SPORTS

I'd rather be dry, but at least I'm alive, rain on me
RAIN ON ME BY LADY GAGA AND ARIANA GRANDE

MEN'S TENNIS: Bulldogs slurp up Chowderfest

BY REMI CLARK-REDSTAR
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's tennis team took to the court at the Chowderfest Invitational, where they secured hard-won victories over Harvard and Cornell over the weekend.

From Friday to Sunday, the Bulldogs served their way through the singles and doubles teams of Harvard, Cornell and Brown in Cambridge. Overall, Yale secured nine singles and three doubles victories out of a total 12 singles and six doubles matches.

"It was a great start of the season for the team," interim head coach Eduardo Ugalde said in an interview with the News. "We had been working hard on becoming tough competitors, and I think that definitely showed over the weekend, especially in singles."

With a 75 percent victory rate in the singles category, Yale earned strong wins against the Harvard Crimson, Cornell Big Red and Brown Bears. Team captain Eric Li '26, Edward Liao '28, Jason Shuler '27 and Dylan Tsoi '27 were the ones bringing the heat to the other Ivy players, all earning wins. The team's only losses came at the hands of Harvard's Mitchell Lee and Valdemar Pape.

In the season opener, Tsoi and Liao went undefeated in both singles and doubles. Tsoi snagged victories over all his opponents across the court: Brown, Cornell and Harvard in both singles and doubles. He ended the weekend with a 6–0 record. Liao clinched a 3–0 record, becoming the biggest fear of colleges with red mascots through his wins over Harvard and Cornell. He swiftly defeated Harvard's Benjamin Privara in straight sets of 6–4 and 6–2.

"I came into the week practicing quite well which gave me a lot of confidence, and I felt clear on my game plan which allowed me to be composed in bigger moments where I previously struggled," Tsoi said. "My game felt sharp and combined with the energy and support of my teammates around me, I was able to have a great weekend."

On the doubles court, the Bulldogs fought a tough battle against their Ivy contenders, clawing away with three victories of the six matches played. The dynamic duo of Schuler and Tsoi offered Yale fans cause for celebration after they swept their opposition in each of their matches with scores of 6–0, 6–2 and 6–2. They defeated opponents from each school present.

"We are working on doubles, we tried a lot of new things," Li said. "We did not execute perfectly, but we are moving in the right direction with how we want to play. We experimented with new strategies that we believe will benefit us in the long run."

With the wins and losses tallied up, the team is now looking to practice in preparation for the next tournament. Ugalde and Li say that the focus will be with fine tuning the tactics and improving execution, especially with regards to doubles.

The men's tennis team's next tournament is the Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-American Championship, which will take place Sept. 24 to Sept. 28 in Tulsa, Okla.

Contact **REMI CLARK-REDSTAR** *at remi.clark-redstar@yale.edu .*



YALE ATHLETICS
The team had a strong showing over the weekend against Harvard and Cornell in their first games of the season.

Yale Football alumni begin their NFL seasons

BY AUDREY KIM
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The National Football League began play earlier this month, and five former Bulldogs were on Week 1 lineup cards.

The most experienced player of the five former Bulldogs, Foyesade Oluokun '18 — a linebacker for the Jacksonville Jaguars — began his eighth campaign in the NFL with a 26-10 Week 1 win over the Carolina Panthers. His performance in that game earned him AFC Defensive Player of the Week.

"He's one of the best tackling linebackers in the league," NFL analyst Mina Kimes '07 said in a phone interview. "He is really just a sound tackler, really good at diagnosing the run, and always in a position to make a play."

This season marks Oluokun's fourth year with the Jacksonville Jaguars, following his first four seasons in the NFL playing for the Atlanta Falcons. The year he graduated from Yale, Oluokun was drafted by the Falcons as the 200th overall pick in the 6th round. He signed a three-year, $45-million contract extension with the Jaguars in March 2024 and has accumulated 943 career tackles entering into Week 3 of the 2025 NFL season.

On the other side of the ball, recent Yale graduate Jackson Hawes '24 has already been turning heads in his rookie season with the Buffalo Bills. In the Bills' opening game of this season, the tight end made a fourth-quarter catch just outside the goal line, a crucial play that helped Buffalo come back from a 15-point deficit to beat the Baltimore Ravens 41-40.

Aaron Kromer, offensive line coach of the Buffalo Bills, told Sports Illustrated that Hawes is "the best blocking tight end this early in his career that he has ever coached."

After graduating from Yale in 2024, Hawes played a graduate year with Georgia Tech before being selected by the Bills in the 2025 NFL Draft as the 173rd overall pick. He is currently the third tight end on the depth chart for the Bills, after Dalton Kincaid and Dawson Knox.

So far, the Bills have been utilizing Hawes in a 13 personnel grouping, an uncommon formation in professional football, in which one running back, three tight ends and one receiver take the field.

"As a rookie tight end, just the ability to get on the field in any way possible is huge," ESPN+ play-by-play commentator Justin Gallanty said. "And you can tell right away with that formation that you're talking about, with 13 personnel, that Jackson's already carved out a role for himself in Buffalo."

