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"Saturday was a tough loss to a very good, well-coached Harvard team, but all of our focus is now on bouncing back at home against Columbia."

CINDY YANG '30 WOMEN'S SOCCER

Bulldogs fall to University of Rhode Island in disappointing defeat

FOOTBALL

BY BRODY GILKISON
STAFF REPORTER

On a blustery day at the Yale Bowl, Team 153 (3–2, 1–1 Ivy) lost 41-23 to the University of Rhode Island Rams (4–3, 2–3 CAA) at the Yale Bowl.

The Bulldogs entered the Saturday matchup, which was the first between the schools in program history, after a dominant 28-7 performance over Dartmouth in the team's Ivy home opener. After a rough start for Yale, which made a promising second-half comeback attempt, the Rams pulled away late in the game to secure the victory.

"I give URI the credit," head coach Kevin Cahill said at the post-game press conference. "They played a lot of good coverage, and we weren't able to keep score with them. The better team today won the game."

The Bulldogs found themselves down 17-0 late into the second quarter following several breakdowns in the secondary and after accumulating just 54 yards over the first six drives.

Then, due to favorable field position after a nice punt return from Jaxton Santiago '28, Yale finally had its first possession within URI territory. On the first play of the series, running back Hugo Djeumeni Kemeni '29 broke free for a 36-yard touchdown run to cut the deficit in half.

After the score, the Rams responded with a field goal just after the two-minute warning to make the score 20-7. The Bulldogs took the field with not much time to go but desperately needed points. After several chunk plays on the ground by Djeumeni Kemeni and a miraculous fourth-down completion to Santiago, the Bulldogs found themselves with a first and goal on the half-yard-line with only a second remaining on the clock.

It seemed Djeumeni Kemeni would be handed the ball to go punch it in for a touchdown, as he had already surpassed 100 yards for the half. But the Yale coaching staff elected to go with a passing play, which fell incomplete as the pass came up short in the end zone. The Bulldogs walked off the field without a point scored.

What had felt like a chance to make the contest a whole new ballgame and bring the score to within three points ended up deflating the home crowd and delivering a jolt of energy to the visiting squad as both teams made their way to the locker room for halftime.

The second half brought much more scoring, and there were several times when it seemed like the Bulldogs were going to pull within one score and have a chance to tie the game up. They were never able to make it to the right side of the big play, however.

Yale started the second half with a field goal to make it a 20-10 ballgame, and then both teams traded scores to make it 27-17.

Djeumeni Kemeni continued to run the ball well, but the passing game never heated up for the Bulldogs. About five minutes into the fourth quarter, the Rams capitalized on a few plays by quarterback McClelland and found their way into the endzone once more, making the score 34-17.

Yale, needing a touchdown in order to remain in the game, managed to get into the endzone once more, this time with a miraculous one-handed catch by Santiago. Unfortunately, the point after touchdown was blocked, but tight end Graham Smith '27 showed an impressive display of speed as he chased down the Rhode Island defensive back over 90 yards to knock him out of bounds just before reaching the other end zone.

With the score sitting at 34-23, Yale went with an onside kick in order to regain possession. Phoenix Grant '27 recovered the ball, which brought Bulldog fans to their feet. However, a yellow penalty marker was lying on the field, and the kick was brought back due to offsides by Yale. The Rams went on to recover the next attempt, and a few plays later, scored yet another touchdown to make the score 41-23.



LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

On Saturday, Yale came up short in its comeback effort against the Rhode Island Rams, falling 41-23.

The one bright spot from the loss was another wonderful performance from Djeumeni Kemeni, who ran for 243 yards, placing him third all-time in program history for a single game.

The Bulldogs will be back in action next Friday night when they travel to Philadelphia to take on the University of Pennsylvania (2–3, 0–2 Ivy) at Franklin Field.

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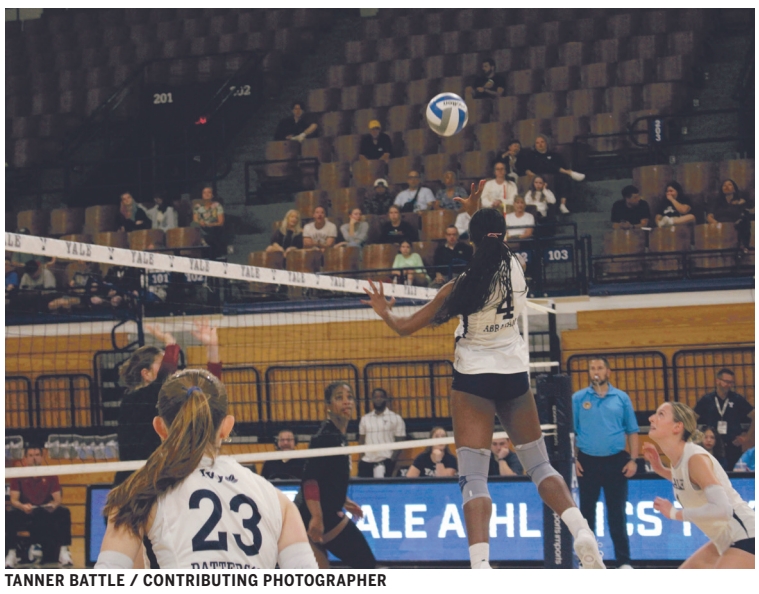
Yale extends win streak to five with wins over Columbia and Cornell



TANNER BATTLE / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

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.

