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"Our mentality doesn't change. We're confident in our identity and believe we can beat anybody on any given day."

ANDREW MYERSON '27 MEN'S SOCCER

Bulldogs to take on Bears in regular season finale with playoff stakes

MEN'S SOCCER

BY ELI RATNER
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's soccer team (4–6–4, 2–1–3 Ivy League) will head to Providence to take on the Brown Bears (7–5–3, 2–3–1 Ivy) on Saturday, for the final game of the regular season.

Following a slow start, the Bulldogs have gone undefeated in their last five games. With an exciting 3-2 victory over Harvard (4–7–3, 2–3–1 Ivy) over alumni weekend and a clean sheet 1-0 victory in New York against Columbia (5–4–5, 0–3–3 Ivy), as well as a critical 1-1 draw against Cornell (10–3–1, 5–0–1 Ivy) — which snapped the regular season champions' perfect conference record — the Bulldogs are tied with Penn (6–3–5, 2–1–3 Ivy) for second in the conference.

Going into the final weekend of the regular season, Cornell is the only one team to have punched its ticket to the playoffs, and Columbia is the only team that has been eliminated, leaving the remaining six teams in contention for a postseason berth.

"Our mentality doesn't change. We're confident in our identity and believe we can beat anybody on any given day," star defender Andrew Myerson '27 wrote in an email to the News, referring to Saturday's game. "We're treating Brown like a quarterfinal. We're going there to win, keep building on the momentum we've created, and earn our spot in the Ivy League Tournament."

While Yale and Penn are tied at nine points, Princeton (7–4–4, 2–3–1 Ivy), Brown, Dartmouth (4–6–4, 2–3–1) and Harvard are in a four-way tie for third with seven points each.

The conference championship tournament, which has left six teams competing for three spots in the season's final weekend, began in 2026. In the tournament's inaugural year, No. 3 seed Yale crushed No. 2 seed Harvard 4-0 in the semifinals en route to a 2-1 upset victory over top seed Brown in the championship game.

After becoming Ivy League tournament champions, the 2023 Bulldogs defeated Bryant 1-0 in the first round of the NCAA tournament before falling to Hofstra 0-2 in the second round.

Yale men's soccer alumnus Fred Cantor '75 said he believes the new playoff style, in which the top four teams compete for an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, is good for the Ivy League.

"How I wish that type of setup existed back in the day," Cantor wrote in an email to the News. "In essence, thanks to the implementation of the Ivy League Soccer Tournament, the entire regular season combined with the tournament itself have become a version of England's storied FA Cup, where even the lesser teams have a chance to reach the pinnacle. And the fact that six teams will be competing for Ivy tournament berths on the final day of the season demonstrates what a great success this format is."

Before adopting the tournament structure in 2023, the path to the NCAA tournament proved much more difficult, requiring great feats to earn a postseason berth.



ALYSSA CHANG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Yale men's soccer team will head to Providence on Saturday to take on the Brown Bears for its last regular season game. Six Ivy League teams are jostling for three remaining postseason spots, and Yale is tied for second in the conference.

"In 1973 our varsity squad became the first Yale team to be selected for the NCAA men's soccer tournament (which began in 1959)—but that was based on our regular-season performances," he wrote. "We proceeded to upset the #1 regional seed in the first round before losing in double-overtime in the New England Regional Championship match."

With the four-team tournament system in place now, the Bulldogs are eyeing a return to not only the Ivy League tournament, but also the NCAA tournament. The team last competed in both competitions when the current seniors were first years.

A win on Saturday against Brown will guarantee the Bulldogs a place in the Ivy League Tournament, whereas a draw or loss will leave their future at the hands of the rest of the conference.

With the 1-1 draw last weekend against then-No. 11 Cornell, the Bulldogs are playing some of their best soccer of the season and will look to stay hot as they seek a return to the conference tournament.

"I wouldn't say the draw has changed our mentality. We knew heading into these last 2 games that we needed to get results," goalkeeper Josh Linebaugh '29 wrote in an email to the News. "Ultimately, we are looking at the final league game against Brown as a tournament game."

Kickoff will be at 1 p.m. at Stevenson-Pincince Field in Providence, and the game will be broadcast on ESPN+.

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Bulldogs to kick off home campaign in games against Dartmouth, Harvard

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

BY VINCENT HUANG AND ALI YARALI
CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS

The No. 11 Yale Bulldogs (2–1–1, 1–1–0 ECAC) are headed home to Ingalls Rink after their season-opening odyssey.

The Bulldogs have so far survived four road games, including an upset victory over No. 6 Quinnipiac University (9–2–1, 3–1–0 ECAC) and a close defeat versus No. 5 Princeton (6–0–0, 4–0–0 ECAC). The Bulldogs are currently 11th in the USCHO poll, fifth in the Eastern College Athletic Conference and third in the Ivy League. In the NCAA's head-to-head wins-based Power Index ranking, Yale ranks ninth nationally, third in the ECAC and second in the Ivy League. The Bulldogs are tied for 13th nationally in scoring defense and tied for 26th in scoring offense.

Yale will begin their 2026 home campaign with matchups against Dartmouth (2–3–1, 0–2–0 ECAC) on Friday and Harvard (3–3–0, 0–2–0 ECAC) on Saturday. In comparison to last weekend's ranked crucible, the Bulldogs' home opener may seem relatively easy. Their two opponents sit 38th and 29th in the NCAA Power Index ranking, respectively.

"It is always one of our tougher games playing against Harvard," Cami Bell '28 wrote in an email to the News. "It is just a competitive atmosphere and it will be our alumni game which is always so much fun. We definitely need a couple big wins this weekend!"

At the individual level, a number of Yale players have had strong statistical starts to their seasons. Bell ranks 13th in the nation for goals per game at 0.75, and the collegiate career of goalkeeper Emeline Grennan '30 is off to a flying start as she sits just outside of the national top 20 in goals against average.

Against Dartmouth, the Bulldogs are looking for their 18th straight victory in the head-to-head series, having last lost to the Big Green in November 2017.

Yale has also been dominant against their northern rivals in recent memory. The Bulldogs have won eight of their last 10 matchups against the Crimson, a stretch highlighted by a spectacular 10-1 dismantling of Harvard in February 2023.

"This weekend definitely carries a special weight," Sophia Levering '28 wrote in an email to the News. "Playing in a Harvard/Yale game is an amazing opportunity to be a part of such a rich historic rivalry. Our team has lost the fall game (and ultimately split the season series with wins in the spring) against Harvard for the last two years and is extra motivated to break that streak."

Yale's season will continue on Friday at 6 p.m. as they take on the Big Green at Ingalls Rink. They will then play the second game of their weekend against the Crimson on Saturday at 3 p.m.



YALE ATHLETICS

After a road weekend headlined by their dramatic upset victory over Quinnipiac University, Yale women's ice hockey will return to Ingalls Rink to open their home campaign. They will face the Big Green on Friday and the Crimson on Saturday.

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STAT OF THE DAY

WOMEN'S HOCKEY HAS BEATEN DARTMOUTH 17 TIMES IN A ROW.