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"A season is inevitably filled with ups and downs, but when we do experience an up, it's important to carry any sort of momentum you can get into the next games."

ALEX CHANG '27

Yale to face Sacred Heart in final match before conference play

WOMEN'S SOCCER

BY GIAN LOMBEYDA
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Yale women's soccer team (4–4–0, 0–0 Ivy) will finish non-conference play against Sacred Heart University (6–1–0, 1–1 MAAC) at home on Sunday.

"Sacred Heart is a strong opponent and will be a good way for us to grow as a team and try to build on our momentum before Ivy League conference play begins," defender Alex Chang '27 wrote in an email to the News.

Despite their attacking prowess and resolute defending, the Bulldogs' start to the season has been back-and-forth. The team had no consecutive wins in their first eight matches of the season.

After their dominant 5-1 win against Fordham University (3–3–1, 0–0 A-10) last Sunday, the Bulldogs will look to take another step forward into a challenging start to conference play, highlighted by heavyweight matchups with perennial title contenders Princeton (4–3–0, 0–0 Ivy) and Brown (5–2–1, 0–0 Ivy).

"A season is inevitably filled with ups and downs," Chang said, "but when we do experience an up, it's important to carry any sort of momentum you can get into the next games."

Yale's inconsistency could be due in part to its busy schedule. The team has played eight games in just three and a half weeks. A majority of those contests have been on the road — the Bulldogs have traveled to places like Charlottesville, Virginia and Durham, New Hampshire.

In total, the Bulldogs have traveled over 1,500 miles in less than a month.

"After nearly a month of two-game weeks, it'll be great for everyone to finally be able to take a week to prepare by fully recovering and training again in between games," Chang said.



ALYSSA CHANG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Yale will battle a familiar foe in Sacred Heart University in the 16th all-time matchup between the two Connecticut adversaries..

Preparation will be crucial ahead of perhaps the team's biggest test yet. The Sacred Heart Pioneers have been strong all season, tallying 10 or more shots in every match and winning their first six matches with just two goals conceded.

Notably, star forward Shea Kelleher already has five goals this season for the Pioneers.

The last three contests between Yale and Sacred Heart were decided by teams bouncing back to score soon after conceding a goal. With Sacred Heart eager for goals after their unexpected 2-3 loss to Marist University (2–5–0, 2–0 MAAC) last Saturday, Yale will have to limit the Pioneers' tenacious attack if they want to deal Sacred Heart their second loss of the season.

Fortunately, the Bulldogs have the defensive personnel to do so, starting with leaders like Chang, who has played every minute of the season so far.

"In terms of the backline, it's been such a pleasure to work with my teammates," said Chang. "Personally, I try to train as much as I can, but I really just take it game by game and have as much fun as I can."

The defenders have also been efficient in springing the attack, with Chang and Tana Sands '29 already tallying assists. Look for speedy attackers Anita Thorvaldsdottir '27 and Abigail Solomon '26 to receive their teammates' crosses and continue their good form in front of goal on Sunday.

Jojo DeNegri '29 will also look to build on her standout performance against Fordham, where she scored her first collegiate double.

History is on the Bulldogs' side, as they have won 10 of the last 15 matches against the Pioneers.

The team is also trending in the right direction after a shaky midseason stretch last year. Underclassmen like DeNegri, Sands and Cindy Yang '30 have led the charge, and celebration wasn't in short supply after Selma Larbi '29 and Kyleigh Carr '30 scored their first collegiate goals against Fordham.

Overall, the team has continued to grow with every game.

"All I can hope for moving forward," Chang said, "is that everyone on the team will take it game by game, give it their all every minute, and just have some fun playing with each other!"

Yale will host Sacred Heart University at 1 p.m. on Sunday before returning to conference play against Cornell University (3–3–2, 0–0 Ivy) the following Saturday.

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Facing Brown, Bulldogs look to carry undefeated record into Ivy play

FIELD HOCKEY

BY VINCENT HUANG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The No. 17 Yale Bulldogs (4–0, 0–0 Ivy), the only undefeated team remaining in the Ivy League, are beginning their quest to make a second-ever appearance in the Ivy League tournament as they face Brown on Friday.

Yale is off to its second 4-0 start in two seasons, recording a goal differential of +15. The Bulldogs, who defeated the Bears 3-1 in Providence last season, are ranked third of the conference in the National Field Hockey Coaches Association poll, trailing No. 3 Princeton (3-1, 0-0 Ivy) and No. 7 Harvard (3-1, 0-0 Ivy).

