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"I'm excited to see how the team continues to build momentum this season."
BENNY SEIDMAN, CROSS COUNTRY

Bulldogs remain undefeated in Ivy League with win over Dartmouth

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

BY AZARA MASON
STAFF REPORTER

The Bulldogs (10–2, 4–0 Ivy) emerged victorious from a clash with the Dartmouth Big Green (6–5, 1–3 Ivy) in Hanover on Saturday.

Dartmouth's Mia Puccio, who holds the Ivy League record for most draw controls, won the opening draw. Despite gaining early possession, the Big Green were unable to capitalize. Yale goalkeeper Niamh Pfaff '28 opened the game with a save on Dartmouth's first shot, the first of nine on the day, to set the tone defensively.

On another early opportunity, Dartmouth had a wide shot. Pfaff then completed a clear to midfielder Lindsay Thomas '28, which eventually led to Yale's first goal of the game. Ashley Kiernan '27 found the back of the net on that possession to give the Bulldogs a 1-0 lead.

Pfaff was recently named by Inside Lacrosse to the midseason All-American second team. She is the glue of a defense that is currently ranked second in the country in terms of scoring defense, allowing, on average, less than seven points per game.

On the other end of the field, Kiernan quickly took control of the game offensively, scoring three consecutive goals within just six minutes to record a hat trick and put Yale up 3-0. She finished the game with a team-high four goals.

Dartmouth responded late in the first quarter, scoring on a free-position shot with under five minutes remaining to cut the lead to 3-1. Just minutes later, the Big Green added another goal, which narrowed the deficit to one.

With under a minute to go in the quarter, Kate Gould '29, from behind the goal, found Ashley Newman '26, who finished immediately on a quick, alley-oop-style play. Newman recorded three goals on the day, marking her third consecutive hat trick.

Yale closed the first quarter with a 4-2 lead.

However, back-to-back goals by Dartmouth's Fiona O'Keeffe in under a minute turned the Bulldog's lead into a tie game at 4-4.

With under a minute remaining in the first half, a goal by Kelly Holmes '28, put the Bulldogs back up at 5-4.

Then, with two seconds left on the clock, Kiernan found Gould for a score. The Bulldogs finished the first half up 6-4.

Yale head coach Erica Bamford praised the offensive unit's growing chemistry, especially that between Kiernan, Gould and Newman.

"It has been great to see our offense's chemistry build throughout the season," Bamford wrote to the News in a text message. "They have the opportunity to play against our talented defenders and goalkeepers every day, which has helped challenge them individually and as a unit."



YALE ATHLETICS

Yale's women's lacrosse team beat Dartmouth 11-8 on Saturday in Hanover. The Bulldogs, who have not lost a conference game, are ranked first in the Ivy League.

Within the first five minutes of the second half, Dartmouth scored to cut Yale's lead back to just one at 6-5. The Bulldogs responded in force with a 4-0 run to close out the third quarter up comfortably 10-5.

Despite the Big Green outscoring the Bulldogs 3-1 in the final quarter, Yale's earlier cushion proved enough to keep the game in their control. The Bulldogs finished the match with an 11-8 victory.

In a postgame interview posted on Dartmouth's women's lacrosse team's X account, Dartmouth head coach Josie Harper spoke to the game's competitiveness, which she said was fueled by the tight standings in the Ivy League.

"Everyone treats every game like it's the Ivy Championship," she said.

With the win, the Bulldogs remain atop the Ivy League, with the University of Pennsylvania (5–5, 3–0 Ivy) close behind.

The two teams will face off on Saturday at noon at Reese Stadium.

Contact
AZARA MASON *at*
azara.mason@yale.edu.

Yale steamrolls Dartmouth, extending win streak over Big Green to 15

MEN'S LACROSSE

BY LIZA KAUFMAN
STAFF REPORTER

Powered by a dominant offensive performance, the Yale men's lacrosse team (5–4, 2–2 Ivy) cruised to its second straight conference win on Saturday afternoon at Scully-Fahey Field in Hanover.

The Bulldogs overwhelmed Dartmouth (4–6, 0–3 Ivy) 18-7, and senior attackman William Sheehan '26 led the offensive explosion with four goals. Yale's efficiency made the difference. The Bulldogs consistently generated high-quality looks, capitalized on extra-man opportunities and turned defensive stops into transition offense.

"It was a great team win," Sheehan wrote in a text message to the News. "We had a lot of contributors offensively today. We moved the ball well, played fast in transition, and that helped us create a lot of quality looks on goal."

Twelve different Bulldogs scored on the sunny afternoon in Hanover. Sheehan's four were a team high, while Dylan Blekicki '29, Sean Grogan '29 and Peter Moynihan '27 each scored twice. Four players — including first years Flynn Leonard '29 and Oliver Nappi '29, sophomore attackman Kyler Francis '28 and senior captain Patrick Pisano '26 — each recorded their first collegiate goals.

