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"Sports are about the human condition. It's not just happy people celebrating. You have to show the bad with the good sometimes."

DAVE RUDIN

FOOTBALL: Bulldogs to play Big Green on the road Saturday

BY BRODY GILKISON
STAFF REPORTER

Team 152 (2–1, 1–0 Ivy) will make a trip north Saturday to match up against their second Ivy League opponent of the year, the Dartmouth Big Green (2–1, 0–1 Ivy).

Yale comes into the game with hopes of bouncing back from their first loss of the season against No. 7 ranked Lehigh on Saturday. Meanwhile, Dartmouth enters the contest after dropping their game against Penn (2–1, 1–0 Ivy) over the weekend, 36–24.

Lock down the secondary

Dartmouth quarterback Grayson Saunier has shown a propensity to utilize his arm talent early and often in the Big Green's first three games of this year. Saunier currently leads the Ivy League in pass completions this season with 68, averaging just over 260 yards per game while completing his passes at a 65.4 percent rate. However, he has also been prone to turning the ball over, with four interceptions already this season.

"You have got to defend the entire field with these guys," Yale defensive coordinator Sean McGowan said in a Yale Athletics press release. "They have an experienced quarterback. And then they have three receivers on the outside that really test you with great speed. So it's gonna be a great challenge."

For the Bulldog defense, McGowan's message should be music to their ears: they have earned their keep all season defending against the pass. Yale has held their opponents to 211 yards per game in the air and has picked off the opposing quarterback four times. Led by defensive backs Osize Daniyan '27, Abu Kamara '27 and Joshua Tarver '26, the Bulldogs will need to have air-tight pass coverage against the prolific Saunier to prevent the Big Green offense from marching down the field.

Swiss army knife

Whether it be in stopping the run, dropping back into coverage or rushing the passer, linebacker Inumidun Ayo-Durojaiye '26 has been all over the field on defense this season. After having 6.5 tackles in the first game against Holy Cross, he then broke out for nine solo and 13 total tackles against Cornell. Against Lehigh, he one-upped his previous stat line as he notched 10 solo tackles, becoming only the second Bulldog to do so in the past five seasons besides Kamara.

With the Big Green's impressive air attack, along with their run game averaging nearly 130 yards per game, Ayo-Durajaiye should be right in the middle of the action, and his ability to wreak havoc will be much needed in this matchup.

Protect the ball

So far this season, there has been no shortage of opportunities for the Yale offense to put points up on the scoreboard, in large part due to the number of turnovers the defense has been able to create. However, holding onto the ball and not giving it right back to the defense has been a struggle for the Bulldogs.

Last weekend, Yale turned the ball over three times, including two passes inside the red zone that could have potentially been converted into six-point scores for the Bulldogs. Yale put together a number of strong drives, but instead of finishing with the ball in the endzone, the Bulldogs got sloppy and didn't convert on their drives.



YALE ATHLETICS

The football team will travel to New Hampshire on Saturday to take on Dartmouth.

Yale has also fumbled the ball four times on the year, which slows the offense down as well. Turnovers don't just lead to missed opportunities for the Elis, they also give the opponents more chances to put points up on the board. Holding on to the ball will be paramount in determining not only the outcome of the game this weekend, but the team's success for the duration of the season.

In the matchup last season between Yale and Dartmouth, the Bulldogs jumped out to an early lead. Quarterback Grant Jordan '25 had a school-record 412 passing yards and five touchdowns but it wasn't enough as Dartmouth fought back and came out on top in overtime 44-43.

This season, winning a conference championship means a trip to the postseason for the first time, and that is just an extra layer of motivation for both teams. This in-conference battle should have both teams fighting tooth and nail to come out on top.

Yale kicks off against Dartmouth this Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at Memorial Stadium in Hanover, New Hampshire.

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

MEN'S SOCCER: Bulldogs pick up second consecutive victory

BY LIZA KAUFMAN
STAFF REPORTER

The men's soccer team (2–6–2, 1–0–1 Ivy) beat the University of New Haven Chargers (3–2–4, 1–0–1 NEC) Tuesday night under the lights at Reese Stadium.

With both of Yale's goals coming from first-year players, the Bulldogs took down the Chargers 2-1 on Yale's home turf.

Tuesday's game was the first matchup between the two New Haven-based schools since the University of New Haven joined the NCAA Division I Northeast Conference in May. The University of New Haven previously competed as an NCAA Division II school.

Going into Tuesday's game, the Elis were coming off a clean sheet 1-0 Ivy League victory over the Columbia Lions and were looking to build on the momentum. The Chargers were also coming off a 2-1 triumph over Central Connecticut State University and hoped to topple the Bulldogs.

Ahead of Tuesday's game, defender Andrew Myerson '27 said the team would rebound quickly and use Tuesday as an opportunity to continue refining their game before they face Harvard on Saturday.

"We need to get our bodies ready for that one because it's a quick turnaround just three days after a very exciting and tough game. You have to take one game at a time," Myerson said in a phone interview. "Tuesday is important, but our Ivy League record is the priority, so we will likely make a few changes going into Tuesday so we can make us 100 percent on Saturday."

UNH's Andrew Miranda, hungry to put his team on top, scored the first goal at the one minute mark on Yale goalkeeper Conrad Lee '26, to put the Chargers on the board 1-0.

