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"It wasn't pretty, but we were able to get it done against a solid opponent."

JOSH LINEBAUGH '29

Bulldogs blank Columbia in New York, eye postseason berth

MEN'S SOCCER

BY ELI RATNER
STAFF REPORTER



LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

After defeating Columbia 1-0 on Saturday, the Bulldogs are tied for second place in the Ivy League. With two more regular season games remaining and the top seed already secured, Yale will seek to punch one of three remaining tickets.

The Yale Bulldogs (4–6–3, 2–1–2 Ivy) defeated the Columbia Lions (4–4–4, 0–3–2 Ivy) 1-0 on Saturday in the Big Apple.

The victory at the Lions' Senior Day game marked the Bulldogs' second straight Ivy win, off the tails of their first against Harvard (4–6–3, 2–2–1 Ivy League) during Yale's alumni weekend. A strong defensive unit in New York at Rocco B. Commisso Soccer Stadium proved crucial to the Elis' clean sheet.

"We fought incredibly hard for each other and found a way to grind out a 1-0 win against a solid Columbia side," center-back Andrew Myerson '27 wrote in an email to the News. "Along our back line, we always talk about how keeping a clean sheet gives us a chance to get a result, and that was especially true on Saturday."

The game started off slow, with a stagnant first 20 minutes. In the 21st minute, Yale substituted Sebi Roy '29 and Angelo Zhu '29 for Nick Miller '27 and Nate Harmon '29.

Those substitutions proved critical. Ten minutes later, a shot by Roy to the bottom left was saved by the keeper, but rebounded out in front of the net. Ryder Mills '27 took the ball from the mouth of the goal and fired another shot into the Columbia defense, but to no avail.

Roy then took another shot, which was saved by a Lion defender, before the ball bounced out to Zhu. Columbia's goalie and defense made three saves but could not stop the fiery Yale offense. Zhu rocketed in the ball to score the game's lone goal, giving Yale a 1-0 lead in the 34th minute.

The Bulldogs were able to keep this lead through the rest of the half, and the defense remained strong to keep the second half scoreless.

In the 89th minute, the Columbia offense took one last attack as senior Jack McDaid tried to equalize in the final moments of the game. However, his shot was no match for Yale goalie Josh Linebaugh '29, who recorded his fourth clean sheet of the season after five saves on Saturday night.

Linebaugh said a strong team effort contributed to this victory.

"It wasn't pretty, but we were able to get it done against a solid opponent," Linebaugh wrote in an email to the News. "A lot of credit has to be given to Angelo Zhu, Ryder Mills, and Sebi Roy who were able to create and get us a scrappy goal. The margins of Ivy League games are very small, so our backline being able to keep a clean sheet gave us a great chance."

Pointing to the gritty win, head coach Kylie Stannard said the team has grown after a slow start to the season.

"This team has really grown in their maturity and resilience during the season to handle hard moments better within the game," Stannard wrote in an email to the News. "There will always be mistakes and periods of play that aren't great but earlier in the season, we let those affect us too much. Now, we are doing a better job of bending but not breaking and that's a sign of maturity."

Yale's win on Saturday was notable given that Columbia had home advantage and extra emotion amid senior day celebrations.

Stannard said he was proud of the team's ability to play together and bring home the win.

"Most importantly, the group stuck together and trusted the details that are necessary to win tough games on the road, and especially when we weren't at our best," he wrote. "Any win is huge but especially road wins when you can take all three points. It puts us in a position where we control our own destiny to make the Ivy tournament."

With the win in New York, the Bulldogs are now tied for second in the conference with the University of Pennsylvania Quakers (6–3–4, 2–1–2 Ivy) heading into the final two games of the season.

Myerson said the strong positioning will not change the Elis' mentality.

"We know we're in a great position in the standings, but we're not letting that make us comfortable," Myerson wrote. "There's still everything to play for, and we're approaching our final two Ivy League regular-season games with a chip on our shoulder, determined to secure a spot in the Ivy League Tournament."

After defeating Dartmouth (4–5–4, 2–2–1 Ivy) 3-1 on Saturday, Cornell (10–3–0, 5–0–0 Ivy) won the regular season title outright and earned hosting rights for the Ivy League Tournament, which will take place on Nov. 12 and 15 in Ithaca.

Three tournament spots remain, meaning Yale's final two games against Cornell and Brown (6–5–2, 1–3–1 Ivy) are pivotal. If the Bulldogs qualify, it would mark Yale's first return to the tournament since winning it in its inaugural year in 2023, when the team then went on to the second round of the NCAA tournament.

"Three points against Columbia was a huge result and put us in a great spot to get a spot in the postseason," Linebaugh wrote. "That being said, the job isn't done yet so we cannot get comfortable. Cornell this upcoming weekend is a huge opportunity to get points against a very good side."

With a chance at the postseason on the line, the Bulldogs will now turn their attention to preparing for their Saturday afternoon home matchup against the Big Red, which will also mark Yale's Senior Day.

The match will kick off at 3 p.m. at Reese Stadium.

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Yale sweeps Brown, keeping Ivy lead and extending win streak to six

VOLLEYBALL

BY TANNER BATTLE
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale volleyball team (13–3, 7–1 Ivy) defeated the Brown Bears (5–11, 3–5 Ivy) 3-0 in a Saturday matchup, maintaining their lead in the league and extending their conference win streak to six.

Last month, in this season's first matchup against Brown, the Bulldogs dropped one set but still pulled out the win in Providence. This time, the Elis dominated the Bears at home, winning the first set by six points and the next two by nine each.

Yale's consistent strength over the last six games comes down to its senior leadership and rookie talent. On Saturday, captain Laurece Abraham '27 led the offense with 10 kills, while Arya Jue '27 held it down on defense with 11 digs.

"I think we came out with a lot of energy and intensity," Abraham wrote in a text message to the News. "We've been working really hard in practice, and I think that showed in how we played."

The Bulldogs swept the Ivy League's weekly awards last week. Ava Poinsett '29 won player of the week, and Kalyssa Taggart '30 won rookie of the week. Although both are underclassmen, they have contributed to the Elis' success week in and week out.

With its win over Brown, Yale has maintained its status as the Ivy League's number-one team. The Bulldogs will look to continue their success as they play each Ivy League team for a second time this season.

"We are looking to keep getting better in the second half of the season, and we're proud of how we took care of business and focused this weekend," Betsy Goodenow '27 wrote in a text message to the News.

The Elis beat every team except Harvard (14–3, 5–3 Ivy) in their first meetings. Yale will attempt to redeem itself when it faces the Crimson again later this week in Cambridge.

Yale will spend Halloween weekend on the road playing matches against Dartmouth (7–11, 1–7 Ivy) and Harvard.

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TANNER BATTLE / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

On Saturday, the Bulldogs beat the Bears for the second time this season, improving on their first matchup. The team will spend this weekend on the road, facing Dartmouth and Harvard, as it seeks to keep its status as the Ivy League's number-one team.

STAT OF THE DAY

LAURECE ABRAHAM '27 RECORDED 10 KILLS IN THE BULLDOGS' SATURDAY MATCH AGAINST BROWN.