FROM THE FRONT

"That little lady sittin' on the passenger side /
It's much less picturesque without her catchin' the light"
ARABELLA ARCTIC MONKEYS



Ellie Park
For much of President Donald Trump's second term in office, Harmeet Dhillon refocused the Department of Justice's civil rights division to target universities. She criticized Yale on social media in 2024 and headed an inquiry this year into its admissions.

Trump lawyer said Yale discriminates

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In April 2025, three months after President Donald Trump returned to office, Dhillon's department launched an inquiry into the School of Medicine's admissions practices. Over a year later, in May 2026, the Justice Department released findings alleging that Yale discriminated against white and Asian applicants. The federal inquiry has expanded to include Yale College and Yale Law School.

The Trump administration has settled with Columbia, Cornell, Northwestern, the University of Virginia and the University of North Carolina over investigations into those schools. Yale has made at least two settlement proposals to the Justice Department and negotiations are ongoing, though University President Maurie McInnis has said Yale is not in "talks" or "conversations" with the federal government, but is rather engaged in "clarifications on data."

Yale Law professor Issa Kohler-Hausmann LAW '08 said in a Thursday interview that the Trump administration and the Justice Department's civil rights division under Dhillon have exploited the ambiguity of the Supreme Court's 2023 decision in Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard.

"What the Trump administration has done, incredibly effectively, is coerce private parties into settlement agreements that solidify a particular understanding of an otherwise unsettled and unclear legal rule," Kohler-Hausmann said. "That's worked because most of those private parties have turned out to be much weaker, more cowardly and completely unprincipled than many of us thought they were, from law firms to universities, including our own University."

Kohler-Hausmann said the Trump administration's interpretation of civil rights law has pushed past the court's decision, which permitted applicants to discuss how their racial identity has impacted them. In some settlement agreements, the Trump administration has barred universities from using personal statements or "diversity narratives" that could be used to reference racial identity to "introduce or justify" discrimination.

In April 2025, Dhillon also posted on X that her office was monitoring "the concerning activities at Yale" after Netanel Crispe '25 claimed that during pro-Palestine protests, Jewish students were "once again being blocked from walking around on Yale's campus!" Last September, Dhillon spoke at a Federalist Society event at Yale Law School.

Her resignation comes two days after a midterms bloodbath for Republicans. Dhillon told Fox News that she offered to resign three weeks before the elections but White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles asked her to stay until after the elections.

"We ushered in the downfall of illegal DEI, we fought to protect women and girls' sports, and so much more," Dhillon wrote in a Thursday post on X following her resignation. Her tenure as the top civil rights attorney in the Justice Department saw the resignation of many career civil rights attorneys.

The Department of Justice's civil rights division was created in 1957.

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Yale seeks to sustain momentum

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next two weeks, which should both prove to be challenging road tests. In order for Yale to win the conference and earn the automatic bid to the FCS Playoffs, Dartmouth will need to lose at least one of their final three games, and Yale will need to win out, including beating Princeton and Harvard in the final two weeks of the season.

If Dartmouth loses one game and Yale wins the next three, there would be a three-way tie atop the Ivy League standings with all three teams holding a 5–2 conference record. In this scenario, however, Yale's wins over Dartmouth and Harvard would crown them Ivy League champions for the second consecutive year and punch their ticket to the playoffs.

Previewing Brown

The Bulldogs must still take their season one week at a time. Brown has lost three games total this year, to Rhode Island (5–4, 2–3 CAA), Princeton and Harvard, by a combined 13 points.

Through the first five weeks of the season, the Bears had by far the best defense in the conference. While they went 2–3, the defense allowed only about 13 points per game against a solid slate of teams.

The defense has since allowed 31 and 17 points, respectively, in their two most recent wins, but the Bulldogs should not view this as a sign of Brown slowing down. The Bears' defense still averages over two forced turnovers and two sacks per game.

Led by linebackers Max Malo and Stefano Montella, who have combined for 148 tackles in the first seven games, Brown possesses both a strong secondary and a physical defensive front. Turnover-prone Yale will need to stay aggressive against this defense and prioritize ball security.

Fortunately for the Bulldogs, the Bears are much weaker on the offensive end. Ranking second-to-last in the conference in rushing with an average of just 103 yards per game, Brown has struggled with efficiency throughout the season.

The biggest weapon to look out for is swiss army knife Matt Childs. Primarily a running back, he leads the team in both rushing and receiving this year. Childs has hauled in 447 receiving yards this season, averaging over 11 yards per catch. On the ground, he has accumulated 426 yards, averaging four yards per carry and scoring seven times.

The Bears' teamwide average of 2.9 yards per carry is a sign that it has struggled to run the ball thus far. If the Bulldogs can find a way to contain Childs, its run-stopping defense is sure to feast on Brown's struggling run scheme this weekend.

Turning to the pass game, Brown, like Columbia, is great at eating up yards through the air — though that is not always reflected on the scoreboard. Quarterback James Murphy ranks second in the Ivy League with 256 yards per game passing, but has thrown for only four touchdowns.

On the flip side, Murphy has also thrown a league-leading 10 interceptions this season. After throwing five in his first two games, Murphy has thrown just five picks in the last five contests.

