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DAVIS HANSON '26 BASEBALL

Bulldogs to face Penn in battle to top Ivy League standings

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

BY AZARA MASON
STAFF REPORTER

Yale's women's lacrosse team (10-2, 4-0 Ivy) will face off against the University of Pennsylvania (6-5, 4-0 Ivy) on Saturday at Reese Stadium. Both teams currently share the top spot in the Ivy League standings and are undefeated in the conference.

Penn will be coming off of a three-game win streak, having recently beat No. 21 Princeton by one in double overtime. Prior to that game, the Quakers beat Columbia by six and Harvard by two. Four of their five losses this season have been to teams with top 20 national rankings.

Midfielder Lindsay Thomas '28 acknowledged the Quakers' recent win over Princeton but expressed excitement for the chance to put an end to Penn's winning streak and claim the first-place standing.

“We are very excited. They are one of our biggest rivals and are a very good team,” Thomas wrote to the News. “They just came off a big

win against Princeton and we're currently tied in the Ivy standings so it is an important game for us to maintain our standing as the top of the Ivy League.”

In Saturday's matchup, the stakes will run far deeper than the current battle for first in the Ivy League. The last time the Bulldogs faced the Quakers was in the semifinals of the 2025 Ivy League Tournament, when Yale and Penn entered as the No. 2 and 3 seeds, respectively. In a dramatic and high-stakes matchup, Yale scored the game winner in the final 13 seconds to advance to the Ivy championship game.

Other recent games between the Bulldogs and Quakers were similarly intense. Their two previous meetings before the 2025 Ivy League tournament game were both overtime thrillers, with Yale coming out on top each time. In the more recent of those overtime battles, the Bulldogs scored in the final 12 seconds of quadruple overtime to secure the win.

Penn's speed stands out across both its attack and midfield. Penn attacker Regan O'Brien received the honor of Ivy League offensive player of the week two weeks ago.

Catherine Berkery, who is currently third in the Ivy in goals per game — averaging almost a hat trick a game — is another threat.

Yale midfielder Kate Gould '29 noted the importance of slowing the Quakers down defensively, while also emphasizing the Bulldogs' focus on efficiency on the offensive end.

“Penn is a very fast team, so we are working on slowing the ball down as much as possible as we transition into our defensive end,” Gould wrote to the News.

This season, Yale's defense has been one of the best in the nation and is currently ranked second in Division I in scoring defense by allowing fewer than seven goals per game.

Gould also highlighted the Bulldogs' offensive approach as they prepare for Saturday.

“Going into our attacking zone, we are working on taking high-percentage opportunities and being smart with the shot clock,” she wrote.

Alison Cole '99, the current executive director of Yale's alumni association and a former captain and all-American on the women's lacrosse team, praised the team's success this season.



YALE ATHLETICS

Currently, both Yale's and Penn's women's lacrosse teams are tied for first place in the Ivy League. So far, neither team has lost a conference matchup this season.

“It gives me so much joy and pride to see the women's lacrosse team high-up in the national ranks,” Cole wrote to the News. “I know how hard the players and coaching staff work every day to bring home these victories. They are simultaneously carrying on a tradition of

excellence while reaching even greater levels of success.”

Faceoff against Penn is slated for noon on Saturday.

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Bulldogs will look to continue Ivy dominance against Harvard

BASEBALL

BY JUSTIN LEAHY
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The Yale Bulldogs (17-9, 7-2 Ivy) are set to play Harvard this weekend, and they are riding their best stretch of the year.

In the last two weekends, Yale swept both Penn (11-15, 5-4 Ivy) and Princeton (7-20, 2-7 Ivy). On Wednesday night, the Bulldogs run-ruled the University of New Haven (3-21, 3-9 Ivy) with a final score of 20-0 in Yale's most lopsided victory of the year. This weekend, Yale will host its fiercest rival, Harvard (5-17, 4-4 Ivy), for a three-game series.

