SPORTS

Bulldogs to close out regular season against Union, Renssleaer

MEN'S HOCKEY

BY LIZA KAUFMAN
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's hockey team (8–19–1, 7–12–1 ECAC) will conclude regular season play this weekend when it welcomes Union College (19–10–3, 9–9–2 ECAC) and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (9–22–1, 6–13–1) to Ingalls Rink.

The Bulldogs will host Union on Friday night and face off against Rensselaer on Saturday night. Before puck drop on Saturday, the program will honor its six seniors for their contributions to Yale hockey over their four years.

"This weekend is special for both our team as a whole and the senior class," junior Will Richter '27 wrote in a text message to the News. "It is almost a way to give back to the seniors for everything they have done for us both at a personal and organizational level."

The program will graduate defensemen Bayard Hall '26 and Tucker Hartmann '26 and forwards Kalen Szeto '26, Jojo Tanaka-Campbell '26, Elan Bar-Lev-Wise '26 and captain David Chen '26.

For Bar-Lev-Wise, the defining characteristic of the class has been its tight bond.

"I'd describe my class as kind, genuine, and extremely smart people," Bar-Lev-Wise wrote in a text message to the News. "We are more than just friends, we genuinely have a brotherhood and have unconditional love for each and every one of us. We can hold each other accountable without it ever breaking our bonds and I truly believe they will all be my best friends for life."

Although this weekend will surely be filled with mixed emotions for the seniors who will play their final regular season games at The Whale, Chen said he is approaching the weekend with the same mindset as always.

"I'm not really trying to let it affect the way that I go through this week," Chen said in a phone interview. "It's a very exciting time for my class because we've been through so much over the past four years, and we want to end it the right way at home for our senior week."

According to Chen, his class is the first senior class in recent program history to defeat every ECAC opponent at least once during their four years, a feat he said ranks among his proudest accomplishments during his time repping the Blue and White, alongside beating Harvard at home earlier this month.

Richter is grateful for the three years he spent playing with the seniors and said the group has played a major role in shaping the team's culture and fostering relationships across classes.

"The way the seniors have led our team is bringing a sense of togetherness to our program," Richter wrote. "From the beginning they have brought our junior class under their wing and have been really good to us. My favorite memory was from our Europe trip freshman year. I feel like as a group we got very close because of it."

Richter's reflection highlights the cross-class bonding that has defined the Bulldogs' locker room this season, a dynamic younger players say starts with the seniors' example.

Sophomore Micah Berger '28 echoed that sentiment, pointing to the seniors' energy and inclusivity as defining traits.

"The senior class this year is just super well rounded and energetic," Berger wrote in a text message to the News. "Each guy brings something different to the rink every day. They're all so positive and inclusive it's awesome to be around. They just push our entire team and every individual to be better every day. They're such great teammates no matter if they're in the lineup or out of the lineup it's all about the greater good."

That sense of inclusivity has been especially important for the program's youngest players navigating their first collegiate season.

Defenseman Hudson Miller '29 said the senior class has played a key role in helping the first years adjust to the college game.

"They are all such great leaders and great models to look up to," Miller wrote in a text to the News. "They have given us so much advice on and off the ice that has helped guide our whole class throughout our first year. We're really fortunate to have the senior leadership that we do. We are all going to miss them next year."

Miller added that beyond this support, the seniors have also set a competitive standard for the program.

"Their work ethic and passion for the game pushes our team every day," Miller wrote. "They bring out the best in everyone and set the standard for what it means to play for Yale."

As Chen prepares to lace up his skates for one last regular season homestand at The Whale alongside the five other members of the senior class, the relationships he built off the ice are what he will miss most next year, he said.

"I think what I'll miss the most is just hanging out with the guys around the rink and in the dining halls, sharing so many laughs with them," Chen said. "Every day there's always something to smile about, something to laugh about, and I think that's the best thing about playing for Yale."



LIZA KAUFMAN, PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Elis will conclude the regular season with games against Union and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and will honor the program's seniors ahead of the Saturday night matchup..

Reflecting on his four years as a Bulldog, Chen offered a piece of advice for the returning players: live in the moment and enjoy every part of the experience wearing the Yale jersey.

"Don't take a day for granted here. It really does fly by so fast," Chen said.

He added that he hopes this year's senior class will leave behind a legacy of being respectful, supportive teammates on and off the ice.

"I hope they remember the type of people that we are. I think that's more important than anything," Chen said. "More important than the type of hockey player you are is the type of friend and teammate that you are."

Bar-Lev-Wise expressed a similar sentiment and also encouraged younger players to embrace the opportunities Yale provides beyond the rink.

"Go out, meet new people, get yourself out of your comfort zone, because at a place like Yale you are able to meet some of the most well rounded and diverse students in the world," Bar-Lev-Wise wrote.

Now, the focus turns to closing out the regular season the right way.

The celebratory weekend begins Friday night against Union, a team the Bulldogs defeated earlier this season during a January road sweep through New York's Capital District.

