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"No one who's practiced or competed against Will and Dave is surprised they were selected in the NLL Draft."

HUGH CONRAD '26

Yale looks to secure first conference win by avoiding Hanover hangover

FOOTBALL

BY BRODY GILKISON
STAFF REPORTER

Team 153 (2–1, 0–1 Ivy) is set to host the Dartmouth Big Green (1–2, 1–0 Ivy) at the Yale Bowl on Saturday.

After quarterback Dante Reno '28 led Yale's fourth-quarter 41-24 comeback victory over Merrimack in the team's home opener last weekend, the Bulldogs are looking to pick up their first conference win of the 2026 season. Yale will be out for revenge this weekend against the Big Green, which has beaten them for the past two years.

Yale enters the matchup after staging their second come-from-behind victory of the season, again behind the dynamic duo of Reno and Jaxton Santiago '28. On the other hand, the Big Green come to town with a losing record, though both of their losses have been one-score games against formidable opponents this year in No. 5 Lehigh (6–0, 4–0 Patriot) and No. 24 Monmouth (4–2, 3–0 CAA).

A look at Dartmouth

The signal caller for the Big Green, Grayson Saunier, will provide an interesting challenge for the Bulldog defense. Saunier comes in averaging less than 200 yards per game through the air, yet ranks second in efficiency in the Ivy League.

He has thrown for four touchdowns and just one pick this year, and ranks second in touchdown-to-interception ratio to Reno, who has thrown for nine scores and one pick in just two games. Saunier has not just been solid passing the ball — he also averages 40 yards per game on the ground on about 10 carries per contest, which makes him the second leading rusher on his team.

Leading the rushing attack for Dartmouth is second-year running back Myles Craddock, who has averaged about 80 yards per game on 4.6 yards per carry. After Craddock and Saunier, the rushing statistics fall off significantly, so the Bulldogs will only need to focus on shutting down those two on the ground.

In terms of defense, the Big Green may have one of the worst squads in the league. While Dartmouth may have a case for having the toughest strength of schedule thus far among the Ancient Eight, that doesn't change the fact that they remain at the bottom of the conference in nearly every defensive category.

The Big Green have at times struggled to get off the field this year and have given up an average of 378 yards per game so far. They have also managed just one sack and one turnover each in their first three games, which should be a good sign for a Yale offense that has struggled with both.

Yale's keys to victory

Turning to Yale, the team's ideal first point of focus could not be more obvious. Many Bulldog fans remember the heartbreak of the last two games against Dartmouth, both contests in which special teams errors played a key role.

Luckily for Team 153, the Bulldogs have been very solid in their first three games. Noah Piper '29, who was named a Freshman All-American last season, has been perfect on twelve point after touchdowns and missed just one field goal in five tries. If the Bulldogs can remain solid in this phase of the game — as they have all season — that will certainly aid in Yale's odds of coming out on top.

Second, on offense, all we need is for Reno and his receivers to keep doing what they've been doing. In the two games he has played, Reno has been by far the best quarterback in the conference. He is averaging 376 yards per game passing with over a 60 percent completion rate.

Santiago and Lucius Anderson '29 have been equally spectacular, ranking one and two, respectively, in receiving in the Ivy League. Together, they have hauled in over 700 yards and seven scores, and have looked nearly impossible to contain.



LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

After falling short the past two years against Dartmouth, Yale will be looking to get back in the win column on Saturday. The Bulldogs are coming off of a comeback win against Merrimack in their home opener last weekend.

If the trio can keep it up, it will be nearly impossible for opposing defenses to stop the Bulldogs from finding the endzone this year.

The one thing that the Yale offense really needs to focus on is their rushing game. After depending heavily on Josh Pitsenberger '26 to create a dominant ground attack for several seasons, the Bulldogs have now been forced to turn to a group of younger backs.

Hugo Djeumeni Kemeni '29 has averaged around eighty yards per game and accounts for two-thirds of the total rushing yards. Cuttler Adams '28 has also contributed, averaging just under 20 yards per game. However, both backs will need their offensive line to start opening up more holes at the line and allow the ground game to get on a roll as conference play heats up.

