Yale Daily News

NFL
PATRIOTS 28
Buccaneers 23

NFL
BEARS 24
Giants 20

NBA
MAGIC 124
Knicks 107

NBA
CELTICS 131
Grizzlies 95

SPORTS

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"It's about keeping that up and making sure we stick together as a group no matter what happens in the game."

MICAH BERGER, MEN'S HOCKEY

FOOTBALL: Bulldogs traveling to Princeton for penultimate regular game

BY BRODY GILKISON
STAFF REPORTER

Team 152 (6–2, 4–1 Ivy) will be heading down to New Jersey this weekend to take on Princeton (3–5, 2–3) in its penultimate game of the regular season.

The Bulldogs enter the matchup blazing hot after four consecutive victories, while the Tigers have dropped three games in a row, the last two both being three-point losses.

Every game down the stretch is important for the Bulldogs' Ivy League championship and Football Championship Subdivision playoff hopes. After Penn's (5–3, 3–2 Ivy) loss to Cornell (4–4, 3–2 Ivy) last weekend, Yale now sits alone in second place in the Ivy standings, trailing only No. 7-ranked Harvard (8–0, 5–0 Ivy), which has been undefeated this season.

With a win against Princeton this weekend, next week's showdown between the Bulldogs and Crimson would become the de facto conference championship game.

Taking a look at Princeton

At first glance, it is easy to overlook the Tigers based solely on their record. While they are 3–5 on the year, there are several games to take note of on their schedule. In their second game of the year, they beat Lafayette (7–3, 5–0 Patriot) 38–28, a team that is in first place in the Patriot League this season. Additionally, they dropped a game earlier in the season to a very good Mercer (8–1, 7–0 SoCon) team, which is currently in first place in the Southern Conference.

Princeton played a challenging non-conference slate, and if not for a comeback win by Cornell and a close three-point loss to Dartmouth (6–2, 3–2 Ivy), the Tigers' record could look dramatically different.

"Our league has a lot of parity, we have played eight teams, and six of them have been ranked or receiving votes and two are in the top 10," Princeton head coach Bob Surace said to a local Princeton newspaper. "Five of the games were more than winnable. But being close, the margins are really thin. We just have to continue to tighten up on some of the errors we are making, whether it is me, whether it is players. It just needs to come together."

As far as skill positions go, Princeton hasn't quite found its "go-to" guy this season. Taking the majority of the snaps at quarterback is Kai Colón, who averages 191 yards per game through the air, and he has thrown for nine touchdowns and five interceptions thus far. Colón ranks second-worst in the Ivy league this year among qualified passers, with a 129.2 passer rating.

On the ground, the Tigers are also searching for an answer. Princeton has used a committee of backs this year, averaging 120 yards per game and notching 15 touchdowns running the ball in their 2025 campaign. On the other side of the ball, the Tigers have been getting outrushed by nearly 40 yards per game by their opponents and have surrendered 4.5 yards per carry with 18 touchdowns allowed.

How the Bulldogs can win

Taking into account Princeton's rush defense vulnerabilities, Josh Pitsenberger '26 could build upon his career day from Yale's last game by continuing to attack the opposition on the ground. With the improved chemistry of Yale's offensive line leading to gaping holes at the line of scrimmage, Pitsenberger hasn't been the only Yale running back racking up yards for the offense this season. Senior back Billy Daal '26 has also accumulated over 300 yards on the ground while averaging an astonishing 5.9 yards per carry. Using the two backs together, the Bulldogs could be able to overpower Princeton's run defense and take control of the ground game early on.

"Every year, we face adversity in the form of injuries, this year being no different," center Leo Bluhm '26 said in an interview. "I credit our success in the run game to our programmatic standards that prepare us for sudden changes."

While Yale's ground game has been the focal point of its offense all season, the Bulldogs' air attack has also been above average.



Liza Kaufman, Photography Editor
The football team is heading to Princeton this weekend in their final regular season matchup before The Game.

Quarterback Dante Reno '28 has exceeded expectations in his first year with the team, ranking as the second-best signal caller in the league with a 148.9 passer rating, trailing only Harvard's Jaden Craig. Reno has thrown for just over 200 yards per game at a 66.2 completion rate, as well as tossing 14 touchdowns and a league-best four interceptions.

