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THE DAILY PRINCETONIAN



Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Newsletter by **Jacqueline Zhou** and **Michelle Miao**

Wrestling coach headed to Stanford



Ayres coaching Patrick Glory '23 during the 2023 NCAA Wrestling Championships in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Photo courtesy of [@TigerWrestling/X](#)

Good morning!

After 17 years at the helm of Princeton wrestling, **Head Coach Chris Ayres** is venturing west to lead the Stanford wrestling program as its new head coach. During his tenure at Princeton, Ayres has produced All-Ivy wrestlers, All-Americans, and a National Champion, and in 2020 notably led Princeton to its

first Ivy League title since 1986. In 2023, Princeton placed 13th at the NCAA Championships, the highest finish in program history.

Ayres is the most **recent** longtime coach to depart this year, after Men's Track and Field Coach Fred Samara.

Ayres joins a Stanford program that has undergone challenges in recent years. In the summer of 2020, Stanford announced that wrestling and 10 other sports programs would be cut after due to financial challenges caused by COVID-19. The team nevertheless maintained momentum, with **Stanford wrestler Shane Griffith winning** the 2021 NCAA 165-pound championship title despite the program's anticipated cancellation. The program was officially reinstated in May of that year.

Ayres, recognized by many for **putting Princeton wrestling on the map**, hopes to take the Stanford program to new heights. "I am ready for a new challenge," **Ayres said**, stating that his experience at Princeton has "uniquely prepared [him]" to elevate the Stanford program. "Stanford is historically the best athletics department in the country, consistently winning the most national titles of any school in the country, and there is absolutely no reason the wrestling program can't do the same," he added.

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Analysis by Michelle Miao

Today's Briefing:

SPIA purchases new space in Washington D.C., providing venue for Princeton in Washington program:

Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) **purchased an office space in Washington D.C. last spring**, marking "the first time in the University's history that its policy and international affairs school has had a dedicated, physical presence in the nation's capital." The new space, located in the Dupont Circle neighborhood, provided a venue for Princeton in Washington (PIW), which **connects students and alumni** located in the D.C. area during the summer. Students who participated gave positive feedback about the program. "I found this to be incredibly rewarding because I felt like **the alumni were highly invested** in walking us through their career decisions and passed down a lot of advice on how to get by in D.C.," said Braiden Aaronson '25.

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OPINION | Reactions: What should a Princeton education prepare us to do?



In the face of comparing alumni outcomes with the school's motto of service, various Opinion columnists shared their thoughts on how they believe a Princeton education **prepares them for their ambitions** in the world. Contributing Columnist Siyeon Lee argued that "every Princeton graduate should share one universal aim: to use the privilege associated with this degree to make similar opportunities available to a larger group of people." Meanwhile, Columnist Anna Ferris shares the insight that "a Princeton education ought to teach us that **service and success are not mutually exclusive**, and that there is no one right way to go about achieving both of these goals." Columnist Alex Norbook emphasized incorporating morality into career development and Ashley Olenkiewicz, associate Opinion editor, wrote to encourage alumni to think about their work's **impact on broader society**.

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NEWS

Summer interns in Washington make use of new SPIA space



The new SPIA building in the Dupont Circle neighborhood of Washington D.C.

Photo Courtesy of the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs

Jeannie Kim

September 12, 2023 | 11:28pm EDT

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Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) leased an office space in Washington D.C. last spring, marking "the first time in the University's history that its policy and international affairs school has had a dedicated, physical presence in the nation's capital" according to the department website. The new space is located in the Dupont Circle neighborhood, less than two miles from Embassy Row.

The opening comes amidst widespread office closures in downtown D.C. After the COVID-19 pandemic heralded a new era of remote and hybrid work, commercial real estate prices have plummeted, threatening the economic wellbeing of many major cities. Downtown Washington D.C. was hit particularly hard by plummeting real estate prices.

