

# Yale Rugby Club

Spring 2006

## Upcoming Spring 2006 Schedule

**3/5-3/12**

Spring Tour:

Argentina

**3/25**

@UConn

**4/1**

Senior Game vs.

Middlebury

Mory's Senior Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

**4/8-4/9**

Ivy League

Tournament

@Yale

**4/22-4/23**

Beast of the East

## *Elis Finish 1st Season in DI*

*By Sherman Wang*

Following last fall's dominant 11-2 season that bumped Yale up to Division I, the Bulldogs kicked off its 2006 Division I season by hosting a preseason scrimmage against UCONN in early September. While the Bulldogs came out strong, the rust and position shuffling in the backline prevented any forward momentum and allowed UCONN to pull away with a final score of Yale 0 – UCONN 30. Yale's newest B-side players, however, demonstrated that the Bulldogs have a solid rookie class lined up for the near future.

The first league match took the Bulldogs to

Amherst College. Again, Yale came out strong with dominant set pieces and rucking, ending the first half with an 8-0 lead. However, the second half showed that Yale's fitness levels were not yet up to par with Division I. In the heat and humidity, Yale simply ran out of strength and let the opposition back into the game. Amherst mustered several unanswered tries bringing the final score to a disappointing Yale 8 – Amherst 32.

The following weekend, Yale hosted the University of New Hampshire for the season home opener. Yale played an awe-inspiring game of rugby; behind 21-10 with only 15

minutes to play, the Bulldogs valiantly fought back from an eleven point deficit. Solid tackling from the forwards stopped UNH in their tracks while the Yale backline started to click, punching in several tries to win the match Yale 28 – UNH 21.

Coming off their fantastic win against UNH, Yale traveled to Cambridge, MA the following weekend to face off against rivals Harvard. The Bulldogs came out strong and full of confidence, but with the backline unable to find its rhythm, Yale played defensive rugby while Harvard capitalized on mistakes, ending the first half with Yale down 13 – 0. The second half proved no different as Harvard continued to score against a defensive Yale team. A late surge from the Bulldogs brought the final score to Yale 12 – Harvard 37.

Brown University traveled to Yale over parents' weekend for the Bulldog's second home game of the season. Despite sloppy conditions from the rain, Yale executed their new defensive pattern flawlessly, soaking up Brown's offensive attacks before putting up several tries themselves for a final score of Yale 17 – Brown 7.

The final regular season match brought Norwich University to Yale.

*Continued page 2*



**Ivy League Rugby Championship**

**April 8th - 9th 2006**

**Hosted by Yale University**

**All Alumni, Friends, and Family  
are encouraged to attend.  
If you are interested in helping run  
and organize the event, please contact  
FYR President Ralph Bosch '77 at  
boschland@aol.com**



## Fall 2005 Recap, cont. from page 1

From the outset Yale took control, effectively dominating the set pieces and taking advantage of the holes in the opposing backline. Despite a less than special second half, Yale was able to scrape by with a win Yale 19 – Norwich 18. With the defeat of Norwich, Yale finished third in their Division I conference behind Amherst and Harvard.

The Bulldogs traveled to play Ivy League powerhouse Dartmouth the following weekend for their first Division I playoff match. Eventually losing 91

– 0, the Bulldogs simply played against a far superior rugby team. After a disappointing defeat, Yale learned that there was much to be worked on in order to compete and reach the next level of rugby that Dartmouth exemplified.

Scheduled to play Amherst again for their second playoff match, Yale revisited their offensive strategy, incorporating more continuous play with offloads to forwards trailing in the backline. Many of Amherst's players were beleaguered by Staphylococcus and Am-

herst was forced to forfeit the match. With a week of rest, the Bulldogs prepared for UCONN in a rematch of their preseason scrimmage in the Division I consolation finals and for fifth place overall in Division I. Despite carrying numerous injuries, and surviving an early scare, Yale was able to turn the tables on the poor preseason loss to the Huskies, and came away with a convincing 35 – 12 victory. With the number of injuries sustained this fall, Yale's B-side has proven adept at filling in the holes and their

continued support of the club has been admirable.

