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"The team is extremely confident heading into Saturday's match against Princeton."

ANDREW MYERSON

FOOTBALL: Bulldogs to host Quakers Saturday

BY BRODY GILKISON
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale Bulldogs (3–2, 1–1 Ivy) will take on the Penn Quakers (4–1, 2–0 Ivy) Saturday at the Yale Bowl.

The Bulldogs come into the matchup after thrashing the Stonehill Skyhawks (2–5, 1–1 Northeast) last weekend, winning 47-7, while Penn enters with an undefeated conference record after taking down Columbia last Saturday (1–4, 0–2 Ivy). The Quakers' impressive start to the season was good enough to place them in the receiving votes portion of the American Football Coaches Association Football Championship Subdivision coaches' poll over the weekend.

After Saturday's contest, each team will only have four games left in the regular season. If Yale wants to keep its conference championship hopes alive, it needs to pick up a win against Penn.

"Obviously this game is huge for us," kicker Nick Conforti '26 wrote to the News. "Given the circumstances, our only goal is to go 1-0 every week going forward."

While each team has only played five games so far, they share three common opponents. Earlier this season, Yale lost to both No. 7-ranked Lehigh and Dartmouth, but defeated Stonehill by 40 points. On the other side of the ball, Penn also lost to Lehigh, but defeated Dartmouth and beat Stonehill by three points.

Limit the air attack

Penn currently has the No. 2 scoring offense in the league, thanks in large part to quarterback Liam O'Brien. He is averaging over 260 yards-per-game (YPG) through the air, as well as over 50 YPG with his feet. O'Brien's favorite target has been Jared Richardson, who leads the Ivy League in receptions, receiving touchdowns and receiving yards.

The Quakers' potent offensive attack will be met by the Bulldog defense, which has allowed roughly 17 points-per-game this season. Recently, the unit has faced some adversity. After a strong start to the year, the Eli defense gave up 31 points to Lehigh (7–0, 2–0 Patriot League) in their third game. Then, the defense couldn't stop the floodgates in a fourth-quarter collapse by Yale in which they gave up 17 points to Dartmouth (4–1, 1–1 Ivy).

Recently, the Bulldogs bounced back with a strong defensive showing against Stonehill, with the Skyhawks only able to get on the board in the final minute of a blowout loss.

Last week, the Yale defense showed that when they're playing as a unit, opposing teams tend to struggle.

"I felt like we played a complete game as a team, from wire to wire," defensive back JP Schmidt '28 said. "We were on the same page all week leading up to the game, and the product on the field was a result of that."

To win this week, the Bulldogs will need to focus on containing Richardson, who accounts for nearly half of the Quakers' total receiving yards, and force O'Brien to rely on less explosive options downfield. With a deep roster of dynamic defensive athletes, Yale's coaching staff may mix up coverages early and use their playmakers creatively to disrupt Penn's offensive rhythm.



LIZA KAUFMAN, PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Yale football team welcomes the Penn Quakers to town this weekend.

Hot on offense

In last week's win, Yale scored on all five of their first half possessions, putting up 23 points in the process. In fact, the Bulldogs scored on every drive except for their last, meaning they came away with points in nine of their 10 drives.

In previous weeks, part of the problem plaguing the Yale offense has been starting out slow and digging themselves into a hole early. To keep up with the Quakers' fast-paced offense, quarterback Dante Reno '28 — and his two favorite targets Jaxton Santiago '28 and Nico Brown '26 — will need to push the ball down the field early and often to maximize their scoring opportunities. The Bulldog offense will look to replicate the consistency they showed last week against Stonehill in a game where putting points on the board often may be needed.

Yale kicks off against Penn at noon at the Yale Bowl on Saturday.

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MEN'S SOCCER: Bulldogs set to face undefeated Tigers at Reese Stadium



LIZA KAUFMAN, PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Yale is hoping to snap Princeton's perfect Ivy record and keep postseason hopes alive in the Saturday night matchup.

