SPORTS

"Cause everything you say, it dictates your destiny"
NICOLE KIDMAN ADELA

Yale fends off Sacred Heart comeback to win last non-Ivy match

BY GIAN LOMBEYDA
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Yale women's soccer team (5–4–0, 0–0 Ivy) continued its winning ways at home with a defiant 2-1 win against a resolute Sacred Heart University (6–2–0, 1–1 MAAC).

Despite the Sacred Heart Pioneers' best efforts, the whole Yale team buckled down on defense, overcoming injury, fatigue and the weather to stave off their opponents' blistering attack. With the victory, Yale marked its fifth win of the year and its first back-to-back wins of the season.

"I'm really proud of our group for the way they approached the match with no excuses," head coach Sarah Martinez wrote in an email to the News after the game.

The Pioneers ended the match with only seven shots in a season where they haven't had fewer than 10 on any night. Meanwhile, the Bulldogs had 18 shots in the match.

Yale was somewhat quiet on attack in the first half, but they broke the deadlock in the 53rd minute with a powerful solo run from star attacker Anita Thorvaldsdottir '27.

With a renewed surge of confidence, Yale found its second goal only six minutes later. Veteran defender Alex Chang '27, who went down with an injury in the first half but bounced back to start the second half, hit an inch-perfect free kick right to the feet of Phebe Ryan '28. Ryan tapped the ball into the top corner before the goalkeeper could react.

"Sure we've been dealt some tough hands with injuries lately," Martinez wrote, "but our mindset has always stayed consistent; it takes all 26 every game no matter the circumstances."

The team has 26 players on its roster.

Given that the last three matches between Yale and Sacred Heart have been full of comeback goals, the Bulldogs knew they had to solidify their defense for the remaining minutes of the game. As Sacred Heart put pressure on the Yale goal, veteran defenders Chang and Andie Miller '27 took no chances and made sure every cross that came into the box was punted out.

Forward Kyleigh Carr '30 also contributed to Yale's bold defensive performance as she played as a defender in place of Tana Sands '29, who didn't play after starting the last eight matches and playing a full 90 minutes in the first seven.

While the Pioneers found a consolation goal in the 77th minute through substitute Marina Parodo, the Bulldogs were able to avoid a late equalizer.

"To get this win was awesome for our group, to get a little momentum heading into Ivy League play and to continue to build on what we've done well throughout this season," Martinez wrote.

With matches against powerhouses Princeton and Brown on the horizon, the Bulldogs will need to continue their run of good form if they want to assert themselves as Ivy League title contenders.

"I'm excited to see what we're able to accomplish in league play," Martinez wrote, "but our focus stays on one game at a time as we look to get a result against Cornell this weekend."

Up next, Yale travels to Cornell (3–3–2, 0–0 Ivy) for the team's first Ivy League conference match of the season this Saturday at 1 p.m.

Contact
GIAN LOMBEYDA *at*
gian.lombeyda@yale.edu.



ALYSSA CHANG / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
The Bulldogs fended off a late comeback from the Sacred Heart Pioneers to earn a 2-1 victory amid drizzly conditions in New Haven. Starting with a Cornell game this Saturday, Yale now enters conference play with five wins and plenty of momentum.

Bulldogs prevail in thrilling shootout triumph over Brown

BY VINCENT HUANG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The 80 minutes of regulation and overtime weren't enough, and the five standard rounds of penalty shootout proved insufficient still: Under the lights of Johnson Field, the opening contest of the No. 17 Bulldogs' (5–0, 1–0 Ivy) Ivy League campaign went all the way down to the wire, and it was only in the penalty shootout's seventh round that Yale secured its hard-earned victory against Brown (2–3, 0–1 Ivy).



LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Yale emerged victorious in their opening Ivy League match against Brown. With the scores tied at 1-1 after overtime, the Bulldogs overcame the Bears 2-1 in the deciding seven-round sudden victory shootout.

The Brown Bears wasted no time from the whistle, securing and converting a penalty to go up 1-0 within the game's opening 30 seconds.

But Issy Baileff '28 equalized 2:46 into the second quarter, assisted by the playmaking of Chiara Picciafuoco '28 and Emma Ramsey '27. That goal marked Baileff's fourth straight game with a score and Picciafuoco's fourth straight with an assist.

From that point on, for three more quarters and both overtimes, the match became a defensive standoff. Both back lines slammed shut, with shots from both Yale and Brown finding nothing but goalpost woodwork and goalkeeper padding.

When the scoreboard hit zeroes after the second period of overtime, the Bulldogs and Bears remained deadlocked at 1-1, sending the game to a penalty shootout.

The rules of collegiate field hockey dictate that in a shootout, an attacker starts with the ball at the 25-meter line and is given eight seconds to score on the goalkeeper. Five rounds of these one-on-one duels are guaranteed, with further attempts given in a sudden-victory format if the scores remain tied.

