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"I know I can last these tough matches, having my team and coaches support me."
KRISH GUPTA '28, MEN'S TENNIS

Bulldog comeback falls short in stormy loss to Cornell

FIELD HOCKEY

BY VINCENT HUANG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Amid the wind and driving rain at Johnson Field on Saturday, the Yale Bulldogs (5–1, 1–1 Ivy) fell 3-2 to Cornell Big Red (3–4, 2–0 Ivy) in a five-goal Ivy epic.

When they entered the weekend's contest, the undefeated No. 15 Bulldogs were favored to defend home turf for Yale's sixth straight win of 2026. Cornell had, however, proven to be a difficult opponent for the Elis in recent history, defeating the Bulldogs in seven of their last 10 matchups.

Though the Big Red took an early two-goal lead on Saturday, the Bulldogs clawed their way back to level the match at 2-2 late in the fourth quarter, seemingly on track for a second overtime game in as many weeks. Yet with just over two minutes left, Cornell secured the victory.

After a scoreless first quarter, Cornell struck twice early in the second, converting a pair of penalty corners to go up 2-0. But Cornell's commanding cushion would last for less than a minute, with Emma Ramsey '27 swiftly answering with a goal of her own to put the Bulldogs back on the Big Red's heels.

But with under five minutes remaining in the fourth quarter and rain whipping across Johnson Field, Cornell — having withstood an onslaught of Yale shots and penalty corners — clung to its reduced lead.

When Yale finally broke through to equalize the game at 2-2, the score once again came off the stick of Ramsey, who would finish the game with a clinical statline of two shots, both on target and both in the back of the net. Amid the roaring excitement of former Bulldogs, many of whom had made long journeys for the team's Alumnae Day, it looked like Ramsey had just sent the Bulldogs into a second straight overtime contest.

But their jubilation was to be short-lived. With under three minutes to play, a Cornell midfielder launched a high-arcing aerial pass that cut through both wind and rain as it travelled the length of the field to its target — a pair of Cornell forwards perfectly positioned behind Yale's defensive backline. An accurate crossing pass across the goal sent keeper Amelie Schwarzkopf '29 the wrong way, creating a decisive Cornell chance — and the decisive Cornell score.

Yale tried to equalize in the dying seconds of the game, going so far as to pull Schwarzkopf for an 11th outfield player, but it would not be enough.

Saturday's loss to Cornell marked the first defeat of Yale's 2026 field hockey campaign. The loss came despite the fact that the Bulldogs held the lead in both shots (15–8) and penalty corners (9–4).

"The weather was irrelevant to the scoreline on Saturday," sophomore midfielder Carys Isherwood '29 wrote in an email to the News. "Both teams were playing in the same conditions and Cornell put up a really good fight."

Yale's Sunday game against Hofstra University was canceled because of inclement weather conditions on Long Island. The Bulldogs will be hoping to put up a good fight against the Princeton Tigers (4–3, 1–1 Ivy) on Friday.

Friday's match will be the Bulldogs' first road game of the season.

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LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Yale suffered the first defeat of its 2026 field hockey season in a closely fought 3-2 loss to Cornell. Though the Bulldogs erased a 0-2 deficit, Cornell found a late score in the game's dying minutes to secure victory.

Bulldog doubles reign over Yale Invitational, while singles stumble

MEN'S TENNIS

BY REMI CLARK-REDSTAR
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's tennis team competed on their home courts for the first time this season at the Yale Invitational last weekend, where they saw strong doubles victories and singles performances that improved throughout the weekend.

Coming off the week's preparation for the tourney, the Elis hit the ground running, aiming to put into practice the lessons learned from the prior weekend's Chowderfest. In the doubles lineup, head coach Benjamin Johnson had Bryan Assi '30 and Krish Gupta '28, who made his return to college tennis after not playing since February, team up along with Jim Ji '27 and Ethan Chung '29.

The Bulldogs wasted no time in asserting themselves over Quinnipiac, their first opponent of the weekend. Gupta and Assi, who made his Yale debut in the match, breezed their way through the competition to a 6-1 win; Ji and Chung likewise pushed through to a smooth 6-3 triumph, ensuring Yale swept the first day of doubles.

"Doubles was extremely clean, we put a large emphasis on the doubles in our practices," Johnson said in an interview. "We are executing in doubles, and that is where we are showing that the hard work is paying off."

In the singles, the four doubles players returned to the court, while Troy Kudrjavtsev '29 and Magnus Weng '30 joined the fray in Weng's debut tournament playing for Yale.

