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"The team is really excited to play Harvard again. It's a privilege to represent Yale in the Ivy League Tournament's talented field."
LIZA SEMENENKO '29 FIELD HOCKEY

Bulldogs aim for redemption against Harvard in Ivy League tournament

FIELD HOCKEY

BY VINCENT HUANG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER



LIZA KAUFMAN/ PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Less than a week after an overtime loss to Harvard in the last game of the regular season, the Bulldogs are returning to Cambridge hungry for revenge. Yale will be the tournament's fourth seed in a field also comprising Cornell and Princeton.

The No. 19 Yale Bulldogs (12–3, 4–3 Ivy) will return north to seek revenge against the No. 4 Harvard (15–1, 7–0 Ivy) in the Ivy League Tournament Semifinal, only six days after the Crimson emerged victorious in a regular season matchup.

It is a striking déjà vu for both teams, who faced off in Cambridge last Saturday in a game that saw the Bulldogs score first — to earn their first lead in a Yale-Harvard matchup since 2017 — before ultimately falling short in overtime for their 13th rivalry loss in 14 years. Now, with a bid to the Ivy League championship game on the line, Yale will aim for redemption.

"The team is really excited to play Harvard again," sophomore Liza Semenenko '29 wrote in an email to the News. "It's a privilege to represent Yale in the Ivy League Tournament's talented field.

Although Yale fell to Harvard last weekend, the Bulldogs were able to generate nine shots, the most by any Harvard opponent since No. 9 Princeton (12–4, 6–1 Ivy), and put six of them on target, equalling Princeton and Monmouth (10–6, 5–1 CAA) for the most against the Crimson this season.

On Friday, Yale will be hoping to convert more of those shots into goals — and to prevent Harvard from making it 14 victories in 14 years.

Yale will be the fourth team in the 2026 Ivy League Field Hockey Tournament, which will feature Harvard, Princeton and Cornell (7–9, 4–3 Ivy). The Bulldogs and Crimson will kick off the Harvard-hosted tournament at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, before the Tigers and Big Red take the field at 2:30 p.m. for the second semifinal.

Should Yale upset Harvard, the championship game will be set for Sunday at noon.

Yale's qualification to the 2026 edition of the Ivy tournament marks the program's second-consecutive berth to the four-team conference postseason, following its first-ever appearance in 2025.

However, the pressure on Yale may be even greater this season. The Bulldogs bowed out of the 2025 tournament following a 3-0 semifinal rout by Princeton but were ultimately able to qualify for the 18-team NCAA Division I postseason as an at-large team.

This season, it is likely that the Bulldogs' only way into that playoff field will be through securing the tournament winner's automatic bid. At the end of last year's regular season, Yale sat at No. 16 in the NFHCA poll, well within the top 18 — but this season's Bulldogs are ranked at No. 19, just outside of that critical cut line.

"Our team is really trying to get ourselves in the best place possible for the upcoming NCAA selection show and that comes from doing well in the Ivy Tournament," Semenenko wrote.

Yale's spirits will be boosted with the newly announced all-Ivy selections of seven Bulldog players. Victoria Collee '28 and Chiara Picciafuoco '28 were both named first-team, while Kaitlyn Chang '28, Emma Ramsey '27 and Amelie Schwarzkopf '29 received second-team honors. Issy Baileff '28 and captain Hettie Whittington '27 additionally received honorable mentions.

Yale will play its Ivy League Tournament Semifinal game against Harvard on Friday at 11:30 a.m. at the Berylson Family Field Hockey Field in Cambridge. Should they advance to the tournament championship game, the Bulldogs will play the winner of the Princeton/Cornell game on Sunday at noon.

All tournament games will be streamed on ESPN+.

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Bulldogs to face Cornell, Columbia in last road trip of regular season



TANNER BATTLE / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

On Friday, the Elis will attempt to retake their Ivy League top spot from the Cornell Big Red in Ithaca before heading to the Big Apple on Saturday to take on the seventh-ranked Columbia Lions. Yale is coming off a loss to the Crimson last weekend.

VOLLEYBALL

BY TANNER BATTLE
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale volleyball team (14–4, 8–2 Ivy) is heading to the Empire State for their final road trip of the regular season to take on the Cornell Big Red (13–6, 9–1 Ivy) on Friday and the Columbia Lions (8–11, 2–8 Ivy) on Saturday.

After a devastating loss to Harvard in Cambridge last weekend, which ended the Bulldogs' seven-game win streak, Cornell overtook Yale for the top spot in the Ivy League, pushing Yale to second. The Bulldogs, who handed the Big Red their only loss in the Ivy League last month, will look to retake the crown this weekend in Ithaca.

Although Yale has been successful in Ivy League play, with its only two losses to Harvard (16–3, 7–3 Ivy), the Bulldogs will have their work cut out for them on the road against the Big Red, who will be looking to redeem themselves.

The Elis will need Laurece Abraham '27 and Ava Poinsett '29 to carry the offense with kills and Arya Jue '27 to hold it down on the defensive end.

While Yale is coming off a loss to the Crimson, the Elis will look to regain the momentum they were riding in their seven-game win streak.

After Yale faces Cornell, the team will travel to New York City to play Columbia.

The Bulldogs swept the Lions at home in their first matchup of the season, and with Columbia's subpar conference record of only two Ivy wins, Saturday's game is expected to be easier.

However, the Lions will enter on the heels of a win, having swept Princeton (8–10, 6–4 Ivy) on Halloween, and are unlikely to go down without a fight on their home court.

Despite Columbia's momentum, the Bulldogs are seeking to pull off a second sweep of the Lions, even without home-court advantage.

Yale will play Cornell in Ithaca at 6 p.m. this Friday and Columbia in New York at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

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STAT OF THE DAY

THE FIELD HOCKEY TEAM GENERATED NINE SHOTS AGAINST HARVARD.