Part of Reno's success has been due to the breakout season of wideout Nico Brown '26. Brown, who was injured all of last season, has hauled in 687 receiving yards and is tied for a league-high nine touchdowns. Brown has had a co-star this season in Jaxton Santiago '28, who is also having the best year of his Yale career. Santiago has 480 receiving yards and four touchdowns of his own thus far in 2025. Against the second-worst passing defense in the league, look for Reno and company to air the ball out against the Tigers this weekend.

On paper, Princeton does not seem too tall a task for the Bulldogs to handle, but there are no easy wins in the Ivy League, particularly in the season's final weeks. Yale will need to play a clean, well-executed game before moving on to next week's opponent.

Kickoff is slated for noon on Saturday.

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WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY: Yale to host Harvard and Dartmouth

BY AUDREY KIM
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale women's ice hockey team (5–2, 2–2 ECAC) will return to Ingalls Rink on Friday to drop the puck against their longtime rivals, the Harvard Crimson (4–3–1, 2–3–1 ECAC), before taking on the Dartmouth Big Green (2–5–1, 2–3–1 ECAC) on Saturday.

"Coming back from our off-weekend last weekend, the team is definitely excited and prepared to play for some league points that are up for grabs," forward Gracie Gilkyson '26 wrote to the News.

The Bulldogs have played their last three games on the road, with a loss to Cornell (7–0, 4–0 ECAC) and wins over Colgate (5–6–1, 1–2–1 ECAC) and Saint Anselm (7–6, 7–1 NEWHA).

Both Harvard and Dartmouth play in the ECAC with Yale, which means that coming away from this weekend with a pair of wins would dramatically boost the Bulldogs' conference ranking.

"Getting points in this conference is always a challenge as anyone can win on any given night," Gilkyson said. "The standings are usually pretty tight so getting wins when you can is so important, especially considering there are Ivy league points on the table."

Currently, Dartmouth and Harvard both sit ahead of Yale on the ECAC leaderboard. However, both teams have two games in hand on the Bulldogs.

In the latest USA Hockey/USCHO Women's Hockey Poll, Yale rose from a national rank of 13 to ten, marking the team's fourth week of being ranked in the top 15.

While Harvard and Dartmouth are both unranked in the USA Hockey Poll, both teams each have two wins in the ECAC this season, a competitive conference with six of its 12 teams currently ranked the top 15 in the nation.

"Both our opponents this weekend are tough and play a gritty game. The traditional Yale vs. Harvard rivalry is always something we look forward to as a team as the competition level seems to ramp up a little more," Gilkyson wrote.

In program history, the Elis have faced off against the Crimson 55 times, and in those matchups Yale has recorded 15 wins, 35 losses and five ties.

This season, the Bulldogs have shown that they can perform under pressure and are capable of rising to the occasion when taking on a tough opponent. So far, they've clinched two impressive overtime wins against Princeton (4–4, 4–2–1 ECAC) and Colgate (5–6–1, 1–2–1 ECAC).

Yale is currently on a two-win streak and has only fallen to two teams this season, No. 7 ranked Quinnipiac (12–1–1, 4–1–1 ECAC) and No. 4 ranked Cornell, in a game in which the Bulldogs outshot the Big Red 39-21.

"We've had a great 2 weeks of practice, with a strong focus on 5v5 team play," Gilkyson wrote. "The off-weekend allowed us to sharpen up some of our details and now we're just eager to play some ECAC games again."



Yale Athletics
This weekend, the Bulldogs will play two Ivy League opponents at Ingalls Rink, looking to rack up important conference wins.

Yale will face off against Harvard this Friday at 6:30 p.m. at The Whale.

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MEN'S HOCKEY: Bulldogs to face Colgate, Cornell in New York

BY LIZA KAUFMAN
STAFF REPORTER

The men's hockey team (2–1–0, 2–0–0 ECAC) will head to New York for a weekend of ECAC matchups against Colgate (2–7–1, 0–2–0 ECAC) on Friday and Cornell (2–2–0, 1–1–0 ECAC) on Saturday.

"We're working hard everyday to just keep getting better. Iron sharpens iron, so it is great when we practice hard, everyone gets better," forward Micah Berger '28 wrote in a text message. "Coach always says win today, so it's just about that."

Yale will face Colgate at 7:30 p.m. on Friday in Hamilton, N.Y., before taking on Cornell at 7 p.m. Saturday in Ithaca. Last November when the Bulldogs hit the road to play the two schools, Yale walked away with a weekend sweep. The Elis will now seek to replicate last year's strong success.