Yale met stiff competition. Assi, Ji, Weng and Kudrjavtsev fell to the Bobcats, going down swinging with scores of (6-0, 6-7, 5-10), (6-0, 4-6, 5-10), (1-6, 6-1, 8-10) and (2-6, 6-1, 7-10), respectively.

But Chung and Gupta earned the singles wins of the day. Chung secured the first set in quick fashion at 6-3 before gaining the solitary break of the second set at 7-5. Gupta likewise won the first set decisively at 6-3 and then outlasted his opponent in a tiebreak, winning 7-6.

On the second day, Weng and William Zhang '30 teamed up, joining the Assi-Gupta and Ji-Chung duos in the fight against Columbia and the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

The first-year team put up a valiant effort but were bested 4-6 by NJIT. Assi-Gupta and Ji-Chung avenged their defeat, overcoming the competition 6-4 against Columbia and 6-2 against NJIT.

In the singles, Yale pulled out two wins out of six matches played. Gupta snatched his second singles win of the invitational; with a first-set tiebreak win, he snatched the wind from his NJIT opponent's sails, comfortably securing a 6-3 victory. Ji secured a speedy straight-set victory of 6-4, 6-3 over Columbia. Weng, Chung, Assi and Zhang were defeated (4-6, 4-6), (6-7, 6-7), (3-6, 6-4, 7-10) and (5-7, 5-7).

"We showed very good energy, attitude and effort was in the right place, but execution is a work in progress," Johnson said.

Coming into the final day, the Elis did not slow down in the doubles department, not dropping a set. In the morning session, Ji and Chung defeated Columbia 7-6; in the afternoon session, Ji returned to the court, teaming up with Varun Verma '29, along with Gupta-Assi and first-year duo Zhang and Weng, against Fairfield.

Ji and Verma fought hard, with Ji securing a critical break at 5-all with a lob to the midcourt. Verma served big in the following game to win the set 7-5. Gupta-Assi played an aggressive game with big serves from the two and nice hands from Gupta, performing two overhead smashes in a row to finish out the set at 6-3.

Zhang-Weng had a tough battle with their opponent going to a tiebreak. Tied at 6 all, Weng reached into his bag of tricks with a clean down-the-line forehand, which his opponent was unprepared for. His opponent volleyed into the net before he finished out the tiebreak with an equally decisive big serve. Final score: 7-6.

In the singles, Yale broke through on the third day, only losing one match. Chung started off in the morning session, driving his adversary from Columbia off the court in straight sets of 6-1 and 6-3. In the afternoon, the Bulldogs picked up where they left off in the morning. Gupta continued his strong serving, opening his singles match with an ace and following up by immediately breaking his opponent. He won his match 6-2, 6-1.

At the invitational, Gupta earned five match wins out of six played, securing the highest win record across doubles and singles of the tournament.

"It is great to get back to competing; it has been a while since I last played college matches," Gupta said in an interview. "The coaches and team are continuously pushing me to get better, and I have been working on my fitness. I know I can last these tough matches, having my team and coaches support me."

Among the rookies, Assi, in his match, was a baseline tactician moving his opponent all over the court with crisp angles, taking a handed win 6-0, 6-1. Zhang started off rough with an 0-6 loss in the first set, but he bounced back in the following two with precise shot placement that got his opponent off balance. He roared back into the victor's circle with a final score of 0-6, 6-2, 10-5.

Weng likewise ripped through his opponent, taking the win 6-2, 6-3, finishing off the final set with a huge forehand rip. Ji took his match down to the wire, with both sets going to tiebreaks, but ultimately fell to Fairfield 6-7, 6-7.

"It feels great," Weng said in an interview after his first singles victory for Yale. "The atmosphere is very different than anything I have done before; being with the boys, the energy is much higher. It is a team sport."

He went on to acknowledge the unique team spirit of the Bulldogs team.

"This team, it could not be better," Weng said. "I have heard that some teams have good chemistry and others not so good chemistry. I feel I have hit the jackpot here. We see each other everyday, we are all very close, we all support each other. I could not be more happy to be on such a great team."

The men's tennis team will play next at the ITA Northeast Regionals in Cambridge, Massachusetts from Oct. 8 to Oct. 12.

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ALYSSA CHANG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Over the weekend, the Yale men's tennis team put on a strong showing in the doubles, only dropping one set throughout the competition. The tournament also marked the college debut for the team's three rookies.

Stat of the Day

IN THE SINGLES, YALE PULLED OUT TWO WINS OUT OF SIX MATCHES PLAYED.