BULLDOG - The Yale fight song, penned by Cole Porter ’13, is augmented by the sounds of barking. It is sung by many Eli teams after Yale victories.

Bulldog, Bulldog, bow, wow, wow, Eli Yale,
Bulldog, Bulldog, bow, wow, wow,
Our team can never fail.
When the Sons of Eli break thru the line
That is the sign we hail,
Bulldog, Bulldog, bow, wow, wow, Eli Yale.

CHAMPIONSHIPS, IVY - Yale has won six Ivy League championships - 1957, 1962, 1963, 2002, 2015 and 2016. The Bulldogs captured the first official Ivy League title in 1957 as they finished 12-2 and lost to eventual national champion North Carolina, 90-74, in the NCAA East Regional. The 1962 club finished 13-1 in Ivy play, but lost in overtime to Wake Forest, 92-82, in the East Regional. The 1963 team tied Princeton for the Ivy title with an 11-3 record, but fell to the Tigers in a playoff, 65-53. In 2002, the Bulldogs were part of the first three-way tie in Ivy history. Yale beat Princeton 76-60 in the first Ivy playoff game, but fell to Penn 77-58 in the game to determine the NCAA berth. Yale again shared the Ivy crown in 2015, this time with Harvard. The Crimson won a thrilling playoff game at the Palestra, 53-51, to advance to the NCAA Tournament. In 2016, the Bulldogs matched the best league mark in school history (13-1) on their way to Ivy crown.

CHAMPIONSHIPS, NATIONAL - Yale has been named national champion twice - 1901 and 1903 - by the Helms Athletic Foundation.

CHAMPIONSHIPS, OTHER - Before the official formation of the Ivy League, there was the Eastern Intercollegiate Basketball League - the forerunner to the Ivy Group. Yale won eight EIBL titles - 1902, 1903, 1907, 1915, 1917, 1923, 1933 and 1949.

HANDSOME DAN - In 1889, Andrew B. Graves offered a blacksmith $65 for an animal that looked like a “cross between an alligator and a horned toad.” After giving the dog a good scrubbing, Graves stood back and, admiring his work, named his dog, Handsome Dan. Dan followed his master to classes, waited patiently outside the classrooms and was his constant companion at Yale’s football and baseball games. He seemed to understand sports...at least he barked whenever Yale scored. This habit soon got him adopted as the official mascot.

FIRST-TEAM ALL-IVY SELECTIONS - The Bulldogs have had 34 first team All-Ivy selections since the official formation of the league in 1956. Three Yale players - John Lee, Chris Dudley and Justin Sears - have been honored three times. Larry Downs, Bill Madden, Rick Kaminsky, Butch Graves, Paul Maley and Greg Mangano are two-time selections.

FIVE-ON-FIVE - The very first game of college basketball with five men on each side was played in New Haven in the 1896-97 season. The Elis, under head coach Dr. Henry S. Anderson, had actually begun playing basketball in 1895 with seven or nine men on a side.

FORTY-POINT SCORERS - Only four times in Yale’s storied basketball history have Bulldog players reached the 40-point plateau in a game. The great Tony Lavelli holds the school record for points, tallying 52 against Williams in 1949. He also hit for 40 against Princeton the same year. John Lee also turned the trick twice, hitting for 41 against Harvard in 1956 and 40 versus the Crimson again in 1958.

NATIONAL LEADERS - Yale has had two players lead Division I in a statistical category since 1948. In 1949, Tony Lavelli topped the nation in scoring with a 22.4 per game average. In 1953, John Weber led the country in free throw percentage, canning 117 of 141 attempts for an 83.0 percent success rate.

NBA DRAFTEES - Seven Yale players have been drafted by NBA clubs. Tony Lavelli is the lone Eli to be selected in the first round, as he was taken by the Boston Celtics in 1949. John Lee (New York Knicks ’58) and Butch Graves (Philadelphia 76ers ’84) were both selected in the third round, while Chris Dudley (Cleveland Cavaliers ’87) was a fourth-round pick. Rick Kaminsky (76ers ’64) was taken in the sixth round, Dennis Lynch (Knicks ’64) was chosen in the 11th round and Bob Trupin was selected in the 12th round (Knicks ’65).

PLAYER OF THE YEAR, IVY - Since the award was established in 1975, two Yale players have been honored as Ivy Player of the Year - Paul Maley (1988) and Justin Sears, the only two-time winner. (2015, 2016).

PLAYER OF THE YEAR, NATIONAL - Yale has had two players honored as the National Player of the Year - Gilmore Kenney (1907) and Tony Lavelli (1949).

