

Inside Lacrosse March 11, 2007

Yale downs Air Force in First 4 game

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Kyle Washabaugh and Brendan Gibson scored four goals apiece to lead the No. 18 Yale men's lacrosse team to a 12-9 victory over Air Force in the opening game of the First 4 Tournament at the University of San Diego's Torero Stadium.

Bulldog Tyler Casertano notched four assists to go with a goal while Justin Kuchta led the Falcons with three goals. Yale outshot the Falcons 39-31 and held a 39-26 ground ball edge in its first televised (CSTV) game since the 1990 NCAA semifinals. Faceoff man Greg DuBoff went 18-for-25 against three Air Force players and collected five ground balls to help take the pressure off goalie George Carafides, who stopped eight shots.

Yale improved to 3-0 while Air Force fell to 1-3. The team improves to 6-0 under Head Coach Andy Shay in games played at neutral sites during spring break. Shay's first five spring break victories came in Florida, where the team played spring break games last 15 years. The win also gives Yale its first three-game winning streak since April of 2005, when the team was last ranked nationally.

The game was marked by runs throughout the night, with the Falcons erasing an early Yale lead with a 4-0 run in the second quarter. However, the Bulldogs responded, shutting out Air Force for over 11 minutes in the second and third quarters while going on a 6-0 run that gave Yale a four-goal advantage that Air Force could not erase. During the run, Casertano recorded an assist on four consecutive Bulldog goals by Captain Chris Kempner, Gibson, Michael Karwoski, who played in his first game of the season, and Washabaugh. Karwoski scored 12 goals in 2006, and he collected two goals and one assist against Air Force after finishing the hockey season and joining his spring sport last week.

According to Kempner, re-focusing by the players during an extended 15-minute halftime show allowed them to come out firing in the third quarter. The teams were tied at six at halftime in large part due to Yale's hustle on face-offs: the Bulldogs scored two goals in eight seconds with a minute remaining in the first half to tie the game. The second goal came off a DuBoff faceoff win fast break that was finished with Casertano's pass to Kempner, who scored Yale's fifth goal of the day and his 40th career goal as a Bulldog.

"We returned to playing our style of lacrosse in the second half and got a string of goals together thanks to the efforts of guys like Washabaugh," Kempner said.

After the Bulldogs scored six goals in six minutes before and after halftime, the closest Air Force got was 10-8, with 2:10 left in the third period, but goals by Gibson and Washabaugh were the insurance. Besides Karwoski, freshman Matt Fuchs, whose brother Ben had two assists, scored his first points of the season with two assists of his own.

Yale, which remains in San Diego until March 14, comes back to the Northeast to start its Ivy League slate on the road against Penn (3-2) on Saturday, March 17.

Box Score

	1	2	3	4	F
Yale - Bulldogs [M]	3	3	5	1	12
Air Force - Falcons [M]	2	4	2	1	9

Air Force - GOALS: Kuchta, Justin 3; Nevitt, Griffin 2; Crumrine, Kevin 2; Meister, Will 1; Lochocki, Conrad 1. **ASSISTS:** Meister, Will 2; Lochocki, Conrad 1; Nevitt, Griffin 1; Weber, Michael 1.

Yale - GOALS: Washabaugh, Kyle 4; Gibson, Brendan 4; Karwoski, Michael 2; Casertano, Tyler 1; Kempner, Chris 1. **ASSISTS:** Casertano, Tyler 4; Fuchs, Ben 2; Fuchs, Matt 2; Karwoski, Michael 1; Kempner, Chris 1; Washabaugh, Kyle 1.