BY LIZA KAUFMAN
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's soccer team (2–7–3, 1–2–1 Ivy) is set to square off against the No. 6 nationally-ranked Princeton Tigers (10–1–2, 4–0–0 Ivy) on Saturday night under the lights of Reese Stadium.

After a hard fought game last weekend — a narrow loss to Dartmouth (3–5–3, 2–2–0 Ivy) despite outshooting the Big Green — the Bulldogs will look to bounce back and return to the win column when they host the conference-leading Tigers this Saturday.

"We are really looking forward to the matchup," defender Nick Miller '27 wrote in a text message. "It's always exciting to host a nationally ranked opponent, even more so when that matchup is in-conference. We are very hungry to get a result."

Princeton enters Saturday's game following a scoreless home draw to the Bryant Bulldogs (13–0–2, 4–0–0 AEC), a dominant Atlantic East Conference opponent. The Tigers, the defending 2024 Ivy League Champions, have had success both in their Ivy League and out of conference games.

They have non-conference victories over Rutgers (8–4–2, 3–3–1 Big Ten), Villanova (5–4–5, 1–1–3 Big East), UMass (6–4–5, 1–2–1 Summit), UAlbany (4–5–4, 2–1–1 AEC), Seton Hall (6–2–6, 2–0–3 Big East) and Army (4–5–5, 2–3–1 Patriot). In Ivy play, the Tigers have gone undefeated, downing Harvard (5–4–4, 1–2–1 Ivy), Brown (5–5–2, 1–2–1 Ivy), Cornell (10–2–1, 3–1–0 Ivy) and Columbia (1–6–4, 0–3–1 Ivy).

In the last seven matchups between Yale and Princeton, the Elis have come away with four victories and one draw. The Bulldogs defeated Princeton three years in a row from 2017 to 2019. When the teams met last fall at Princeton's Myslik Field, Princeton defeated Yale 1-0 with the lone goal of the game coming in the 23rd minute. The Tigers' clean sheet victory over the Bulldogs was their first against Yale since 2021.

Heading into this weekend, the Bulldogs sit in a three-way tie for fifth in the 2025 Ivy League Men's Soccer Standings alongside Harvard and Brown. Meanwhile, Princeton holds first place outright.

With only two Ivy games left after this weekend, a win for Yale could prove crucial in the race for a postseason berth. Instead of feeling pressure, the Bulldogs say they are embracing the opportunity to prove themselves against a top-ranked opponent.

"The team is extremely confident heading into Saturday's match against Princeton," Andrew Myerson '27 wrote in a text message. "Over the last few Ivy games, we've really found our identity as a team, and we trust that if we stick to it, we'll put ourselves in a great position to get a result."

On the Yale side, first-year midfielders Billy Altirs '29 and Angelo Zhu '29 have been key contributors on offense, leading the team with two goals each. Defender Sven Meacham '28 has also tallied a goal and leads the Bulldogs in assists with five. In goal, Conrad Lee '26 has been a consistent presence, recording 52 saves and a solid 73.2 save percentage.

On the other side of the pitch, Daniel Ittycheria has led the Tiger offense with his seven goals, four of which were game-winners. Princeton's goalkeeper, Andrew Samuels, has anchored the Tigers' defense, contributing to the team's perfect Ivy record and non-conference victories. Samuels has only let up four goals all seasons, accounting for a 91.5% save percentage.

With Princeton boasting the Ivy League's top-scoring offense, averaging nearly two goals per game, the Bulldogs will need to stay compact defensively. To come out on top, the Elis must convert early opportunities and rely on Lee's shot-stopping to keep the game within reach.

Kickoff is slated for 6 p.m. on Saturday at Reese Stadium.

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Stat of the Week

NOAH PIPER '29, A KICKER FOR THE BULLDOGS, HAD A 100 PERCENT SUCCESS RATE IN SATURDAY'S GAME, SCORING FOUR FIELD GOALS AND FIVE EXTRA POINTS. THE LAST TIME YALE MADE FOUR OR MORE FIELD GOALS IN A SINGLE GAME WAS IN A NOV. 1 2014 MATCHUP AGAINST COLUMBIA.