In the Bills' Thursday night Week 3 game against the Miami Dolphins, Hawes scored his first NFL touchdown in the second quarter of the game, helping the Bills end with a 31-21 victory and bringing their win-loss record to 3-0.

"It's a great spot for him," Kimes said. "The Bills are really leaning into using multiple tight ends with 12 or 13 personnel, giving their offense a distinct identity."

Senior wide-receiver Mason Shipp '25.5 has played with all of the Bulldogs currently in the NFL, except Oluokun. For Shipp, it is no surprise how successful they've been.

"They all had something unique about them, they brought a special sauce to the field and their own form of swagger," Shipp said in a phone interview. "They played with a level of tenacity that was unmatched and were always the hardest workers on the field."

Shipp said Mason Tipton '24, a wide receiver for the New Orleans Saints, is a "huge role model" for him. Tipton originally went undrafted in 2024 but was able to secure a spot on the New Orleans Saints' roster and sign with the team after an impressive performance at the 2024 Training Camp.

Kiran Amegadjie '24, an offensive tackle for the Chicago Bears, was selected 75th overall in the third round of the 2024 draft. While he has dealt with injuries since his senior season at Yale, he proved in the Bears' 2025 Training Camp that he still brings the tenacity and grit that made him a force in the Ivy League.

Rodney Thomas II '22, a safety for the Colts, opened the 2025 NFL season with three tackles in the Colts' Week 1 game against the Miami Dolphins and got another tackle against the Broncos in Week 2, helping the Colts jump out to a 2–0 record. The last time the Colts started 2–0 was in 2009, when they ended the regular season with a record of 14–2 and a Superbowl appearance after clinching the No. 1 seed in the AFC.

Hawes and Tipton will take the field against each other next week when the Saints travel to Buffalo for a Week 4 matchup.

Contact **AUDREY KIM** *at audrey.kim.ajk234@yale.edu .*



SURBHI BHARADWAJ
Five Yale alumni kicked off their seasons in the National Football League earlier this month.

Volleyball to open conference play against Brown

BY RACHEL MAK
STAFF REPORTER

The women's volleyball team (4–4, 0–0 Ivy) will take on the Brown Bears (5–4, 0–0 Ivy) Saturday at home to open up Ivy League conference play.

"PWG is definitely the best atmosphere to play in," Betsy Goodenow '27 wrote to the News, referring to Yale's Payne Whitney Gym. The Bulldogs are currently 2–0 this season at home.

Since 2007, the volleyball team has only lost two games to Brown. The Bulldogs currently have a nine-game winning streak against the Bears, with their most recent meeting last year resulting in a 3-1 home victory. Last year, Brown fell to Princeton in the semifinals of the Ivy League Volleyball Tournament and ended the season with an 8–6 conference record.

This season, the Bears were ranked No. 3 in the Ivy League volleyball preseason poll while Yale came in at No. 1.

Yale returns four statistical leaders from last season's game against Brown — Goodenow and Gigi Barr '26, who put up over 10 kills each; Laurece Abraham '27, who put up four blocks; and Arya Jue '27, who led the team in digs.

"I'm excited to bring our energy and teamwork into conference play," Abraham wrote to the News.

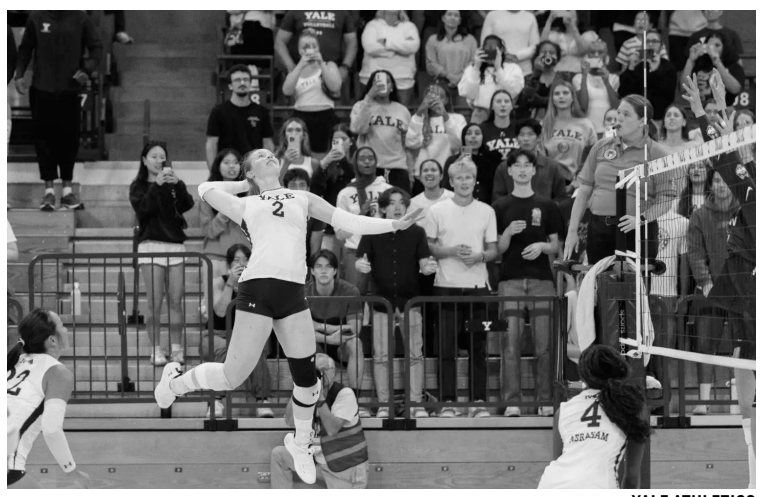
This year's team is ready to compete and defend its Ivy League title. Since the start of the season, new faces have already made major contributions during out-of-conference games.

Ava Poinsett '29 and Yuri Park '29, two first years, have both racked up double-digit kills and digs in multiple matches.

"I'm looking forward to competing against another Ivy League team," Park wrote to the News. "I'm very excited to see the level of play and how we will compete."

The first serve Saturday is at 5 p.m.

Contact **RACHEL MAK** *at rachel.mak@yale.edu .*



YALE ATHLETICS
On Saturday, the volleyball team will host Brown in this season's first Ivy League game.