



“We take pride in having a very gritty and fundamental play style.”

GARRETT LARSON, IVY LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Bulldogs rally against Penn in thriller, clinching playoff berth

MEN’S BASKETBALL

BY WALTER ROYAL
STAFF REPORTER

Despite missing their captain and leading scorer Nick Townsend ’26, the Yale men’s basketball team (21–4, 9–2) came back from a 0–10 starting deficit to beat Penn (13–11, 6–5) on Saturday afternoon.

The Bulldogs clinched an Ivy League playoff berth with the hard-fought win.

“We’ve been involved in a lot of really good college basketball games. That was another one today,” Yale head coach James Jones said after the game.

The Bulldogs struggled to get going without Townsend, who was out after the team’s Valentine’s Day victory at Harvard (15–10, 8–3).

“He’s fine. I expect him to be able to practice next week. That’s what we’re hoping for, and we’ll see that if that happens,” Jones said, referring to Townsend, in the postgame press conference.

While Yale started slow, Penn had no issues at the beginning. The Quakers sank five of their first six shots and jumped out to a ten-point lead over the span of the first four minutes. Their defense was similarly successful. Yale combined for five missed shots and two fouls before recording their first points on a Samson Aletan ’26 slam.

This was just the third 10–0 run

Yale has conceded all season. The Elis have posted 13 such streaks of their own in their Ivy-leading 2025–26 campaign.

While Yale’s offense began to warm up, their Penn counterparts continued sizzling. By the six-minute mark, both TJ Power and Michael Zanonni had scored double-digit points for the Quakers. Penn still held a significant lead, 25–34, entering the final four minutes of the first half.

At that point, Aletan went for a contested layup under the basket, got the bucket and drew a foul. Though he failed to convert the three-point play, this sparked an 8–0 Yale run, bringing the score to 33–34. Penn rallied, however, and a Jay Jones jumper once again gave the Quakers a multi-score lead entering the break.

Jones, who had scored a career-high 17 points the previous week against Cornell, is the nephew of Yale’s own James Jones. Jones, however, refused to let family ties interfere with his job.

“I don’t even think about my nephew playing, to be honest with you. I think there was a time or two that it became real, but for the most part it’s just another guy on the court,” Jones said.

The second half mirrored the first, but this time, Yale began with a 10–0 run of its own. The Quakers failed to score for the first five minutes of the period, ending their drought with a tip-in at 14:55. The Bulldogs led 45–42 at that point.

With the pair of explosive scoring runs now behind them, neither



YALE ATHLETICS

Yale secured a spot in the Ivy League Tournament with a come-from-behind win over Penn on Saturday.

team could gain a clear edge on the other. The teams stayed within two scores all the way up until the last 90 seconds. An Isaac Celiscar ’28 jumper then put Yale up seven.

Yet, Penn answered with a Power three, and — following a Trevor Mullin ’27 free throw — another triple from Zanonni. Just two points separated the teams with 44 seconds left.

Without their captain, the Bulldogs turned back to last week’s hero, Celiscar. The sophomore forward, who had already scored 12 points by then, brought the ball to the baseline. The six-foot-six-inch Celiscar

spun then stepped back for a long fadeaway two-pointer. Yale led, 70–66.

The Quakers cut the lead to two with a layup of their own but then had to foul. Celiscar sank two more free throws to effectively ice the game. A poor foul from Yale gave Penn second life for about thirty seconds before Mullin hit another pair of free throws to extinguish any remaining hope. The final score was 74–70.

Celiscar was proud of the group-effort win, in which four different Bulldogs scored in double digits.

“We had to band together and just come together as a team,”

Celiscar said.

With Yale’s win and Harvard’s victory over Cornell (12–12, 5–6) on Saturday, the Ivy rivals became the first two teams to clinch 2026 Ivy Madness spots. The tournament will take place at Cornell’s Newman Arena from March 13 to 15.

The Bulldogs will hit the road later this week to face Cornell on Friday and Columbia (15–10, 4–7) on Saturday. Both games tip off at 6 p.m.

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Men’s team falls to Penn in Ivies

SQUASH

BY RACHEL MAK
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men’s squash team (6–5, 4–2 Ivy) fell to the University of Pennsylvania (14–2, 5–1 Ivy) over the weekend in the semifinal round of the inaugural Ivy League Squash Tournament in Princeton. The Bulldogs lost to the Quakers 6–3.

Rishi Srivastava ’28 crushed his Penn opponent in straight games, 11–4, 11–5, 11–4. Oliver Velasco ’29 also defeated his opponent 3–0, with game scores of 11–7, 11–4, 13–11. With the win, Velasco ended his regular season with a 7–4 record.

Jack O’Flynn ’27 came away with the Bulldogs’ third and final win on the day, a grueling five-game victory over Penn’s Hao Cui. The players traded games until O’Flynn came out on top in the fifth.

In the first position, Tad Carney ’26 faced Penn’s Omar Hafez. After Carney dropped his first two games, he rallied back to take the third 16–14. He then won the next one 11–6 to force a deciding game. However, Hafez took the final game 11–4.

Rohan Arya Gondi ’28 also dropped his first two games in the fourth position for the Bulldogs before taking the next two. He ultimately fell to Penn’s Alexander Dartnell 11–8 in the fifth, after putting up a fight.

