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"We feel like we can play with anyone in our 6v6 sets, so for this week it's just all about getting to that point."

GAETANO CICOTELLO '29 LACROSSE

Bulldogs to hit the road, aiming to secure top Ivy League seed

MEN'S BASKETBALL

BY BRODY GILKISON
STAFF REPORTER



LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Hot off a five-game win streak, Yale will travel to Cornell and Columbia this weekend. The Bulldogs have just three games left in their 2025-26 regular season.

The Yale men's basketball team (21–4, 9–2 Ivy) will be hitting the road this weekend to take on Cornell (12–12, 5–6 Ivy) in a Friday night matchup before heading to Columbia (15–10, 4–7) for the penultimate game of the regular season on Saturday night.

The Bulldogs currently hold the top spot in the Ivy League standings with just three games left in the regular season, and Ivy Madness looms on the horizon. With a conference record of 9–2, the magic number for Yale stands at three, but two wins this weekend should all but lock down the top spot due to the conference's tiebreaking procedures.

"We know where we are at in the standings, but that's not what we are focused on right now," guard Trevor Mullin '27 said. "There's a lot of basketball left to be played, and we just want to focus on being consistent and continuing to improve every day."

As far as the rest of the league goes, all eight Ivy squads are still in contention. The bottom five teams are all within two games of each other as the race for the final spot continues. Dartmouth and Cornell can each clinch the four seed by winning out, and Penn needs to win two out of their last three to punch their ticket. In the No. 2 pot, Harvard has already clinched its berth to the conference tournament and will most likely maintain its seed barring any major meltdowns.

While the rest of the conference battles it out, the Bulldogs are focused on their own games this weekend. First up is the Big Red. This will be the second matchup between the two teams this year, with the first a 34-point shellacking put on by Yale earlier in January. That game exposed Cornell's defensive woes.

Ranked 343rd in the nation defensively by KenPom, the Big Red have struggled to limit their opponents' scoring all season long. With Nick Townsend '26 back on the court this week, the Bulldogs may produce another high-scoring output that ends with Yale coming out on top.

On Saturday, Yale will play for a chance to all but clinch the conference championship with a second win of the year against Columbia.

After starting 9–1 on the year, the Lions have gone 6–9 since and have struggled to get hot offensively, which doesn't bode well for them as they seek a win against Yale's 27th-ranked offense.

A large part of Columbia's scoring has come from guard Kenny Noland and forward Blair Thompson, but Columbia will need much more from the rest of its roster to keep up with high-powered Yale in a must-win game.

Yale tips off at Cornell at 6 p.m. on Friday, with the game being broadcast on ESPNU. The following day, the Bulldogs tip off against Columbia at the same time, and that game will be streamed on ESPN+.

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Bulldogs to face strong Penn State squad on the road

MEN'S LACROSSE

BY LIZA KAUFMAN
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's lacrosse team (2–1, 0–0 Ivy) will travel to State College, Pennsylvania, this weekend to take on the No. 15 Penn State Nittany Lions (2–2, 0–0 Big Ten).

The game between the Bulldogs and the Nittany Lions comes on the heels of two strong home performances by Yale.

The Bulldogs hosted their home opener last Tuesday against Marist (1–2, 0–0 MAAC) and defeated the Red Foxes 15-9. In the 15-goal performance, several first years shined. Sean Grogan '29 potted four goals and notched one assist, while Dylan Blekicki '29 netted two goals and had two assists and Asher Ziv '29 recorded one goal and one assist. Flynn Leonard '29 and Gaetano Cicotello '29 posted their first collegiate assists.

On Saturday, the Bulldogs came out on top against the then No. 18 Boston University Terriers (2–2, 0–0 Patriot) 16-11 in the dog-on-dog battle. In the upset, the Elis opened scoring with four unanswered goals to send the Terriers back to Boston with their tails between their legs.

Connor Gately '28 led the offensive production across both games. In the Marist game, he recorded a goal and four assists. Against BU, he tallied seven points on four goals and three assists. Senior attackman David Anderson '26 also proved crucial with four goals and one assist in the BU game, and Peter Moynihan '27 posted two goals in each.

Coming into Saturday's matchup, Gately is currently ranked third in the Ivy League in assists per game, fourth in points per game and eighth in goals per game. Grogan sits in sixth place in goals per game and seventh in points per game, while Anderson is fifth in shots per game.

In the net, Ben Friedman '28 ranks first in the conference in saves per game and has the second-highest save percentage of .583.

On defense, long stick midfielder Luke Michalik '27 is second in the Ivy League in average number of caused turnovers per game with 2.33.

On the other sideline, the Nittany Lions will be coming into this game looking to avenge a recent defeat.

This will be the team's first game since its nailbiting 11-12 loss to No. 20 Navy (3–1, 0–0 Patriot) last Saturday. The Nittany Lions and Midshipmen traded goals throughout the game, with neither team ever taking more than a two-goal lead. A late fourth quarter three-goal run put Navy up 12-10. Penn State scored at 1:51 to cut the deficit but was unable to find the back of the net again to equalize the score.

The loss followed the Nittany Lions' impressive 13-7 victory at Princeton (1–1, 0–0 Ivy) — a team favored to finish first in the Ivy League — an overtime 13-14 loss at home to Villanova (1–2, 0–0 Big East) and an 18-14 opening victory over Colgate (1–3, 0–0 Patriot).

Despite Penn State's high-tempo offense, Yale's defense is confident in its ability to compete at even strength.

"The biggest things this week are staying out of the box and stopping transition," Cicotello wrote in a text message. "We feel like we can play with anyone in our 6v6 sets, so for this week it's just all about getting to that point."

Limiting penalties and transition opportunities will be key for the Bulldogs as they look to secure their first road win of the season.

Faceoff is slated for 1 p.m. on Saturday, and the game will be streamed on B1G+.

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LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

On the heels of two home victories, Yale will head to Happy Valley to face the Penn State Nittany Lions.

Stat of the Day

YALE MEN'S BASKETBALL IS ON A FIVE-GAME WIN STREAK.