"It's been a great start to the season going into Friday's Ivy opener against Brown — a 4-0 record and 17 goals already is a great place to be, and we want to carry that momentum into conference play," Issy Baileff '28 wrote in a statement reviewed by Yale Athletics spokesperson Sam Rubin. "For me personally, I put the hours in over summer to ensure I came back in the best position possible and it is paying off."

Her effort is clearly bearing fruit, as Baileff has already topped her previous record for seasonal goals.

Baileff is one of several Bulldogs who are already on track to have record-setting seasons. Chiara Picciafuoco '28 has in four games recorded career highs in both goals (7) and assists (5), an attacking explosion enabled in part by a positional change from midfielder to forward.

Maddie Leathem '30 and Gigi Caldero '28 have also both found the back of the net for the first time in their collegiate careers.

Yale's midfield playmakers have also stood out. Senior Emma Ramsey '27's current assist total (4) is a career high, while sophomore Carys Isherwood '29 has already tied her total (2) from 2025.

The Bulldogs' defense has been similarly strong, having allowed just two goals across their four opening contests. At the same point in 2025, they had allowed six. The save percentage of Amelie Schwarzkopf '29, at 0.900, ranks second in the Ivy League, and she has posted two clean sheets in four games.

For captain Hettie Whittington '27 and the Bulldogs' two other seniors, the 2026 campaign is particularly meaningful.

"My approach to senior season has been to soak in every second," Whittington wrote in a statement to the News reviewed by Rubin. "Our season is so short, and I only really have two more months playing this sport with this team, so my mindset has been to quickly forget the mistakes and celebrate every win."

But as dusk approaches for the collegiate careers of Yale field hockey's class of 2027, the first years have made an immediate impact for the fast-starting Bulldogs, with Sophie Buchowski '30 and Angelina Che '30 both seeing significant minutes on the field.

Yale will host Brown at Johnson Field on Friday at 6 p.m.

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LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The No. 17 Yale Bulldogs, now the only undefeated team remaining in the Ivy, look to stay perfect as they host the Brown Bears at home this Friday. Last season, the Bulldogs defeated the Bears 3-1.

Bulldogs head to Lone Star State to face highly-ranked opponents

VOLLEYBALL

BY TANNER BATTLE
STAFF REPORTER

The Bulldogs (6–0, 0–0 Ivy) will head south to the Lone Star State this weekend, seeking to maintain their undefeated streak against two highly-ranked teams.

Yale will face the No. 13 Texas Christian University Horned Frogs (7–2, 0–0 Big 12) on Friday, followed by the No. 5 Southern Methodist University Mustangs (6–2, 0–0 ACC) on Saturday. Although the Elis remain undefeated, they are set to be at a significant disadvantage since they have not yet faced this level of competition this season.

The Horned Frogs will enter Friday's game on a hot streak, after winning five consecutive games over the past two weeks. Although they sit at No. 13 nationally, TCU has shown its ability to pull off an upset, beating the higher-seeded SMU Mustangs 3-2 earlier this month.

After the Elis face a hot TCU team, they will match up with the top-10 SMU team, which has already beaten several highly-ranked teams this season, including No. 4 Kentucky (7–2, 0–0 SEC) and No. 7 Texas (4–4, 0–0 SEC).

While SMU comes into the game at No. 5, they will meet the Bulldogs on the heels of a devastating 0-3 loss to No. 11 Purdue (5–2, 0–0 BIG) last Sunday.

Yale will need some key players to step up in order to overcome the star power of these Texas teams. Captain Laurece Abraham '27, the Ivy League Player of the Week, will need to continue her offensive dominance, and the Bulldogs will look to Ava Poinsett '29 to continue her hard work on both offense and defense. First-year setter Kalyssa Taggart '30 will need to stay focused in what may be the most difficult environment she will play in this season.

This weekend will offer the team a chance to put their skills to the test against the highest level of competition they will face before beginning conference play at Brown on Sept. 26.

Yale will take on TCU this Friday at 1 p.m. in Fort Worth and SMU at 3 p.m. on Saturday in Dallas. The games will be available on ESPN+ and ACCNX.

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TANNER BATTLE / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Seeking to maintain their undefeated streak, Yale volleyball will go head-to-head this weekend with two top-25 teams, No. 13 TCU and No. 5 SMU.

STAT OF THE DAY

THE SAVE PERCENTAGE OF FIELD HOCKEY PLAYERAMELIE SCHWARZKOPF '29, AT 0.900, RANKS SECOND IN THE IVY LEAGUE.