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR, IVY - Five Yale freshmen have been honored as Ivy Rookie of the Year - Tim Daaleman (1979), Steve Leondis (1980), Ed Petersen (1989), Gabe Hunterton (1995) and Alex Gamboa (2002).
1400-800 Club - Justin Sears is the first player in school history to score at least 1,400 career points and grab 800 rebounds. Six players scored 1,200 points and grabbed 600 rebounds: Greg Mangano (1,213-735) Dean Campbell ‘91 (1,217-638). Ed Robinson ‘57 (1182-1066), Chris Dudley ‘87 (1290-974), Tim Daaleman ‘82 (1248-831), Larry Downs ‘59 (1233-751) and John Lee ‘58 (1493-630).

Underclassmen - The 2001-02 season will be long remembered by Yale hoop enthusiasts. A squad without a single senior, this team posted the best record at Yale since 1948-49, going 21-11. The Bulldogs captured their first Ivy League title since 1963, sharing the crown with Princeton and Pennsylvania, and made their first post-season tournament appearance in 40 years, reaching the second round of the National Invitation Tournament. A victory at Rutgers in the opening round of the NIT was the first postseason tournament victory in the 107-year history of Yale basketball.

Best of the Best

Dudley, Chris ‘87 - The last Yale alum to play in the National Basketball Association, Dudley was one of the best players to ever don the Bulldog uniform. He was a three-time first-team All-Ivy selection, averaging 12.6 points and 9.5 rebounds per game during his career. Dudley shot 51 percent from the field and 51 percent from the charity stripe, while also blocking a Yale record 172 shots.

Graves, Butch ‘84 - Graves is Yale’s all-time leading scorer with 2,090 points in four seasons. The 6-3 sharpshooter averaged over 23 points his last two seasons, becoming the only Eli to score over 2,000 points in a career. Graves is the third-leading all-time scorer in Ivy League history, behind Princeton’s Bill Bradley (2,503) and Dartmouth’s Jim Barton (2,158).

Hobson, Howard - A member of the Basketball Hall of Fame, Hobson coached Yale from 1947-56, compiling a record of 121-118. His 1949 club won the Ivy title, qualifying for the NCAA Tournament. He previously led Oregon to the first NCAA championship in 1939 and coached the U.S. Olympic team in 1952.

Kaminsky, Rick ‘64 - Kaminsky was a key part of Yale teams that won two Ivy League titles in the early 1960s. He was a two-time first-team All-Ivy selection and led the Bulldogs in scoring from 1962 to 1964. In 1964, he was selected as an honorable mention All-American, and he was chosen by the Philadelphia 76ers in the sixth round of the NBA Draft.

Lavelli, Tony ‘49 - Lavelli is one of the all-time greats in Yale basketball history. A 6-3 forward from Somerville, Mass., Lavelli scored 1,964 points in his four seasons, including 671 as a senior, leading Yale to the NCAA Tournament. He was named the National Player of the Year in 1949 and graduated as the fourth-highest scorer ever in major college basketball history. He was a three-time All-America selection, earning second-team honors in 1946 and 1948, and first-team recognition in 1949. Lavelli, also an accomplished accordion player, was a first-round draft choice of the Boston Celtics.

Lee, John ‘58 - Also one of the all-time Yale greats, Lee scored 1,493 points in three seasons in an Eli uniform. A 6-3 forward from Brooklyn, Lee set an Ivy League record by scoring 605 points as a sophomore, averaging 23.3 points per game. He averaged over 18 points a game his final two seasons, leading the Bulldogs to the NCAA Tournament as a junior. He still holds six Yale basketball records, including a 21-21 performance at the foul line against Oregon State in 1957. Lee, a member of the Ivy League Silver Anniversary All-Star team, was drafted by the New York Knicks in the third round. Yale’s home court, the John J. Lee Amphitheater, is named in his honor.

Petersen, Ed ‘92 - Standing just 5-11, Petersen, speedy point guard, thrilled audiences with his three-point shooting ability. He stands third on Yale’s all-time scoring list with 1605 points and still holds records for three point field goals made (229) and attempted (536). Petersen was named Ivy League Rookie of the Year after scoring 458 points his freshman year, more than any other freshman in school history.

Sears, Justin ‘16 - The latest addition to Yale’s all-time greats, Sears, the recipient of the 2016 William Neely Mallory Award, the most prestigious athletic award given to a senior male at Yale, spearheaded a very successful stretch for the Bulldogs. He is the only two-time Ivy League Player of the Year award winner in school history and is among the school’s career leaders in points (3rd, 1,700), rebounds (4th, 818), blocks (2nd, 200) and free throws made (2nd, 475). In addition, he earned first team All-Ivy recognition in his sophomore, junior and senior seasons, becoming just the third three-time first team selection in school history and the first since Chris Dudley (1985-87). Following his senior season, Sears was invited to play in the National Association of Basketball Coaches Division I College All-Star game at the Final Four in Houston. He also attended the prestigious Portsmouth Invitational. During Sears’ career, the Bulldogs won 78 games, the most in any four-year stretch since 1908, and posted a 41-15 Ivy mark, one win shy of the best four-year Ivy stretch in school history.