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"I'm really excited to see what some of the younger guys can do this season."
TREVOR MULLIN, CAPTAIN OF MEN'S BASKETBALL

Bulldogs look to stop the skid in Halloween matchup against Columbia

FOOTBALL

BY BRODY GILKISON
STAFF REPORTER

Team 153 (3–3, 1–2) is set to take on the Columbia Lions (4–2, 1–2) this Saturday for a Halloween showdown on the road.

The Bulldogs, who have dropped two consecutive games, will be looking to shake off recent "Saturday Scaries" and fight their way back into the Ivy League title race. On the other sideline, Columbia enters the weekend coming off a loss to Dartmouth, but the Lions still sit above a .500 record and are tied this year for the second-best overall record in the conference.

Previewing Columbia

Perhaps one of the most notable things about the Columbia offense is its strong passing game. The Lions are currently the No. 1-ranked passing team in the Ivy League, with quarterback Chase Goodwin having recently overtaken Yale quarterback Dante Reno '28 as the leading passer with 283 yards per game in 2026.

Goodwin, a senior out of Houston, Texas, has been prolific through the air thus far but has struggled with accuracy at times. While he has tossed 13 touchdown passes, he has also been picked off a league-leading nine times.

Looking at the tape, Goodwin is strictly a pocket passer. He tends to get the ball out fairly late and remain in the pocket until the last possible second due to his lack of mobility. He has rushed for negative yards this season and has been sacked 14 times, the second-most in the league for an individual passer.

A large part of Goodwin's passing success can be attributed to the handful of talented Lion receivers, a group that will be quite the challenge for Yale's secondary. Bryce Coleman leads the way with 529 receiving yards and an astounding nine touchdowns, while Hutch Crow and Beckett Robinson have both hauled in a pair of touchdowns while combining for over 650 yards between the two of them.

On the ground, Columbia has another solid group of playmakers. Senior star running back Griffin Johnson has gotten off to a great start in his final year with the program, having rushed for nearly 100 yards per game, placing him second in the Ivy League behind Yale's Hugo Djeumeni Kemeni '29. Johnson is backed up by Brody McLaughlin and Michael Walters, who are both around 100 yards for the season and average over four yards per carry.

The Bulldogs seek to dig deep

The season has not gone according to plan for Team 153. After a 2025 campaign that brought the program to new heights, expectations were high for this year's squad to build upon that momentum, especially considering the returning veteran roster.

However, after two straight losses, the Bulldogs have fallen to the bottom of the conference standings and are already at risk of being eliminated from playoff contention. Yale currently sits two games back of archrival Harvard and will likely need to win out in order to reach the postseason.

Last season, the Bulldogs started 2–2 and chased down a then-undefeated Harvard team. That's certainly still possible from 3–3, but the margin for error is slimmer by the week.

Turning the season around

In the past, Bulldog teams succeeded because they did the simple things right — taking care of the football, limiting small mistakes and taking games one week at a time thanks to the Yale v. Yale mentality preached by late head coach Tony Reno.



LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

After dropping their previous two games, Team 153 needs a win against Columbia this weekend in order to keep their postseason hopes alive. The Lions lost to Dartmouth last week but are tied for second in the conference, while Yale sits at the bottom.

Those same objectives have been the Bulldogs' Achilles heel over the past month. Yale possessed the No. 1-ranked offense in the FCS through the first couple of weeks, but key errors, including carelessness with the ball, special teams mistakes and early deficits, kept the team from succeeding. If there is any hope of salvaging the season, a turnaround needs to start this week.

Yale's keys to victory

The Bulldogs need to rediscover their high-octane offense. In the season's first few weeks, Reno not only delivered in getting the ball down the field into the hands of his receivers, but he was also adept at keeping the ball out of the hands of the defense. Last week, he threw four picks and threw for only 211 yards. The quarterback will need to have a good performance on Saturday in order to stay ahead of a dynamic Lions offense.

Containing the passing attack will also be key. After struggling quite a bit at the start of the season, the Bulldog defense has shown flashes of upside the last few weeks, holding Dartmouth to just seven points and coming up with critical stops to keep the game alive against the University of Pennsylvania. Captain Abu Kamara '27 and Osize Daniyan '27 have both played well down the stretch and will need to lead the charge for the defense this week.

Linebacker Jesse Schutzman '27 has impressed in his first season of heavy playing time and has helped to anchor the linebacker position next to team tackles leader Phoenix Grant '27. As Yale's focus will be more passing-centered against Columbia, the team will need its crew of linebackers to drop back into coverage more than they have thus far this season.

Special teams mistakes have torpedoed Team 153 on several occasions this year. If the special teams unit can clean up their execution, it will be a big sigh of relief for the Yale coaching staff.

