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ERIC PLATTEN '26 MEN'S LACROSSE

Yale becomes first team to clinch spot in Ivy tournament

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

BY AZARA MASON
STAFF REPORTER

The Bulldogs (11-2, 5-0 Ivy) faced the University of Pennsylvania Quakers (6-6, 4-1 Ivy) on Saturday. Both teams entered the matchup undefeated in Ivy League play and tied for first in the standings, but the day ended with Yale firmly atop the conference leaderboard.

With the win, Yale also became the first team to secure a berth to the Ivy League tournament.

A little over five minutes after the opening draw, Penn got the first goal of the game to put Yale down 0-1. Yale's defense, however, was quick to get back on the right foot.

Yale, currently ranked No. 12 in the nation by ESPN, has leaned on one of the top defenses in the country. The Bulldogs rank second in Division I in scoring defense, allowing fewer than seven goals per game, while goalie Niamh Pfaff '28 holds the seventh best save percentage nationally.

On Saturday, Yale's defense, and Pfaff, held Penn to just four goals. Pfaff tied her career high

with 11 saves en route to holding Penn to its lowest goal total since 2017. Captain Emmy Pascal '26 played a critical role in limiting Penn's opportunities, recording four caused turnovers and six ground balls.

Pascal's first ground ball of the afternoon sparked a key transition moment, as she sprinted downfield and found Kate Gould '29 at the top of the 8-meter arc. The play marked Pascal's first career assist and was an example of Yale's ability to truly turn defense into offense. After Gould's goal, the game was tied 1-1.

Less than a minute later, Penn responded with a quick goal to reclaim the lead. A successful free-position shot with 3:35 remaining in the first quarter extended the Quakers' advantage to 3-1.

Yale began to respond in the second quarter, as attacker Ashley Kiernan '27 scored just three minutes in to cut the deficit to one. Gould added another with three minutes remaining before halftime, tying the game at 3-3 heading into the break.

In the first three minutes of the second half, Yale's back-to-back goals from attacker Kelly Holmes '28 and midfielder Whitney Froeb '29 gave the Bulldogs a two-point lead at 5-3.



LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Both Yale and Penn entered Saturday's matchup tied at first place in the Ivy League standings, but Yale's 7-4 win secured the Bulldogs' place atop the conference.

Attacker Nell Ducey '29 converted a free-position shot with 4:36 remaining in the third quarter to give Yale a three-goal lead heading into the final frame.

Penn answered less than a minute into the fourth quarter, ending the Bulldogs' 5-0 run, but it would be the Quakers' only goal for

the entire second half.

With just over three minutes remaining, Kiernan delivered a crisp pass from behind the cage to Ashley Newman '26, restoring Yale's three-goal advantage. The Bulldogs held on from there to secure a 7-4 win.

Yale will look to pick up

another win over Harvard (5-7, 1-4 Ivy) on Saturday to remain undefeated in Ivy play.

Faceoff is slated for noon at Reese Stadium.

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Bulldogs upset Harvard, handing the Crimson their first Ivy loss

MEN'S LACROSSE

BY LIZA KAUFMAN
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The No. 17 Yale men's lacrosse team (6-4, 3-2 Ivy) upset the No. 5 Harvard Crimson (9-2, 3-1 Ivy) 15-9 on a sunny Saturday afternoon at Reese Stadium.

The win marked the Bulldogs' third straight conference victory.

With Reese Stadium filled to capacity on Alumni Day, the Bulldogs hosted Harvard for one of the season's most anticipated matchups. Former players on the lacrosse team and members of several other Yale teams, including football and men's and women's hockey, joined the 1,450 fans in attendance.

“The energy was amazing. We get so excited after any win, whether it's an early season one or one down the stretch,” goalie Ben Friedman '28 wrote in a text message to the News. “Was an added bonus to have the alumni there, who know what it's like to have that feeling.”

Before the rowdy sea of Yale Blue and Harvard Crimson, the Elis

handed the Crimson their first Ivy loss and second overall loss of the season, sending them on a long bus ride back up north.

Saturday's victory extended Yale's win streak to three and marked the team's third upset of the season, including two over top-10 teams. In February, the Elis steamrolled Boston University 16-11 at home and then edged past the defending national champions Cornell 13-12 in Ithaca at the end of March.

Yale controlled possession throughout, winning 18 of 28 faceoffs and scooping up 32 ground balls to limit Harvard's chances. In the cage, Friedman made 10 saves, and the Bulldogs' man-down unit held Harvard to just 2-for-6 on extra-man opportunities.

“We have gotten better each week at flowing together and making sure our rotations are on time, but ultimately having Ben Friedman in the net helps tremendously,” senior defenseman Eric Platten '26 wrote in a text message to the News.

That cohesion showed on Saturday, particularly in the Bulldogs' man-down execution.