The space, which includes conference rooms and a lobby space, was used this summer as a venue for several events hosted by the Princeton in Washington (PIW) program. PIW is a program that connects students and alumni located in the Washington, D.C. area during the summer. The program's events, which range from social and networking opportunities to educational and professional panels, were previously held at alumni workplaces, other university spaces, and other locations.

The PIW program originated in 1960, and is sponsored by the Center for Career Development with support from SPIA, Princeton's Office of Government Affairs, and the Princeton Club of Washington D.C. This summer, events included a tour of the Capitol with Rep. Derek Kilmer '96 (D-Wash.), a visit to the Federal Reserve with Chairman Jerome Powell '75, and a conversation with Rep. Terri Sewell '86 (D-Ala.).

Braiden Aaronson '25, who interned for a nonprofit strategic consulting firm in Washington D.C. this summer, said in an interview with the 'Prince' that PIW events he attended gave him valuable insights into local careers.

"I walked into this summer feeling a bit aimless about my professional aspirations in the policy realm, so I was especially interested in being exposed to many different career paths through PIW. I found this to be incredibly rewarding because I felt like the alumni were highly invested in walking us through their career decisions and passed down a lot of advice on how to get by in D.C."

He highlighted a night tour of the Capitol with Kilmer, learning about the National Security Council with Deputy Homeland Security Advisor Joshua Geltzer '05, and speaking with Sewell as among of his favorite events.

PIW also offers smaller roundtable discussions, which Katherine Yang '24 said that she preferred. "If there were only 10 or so people at the event, I felt that it was easier to have an intimate conversation with them ... it felt more like a discussion," she said.

Justin Lee '26, this year's Student Coordinator for PIW, said PIW was really valuable for him because it gave him opportunities to learn about the U.S. government in ways that he, as a Canadian citizen, would not otherwise have had access to.

Andria Mirabal '08, senior associate director for alumni engagement and experiential learning at the Center for Career Development, spoke with The Daily Princetonian about the goals of the program. "[PIW's mission is] about making those connections and helping students to realize the many different types of careers that alumni will pursue." The program aims to encourage students to "find a community with each other, but also to make those connections with alumni," she explained.

In a statement to the ‘Prince,’ Lee shared advice he received from alumni. “Many of the alumni — who we looked up to during these events for inspiration — did not have a complete idea of their careers from the beginning … We, as college students, often face constant pressure to have everything figured out and have our career path mapped out to minute details to be successful, so it was relieving to hear this kind of advice from Princeton alumni.”

Yang expressed similar sentiments — despite being a computer science major, she frequently attended events related to topics in government, policy, and journalism. She told the Prince that even though “none of that seems directly tied to what I’m majoring in or a typical profile of a COS major … I thought it was important to see what’s out there.”



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Jeannie Kim is a staff News contributor for the ‘Prince.’

Please send corrections to [corrections\[dash\]dailyprincetonian.com](mailto:corrections[dash]dailyprincetonian.com).

Correction: This piece has been updated to clarify that the space was leased, not purchased. The ‘Prince’ regrets this error.

OPINION

Reactions: What should a Princeton education prepare us to do?



Staff / The Daily Princetonian

Alex Norbrook, Ashley Olenkiewicz, Syeon Lee, and Anna Ferris

September 13, 2023 | 12:11am EDT

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The Princeton community is full of idealists, activists, and outspoken thinkers. Yet it often seems like this idealism and enthusiasm for service is not carried forward as Princeton graduates move beyond the Orange Bubble. Recent studies of alumni outcomes have demonstrated an apparent lack of commitment to the values Princeton claims to promote. Only 20 percent of employed graduates of the Classes of 2016–2020 work in social impact fields. A recent analysis of prominent campus activists found that some have graduated into fields

that work expressly against the values they fought to promote at Princeton. We asked our columnists, young and idealistic, still within the comforts of campus, how they hope to contribute to the world post-graduation, and what they think a Princeton education should prepare them to do.

