Yale Daily News

NFL
PATRIOTS 16
Chargers 3

NFL
49ERS 23
Eagles 19

NHL
BRUINS 3
Red Wings 0

NHL
SENATORS 8
Rangers 4

SPORTS

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"We've built a lot of momentum these past couple weekends as a team so I'm confident we can come out on top."

GRACIE GILKYSON '26 HOCKEY

BASKETBALL: Yale to host Cornell in conference home opener

BY BRODY GILKISON
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's basketball team (12–3, 1–1 Ivy) will host the Cornell Big Red (7–8, 0–2 Ivy) on Saturday in the Bulldogs' first home game of the new year.

Yale enters the matchup having lost two of its past three games, while the Big Red have dropped three of their last four. After getting off to a blazing start to the season, the Yale offense has not been able to find its groove during the last couple of games.

While ranked an impressive 38th in the nation in offensive output by the preeminent basketball statistic database, KenPom Ratings, the Bulldogs have recently fallen well below their impressive shooting splits from prior games this season.

Over 15 games this year, the Bulldogs have averaged a 50 percent field goal percentage, 40 percent from beyond the arc and 77 percent from the charity stripe. However, in the past three games, the Elis have made just 40 percent of their shots from the field, 25 percent from downtown and 66 percent from the line.

Despite the lower numbers, the Bulldogs will be eager to bounce back against a weaker Cornell defense, which has surrendered large quantities of points this season on many occasions. Indeed, Cornell has given up the most points against of any Ivy squad this season.

"We know who we are, we have plenty of shooters and their time is coming," junior point guard Trevor Mullin '27 said in an interview. "Shots haven't been falling lately, but we still have plenty of confidence in ourselves and know what we're capable of."

On the defensive side of the ball, the Bulldogs will need to maintain their intensity as they move into the conference slate. Although KenPom ranks Yale a mediocre 244 out of 365, primarily due to their opponents' weaker offensive ratings, the Bulldogs have consistently put together strong defensive showings.

Among the leaders of the Yale defense is third-year center Samson Aletan' 26, who currently leads the Ivy League in blocks with an average of 1.9 per game. On the boards, Aletan ranks second in offensive rebounds and sixth in total rebounds, while teammate and team captain Nick Townsend '26 ranks third in the league in total rebounds. With that pairing leading the stand, the Bulldogs have been able to use their size to their advantage around the rim, and they should continue to benefit from it against smaller Ivy League opponents.

Saturday's game will tip off at 2 p.m. at John J. Lee Amphitheater.

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YALE ATHLETICS

This weekend, the men's basketball team will host Cornell on Saturday afternoon for the team's third conference game and first home contest of 2026.

TRACK & FIELD: As competition picks up, Yale to host Dartmouth, Columbia



YALE ATHLETICS

After beginning their competitive season in December, Yale track and field will host a meet against Dartmouth and Columbia.

BY INEZ CHUIDIAN
STAFF REPORTER

As the second semester begins, the track and field season continues, with competition already well underway. This Saturday, the Bulldogs will lace up their spikes against Dartmouth and Columbia in a meet at Coxe Cage. The Elis will be looking to carry over momentum gained in December into this Ivy League contest.

This weekend will mark the debut for many runners, throwers and jumpers who were sidelined by injuries or schedule conflicts in December, and the races on Saturday will thus provide a fuller picture of the team's depth.

Men's team captain Andrew Farr '26 expressed faith in the entire squad's preparations for the weekend.

"The team trained this fall with a real focus and purpose," he wrote in a text to the News. "The growth we've already seen in workouts reflects that commitment."

Additionally, Farr voiced optimism for the season ahead under the guidance of Director of Cross Country and Track & Field Courtney Jaworski. For Farr and his teammates, Jaworski has provided an extra layer of support and motivation.

"With that came a renewed fire to transform the program into something truly exceptional — and if played correctly, I think we have the pieces to be just that," he said.

Jaworski and his runners will look to build upon the team's success last December, when its season officially opened. At the Yale, Penn and Boston University opener meets on the weekend of Dec. 5, several Bulldogs began their seasons with noteworthy performances.

"This was one of the best season openers Yale Track has had in the past decade, and it was a great snapshot of where we are after a solid fall of training," women's captain Makayla White '26 wrote in a message to the News.