Brown's lack of ball security is something the Bulldogs should look to exploit, as Yale ranks last in interceptions in the conference. With three total picks, half the amount of the next closest team, Yale's ballhawks in the secondary are sure to be keeping a close eye on Murphy's errant throws.

Yale's keys to victory

Yale boasted one of the top passing offenses in the FCS during the first three games of the season, but the Bulldogs' air attack has since disappeared. In his first three starts, quarterback Dante Reno '28 averaged over 350 passing yards per game while throwing only one pick.

In the last three games, however, Reno has averaged 150 yards per game, with five picks, including a very uncharacteristic four-interception game in a loss to Penn. While the double teaming of receivers and a dominant ground game have factored into these results, Reno will need to be smart and efficient through the air against Brown in order to conquer the Bear defense.

Running back Hugo Djeumeni Kemeni '29, who is in his first year as a starter, has exploded onto the scene after learning from Bulldog legend Josh Pitsenberger '26 over the course of the 2025 season. Djeumeni Kemeni has helped Yale preserve its tradition of having the best running back in the Ivy League. His 131 yards per game on the ground rank fourth in the country and put him 50 yards per game clear of the next closest Ivy League running back.

While Brown may prove to be the best rushing defense Djeumeni Kemeni faces all season, if he can continue to perform the way he has been, the Bulldogs should quickly wear down the Brown defensive interior.

The final key to the game will be controlling the turnover battle. Brown is one of the best teams in the conference at forcing turnovers, and in conditions that are forecast to be quite windy on Saturday, field position will be of the utmost importance.

The Bulldogs will need to be clean with the ball both on the ground and through the air. If Yale can swing the turnover margin in its favor, the momentum should help them take control of the game.

Yale will kick off against the Bears at noon on Saturday at the Yale Bowl, and the game will be streamed on ESPN+.

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Liza Kaufman / Photography Editor
This Saturday, Team 153 is set to play the Brown Bears at the Yale Bowl in its second-to-last home game of the regular season. The game comes a week after the Bulldogs trounced Columbia, breaking a two-game losing streak.

Democrats win both of city's contested state elections

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last campaign," Lamont said in a speech after Fazio conceded, praising his opponent for centering "the issues" during his campaign.

As governor, Lamont, along with Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz '83, will continue to serve as an ex officio trustee of Yale. Lamont, who called Yale a "gem" in an April interview, has said he would likely not support new taxes on the University, even if it settles with the Trump administration over the federal government's investigation into the University's admissions practices.

Fazio had proposed taxes on Yale's property, capital gains and dividends as part of a larger tax reform agenda.

This third term puts Lamont on track to become Connecticut's longest-serving governor since it achieved statehood in 1788.

In his victory speech, Lamont contrasted Connecticut's fiscal position to that of the nation under Trump.

"Unlike what you see going on in Trump's Washington, we have balanced eight budgets in a row," he said.

Fazio called Lamont Tuesday night to concede the election, both Lamont and Fazio said in speeches on election night.

In his concession speech, Fazio called the night "historically difficult" for Republicans across the country.

"If the governor succeeds in reducing the cost of government and bringing opportunity to Connecticut, we'll all benefit," he said. "So we're hoping for him and giving him goodwill."

DeLauro, who was first elected to Congress in 1990, will serve a 19th term in the United States House of Representatives. She defeated Republican Christopher Lancia and independent Thomas Egan.

DeLauro, a ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee, is poised to become chair of the committee as Democrats retake the chamber. She previously chaired the Appropriations Committee, which reviews government expenditures, from 2021 to 2023.

In her Tuesday night speech, DeLauro alluded to that role, announcing that she would "restore the power of the purse to the Congress." That declaration was met with raucous applause.

"Hard-working people are being squeezed by a cost of living crisis," DeLauro said, suggesting that President Donald Trump was responsible for that crisis.

Democrats swept state-level seats, including races for state attorney general, secretary of state, comptroller and treasurer. Former Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin '01 LAW '06, who defeated 14-term incumbent Rep. John Larson in an August primary, won the seat representing Connecticut's 1st House district in Congress.

Democrats also routed their opponents in New Haven's two contested races for the state legislature.

In May, State Senate Pro Tempore Martin Looney announced that he would step down from his longtime role representing New Haven and Hamden. Paolillo, currently a state representative, won the race to replace him with 15,034 votes across both towns. His opponent, Worker's Voice Party candidate Rosa Pepper-Macias, received 1,633 votes.

Bermúdez won a race to replace Paolillo as the representative for eastern New Haven's District 97. Bermúdez, who also won an August primary against Ward 18 Alder Leland Moore, received 3,253 votes on Tuesday. Her opponent, Republican Anthony Acri, received 1,071.

In a September phone interview with the News, Bermúdez said the cost of living was a major priority for her, pointing particularly to the cost of utilities.

Bermúdez hosted family, friends and constituents at her house on Tuesday, where they celebrated as the votes were tallied.

"This is a great day. It's a wonderful showing of community coming together," she said at that event.

In a Tuesday evening interview before the polls closed, Acri said the "party-oriented" political environment had caused difficulty for him as a Republican candidate.

Voters are holding local Republicans responsible for national and international grievances, Acri said.

"I have nothing to do with Iran," he said. "I live in New Haven."

Connecticut has not elected a Republican governor since 2006, and it has sent only Democrats to Congress since 2013.

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