Students have a duty to pay the Princeton education forward

By Siyeon Lee, Contributing Columnist

The objective of an institution like Princeton shouldn't be to preserve the exclusivity of its education, but rather to expand it. Every Princeton graduate should share one universal aim: to use the privilege associated with this degree to make similar opportunities available to a larger group of people.

While this expansion of privilege can be achieved in one's career, it can also be achieved in our personal lives. We exist in an incredibly educated and intelligent bubble — every aspect of our lives here, whether in classes or in the dining halls, teaches us how to think and build thoughtful communities. As we move into the world post-graduation, it's up to us to replicate those pockets of unencumbered learning and engagement in our personal lives.

Sharing a responsibility for civic engagement does not necessarily mean pursuing a specific career path dedicated to public service, but creating and expanding a sense of community that we've been lucky enough to experience without limitations on Princeton's campus — through intentional connections with family and friends, through conversations with those who differ from you, through standing with those who are less fortunate, and through advocating for the greater accessibility of a Princeton education.

Siyeon Lee is a first-year intending to major in either Comparative Literature or the School of Public and International Affairs. She can be reached at sl4731@princeton.edu.

We must strike the balance between success and service

By Anna Ferris, Columnist

A Princeton education ought to teach us that service and success are not mutually exclusive, and that there is no one right way to go about achieving both of these goals. The focus on career outcomes in determining what proportion of graduates are actually service-minded is misplaced, because it neglects these endlessly valuable, but non-professional acts of service. We should graduate feeling prepared to address the nation's — and the world's — issues creatively and thoughtfully.

My Princeton education, so far, has taught me that a life well-lived is one ruled by careful balance. On campus, this usually means carefully selecting which activities we may devote our time to and which people to surround ourselves with. After college, however, finding balance involves actively budgeting our deeply held values with the concrete demands of the working world. The informal motto encourages us to devote a portion of our time at school to serving humanity — a sentiment we should carry with us even after graduation. This could mean volunteering, pursuing academia, remaining civically engaged, or working "within the system" in an empathetic and compassionate way that affects systemic change.

In a perfect universe, we would not need to make a choice between completely dedicating ourselves to public service and finding financial stability, but unfortunately that is not the one in which we currently live. "Having it all," then, requires striking a balance — for all that we take, we must try to give in equal proportion.

Anna Ferris is a sophomore pursuing a concentration in English and a minor in Values and Public Life. She can be reached at af0318@princeton.edu.

Career counseling should match Princeton's moral commitments

By Alex Norbrook, Columnist

When students matriculate into Princeton, they commit to Princeton's informal motto "in the nation's service and in the service of humanity." This also commits them to the moral weight of our education: we students have a responsibility to use what we learn here to improve the world. In its hallways and classrooms, Princeton fosters discussion about what forms that responsibility may take. This education should continue into the University's dedicated career development support, so that students can learn about different ways to lead a moral life in the context of their own careers before they make a decision about what they want to do after Princeton.

In this vein, the Center for Career Development does **offer** individual appointments to discuss moral questions about future careers. These appointments, according to the Center, involves a self-assessment that helps students "discover" their "values, interests, skills and strengths." However, because the assessment focuses on the student's existing interests and values, it doesn't necessarily take a broader approach to expose students to alternative knowledge about what a moral career or life might look like. Moreover, while the Center holds countless info sessions and presentations from employers in consulting, finance, or big businesses, it doesn't provide space for interrogating how these employers may or may not relate to students' own sense of morality.

Yet the counseling should match the moral commitment to which Princeton subscribes. There should be more opportunities for students to learn about the different ways in which one can approach morality in their careers. Thus, students can leave prepared to critically examine whether the employers Princeton brings to campus follow their own moral principles.

Alex Norbrook is a sophomore intending to concentrate in History or Politics. He can be reached at an4725@princeton.edu.