Lachlan Sutton ’27, Rick Chen ’28 and Bennett Eun ’27 fell to their Penn opponents in three games. Arav Bhagwati ’26 retired from his match after dropping the first two games.

Yale will head to the College Squash Association National Team Championships in March, and Penn and Yale could meet for a third time this season.

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Yale takes down Boston University in second straight home win



LIZA KAUFMAN, PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

MEN’S LACROSSE

BY LIZA KAUFMAN
STAFF REPORTER

Yale’s men’s lacrosse team (2–1, 0–0 Ivy) took care of business on Saturday, upsetting No. 18 Boston University (2–2, 0–0 Patriot) by a final score of 16–11.

With 21 saves from sophomore goalie Ben Friedman ’28, a career-high seven-point performance from sophomore attackman Connor Gately ’28 and four goals and one assist from senior David Anderson ’26, the Bulldogs earned their second straight home victory at Reese Stadium.

“Very exciting to get a big team win today in front of a great home crowd,” long-stick midfielder Luke Michalik ’27 wrote in a text message to the News. “It’s great to see all sides of the ball executing and complementing each other this early on in the season.”

For Gately, the offensive breakout built on his performance in Tuesday’s matchup against Marist (1–2, 0–0 MAAC), when he recorded five points on a goal and four assists.

“I think what’s been working well for me is just playing loose and trusting the preparation we’ve put in as a team,” Gately wrote in a

text message to the News. “The last couple games, I’ve really focused on staying aggressive, moving without the ball, and letting the game come to me instead of forcing anything. My teammates have been putting me in great positions, and honestly a lot of those points are a credit to them winning matchups and creating opportunities.”

A dominant offensive production from seven different Bulldogs contributed to the upset. Alongside Gately, Anderson also netted four goals, while Cole Jackson ’27, Sean Grogan ’29 and Peter Moynihan ’27 each found the back of the net twice.

The offensive surge, paired with a defensive effort that limited Boston University’s momentum, kept the Terriers from mounting a sustained comeback. The Terriers never came within more than three goals once the Bulldogs took the lead early on.

Head coach Andy Shay was proud of the team’s performance against the nationally-ranked team.

“It was a huge win over a ranked team. I’m proud of how our guys responded,” Shay wrote in an email to the News.

From the opening faceoff, the Bulldogs got off to a fast start with four back-to-back goals. Junior

midfielder Jackson got Yale on the board first at 12:34. Less than a minute later, Gately notched his first of three assists to Flynn Leonard ’29 to give Yale a 2–0 lead. Gately, assisted by Grogan, then potted a goal of his own to cushion Yale’s lead.

William Sheehan ’26 later found Jackson for his second goal of the quarter. BU’s Peyton Forte answered on a man-up opportunity to cut the deficit to 4–1. A minute later, Gately notched his second goal on an Anderson assist. The Terriers answered right back, and Yale led 5–2 at the close of the quarter.

The Elis put up another four unanswered goals to open the second quarter, two of which came unassisted from Gately. At 13:17, Gately recorded a hat trick. Anderson followed that up with his first of the day, and then Gately netted another to give Yale a six-goal lead. Grogan closed out the four-goal campaign at 5:23. Refusing to let Yale end the half with a seven-goal lead, BU’s Timothy Shannehan potted two back-to-back to end the first half with Yale up 9–4.

The Terriers put up four goals in the third quarter but still were no match for the Yale squad. Asher Ziv ’29 passed to Anderson, who tallied for his third goal of the game.

On a man-up, the Terriers scored, but with Anderson’s goal, the Elis’ score was still double the Terriers at 10–5. Anderson then answered right back to retake the six-goal lead. BU notched two more goals, to which the Bulldogs countered with two of their own from Grogan and Luke Pascal ’28. The Terriers netted their fourth at 1:34 to close the period 13–8.

In the final quarter, the Bulldogs continued to apply pressure. Down by five, Shannehan tallied his fourth goal for BU to open the scoring and cut the deficit, but three unanswered from Yale put the game out of reach for a Terrier squad that struggled to beat Yale goalie Friedman all day. A three-goal strike from Yale extended the team’s lead to seven. Moynihan scored unassisted, and then Gately tallied his final two assists on Anderson’s fourth and Moynihan’s second goals of the game. The Terriers scored twice more but had no hope of coming back. The Elis triumphed 16–11.

“It definitely feels great to have that kind of performance, especially in a ranked home win. I’m just proud of how we responded and executed as a group in a quick turnaround,” Gately wrote. “An upset like this early in the season is huge for us. It gives us confidence and shows what we’re capable of when we play our style and stick to our game plan. At the same time, it sets the standard — now we know the level we can reach, and the challenge is bringing that every single game.”

The Bulldogs will next play No. 10 Penn State (2–2, 0–0 Big 10), a team that reached the NCAA tournament semifinals last season before falling to Cornell (2–2, 0–0 Ivy), the eventual national title winners.

“Going to enjoy this one for about 24 hours then we’re all focused on the next practice and eventual next game at Penn State,” Michalik wrote.

Faceoff is slated for 1 p.m. on Saturday. The game will be streamed on ESPN+.

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STAT OF THE DAY

KEVIN CAHILL WAS NAMED THE 35TH HEAD COACH OF THE YALE FOOTBALL TEAM.