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WILL RICHTER '27, MEN'S HOCKEY

Yale beats Brown in home opener, picking up first win under new coach

MEN'S HOCKEY

BY LUCY BENJAMIN
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Yale men's hockey (1-0-0, 1-0-0 ECAC) opened its 2026-27 season with a 2-1 victory over Brown (0-1-0, 0-1-0 ECAC) on Friday night at home, securing its first win under new head coach Jeff Hamilton '01.

After shutting out Maryville 3-0 in a preseason exhibition, the Bulldogs looked to start off the season on a high note, and though they were picked to finish last in the Eastern College Athletic Conference they pulled out a late 2-1 victory. After falling behind in the second period, the Bulldogs rallied with goals from Kyle O'Leary '30 and Will Richter '27 to defeat their Ivy rival in front of 1,425 fans at Ingalls Rink.

"It was nice to get Coach Hamilton his first ECAC win, especially at home," Richter wrote in a text to the News. "We want Ingalls to be a tough place for teams to play in and it was great to see the turnout and feel the energy the fans brought during the game."

Following a scoreless first period, the Bears opened the scoring with a goal six minutes into the second from first year Matteo Danis. The Bulldogs responded less than seven minutes later to equalize with a goal of their own from O'Leary.

Yale found itself with a power play and capitalized, as Ronan O'Donnell '28 sent the puck to Micah Berger '28, who threaded it to O'Leary for a one-timer, marking his first goal as a Bulldog.

"It was a power play that we had been practicing a lot recently," Berger wrote in a text to the News. "We just tried to make a quick play and saw an opening. Kyle did the rest, an unbelievable shot by him and so happy for him getting his first college goal."

The Bulldogs carried that momentum into the third period, breaking the tie when Richter scored the game-winning goal assisted by Dylan Hunt '29. After an offensive-zone faceoff, Hunt sent a shot toward the net, where Richter secured the puck and put it home with a back-hander.

"I caught the shot out of the air then dropped it to the far side then backhanded it in," Richter wrote. "I didn't have much going through my mind honestly, just to win the draw and get to the net once the puck went high, but it was nice to be able to help the boys out."

Despite taking the lead, Yale faced continued pressure from Brown throughout the final period. The Bears outshot the Bulldogs 32–22 overall, but goaltender Jack Stark '27 stood tall between the pipes and had a career night, making 31 saves with a .969 save percentage.

With 29 seconds remaining in the game, the Bears nearly sent it into overtime. However, Yale challenged the goal, and the ruling on the ice was overturned following video review. Officials' determination that the puck had been directed into the net by a glove sent Yale fans into raucous cheering.

"With it being such a close game, our goaltending really made a difference," junior Zach Wagnon '28 wrote in a text to the News. "Jack Stark played an incredible game and made some huge saves that led to our win," he wrote, referring to the Bulldogs' goalie.

Although Yale ended the match with a win, it took some time for the team to gain offensive momentum.

"I don't think it was our best showing, but anytime you can win on home ice, it's huge," O'Donnell wrote to the News. "Regardless of how we got it done, we got the result we were looking for."

The victory also marked the beginning of a new chapter for Yale under Hamilton and his coaching staff.

Richter credited the win to the team's execution and special teams play, while emphasizing the significance of a victory in front of the home crowd. Berger added that team chemistry still remains an integral part of Yale's identity and success as the season moves forward.

"Chemistry is what our team and this program is all about," he said. "Trying to honor the guys who wore that jersey before us is incredibly important to our group and it's something that definitely makes us closer."

Despite the opening victory, Bulldog members emphasized that they still have a long road ahead of them with plenty of room for improvement.

Wagnon noted that the Bulldogs still have 27 more regular season games.

"So it's nice to enjoy and celebrate the win, but we go right back to work on Monday," he wrote.