We have a responsibility to use our education for good

By Ashley Olenkiewicz, Associate Opinion Editor

In a capitalist country, it is obviously beneficial to graduate and race to accumulate as much wealth as possible — and the incentives to do this are significant. Without having graduated myself, it's hard to completely fault Princeton alumni who go this route, especially because the door opens much wider for Ivy League graduates who pursue careers in which you can generate a lot of wealth. However, most Princeton alumni are still free agents with options, and should always have the sense to think constantly about the impact their careers may have on the world: it's imperative that Princeton alumni feel a greater responsibility to use their education for good, whether that be in the private or public sector.

Princeton alumni, and those from other similarly prestigious universities, have a special opportunity to put their degrees towards bettering society because of the uniquely abundant resources available to them. As Princeton graduates, we enter the workforce with an advantage simply because of the University's name on our degree and the support system of hugely successful alumni in every career field. While we study as undergraduates, we have access to the most accomplished professors, the brightest students, and the financial resources to pursue every academic or extracurricular opportunity that we'd like. That means we can study what we're genuinely interested in, spend our summers working abroad, or use our afternoons to volunteer in the nearby city of Trenton.

Pursuing any of these activities will certainly expose a Princeton student to experiences that will not only make them a more well-rounded individual, but also inform their perspectives later in life. At an acceptance rate of **4.4** percent, our University turns away tens of thousands of eager students every year. For the four years that we lucky few experience this campus, we are greeted with immense privilege: our opportunity should obligate us to leverage this in a way that shares the benefits we gain inclusively.

Ashley Olenkiewicz is a junior in the School of Public and International Affairs and pursuing certificates in both Latin American Studies and Journalism. She can be reached at ao8250@princeton.edu.

SPORTS

After 17 seasons at the helm of Princeton wrestling, Head Coach Chris Ayres is heading to Stanford



Ayres coaching Patrick Glory '23 during the 2023 NCAA Wrestling Championships in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Photo courtesy of [@TigerWrestling/X](#)

Hayk Yengibaryan

September 12, 2023 | 11:09pm EDT

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After 17 seasons leading the Princeton wrestling program, Chris Ayres is going west to take over as the head wrestling coach at Stanford University. Ayres is recognized by many in the wrestling world for putting Princeton Wrestling on the map and made Jadwin Gymnasium a hub for some of the nation's top wrestlers.

"Seventeen years at one place is a long time. I was ready for a change," Ayres told the Daily Princetonian in a phone interview. "I got so much and it was such a great experience at Princeton, but it was time to move on," he added.

Ayres is a prime example of the underdog story. As an undergraduate student, he walked onto the Lehigh wrestling team, then won the 150-pound Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association (EIWA) title as a junior.

During his senior year, he received All-American honors and placed sixth at the NCAA tournament in the 157 pound event. He set the program record for most wins in a season, with 39, and most career victories (120), solidifying himself as one of Lehigh's most storied wrestlers.

Upon graduation, he became the assistant coach of the program at Lehigh, helping the team win five straight EIWA teams championships while simultaneously producing 12 All-Americans and two national champions.

When Ayres arrived at Princeton in 2006, he had his work cut out for him. In his first two years, the team finished 0–35. However, Ayres remained committed to setting the program up for long-term success. In his first years at Princeton, he hoped to bring change both to the recruiting process and the way wrestlers would be coached.

"When I came to Princeton, early on I grew so much from the challenges," Ayres told the 'Prince.' "In my later years, I was still growing but it was just the same things. I thought having a new challenge would be good for me and my family."

His aim was to show his athletes the physical demand of Division I college wrestling and inspire his athletes to meet that standard. Former players have spoken highly of Ayres' ability to instill confidence in each of them — motivating them through the mental challenges of the sport as well as the physical ones.

Associate coach Sean Gray [thanked Ayres on X](#) (formerly known as Twitter): "You allowed everyone around you to grow and become the best they could be. A born leader who did things the right way, and showed us the way."

During his first eight years, Ayres worked around the clock to revive the program, with a dedication to the program and to his athletes that was unmatched.