The sweep at Princeton last weekend was one of the most complete performances the Bulldogs have put

up the entire year. In the series opener on Friday, Daniel Cohen '26 tossed six strong innings, followed by a dominant three-inning shutout performance by Tate Evans '26. With the strong relief performance by Cohen, Yale went on to win a tight game 7-6.

On the following day, Jack Ohman '28 had the start on the mound. Ohman, the reigning Ivy League pitcher of the year, had allowed 14 runs in his past two starts. However, in this start, Ohman had the bounce-back that the Bulldogs were looking for. He threw six shutout innings and struck out nine Tigers, helping the Bulldogs take the second game 12-7.

In the latter half of Saturday's doubleheader, Evans made his second collegiate start. He threw six scoreless innings, but the Bulldogs were down two runs heading into the

ninth. In the top of the final frame, Yale rallied valiantly and Jackson Hays '29 notched a go-ahead single, helping the Bulldogs complete the sweep, 5-4. The win pushed Yale's Ivy League win streak to six.

On Wednesday, the Bulldogs got off to a hot start and never looked back. Yale had its highest run total of the year, taking the game 20-0 in a seven-inning mercy-rule win. Garrett Larsen '27 tallied three hits and scored four times, Kaiden Dossa '27 walked five times and scored four runs and Hays had three stolen bases and scored thrice. The game, although heavily lopsided, was a great midweek tune-up for Yale ahead of hosting Harvard.

When asked about the current momentum of the team, captain Davis Hanson '26 told the News

that the squad has found the level of cohesion that it's been building toward all season.

“The guys are in a great spot, and we have really come together as a team and have found our identity,” Hanson wrote to the News. “We really have a special group of guys who love competing with each other. Looking forward we are really just looking to stack competitive days.”

Numbers wise, Dossa now leads the Bulldogs with 14 extra-base hits, Jack Dauer '28 leads the team with 27 runs batted in, Larsen leads the team with 13 multi-hit games and the rookie catcher, Bryce Miller '29, has now reached base in 20 consecutive games.

The Bulldogs were originally picked to finish second in the Ivy League. Now, seated in first place,

they will face Harvard, a team that lost its first 12 games of the season and is currently ranked in the middle of the conference standings.

“The Harvard series is always special,” Hanson wrote to the News. “The upcoming weekend is something I look forward to every year but it really isn't more important than any other Ivy League series. Being that the Ivy League is only 8 teams, every win counts.”

On Saturday, the first game at George H.W. Bush '44 Field kicks off at 11:30 a.m. and the second one follows at 3 p.m. On Sunday, the third and final game of the series will start at noon.

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Bulldogs to face top-ranked Harvard, looking to extend Ivy win streak

MEN'S LACROSSE

BY LIZA KAUFMAN
STAFF REPORTER

The No. 17 Yale men's lacrosse team (5-4, 2-2 Ivy) will host No. 5 Harvard (9-1, 3-0 Ivy) at Reese Stadium on Saturday.

The rivalry showdown comes on the heels of Yale's 18-7 victory over Dartmouth (4-6, 0-3 Ivy), the team's second straight Ivy road win, and will coincide with Yale's Alumni Day. On Saturday, the program will welcome back generations of players for one of the oldest rivalries in college sports.

“It's just an Ivy win, admittedly against a great team, but I don't focus on a team's resume,” head coach Andy Shay wrote in an email to the News, referring to last weekend's victory. “Our league is incredibly deep and competitive and all the games are hard.”

Harvard's perfect 3-0 Ivy record places the Crimson atop the conference standings, while Yale currently sits in fourth, just ahead of Penn (5-5, 2-2 Ivy). With the regular season winding down, Saturday's matchup carries significant postseason implications for the Elis: Only the top four

teams qualify for the post-season Ivy League tournament.

Riding momentum from back-to-back Ivy wins, including an upset victory over the defending national champions Cornell, Yale will look to carry that energy onto its home turf against Harvard.

Sophomore attackman Connor Gately '28, who is first in the Ivy League and 14th nationally in assists per game, emphasized that the team will prepare for this weekend's high-stakes matchup as it has all season.

