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"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."
KATE GOULD '29 LACROSSE

Bulldogs win twice, breaking tie for top spot in Ivy League

MEN'S BASKETBALL

BY WALTER ROYAL
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's basketball team (20–4, 8–2) picked up a pair of wins over Dartmouth (10–12, 4–5) and Harvard (14–10, 7–3) on the road over the weekend.

The hard-fought overtime win at Harvard gave the Bulldogs sole possession of first place in the Ivy League as they head into the final three weeks of the regular season.

Yale first traveled to Hanover on Friday to take on the Big Green. Coming off of a closer-than-expected overtime win Monday at Howard, Yale head coach James Jones was pleased with the team's bounce-back 83-70 win over Dartmouth.

"We shared the ball really well. We had 21 assists and five turnovers. That's always good," Jones pointed out at the start of the postgame press conference.

The Bulldogs jumped ahead of the Big Green right from the tip off the back of a Trevor Mullin '27 three. Mullin eventually finished with 17 points, his sixth consecutive game scoring in double-digits. Yale led 8-2 entering the first media timeout.

Dartmouth fought back, eventually taking a two-point lead with 12:45 remaining in the first half.

Yale slowly crept out to an eight-point lead in the next six minutes. The teams traded blows over the following seven minutes, but the margin remained at eight entering the break, 38-30.

The Bulldogs continued their steady pace, stretching the lead to 14 by the 12-minute mark. Then, spurred on by another Mullin three, Yale ripped off a quick 7-0 run. With a 21-point lead, the game was effectively decided. The Big Green mustered a brief comeback, but it was too little too late.

The final score was 83-70. Ninth-year Dartmouth head coach David McLaughlin praised his counterpart afterwards in a solemn postgame presser.

"Coach Jones has done a great job with this group, and they really get the ball where they want to get it. They find the mismatch on a consistent basis and they take advantage of that," McLaughlin said.

The Bulldogs then shipped up to Boston for the weekend's marquee matchup. Tied with Harvard for pole position in the Ivy League, the game had major conference tournament seeding implications for Yale.

The Crimson won the first matchup between the two teams earlier this year on a Tey Barbour banked three, 65-67.

On Saturday, the hosts struck first, and Harvard took an early 0-6 lead. The Bulldogs chased the Crimson, but every attempt to erase the deficit was quickly neutralized. Riley Fox '28 hit a jumper to pull within four, 21-25, but a subsequent 7-0 Harvard run put Yale in a dire situation. With 3:41 remaining in the first, the Bulldogs trailed 21-32.

In the first of many key moments to come, Jordan Brathwaite '28 sunk a pair of free throws to end the Crimson scoring run.

The Bulldogs chipped in a couple more points, then went on a 5-0 run of their own to end the half. The margin had slimmed to 30-34, though the Crimson still led.

Casey Simmons '26 and Harvard's Robert Hinton III traded layups to open the second before disaster struck for the Bulldogs.

Yale Captain and leading scorer Nick Townsend '26 caught an elbow to the head while going for a defensive rebound. The senior exited the game with a trainer and did not return.

Despite the loss of a key contributor and leader, the Bulldogs continued to trade blows with Harvard. A Mullin three-pointer pulled Yale within one score, 47-49, with 12 minutes to go. Two minutes later, a jumper from Fox put the Elis ahead for the first time that night.

Time wound down, and neither team was able to build a multi-score lead. Isaac Celiscar '28 hit both free throws after a Barbour foul to tie the game at 66 with 1:33 remaining in regulation.

Neither team scored the rest of the way, and the game went to overtime.

The teams combined to score on all of the first five possessions in overtime. After three minutes, the Bulldogs and the Crimson were knotted at 74 apiece.

Then Barbour got to the line for one free throw and drilled it while Yale failed to score for the next minute and 30 seconds. With 20 seconds remaining, the Bulldogs trailed by one.

Yale shifted the ball around before finding Brathwaite for a three-point attempt with four seconds remaining.

No good.

Celiscar grabbed the offensive rebound, and with half a second on the clock, drew a foul. The sophomore would get two shots to tie the game and potentially take the lead.

