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"The results are a testament that the work we have been putting in every day is paying off, and that's a great feeling to carry forward."
ULRIK PHARO LOHNE '27, MEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT CREW

Bulldogs sweep Tigers and Quakers on the road, extend win streak to three

VOLLEYBALL

BY TANNER BATTLE,
STAFF REPORTER

After a trip down to Princeton and Philadelphia, the Bulldogs (10–3, 4–1 Ivy) returned to New Haven having completed a weekend sweep.

The Bulldogs beat the Princeton Tigers (5–8, 3–2 Ivy) 3-0 on Friday and then rode the momentum into Saturday, where they also defeated the University of Pennsylvania Quakers (10–5, 2–3 Ivy) 3-0. After an unexpected 2-3 loss to Harvard (12–2, 3–2 Ivy) last weekend, the Elis have since swept all three Ivy League teams they have faced, including Dartmouth, to improve to 4–1 in conference play.

"Away trips are challenging, but I think we stayed composed and competed well this weekend," Ava Poinsett '29 wrote in a text message to the News. "We stayed aggressive and did a great job of playing as a team and making adjustments when needed."

After jumping out to early leads in both matches, the Bulldogs left no hope of a comeback for either team. They beat Princeton by at least five points in each set and Penn by at least eight.

Yale's mindset going into the weekend focused on their play rather than the outcomes, which proved successful.

"We are feeling good about this weekend," Betsy Goodenow '27 wrote in a text message to the News before their successful weekend. "We are excited to get better."

Across the two matches, Goodenow contributed on offense, recording 22 kills, complemented by Poinsett, who made 16 kills against Penn.

The Elis' three consecutive conference wins have given them strong momentum as they head into the backend of the season and prepare for a post-season run.

They now return home and set their sights on extending the streak to five.

The Bulldogs will host the Columbia Lions (7–7, 1–4 Ivy) at 6 p.m. on Friday and then take on the Cornell Big Red (9–5, 5–0 Ivy) at 5 p.m. on Saturday at John J. Lee Amphitheater.

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GRAHAM SHABINO / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Despite not having home-court advantage, Yale crushed Princeton and Penn, taking both matches in straight sets. The weekend improved their conference play record to 4–1.

Yale beats Brown in kickoff regatta, gearing up for Head of Charles

CREW

BY AUDREY KIM
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale heavyweight crew team placed boats first and third on Saturday at the Head of the Housatonic, its first regatta of the school year.

The Bulldogs raced four boats. Yale's 1V boat finished with a time of 12:51.299, while Brown's 1V came in second with a time of 12:59.566. The Bulldogs' 2V trailed close behind Brown and finished with a time of 13:04.719 to claim third, trailing the Bears by only five seconds. The 3V and 4V boats also finished eighth and 11th.

"The team is very pleased with the results from the Head of the Housatonic," captain Ulrik Pharo Lohne '27 in an email to the News. "The results are a testament that the work we have been putting in every day is paying off, and that's a great feeling to carry forward."

The team's success at its debut home race shows that the Bulldogs have made good use of their offseason, as Brown outranked Yale in the final ICRA/IRA Men's Varsity 8+ Poll in May 2026.

"I am very pleased with the progress the team has made these first five weeks and the enthusiasm they have brought to each session," head coach Mike Gennaro told Yale Athletics. "The performance of our crews today was great. It is an indication that what we are doing is working, but there is still work to be done and improvements to be made. We are looking forward to the next steps in the process."

This weekend, Yale will travel to Cambridge, for the Head of the Charles, the largest three-day regatta in the world. The event, from Friday to Sunday, will feature a range of competitors, from community organizations to the top Division I programs in the nation.

The strong performance at the Head of the Housatonic has allowed the Elis to start their season with a burst of momentum that they will be looking to carry into next week when they race on the Charles River.

"Looking past the raw times, the crews were very pleased with how they executed their pieces, and we are excited to keep building on this momentum," Pharo Lohne wrote. "Having the lower boats pushing the higher boats is also very valuable, as it keeps the pressure from the bottom and up, so everyone has to bring their absolute best day in, day out. Even tougher competition awaits us at the Charles, so we must keep our heads down and get ready for that."

Both Yale and Brown will compete at the Head of the Charles this weekend.