The Bulldogs steamrolled the Rensselaer Engineers 8-3 last Friday night in Troy, New York. An offensive surge, in which seven different players tallied goals, coupled with a perfect penalty-kill unit and 28 saves from Noah Pak '28 in the net powered the team to victory.

The squad rode the momentum of its victory over Rensselaer into the following night when they played Union. A strong 60-minute performance resulted in a 4-1 upset over the Garnet Chargers. Despite Union getting on the board first, a second period equalizer and three-goal third frame sealed the victory.

The Bulldogs will look to replicate these successes on home ice to send the seniors out on a high note.

"We want to sweep every weekend, but sending them out on a positive note to end the regular season would be awesome and bring us some great momentum going into playoffs," Berger wrote.

Union will arrive in New Haven after a shootout loss to Dartmouth (18–7–3, 12–5–3 ECAC) last Saturday and a 4-1 victory over Harvard (13–13–2, 10–9–1 ECAC). On the road, the team has struggled in 2026, falling to Quinnipiac (25–6–3, 16–3–1 ECAC) 2-7, Harvard 0-4, Dartmouth 2-4 and Clarkson 7-8 (14–15–3, 8–9–3 ECAC).

With home ice advantage this time around, the Bulldogs will look to thrive on familiarity and the energy of a packed home crowd en route to another upset.

Rensselaer will also come to The Whale after a split weekend at home. Last Friday, the Engineers tallied the first goal against Dartmouth, but soon saw their lead slip away as the Big Green proved why it is No. 2 in the ECAC. The Engineers bounced back the following night against the Crimson. Harvard's late first period goal gave the team a one-goal lead. Following a scoreless second frame, the Engineers came out flying in the final 20 minutes. The offense put up two power-play goals, while the defense held the Crimson scoreless. In their last away matchup, St. Lawrence (7–22–3, 6–13–1 ECAC) demolished Rensselaer 7-3.

While the senior sendoff will be bittersweet, Berger is thankful for the two years he played alongside the members of the senior class and wouldn't have it any other way.

"Thank you guys for being so welcoming, energetic, and all around great guys," Berger wrote. "Brothers for the rest of our lives and so blessed to know each and every one of them."

Puck drop is slated for 7 p.m. both nights.

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Bulldogs head to Manhattan for Ivy League indoor championships

TRACK & FIELD

BY INEZ CHUIDIAN
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After weeks of back-to-back competition, the Yale track and field team spent last weekend on a well-deserved break. With the regular season now behind them, the Bulldogs turn their focus to two final weekends of championship racing.

This weekend, the team will travel to New York for the Ivy League Heptagonal Indoor Track and Field Championships. The weekend after, any athletes who qualify will head to Arkansas for the NCAA indoor championships. Both competitions offer athletes the chance to cap off months of training with podium finishes.

Runners to watch this weekend include men's captain Andrew Farr '26 and Otis Irwin '28 in the sprints, alongside distance standouts Kenan Pala '26 and Owen Karas '26. Each of these runners ranks on Yale all-time indoor top-10 performance lists, exemplifying the strength and experience they bring to the squad.

On the women's side, that distinction spans nearly every discipline. Anna Siciliano '28 and Makayla Harris '26 lead the charge in the shot put, while Gloria Guerrier '27 and Sophie Spokes '27 headline the sprints. Charlotte Whitehurst '26 and Claire Archer '26 have consistently delivered standout performances, and Layni Kaase '29 has led the multi-event results.

"My indoor season has honestly been a lot of fun!" Kaase wrote to the News. "The pentathlon is new to me, so it's been rewarding seeing the work in practice translate to performances."

Kaase has been Yale's top finisher in the women's pentathlon, showing strong performances in the 60-meter hurdles and high jump. It's in both these events that she has landed herself on the program's all-time lists as just a first year.

"While I'm a little nervous, I'm more excited going into this weekend," Kaase wrote. "Obviously, it's my first heps, so I think as a result I'm not feeling as much pressure, and I just get to truly enjoy my sport."

On the men's team, athletes are eager to take advantage of the weekend while conserving energy for the upcoming outdoor season.

"We're definitely rounding into form at the right time," Matthew Schutzbank '28 said in an interview with the News. "We kind of think of indoor and outdoor as one season because everything is so jam-packed, so a lot of guys use the indoor season as more of a build-up for outdoor."

Outdoor season competition begins with the Black and Gold Invitational in March. Until then, the Bulldogs will focus on finishing their indoor season strong. Last year, at the Ivy League Championships, the men's team came sixth of eight teams, and the women placed fifth. The Elis could outperform themselves this year, given the records broken and personal bests achieved in the past months.

The Ivy League Indoor Heptagonal Championships will take place this weekend at the Armory Track and Field Center in Manhattan. Events will be livestreamed on ESPN.

Track and field events will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday.



YALE ATHLETICS

This weekend, the track and field team will begin championship season racing. Bulldogs across the men's and women's squads have landed on the program's all-time indoor performance lists this season.

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