“I think the energy is definitely focused going into this weekend,” Gately wrote in a text message to the News. “Obviously Harvard is a big opponent, but we want to treat it as just the next game on the schedule and trust the coaches' game plan for Saturday.”

Although the Bulldogs fell to the Crimson 11-14 last year in Cambridge, Yale has won 10 of the last 17 meetings between the two squads. Backed by a strong home crowd, the Bulldogs will look to defend Reese Stadium and hand the Crimson their first Ivy loss.

Saturday's game will have the Elis facing off against the nation's second-most efficient offensive unit and eighth-best scoring offense. Senior attackman Teddy Malone leads the Harvard squad with 29 goals. Defensively, Harvard

boasts the Ivy League's top penalty-kill percentage — preventing goals while a man down — at .759.

On the Yale side, the Bulldogs' man-up unit, which is ranked second in the conference at .579, found success last weekend in Hanover, scoring three man-up goals during a four-minute penalty. Replicating that efficiency against Harvard's disciplined defense will be a greater challenge, but the Elis think they have what it takes.

“Offensively, I think we are excited to face another strong opponent and show what we are capable of,” Gately wrote.

On the other end of the field, Yale's defense has emerged as a key strength. In the Ivy League, captain Patrick Pisano '26 and Luke Michalik '27 are second and fourth, respectively, in caused turnovers per game.

Pisano was named the Ivy League defensive player of the week for his strong performance on both ends of the field in the game against Dartmouth. Defensively, he picked up three ground balls and caused three turnovers, and offensively, he notched a pole goal, his first as a Bulldog.

In the cage, the matchup is nearly even. Yale's Ben Friedman '28 leads the Ivy League and ranks fourth nationally with 13.88 saves

per game, while Harvard's Graham Stevens sits close behind at 13.50, ranking eighth nationally. Stevens holds a slight edge in save percentage with .570 to Friedman's .552.

Pisano emphasized that the team's focus this week remains on preparation.

“Everyday is a must win practice,” Pisano wrote in a text message to the News. “We all have post season stakes in mind, but the main focus is always the day at hand. I expect every guy to give everything they have in them this weekend.”

That mindset will be put to the test against a red-hot Harvard squad. The Crimson opened their season 8-0, highlighted by a statement win over then-No. 1 Syracuse (9-3, 1-1 ACC).

However, the Crimson's current near-perfect record does not tell the whole story, as they have shown signs of vulnerability in recent weeks. Harvard fell 17-7 to then-No. 4 North Carolina (10-1, 1-0 ACC). The loss to the Tar Heels was a devastating blow for the Crimson, who returned to Cambridge not only with their first loss of the season, but also with their first loss to a lower-ranked team.

Last weekend, the squad narrowly escaped with a 12-10 win over Brown (5-5, 0-3 Ivy) after a back-and-forth contest. The

Crimson and the Bears battled neck-and-neck for the full 60 minutes. Brown scored four unanswered to take an early 4-1 lead midway through the first quarter. However, the Crimson were able to bring it within one by the end of the quarter, and eventually took a one-goal lead at the end of the half. The Bears retook control in the third quarter to lead 9-8, but in the final 15-minute stretch, a four-goal run by Harvard proved decisive in sealing the victory for the Crimson.

Although Harvard's record looks better on paper, Yale beat both Dartmouth and Boston University (5-5, 3-2 Patriot) by greater margins: The Bulldogs cruised to an 18-7 victory over the Big Green and downed the then-No. 18 Terriers 16-11.

With momentum on its side and a home crowd behind it, Yale will look to extend its win streak and strengthen its postseason position in one of the season's most anticipated matchups.

“Great opportunity to defend our home turf and encourage all students to come out,” Pisano wrote.

Faceoff is slated for 3:30 p.m. on Saturday at Reese Stadium.

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STAT OF THE DAY

LACROSSE CAPTAIN PATRICK PISANO '26 WAS NAMED THE IVY LEAGUE DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK FOR HIS STRONG PERFORMANCE ON BOTH ENDS OF THE FIELD IN THE GAME AGAINST DARTMOUTH.