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"We play in a tough conference and every week is a new challenge."
SARAH MARTINEZ, WOMEN'S SOCCER

Yale sweeps Dartmouth after falling to Harvard in high-stakes weekend

BY TANNER BATTLE
STAFF REPORTER

Yale volleyball (8–3, 2–1 Ivy) saw one win and one loss in its high-stakes conference matchups over the weekend.

Following a 3-1 Ivy opener road victory over Brown, the Bulldogs looked to extend their win streak at home against Harvard (11–1, 2–1 Ivy) and Dartmouth (6–7, 0–3 Ivy). While Yale fell narrowly to Harvard on Friday, it earned its redemption against Dartmouth on Saturday.

Students packed the John J. Lee Amphitheater on Friday night to watch Yale play Harvard. While the Elis took the first two sets 25-23 and 25-16, they dropped the match after Harvard won the third, fourth and fifth sets 25-19, 25-13, and 15-8, respectively.

At the start of the match, the Bulldogs seemed in control, but after switching sides of the court with the Crimson, they lost their momentum, and Harvard lived up to its undefeated record.

Yale's roster was notably missing key rookie Skylar Jackson '30, who has consistently produced on both ends. Although the Bulldogs lost, they did not go down without a fight. Ava Poinsett '29 led the team on offense and defense with 21 kills and 17 digs.

The loss to Harvard was unexpected, given Yale's higher ranking in the Ivy League Preseason poll and stronger schedule. Still, the Bulldogs will have a chance to redeem themselves against the Crimson at the end of October, when the teams meet in Cambridge on Halloween.

The Bulldogs bounced back the following night in a 3-0 win against Dartmouth.

Yale came out with energy against Dartmouth. The Bulldogs won the first set narrowly in extra points, 28-26. The Bulldogs didn't let the following sets get that close, though, winning each by increasingly large margins. They won the second set by four points, 25-21, and the last set by eight, 25-17.

Betsy Goodenow '27 had 17 kills, mostly assisted by Kalyssa Taggart '30, who recorded 46 assists across the match.

After two home matchups, the Bulldogs will prepare to once again hit the road. The Bulldogs have another stacked weekend ahead, with away matchups against the Princeton Tigers (4–7, 2–1 Ivy) and the Penn Quakers (9–4, 1–2 Ivy).

The Bulldogs will take on the Tigers at 6 p.m. on Friday in Princeton and head to Philadelphia to play the Quakers at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

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Yale thwarted by comeback from defending champion Princeton

BY GIAN LOMBEYDA
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Yale women's soccer team (5–6–0, 0–2 Ivy) suffered a late resurgence by the Princeton Tigers (5–4–1, 1–1 Ivy) on Saturday to ultimately lose their second conference match of the season by a scoreline of 2-1.

The Bulldogs challenged the defending Ivy League champions all night in an end-to-end match that saw strong movement on the ball for Yale. The result marks the team's second consecutive loss in conference play, following a 1-0 away loss to Cornell the previous week.

"I was happy with the way we came out and were prepared to play with energy and intensity," head coach Sarah Martinez wrote in an email to the News. "That was our challenge for our group after the Cornell game and they responded well."

The first half went well for the Bulldogs. The starting eleven featured a largely defensive team, including two defensive midfielders and five players who had experience playing in the backline this season. The defensive security was set to allow the Bulldogs to push higher up the pitch and feel more comfortable in the attack.

The Bulldogs' confidence certainly showed as they piled on the pressure, finding five shots in the first half. While Princeton grew into the game, the Bulldogs still seemed intent on shocking the visitors, who were likely the favorites coming into the match after topping the Ivy League standings the last two years.

After substitute Cindy Yang '30 was brought down in the box in the 73rd minute and Martinez requested the referee to review the play per the 2026 NCAA review protocol, Yale was awarded a penalty and a chance to take the lead. Forward Anita Thorvaldsdottir '27 finished into the bottom left-hand corner to find her fifth goal of the season and break the deadlock.

However, Yale was not able to hold onto the result. The Tigers responded with two quickfire goals within the next 10 minutes.

Both goals came from star forward Stella Monberg, who pounced on loose balls in the box to secure the Tigers' win. Now at five goals on the season after braces in back-to-back matches against Harvard and Yale, Monberg has shown her goalscoring instinct in just her first year at Princeton.

Yale now moves into a tough road stretch against Brown (7–2–2, 1–0–1 Ivy) and rival Harvard (8–2–1, 2–0 Ivy). With only five matches left of the season, Yale needs to find success on the road if they want to reach a top four spot and clinch an Ivy League playoff berth.

With key sophomore starters Tana Sands '29, Avery Johnson '29 and Jojo DeNegri '29 all out to injury, players across the roster will need to step up for Yale to maintain their intensity on the pitch.

