

The Thrill of Victory

Winter 2017-18



Courtesy of CU Athletics / Mike McLaughlin

Columbia Lions fans aren't used to storming fields in jubilation. Sure, in 1988, enthusiasts tore down the goalposts to celebrate the end of a forty-four-game losing streak, but true catharsis could only come with true success. This year, the Lions opened their season with six straight wins — their best start since 1996. In both years, they won their Homecoming game by three points to extend their record to 5-0. The '96 team defeated Lafayette 3-0, in front of what should have been a record crowd at Baker Athletics Complex. But heavy rains prevailed, and just 1,170 fans saw future NFL All-Pro Marcellus Wiley '97CC lead the Lions downfield as a tailback to set up a field goal by Matt Linit '00CC. October 14, 2017, was another story: sunny and 72 degrees, with thirteen thousand people on hand as the Lions stunned the Penn Quakers in overtime, 34-31. It was Columbia's first victory over

Penn in twenty years. After the winning play — a twenty-four-yard touchdown strike from quarterback Anders Hill to wide receiver Josh Wainwright — the emotional floodgates flew open: the Light Blue faithful poured from the stands onto the turf and ran freely, whooping and roaring, toward the end-zone pileup. The goalposts survived.



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