Yale will kick off at noon on Saturday at Robert Kraft Field at Lawrence A. Wien Stadium against Columbia.

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Elis look to avenge heartbreaking 2025-26 season, return to Big Dance

MEN'S BASKETBALL

BY BRODY GILKISON
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Just a season removed from a shocking overtime upset that ended the Bulldogs' March Madness hopes, head coach James Jones and his team are set to kick off their redemption tour in a match against Howard on Monday.

Last spring, Ivy League Player of the Year Nick Townsend '26 and Defensive Player of the Year Casey Simmons '26 led the Bulldogs back to the championship game of Ivy Madness, where they were stunned by a 44-point performance by the University of Pennsylvania's TJ Power that led to an overtime loss. This season, the Bulldogs will be calling upon a new, younger core with the hopes of getting back to the Big Dance.

Led by captain Trevor Mullin '27, a new-look Yale squad will play a two-month non-conference slate before entering the gauntlet of Ivy League conference play.

Mullin, who has a knack for stuffing the stat sheet offensively, will start as point guard. Jordan Brathwaite '28 and Riley Fox '28, who saw a decent amount of time last season off the bench, are also expected to start.

"I'm really excited to see what some of the younger guys can do this season," Mullin said. "Obviously, we lost a lot of talent over the past two seasons, but our sophomore and junior class is super strong and has a ton of potential."

Brathwaite, a talented three-point shooter, had several clutch shots in his sophomore campaign and is set to play a large role on both the offense and defense this year as his minutes see a dramatic increase. Just last weekend, in a scrimmage against Rutgers, Brathwaite led the team in points with 22 — a promising sign for a team aiming to replace a former conference player of the year.

Fox, who came in as a lanky first year that liked to hang out exclusively beyond the arc, has undergone quite a transformation. He now stands at 6'6", 215 pounds and has also put together an impressive offseason. After teaming up with teammates Mullin, Brathwaite and Jack Sullivan '29 to lead Team USA 3-on-3 to a world championship victory, Fox has shown improvement on both sides of the ball.

In a scrimmage against Boston University, which is coached by Joe Jones, the brother of Yale's head coach, Fox totaled nearly 30 points and followed that up with 18 against Rutgers University last weekend. Be on the lookout for Fox's ability to take over games with his electric scoring.

One of the biggest questions of the offseason was who would replace the big boys down low. As of now, it seems that Sullivan, who stands at 6'11", will start at center after the departure of Samson Aletan '26 to Providence, and Daniel Ogunyemi '29 will start at the four position after Townsend's grad transfer to Stanford.

Sullivan showed a knack for elite rim protection in limited minutes last year, but has also shown to have a very smooth jumper and an ability to step back and knock down jumpers from deep. He is set to help add another dimension to Yale's offense and spread out opposing defenses.

Ogunyemi has been compared to Townsend in terms of his raw strength and athleticism. Off the court, he may be one of the nicest guys you'll ever meet, but once he steps on the hardwood, he is quite the competitor and is unafraid to get physical with the opposition.

"Dan is a ton of fun to play with," Sullivan said. "We've been putting in a lot of good work over the offseason together, and it helps me out knowing I have a bruiser down low with me able to crash the boards."

Turning the focus to the bench, the two Bulldogs who will most likely receive the most playing time are transfer forward Connor May '28 and guard Courtney Wallace '29.

May, a Chicago native who received All-American honors in his sophomore year at Washington University in St. Louis, a Division III program, is a 6'6" forward who has a natural stroke from downtown, but is also a rebounding machine. He averaged 17.3 PPG and 7.2 RPG while leading his team in both steals and blocks. May should see significant time this year as Jones has often taken a liking to gritty, two-way players.

Wallace, a 6'2", 195-pound guard out of Pittsburgh, averaged just six minutes a game in the 2025-26 season but is also expected to see much more time this year. Jones is expected to use him as a backup to both Braithwaite and Mullin before his potential takeover of the point guard position next season. He has been highly praised by his team captain, with Mullin citing "freakish athleticism" and "an ability to score from anywhere on the court."

After the season opener with Howard University, Yale heads south for two Big 12 road matchups with University of Central Florida and Baylor University before settling into a less challenging non-conference slate.

The Bulldogs are set to take on Howard on Monday at 7 p.m. at John J. Lee Amphitheater for their first game of the season.

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LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Bulldogs, whose Ivy Madness run last year was thwarted by Penn, will be back in action in their season opener against Howard on Monday as four new expected starters are set to replace star players who departed after last season.

STAT OF THE DAY

WALLACE, A 6'2", 195-POUND GUARD OUT OF PITTSBURGH, AVERAGED JUST SIX MINUTES A GAME IN THE 2025-26 SEASON