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"Our mentality going into Friday is to win, plain and simple, and to show other teams that we're here and ready to play."
RHYS BENTHAM '27 MEN'S HOCKEY

Yale to take on the Head of the Charles after victory on the Housatonic

HEAVY-WEIGHT CREW

BY AUDREY KIM
STAFF REPORTER



YALE ATHLETICS
The heavyweight crew team will compete on home water this weekend, marking the team's first race of the school year.

The Bulldogs will head to Cambridge this weekend to compete in the Head of the Charles, the largest three-day regatta in the world.

Yale heads into the race with momentum after placing two boats on the podium last weekend in the Head of the Housatonic regatta, hosted on the Housatonic River in Connecticut. While the 61st edition of the Head of the Charles regatta runs from Friday to Sunday, Yale will only compete on Sunday in the men's championship eight event.

"The Head of the Charles is one of the most renowned regattas in our sport," head coach Mike Gennaro wrote in an email to the News. "We are looking forward to the opportunity to compete and using what we learn from this experience to continue improving throughout the fall season."

Brown, as well as other Ivy League schools, will also be competing at the Head of the Charles regatta. The race will feature 11,000 competitors and is expected to attract 400,000 spectators across the three-day event.

Last Saturday, Yale fielded four boats in the Head of the Housatonic regatta. The Bulldogs' first varsity boat — or 1V — took the win over Brown, whose 1V boat took second. Yale's 2V also finished on the podium in third, coming within five seconds of Brown's 1V and second place.

"The team has taken the lessons learnt from the Head of the Housatonic into the preparations for this weekend," team captain Ulrik Pharo Lohne '27 wrote in an email to the News. "It will be a great challenge to test our endurance in rough conditions on the Charles. The team has been looking for more speed since the Head of the Housatonic, and has had some good sessions since then."

Pharo Lohne also wrote that competition on Sunday will be tough, with competitors from top American collegiate programs, in addition to Oxford, Cambridge and a Dutch team that broke the 2,000 meter world record in August. Yale's top two boats will head to Cambridge on Friday to prepare ahead of the Sunday race, he added.

The Head of the Charles will feature significantly more competition than the Head of the Housatonic, and the Elis' results at the regatta will likely influence the preseason rankings for the spring season.

Last spring, Yale was ranked No. 10 overall in the ICRA/IRA Men's Collegiate Rowing preseason poll and ended with rankings of No. 10, No. 12 and No. 12 for their 1V, 2V and 3V boats, respectively.

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Bulldogs to open season against Maryville with new coach at the helm

MEN'S HOCKEY

BY ELI RATNER
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's hockey team (0–0–0, 0–0–0 ECAC) is slated to return to the ice this Friday for an exhibition match against the No. 28 Maryville University Saints (1–0–0, 0–0–0 Hybrid).

The game, which will take place at The Whale, will give the team a chance to test out its lines before officially kicking off the 2026-27 conference season against Brown later this month. Yale is coming off of a losing season in which the team finished 8–22–1 overall and 7–14–1 in the Eastern College Athletic Conference.

"Our mentality going into Friday is to win, plain and simple, and to show other teams that we're here and ready to play," captain Rhys Bentham '27 wrote in an email to the News. "It's our first game, and since it's a preseason game, it's also a chance to shake off the rust, build chemistry and find our identity."

Despite a disappointing record, Yale's 2025-26 season was marked by rivalry upsets. In Yale's home opener, the Bulldogs stunned then-No. 5 Quinnipiac, handing the Bobcats a 4-2 loss in Yale's first victory in the War on Whitney in seven years. Yale closed out that weekend with another win over Ivy rival Princeton, and on Valentine's Day, Yale took down Harvard 3-2 in overtime.

While the Bulldogs had a strong start to their last season, winning five out of their first nine games — including an exhibition match — they then lost 18 of their next 23. However, with a new head coach at the helm, Yale's all-time leading scorer Jeff Hamilton '01, the team will look to turn the tide this season.

