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"It was our first chance to see our level compared to a great team like Harvard and I think our hard work the past few weeks was starting to show."

JASON SHULER '28

Bulldogs battle Minutemen to the wire but suffer defeat

MEN'S SOCCER

BY ELI RATNER
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's soccer team (1–5–0, 0–0–0 Ivy League) fell to the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (4–3–1, 0–0–0 Summit) in a 1-2 loss on Saturday evening.

After suffering two defeats in Nebraska, the Bulldogs looked to bounce back and return to the win column while hosting UMass under the lights of Reese Stadium. The matchup marked Yale's first home game in three weeks.

The match began as a stalemate for nearly the full first half, until the Minutemen drew first blood with a goal in the 44th minute to take a 1-0 lead.

In the second half, the Bulldogs came out ready to bite, dominating across the statistics board. The Elis recorded more shots (10 versus four), as well as more corner kicks (five versus two) and fewer fouls (three versus seven) than the Minutemen.

Salif Leintu '28 nearly scored the equalizer in the 63rd minute but was offside, eliminating a potential opportunity for Yale to knot the game.

In the 74th minute, UMass extended their lead to 2–0 as Shane Velez made it past Yale goalkeeper Josh Linebaugh '29.

But the Bulldogs refused to go down without a fight. Five minutes after the Minutemen scored its second goal, the Bulldogs recorded one of their own. After receiving the ball on a corner kick, Sebi Roy '29, fired a shot on goal from outside the box. The UMass goalkeeper saved the shot, but Andrew Myerson '27 was able to capitalize on the rebound and net Yale's first goal to trim the deficit to one.

"I'm always happy to contribute offensively and get on the scoresheet, especially as a defender, but I was much more disappointed with the result than anything else," Myerson wrote in an email, reflecting on his goal. "Sebi put a great shot on frame from the top of the box, and I was fortunate to be in the right place to react to the rebound."

While the Elis continued to fight until the final whistle, the game ended in a 2–1 loss.

Following this game, Head Coach Kylie Stannard told Yale Athletics, "We were really good for the large majority of the game, including the amount of very quality goal-scoring chances we had. Ultimately, this sport can be played and analyzed in a lot of ways, but it is always decided by which team wins more moments in the boxes, and we need to keep working to learn and improve in those critical areas."

Myseron echoed Stannard's sentiment, highlighting the team's high number of goal-scoring opportunities. The player highlighted areas in which the team is looking to improve as it prepares for the start of conference play later this week.

"I thought there were a lot of positives in our performance, particularly in the number of chances we created and how well we defended our box for large stretches of the game. We put ourselves in good positions and, statistically, had one of our highest expected-goals (xG statistic) performances in recent years, which is something we can be proud of and build on," Myerson wrote.

"The two goals we conceded came from set pieces, so continuing to be disciplined and sharp in those key moments is something we can improve on," he continued.

Though the game did not end as the Bulldogs hoped, the team will now look to capitalize on home turf advantage when it plays the University of New Haven (1-6-0, 0-0-0 NEC) on Tuesday night.

The Chargers will enter the New Haven showdown — Yale's final non-conference game before they begin Ivy League play this Saturday against Penn (3–1–1, 0–0–0 Ivy) — on a three-game losing streak.

Kickoff is slated for 6 p.m. on Tuesday at Reese Stadium.

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LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Despite a late goal in the 79th minute of its Saturday game against the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Yale fell to the Minutemen in a hard-fought 1–2 loss.

Bulldogs kick off season with mixed results at Harvard invitational

MEN'S TENNIS

BY REMI CLARK-REDSTAR
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's tennis team kicked off the season last weekend with mixed results at the Chowderfest Invitational in Cambridge, MA.

With a lineup that included Harvard, Brown and Dartmouth, the tournament gave the Bulldogs a chance to scope out the competition.

"I feel the team performed well overall," Jason Shuler '28 wrote in a text message to the News. "It was our first chance to see our level compared to a great team like Harvard and I think our hard work the past few weeks was starting to show."

The Bulldogs hit the ground running on Friday, taking on the Harvard Crimson. Shuler and Dylan Tsoi '27, as well as Jim Ji '27 and Edward Liao '28, teamed up in the doubles category and returned to the court for singles matchplay. The Shuler-Tsoi team trounced the Crimson, securing a 6-3 win, while Ji and Liao fell 0-6.

In singles, the score was also split down the middle, with Yale and Harvard each taking two matches.

Shuler outlasted his opponent in a tiebreak in the first set to take it 7-6, before winning the second 6-3. Tsoi was defeated in straight sets 2-6, 3-6, and Ji put up a valiant defense but ultimately lost 2-6, 5-7.

Liao, however, rallied to win the Bulldogs second singles match. He earned the most notable win of the day, beating Harvard's no.44-ranked singles player in straight sets of 7-5, 6-4.

Coming into the second day, the competition intensified as the Bulldogs squared off against Brown, Dartmouth, Southern Methodist University and the University of Illinois.

Shuler and Tsoi rode the momentum of their Friday doubles victory into Saturday, when they decisively beat Brown 6-3. Ji and Liao took their opponents to the wire, narrowly falling 6-7 in the tiebreaker.

In singles, the Bulldogs only walked away with one victory. Shuler, Tsoi and Ji were defeated (2-6, 1-6), (3-6, 3-6), (6-3, 3-6, 2-6) by Brown, SMU and Dartmouth, respectively. But Liao pulled out the win, going 6-3, 6-2 against Illinois.

"It's our first event of the year, and for us, it's still really trying to get a feel for the competitive surroundings and competitive environment, actually playing college matches, especially coming back from summer break," Ji said in an audio message to the News.

"I think it's not going to be perfect in terms of execution, but we're really looking forward for a high level of energy, commitment, and really making sure that everyone's fighting and then sticking to the game plans and their long term development," Ji added.

On the last day of the tournament, Yale returned to the court hungry for victory against Brown, Dartmouth, Harvard and Virginia Tech. Yale swept both doubles matches, with Ji-Liao defeating Harvard 6-3 and Shuler-Tsoi besting Virginia Tech 6-3 as well.

Despite winning the doubles points, the Elis faced tough competition in the singles. Liao went down swinging, losing to Harvard 6-7, 6-2, 4-10. Shuler, Tsoi, and Liao similarly fell (2-6, 6-7), (6-6, 0-6), (1-6, 5-7) to Harvard, Brown and Dartmouth, respectively.

Although the weekend was marked by mixed results, it is just a glimpse of what is to come this season.

"I am really happy with how the team is playing and really staying committed to the process," Ji said. "We're kind of keeping a developmental mindset and really making sure we can improve as much as we can given the time that we have and also really learning from this tournament."

The men's tennis team is set to return to the court this Friday at the Cullman-Heyman Tennis Center for the Yale Invitational.

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ALYSSA CHANG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In the first matches of the season, the men's tennis team shipped up to Cambridge, MA, to face off in the Chowderfest Invitational, hosted by Harvard.