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COURTESY OF YALE ATHLETICS

The heavyweight crew team outraced Brown on Saturday at the Head of the Housatonic regatta, hosted on the same river that Yale's Gilder Boathouse sits on. The Bulldogs walked away with both the first and third place titles.

Yale falls to Brown despite second-half comeback attempt

WOMEN'S SOCCER

BY GIAN LOMBEYDA
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Yale women's soccer team (5–7–0, 0–3–0 Ivy) lost 3-2 in dramatic fashion to Brown University (8–2–2, 2–0–1 Ivy) on Saturday in Providence.

Three unexpected screamers for Brown left Yale with their third defeat of conference play ahead of a crucial matchup with rivals Harvard (8–3–1, 2–1–0 Ivy) this weekend. While seniors Alex Chang '27 and Anita Thorvaldsdottir '27 found the back of the net in the second half, the Bears controlled the match intensity despite being a player down.

"Disappointing to not get a result on Saturday against Brown," Head Coach Sarah Martinez wrote in an email to the News. "Having another starter scratched pregame with an injury didn't help our day, but we certainly had plenty of opportunities to earn a result."

Yale has been forced to rotate their lineup significantly in recent weeks. Sophomores Tana Sands '29, JoJo DeNegri '29 and Avery Johnson '29, who all contributed significant minutes in the opening matches of the season, have been out with injury. Defender Alicia So '28, who returned from injury earlier this season, was the most recent addition to the Bulldogs' injury list.

Still, it was the Bears who faced the biggest on-field setback at the start of the match. Only two minutes into the match, Brown attacker Corine Gregory was sent off for an elbow to the face of Yale's Andie Miller '27.

That did not stop the Bears from breaking the deadlock in the 30th minute. Brown's Jael-Marie Guy scored straight off of a corner kick with a rare variety of goal called an olimpico.

Remarkably, the Bulldogs rallied to respond with an olimpico goal of their own in the 53rd minute, courtesy of set-piece specialist and defensive stalwart Chang.

In yet another unexpected turn of events, the goal was soon followed up by a second olympico for Brown's Jael-Marie Guy, who received Ivy League Offensive Player of the Week honors for her two-goal contribution. It was a wake-up call for the Bulldogs' typically staunch defense.

"We need to clean up the goals we gave up and find a way to be on the front foot more and playing into our advantages," Martinez wrote.

Brown found a third goal in the 75th minute from forward Joy Okonye. However, Yale responded only two minutes later when star attacker Thorvaldsdottir capitalized on a loose ball at the edge of the 18-yard box. With some nifty footwork, she found an opening to shoot the ball into the back of the net.

Unfortunately for the Bulldogs, Brown was able to hold onto their 3-2 lead for their seventh win at home this season. Now first in the conference standings, the Bears remain undefeated at Stevenson-Pincince Field in Providence.

The Bulldogs have dropped to last in the Ivy League standings and will be eager to regain their winning ways as they approach the final stretch of conference play. With four matches left, every result matters if they want to reach an elusive top-four playoff position for the first time since the postseason Ivy League Tournament was reestablished in 2023.

Yale will look to take that crucial first step towards the postseason in their next game, a rivalry match against the Harvard Crimson. Martinez wrote that the Bulldogs "need to stay disciplined defensively and hungry in the attack."

The Bulldogs will face the Crimson this Saturday at 1 p.m. in Cambridge.

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ALYSSA CHANG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In a match that saw red cards and goals straight off of corner kicks, the Bulldogs ultimately fell to a Brown University team that is still undefeated at home. Yale will look to learn from defensive errors to challenge for a playoff position.

Stat of the Day

YALE'S 1V BOAT FINISHED WITH A TIME OF 12:51.299

SPORTS

"I have a lot of growing up to do. I realised that the other day inside my fort."
ZACH GALIFIANAKIS

An ACL injury sidelined him for a season, and readied him to be captain

BASEBALL

BY JUSTIN LEAHY
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

When Davis Hanson '26 watched the Yale baseball team open its season last spring, he did it from his phone, with his knee strapped into a brace, knowing he wouldn't step onto the field once.

"I remember watching our first series against Queens in a locked brace on my phone and thinking that I would give anything to be out on the field with my team," Hanson said.