Despite UNH taking an early lead, the Bulldog offense charged forward and did not let the Charger's early goal deter them. Forwards Simon Adjakple '27 and Joseph Farouz '27 continued to rush UNH's goal. The Chargers' goalkeeper, Shane Antao, stayed quick on his feet, blocking a header from Owen Bull '28 off a corner kick and a shot from Adjakple.

The Bulldogs were finally able to get the ball past the posts in the 32nd minute of the first half. Sven Meacham '28, who leads the team in assists, made his way past the Chargers' defenders and passed the ball to first-year midfielder Billy Altirs '29. Altirs' goal, his second this season, tied up the game at 1-1.

Yale kept up the momentum, determined to take the lead before the end of the first half. At the 40th minute mark, Meacham passed the ball to Nathan Harmon '29, who fired a shot past UNH's goalkeeper to give the Bulldogs a 2-1 lead over the Chargers. Harmon's goal was his first as an Eli.

In the second half, the Bulldog defense successfully protected Yale's lead for the 45 minutes, refusing to let the Chargers tie up the game. Yale finished Tuesday's game with a solid 2-1 victory.

Reflecting on their two game winning streak, Nick Miller '27 highlighted key areas where the team has improved.

"We've done a better job of retaining possession lately, which is great because it allows our offense to get going and apply pressure to the opponent's backline. Having more of the ball helps our defensive group, too, because it enables us to breathe a bit and focus on executing the plays we have to make," Miller wrote to the News. "Most importantly, we've learned what it takes to win games, which is a huge advantage.

The Elis will now look to continue the winning momentum for the rest of the season.

"For our team, 'Win October' is a mantra we strive to live by, as this month often determines the course of our season due to the high percentage of Ivy League matchups," Miller wrote to the News. "We've gained a lot of confidence and belief after earning two big results that we will certainly carry into this upcoming game at Harvard."

According to Myerson, Saturday's game against the Harvard Crimson (3–4–3, 0–0–2 Ivy) is the "game of the year."

Harvard, tied for last place with Dartmouth in the Ivy League standings, have finished their last five games with two 0-0 draws against Northeastern (2–6–2, 1–0–4 CAA) and the University of Vermont (8–0–4, 2–0–0 AEC), and three losses in a row to Princeton (8–0–1, 2–0–0 Ivy), Boston University (7–0–3, 3–0–1 Patriot) and Penn (5–2–3, 1–0–1 Ivy).

"It will be fun to play at their house and beat them away," Myerson told the News.

Kickoff is slated for Saturday at 7 p.m.

Contact
LIZA KAUFMAN at
liza.kaufman@yale.edu.

MEN'S GOLF: Bulldogs place 7th at Hamptons Intercollegiate

BY AZARA MASON
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Yale men's golf team wrapped up play at the Hamptons Intercollegiate on Tuesday, finishing seventh overall in a field that included nationally ranked programs such as No. 3 ranked University of Mississippi and No. 15 ranked Florida State.

The competition didn't seem to rattle captain Will Lodge '26, who finished second overall at three under par (72–69–72).

"I always find Maidstone a great opportunity to go beat some top guys and put up a strong performance," Lodge said.

Lodge's steady play was anchored by a bogey-free second round and an eagle on Maidstone's par-5 15th.

"Fifteen is a fairly easy hole if you execute your shots properly, but that's obviously tough in high winds and under pressure," Lodge added. After hitting a precise 7-iron from 205 yards out to within four feet, he sank the putt. This is a hole he has "liked a lot over the years," even recalling an albatross there last season.

Lodge said he was pleased with how he maintained composure in the windy conditions.

"Going bogey-free in Round 2 was what I was most proud of," he said. "It's great to put up a nice round, but to finish without really any mistakes was a strong feat. The conditions were extremely tough, so I was really happy with how I grinded out the round and managed my ball around the course."

Matt Lin '28 praised Lodge's consistency and precision for setting the tone for the entire team.

"It was great to see Will play so well," Lin said. "As our captain, he emphasized the importance of smart decision-making on a course like this—especially with the high winds and challenging greens. His performance was a reminder of how crucial it is to manage your game thoughtfully."

Lin also delivered a strong finish of his own, tying for 37th at +8 after capping the tournament with a closing-round 72.

"Going into the third round, I focused on improving my putting and being more consistent off the tee — both of which had been weaknesses earlier in the tournament. I'm glad those adjustments paid off and were reflected in my final score," he remarked.

He pointed to one shot that captured his momentum on the final day.

"On hole 16, I hit my second shot into the bunker short right of the green and faced a 30-yard bunker shot with the green sloping left to right," Lin said. "I was able to land it 15 feet short and left of the pin, and it rolled out to about a foot for a tap-in birdie. It was a tricky shot, and I was proud to execute it under pressure."

Like Lin, Sam Davis '26 also bounced back by the end of the tournament. After an 80 in Round 2, he rallied with a final-round 70, posting five birdies in his last 18 holes. Both players' finishes helped Yale maintain its standing in a competitive field and highlighted the team's depth heading into the final stretch of the fall season.

Yale finished 7th at +18 while Georgia captured the team title at −7, followed by Wake Forest (−4) and Ole Miss (+1).

The Yale men's golf team will close their fall season at Sleepy Hollow Country Club on Oct. 17 in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.

Contact
AZARA MASON *at*
azara.mason@yale.edu .

STAT OF THE WEEK MEN'S GOLF CAPTAIN WILL LODGE '26 FINISHED SECOND OVERALL AT THE HAMPTONS INTERCOLLEGIATE.