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"We played with a lot more confidence and energy, and I think that made a big difference."
RONAN O'DONNELL '28 MEN'S HOCKEY

After bitter loss to Colgate, Bulldogs bounce back to upset Cornell

MEN'S HOCKEY

BY LUCY BENJAMIN
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER



LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Yale rallied at The Whale to defeat No. 16 Cornell on Saturday night despite a five-goal loss to Colgate the previous night. The Saturday victory snapped a 13-game losing streak against the Big Red for Yale's first victory against them since 2019.

Just 24 hours after suffering a five-goal defeat to Colgate University (3–9–0, 2–2–0 ECAC), Yale men's hockey (3–2–0, 3–2–0 ECAC) returned to The Whale on Saturday night with something to prove.

The Bulldogs delivered a statement 3-1 victory over No. 16 Cornell (2–4–0, 1–3–0 ECAC), overcoming an early deficit to secure their first win against the Big Red since February 2019. The upset ended a 13-game winless streak against Cornell and marked Yale's first victory over a nationally ranked opponent this season.

"I thought we did a good job keeping our heads level this weekend," forward Ronan O'Donnell '28 wrote in a text message to the News. "We had a tough Friday night, but I don't think the score reflected our game overall. I think we did a good job putting that loss behind us and coming into Saturday with a fresh mindset."

Saturday's victory was especially significant given that Colgate defeated Yale 6-1 at home the day before.

In that game, the Raiders scored three unanswered goals in the opening period and extended their lead to four in the second period. Forward Kyle O'Leary '30 scored Yale's lone goal on a third-period power play, continuing his scoring streak to four games, before Colgate responded with two additional goals. Despite the lopsided result, the Bulldogs remained determined to turn things around against a considerably higher-ranked opponent.

"Friday night we got away from our identity but we kept it positive going into Saturday," O'Leary wrote in a text message to the News.

After suffering a 1-3 loss to Brown (2–3–0, 2–3–0 ECAC) in Providence on Friday night, Cornell also arrived at The Whale looking to pull out the win.

The Big Red initially appeared poised to continue Yale's difficult weekend, controlling possession early and outshooting the Bulldogs 13-5 in the opening period. Sophomore forward Caton Ryan opened the scoring seven minutes into the first period, shooting past goaltender Jack Stark '27 for an early lead.

But with just over a minute remaining in the first period, the Bulldogs capitalized on a power play. O'Leary and Donovan Frias '28 got the puck into the hands of O'Donnell, who put it home to tie the score.

The second period remained scoreless, as Stark made nine saves to his counterpart Mathis Rousseau's eight to keep the game tied heading into the final period.

Just under four minutes into the third period, O'Leary did what he does best and delivered the decisive moment. Assisted by Michah Berger '28 and Frias, O'Leary potted the game-winning goal to put Yale up 2-1. With the goal, O'Leary extended his scoring streak to five consecutive games.

With a minute and 28 seconds remaining, Cornell removed its goalie to add an extra player to the ice in hopes of knotting the game. However, the Bulldog defense squashed any remaining hope the Big Red had when Iisai Pesonen '29 fired an empty-netter from the defensive zone to seal the victory.

Stark finished the game with 24 saves, and Yale successfully killed all three Cornell power plays. Cornell returned to Ithaca behind two losses to Ivy rivals Brown and Yale.

"We played with a lot more confidence and energy, and I think that made a big difference," O'Donnell wrote. "It felt great to bounce back and get a big Ivy League win against Cornell. Hopefully we can build off that momentum moving forward."

The Bulldogs will begin a six-game road stretch next weekend, travelling to face Union College (6–5–0, 2–2–0 ECAC) on Friday before taking on Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (4–7–1, 0–3–1 ECAC) on Saturday. Both games will take place at 7 p.m.

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Bulldogs close out historic season with second-ever NCAA appearance

FIELD HOCKEY

BY VINCENT HUANG
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The No. 11 Bulldogs (14–4, 4–3 Ivy) closed out their winningest season since the turn of the century in their NCAA first round match last Friday.

Yale's wait for a first-ever NCAA postseason victory will have to continue for another year, as the Bulldogs fell 1-0 to the No. 6 University of Massachusetts Minutewomen (19–2, 9–0 MAC) in the first round of the 2026 NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship.

Going into Friday night's playoff first round, the Bulldogs were coming off an extraordinary Ivy League Tournament, in which they delivered a miraculous pair of upset victories over one and two seeds Harvard and Princeton en route to a maiden tournament championship. The Minutewomen, on the other hand, had fallen just short in the MAC conference championship game and entered the NCAA postseason as an at-large selection.

Nonetheless, the Minutewomen team that lined up against Yale was formidable, having led the nation in scoring average, goals-against average, scoring margin, points per game and assists per game, while never losing in regulation all year.

The University of Massachusetts' potent goal-scoring was successfully stifled by Yale's defense on Friday. Led by captain Hettie Whittington '27 in what was the final game of her college career, they held the nation-leading Minutewomen offense to merely one goal. In her first match since winning the Ivy League Tournament's Most Outstanding Player award, keeper Amelie Schwarzkopf '29 turned in 11 saves.

But the Minutewomen also forced the first shutout of the Bulldogs season, despite Yale holding an advantage in both shots and shots on goal.

Walking off a collegiate field for the last time were the three players of Yale's decorated senior class — Whittington, Emma Ramsey '27 and Tabs Collier '27, who despite the loss have successfully led the Bulldogs to their winningest season in modern program history.

Of Yale's two Ivy League counterparts in the NCAA postseason, only the No. 3 Harvard Crimson (17–2, 7–0 Ivy) remain alive, as they prepare to play No. 2 University of Maryland (18–2, 7–1 B1G) in Friday's NCAA semifinal. The No. 5 Princeton Tigers (14–6, 6–1) Ivy suffered a shootout loss in the quarterfinal round to No. 4 University of Connecticut.

In their last three seasons, Yale field hockey has won 10, 12 and 14 games, respectively, while hoisting a first-ever Ivy League Tournament trophy and making two consecutive NCAA postseasons.



LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Yale field hockey lost 1-0 to the University of Massachusetts in the opening round of the NCAA postseason on Friday. Their defeat ended a historic campaign for the Bulldogs, which saw the team win its first Ivy League Tournament title.

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STAT OF THE DAY

THE YALE FIELD HOCKEY TEAM ENDED THEIR SEASON 14-4, 4-3 IVY.