A week before the team's opening day last year, Hanson tore his ACL in practice. This non-contact injury erased his entire junior season before it even began. Through his first two years, Hanson has emerged as one of Yale's most dangerous hitters, leading the Bulldogs in categories such as batting average, doubles, total bases, home runs, slugging percentage, on-base plus slugging and RBIs. His injury shocked the team.

"I watched it happen," former captain Colton Shaw '25 said. "Right when he went down, it kind of just felt like the whole practice stopped. Everyone was in shock."

While Hanson's absence in the lineup was felt heavily, the team persevered. Yale went on to have one of the best seasons in program history, securing the Ivy League regular season title and winning 30 games. Many teammates and coaches say his presence, defined by intention and a relentless, team-first attitude, shaped the Bulldogs' title run from the sidelines.

After a year spent rehabilitating, rather than playing, now Hanson is back on the diamond. He is returning not only as a cornerstone of Yale's elite infield, but also as the captain of the 2026 Bulldogs.

"I would be a different captain if it weren't for my injury," Hanson said.

A season that ended before it began

Hanson's injury came late in a preseason practice, during a routine defensive drill.

"We were obviously disappointed for Davis," head coach Brian Hamm said, "because like his teammates he had put in a tremendous amount of work during the offseason and was in a great place heading into opening day the following weekend."

For the team, the timing couldn't have been worse. Hanson had been a major part of Yale's offseason the prior year. He was hitting in the middle of the lineup and serving as a cornerstone at third base and across the infield. As a sophomore, he led the team in home runs, doubles and RBIs, going on to earn impressive Ivy League Honorable Mention honors.

When the injury happened, his teammates immediately knew what it could mean for the group.

"There was a state of shock that day," Kaiden Dossa '27 said. "We knew we would have to make some big adjustments without him."

The Bulldogs responded with what coach Hamm called a "next man up" mindset. Yale, having no backup third baseman on the roster, moved Jack Dauer '28 from first to third. Hanson helped guide this transition.

"Davis' mentorship played a significant role in helping Jack successfully make that transition," Hamm said. Dauer went on to earn Ivy League Freshman of the Year honors.

While his own season disappeared, Hanson's role in the Yale baseball program did not.

"Throughout the whole recovery process, Dave was always a great leader," Shaw said. "He was always still putting the team first."

'The recovery sucked'

For Hanson, the first days after his injury were filled with a lot of disappointment — not about his future, but instead about what he felt like he was losing with his teammates.

"My immediate reaction to tearing my ACL a week before the season was disappointment," Hanson said. "I wasn't scared about my career, I was scared that I was not going to be able to play with our seniors one last time before they graduated."

Then, the physical reality of recovery hit.

"Physically, there is really no other way to put it: The recovery sucked," Hanson said. "Having to relearn how to walk correctly and fighting through pain every day wasn't easy."

During his recovery process, Hanson leaned especially heavily on his parents and Yale's athletic training staff, particularly team trainer Jordan Lockman. With an unusual family history of torn ACLs — his father with one and mother with two — Hanson said the recovery process felt much less overwhelming because of the people around him.

"With my parents' and Jordan's help, the recovery didn't feel like this unobtainable task," Hanson said. "It just felt like another goal I could accomplish."

Mentally, this challenge of coming back was just as steep.

"It was extremely tough," Hanson said. "But, I was able to use the frustration to push through rough stretches of physical therapy."

A new addition to the team, Nick West '29, said Hanson rarely spoke about the injury at all.

"He never complained or used his injury as an excuse for anything," West said. "Most guys that get injured are always complaining about it or feeling sorry for themselves. I never once saw that from Davis."

Leading without playing

Hanson's absence from the field didn't mean he was absent from the team. Teammates said he often remained a daily presence at practice and in the facilities, even when he could not travel consistently due to Ivy League restrictions and his rehabilitation schedules.

"Whenever he could be there, he was at practices," Shaw said, "always bringing good vibes" and "helping out the younger guys who had to step up."

Dossa, a fellow upperclassman, mentioned how Hanson's recovery forced him to redefine his own definition of leadership.

"I do believe the injury, and specifically the rehab process, shifted his perspective on leadership," Dossa said. "He had to find a new way to lead while off the field."

Coach Hamm echoed that sentiment. He emphasized that Hanson never stepped away from the role, especially while on the sideline.