Yale enters the weekend after two major upsets at Ingalls Rink, defeating then-No. 5 Quinnipiac (6–3–2, 1–1–0 ECAC) 4–2 last and Princeton (2–2–0, 0–2–0 ECAC) 2–1 last weekend. The Elis' victory over the Bobcats snapped Quinnipiac's seven-year win streak over Yale, earning the Bulldogs first victory in the War on Whitney since 2018. The Bulldogs then rode the momentum from Friday night into Saturday night against Princeton. Zach Wagnon '28 netted the overtime winner, securing the Bulldogs' first triumph over the Tigers since 2023.

Following the team's weekend sweep, goalie Noah Pak '28 was named ECAC goalie of the week after leading Yale to victories. He blocked 41 shots and allowed just 1.49 goals per game, posting a 93.2 save percentage.

After strong performances from offense, defense and special teams, the Elis will seek to build on last weekend's victories and add two more tallies to their win column against Colgate and Cornell, two schools with strong hockey programs.

"I think it's just about turning the page and getting right back to work," Berger wrote. "The weekend was awesome, but it's so early and we go one game at a time."

Colgate will enter Friday night's game on a five game losing streak. The Raiders started off the season with two games at No. 3 Boston University (5–5–1, 3–3–0 Hockey East), falling 2-6 in the first game and tying the second 2-2 before losing in the shootout. Colgate then lost to Canisius (5–4–1, 1–2–1 AHA) in the Raiders' home opener before picking up a 5-3 win the second night of the homestand. The Raiders kept up the momentum as they beat No. 10 University of Maine (6–3–1, 3–1–0 Hockey East) 3-2, but then fell 2-3 in overtime the next night. This loss started Colgate's five game losing streak, as they dropped games to RIT (7–2–0, 4–2–0 AHA) 1-3 and 1-4, Dartmouth (4–0–0, 2–0–0 ECAC) 1-4 and Harvard (2–1–1, 1–1–0 ECAC) 5-6.

Sophomore forwards Jack Brandt and Max Nagel are the Raiders' top scorers, each tallying five goals, while Brandt, Isaiah Norlin, Ryan Sullivan, Michael Neumeier and Daniel Panetta have each notched five assists. The Raiders' goaltender Reid Dyck has an 87.0 save percentage, having given up 21 goals so far this season.

After Colgate, the Bulldogs will play at the home of the defending ECAC Champions, the Big Red, currently ranked No. 20 by USCHO.com.

Last season, Cornell defeated Yale 5-1 in the opening round of the 2025 ECAC tournament, then downed Colgate 4-1 and 3-0 in the quarterfinals, beat No. 12 Quinnipiac 3-2 in overtime in the semifinals, to finally triumph 3-1 over No. 18 Clarkson in the Championship Game. Following the team's ECAC title run, Cornell earned a berth to the NCAA Tournament, and the Big Red beat No. 1 Michigan State 4-3 before falling to No. 8 Boston University 2-3 in overtime in the regional final.

This season, the Big Red are 2-2. Cornell opened its season with a 1-2 loss and a 3-1 victory at No. 13 UMass (7–4–0, 1–2–0 Hockey East) and then defeated Harvard 3-1 before falling to Dartmouth 1-2 last weekend. The Big Red will play Brown (1–3–0, 1–1–0 ECAC) on Friday night before facing off against Yale on Saturday.

On the Big Red's roster, two first-years have already made their names known. Forward Giovanni DiGiulian has been an asset to Cornell's offense, scoring three of Cornell's eight goals this season. In the net, first-year goalkeeper Alexis Cournoyer has been a steady presence between the posts, with 87 saves and a 95.6 save percentage.

For Berger, the key to Yale victories this weekend is staying calm under pressure and cleanly executing plays.

"For us it's about keeping that up and making sure we stick together as a group no matter what happens in the game. Playing to our identity and playing our style of hockey," Berger wrote. "No changes, business as usual. It's about us."

The men's hockey team has 29 players on its roster.

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STAT OF THE WEEK

YALE QUARTERBACK DANTE RENO HAS THROWN FOR JUST OVER 200 YARDS PER GAME AT A 66.2 COMPLETION RATE, AS WELL AS TOSSING 14 TOUCHDOWNS AND A LEAGUE-BEST FOUR INTERCEPTIONS.