



News Release

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Men

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YALE IS COACHES' CHOICE IN 2009-10

Bulldogs Receive Seven First-Place Votes in Preseason Poll

ALBANY, N.Y. -- Yale, which finished atop in the regular-season standings last season and won its first-ever tournament championship is the team to beat in the 2009-10 regular season, according to voting by the league coaches as part of the pre-season poll.

The Bulldogs, led by four-year head coach Keith Allain, garnered a total of 117 points, including seven of 12 first-place votes. Yale, which advanced to NCAA Men's Championship East Semifinals a year ago, heads into the upcoming campaign with an experienced squad headlined by returning all-league selection senior forward Sean Backman. The Bulldogs return much of their firepower on offense from last year including their top 10 scorers who registered at least ten points each in overall play.

Cornell claimed three first-place votes in finishing second in the poll. The Big Red, who are led by the head coach Mike Schafer, who enters his 15th season behind the Cornell bench in 2009-10 and whose teams have finished no worse than fourth in the last ten seasons in league-play, amassed 113 total points.

Princeton, which garnered two first place votes, is slotted to finish third in regular-season play according to the voting by the coaches. Head coach Guy Gadowsky's Tigers compiled 103 points in the poll. Harvard, which returns 20 letterwinners, ranks fourth in the preseason poll with 87 points; Dartmouth occupies the fifth slot with 64 points, followed by Union with 55 points.

Colgate garners the Nos. 7 spot with 54 points, while Quinnipiac and Rensselaer tie for the No. 8 position with 47 points. St. Lawrence was selected in the No. 10 position in the preseason coaches' poll under head coach Joe Marsh.

Clarkson, led by head coach George Roll is the No. 11 team in the poll, while Brown, under first-year head coach Brendan Whittet comes in at No. 12 in the poll.

The men's season opens Friday, October 2 with three exhibition games when Rensselaer hosts Prince Edward Island, Colgate welcomes Waterloo, and Clarkson takes on Toronto. The first regular-season games of the 2009-10 campaign take place Thursday, October 8 as Quinnipiac travels to Ohio St. and Rensselaer visits Massachusetts in non-league battles.

ABOUT ECAC HOCKEY

ECAC Hockey boasts elite student-athletes and teams from 12 of the nation's most prestigious institutions - Brown University, Clarkson University, Colgate University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, Princeton University, Quinnipiac University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, St. Lawrence University, Union College, and Yale University.

1.		YALE (7)	117	7.		COLGATE	54
2.		CORNELL (3)	113	8.		QUINNIPIAC	47
3.		PRINCETON (2)	103			RENSSELAER	47
4.		HARVARD	87	10.		ST. LAWRENCE	46
5.		DARTMOUTH	64	11.		CLARKSON	44
6.		UNION	55	12.		BROWN	11

BROWN • CLARKSON • COLGATE • CORNELL • DARTMOUTH • HARVARD
PRINCETON • QUINNIPIAC • RENSSELAER • ST. LAWRENCE • UNION • YALE