"He was present every day, supporting his teammates, sharing insight and helping keep our standards high," Hamm said. "His attitude and presence had a big impact on team morale."

Hanson described his presence as an intentional choice, even when doctors advised otherwise.

"Against my doctor's wishes, I flew back up to school two weeks after surgery just so I could be back with the team," Hanson said. "I really just wanted to help anyway I could."

To Hanson, helping his team any way he could had a new meaning. Instead of hitting cleanup and defending the hot corner, this meant feeding pitching machines, setting up drills and hosting watch parties for teammates that were left off the capped travel rosters.

A stop in the press box

For a good chunk of the season, Hanson's recovery kept him out of the dugout with his teammates, forcing him to watch games from above, with fans and stadium personnel. What could have been isolating experiences instead became new ways for Hanson to connect with Yale baseball.

"Before every game, I would go around to everyone, say hi and give them a fist bump," Hanson said. "It allowed me to get to know everyone, and it even turned into a tradition."

Eventually, during one midweek game, Hanson was invited up to the press box to comment on the game.

"Of course I said yes," he said. "It was a hilarious, chaotic, three hours of baseball analysis, barbeque opinions and bragging about my teammates."

At one point, Hanson said, he even stood up on his broadcast booth chair to show off how much knee flexion he had regained. He immediately received a text from his mother telling him to get down. "I then apologized on air," Hanson humorously recalled.

The lighthearted moment captured what Hanson's year became: a season away from the field, but one never away from the people who made Yale baseball feel like home.

"Yale baseball really is a special group," Hanson said. "I couldn't be prouder to be a part of it."

A transformed captain

Last spring, led by captain Colton Shaw '25, Yale's senior class set the standard of program success. Now, Hanson has been tasked with carrying that leadership, and that winning culture, forward.

Shaw believes Hanson is a natural fit for captain.

"He's kind of a born leader," Shaw said. "That character kind of always shines through in the clubhouse."

West agreed, emphasizing Hanson's consistency and effort.

"His words carry weight because of how dedicated and hard-working he is every day," West said. "If I was never told by someone else he was injured and missed the last season I would have never known."

To Hanson, this year changed his understanding of what defines team success.

"One of the biggest things I learned during my recovery process, is that teams are most successful when everyone feels like they are contributing," Hanson said. "Everyone on the roster. Everyone on the coaching staff. Everyone in the press box. The custodians. The equipment managers."

As captain, Hanson sees it as his job to acknowledge that collective effort, what makes Yale baseball run, in order to push the Bulldogs towards even bigger goals.

Hanson has said his goal for the season "is to win the Ivy League regular season, win the Ivy League tournament, and maybe even win a regional."

"It's cliche," Hanson said, "but I really didn't appreciate everything I had until it was taken from me."

After a year spent watching from the dugout and months of recovery behind him, Hanson is ready to take another step forward, now with the captain's "C" on his chest.

The Yale baseball team will open its 2026 spring season on Feb. 20 at the Andre Dawson Classic in Daytona Beach, Florida.



YALE ATHLETICS

Captain Davis Hanson '26 missed out on his entire junior season due to an injury. "He had to find a new way to lead while off the field," a teammate told the News.

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Sophomore reaches semifinals at women's national individual tournament

SQUASH

BY RACHEL MAK
STAFF REPORTER

Sophomore Heng Wai Wong '28 reached the semifinals of competition for the top individual award in women's collegiate squash on Monday after four days of phenomenal gameplay at the College Squash Association Individual Championships in New York City.

She fell in four to eventual Ramsay Cup runner-up Caroline Fouts, who plays for Harvard.

Fouts took the first game 11-6 and edged out Wong 14-12 in the second game to go up 2-0. Wong then went on a run in the third after being down 4-0 to win the game 11-6. However, Fouts did not let up and regrouped to win the final game 11-3.

On her path to the semifinals, Wong defeated Anastasiia Krykun from Amherst 3-0 and Doyce Ye San Lee from Trinity 3-1. Wong got her revenge in a rematch against Penn's Malak Khafagy 3-2, after losing to Khafagy in three games last weekend. Khafagy was ranked No. 2 overall going into the individual championships tournament.

Knowing there was a high chance of a rematch at the individual championships, Wong made sure she would be prepared physically and mentally.