For sophomore goalkeeper Amelie Schwarzkopf '29, a key component of the last line of Yale's elite defense, Friday night marked just her second career appearance in a shootout.

"During shootouts I just try and focus on myself and not to pay attention to others around me," said Schwarzkopf in a statement to the News. "Emotionally I would say I get excited once it's definite that it goes into shoutouts. When they start I am pretty much in a tunnel until it ends."

Through the first five rounds, both Yale and Brown scored just one goal, advancing into sudden-death. Schwarzkopf, having delivered clutch save after clutch save, delivered her most important block in the second round of sudden death, extending her leg guard to deflect an oncoming Brown shot — opening the door for the game to come down, as it so often has this season, to the black-and-gold stick of Chiara Picciafuoco.

The junior forward executed a pirouetting spin to get around Brown's keeper before firing a backhander high into the back of the net to finally win the Bulldogs victory.

By the time Picciafuoco leapt into the waiting arms of her teammates, the Bulldogs had been on the field for over 90 minutes. The challenge of endurance, for both body and mind, was titanic.

"Every Ivy game is mentally tough," captain Hettie Whittington '27 said, emphasizing that "staying on top of the nerves and being composed under pressure is hard work." However, she said, "our team's greatest attribute is our grittiness, and so if we have to play overtime, we get it done."

The Bulldogs have certainly been getting it done. After five games, they rank first in the Ivy League in both offense (3.80 goals scored per game) and defense (0.60 goals allowed per game).

Yale will continue its season with a home game against Cornell on Saturday. That game will be their second Ivy League contest of the season and will bring their opening six-game homestand to a close.

Contact
VINCENT HUANG *at*
v.huang@yale.edu.

Yale captures sweeping victory in first tournament of the season

BY RICHARD FAN
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The women's tennis team (0–0–0) competed at their first exhibitional tournament last weekend, taking home a sweeping invitational victory.

Yale, the defending Ivy League Champions, beat the Rutgers Scarlet Knights 3-1 in doubles and 7-1 in singles. They then defeated the Boston University Terriers 4-0 in doubles and 5-3 in singles before ending the Bulldog Invitational with a perfect record against the Brown Bears. Though these first three games of the season will not count toward the team's record, the victories demonstrated its continued strength coming off of a remarkable 19–4 record last year.

This year, the Bulldogs have three new first-year athletes: Angela Chen '30, Aoife Kuo '30 and Katharine Liu '30. Captain Erin Ha '27 said she believes the trio has gone above and beyond in fitting into the team energy and culture.

"All of us have put in a lot of work over the past weeks. People have been getting back into the groove of academics and athletics, so we've all settled back in really well," Ha wrote in a text message. "I think we've done a good job building a super tight community, and it really reflects in the energy we give to each other in every single match."

Yale got off to a strong start against the Scarlet Knights on Friday. The duos of Orly Ogilvy '27 and Leena Friedman '29, Julia Werdiger '28 and Katharine Liu '30, and Shyla Aggarwal '27 and Ha captured the day's doubles points.

The Bulldogs continued their strong performance in singles, winning seven out of their eight completed matches.

Saturday's doubles session was more of the same for Yale, with the squad trouncing the Terriers 4-0. On the singles side, despite facing a difficult opposition, the Bulldogs took home five wins in eight games.

On the last day of the tournament, the Bulldogs cruised to victory against Brown, winning all four doubles matches and all eight singles matches.

The weekend's Bulldog Invitational marked Yale's first matchups of the season. Although the tournament has no influence on end-of-season standings or NCAA qualifiers, Ha said it was a great opportunity for the team members to get back into the groove this season.

"I think when you have such a fun and welcoming team it's super easy to get along with everyone," Chen wrote in a text. "Even though we are all equally tired, everyone always brings a positive energy to practice which has made tennis super fun everyday and has me really excited for what's to come for the rest of the year."



YALE ATHLETICS
The defending Ivy League champions defeated the Rutgers Scarlet Knights, Boston University Terriers and Brown Bears at home during the Bulldog Invitational over the weekend.

The Bulldogs this year returned every player from last year's champion squad, which shared the Ivy title with Princeton.

"I'm really excited for this year because everyone on the team has so much talent, and being able to play with them is something that I'm really looking forward to," Ha wrote. "Coming off of the high of Ivy Champs shared with Princeton is a lot of pressure and excitement. I think it's something that we should be very proud of."

Joining the Elis in their pursuit of a title rerun is new assistant coach Georgia Munns. She has coached at DePaul and South Carolina and played at the collegiate level for Northwestern.

"I think she [Munns] is very encouraging and has a lot of experience and wisdom that she is sharing with us. She's a very stable presence on court — calm but always very fired up for our wins, which is the best combo in a coach," Rachel Lee '29 wrote in a text.

Yale will compete in the Penn Invitational from Sept. 25 to Sept. 27.

Contact
RICHARD FAN *at*
richard.fan@yale.edu.