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"It means the world to me to be able to contribute to such a great program as a first-year."
SKYLAR JACKSON '30, VOLLEYBALL

Yale aims to shock defending champions Princeton after Cornell loss

WOMEN'S SOCCER

BY GIAN LOMBEYDA
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Yale women's soccer team (5–5–0, 0–1 Ivy) will face defending champions Princeton University (4–4–1, 0–1 Ivy) as the Bulldogs seek to continue their good run of form at home.

After frustrating weekends for both the Bulldogs and the Tigers, the matchup is expected to feature high-scoring attacks as the teams seek to regain momentum and launch their sides up the Ivy League standings.

"Princeton is always a top team in our conference and won the regular season last fall," head coach Sarah Martinez wrote in an email to the News. "Our group knows the rivalry with them and I have no doubt will get up and be prepared to come out with energy and intensity."

The big match comes at an especially crucial moment for the Bulldogs, who suffered a 1-0 loss to a defiant Cornell University (4–3–2, 1–0 Ivy) side last Saturday to start conference play. This weekend, Yale will be eager to prove their quality by stunning Princeton in an otherwise strong season for the Bulldogs.

After earning a 5–2–0 conference-topping record last year, the Tigers have struggled to find their footing so far this season. Big wins against Colgate University (1–8–2, 0–2 PL) and Lehigh University (0–8–1, 0–2 PL) have been tainted by defensive lapses against Villanova University (7–0–3, 2–0 Big East) and, most recently, Harvard (7–2–1, 1–0 Ivy).

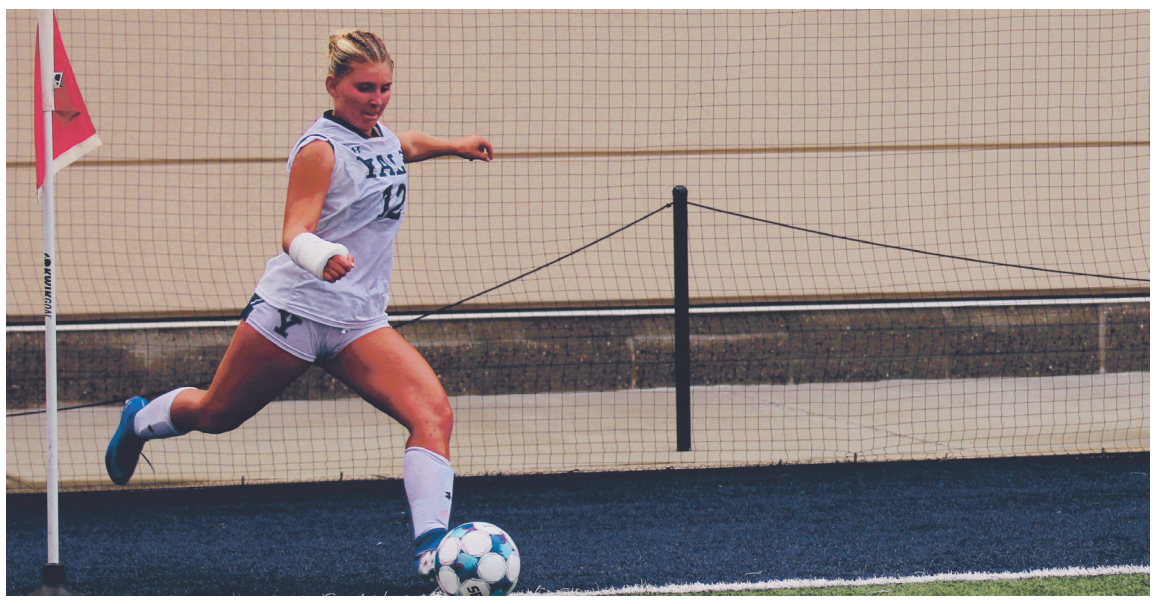
Yale will aim to do even better than their Crimson rivals, who scraped out a 4-3 victory over Princeton last Saturday amid the nor'easter.

History has favored the Bulldogs in recent matchups between Yale and Princeton. Three of the last four games were wins for the Bulldogs, including a 1-0 upset in front of a 2,000-person crowd in Princeton last season.

The Bulldogs will hope history repeats itself this coming weekend. It did last Saturday, although in that case, history worked in Ivy opponent Cornell's favor.

A penalty kick goal within the first minute of Yale's match against Cornell proved to be the match winner for the Big Red in a tense 1-0 affair. The scoreline was identical to last year's matchup between the two sides, in which a first-minute goal also cost Yale the match.

Goalkeeper Isabel Willems continued her clinical run with six saves on the night, but Yale's defensive resilience was not enough to find a result in Ithaca.



ALYSSA CHANG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Putting a frustrating away trip to Cornell behind them, the Bulldogs plan to make the most of home field advantage on Saturday against perennial title contenders Princeton.

"A disappointing performance for us at Cornell and certainly not true to our identity as a team this season," Martinez wrote. "We're excited to learn and grow from it and put our focus on Princeton."

So far this season, the Bulldogs have shown that they have the tenacity to bounce back from tough results. Star attackers Jojo DeNegri '29, Abigail Solomon '26 and Anita Thorvaldsdottir '27 have led the charge, each scoring in comeback wins.

"We've challenged our group to reflect on individual preparation," Martinez wrote. "They've learned from results and learned from performances and I have no doubt you will see an inspired, energetic and organized group this weekend."