Last year, she "wasn't as keen on playing the same opponent again in the same season," Wong said in a phone interview.

"But I think what set the difference for this season — for this week — is that I was ready to get revenge right after I lost to her on Sunday," Wong said.

In meetings with her mental skill coach, Wong reflected on her thought process during deciding moments in close matches, such as the matchup against Khafagy, to prepare for the weekend's competition, she said.

"There's a split second of thought at like 10-8, or any game point that I have, that just makes me doubt myself," Wong said about the close games she lost to Khafagy last weekend. "When I want to close the game, I sort of rush through to finish, but this time, I was thinking, there's no difference between 10-9 and 5-4. I have the mentality going in that every point works the same."

After her victory over Khafagy, Wong took down Thanusaa Uthrian from Trinity 3-1 to secure her spot as one of the top four players in collegiate women's squash.

"It was a pleasure and great experience to play on the ToC court at Grand Central," Wong said, referring to the Tournament of Champions glass squash court in New York City's Grand Central Terminal. "It's one of the biggest stages for this sport, and it's such a privilege to have the opportunity to play there."

Head coach Lynn Leong expressed pride about how Yale's teams handled the demands of the tournament and how Wong exceeded expectations, considering that she entered the tournament as the No. 13 seed.

"She's worked very methodically since early in the season, especially on the mental side, and it was great to see that work turn into a real breakthrough," Leong wrote to the News. "It's a reminder that with patience and smart work, progress comes."

Wong's teammates Spring Ma '28, Meha Shah '28, Elise Kang '29 and Eedha Mehta '29 also put on strong performances throughout the weekend.

Ma dropped to Princeton's Caroline Eielson in the round of 64, 3-0. Shah lost 3-1 to Harvard's Ocean Ma and ultimately fell to Drexel's Emma Bartley 3-1 in the quarterfinals of her consolation bracket.

Freshman Kang won her first national tournament match by defeating Moa Bonnemark from Drexel 3-1. She then lost to Uthrian 3-1 in the round of 32 after a series of close games. In the quarterfinals of her consolation bracket, she fell to Eielson 3-1.

Mehta lost in the round of 64 to Trinity's Kara Lincou 3-0 but went on to win her consolation bracket.

On the quest for the Pool Trophy — the top individual honor in men's collegiate squash — Tad Carney '26 was ranked No.1. He had a dominant victory over Cornell's Youssef Sarhan, 11-3, 11-7, 11-0, after a bye in the first round. In the round of 16, he was upset by Harvard's Omar Azzam 3-0. In this matchup, Carney dropped the first game before coming back with a more characteristic performance in the second. However, he was unable to close it out, and Azzam took the game 12-10 before taking the third as well.

Lachlan Sutton '27, Arav Bhagwati '26 and Rohan Arya Gondi '28 also played a series of hard-fought matches.

In the first round, Sutton defeated his opponent from the University of Rochester, Dhirren Rajarathinam, 3-0. He had a back-and-forth battle with Harvard's Christian Capella and came out on top, 3-2, before dropping to Trinity's Muhammad Irfan 3-0. Irfan was ranked No. 4 overall going into the tournament.

Bhagwati defeated Roman Parisi from Amherst 3-2 before losing to Benedek Takacs from Trinity 3-1. He made it to the semifinals of his consolation bracket before losing to Princeton's Avi Agarwal, 3-1.

Gondi defeated Dartmouth's Wei Yan Tho 3-1 before losing against Penn's Marwan Abdelsalam 3-2 after putting up a good fight. The two players traded games, but Abdelsalam came out on top and won the deciding game 11-7. Gondi then lost in the quarterfinals of his consolation bracket to Luhann Groenewald from Drexel in another very close match, 3-2.

"This event brings together the best players in the country, and going deep requires more than talent—it takes resilience, mental toughness, and the ability to manage long days of competition," Leong wrote to the News. "And, like any individual tournament, a little bit of luck helps too."

These Bulldogs will take the time to recover from the individual championship tournament before facing their next Ivy League opponents this weekend.

Yale will take on Dartmouth on Friday in the Brady Squash Center.



YALE ATHLETICS

Sophomore Heng Wai Wong reached the semifinals at the College Squash Association Individual Championships, where eight other Yalies also competed.

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