His first shot, despite the deafening crowd noise, was good. Unfazed by the gravity of the moment, Celiscar calmly received the ball from the referee for his second attempt. He spun the ball, dribbled once, then spun it again. Yale's leading scorer on the day put up the critical shot.

Swish. Yale led 76-75 with a half second to go. Harvard didn't get a shot up in time, and the game was over.

Harvard head coach Tommy Amaker, despite the loss, was proud of his team.

"I thought we fought and did everything we could. They did the same. It's one of those games where, in all honesty, it's hard for any team to lose, just like it was down there in New Haven in the previous game," Amaker said.

Meanwhile, Jones recognized the difficulty of winning a tough conference road game without Townsend in the second half. The Bulldogs outscored the Crimson by five following Townsend's exit.

"Everybody had to step up and they did, and it was fun to watch," Jones said.

Yale now holds the sole lead in Ivy conference play. The Bulldogs return to New Haven this Saturday to host Penn (13–10, 6–4), the current Ivy three-seed.

Tip off is set for 2 p.m., with a special Autism Acceptance theme presented by Yale's Child Study Center McPartland Lab.

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Elis edge out Harvard in overtime after taking Dartmouth to shootout

MEN'S HOCKEY

BY LIZA KAUFMAN
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's hockey team (8–17–1, 7–10–1 ECAC) gained crucial momentum over the weekend at Ingalls Rink with their games against No. 12 Dartmouth (17–7–2, 11–5–2 ECAC) and Harvard (13–11–2, 10–7–1 ECAC).

The Saturday win against the Crimson marked Yale's first victory after a six-game skid and came against a team ranked ahead of the Bulldogs in the ECAC standings. The results also carried postseason implications, as Yale continues to push for home-ice positioning in the ECAC playoffs.

"This weekend was a big statement from our team. It just shows the resilience of this group and there's absolutely no quit," captain David Chen '26 wrote to the News. "We have been through a rough stretch but everyone has had the same mentality of just continuing to show up and work at the rink day in and day out."

On Friday night, the Bulldogs went toe-to-toe with the Big Green, pushing the game into overtime and then a shootout, where Dartmouth pulled out the win. The following night, the Elis again went to overtime, this time beating the Crimson when Ronan O'Donnell '28 netted the game-winning goal before a sold-out crowd.

Assistant coach Rob O'Gara '16 praised the team's ability to execute two solid back-to-back performances.

"Obviously, those were big games considering the opponents and standings, but really the most important thing for our group was putting together two 60-minute efforts, especially in front of fantastic crowds at Ingalls," O'Gara wrote in an email to the News. "It had been too long since we played to our identity for a full game, let alone a full weekend, and to do that for the most part is why we almost came away with two victories. Not to be understated is how difficult it is to bounce back from a disappointing ending on a Friday night and go to war again on Saturday."

Friday night's matchup showcased Yale's resilience. After dropping two games to Dartmouth earlier this season, both by 1-6 scores, many expected another blowout. However, the Bulldogs proved their ability to push the Big Green to the wire.

Dartmouth put up the first two goals of the game, but at 14:38, Yale struck back. Micah Berger '28 threaded the puck to Joe Blackley '28, who buried it bar down to cut the deficit 2-1. In the second period, the Big Green took back a two-goal lead when Joshua Schenk netted his second goal of the game.

However, the Elis then answered with two back-to-back goals to tie it up. At 8:00, James Shannon '29 dropped a slick between-the-legs pass to Kalen Szeto '26, who put it home. With less than two minutes to go in the period, O'Donnell passed the puck to Donovan Frias '28 from behind the net, who sent it to Rhys Bentham '27 in front of the net for the equalizer.

With the score tied 3-3 going into the final frame, both teams sought a breakthrough. At 8:08, the Big Green took the lead. Down by one with only a few minutes remaining, Yale pulled its goalie to add an extra attacker to the ice. Dylan Hunt '29 fed the puck to David Andreychuk '27 for a one-timer, but it rebounded. With 8.8 seconds remaining, Donovan Frias corralled the rebound and slipped it to his twin brother Julian Frias '28, who buried it to force the game into overtime.

In the five-minute three-on-three overtime, neither team could find the back of the net, sending the game into a shootout, where the Big Green edged out the Elis. The shootout was Yale's first at Ingalls in two years since the Bulldogs won a shootout against Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in February of 2024.

