



“We have all returners from last year in the lineup and are looking to finish top three in the Ivy. We are hungry, and hopefully this will be a season unlike before.”

JIM JI '27

FOOTBALL: Yale fills holes with recruits after high turnover

BY BRODY GILKISON
STAFF REPORTER

As the football team creeps closer to its first game of the season, the squad is working hard to push through a dramatic turnover on its roster.

Forty-six players departed after last season, leaving the Yale coaching staff an unusually large gap to fill. Because of unique eligibility rules caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, fourth-, fifth- and sixth-year players trickled out last year.

To fill some of that gap, the team welcomed 23 new first-year players and several transfers.

Among these new faces, a key trend appears.

This year, the coaching staff focused on bolstering the trenches, bringing in 11 new linemen, both offensive and defensive. After two experienced starters on the offensive line graduated, the Bulldogs were looking for new depth to support the remaining passblockers.

On the defensive side of the ball, Yale lost its sack leader, Tamatoa McDonough '25, who graduated and transferred to Iowa State.

The Bulldogs are also looking to replenish their special teams. After both long snapper Ben Mann '25 and punter Shamus Florio '25 graduated, Yale brought in a new punter and a long snapper — both from Rice — Reese Keeney '28 and Colby Connell '27.

“In terms of this season, I am so excited about where we are at in the

specialist room,” Keeney said in an interview. “Joey Fortner '27 and Colby Connell have been throwing great snaps ever since I got with them in the summer.”

Yale also brought in two new quarterbacks.

After losing starting quarterback Grant Jordan '25, who put together a

2300-yard and 27-touchdown season in nine games for the Bulldogs, and Bradyn Fleharty, who transferred to Ball State, the team was left with just two senior quarterbacks, Marshall Howe '26 and Brogan McCaughey '26.

To fill in the quarterback roster, Yale made a big splash by bringing

in South Carolina transfer Dante Reno '28 — head coach Tony Reno's son — as well as first year Charlie Hewitt '29.

The 23 new freshmen, along with the transfers, are currently in fall camp competing to earn a spot on the field when the season kicks off against Holy Cross on Sept. 20.

Yale ranked second in the Ivy League football recruiting rankings with their freshmen class and first in the conference with their transfer class.

Contact
BRODY GILKISON at
brody.gilkison@yale.edu .



YALE ATHLETICS

More than forty players, including several starters, graduated after last season, leaving the new class with big shoes to fill.

MEN'S SOCCER: Bulldogs fall to Sacred Heart, Syracuse

BY DAVIS ZONG
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's soccer team opened its season with two losses over the weekend, falling to Sacred Heart, 3-1, and to Syracuse, 1-0.

Friday's opener against Sacred Heart quickly turned into an uphill battle. With a header 20 minutes in and two additional goals at minutes 43 and 45, the Pioneers went up 3-0 in the first half, putting substantial pressure on Yale to bounce back.

The Bulldogs stayed resilient in the second half and fought back with a goal of their own. After Simon Adjakple '27 fired a shot that was blocked, Sebi Roy '29 finished the play, scoring his first career goal to put the Elis on the board. The Bulldogs' late push wasn't enough, though, and the match ended at 3-1 for the Pioneers.

“We had a huge wake-up call at halftime and I was very pleased with our response and effort to fight back and give ourselves a chance,” head coach Kylie Stannard said.

Two days later, the Elis hosted Syracuse in their home opener.

The Orange capitalized on a first-half opportunity and held that margin through the final whistle. Yale put on a strong fight, with six starters playing the full 90 minutes. Goalkeeper Conrad Lee '26 kept the Bulldogs within striking distance, saving eight goals, including an early one-on-one stop against an Orange forward and a penalty denial late in the second half.

With so much of the game being decided by just a few quick plays, Lee, who had a particularly action-packed day as goalie, highlighted the importance of maintaining a strong mental focus throughout matches.

“Games like these are defined by individual moments,” Lee said. “You cannot switch off — if you switch off for half a second, those moments get punished.”

Several players said the team showed a fighting spirit during the two tough games.

“It was a moral boost with how we held with them,” Andrew Seidman '26 told the News.

The Bulldogs remain optimistic as they prepare for conference matches. Team members attested to the team's growth, both over the past month and from the first game to the second. With lots of players making their first appearances on the field, the Bulldogs view the opening matches as part of an adjustment phase.

The team now turns its focus to building consistency and turning competitive performances into results.

“There were a lot of good moments of how we applied the game plan, and it was good to see a good reaction to our match against Sacred Heart,” Lee, the goalkeeper, told the News. “I think the progress we made from that game to today can be seen as a step in the right direction.”

The Bulldogs are aiming to notch their first win of the season when they host Quinnipiac at Reese Stadium on Sep. 6.

Yale's past record against Quinnipiac is 5-3-2, with a 2-1-1 record for home games and a recent win in their September 2024 encounter.

Contact
DAVIS ZONG at
davis.zong@yale.edu .



YALE ATHLETICS

Despite facing tough 3-1 and 1-0 losses, the Bulldogs remain optimistic for the season.

CLUB B-BALL: Two players recognized with national honors



YALE ATHLETICS

Two Bulldogs were selected by the national club basketball organization as First and Second-Team All Americans.

BY DAVIS ZONG
STAFF REPORTER

One summer morning, Brennan Columbia-Walsh '26 and Will Sanok Dufallo '26, two seniors on the Yale's club men's basketball team, woke up to the news that both had been named All-Americans by the National Club Basketball Association.

The honor capped off a milestone season for Yale Club Men's

Basketball. Just a few months prior, the team finished its season on a hot streak, winning 14 of 18 games in its conference and earning a ticket to the North Atlantic Regional Championship for the first time in five years.

“After qualifying for the playoffs for the first time in five years, the guys and I took a dingy My Limo bus all the way to Buffalo,

SEE BASKETBALL PAGE 10

STAT OF THE WEEK

THIS FALL, 12 TRANSFER STUDENT-ATHLETES JOINED YALE'S VARSITY TEAMS. THAT IS QUADRUPLE THE NUMBER OF TRANSFER ATHLETES (3) FROM A YEAR AGO.