Yale Daily News

UNRVLD
MIST 80
PHANTOM 74

NBA
HORNETS 118
CELTICS 89

NBA
THUNDER 103
KNICKS 100

EPL
CRYSTAL PALACE 3
TOTTENHAM 1

SPORTS

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"We are excited to build off of momentum this past weekend and have the opportunity to compete for the ECAC playoff championship alongside our regular season title,"

SOPHIA LEVERING '28 HOCKEY

Bulldogs to take on Cornell with championship match on the line

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

BY AUDREY KIM
STAFF REPORTER

The No. 7 Yale Bulldogs (24–8, 16–6 ECAC) will face off against the No. 11 Cornell Big Red (20–10–2, 13–7–2 ECAC) on Friday in an ECAC semifinal game in Lake Placid, New York.

Yale and Cornell will be competing for a spot in the ECAC championship game, which is scheduled for Saturday. The conference champion earns an automatic bid to the NCAA playoffs.

"We are excited to build off of momentum this past weekend and have the opportunity to compete for the ECAC playoff championship alongside our regular season title," Sophia Levering '28 wrote to the News. "While in league bragging rights are the main focus of the weekend, a ticket to the NCAA tournament as well as potential at large bids are also up for grabs (3/4 semi final teams are currently in position to make the tournament)."

No. 8 Quinnipiac (26–8–3, 14–6–2 ECAC) and No. 9 Princeton (23–9, 16–6 ECAC) will face each other in the other ECAC semifinal on Friday, and both teams' sights will also be set on a postseason title.

The NCAA women's ice hockey tournament includes 11 teams that face off in a single elimination tournament. Five teams will qualify automatically for winning their conferences, and the remaining six teams are selected via at-large bids.

Yale is currently ranked No. 7 in the U.S. College Hockey Online poll — the highest of all ECAC teams. No. 1 Wisconsin, No. 2 Ohio State and No. 4 Minnesota all play in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association, No. 3 Penn State belongs to the Atlantic Hockey conference, while No. 5 Northeastern and No. 6 UConn play in the Hockey East.

Yale, No. 8 Quinnipiac and No. 9 Princeton are all currently in a position to receive bids to the NCAA tournament, but the playoff picture could fluctuate as teams across the country finish out their conference postseasons.

"While it's fun to talk and think about league championships and NCAA possibilities, ultimately we need to win the period in front of us and focus in on details that have gotten us here," Levering wrote.

The Bulldogs have been an unstoppable force for the past few months, recording zero regulation losses in 2026 and only one overtime loss to Quinnipiac.

So far this regular season, Yale has played Cornell twice, losing one game and winning the other.



YALE ATHLETICS

Yale will face off against Cornell on Friday in the ECAC tournament semifinal in Lake Placid, New York. The winner will advance to the conference championship on Saturday.

The Elis fell to the Big Red in a frustrating loss on Halloween in Ithaca, ending the game down three goals to zero despite tallying double Cornell's shots on goal. However, the Bulldogs avenged that loss when the teams faced off again at Ingalls in January.

The upcoming semifinal game will be different from the regular season matchups in that the game will take place on neutral ice in Lake Placid. Yale finished as the regular season champions and clinched the first seed in the ECAC playoffs, making the Bulldogs the favorites over the fourth-seeded Big Red.

Yale will take the ice against Cornell at 4 p.m. on Friday. The game will be streamed on ESPN+.

Contact
AUDREY KIM *at*
audrey.kim.ajk234@yale.edu.

Bulldogs to face Colgate Raiders in first-round playoff match

MEN'S HOCKEY

BY LIZA KAUFMAN
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's hockey team (8–21–1, 7–14–1 ECAC) will return to the ice this Saturday when the squad plays No. 7 seeded Colgate (12–18–4, 9–10–3 ECAC) in the opening round of the 2026 ECAC Men's Hockey Tournament.

After celebrating the seniors and concluding regular season play at home last weekend, the Bulldogs will travel to Hamilton, New York, to take the ice at the Class of 1965 Arena for a single-elimination opening round matchup.

While every team in the conference earns a spot in the playoffs, the top four teams in the ECAC — No. 1 Quinnipiac (26–7–3, 17–4–1 ECAC), No. 2 Dartmouth (19–7–4, 13–5–4 ECAC), No. 3 Cornell (20–8–1, 15–6–1 ECAC) and No. 4 Princeton (15–12–3, 11–9–2 ECAC) — earned automatic byes to the quarterfinals, which will be held from March 14 to 15.

In the first round this weekend, the remaining eight teams will vie for spots in the quarterfinals.