The annual exhibition match against Princeton for the Koranda Cup was cancelled due to difficult dealings with Princeton's administration. The following week, Yale proved their late season improvement with an exhilarating re-match against rivals Harvard during the morning of the Yale-Harvard Game. Despite superb play by the Bulldogs, Harvard was able to steal away a win with the final score Yale 14 – Harvard 19.

### Newly Elected Officers

Jack Mahoney '07  
*Captain*

Sherman Wang '07  
*President*

Ben Swiss '08  
*Vice President*

Senthu Arumugam '09  
*Treasurer*

Michael Proctor '08  
*Match Secretary*

Pietro Desario '07  
*Tour Secretary*

Sean Walbridge '08  
*Alumni Secretary*

Dave Wheelock '09  
Devin Ringger '09  
*Recruitment Chairs*

Chris Hathaway '07  
Andy Beck '09  
*Social Chairs*

## Elis fall short in "The Game"

By Sam Beutler

This year's annual Yale-Harvard game was one of the most competitive, exciting games in recent memory. Playing in the Junior Varsity football stadium with representatives from Rugby Magazine present to cover the match, "The Game" would prove to be an 80 minute

game. However, Yale showed the resiliency that it has all season. Inside center and future captain Jack Mahoney '07 broke through the centers for a score early in the second. After winger Bobby Cardone '06 converted the try, second row Chris Hathaway '07, banged in another score off the side of the ruck. A successful

take a 19-14 lead.

Although Yale would pressure again, they would be unable to score and regain the lead. Harvard was victorious with a final score of 19-14 in this closely contested battle. While disappointing in its outcome, "The Game" showed the competitiveness of the Yale



battle.

In the first match up of the year, Harvard was victorious 37-12. Again, Harvard jumped out to an early 14-0 lead, scoring two tries in the first 26 minutes of the

conversion led to a 14-14 tie. With the momentum swinging Yale's way, they scored once again off a wide break, only to have it be called back for a forward pass. Harvard took advantage of this penalty, moving down the field to

squad, as well as their heart and determination. Strong alumni, fan, and school support for the match shows the growing importance and status of the rugby club, and most certainly is a building block for the future.

## Getting to know prop Sherman Wang

Coming to you from California, Sherman Wang '07 is a prime example of what Yale rugby can give to students. A former football and basketball player in high school, Wang picked up rugby second semester of his freshman year, helping Yale win Beast of the East. This spring, he will have his hands full helping to plan the Ivy League tournament to be hosted here at Yale. One of the most involved and dedicated play-

ers on the team, he appreciates all that rugby has to offer. "Rugby has been the best experience of my life."



## Meet our Captain, Jack Mahoney

From outside Boston and the class of 2007 comes our newly elected captain, Jack Mahoney. A former cross-country runner and basketball player in high school, Mahoney fortunately found rugby after his arrival at Yale, quickly developing a knowledge of the game as well as gaining respect from his teammates on the pitch. While the spring tour and season should be especially exciting, he cannot wait for his opportunity to lead the club. "I'm really looking forward to the fall season. It should

be a season jam-packed with big hits and fun times."



# Spring Season Marked by Hosting Ivies

By Garan Geist

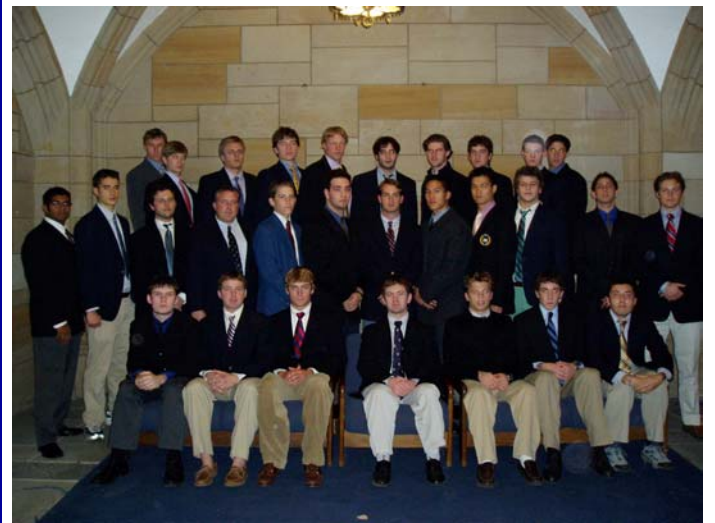
The spring season marks an exciting time for Yale Rugby. Without a doubt, the focal point will be the annual Ivy League Tournament, scheduled for the weekend of April 8-9. This year, Yale has been given the chance to host both the men's and women's brackets. The officers of the club, with the help of several key alumni, are taking this opportunity to significantly improve upon past tournaments with the aim of staging a world-class affair (complete with banquet and keynote speaker) to showcase the vast improvements currently taking place in Ivy League rugby. The tournament budget will have to come almost entirely from corporate sponsorship, so if you or your company would like to become involved in

