giving back to us."

CORNELL-FAIRFIELD TOP PERFORMERS

	CORNELL	FAIRFIELD
Scoring	Scarselletta, 21	Lowenthal, 18
Rebounding	Benson, 7	Geehan, 9
Assists	Benson, 3	Caskin, 6

CORNELL-FAIRFIELD STATS

	CORNELL	FAIRFIELD
Rebounds	36	33
Assists	9	14
Turnovers	22	16
FG %	45.5	37.3
3-point %	41.7	11.1

With at least five players registering four rebounds, the Red won the rebounding battle by a slim 36-33 margin against a frontcourt-oriented Fairfield team.

"Winning the rebounding battle is big," Smith said. "In every game we're working on closing that rebounding gap. Rebounding is going to be big for us in the Ivy League [games]."

On the other hand, the Red committed 22 turnovers compared to the Stags 16.

"You're always concerned, but I need to realize that we're trying to give our team the benefit of the doubt, and they're still trying to learn how to play with each other," Smith added. "As they get to know each other ... the turnovers will cut down."

With a long break until its next game on Dec. 22 at St. Bonaventure, the Red will have plenty of time to get to know each other.

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From Ivory Tower to Bullet-Proofed Mansion

I woke up yesterday morning and sat bolt upright from the cushy, puke-green sofa in my living room I had fallen asleep on earlier that night (morning?). Something was definitely not right. I pulled the notes I was using to write a rather fabulous English essay (due in approximately three hours) from my face and took stock of my emotions.



Meredith Bennett-Smith
Sportsaholics Anonymous

What was this sick feeling in the pit of my stomach? Could it be that third helping of my Jersey cousins' stuffing from Saturday afternoon, rising ominously up from the depths? Perhaps it was the caffeine pills — I mean tic-tacs — I'd been popping like an addict for the past nine hours?

Listlessly, I ticked off the usual suspects, but somehow I knew none of them was the culprit this time. It wasn't until I was halfway to class that I realized why I felt so uneasy, that the feeling threatening to ruin this beautiful morning was none other than a profound sense of Big Red guilt. I checked the paper and received confirmation in the form of the headline that screamed out at me from the Sports Section of USA

Today: the New York Giants' Plaxico Burress had shot himself in the leg at a club with a concealed weapon he felt compelled to carry everywhere (including a not so kosher sojourn across state lines) for protection.

What an ordeal! Reading about the terrible plight of Mr. Burress, I realized just how revolting my waspy, Ivy-educated sensibilities were — my life is *way* too easy. The cover story of this week's ESPN The Magazine loudly decries the fact that "NFL Players are Still Living Scared."

I knew that I would not be able to rest until I could truly empathize with the plight of this newest class of fearful, hunted citizens — and this simply could not be accomplished until I had driven a full 25 miles (at least) in their limos. Today, with a little help from some very good, very connected friends (I really owe you, Leigha) I made this desire become reality just in time for my last column of the semester (insert tearful goodbye's hear). I hope you read my (completely honest and fact-checked) itinerary carefully and thoughtfully — may it enlighten your privileged little lives as much as it has mine.

8:05 a.m.

I wake up in some room of my modest, 35-room house. I am terrified. Who knows who's out there right now, plotting my demise and/or the pillaging of my Miami mansion? I yell at

See **BENNETT-SMITH** page 17

INSIDE SPORTS

Roll Out the Red Carpet

A roundup of the Cornell athletes who were named to All-Ivy teams for the fall 2008 season.

Family Feud

High-priced point guard Stephon Marbury has publicly insulted his new coach Mike D'Antoni, as the rift between himself and the Knicks management grows wider.