



## Connecting to Yale through Athletics

### **Athletics at Yale**

Some students come to Yale as recruited athletes, already very accomplished in their sport of choice. Others try out for teams having little or no prior experience. The best and most committed athletes are selected for varsity and club teams, but opportunities also exist for others through Yale's intramural leagues. Through many hours of hard work toward a shared goal, student athletes build life-long friendships and associations.

### **Alumni Athletic Associations**

A network of alumni associations represent all of Yale's 35 varsity sports. The associations consists of former athletes, alumni, parents, and friends but membership is open to anyone interested in contributing or getting involved with Yale athletics. Many associations organize annual gatherings that include both current undergraduate athletes and alumni. Associations typically are governed by officers elected from the membership, usually with undergraduate representation.

### **Activities beget Success**

Alumni associations communicate information about upcoming games/races/meets and team results to alumni and friends. Through the offering of career networking and job placement, hosting of special events including receptions, alumni/alumnae games, golf outings, and the raising of money to support Yale athletics, associations enhance the experience between Yale and the alumni community. Association fund raising supplements the team budgets and helps cover recruiting costs, team travel, equipment, communications, and other annual team expenses. These contributions provide coaches with the resources necessary to attract the best and the brightest to come to Yale and to be successful.



### **Creating Lasting Loyalties**

After graduation, athletic associations provide a lasting network for Yale alumni. Job placement and career networking can be extremely valuable, and connections to a particular sport or to Yale athletics in general can open doors across generations. Affiliation with an athletic team gives alumni a more personal and direct connection to Yale. This more focused association can help to elicit donations both to support the team they once played on and to support Yale as a whole. Games, races, and meets provide focal points around which receptions and other gatherings can be organized. Such events help alumni remember and even re-live their happy undergraduate experiences, reinforcing loyalties that might otherwise fade over time.