As the Bulldogs work their way through conference play, with a difficult road trip to Brown (7–2–1, 1–0 Ivy) and Harvard up next, the Bulldogs will need a strong performance against the Tigers in the biggest game of the season yet.

Yale will host Princeton at 7 p.m. this Saturday at Reese Stadium in New Haven.

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Bulldogs to play rivals Harvard and Dartmouth this weekend at home

VOLLEYBALL

BY TANNER BATTLE
STAFF REPORTER

Yale (7–2, 1–0 Ivy) will face the undefeated Harvard Crimson (10–0, 1–0 Ivy) squad on Friday night before taking on the Dartmouth Big Green (6–5, 0–1 Ivy) on Saturday.

The Bulldogs are returning home after three weeks on the road, on the heels of a 3-1 Ivy opener win at Brown (2–7, 0–1 Ivy). The Crimson narrowly beat the Big Green 3-2 last Saturday in its only Ivy League match thus far. While Harvard has yet to lose a game, the strength of its schedule has been weaker than Yale's. The Bulldogs' only two losses of the season came to two highly-ranked opponents, No. 9 TCU and No. 5 SMU.

In the Ivy League Preseason Poll released in August, the Bulldogs were projected to finish second, while the Crimson were projected four spots below them at No. 6 and the Big Green in seventh.

When these teams met last season, Yale swept Harvard and Dartmouth, never dropping a set to either the Crimson or the Big Green at home or away through four games.

This season, the Elis will rely on senior captain Laurece Abraham '27 and talented rookie Skylar Jackson '30 to carry them through the crucial weekend ahead.

"It means the world to me to be able to contribute to such a great program as a first-year," Jackson wrote in an email. "I am extremely grateful for this opportunity."

In her first collegiate season, Jackson has consistently contributed offensively and defensively to the Bulldogs' team dynamic.

The Bulldogs will return home to John J. Lee Amphitheater on Friday night to face Harvard. The game, which will be white-out themed, will also be a chance for Yale students to scan their student IDs for an extra lottery entry for The Game at Fenway Park.



TANNER BATTLE / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
After beating Brown 3-1 last week, Yale will continue conference play at home with two Ivy League matchups less than 24 hours apart. Friday's game will be white-out themed and offer attendees an extra Harvard-Yale football game ticket lottery entry.

Yale will take on Harvard at 6 p.m. on Friday and then play Dartmouth at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

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After Cornell loss, Yale faces Princeton in season's first road game

FIELD HOCKEY

BY VINCENT HUANG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Yale Bulldogs (5–1, 1–1 Ivy) will travel south to Princeton on Friday for a road matchup against the No. 10 Princeton Tigers (4–4, 1–1 Ivy), as both teams seek a return to form following narrow Ivy losses.

So far, Yale field hockey's 2026 campaign has closely resembled that of their successful 2025 season. The Bulldogs won their opening five games for the second time in two years, before once again having their unbeaten record undone by the Cornell Big Red.

The Bulldogs hope to break that trend against the Tigers, having lost their two 2025 matchups against Princeton, first during the regular season and then in the Ivy League Tournament semifinals by an aggregate score of 1-5.

The close nature of Saturday's 3-2 loss to Cornell — which saw the Bulldogs fall out of both the NFHCA and NCAA Rating Percentage Index's national top 20 — has proven to be a significant motivating factor for the Bulldogs as they hit the road for their first away game of the season.

"We are all really excited to play Princeton, after such a tough loss to Cornell, we are more motivated than ever to get back on a winning streak," midfielder Carys Isherwood '29 wrote in an email to the News, adding that the team "will be working hard this week to make sure we are physically and mentally prepared to put out our best game on Friday night."

Princeton, the defending Ivy League champion, is ranked 10th in the country by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association poll and 16th by the NCAA's Rating Percentage Index.

The Tigers' apparently middling record of 4–4 (1–1 Ivy) is deceptive, though — a product of the program's exceptionally difficult strength of schedule.

Five of the team's seven opponents — No. 18 Old Dominion University, No. 10 University of North Carolina, No. 17 Rutgers University, No. 10 University of Connecticut and No. 10 Harvard — were nationally ranked when facing the Tigers, and six of their seven contests have been on the road. All three Princeton losses have been in penalty shootouts, and all came against top-10 teams.



LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Following last Saturday's narrow loss to Cornell, the Bulldogs will seek a return to the win column in Friday's prime time road game against the Princeton Tigers, the defending Ivy League champion..

Though the Tigers will certainly be favored leading up to Friday's game, Yale's players will have the advantage in physical rest and time for preparation. With the team's Sunday game against Hofstra having been canceled for inclement weather, the Bulldogs will take to Bedford Field having enjoyed five full days without game action, during which preparation will have solely focused on the Tigers.

Princeton, on the other hand, had to first play a Tuesday home game against the No. 2 University of Maryland Terrapins (10–0, 2–0 B1G), where the Tigers fell in overtime by a score of 4-3. They will have had only a two-day turnaround before their contest against Yale.

Yale will face Princeton on Friday at 5 p.m. at Bedford Field and then travel an hour eastbound to play No. 18 Monmouth University (7–1, 2–0 CAA) at So Sweet A Cat Field on Sunday.

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STAT OF THE DAY

THE FIELD HOCKEY TEAM WON THEIR FIVE OPENING GAMES BEFORE LOSING TO CORNELL LAST WEEKEND.