On Friday night, No. 6 Harvard (14–14–2, 11–10–1 ECAC) will host No. 11 St. Lawrence (7–24–3, 6–15–1 ECAC) in Boston, and No. 9 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (11–22–1, 8–13–1 ECAC) will play No. 8 Clarkson (15–16–3, 9–10–3 ECAC) in Potsdam, New York.

On Saturday night, two Ivies will seek to come out on top in New York. While the Elis face the Raiders, No. 12 Brown (5–23–2, 4–16–2 ECAC) will leave Providence to take on No. 5 Union (21–10–3, 11–9–2 ECAC) in Schenectady, New York.

These single-elimination games have high stakes, as many of the teams will seek to seize the playoff opportunity to recover from their losing seasons.

In the quarterfinals, the winner of Union-Brown will play Quinnipiac, Harvard-St. Lawrence will face Dartmouth, Colgate-Yale will take on Cornell and Clarkson-Rensselaer will battle Princeton.

The four surviving teams will advance to Herb Brooks Arena, site of the 1980 "Miracle on Ice," with an automatic berth to the NCAA tournament on the line. The semifinals and championship game will take place at the Lake Placid Olympic Center on March 20 and 21, respectively.

Last season, Quinnipiac, Cornell, Clarkson and Dartmouth made the trip to Lake Placid. Quinnipiac was seeded No. 1, Clarkson No. 2, Dartmouth No. 5 and Cornell No. 6.

Upsets happen in this tournament, as last year proved.

Cornell, the underdog, came out on top in the championship game. After a first round bye, Cornell earned its spot at Herbs Brooks Arena following an upset over No. 3 seeded Colgate. The Big Red soundly defeated the Raiders 4-1 and 3-0 in Hamilton for a sweep straight to the semifinals. With the odds against them, Cornell edged out top-seeded Quinnipiac in an overtime thriller to secure its place in the trophy game. In the championship game, two unanswered goals early in the first frame proved critical to the squad's 3-1 victory over No. 2 Clarkson.

Looking to Cornell's underdog victory as inspiration, the Bulldogs will seek to replicate Cornell's success over Colgate this weekend.

When the Bulldogs and Raiders first met in November, Yale nearly beat Colgate in Hamilton. The Elis came out hot, with Micah Berger '28 tallying the first goal 13 seconds into the game. A late Colgate power-play goal knotted the game. In the second frame, the Raiders took the lead at 1:06, but 18 seconds later, the Elis answered right back when Donovan Frias '28 drove it home. Ronan O'Donnell '28 cashed in on a power-play five minutes later to give Yale a one-goal lead. However, a Colgate goal in the final frame tied it up and sent the game into overtime, where the Raiders came out on top.

To close out January, the Elis hosted the Raiders at Ingalls Rink. Once again, Yale took an early lead when Kurt Gurkan '29 potted his first collegiate goal. In the second frame, Will Richter '27 extended Yale's lead to 2-0, but two back-to-back from the Raiders equalized the score. A four-goal offensive surge in the third period sealed the victory for the Raiders.

For Yale to steal one in Hamilton, the Bulldogs will need a fast start and disciplined special teams, especially against a Colgate squad that has shown an ability to flip momentum late in the game.

Colgate will enter the matchup after a split weekend at home. On Friday night, the Raiders fell to the Clarkson Golden Knights 1-4. Following a scoreless first period, the Golden Knights came out flying, putting up the first goal of the game 49 seconds into the second frame. Colgate equalized the score three minutes later, but two more unanswered Clarkson goals sealed the victory. Another Clarkson goal in the third period capped off scoring.

However, the Raiders bounced back and showed resilience on Saturday night against St. Lawrence. The Saints tallied the first two goals, but the Raiders answered right back. In a two-minute span, Colgate netted three of their own to take a one-goal lead. At 17:20, St. Lawrence tied it up. In the second frame, the Raiders' offense found the back of the net three more times while the defense held the Saints scoreless. Entering the final frame up 6-3, a power-play goal at 15:45 finished the game 7-3.

While Yale enters as the underdog, the Bulldogs have twice pushed Colgate to the brink this season. In a single-elimination setting, a fast start and disciplined defensive effort could be enough to flip the script.

Puck drop is at 7 p.m. in Hamilton.

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



LIZA KAUFMAN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Elis will hit the road to play No. 7 seeded Colgate in the opening round of the ECAC men's hockey tournament.

STAT OF THE DAY

YALE MEN'S HOCKEY IS IN THE OPENING ROUND OF THE ECAC MEN'S HOCKEY TOURNAMENT