SPORTS

"Although our intellect always longs for clarity and certainty, our nature often finds uncertainty fascinating."
CARL VON CLAUSEWIT PRUSSIAN GENERAL

Bulldogs break a school record and win 11 events at home

TRACK & FIELD

BY INEZ CHUIDIAN
STAFF REPORTER

While some may break hearts on Valentine's Day, the Bulldogs broke times and records. This weekend marked the final week of the regular season for the men's and women's Yale track and field teams, as they prepare for the upcoming Ivy championships in two weeks.

On Friday, a handful of athletes traveled to Boston for the David Hemery Valentine Invitational. The rest of the team remained in New Haven in preparation for the Giegengack Invitational that Yale would host the following day.

In Boston, junior Finnegan Quinn '27 placed seventh with a personal best in the 400-meter race, while Gloria Guerrier '27 took home fourth in the same event with a time of 54.35 seconds.

Saturday's meet at home in Coxe Cage delivered great results for the refreshed Bulldogs.

Junior Lucija Grd '27, the school record holder for the 60-meter hurdles, once again broke her own record in the event. After setting a record of 8.35 seconds at the Penn Invitational in January, she beat it by 0.06 seconds on Saturday.

"I knew I was capable of the result and practice has been going well," Grd wrote in a text message to the News, adding that every race is an "opportunity to learn even more and hopefully run even better results. I am even more happy to see many people do really well on the team and I am really excited for Ivy Championships in two weeks!"

Building off of the momentum of Grd's record-shattering performance, Yale went on to capture 11 event titles overall. On the track, the men claimed first-place finishes in the 60-meter, 800-meter, 1000-meter and mile races, while the women topped the field in the 60-meter hurdles and 200-meter dash.

"It's always a great feeling spinning your legs on the oval," Amaré Fields '27, who came second in the 1000-meter race on Saturday, wrote to the News. "This weekend was just another mark to keep pushing the needle forward."

Fields took home fourth place last weekend at the ECAC Championships, where he was just 1.01 seconds away from the top finisher. He stressed the importance of the team's pursuit of continual improvement.

In the field events, the Bulldogs swept the weight throw in both the men's and women's divisions. Sophomore Anna Siciliano '28 secured the women's shot put victory, while Layni Kaase '29 won the women's high jump and Orion Browne '28 won the men's triple jump.

On the heels of this dominant performance, hopes are high for Yale's championship season.

The team will next compete at the Ivy League Heptagonal Indoor Track and Field Championships on Feb. 28. The meet will be at the Armory Track and Field Center in New York City.



YALE ATHLETICS
Members of the track and field team competed at the David Hemery Valentine Invitational on Friday.

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After Bulldogs extend win streak to seven with victory over St. John's


YALE ATHLETICS
The Bulldogs defeated St John's on Saturday to extend their dominant hot streak to seven.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

BY BRODY GILKISON
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale women's tennis team (8–1, 3–0 Ivy) traveled to St. John's over the weekend to take on the Red Storm in their lone match of the weekend.

Just a week removed from the team's victory at the ECAC Championships, the Bulldogs came into Saturday firing on all cylinders with a scorching hot six-game win streak. Yale immediately got off to a strong start, winning two of three doubles matches to put the first point of the day on the board.

In singles, Leena Friedman '29 got the scoring started after blanking her opponent. Captain Erin Ha '27 put the Bulldogs up 3-0 after winning her match 6-4, 6-1, and Angela Huang '28 won the final match after her opponent, Alicia Gomez, withdrew. After the fourth match had been won, all other matches were halted because Yale had already claimed victory. However, while the three other matches went unfinished, Yale was leading in all of them before play was stopped.

With the win against St. John's, the women's tennis team has won seven straight matches and sits at 8–1 to start off their spring season, playing mostly out-of-conference universities. After being in action every weekend of the semester so far, the Bulldogs will have a weekend off next week before heading to Rutgers on Feb. 27.

In September, when Yale and Rutgers last faced each other, the Bulldogs went 5-0 in singles against the Scarlet Knights.

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Yale crushes UMass Lowell in sweet start to the season

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

BY AZARA MASON
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale women's lacrosse team (1–0) traveled to Cushing Field to take on the UMass Lowell River Hawks (2–1) on Saturday afternoon.

With seven Bulldogs making their first career starts and three making their first collegiate appearances, the game provided an early opportunity for new talent to shine.

Just minutes into her collegiate debut, Kate Gould '29 earned a free position opportunity after captain Emmy Pascal '26 won the opening draw. She converted the chance, scoring the first goal of more to come. Gould finished the game with three points, all on free position shots. Yale converted six of its 14 goals from the eight-meter mark.

"To be able to go out on the field and play in my first collegiate game wearing a Yale uniform is something that I will never forget," Gould said.

Ashley Kiernan '27, another first-time starter, also capitalized early, scoring with 7:53 remaining in the first quarter to give Yale a 2-0 lead. Like Gould, Kiernan recorded a hat trick in her first start.

The Bulldogs closed the first quarter ahead 3-2. This was the closest the River Hawks got all afternoon.

Sophomore Kelly Holmes '28, also making her first career start, earned another hat trick. Less than a minute into the second quarter, Holmes converted a free position shot to extend Yale's lead to 4-2. The three hat tricks out of Gould, Kiernan and Holmes highlighted the team's offensive depth following the graduation of several senior attackers.

About a minute later, it was Ashley to Ashley. Ashley Kiernan found fellow attacker Ashley Newman '26, who buried the shot to make it 5-2.

Gould credited Yale's upperclassmen for helping her adjust to playing at the collegiate level.

"I think the success that we had on the field yesterday can be attributed to the amazing leadership from our upperclassmen," Gould said. "Throughout the entire fall and preseason, they welcomed the freshmen in a way that gave us confidence and let us know that we have their support."

Yale entered halftime with an 8-3 lead.

On defense, the Bulldogs forced nine turnovers throughout the game. Midway through the third quarter, the River Hawks scored to cut the deficit to 9-4, but that would be their final goal of the afternoon.

Goalie Niamh Pfaff '28 finished with six saves. Her final stop came in the closing seconds, when she denied a free position shot to preserve Yale's 14-4 victory.

In less than two weeks, the Bulldogs will face tougher competition when they travel to Ann Arbor to take on the No. 19 Michigan Wolverines. Gould, however, expressed excitement for the upcoming challenge.

"We know that we have a lot of challenges ahead," Gould said. "But getting this win under our belts excites us for the rest of the season and motivates us to work hard and accomplish our goals."

Yale will play its home opener against the Quinnipiac Bobcats on Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. at Reese Stadium.



YALE ATHLETICS
On Saturday, the Yale women's lacrosse team defeated UMass Lowell, 14–4, on the road in its first game of the season.

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