Although the 18-goal performance marked Yale's highest output since the team's 16-11 win over Boston University in February, it was the Big Green who got on the board first on Saturday. Dartmouth senior Emmett Paradine scored 90 seconds into the game, but the Elis responded with four unanswered, setting the tone for the remainder of the game.

At 11:33, Luke Pascal '28 found Blekicki on the doorstep for the equalizer. Less than two minutes later, Yale took the lead when Connor Gately '28 emerged from behind the net, did a spin dodge around the Dartmouth defenseman and put it home. Long-stick midfielder Luke Michalik '27 then connected with Grogan to put Yale up 3-1. Grogan later assisted Sheehan for the first of his four goals of the day to close out the first quarter with Yale leading 4-1.

In the second quarter, Dartmouth sought to cut the deficit, but a steadfast Yale squad never let the Big Green take the lead. Just as in the first quarter, Paradine netted the first goal for Dartmouth to pull the Big Green within two. However, Grogan answered right back with an unassisted goal of his own to restore Yale's three-goal lead.

The Big Green then scored two straight to cut the deficit to one, but the Bulldogs' resilience was on full display, and they responded with a three-goal run of their own. Moynihan, last week's Ivy League offensive player of the week, buried one top shelf, followed closely by Cole Cashion '27. With 1:37 remaining, Pisano picked up a ground ball, pushed in transition and fed it to Gately, who found Blekicki for his second goal of the day to double the lead. As the buzzer sounded, Yale went to the locker room up 8-4 at the half.

Dartmouth came out hot in the third quarter and threatened Yale, posting two back-to-back goals in the opening minutes, including a man-down goal to get within two. A four-minute Dartmouth penalty proved instrumental in flipping the momentum back in Yale's favor. Yale capitalized with three goals during that stretch, including two from Sheehan, to break the game open.

Gately recorded his second assist on Sheehan's second goal to extend Yale's lead to three. Then, 30 seconds later, Francis found the back of the net for his first collegiate goal, to which the Yale sideline exploded in celebration. Next, Sheehan followed up with another to finish off the man-up opportunity. With a backhanded over-the-shoulder shot, Sheehan recorded a hat trick to push Yale up 11-6.

Sheehan then found David Anderson '26 for Yale's fourth straight goal of the period. Although the Big Green got back on the board at 3:52 with their last goal of the game, Yale's strong special teams' execution during the four-minute penalty shut down any Dartmouth hope of winning its first game against Yale since 2009. The Elis led 12-7 at the close of the quarter.

In the final 15-minute stretch, Yale's offense continued its surge, netting six more unanswered goals. The defense excelled and held the Big Green scoreless. At 11:14, the Anderson-Sheehan duo struck again, with Sheehan burying his fourth goal of the game.

Then, Michalik recorded his second assist on first-year midfielder Leonard's first collegiate goal, doubling the lead 14-7. On that play, the Bulldogs showed their capability of transitioning from defense to offense faster than Dartmouth could respond. Following a save by Ben Friedman '28, Leonard and his teammates were off to the races upfield.

"I was really excited to score one today, especially for the defensive unit as a whole," Leonard wrote in a text message to the News. "We've all been waiting for an opportunity to run the field, and right as I saw Friedman make that save, I was up and out. A juice goal like that had all the boys fired up."

The six-goal run continued with Moynihan netting his second, followed by Nappi's first collegiate goal. Then, the captain added a pole goal, his first as a Bulldog, to put Yale up 17-7.

The Bulldogs continued to press in the final minutes. After a long trip up to Hanover, the Bulldogs were hungry for one more. At the 10-second mark, first year Asher Ziv '29 sailed one into the netting to cap off Yale's 18-goal performance.

Michalik, who finished with two assists and four ground balls, pointed to Yale's transition game, which was sparked by goalie Friedman, last week's Ivy League Defensive Player of the Week, as a key factor.

"It starts with Ben making great saves and pushing it upfield," Michalik wrote in a text message to the News, referring to Friedman. "From there we just move it and take the best shot available. Whenever we are able to score in transition it's a huge momentum play for us."

With the victory, Yale extended its win streak over Dartmouth to 15.

Riding two straight Ivy wins, the Bulldogs are ready to take on their archrival, No. 7 Harvard (9–1, 3–0 Ivy), for Alumni Day at Reese Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

Faceoff is slated for 3:30 p.m.

Contact
LIZA KAUFMAN *at*
liza.kaufman@yale.edu.



LIZA KAUFMAN, PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

On Saturday afternoon, the men's lacrosse team earned its second straight conference win with an 18-7 victory over Dartmouth.

STAT OF THE DAY

THE MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM BEAT DARTMOUTH FOR THE FIFTEENTH YEAR IN A ROW.