Under his guidance, the program grew tremendously over the past decade. From 2004 to 2009, the Tigers had sent just one wrestler to the NCAA championships and had just three All-Ivy wrestlers. Since 2010, Ayres has helped the team earn 48 bids to the NCAA tournament while coaching 62 All-Ivy wrestlers.

Ayres has coached five All-Americans (Brett Harner '17, Matthew Kolodzik '20, Patrick Brucki '21, Quincy Monday '23, and Pat Glory '23) since 2016. Prior to 2016, there had only been eight All-Americans since the start of the program in 1905.



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The period from 2016 to 2023 has been the prime of Princeton wrestling. Four third place finishes in the EIWA championships from 2017 to 2022 marked their best performance since 1978. In 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2020, Ayres was named the Ivy League Coach of the Year.

In 2017, Ayres was additionally named the EIWA Co-Head Coach of the Year and sent a school record of seven wrestlers to the NCAA championships in Missouri. Soon after, in 2020, he led Princeton to its first Ivy League title since 1986. The Ivy League title was something Ayres had promised former athletic director Gary Walters '67 upon his hiring in 2006.

When asked about his favorite memory at Princeton, he immediately thought of the 2020 season. "Beating Cornell might be number one," Ayres said. "When we beat them in 2020, they had the longest Ivy League winning streak of any school." Ayres also mentioned Glory's national title and Glory and Monday making it to the NCAA in 2022 finals among notable memories during his time at Princeton.

Glory and Monday's performance in 2022 marked the first time in school history two Tigers made it as NCAA finalists at once, while the 2023 NCAA championships was the Tiger's best finish since 1951. Glory won a national championship in the 125 pound division while Monday finished third in the 157 pound division. They would finish 13th as a team in 2023, a program record.

"Ayres shared a vision for this program that I had to be a part of, and instilled honor in being able to represent Princeton on the mat," Monday wrote to the 'Prince'. "He allowed me space to grow into my own kind of leader."

Nevertheless, the wrestling programs remain in solid hands. Sean Gray, the associate head coach is entering his 13th season with the Tigers. Gray, a member of the Virginia Tech Athletic Hall of Fame, has seen all the successes of the Ayres era at Princeton. Joe Dubuque, who is entering his 11th season at Princeton is a true fan favorite. While at Indiana, Dubuque won two national championships in 2005 and 2006 and is regarded as one of the best Garden State wrestlers.

Moreover, three-time All-American Monday joined the coaching staff in the summer as an assistant coach. His experience and mentorship will be valuable to everyone in the program.

"I'll take the lessons learned during my time here as a competitor to continue to push Princeton wrestling towards new heights, this time from the coaching side," Monday added.

In an interview with the 'Prince', Ayres shared his advice for returning wrestlers and new recruits joining the team this winter: "Just keep doing what you're doing. Princeton isn't defined by any person. When you are at Princeton, there is a unique connection between you and the place. I hope they soak it up and get the most out of it. I wish I could be there to see them through it, but sometimes change is needed."

Whether it be Dubuque, Gray, or another candidate that receives the sought-after promotion to head coach of the program, they will have massive shoes to fill.

Ayres' daughter, Chloe Ayres '25, joined the team last season and will continue her academic and athletic career at Princeton.

"Nothing but gratitude for this guy after 17 years of pouring his heart and soul into our program," **shared** John, athletic directory at Princeton in an X post in appreciation of Ayres. "Thanks for leaving us far better than you found us. You'll always be a Tiger."

Nearly two decades and an impressive legacy at Princeton behind him, Ayres looks forward to bringing his energy to the Cardinals.

"The goal is the same. I want to win a national championship at Stanford. The experience of working at schools like Princeton and Stanford allows me to work with unique students who want the most out of all areas of their life," Ayres said.

Hayk Yengibaryan is an associate editor for the Sports section at the 'Prince'.

