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"We know how much talent this team has, and we believe we are capable of turning that into results over these final games."

ABIGAIL SOLOMON '26

Club water polo heads to nationals for first time in 15 years

WATERPOLO

BY ELI RATNER AND LUCY BENJAMIN
STAFF REPORTER AND CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

More than a decade after their last appearance at the national championship, Yale men's club water polo is returning to the tournament in two weeks.

The Bulldogs won the New England Championship on Sunday, defeating Dartmouth 10-8 at Boston College to secure their first division title in 15 years. The victory was reflective of a season of renewed dedication and greater team chemistry as Yale rose from a fifth-place finish at last year's division championship to claim the New England title this year.

"Throughout our weekend at the New England Championships, competing felt profoundly different than it did at the beginning of the season," Andrew Yang '30 wrote in a text message to the News. "Especially in the championship game against Dartmouth, we were connected on a completely different level: moving the ball, playing unselfishly, and working cohesively to win together."

Led by captains Antonio Giraldez Greco '29 and Garrett Curtis '28, who is a photography editor for the News, as well as student coach Tomás Watson '27, Yale entered the championship as the top seed after finishing the season with a 6-1-1 record. The Bulldogs defeated Boston College and Northeastern on Saturday, the day before facing Dartmouth in the championship.

The Bulldogs will go on to compete against the other qualifying teams at the Collegiate Water Polo Association National Collegiate Club Championship in Huntsville, Ala., from Nov. 6 to Nov. 8. The tournament will include the champions of 15 other divisions across the nation and the University of Alabama, the host.

Head coach Doug Hausladen '04 said the team's ability to distribute scoring across multiple players was crucial in securing the New England title.

"I think what's been going very well is that the group of young men that are on the team this year have been putting their egos aside and sharing the ball a lot better as the season progressed," he said.

Even though Teddy Meeks '28, "our best player," was shut out by Dartmouth on Sunday, Hausladen said, three other players stepped up to score 10 goals and secure the title.

The championship win also marked a dramatic turnaround for the program compared to previous years, when they struggled towards the end of a season.

An early indication of the team's potential came over Labor Day weekend, when the Bulldogs defeated Washington & Jefferson College, an NCAA Division III varsity team, for the first time since 2008.

Excitement about the team's winning ways reflected in their training as well. Arthur Cornelis '29 wrote in a text message to the News that the offseason "showed a team on the rise, with consistency in training giving great results for our home tournament last semester."

Hausladen said players maintained that commitment throughout the season.

"This is the first season that we had practices over fall break of substance, of commitment, with 13, 14, 15 people in the water during fall break," Hausladen said.

Curtis wrote in a text message to the News that the team's success depended on contributions from all of the players on the roster, including those who do not usually start.

"So many guys have shown up at every practice knowing they are not a part of the primary or starting squad," Curtis wrote. "They show up to get better and to help the team get better."

As a club team, Yale water polo raises some of its own funds and sources its own accommodations. Hausladen said the team's alumni base and broader water polo community contributed to its success.

"We are very grateful to the Yale water polo family for their support this season," he said. "They have been showing up to host students at Boston and Villanova, as well as continuing to support people at games. We had 30 people at Boston to watch people play, including many parents and alumni who have contributed immensely."

In preparation for the championship weekend, Yale is set to continue practicing with the same grit and determination that pulled them through the regular season. Players have already begun reviewing film and studying the strategy of their upcoming opponents.

"We're excited and confident, but we know we still have a lot to prove," Ryan Karr '30 wrote in a text message to the News. "Beating Dartmouth gave us momentum, but we understand that nationals will bring a different level of competition."

For Hausladen, Yale's long-awaited return to nationals signifies something greater than the competition itself.

"We have achieved our internal goals," Hausladen said. "Now we're just out there having fun for the love of the sport and seeing what we can do on the national level."

The team's first game in the national tournament will take place on Nov. 6 at 5:10 p.m.

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Despite dominant start, Bulldogs leave behind shaky season

MEN'S GOLF

BY BENJAMIN KIM
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Yale men's golf team concluded earlier this month a rocky fall season that saw a strong start, particularly for rookies, but subsequently shaky performances.

The Bulldogs kicked off the season with a first-place finish at the Doc Gimmler Invitational, hosted by St. John's University. But they lost steam as the season continued, at one point finishing last at a tournament of 12 teams.

Despite the bag of mixed results, the trio of first-years, Snyder, Shawn Nawata '30 and Austin Le '30, proved to be the young spark head coach Keith Tyburski can build around ahead of April's Ivy League Championship.

"We have a young group, and the energy the underclassmen bring every day has been contagious," captain Matthew Lin '28 wrote in email to the News. "They're hungry, they work hard, and they aren't afraid to compete."

The Bulldogs were off to an early start at the Doc Gimmler Invitational, held on Sept. 12 and 13 in Farmingdale, N.Y. In his first collegiate tournament, Snyder claimed the individual title.

That tournament was cut short to 36 holes after weather halted play. Although Yale started slow, shooting even par in the opening round, they ran away with the win by going 13 under in the afternoon.

Snyder opened the invitational strong, scoring one-under in the opening round and then caught fire in the second with three back-to-back birdies. The first year shot seven-under-par to win the individual title in his collegiate debut.

Nawata tied for second, shooting 4-under, and Le rolled in an eagle and followed it with a birdie on the front nine to finish tied for 11th at even par with teammate Colin Li '28. Lin tied for 15th.

Snyder carried his sharp form into the Macdonald Cup on Sept. 25, the first tournament held at the newly renovated Yale Golf Course since September 2023. A nor'easter's heavy rains cut the event to a single 18-hole round, and his one-over 71 left him tied for fourth.