“We've been prepping our man-down defense for weeks now, and it's always a focus in

every practice,” Friedman wrote. “Coach Fossner is all about the details in film, making sure we are communicating and connected. I think that just showed on gameday because we've been so buttoned up in practice.”

In the 15-goal offensive explosion, seven different Bulldogs scored. Cole Cashion '27 led the way with a career-high five goals, followed by Luke Pascal's '28 hat trick, the first of his collegiate career. William Sheehan '26 and Dylan Bleicki '29 each potted two, and Nick Wehmeyer '28, Connor Gately '28 and Peter Moynihan '27 also each found the back of the net once.

The Bulldogs came out firing, setting the tone early and stunning the Crimson with their efficiency to take a 5-2 lead in the first quarter.

Although Harvard got on the board first at 11:53, Pascal answered seconds later to equalize the score and set off a four-goal run for the Bulldogs. From behind the net, Gately passed to Sheehan, who buried it to give Yale a one-goal lead. First-year attackman Bleicki then followed up with his first goal of the day, and Sean Grogan '29 found Cashion to put Yale up 4-1. After Harvard goalie Graham

Stevens gave up four early goals, the men's hockey team chanted “it's all your fault.”

With 90 seconds remaining in the quarter, Harvard tallied its second goal to cut the deficit, but Pascal restored Yale's three-goal lead at the 38-second mark to cap off a strong first quarter for the Bulldogs. As the buzzer sounded, the football team started the first of many “Harvard sucks” chants of the day.

Harvard's Sean Jordan struck 10 seconds into the second quarter to bring the score within two, but Cashion quickly responded. Seconds later, Nathan Cobery put up another for the Crimson, to which the Elis answered with three consecutive of their own. Asher Ziv '29 found an open Sheehan for his second of the day. Less than a minute later, Gately scored unassisted to double Yale's lead to 8-4. At 3:16, with only three seconds left on the shot clock, Gately connected with Cashion for a first-half hat trick. Shortly thereafter, the Crimson capitalized on a man-up opportunity to trim the deficit to 9-5, but after a Harvard turnover, Bleicki scooped up the ball to notch his second goal of the game. With Bleicki's goal, Yale led 10-5 at the end of the half.

The Bulldogs came out hot in the third, putting up two in quick succession. At 9:36, Moynihan pushed the lead to six, and 10 seconds later, Wehmeyer won the faceoff and then converted. Cobery added his second of the day for the Crimson to bring it back within six, but Cashion's top-shelf shot, his fourth goal of the game, restored Yale's seven-goal lead. Then, the Crimson responded with two of their own: Cobery recorded a hat trick and Teddy Malone, the Crimson's top scorer who struggled all day against Yale's defense, finally got his name on the board. Even with Harvard scoring two back-to-back, Yale held a five-goal advantage at the close of the quarter.

In the final 15 minutes, the Bulldogs continued to generate offense while the defense held off the Crimson, squashing any remaining hope of a comeback. At 10:38, Cashion potted his fifth goal

of the day to double his total this season. As the game wound down, Pascal notched a hat trick to make it 15-8, and Harvard closed out the scoring with a man-up goal at 4:18. After a successful clear at the 52-second mark, the Bulldogs ran out the clock as Yale fans jumped to their feet and the team rushed the field in celebration of the upset over rival Harvard.

While the Harvard game may carry added weight for Yale fans, the team is viewing the victory as just another step towards a playoff berth.

“Each game is a playoff game to us, so beating Harvard means just as much to us as beating anyone else,” Platten wrote. “The energy after the game was electric thanks to the crowd that came and supported us.”

Saturday's victory was crucial, strengthening Yale's position for an Ivy League tournament berth. While the Bulldogs will still need to beat Brown (6-5, 1-3 Ivy) in their final Ivy contest later this month, Yale is in a good position for a tournament appearance, particularly after Penn's (5-6, 2-3 Ivy) loss to Princeton (9-2, 3-1 Ivy) over the weekend.

“I think if you were to ask most guys on the team they wouldn't say yesterday was an upset at all. We all feel very confident in what we can do as a team,” first-year long-stick midfielder Gaetano Cicotello '29 wrote in a text message to the News. “It took a few games for us to figure it out, but going into the homestretch we all know what we are capable of, and we think we can beat anyone.”

Before they face Brown on April 25, the Elis will travel to Hempstead, New York, to play Hofstra (3-8, 1-3 CAA) in a Tuesday night matchup and then return to New Haven on Saturday for their final home game and Senior Day against UAlbany (7-4, 5-0 AEC).

Faceoff is slated for 7 p.m. on Tuesday at James M. Shuart Stadium and 4 p.m. on Saturday at Reese Stadium.

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LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

In front of a packed home crowd on Alumni Day, the No. 17 Yale men's lacrosse team rolled past the No. 5 Harvard, winning the game 15-9.

STAT OF THE DAY

THE MEN'S LACROSSE HAD FIVE CONSECUTIVE WINS OVER HARVARD BEFORE 2025.