SPORTS

"Golden slumbers fill your eyes. / Smiles await you when you rise."
THE BEATLES "GOLDEN SLUMBERS"

Yale to host UAlbany for Senior Day showdown

MEN'S LACROSSE

BY LIZA KAUFMAN
STAFF REPORTER

The No. 12 Yale men's lacrosse team (7–4, 3–2 Ivy) will return to Reese Stadium for its final home contest against the University at Albany (8–4, 5–0 AE) on Saturday afternoon.

Before faceoff on Saturday afternoon, Yale will honor its nine seniors for their contributions to the team over their four years as Bulldogs.

The team will graduate attackman David Anderson '26; midfielders Nicolas Boudreau '26, Brody Coleman '26 and William Sheehan '26; defensemen Konrad Miklaszewski '26, captain Patrick Pisano '26, Eric Platten '26 and Sam Riecken '26 and goalie Hugh Conrad '26.

The day will be bittersweet as the senior class takes the field at Reese Stadium for one last regular season game.

"Every huddle we break with a loud 'ONE!,'" first-year midfielder Flynn Leonard '29 wrote in a text message to the News. "The senior class has made this team a brotherhood where we are all one. We lose together, win together, and battle together. I've never been a part of something like this before, and I owe it to the seniors who have made it their intention."

Leonard further credited the senior class with easing his transition to college lacrosse and making him feel welcome at Yale from his first day repping the Bulldog jersey.

"Having 9 seniors that are always there to help has been amazing," Leonard wrote. "The jump from high school to college can be more of a leap, but they have made the process straightforward. Whether it's lacrosse, school, or something else, each guy has helped me find my own identity here at Yale. I'm super honored to be a part of this team."

The senior class has set the tone for a close-knit, team-first culture.

Junior long-stick midfielder Luke Michalik '27, who has played alongside the seniors for the last three years, emphasized the senior class's consistency and leadership, describing the group as "selfless and dedicated."

He added that their energy and belief in the team's potential have helped unify the roster.

"Each senior has served a major role in leading the team this year," Michalik wrote in a text message to the News. "They've led with energy, consistency, and have instilled a belief within the team on how good we can be. Guys in every class will tell you how close this team is and that speaks to their leadership."

Leonard echoed Michalik, describing the class in one word, "leadership," and pointing to their ability to guide the team through both highs and lows while consistently leading by example.

"Each senior has led us through the ups and downs of the season in their own way. It's been incredibly motivating to be led by such a group, especially being a freshman," Leonard wrote. "They don't let the highs get us too high, and the lows bring us too low. The senior class is unselfish and they all lead by example."

That standard of respect, excellence and teamwork extends beyond the turf and game days into everyday interactions, something that sophomore long-stick midfielder Francis Keneally '28 has especially valued in the senior class.

"The senior class has done a great job of being leaders and creating a culture where everyone is striving to succeed, whether on or off the field," Keneally wrote in a text message to the News. "Also just a great group of guys, everyone on the team hangs out outside of lacrosse which has only made us closer as a team."

After celebrating the seniors, the squad will take to the field to face the Great Danes, looking to extend the Bulldogs' win streak to five and send the senior class out on a high note. The team will hope to continue building momentum heading into the final week of the regular season next weekend at Brown (6–5, 1–3 Ivy).

When Yale and UAlbany faced off last season, despite jumping out to an early lead, the Bulldogs fell to the Great Danes 14-15 in an overtime nailbiter. However, with Yale's strong performances this season, particularly in the last month, the Elis are well positioned to defend home turf given their recent offensive surge.

The Bulldogs will enter Saturday's matchup riding the momentum of a four-game win streak, including three decisive Ivy League victories over Cornell (8–3, 3–1 Ivy), Dartmouth (4–7, 0–4 Ivy) and Harvard (9–2, 3–1 Ivy).

The Great Danes will arrive in New Haven hot on a six-game win streak after clinching the America East Regular Season Championship following last weekend's 12-9 victory over the University of Vermont (4–6, 2–2 AE).



LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
The men's lacrosse team will honor nine seniors before Saturday's final home game against the University at Albany.