One major flaw in Yale's defense stands out. The Bulldogs have given up thirty points per game in their first three games, all against what can be considered as weaker opponents. All of their opponents' best offensive games of the season have come against Yale, which should be a warning sign.

While the Bulldogs have been able to produce streaks of consistently shutting down the opposing offense, much like they did in the fourth quarters of the Holy Cross and Merrimack games, the team desperately needs a full 60 minutes of solid defense.

Yale has yet to play a game in which it dominates in all three phases, and this weekend will provide them with an opportunity to do so. If the defense can heat up and eliminate the mental errors that have plagued it during the first three games, Team 153 should be in a good place to win its first conference victory of the season.

The Bulldogs will kick off against the Big Green at noon on Saturday at the Yale Bowl. The game will be broadcast on ESPNU.

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Two former Bulldogs selected in 2026 National Lacrosse League draft

MEN'S LACROSSE

BY VINCENT HUANG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Two Bulldogs who graduated last year — David Anderson '26 and William Sheehan '26 — were selected in the latest edition of the National Lacrosse League's Entry Draft on Sept. 24.

Following their successful careers at Yale, Anderson was selected ninth overall by the Georgia Swarm, and Sheehan 23rd by the Toronto Rock, making them the newest additions to the Bulldogs' representation in professional lacrosse.

"I'm just really excited to keep playing lacrosse and compete at the highest level," Anderson wrote in a text message to the News. "Getting to play with and against guys who have been doing this professionally for years is something I'm really looking forward to, and I'm excited to get started with the Swarm."

During Anderson's time at Yale, he appeared in 43 games, in which he recorded 69 goals and eight assists. He is the product of Canadian lacrosse royalty — his grandfather and great-grandfather are the first and only father-son inductees into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame, both for their contributions to the country's development of lacrosse.

Now, Anderson, an attacker by trade, will seek to continue his family's legacy and fill their large shoes with the Swarm, the 2017 national champions.

Sheehan, a native of Oakville, Ontario and a midfielder during his time with the Elis, is coming off a breakout 2026 season in which he played all 15 games, scored 17 goals and tied for the team lead in man-up goals.

His new team, the Toronto Rock, is tied for the most championships in NLL history, having won seven league championships, including the most recent 2026 title.

"I'm looking forward to a full circle moment playing in Toronto, a team I grew up around," Sheehan said.

While Sheehan is excited to play professionally, his current work as a systems engineer for a New York-based artificial intelligence startup will likely preclude him from playing in this upcoming season, delaying his professional debut to 2027.

Anderson and Sheehan are the latest products of a strong Yale program that has become a factory for professional talent in recent years. Across the three major professional men's lacrosse leagues — the National Lacrosse League, Premier League Lacrosse and Major League Lacrosse — Yale has been credited with 23 selections in the last 10 years.

The NLL is the top level of professional indoor box lacrosse — a format different from the outdoor field game contested in NCAA Division 1.

Head coach Andy Shay wrote in an email to the News that Anderson and Sheehan's experiences with the college game will serve them well in their transition to the NLL's indoor format.

"They both had to learn the field game, deal with being covered by a long stick, and I would like to think it augmented their overall ability," Shay wrote. "They are similar players in that they are goal scorers, so I think they will be huge additions to those teams."

Their dynamic ability as goal scorers has been especially clear to their teammates, who have had to practice against them.

"No one who's practiced or competed against Will and Dave is surprised they were selected in the NLL Draft. They've been terrorizing our defense in practice for years, so the rest of us are just glad the NLL gets to deal with them now," goalkeeper Hugh Conrad '26 wrote in a text message to the News. "We couldn't be more excited to watch them represent Yale Lacrosse and compete at the highest level of the sport."

The 2026-27 National Lacrosse League season will begin on Friday, Nov. 27, with the first match for Anderson's Georgia Swarm facing off that Saturday as they take on the Buffalo Bandits.

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LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The 2026 National Lacrosse League Entry Draft last month saw the selection of two Bulldogs who graduated last year: David Anderson '26, taken ninth overall by the Georgia Swarm, and William Sheehan '26, taken in the second round by the Toronto Rock.

STAT OF THE DAY

THE BULLDOGS FACE DARTMOUTH FOOTBALL THIS WEEKEND AFTER LOSING TO THE BIG GREEN FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS.