Yale Daily News

SPORTS

FOR MORE SPORTS CONTENT, VISIT OUR WEB SITE
yaledailynews.com

"Starting strong matters, but finishing strong says just as much about a team — and seeing everyone raise their level going into that second round was a great sign for where we're headed."

MATTHEW LIN '28

Ivy basketball championship to find semi-permanent home

MEN'S BASKETBALL

BY BRODY GILKISON
STAFF REPORTER

The Ivy League's annual men's basketball tournament will have a new home for three years starting next school year, the league announced on Tuesday.

Traditionally, member schools have rotated as hosts of the tournament, or Ivy Madness, since the inaugural event in 2017. After the upcoming season's championship is played at the Palestra, a historic arena in Philadelphia, though, the tournament will have a semi-permanent home at the PPL Center in Allentown, Penn., from 2028 to 2030.

"The PPL Center provides a neutral site in a first-class venue, a vibrant downtown setting, and a location that is accessible to so many of our alumni and fans," Ivy League Executive Director Robin Harris said in a press release. "We believe this partnership creates an exciting opportunity to continue elevating the championship experience for our student-athletes and Ivy League basketball overall."

The University of Pennsylvania, the host of the upcoming Ivy Madness, is the league's defending champion.

Contact
BRODY GILKISON *at*
brody.gilkison@yale.edu



LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Ivy League announced on Tuesday that its annual basketball tournament, which is currently hosted on a rotating basis, will be hosted at the PPL Center in Allentown, Penn., from 2028 to 2030.

First years lead Yale to season-opening tournament title

MEN'S GOLF

BY AZARA MASON
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's golf team opened its 2026-27 season with a victory this weekend at the Doc Gimmler Invitational.

Two first years — Theodore Snyder '30, who won the individual title, and Shawn Nawata '30, who tied for second — began their official collegiate golf careers at the top of the leaderboard after the tournament, which was held at Bethpage State Park's Red Course.

After rain shortened the tournament to 36 holes, the Bulldogs finished at 13-under par, 10 strokes ahead of tournament host and second-place finisher, St. John's, to take first of 14 teams. Columbia, the only other Ivy League program in the field, finished tied for eighth at 15-over par.

Snyder led the Bulldogs at seven-under par, shooting rounds of 69 and 64 to capture the individual title in his first collegiate tournament.

"It felt really special to win my first college event, especially being able to do it while helping our team get the win too," Snyder wrote in a text to the News. "I've been putting in a lot of work, so to see that pay off and get my first collegiate win is super special."

After shooting one-under in the opening round, Snyder caught fire in the second. He opened with three consecutive birdies and added another on the fifth hole. A birdie on the 11th hole moved him to five-under before another on the 15th brought him to six-under for the round.

Snyder said the birdie on No. 15 was the shot that stood out most.

"I had 192 into the wind and hit a 7-iron to about five feet, then made the birdie to get to six under that round," Snyder wrote. "That was a big moment where I felt like that had to have put me in the lead."

Head coach Keith Tyburski also praised Snyder's performance and character.

"Theo is an incredible player. His enthusiasm and energy are contagious," Tyburski said in a Yale Athletics news release.

Nawata was not far behind his fellow first year. He shot rounds of 69 and 67 to finish four-under and tied for second, and the two first years landed in the top two spots of the individual leaderboard.

Like Snyder, Nawata got off to a fast start in the second round, making three consecutive birdies on holes two through four.

"I think a good finish to round 1 gave me some momentum for a hot start in round 2," Nawata wrote in a text to the News. "Knowing that we needed to put together a solid 2nd round as a team if we wanted to chase down St. John's was a contributing factor as well."

Nawata ultimately finished the round three-under.

In total, four Bulldogs finished in the top 11 individually, three of whom were first years.

Austin Le '30, the third first year in Yale's lineup, tied for 11th with Colin Li '28 at even par. Le made one of Yale's biggest second-round jumps, following an opening-round 73 with a three-under 67 in the second. He surged to four-under through seven holes after an eagle on No. 5 and back-to-back birdies on Nos. 6 and 7.

For Li, the victory was particularly meaningful after Yale struggled to start strongly in each of his first two seasons.

"I think it's huge for us to start off the year strong," Li wrote in a text to the News. "Compared to my freshman and sophomore year, we never really got out on the right foot and it's hard to start a season with a bunch of negatives. It's great to see that we all came out the gates firing and setting the tone for the fall."

Captain Matthew Lin '28 said the team's collective improvement in the second round stood out to him.

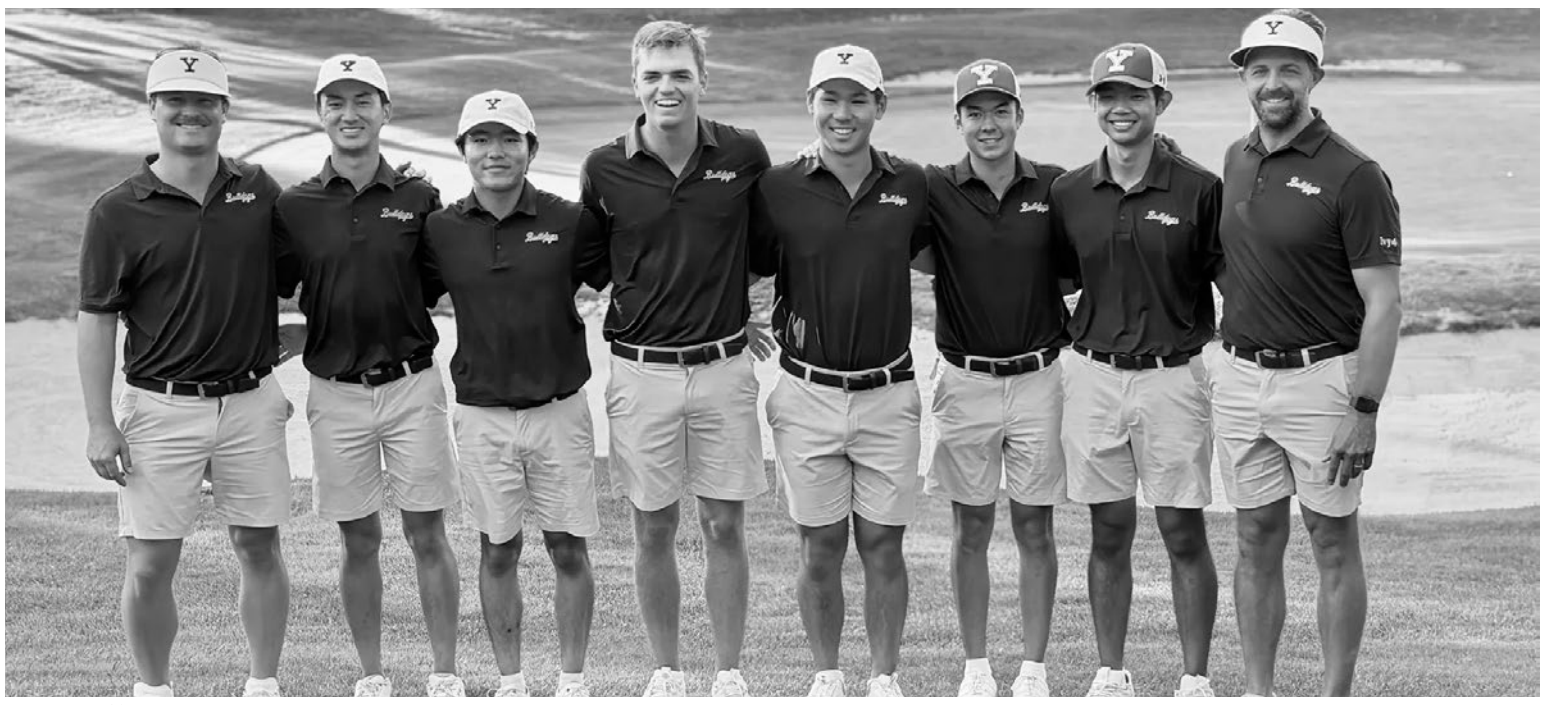
"I was really proud of how the team played in the second round of that 36-hole day," Lin wrote in a text to the News. "Starting strong matters, but finishing strong says just as much about a team — and seeing everyone raise their level going into that second round was a great sign for where we're headed."

For Lin, the performances of Yale's first years were particularly encouraging.

"Theo and Shawn finishing 1st and 2nd as freshmen in their very first collegiate start tells me a lot about the ceiling of this group," Lin wrote. "It shows they're not intimidated by the moment. Everyone on this team is genuinely excited about what we can accomplish this year."

The first years and the rest of the team will look to build on their opening-weekend victory at the Macdonald Cup, which Yale will host on Saturday, Sept. 26 at the Yale Golf Course.

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



YALE ATHLETICS

In their collegiate debuts, Theodore Snyder '30 won the individual title and Shawn Nawata '30 tied for second, as the Bulldogs finished 13-under par to win the Doc Gimmler Invitational.

Ivy League to introduce 'bye week' to football schedule next year

FOOTBALL

BY BRODY GILKISON
STAFF REPORTER

For the first time in league history, Ivy League football teams will have a week off built into their schedule.

The Ivy League announced on Monday that the football season will start a week earlier starting next year, with the addition of a bye week, or a week for players to rest mid-season.

Traditionally, Ivy League teams kick off around the third week of September, which is two to three weeks later than the rest of Division I. As a result, Ivy League teams play just ten games per season with no bye week in their schedule. Teams will now start play a week earlier, which means the first games of the season will be played on Sept. 11 next year.

All games played on Sept. 11 will now be exclusively conference matchups, rather than typical out-of-conference games that teams tend to schedule. That means that Ivy League teams will now play Week 1 games against each other, instead of playing Week 1 against non-conference teams, who would already be on Week 4.

With the season starting earlier, the week of Oct. 15 will now be a bye week for all teams. While the conference did not explicitly state a reason for the change, the off-week is set to give teams time to recharge and make a final push as the regular season wraps up, following last season's changes to allow Ivy League teams to play in the postseason.

The addition of the bye week is especially significant given that Yale played for 12 straight weeks last season. After steamrolling Harvard 45-28 to clinch the conference title, Team 152 had no downtime before taking the field against Youngstown State University.

The Bulldogs mounted a historic 29-point comeback against the Penguins to advance to the second round, where they then faced the Montana State University Bobcats in Week 12.

Yale was the only Division I team to play 12 consecutive games last season, winning seven of its final eight.

Contact
BRODY GILKISON *at*
brody.gilkison@yale.edu



LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The league announced on Monday that the 2027 season will begin a week earlier and include a week off built into the schedule. The change is set to give teams time to recharge, following last season's shift to allow Ivy teams to reach the postseason.

STAT OF THE DAY

THE BULLDOGS FINISHED AT 13-UNDER PAR AT THE DOC GIMMLER GOLF INVITATIONAL THIS WEEKEND, OPENING THEIR SEASON WITH A VICTORY.