Despite the team's recent success, the Great Danes struggled in early nonconference play. UAlbany opened the season at home with two losses to Cornell and Penn (5–6, 2–3 Ivy), before picking up their first win at Drexel (8–4, 4–1 CAA). However, the team remained inconsistent, falling to UMass (9–4, 2–3 Atlantic 10), beating Hobart (2–9, 0–4 Atlantic 10) and dropping their final nonconference game to Georgetown (6–4, 3–0 Big East) before starting America East play in mid-March.

In conference, the Great Danes hold a perfect 5-0 record, defeating each conference foe they have faced since March 14. Senior attackman Silas Richmond, who was selected by the Philadelphia Waterdogs as the fifth overall pick in the Premier Lacrosse League draft on Tuesday night, leads the conference in goals, assists and points per game. Nationally, Richmond is ninth in goals per game, 11th in assists per game and second in points per game.

On the other end of the field, Yale's offense has exploded in recent games, tallying at least 13 goals in the last four matchups. Against Dartmouth, Sheehan led the offense with four goals, followed by Peter Moynihan '27, Dylan Blekicki '29 and Sean Grogan '29 with two each. The Bulldogs then kept piling on the goals against Harvard, as Cole Cashion '27 led the way with five and Luke Pascal '28 notched a hat trick. In Tuesday night's matchup on Long Island, Grogan, Sheehan and Cashion each recorded hat tricks.

UAlbany holds a slight edge in its penalty killing percentage of .591 to Yale's .553, but Yale's defense has proven itself in recent weeks, notably shutting down Harvard's then eighth-best nationally scoring offense and holding the Crimson to just 2-for-6 on extra-man opportunities. Pisano and Michalik have anchored the unit. Pisano is second in the conference and 27th nationally in caused turnovers per game and Michalik is fifth in the conference.

In the cage, Yale's Ben Friedman '28 is first in the Ivy League and eighth nationally in saves per game averaging 13.5, and he has the second best save percentage in the Ivy League and 17th nationally of .556. He edges out UAlbany goalie Brady Smith, who has a slightly lower 0.500 save percentage.

With a home crowd behind them, the Bulldogs will look to extend their win streak and send the senior class off with one final statement at Reese Stadium.

"We are certainly going to miss them next year but they have shown us the way and created a unique culture that will last beyond their time here," Michalik wrote.

Faceoff is slated for 4 p.m. on Saturday, with Senior Day festivities set to precede the game.

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Riding a hot streak, Bulldogs set to play Cornell on the road

BASEBALL

BY JUSTIN LEAHY
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The Yale Bulldogs (20-10, 9-3 Ivy) are hungry and on a hot win streak.

The Bulldogs are looking to keep their place atop the Ivy League. They've won three straight series against Ivy League opponents — Penn, Princeton and Harvard — and they will head up to Cornell this weekend.

Of the Bulldogs' past nine conference games, they've only lost one. They also haven't lost consecutive Ivy League games all year.

Garrett Larsen '27, who holds the Ivy League lead in batting average with .404, gave insight into the current state of the clubhouse.

"The boys are feeling pretty good," Larsen wrote to the News. "Knowing that we have more in the tank while winning is a great feeling."

On Wednesday, Yale came back from down 4-0 to defeat cross-town rival Quinnipiac 6-5 (14-20, 7-8 MAAC) in a 12 inning thriller at George H. W. Bush '48 Field. The Bulldogs trailed by four runs into the fourth inning. However, they soon clawed themselves back into contention. In the fifth inning, Jack Dauer '28, the reigning Ivy League Rookie of the Year, hit a double down the left-field line, sending Chris DiPrima '27 home and cutting the Bulldogs' deficit to one.

Later, in the eighth inning, captain Davis Hanson '26 hit a single with the bases loaded to tie the game up at a score of 5-5. Finally, in the bottom of the 12th inning, Colin Sloan '27 lined a walk-off single to left field. The walk-off hit gave Yale the victory and also made Sloan a walk-off hero for the second time this year.

In addition to their strong offensive comeback, the Bulldogs won the rivalry game with the help of the immaculate performance on the mound by Nick West '29. West threw 103 pitches in six innings of relief and only gave up one earned run before going on to earn the victory.

In addition to West's late-game heroics, Kaiden Dossa '27 also extended his on-base streak to 23 games. The midweek game was overall an impressive all-around victory for Yale on both sides of the diamond.

