

## SPORTS

*"In your sweet thoughts would be forgot, / If thinking on me then should make you woe."*  
SONNET 71 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

## Bulldogs to open season with away game at No. 11 Army

### MEN'S LACROSSE

BY LIZA KAUFMAN  
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's lacrosse team will open its 2026 campaign with an early season test in West Point, New York, against No. 11 Army (2-0, 0-0 Patriot).

After months of daily preseason practices, the Bulldogs say they are ready to take the field.

"It's electric," long stick midfielder Francis Keneally '28 told the News, describing the energy in the locker room. "Everyone's just excited to be there. Everyone's fired up."

To build depth across all three units — the offense, defense and midfield — head coach Andy Shay and his staff recruited 14 new players, including a 13-member first-year class and one transfer.

"They're very self-sufficient, and I think we'll have a lot of freshmen, probably seven guys playing on the field this year, so I'm really excited for them," captain and senior defenseman Patrick Pisano '26 said in a phone interview. "I think you can expect big things from Sean Grogan, Gaetano Cicotello, Dylan Blekicky and Ben Cuomo."

On offense, the team welcomes six attackmen from as far as Murrieta, California, and as close as Orange. Blekicky and Grogan will be joined by Lincoln Herring '29, Henry Hughes '29, Oliver Nappi '29 and Colin Zeller '29, while faceoff specialist Cuomo will look to bolster the Elis at the X. The midfield unit also gained depth with first years Luke DeAngelis '29, Flynn Leonard '29 and Asher Ziv '29, along with Colorado College transfer Braydon Ellis '27.

For the defensive unit, the Bulldogs have brought in long stick midfielder Cicotello, defenseman Danny Van Camp '29 and goalie Aidan Olazabal '29.

Grogan, Cuomo and Cicotello were named the 32nd, 42nd and 49th best recruits, respectively, in the Nike Lacrosse/Inside Lacrosse "Power 100 Freshman Rankings" released in August.

Pisano said he has enjoyed bringing the newest Bulldogs into the brotherhood and looks forward to leading the team this season.

"I hope to foster an environment where everybody's pushing each other, each and every day, whether you're on the bottom of the depth chart or at the top of the depth chart," Pisano told the News.

After finishing 5-8 last year, which was good for fourth in the Ivy League, Yale was picked to finish fourth again this season in the 2026 Ivy League preseason poll.

"I'm excited, but the finality of it is pretty bittersweet," Pisano said. "We're leading the team as seniors now, but we have to depart the team this year as well, so it's our last shot at this whole thing."



YALE ATHLETICS

To start their 13-game regular season slate, the Elis will travel to West Point, New York, to face off against the Black Knights.

For Keneally, a sophomore, the season brings an opportunity to step into a leadership role and to sharpen his skills.

"I'm excited to try and get some leadership roles and help out the freshmen and kind of just guide them through their first season," Keneally said. "It's just so exciting to be on the team and I'm glad to be a part of it."

Six of Yale's 13 games this spring will be played at Reese Stadium. However, before opening Ivy League play against Princeton, the Bulldogs will face five nonconference opponents, beginning with Saturday's matchup at Army.

At this weekend's Valentine's Day season opener, the Elis will play a rematch against the Black Knights. When Yale hosted Army last season for its home opener, the Bulldogs came up short against the nationally ranked opponent.

Army enters Saturday's game with a leg up, having already played two games this season. The Black Knights defeated UMass (1-1, 0-0 A10) 14-8 and No. 18 Rutgers (1-1, 0-0 Big Ten) 11-9.

"Our only goal right now is to beat Army this weekend," Pisano said ahead of the matchup.

For Keneally, who grew up a short drive from West Point, opening his sophomore season at Army holds special meaning.

"Growing up as a kid, I would go to the Army games, so that should be pretty exciting," Keneally said.

Following Saturday's matchup, the Elis will return to New Haven for their Tuesday night home opener against Marist (0-1, 0-0 MAAC) and a Saturday afternoon matchup against No. 20 Boston University (1-1, 0-0 Patriot).

The Bulldogs will then hit the road and journey to State College, Pennsylvania, to play No. 14 Penn State (1-1, 0-0 Big 10), before returning to the Nutmeg State to play at Fairfield (1-0, 0-0 CAA). The Nittany Lions will be another road test for the Bulldogs, as Penn State made it to the semifinals of the NCAA tournament last year before losing to Cornell 9-11.

With depth across the midfield and a defense anchored by veteran leadership, Yale enters the season emphasizing discipline

and connectivity. When asked to describe the team's identity heading into the season, Pisano pointed to the team's close-knit nature.