"Our mentality this year is simple, we want to compete for, and win championships," Zach Wagnon '28 wrote in an email to the News.

Friday night's exhibition game against the Saints will offer the team an opportunity to gain experience and fine-tune its strategy before official game play.

Sophomore defenseman Hudson Miller '29 said the team is confident and excited to take the ice.

"We have had a great fall of preparation for this season, and we are excited to begin our season tomorrow night," Miller wrote in an email to the News.

The exhibition game will mark Hamilton's return to The Whale, trading his skates for a clipboard after a professional career overseas and in the National Hockey League.

Hamilton, who inherited a program that won the NCAA Championship in 2013, remarked on the importance of this game.

"The immediate expectation is to compete every night, raise the standard from the locker room outward, and lay the foundation for sustained success rather than chasing short-term results at the expense of culture or process," the coach wrote in an email to the News.

Echoing Hamilton, Wagnon said that even though this game will have no bearing on the team's record, the Elis will treat the exhibition as if it does.

"We're treating this game like a regular season game and we've been grinding all summer and fall to get some better results this year," Wagnon wrote.

Following Friday's exhibition matchup, the Bulldogs will begin conference play against Brown on Oct. 30. In January, the Elis will compete in the seventh annual Connecticut Ice Tournament, which brings together Connecticut's four Division I hockey programs — Yale, the University of Connecticut, Sacred Heart and Quinnipiac — for a two-day tournament. The Bulldogs will close out the regular season on Feb. 27 on the road against the Princeton Tigers.

Asked about what his goals are for the team this season, captain Bentham said he wants to win a championship.

"Our goals for this season are to bring a banner to the Yale rink and for our players to finish the year with a ring, whether that's an NCAA championship, an Ivy League title or an ECAC championship," Bentham wrote.

"We also want to be a team that's fun to watch, where students, alumni and fans constantly want to come to our games," he continued. "We plan to prove our doubters wrong and exceed their expectations. With a new coaching staff we feel like the underdogs right now, but if anything, we see that as an advantage."

The Bulldogs are also welcoming a strong class of seven new first years to its roster this season.

The defense's new additions are Henryk Lasky '30 and Matthew Virgilio '30. Lasky competed for the Omaha Lancers in the United States Hockey League and the Powell River Kings in the British Columbia Hockey League, while Virgilio played for Canada at the U17 World Junior Showcase.

In the net, goalkeeper Derrick Huang '30 hails from Carlisle, Mass., where he played hockey at the Rivers School. During his time with the program, he earned All-NEPSAC honorable mention and All-ISL honors.

The Class of 2030 rounds out the roster with four forwards: Drew Waterfield '30, Eli Friedman '30, Alex Assadourian '30 and Kyle O'Leary '30. Waterfield played at Shattuck-St. Mary's School in Faribault, Minn., where he won National Championships in 2023 and 2024.

Friedman, from Rye, New York, served as the assistant captain of the Brunswick Ice Hockey team. Assadourian played five seasons in the Ontario Hockey League with the Sudbury Wolves, Niagara IceDogs and Barrie Colts.

O'Leary competed at Noble & Greenough School, where he earned honors for All-ISL Hockey, All-NEPSAC Hockey and USA Hockey Nationals All Tournament Team. He was a Boston Globe and Boston Herald Hockey All-American.

With these accomplished newcomers and returning veterans — including Ronan O'Donnell '28, last year's leading goal scorer, along with Will Richter '27 and Micah Berger '28, who tied for second in goals — the Bulldogs are ready to return to the ice. Bentham said the team will need all hands on deck.

"Accomplishing these goals is going to take all 29 guys, committed and present every day. It's going to take consistency: working hard, showing up for every practice, lift and game, and always having our teammates' backs with 100% effort," he wrote. "We'll have to focus on the little details in hockey, in school and in life, staying consistent in every part of it so that we can succeed on Friday and Saturday nights."

Puck drop is slated for 7 p.m. on Friday at Ingalls Rink.

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LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
The men's tennis team looks to carry the momentum of victories at last month's Yale Invitational.