VOLLEYBALL

BY TANNER BATTLE
STAFF REPORTER

The Bulldogs (12–3, 6–1 Ivy) returned home to John J. Lee Amphitheater in style this weekend, taking down the Columbia Lions (7–9, 1–6 Ivy) 3-0 before upsetting the top Ivy seed Cornell Big Red (10–6, 6–1 Ivy) 3-1.

After winning their last three matches against Dartmouth, Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania, the Elis entered the weekend looking to extend their win streak against the Lions and the Big Red. Having only dropped one conference match in a tough loss to Harvard (12–3, 6–1 Ivy), Yale came in ranked No. 2 in the Ivy League and is now tied with Cornell for first.

"It felt great to beat Cornell this weekend. We knew they were going to be good and I'm happy with how the team worked together to win," Betsy Goodenow '27 wrote in a text to the News.

On Friday night, the Bulldogs swept Columbia by a large margin in each set. The Elis won the first set 25-13, the second 25-14 and the third 25-19. Ava Poinsett '29 recorded 13 kills alongside Goodenow, who had 11 of her own.

The Bulldogs rode the momentum of their sweep into Saturday, where they faced the undefeated Big Red. While Yale came in as the underdog, they fought hard for four sets and pulled out the win 3-1.

After taking the first game 25-17, Yale dropped the second set 25-18. The Bulldogs proved their resilience in the third and fourth sets, winning them 25-21 and 25-20, respectively. Poinsett recorded an outstanding 18 kills and captain Laurece Abraham '27 recorded nine blocks.

Yale has now faced every team in the conference once and will play a second match against each team to close out the regular season.

Last season, the Bulldogs split matches with Cornell, Brown (5–10, 3–4 Ivy), Princeton (7–8, 5–2 Ivy) and Penn (10–7, 2–5 Ivy).

Yale will face Brown for the second time this season at 5 p.m. on Saturday at the John J. Lee Amphitheater.

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Yale drops rivalry game in Boston ahead home match against Columbia

WOMEN'S SOCCER

BY GIAN LOMBEYDA
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Yale women's soccer team (5–8–0, 0–4 Ivy) lost 3-0 to the Harvard Crimson (9–3–1, 3–1 Ivy) last Saturday just outside of Cambridge, dropping the Bulldogs to the bottom of Ivy League standings.

Now, the Bulldogs look forward to returning to home turf for the first time in three weeks to face Columbia (4–6–3, 3–1 Ivy) on Saturday.

While Yale played quality defense for much of the match on Saturday, a Harvard side with a league-leading 36 goals on the season flaunted their attacking prowess and clinical finishing, forcing Yale to pay for minute mistakes in front of their own goal.

"Harvard is a very quality group that has been in and out of the top 25 in the rankings and you can see why in the way they play," head coach Sarah Martinez wrote in an email to the News. "We knew it would be a tough battle with their attacking quality and depth in what they do."

All three goals came through the Crimson capitalizing on misclearances from the Yale defense in and around the 18-yard box. While Yale revitalized their attack in the waning moments of the game, finding five of their seven shots in the final 15 minutes of regulation, the Harvard defense remained stout.

The Bulldogs had a strong pre-conference run and have shown their quality in tight matches against Princeton (6–5–1, 2–2 Ivy), Cornell (5–6–2, 1–3 Ivy) and Brown (8–3–2, 2–1–1 Ivy). While earning a top-four finish to participate in their first-ever Ivy League Tournament seems more difficult by the week, the Bulldogs hope to push for better results one week at a time within a strong conference.

"We knew from the beginning of the season that the Ivy League is very competitive, and it's definitely been challenging at times, especially with some of our key contributors working back from injuries," first-year starter Cindy Yang '30 wrote in an email to the News.

Saturday's lineup included four players who did not start in their season-opening win against Vermont (4–4–6, 2–0–3 AEC). At least two of those long-term switches were due to injury.

"Saturday was a tough loss to a very good, well-coached Harvard team, but all of our focus is now on bouncing back at home against Columbia," Yang wrote.

As the Bulldogs turn their focus to the New York City team on Saturday, they will aim to lock down their defense. Yale will also look to capitalize on home-field advantage following a pair of road matches.

"We're all very excited to be able to play on Reese again after two consecutive away games," Yang wrote, "and it'll be important for us to come out on the front foot."

The Columbia Lions have been in fine form as of late, responding to a resounding September loss to Brown with a perfect 3–0 record in October so far. Their win streak began with a win against league-leading Dartmouth (9–2–2, 3–1 Ivy). In that game, an early goal in each half cemented the result for the Lions.

While Yale has lost the three most recent matchups against Columbia, their performances at home have been positive. Their last game hosting the Lions — a tight 2-3 loss — featured a goal from Yale's current captain Karoline Hernes '27. The previous match in 2022 was a 1-0 win, courtesy of Yale's Marz Akins '25.

With the season beginning to wind to a close, Yale will be eager to change the narrative of their recent history with Columbia and get back on the win column this season.

"We're excited to get back home and have a motivated group to get out of this skid," Martinez wrote. "They've been battling throughout this season, and I know we are all looking to earn a result back home at Reese this Saturday."

The Bulldogs will host the Columbia Lions at Reese Stadium this Saturday at 2 p.m.

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ALYSSA CHANG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Bulldogs were outplayed by a talented Harvard side fighting for positioning atop the conference standings.

STAT OF THE DAY WITH A 5-GAME WIN STREAK, VOLLEYBALL IS TIED FOR FIRST IN THE IVY LEAGUE.