"I'd say our brotherhood and our bond as a team, just the overall closeness and togetherness that I feel on this team is very different from last year and even the year before that," Pisano said.

Keneally echoed Pisano and described the team as a "unit" and "detail-oriented."

Conference play will begin during Yale's spring break with a home matchup against the No. 3 Princeton Tigers, a team predicted in the preseason poll to finish first in the Ivy League. After dominating the Insider Lacrosse Poll week after week and reaching the NCAA quarterfinals last season, Princeton will be a formidable opening Ivy League opponent.

With the graduation of the last season's top two scorers, Chris Lyons '25 and Leo Johnson '25, Yale will look to senior attackman David Anderson '26 and junior midfielder Cole Cashion '27 to fill the offensive void.

The Bulldogs will follow that

up with a game against the Penn Quakers. When the Elis traveled to Philadelphia last season, Yale served up Penn a 14-11 loss, and the Bulldogs walked away with their third straight victory of the season.

The team will then head to Ithaca to face No. 4 Cornell, the defending NCAA champions. The Bulldogs will start April play with a quick trip to Hanover to play Dartmouth, whom Yale soundly defeated 21-12 last season en route to punching their ticket to the 2025 Ivy League tournament.

April play will continue with a home matchup against No. 12 Harvard on the 11th, coinciding with Yale's Alumni Day at Reese Stadium.

The squad will then wind down the regular season with an away game at Hofstra (1-1, 0-0 CAA), before concluding with home contests against UAlbany and Brown.

Faceoff is slated for noon on Saturday in West Point, New York.

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## Bulldogs defeated by top-ranked Trinity in mid-week contest

### SQUASH

BY RACHEL MAK  
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The Yale squash program hosted Trinity in the Brady Squash Center

on Wednesday evening for senior night. Both teams lost to top-ranked Bantam squads.

The No. 9 Yale women's team (2-6, 1-3 Ivy) lost to No. 6 Trinity (8-4, 0-0 NESCAC) 7-2.

Heng Wai Wong '28 had a

rematch against Thanusaa Uthrian, whom she played in the College Squash Association National Individual Championships earlier in the season. Once again, she defeated her foe in the number one position in four games.

Elise Kang '29, who plays in the fourth position, picked up the sole other win for the Bulldogs. After dropping her first two games, she came back to win the next three, grinding out a 13-11 victory in the fourth game.

Whitney Taylor '26 dropped a tough 3-2 match against the Bantams' Varvara Kliueva in the seventh position. She dropped the first two games but came back to take the next two. However, Kliueva regrouped to take the final deciding game.

Spring Ma '28, Meha Shah '28 and Alyssa Ho '29 lost to their opponents in four, while Eedha Mehta '29, Layla Johnson '27 and Swetha Sivakumar '29 fell in three.

"Overall, we all did really well," Wong wrote to the News. "Despite the results, the scoreboard shows that we're not very far behind them. Through this match and the one against Stanford, the team has gained a lot of confidence overall."

On the men's side, the No. 4 Yale squad (5-3, 3-1 Ivy) lost to No. 1-ranked Trinity (11-0, 0-0 NESCAC) 9-0.

This loss snapped two of the Bulldogs' previously undefeated records on the season. Tad Carney '26 lost his first team matchup to Trinity's Joachim Chuah, in a tight 3-2 match. The two players traded games in a

back-and-forth battle before Chuah pulled away in the fifth.

Rishi Srivastava '28 lost to the Bantams' Huzaira Ibrahim in four, breaking his undefeated collegiate record.

Rohan Arya Gondi '28 lost in five games in the fourth position. Lachlan Sutton '27, Bennett Eun '27 and Jack O'Flynn '27 lost to their Trinity opponents in four, and Arav Bhagwati '26, Rick Chen '28, and Oliver Velasco '29 fell in three.

Looking ahead, the Bulldogs look to finish the regular season strong in the Empire State. With wins against Cornell and Columbia, the women's team will secure a spot in the Ivy League squash tournament. The men's team can reach the tournament with one more win this weekend.

"Going into this weekend, I hope we can keep this momentum going and have some great wins," Wong wrote to the News. "It's going to be tough since we don't have many away matches, and they are also our long-term rival in the Ivys. We're gonna show up strong and ready for some battles!"

Yale will play Cornell on Saturday at 12 p.m.

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YALE ATHLETICS

Following losses to Trinity, the men's and women's squash teams will take on Ivy foes — matches that will determine whether they play in the conference tournament.