The Bulldogs will hit the road this weekend to face Dartmouth (1–0–0, 0–0–0, ECAC) in Hanover at 7 p.m. on Friday before heading to Cambridge to take on Harvard at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

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LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The men's hockey team kicked off its season in style, picking up a 2-1 win in Yale's home opener. Although Brown took an early lead in the second period, the Bulldogs snagged the win in front of a packed home crowd at Ingalls Rink.

Splitting weekend, Bulldogs upset Quinnipiac and fall to Princeton

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY

BY VINCENT HUANG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Iron sharpens iron, and the No. 14 Yale Bulldogs (2–1–1, 1–1–0 ECAC) put their edge to the test over the weekend, when they dominated in an upset victory over No. 5 Quinnipiac Bobcats (8–2–1, 3–2–1 ECAC) before falling late against the No. 6 Princeton Tigers (6–0–0, 4–0–0 ECAC).

Yale hit the road to square off against the pair of national top-ten opponents after victory at the Ice Breaker Tournament the weekend prior. Friday's game at Quinnipiac was the third of the Bulldogs' young season. But for their Bobcat counterparts, it was the 10th.

"It's impressive how quickly our team has settled in, especially considering that non-Ivy teams are 10+ games into their season," junior Sophia Levering '28 wrote in an email to the News. "Buying into and learning our team systems has been crucial with an overall young group."

On Friday night, the Bulldogs were bought in. Just over three minutes into the game, Cami Bell '28 buried a pass from Stephanie Stainton '27 into the back of Quinnipiac's net to open the scoring for Yale. Stainton's pass marked her 35th career assist — a fitting milestone to reach in her hundredth collegiate game.

But Yale was not done yet. Just over 10 minutes later, first-year Chloe Cleaves '30 corralled a ricocheting puck off a Bobcat defender to score her first career goal, extending the Bulldog lead to 2-0.

Yale delivered an emphatic third and final score shortly into the second period, as junior forward Emma McGowan '28 fired a rebounded Levering shot on goal back into the net in her first score of the season.

Quinnipiac scored just before the end of regulation to avoid a shutout, but the game's outcome was never in question. At the final whistle, the Bulldogs handed the Bobcats a 3-1 loss in the War on Whitney.

Yale's upset of Quinnipiac avenged last season's loss in the Eastern College Athletic Conference championship at Lake Placid and was their first road victory against the Bobcats since 2023.

But with another top-10 ranked opponent still on the weekend ledger, the Bulldogs needed to remain focused on their all-too-critical rest and recovery.

"Playing two games is definitely tough especially when they are tough opponents," Bell wrote in an email to the News. "We have a great team of coaches, like Alex Mowatt-Larssen our strength coach, and Mackinsey Tessitore our new athletic trainer, that make sure we have everything we need to recover."

According to Levering, each player has their own routine to recover from and prepare for games, "with sleep and nutrition at the forefront."

"The Saturday game's competition begins with who can recover better starting on Friday night," Levering wrote.

In Saturday's matchup against Princeton, Tiger forward Riley Sorokan scored a brace to give Princeton a 2-0 lead by the midway point of the third period. Yale captain Mariya Rauf '27 prevented the shutout as she redirected a Levering shot into the Princeton net, but it was ultimately too little and too late, and the game ended in a 1-2 loss for Yale.

Yale's season will continue with another doubleheader weekend, this time at home.

They will play the Dartmouth Big Green (2–3–1, 0–2–0 ECAC) on Friday at 6 p.m., followed by a Saturday rivalry matchup against the Harvard Crimson (3–3–0, 0–2–0 ECAC) at 3 p.m.

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YALE ATHLETICS

The Yale women's ice hockey team delivered an upset victory at Quinnipiac on Friday for its first ranked win of the season. They fell late against Princeton the following night in a close-fought Ivy affair to split the weekend.

STAT OF THE DAY

STEPHANIE STAINTON '27 REACHED HER 35TH CAREER ASSIST DURING THE BULLDOG'S FRIDAY GAME AGAINST QUINNIPIAC.