The overtime tie with Dartmouth snapped Yale's six-game skid and showcased the squad's strong performance against a nationally ranked opponent. Several Bulldogs also reached notable career milestones: Blackley notched his first collegiate goal and Julian Frias '28 netted his first goal of the season.

After narrowly losing the shootout, the Elis came into Saturday night's Harvard game determined to pick up a victory on home ice in front of a crowd of fans sporting Yale Blue. In another game thrown into overtime, Yale edged out Harvard 3-2.

Interim head coach Joe Howe was especially proud of the team's performance on Saturday night on the heels of a disappointing shootout finish the night before and said the weekend marked an important step for the team.

"Was a big weekend for us to get back on track, we have been playing good hockey in spurts lately but haven't put together a full 60 minutes," Howe wrote in an email to the News. "Thought the guys battled hard against two very good opponents and were rewarded with valuable league points as we chase home ice in the playoffs. Both games our guys showed resiliency after being down early, despite having the better of the play in my opinion."

The Crimson opened the scoring at 4:02. Two minutes later, Yale responded when Chen slid the puck to Blackley, whose wrister equalized the score. While Harvard answered at 10:20 to regain the lead, Seiya Tanaka-Campbell '27 fed it to Bentham, who fired it to tie the game 2-2.

In the second frame, both goalies combined for 14 saves to keep the period scoreless. The final frame also saw no action, sending the game into overtime.

The Bulldogs and Crimson then went head-to-head three-on-three in overtime. At 1:05, Chen dropped a pass to O'Donnell at the blue line. O'Donnell sniped it five hole, but the puck sat on the goal line and was initially waved off.

Yale's coaches, however, challenged the call. With the game hanging in the balance, the referees entered the bowels of Ingalls Rink to view all of the angles.



LIZA KAUFMAN

After pushing No. 12 Dartmouth to a shootout on Friday night, Yale rallied past Harvard 3-2 in a overtime thriller, sealing the rivalry win after a tense video review.

The crowd stood silent for several minutes while the play was under review. When the referees ruled in Yale's favor, the crowd erupted and the Bulldogs rushed the ice in celebration.

"In overtime it all happened pretty fast. I just tried to get to the net and put it on goal, and honestly once it left my stick I had no idea if it went in," O'Donnell wrote to the News.

"When they finally called it a goal, it was pure relief and excitement. Wins like that mean a ton, especially after a tough stretch, and I'm really happy we could get it done for the seniors. It's a huge win for our program and something we can build off," he added.

Howe credited the atmosphere at Ingalls with energizing the team.

"The atmosphere was what you'd expect do Yale vs Harvard, we are really appreciative of the support and boost it gave our guys," Howe wrote.

Blackley and Bentham both came up clutch for the Bulldogs over the weekend. Blackey scored the opening goal for Yale in both games, notching his first two collegiate goals, and Bentham netted the equalizers both nights.

Blackley emphasized the confidence on the bench despite Yale falling behind early both nights.

"Even though we went down early both games this weekend, we had a lot of belief on our bench because we knew we were playing good hockey," Blackley wrote to the News. "Getting on the board was big for momentum in both games and I am proud of how we responded as a group to going down early both games. We never lost faith and had contribution from everyone on the team leading to a big win over Harvard."

Sophomore forward Zach Wagnon '28 echoed Blackley and reflected on what the victory meant to the team.

"It was a huge win for us last night. As a team, we needed the win to build some confidence and there's always a little more on the line when we're playing Harvard," Wagnon wrote to the News. "The vibes were high in the room after, with a couple of alumni in town. Now we have to use this energy and build on it for our trip to Clarkson/SLU."

The Bulldogs will return to action next weekend, when they travel to New York to play Clarkson (12–15–3, 6–9–3 ECAC) on Friday night and St. Lawrence (5–22–3, 4–13–1 ECAC) on Saturday night for their final away matchups of the regular season.

Puck drop is slated for 7 p.m. both nights in Potsdam and Canton, New York.

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STAT OF THE DAY WOMENS LACROSSE BEAT UMASS LOWELL 14-4 IN THE SEASON OPENER.