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SPORTS

This week in Princeton Athletics



Senior forward Liz Agatucci helped pace the Tigers to their first win of the season with a goal against No. 19 Delaware

Photo courtesy of [@TigerFH/X](#)

Hayk Yengibaryan and Diego Uribe

September 13, 2023 | 12:28am EDT

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Fall sports were in full swing this past weekend with women's soccer, volleyball, field hockey, rugby, and volleyball all back in action. The men's water polo team also hosted the Princeton invitational this past weekend. More on that [here](#).

Scoreboard

This week in sports saw women's soccer, field hockey, and rugby back in action.

Women's soccer lost **3-0** to Penn State.

Field Hockey won **2-1** against Delaware, but lost **1-2** to Rutgers.

Women's rugby lost by one to Mount St. Mary's, **27-26**.

* Interactive content by Flourish

Women's soccer suffers first loss of the season against No. 6 Penn State

The week of action began Thursday night as the Princeton women's soccer team (3-1-1 overall, 0-0 Ivy League) traveled to Pennsylvania to play the No. 6 ranked Nittany Lions (6-0-1, 0-0 Big Ten). The Nittany Lions would control almost every aspect of the contest en route to a comfortable 3-0 win for the home side.

The Tigers would start strong, attempting the first three shots of the contest and showing they can be dangerous on the attack this season. They surprisingly outshot the Nittany Lions 11 to nine during the contest and six to five on shots on goal, but were unable to find the back of the net.

Junior defender Mieke Schiemann, a German native, would score both goals off set pieces for Penn State. Sophomore midfielder Olivia Borgen would put the game to bed when she made it 3-0 late in the second half.

The Tigers were certainly able to create multiple chances, yet many questions remain for their back line that also gave up three goals in their previous game versus Army West Point.

Princeton was scheduled to play Lafayette (4-2, 0-0 Patriot League) on Sunday afternoon, but the game was postponed due to inclement weather. The Tigers will be back at home on Thursday when they play host to the No. 10 ranked and undefeated Georgetown Hoyas (4-0-3, 0-0 Big East) at Roberts Stadium at 7 p.m. EST. The game will be streamed on ESPN+.

Field hockey gets first win of the season but falls to Rutgers in an up-and-down weekend

The No. 15 ranked Princeton field hockey team (1-3, 0-0 Ivy League) picked up their first win of the season over the weekend after two hard-fought matchups with the No. 19 Delaware Blue Hens (3-3, 0-0 Colonial Athletic Conference) and the No. 10 Rutgers Scarlet Knights (6-0, 0-0 Big Ten). Both games went to double overtime, the Tigers prevailed on Friday against the Blue Hens by a score of 2-1 and lost to Rutgers on Sunday by the same score.

Senior forward Bridget Murphy was the hero on Friday night as she scored the game-winning goal to get the Tigers in the win column. The win meant a lot to the squad, who were fresh off two tight losses to No. 4 Louisville and No. 2 North Carolina to start their season.

The Tigers ran into undefeated Rutgers on Sunday and quickly found themselves facing adversity. A third-period injury to senior goalie Robyn Thompson left the Tigers exposed against an extremely talented Rutgers side. The Tigers, however, responded to the loss of their upperclass student leader with a game-tying goal, forcing overtime as a result.



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Rutgers defender Puck Winters ultimately scored the game-winning goal for the Scarlet Knights in a game that they largely dominated. The Tigers managed just two shots to the Scarlet Knights' 15, but the team showed grit nonetheless as they have all season.

The Tigers will be back in action on Thursday in College Park, Maryland to square off with the No. 5 Maryland Terrapins (6–1, 0–0 Big Ten).

Women's rugby shows potential of the program, losing by one to Mount St. Mary's, 27–26

During their 2023 home opener on Saturday afternoon, the Princeton women's rugby team (0–2) played what many say was their best match to date. The newly minted varsity program that began just last year, put up an inspiring effort against Mount St. Mary's (1–1) as they lost by just one, 27–26 in the final seconds of the game.

"All of the players we have right now are giving so much to do all this, to learn how to tackle, collide with people, control momentum," head coach Josie Ziluca told the Daily Princetonian.

