

SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL: Bulldogs head to last regular season away matches

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Captain Halle Sherlock '26 led the team in all of those categories.

Against the Crimson, Yale found success by protecting the serve. Harvard often found themselves out of system, which made their offense predictable and error-prone. They had double the number of attacking errors as the Bulldogs.

On Saturday, the Elis will play Dartmouth. When the teams met on Oct. 17, Yale overpowered the Big Green in a dominating fashion, 25-14, 25-13, 25-21. Laurece Abraham '27 was a force at the net, racking up 14 kills and four blocks. Arya Jue '27 picked up 17 digs in the back row, keeping the Bulldogs in the match.

The Bulldogs minimized their errors in that game, with only nine attacking errors compared to Dartmouth's 17. Multiple players went on service runs with strong serves, allowing for Yale's offense to capitalize on easy returns by the Big Green.

Yale will look to repeat those performances this weekend on the road.

The first serve against Harvard is slated for 7 p.m. on Friday.

Contact
RACHEL MAK at
rachel.mak@yale.edu.



COURTESY OF DAVE RUDIN

In their final away games of the regular season, the Bulldogs will head to Cambridge to challenge Harvard before traveling to Hanover to play Dartmouth.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Elis hope for redemption in coming season



YALE ATHLETICS

Members of the women's basketball team say they're ready for redemption after an underwhelming 2024-2025 season.

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class for their work ethic and skill during the preseason.

"They're really skilled players who are ready to make an impact this season," she said.

The Bulldogs' first-year class includes three guards, Olivia Kim '29, Hannah Wasserman '29 and Radhika Garapaty '29, and two forwards, Dorka Kastl '29 and Sophia Gibson '29, who are 6'2 and 6'4, respectively.

The Bulldogs further strengthened their frontcourt through the transfer portal, adding 6'5 Mary Meng '27 from Michigan State and 6'1 Luisa Vydrova '27, who started at the University of Texas at El Paso last season.

"We've been able to add a veteran group of post players, Luisa and Mary, who are both extremely talented, smart, and lead some of the younger girls," Capstraw wrote.

Both Vydrova and returning sophomore Schmidt spent the summer competing internationally for their respective national teams — Vydrova with Czechia and Schmidt with

Austria — gaining additional experience through European play before returning to New Haven.

Schmidt said that her time playing 3-on-3 basketball for the Austrian national team helped her develop under faster-paced, high-level competition.

"It gave me a lot of valuable game experience and helped me improve my ability to make the right reads in a very fast-paced game of basketball," she said.

Schmidt said she hopes to bring that same deliberate court vision to Yale's offense this season by working not only to get herself open as a shooter, but also to create opportunities for her teammates through intentional cuts and screens.

The Elis will face off against Northeastern in their season opener at home Friday evening.

Contact
AZARA MASON at
azara.mason@yale.edu and
TANNER BATTLE at
tanner.battle@yale.edu By Liza

MEN'S HOCKEY: On alumni weekend, Bulldogs will brave 'War on Whitney'

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Yale," he wrote in a text message.

Heading into the Friday night matchup, the Bobcats have time on their side because they have been competing since Oct. 3. Quinnipiac will enter the matchup following a 2-0 victory over the University of New Hampshire (3-4-0, 1-2-0 Hockey East) and a 2-2 double overtime tie to Alaska-Fairbanks (2-8-1, 0-0-0 Independent).

Over the weekend, Yale's men's hockey team lost its first game to Dartmouth in Hanover.

Last season, the Bobcats made a long post-season stretch in the ECAC Tournament, defeating Brown 4-1 and 4-0 in the quarterfinals to advance to the semifinals, where they ultimately fell to Cornell 3-2 in overtime. Cornell then went on to win the tournament, downing Clarkson 3-1 in the finals.

The Bobcats have already proven themselves to be a top opponent this season in the ECAC conference, after being picked to win the 2025-26 campaign first in the 2025-26 ECAC men's hockey preseason poll. The team has already secured out-of-conference victories over high-profile teams, including Boston College (2-4-1, 0-2-0 Hockey East), Notre Dame (3-4-1, 0-2-0 Big Ten), the University of Maine (5-2-1, 2-0-0 Hockey East) and Holy Cross (3-5-1, 3-1-1 AHA).

First-year forward Ethan Wyttenbach leads the Bobcats' offense with 10 points from five goals and

five assists. Veteran players Jeremy Wilmer and Chris Pelosi have also proved to be powerhouse shooters for Quinnipiac, each tallying five goals this season. Goalkeepers Dylan Silverstein and Matej Marinov have anchored the Bobcats' defense, boasting 91.1 percent and 90.4 percent save percentages, respectively.

Although Quinnipiac will be a tough team to beat, the Elis say they are not deterred and are using practices this week to refine their skills before Friday night.

"This week, we are primarily focused on dialing in on our habits and the foundations of our team identity: pace, pressure, and puck battles. The more these habits become second nature, we believe the offense and creativity of our team will take over games," Chen wrote to the News.

Hartmann added that the defensive unit has emphasized cleaner puck movement after struggling to exit the zone against Dartmouth.

"Our defensive structure could use some work as always, but really our focus has been on our ability to manage the puck," Hartmann wrote to the News. "We fed Dartmouth's transition game with our timid breakout mentality — a mistake that we won't be making against Quinnipiac. Similar to Dartmouth, Quinnipiac plays a quick transition game and is tenacious on the forecheck. We need to be able to counter their pressure early to be able to set our tone for the game."

Hartmann said the Bulldogs' goal is to play more decisively out



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of their own zone and prevent the Bobcats from generating fast-break chances off turnovers.

After the War on Whitney, the Bulldogs will return to the ice the next night to host Ivy rival Princeton.

The Tigers already have two victories under their belts, having downed Alaska-Fairbanks (2-8-0, 0-0-0 Independent) in a two-game homestand last weekend. Before driving to New Haven, the team is set to play Brown (0-2-0, 0-0-0 ECAC) on Friday night.

Princeton finished last season with a losing record (12-15-3, 7-12-3 ECAC) and concluded post-season play with a 2-3 loss

to Brown in the first round of the 2025 ECAC Tournament.

The Tigers welcome back last year's top three scorers: Brendan Gorman, Jake Manfre and Jaxson Ezman, who led the team with 12, eight and seven goals, respectively. This season, the three have already proven their dominance on the Tigers' line, putting up seven of Princeton's 11 goals this season. In the net, Arthur Smith has blocked 90.2 percent of shots, only giving up five goals this season.

With home advantage on their side, the Bulldogs will look to upset No. 1 and No. 8 pre-season favored teams. The Bulldogs

were ranked last — No. 12 — in the ECAC preseason poll.

"The home crowd always brings extra motivation and energy for us on the ice. Hearing all of the support from our fans in Ingalls is a special feeling every time we play at home," Chen. "As a team, we take extreme pride in performing for not only ourselves and our teammates, but for our fans as well."

The Bulldogs will drop the puck on their home opener at 7 p.m. on Friday.

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