The Bulldogs have a half-game lead over Brown (8-3 Ivy) in the Ivy League standings, with nine conference games remaining. If they keep their current momentum, they're on track to be one of the top four teams in the Ivy League, which would secure their place in the Ivy League tournament.

On Friday, the Bulldogs will travel up north to Ithaca to face Cornell (6-21, 4-8 Ivy). The Big Red have struggled this year, in both conference and non-conference games, and are tied for last place, with Harvard, in the Ivy League standings. The Big Red also currently have a five game losing streak.

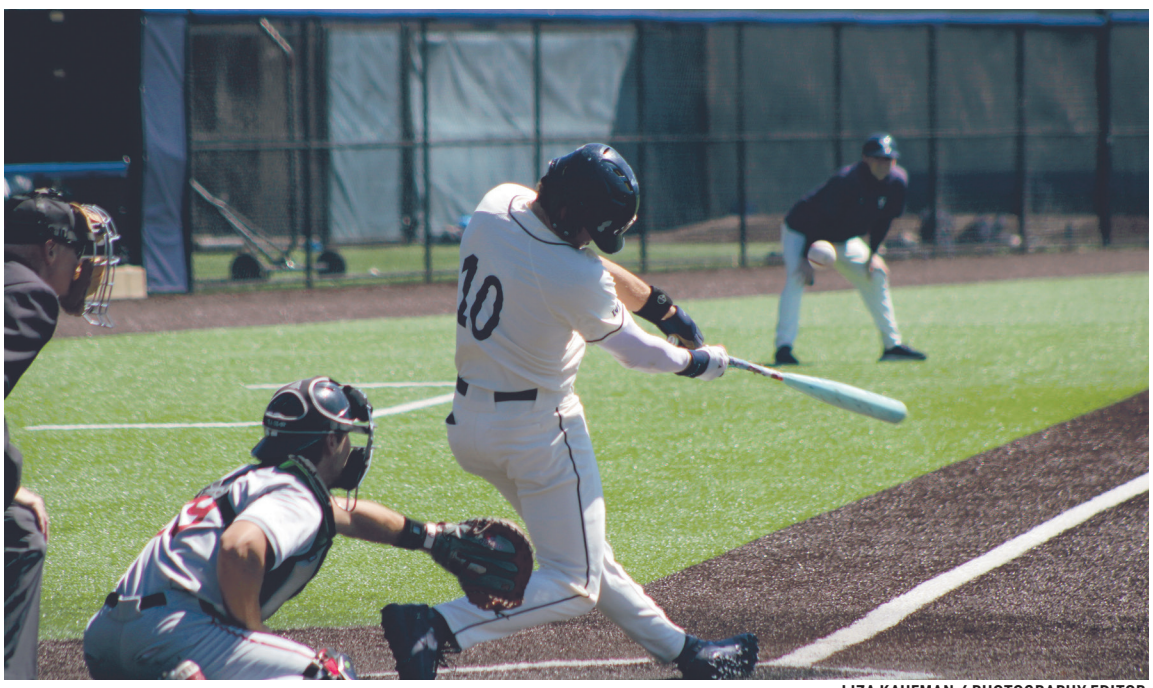
But Yale should not write off Cornell, which has shown some flashes of strength at home, including a series win over Dartmouth just two weeks ago.

"We are feeling good, but continuing to take it day by day and game by game, continuing to stack good days before heading up to Ithaca," Dossa wrote to the News.

The series will be an important chance for Yale to build a buffer gap in first place before a crucial road trip to Columbia the weekend after next. Last year, while the Bulldogs were the in-season winner of the Ivy League, Columbia won the Ivy League tournament and advanced to the NCAA Super Regionals.

"The goal is to not just make it into the tournament, but to be in a spot to win it," Dossa wrote to the News, referring to the conference tournament. "It is important that we take one game at a time to get to the spot we want to be in come end of May."

Yale and Cornell will play on Friday at 1 p.m. Then, on Saturday, the Bulldogs will play the Big Red in a doubleheader, starting at 11:30 a.m.



LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Yale walked off cross-town rivals Quinnipiac in an extra-inning thriller on Wednesday. They will play a series against Cornell in Ithaca this weekend.

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