Seniors Owen Karas '26 and Kenan Pala '26 competed at Boston University, where Karas broke his own 5,000-meter school record by two seconds, finishing in 13 minutes and 51 seconds. On the women's team, Claire Archer '26 competed in the 5,000, where she positioned herself as fifth on Yale's all-time list for the event with a time of 16 minutes and 19 seconds.

Meanwhile, in Philadelphia, multi-athletes Alyssa Anderson '28 and Layni Kaase '29 competed in the pentathlon. Kaase finished fourth and Anderson followed in 13th.

All other Yale track and field athletes remained in New Haven for the Yale Season Opener. Notable performances include Lucija Grd '27 winning the 60-meter hurdles and Makayla Harris '26 taking first in the weight throw.

On the men's side, Tanish Chettiar '26 won the 1000-meter race and Brian Di Bassinga '26 dominated the triple jump. Men's team captain Andrew Farr '26 set a personal record in the 60-meter dash, where his time of 6.69 seconds was just 0.01 seconds shy of the school record.

White emphasized to the News that team unity has been a major priority for both her and Farr in their stints at captain.

"Something Andrew and I have really tried to emphasize as co-captains is team-wide connection across event groups and across both the men's and women's teams," she said.

The Yale-Dartmouth-Columbia Meet will take place this Saturday. Field events will begin at 11 a.m., and track events at 2:30 p.m.

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WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY: Elis hope to extend win streak in weekend series

BY AUDREY KIM
STAFF REPORTER

The No. 11 ranked Yale women's ice hockey team (14–7, 9–5 ECAC) will host a series of three games at home over Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend.

The Elis will be looking to extend their six-game win streak. To do so, they will need to take down fearsome in-conference foes No. 14 Colgate (12–10–1, 7–4–1 ECAC) and No. 10 Cornell (11–6–2, 7–4–1 ECAC).

"We may not have had the start we wanted to the season but the second half is a big opportunity for our team to improve in the rankings," senior Gracie Gilkyson '26 wrote to the News. "We've had a great start to 2026, especially with the win against Northeastern. I felt like we dominated that game, shutting out a number 6 ranked team at the time."

Gilkyson's reference is to the team's huge upset victory over Northeastern (16–6, 12–1 Hockey East) on Jan. 6, when they earned not just a win but a 3-0 shutout against the then-No. 6 ranked team.

The Bulldogs' impressive victories have allowed them to climb the national rankings in the USA Hockey Women's College Hockey Poll, and they'll be looking to boost both their conference and national rankings with more wins this weekend.

"Our games this weekend against two ranked opponents, Colgate and Cornell, are a huge opportunity for us to improve in the ECAC rankings. They should be two competitive games but we've built a lot of momentum these past couple weekends as a team so I'm confident we can come out on top," Gilkyson wrote.

Yale played both Colgate and Cornell earlier this season. The Bulldogs upset Colgate with a 5-4 overtime win on Nov. 1. However, the game against Cornell ended in a frustrating 0-3 loss for the Elis. Even though Yale outshot the Big Red almost 2 to 1, the Bulldogs simply couldn't find the back of the net.

With the Bulldogs already having shown they can outplay both of these squads, the team's improvement over recent weeks bodes well for a Yale sweep.

A sweep would be massive for the Bulldogs because in addition to Colgate and Conrell both being ranked, they also each play in the ECAC conference with Yale, meaning that the outcome of these two games will have critical implications for Yale's conference standing. The Elis currently sit second in the conference to Princeton (15–4, 10–2 ECAC), and Gilkyson and her teammates will be looking to continue their recent momentum and overtake the Tigers.

To close out the weekend series, Yale will face off against Providence College (7–13–2, 4–7–2 Hockey East) on Monday. Providence does not play in the ECAC, but a victory against the Friars will still be important for the Bulldogs' standing in the national rankings.



YALE ATHLETICS

Over the long weekend, Yale will face off against ranked conference opponents Colgate and Cornell, as well as Providence College.

Yale and Colgate will face each other at 6 p.m. on Friday at Ingalls Rink.

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STAT OF THE WEEK IN THE PAST THREE GAMES, THE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM HAS MADE JUST 40 PERCENT OF THEIR SHOTS FROM THE FIELD, 25 PERCENT FROM DOWNTOWN AND 66 PERCENT FROM THE LINE.