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"The freshmen have gelled perfectly with our team. Everyone works well together and helps one another every day in practice."

LAURECE ABRAHAM '27

Undefeated Bulldogs sweep weekend against Fairfield and U.C. Davis

FIELD HOCKEY

BY VINCENT HUANG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Yale Field Hockey (4–0, 0–0 Ivy) continued its seamless start to the 2026 season by defeating Fairfield (2–2, 0–0 CAA) and the University of California, Davis (2–4, 0–0 MPSF), emerging from the weekend as the only remaining undefeated team in the Ivy League.

In Friday's 2-1 victory against Fairfield, forward Chiara Picciafuoco '28 continued her red-hot season, recording a goal to open the scoring before joining Carys Isherwood '29 to assist Issy Baileff '28 for the Bulldogs' second goal of the day. A late goal from Fairfield made the final score 2-1.

Sunday saw Yale hammer the University of California, Davis' Aggies in a 3-0 rout, with all three scores coming in a third-quarter Bulldog onslaught. Midfielder Victoria Collee '28 found the net for the first goal of her career, followed by a brace from Issy Baileff, with Picciafuoco and Emma Ramsey '27 contributing assists on all three scores.



LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

No. 18 Yale Field Hockey successfully defended home turf in a pair of victories against the Stags and Aggies, remaining the only undefeated team in the Ivy League. The Bulldogs will now face Brown and Cornell at home this weekend.

The 2026 season has been a career year in offensive production for Picciafuoco. Her 2026 tally of seven goals and five assists in four games are already career highs.

"I had a positional switch from center midfield last year to forward this year, which has allowed me to be more of an offensive player and have more confidence in my game," Picciafuoco wrote in a statement to the News reviewed by Yale Athletics spokesperson Sam Rubin.

On the defensive side of the ball, Yale's stout play has been a story of the season, with the Bulldogs allowing only 0.5 goals per game. Senior back Hettie Whittington '27 noted that Yale's experienced defense contributes to its dominant play.

"Our defensive line is not only very experienced but also very receptive to feedback and keen to learn," Whittington wrote in a statement to the News reviewed by Rubin. "I think a lot of our success this year can be attributed to the fact that we have been playing more confidently and aiming to win the ball higher up the pitch, which has been a good look for us."

Whittington also offered high praise for sophomore keeper Amelie Schwarzkopf '29.

"Importantly, with a year of experience under her belt now, our sophomore goalkeeper Amelie has also been key to helping us maintain our structure and execute our defensive game plan," Whittington wrote.

In Friday's contest, Schwarzkopf turned in a strong defensive performance with eight saves, tied for third-highest in her collegiate career. On Sunday, she delivered her second clean sheet of the season. She currently leads the Ivy in save percentage at 0.900.

Schwarzkopf emphasized how defensive continuity has enabled Yale's strong play.

"The defensive approach has not changed really," Schwarzkopf wrote in a statement to the News reviewed by Rubin. "As a team we continue to work on it every game and practise to improve it, helping also the freshmen get more comfortable each time they play in it."

For newcomer Liza Semenenko '29, a sophomore transfer from Swarthmore, the efficiency and winning culture of the Bulldogs has been particularly striking. In a statement to the News reviewed by Rubin, she remarked on the difference between her prior Division III program and her new home.

"The biggest change has been the pace of play and how quickly the game moves at the D1 level," Semenenko wrote. "Much of that has also been how well-drilled the Yale team is and the intensity at which we practice."

The Bulldogs have emerged victorious in six of their last seven home games at Johnson Field, a trend they will hope to continue as they open Ivy League play this weekend.

"We've had a great start to the season, going 4–0, and we're excited to keep giving everything we have for our coaches, teammates, parents, alumni, and everyone who supports us and has been part of this team over the years," Picciafuoco wrote.

The Bulldogs' season continues with Brown (2–2, 0–0 Ivy) and Cornell (1–4, 0–0 Ivy) coming to Johnson Field this Friday and Sunday, respectively.

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Elis keep up undefeated streak in wins against New Hampshire, UConn

VOLLEYBALL

BY TANNER BATTLE
STAFF REPORTER

Yale volleyball (6–0, 0–0 Ivy) finished the University of Connecticut Invitational last weekend with two wins and no losses under their belt.

The Bulldogs swept the University of New Hampshire (7–3, 0–0 America East) 3-0 in straight sets on Saturday. The Elis rode the momentum of that win into Sunday, when Yale played four tough sets against UConn (5–5, 0–0 Big East), only dropping one to the Huskies, to finish the match 3-1.

The Bulldogs arrived in Storrs, Conn., hungry to extend their win streak after they captured the Yale Invitational, where they defeated Hofstra (4–2, 0–0 CAA), Manhattan (0–6, 0–0 Metro) and Santa Clara (2–5, 0–0 WCC).

To start off the match on Saturday, the Elis beat the Wildcats in the opening set by nine points, which set the tone for the rest of the match and tournament. New Hampshire put up a stronger fight in the second set, but the Bulldogs rallied to win the set by four points. The Bulldogs did not take their foot off the gas in the final set, finishing it off 3-0.

Laurece Abraham '27 led the offense for Yale with 17 kills over the duration of the match. She has consistently contributed on the offensive end this season after rigorous offseason training.

"The trainers here have helped me a lot with staying healthy and getting stronger," Abraham wrote in an email to the News. "My teammates have also been amazing in practice constantly pushing me and helping everyone get better."

The Bulldogs came out ready to bite on Sunday, taking the first set by 10 points. The three sets that followed were tighter, only decided by four points or fewer, but the Elis only dropped one set.

While five first years, including the starting setter Kalyssa Taggart '30, joined the team this year, the Bulldogs are already playing as a unit.

"The freshmen have gelled perfectly with our team," Abraham wrote. "Everyone works well together and helps one another every day in practice."

The Bulldogs will now take the week to train for their Texas trip, where they will take on the No. 11 TCU (6–2, 0–0 Big 12) Horned Frogs and No. 8 SMU Mustangs (6–1, 0–0 ACC).

Yale will take on TCU at 1 p.m. Eastern in Fort Worth before heading to play SMU at 3 p.m. Eastern in Dallas.

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TANNER BATTLE / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The Bulldogs handily crushed the University of New Hampshire and the University of Connecticut at UConn's invitational over the weekend, extending this season's winning streak to six matches.

Stat of the Day

THE BULLDOGS HAVE EMERGED VICTORIOUS IN SIX OF THEIR LAST SEVEN HOME GAMES AT JOHNSON FIELD, A TREND THEY WILL HOPE TO CONTINUE AS THEY OPEN IVY LEAGUE PLAY THIS WEEKEND.