So far, players like Alicia So '28 and Kyleigh Carr '30 have seamlessly stepped into the starting lineup and contributed to the Bulldogs' staunch defense in every match.

"Our whole back line was fantastic, and it was great getting Alicia back from injury as she is a big part of what we do," Martinez wrote. "Obviously disappointed to not get a result in the game."

Despite the frustrating result, the Bulldogs' performance was highlighted by five show-stopping saves from Isabel Willems '30 in goal, astute defending for a vast majority of the match and plenty of accurate crosses and quick passing triangles across the field.

Looking ahead to the match against Brown this Saturday, Yale certainly has the talent to bounce back.

"We play in a tough conference and every week is a new challenge," Martinez wrote. "We're excited to get back to work with our group this week as we prepare for Brown."

Yale will look to find their sixth win of the season and their first win in Ivy League play this Saturday as they take on the Brown University Bears at 3:30 p.m. at Stevenson-Pincince Field in Providence, Rhode Island.

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ALYSSA CHANG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Despite Yale's best efforts to dictate pace and limit Princeton's attacking chances, the visitors matched the Bulldogs' intensity.

Bulldogs fall to Princeton, bounce back with year's first ranked win

BY VINCENT HUANG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

After a six-game opening homestand, the Yale Bulldogs (6–2, 1–2 Ivy) hit the road for a daunting doubleheader weekend against the No. 10 Princeton Tigers (5–4, 2–1 Ivy) and the No. 19 Monmouth Hawks (8–2, 3–0 CAA).

Coming off of a loss to Cornell the prior weekend, the Bulldogs succumbed to a late Princeton comeback on Friday. Yale prevailed against Monmouth, however, delivering its first victory against a ranked opponent of the 2026 campaign. The win also marked Yale's first ranked win since the contest against Monmouth last season, where the Bulldogs delivered a 3-1 win at Johnson Field.

The Bulldogs struck first on Friday to go up 1-0 early on Princeton's Bedford Field. First-year back/midfielder Emilia Puddicombe '30 returned a Princeton goalkeeper rebound past its sender, giving the Bulldogs an early lead — and Puddicombe the first goal of her career.

"It was amazing to score my first goal for Yale," Puddicombe wrote in an email. "Recently I have been playing as a midfielder so I have found myself in attacking positions more often."

Puddicombe, a defender by trade, said interplay between the different phases of the game is vital: "The defense is so important in building the play and creating goal-scoring opportunities."

Despite the early Yale lead, the Tigers remained undeterred, mounting an offensive onslaught that saw them generate scoring chance after scoring chance. Yale's keeper Amelie Schwarzkopf '29 made a series of incredible diving and point-blank saves to preserve the Bulldogs' narrow lead, but her heroic effort faltered late in the third as Princeton converted a perfectly positioned loose ball into the equalizing score.

With rain beginning to fall in the fourth quarter, Princeton capitalized on another Yale defensive miscue at around the 55th minute of the game, with an orange-clad Tiger forward finding her way behind the Yale backline for the go-ahead goal.

For the second time in two weeks, Yale pulled keeper Schwarzkopf for an 11th outfield player, but the move proved insufficient as Princeton completed its successful defense of home turf. Four of the last five Bulldog-Tiger matchups have come down to one goal, with the Bulldogs finding themselves on the wrong side of all four.

But Yale wasn't done yet, and a Sunday matchup against Monmouth offered the Bulldogs a chance at redemption.

"Honestly, credit goes to the team. They bring the motivation themselves," captain Hettie Whittington '27 wrote in a statement. "Going into Sunday the mood was excited - we had seen real growth against Princeton and we wanted to capitalise on it."

Whittington said playing on the road offers the team the luxury of being able to focus on only performance, since there are no distractions and the team can focus fully "on the task in hand."

The team brought laser-sharp focus to Sunday's match. Facing off against Monmouth, which had not lost in seven weeks, the Bulldog offense quickly found its marks. Victoria Collee '28 and Chiara Picciafuoco '28 delivered a 2-0 Bulldog lead within six minutes of the opening whistle.

Yale would not look back, with a classically stout performance from both the defense and Schwarzkopf shutting out the Hawks for the first time in over a year.

"Playing two games in a weekend is always intense but we all make sure we are resting, recovering and hydrating as best we can to make sure we can perform to the best of our abilities," Puddicombe wrote.

Yale's field hockey campaign will continue this weekend with another pair of games, this time at home.

The Bulldogs will take on Columbia (4–3, 1–1 Ivy) on Friday at 5 p.m., before squaring off against Temple (5–5, 1–1 AAC) on Sunday at noon.

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LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
After suffering a close loss to the No. 10 Princeton Tigers on Friday, the field hockey team completed its New Jersey road trip with a statement ranked victory over the No. 19 Monmouth Hawks.