As a team, the Bulldogs tied Davidson College for seventh in the 11-team field at 23-over, while Harvard won at nine-over. Playing as individuals, Preston Howe '29 and Andrew Stickel '27 each carded a 77 to tie for 36th.

Following a dominant start, Snyder was named September's Ivy League Golfer of the Month.

Yale faced its toughest test at the Hamptons Intercollegiate at the Maidstone Club in East Hampton, N.Y., on Oct. 5 and 6. Yale finished 12th of 12 teams, at 69 over par in three rounds. Ansen Tran '29 led the way for the Bulldogs, tying for 50th at 16-over.

The following week, the Bulldogs shook off the Hamptons hangover, bouncing back at the Metropolis Intercollegiate, hosted by Columbia in White Plains N.Y., finishing sixth of 12 at 48-over.

Despite not competing in Yale's five-man scoring lineup, Nawata signed his card for a career-low 65 in the opening round and led the entire field with 11 birdies for the tournament.

"I think I was able to play disciplined and commit to my targets really well," Nawata wrote in an email to the News. "After starting strong, I was able to get into a good rhythm and stay in the flow for the rest of the round."

Snyder and Lin each shot nine-over to tie for 10th, and Le tied for 18th at 11-over to close out the last tournament of the fall season.

The team had one last chance to swing the clubs on Oct. 17 as they traveled to Westerly, R.I. for a scrimmage against Harvard.

With the fall season now behind them, the Bulldogs will have time to regroup and build on their early-season promise before the spring slate.

"We aren't far off from being the team to beat at the Ivy League Championship," Lin wrote. "We've already proven we can win, and now it's about putting in the work this winter and carrying that into the spring."

Yale will open its spring season at the All-American at the Golf Club of Houston on March 15.

The Ivy League Championship is set for April 23 to 25 at Stanwich Golf Club in Greenwich, Conn., where Harvard will look to defend its title.

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Yale looks to halt Dartmouth attack in penultimate league match

WOMEN'S SOCCER

BY GIAN LOMBEYDA
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The Yale women's soccer team (5–9–0, 0–5 Ivy) will head to Hanover to face the third-place Dartmouth Big Green (9–3–2, 3–2–0 Ivy) on Saturday in the second-to-last match of both teams' seasons.

Recent matchups between Yale and Dartmouth have tended to favor the away team, as Yale drew in Hanover in 2022 and won there in 2024, but lost on home turf in both 2023 and 2025. This season, Dartmouth has garnered nine wins and will seek another against Yale to ensure a playoff berth. Yale, which fell to league-leaders Columbia (5–6–3, 4–1–0 Ivy) in a tight 2-3 loss last Saturday, will seek to play spoiler and end the season strong.

Looking back on the match against the Lions, Kyleigh Carr '30 said that there were plenty of positives to take away.

"We can only move on and look to build on those moving forward for Dartmouth on Saturday," Carr wrote in an email to the News. "Regardless of the result or the team, we will continue to push in practice this week and be ready for Dartmouth."

Seven of Dartmouth's nine victories this year have come by a margin of one or two goals. However, the Big Green has been dominant at home, winning all seven of their matches in Hanover this season, including consecutive wins against Bryant University (5–6–4, 3–2–2 AE) and the University of Pennsylvania (6–5–3, 1–2–2 Ivy) by four goals apiece.

"Dartmouth is a confident and gritty team and plays well at home," Yale coach Sarah Martinez wrote in an email to the News. "They find ways to win and are efficient with their scoring. They don't need many chances to put one away and find ways to grind out results."

Dartmouth's trip to Princeton last week did not go as planned, as the team fell 2-1 courtesy of a brace from Princeton's offensive player of the week honoree Stella Monberg.

With two matches left in the season, the Big Green could still jump Princeton and Columbia in the standings and secure No. 1 seed Ivy League Tournament hosting rights — but a resolute Yale side stands in their way.

"We know how much talent this team has, and we believe we are capable of turning that into results over these final games," forward Abigail Solomon '26 wrote in an email to the News.

While Dartmouth has only conceded eight goals this season, Yale has the attacking quality to break down the team's defense. The Bulldogs have seen 10 unique goalscorers this season, from six-goal Anita Thorvaldsdottir '27 to set-piece specialist Alex Chang '27.

Another goalscorer is Carr, who was moved from forward to full-back position during the season. Her versatility and skill on both sides of the ball have been beneficial against every opponent thus far.

The last three matches between Yale and Dartmouth were all decided by one goal.

"They don't give up many goals so it will be key for us to capitalize on chances we create, no matter the time of game it is," Martinez wrote, referring to Dartmouth.

With a talented senior class — forwards Thorvaldsdottir, Solomon and Addison Bray '27; midfielder and captain Karoline Hernes '27; defenders Andie Miller '27, Chang and Amelia Warren '27 and goalkeeper Kyla Holmes '27 — playing in their final Bulldog matches, the team will certainly be intent on giving their graduates something to celebrate.

"For us, we are focused on putting together a full 90 minute performance and earning a result," coach Martinez wrote.

Yale will face the Big Green at 4 p.m. this Saturday at Burnham Field.

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ALYSSA CHANG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After a frustrating late loss to Columbia last Saturday, the Bulldogs will look to make amends in a big road test against heavyweight Dartmouth. Recent matches between the two teams have both been decided by tight margins and looked favorably upon the away team.

Stat of the Day

THE BULLDOGS TIED DAVIDSON COLLEGE FOR SEVENTH IN THE 11-TEAM FIELD AT 23-OVER.