She added, "You have to be willing to show up and give the most effort, and our players do just that. Every single day that we train together, we want to level up the standard."

Sophomore 8-Person Amelia Clarke, one of the three recruits for the inaugural varsity season, scored Princeton's first try of the season. Right before halftime, first year outside back Celia Watson scored yet another try for the Tigers.

Clarke would score her second try of the game early in the second half to give Princeton a 15–5 lead. It looked like the Tigers may have been on their way to their first win ever, but the Mountaineers would respond.

Clarke would make it a hat trick later in the half, but Mount St. Mary would not back down. A game winner by the Mountaineers would seal the comeback and give them the 27–26 win. Nevertheless, this match will be remembered by many Tiger fans as the team gave the fans a lot to cheer for and look forward to.

Two sophomore recruits, outside back Alayshja Bable and second row Caroline Maguire, missed the game due to injury. They remain out indefinitely.

The Tigers will be back at the West Windsor Rugby Field this Saturday, Sept. 16 at 12 p.m. when they host Dartmouth (2–0). Last season, the Big Green got the better of the Tigers, 95–10. The Tigers will be hoping for a better result this time around with a year of varsity experience under their belt.

"This team can really stand up for one another and help each other out. It is love on display," Ziluca added.

Women's volleyball faces disappointment against tough competition in Maryland

After losing a total of four games in the 2022 season, the Princeton women's volleyball team (2–4, 0–0 Ivy League) is off to a rough start in the young season. The squad went 0–3 over the weekend at the Maryland tournament, dropping matches to Coastal Carolina (5–5, 0–0 Sun Belt Conference), UMBC (5–3, 0–0 Atlantic

East Conference), and host Maryland (7–2, 0–0 Big Ten).

First-year outside hitter Kamryn Chaney was the star of the first two games for the Tigers, recording a total of 28 kills and 10 digs against Coastal Carolina and UMBC. Sophomore middle blocker Lucia Scalamandre, who is coming off an Ivy League rookie of the year campaign, had 21 kills, eight blocks, and five digs against the two Friday opponents. The Tigers remained competitive in the two games, winning a set in each one, but ultimately losing both 3–1.

Against Maryland, the team had some bright spots, but ultimately struggled to piece everything together, getting swept by the Terrapins on Saturday afternoon. First-year setter Sydney Draper was the star for the Tigers with a match high of 30 assists.

After the weekend of poor results, it sure seems like the team is still struggling to fill the void of the six seniors that graduated in 2023. The class included Ivy League defensive player of the year Cameron Dames '23. It also included three Ivy League First-Team players last season (Lindsey Kelly '23, Avery Luoma '23, Melina Mahood '23).

The Tigers will be back in action on Wednesday, Sept. 13 when they travel to Philadelphia to play Temple (6–2, 0–0 American League) in an unusual season start for Head Coach Sabrina King, who has seen consistent success with the program since 2015.

Women's cross country shines at the annual Harvard-Yale-Princeton meet

It was a dominant weekend for Princeton women's cross country as they took first place with 29 points at the annual Harvard-Yale-Princeton (HYP) Meet. Among the top-five finishers were seniors Tsion Yared and Maggie Liebich in third and fourth, and junior Mena Scatchard in fifth.

The team bus got stuck in traffic en route to the meet, and the Tigers squad arrived at the venue less than an hour before race time. "I think our team did a really great job of staying calm and collected," Yared told the 'Prince.' Despite suboptimal conditions, the Tigers prevailed.

"I was really fortunate to have teammates to run with during the majority of the race," said Yared. "And I was happy that I was able to find another gear in the last 1k of the race to finish," she added. Yared moved from ninth place to third between the 1k and 3k markers.

The Princeton men's cross country team had a far less successful afternoon at HYP. They finished last out of three competing teams but will look to bounce back on Sept. 23 at the University of Virginia Invitational.

Hayk Yengibaryan is an associate editor for the Sports section at the 'Prince.'

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