any way, please contact FYR President Ralph Bosch ([boschland@aol.com](mailto:boschland@aol.com)) or Coach John Broker ([johnjosephbroker@hotmail.com](mailto:johnjosephbroker@hotmail.com)) without hesitation.

Though short, the rest of the spring season will be action-packed for this year's Bulldogs. It begins with a weeklong Argentinean tour over Spring Break that, in addition to building team cohesiveness, should go a long way toward improving players' technical skills. Upon return, the team will travel up to Storrs to face a formidable UConn squad in what has recently become a great in-state rivalry (the series was split 1-1 in the fall). The next weekend (April 1), Middlebury will come down to New Haven to get out of the snow for a day. This match against a traditional D-II power will

be a great gauge for the team to see how far we have come in our first season in Division-I. After Ivies, the Bulldogs will once again make the trip out to Rhode Island for the Beast of the East tournament to finish the season. Yale has had a great showing at this tournament in recent years, finishing 1<sup>st</sup>

and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the previous two contests, and plans on continuing this success. A battle against Princeton for the Koranda Cup is currently in the process of being scheduled for an open date on the calendar, as is a tune-up match against a local club before the Argentina trip.



# *Giving to Yale Rugby*

Rugby at Yale receives very limited funding from the University - in recent years it has been only \$2,500 between the men's and women's clubs. As the club has grown and moved back to Division I rugby the costs to field a competitive team have grown to over \$25,000 per year.

The undergraduate players pay club dues each year but this still leaves the club far short of the necessary funding to pay for coaching, travel, equipment, referees, tournament fees, and league dues.

Contributions to Friends of Yale Rugby are essential to the club's continued success. Smaller contributions go to the club's operating budget while larger contributions can be earmarked towards a purpose (like a tour) or go to the endowment. If you would like to make a contribution of over \$2,500 please contact John Dore '73 at [bestscrumhalf@yahoo.com](mailto:bestscrumhalf@yahoo.com). All donors will be recognized in our annual appeal letter and every gift helps - both financially and by raising rugby's profile at the University.

Please follow the below instructions carefully to ensure that your donation is credited to Yale Rugby:

## Gifts by Credit Card

1. Go to <http://www.yale.edu/rugby>
2. Click on "Donations" in the left sidebar
3. Click on "Yale's online donation page" halfway down the page under Gifts By Credit Card
4. Select "Other" from the "Please choose an area" drop-down menu.
5. In the "Purpose" field put "Desig. #03872 - Friends of Yale Rugby."
6. Hit "Continue" at the bottom of the page and follow the instructions on the screen to complete your donation.

## Gifts by Check

If you would prefer to send a check, please mail it to:

Friends of Yale Rugby  
P.O. BOX 1844  
New Haven, CT 06508-1844

All checks should be made out to "Yale University" and remember to write "Desig. #03872 - Friends of Yale Rugby" on the memo line to make sure that your contribution goes to Yale Rugby.

## **Questions, comments, concerns?**

Feel free to contact our Alumni  
Secretary at the following email  
address:

[sean.walbridge@yale.edu](mailto:sean.walbridge@yale.edu)

**Make Sure to  
Check Out Our  
Website At:  
[www.yale.edu/rugby](http://www.yale.edu/rugby)**