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# VINTERIS COMING

Basketball and hockey will become the main focus in action across the river as the winter season rolls around.



### **ON THE COVERS**



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### FROM THE EDITORS

Lavietes Pavilion and the Bright-Landry Hockey Center are beacons of light across the Charles River late on Friday and Saturday evenings throughout cold winters at Harvard. This year, all four teams will have their eyes set on the playoffs and ultimately national championships; though they are all in different phases of transition in order to make those goals a reality. From building from the bottom up with large freshman classes to relying on veteran talent on the front lines, all four teams have the potential to make a mark on the Ivy League and ECAC conferences this winter, it will just take some warming up.

> — JTM, SJG, TCH, MK, SJ, TB, JF, ASV



### By **MANAV KHANDELWAL** AND **STUART JOHNSON** CRIMSON STAFF WRITERS

It sounds like a broken record as each girl steps up to the arc. Swoosh, and then the sound of 13 girls cheering. Swoosh, and another round of raucous cheers.

The Harvard women's basketball team may have lost its three best players to graduation, but this year's squad is looking to make history, not excuses.

"Every year it seems as though we lose big seniors," said captain Taylor Finley, "but we have some really strong freshmen, and with our upperclassmen being able to gain some experience, I'm really excited. People won't have the 'scouts out' on us, which can be an advantage."

Replacing graduated seniors AnnMarie Healy, Kit Metoyer, and Shilpa Tummala, the team's three leaders in points scored and minutes played last season, will not be an easy task. But the addition of three talented freshmen and a highly touted transfer should help this group of motivated, tight-knit girls make an imprint on the Ivy League. Winning the Ancient Eight is on the minds of everyone associated with the program.

"I think it's safe to say that we're ready for a championship," said captain and forward Destiny Nunley. "We work hard everyday, which feels so good walking off the court in practice."

Returning to the team are sophomore guards Nani Redford, Madeline Raster, and Sydney Skinner, the team's leaders in games started after the three aforementioned graduates. Last year the three made up the primary backcourt rotation for coach Kathy Delaney-Smith, and they return with plenty of Ivy experience.

In their rookie campaign, the players were dynamic but plagued by turnovers; with a year under their belts, finding consistency is a question of when instead of if.

"Any coach will tell you that the difference between freshmen and sophomores is apples and oranges," Delaney-Smith said, "Our sophomore class, just a year older, a year wiser, can actually see the post. They can make the correct decision."

Finley and Nunley will return to the frontcourt along with a couple of newcomers. Transfer Taylor Rooks, who came from Stanford after her freshman year but had to sit last season out due to eligibility rules, will convert to the four spot after playing guard in her first collegiate season. The 18th ranked recruit in the Class of 2014 has outside range and agility that will help stretch bigger defenders, something Delaney-Smith was able to do with Tummala in the second half of her career.

"[The transition] has been pretty seamless," Rooks said. "The environment is very fun and competitive; that made the transition very smooth and easy, and I'm very excited to play this year."

Joining them are freshmen forwards Maria Guramare and Jeannie Boehm. Guramare, a French native, played with the U15 and U16 national teams of her home country. Boehm, the 44th ranked recruit in the country, is one of the purest centers in the league. She will command attention from defenders every second she's on the court. Replacing Healy's production from the paint will be difficult, but this team might have the talent and depth to do it.

"We're looking to improve Destiny's turnaround jumper, similar to AnnMarie's," Delaney-Smith said. "Jeannie is a power player with an incredible hook shot. Maria from France is a big power, and the league isn't ready. She's young but learns so quickly that she might be ready to do some damage for us this year. We're not looking to get [AnnMarie's] numbers from any one player this year."

If the team wishes to obtain the coveted Ivy League Championship that has eluded Harvard since 2008., an important component of the Crimson's goal will be success against their out-of-conference opponents. Last year the Crimson went 5-9 in non-conference play.

"Getting some good wins in the first half of the season is important," Finley said. "We've kind of let that go in the past and waited until Ivy League season."

Victories over opponents like Maine, Minnesota, and Temple could be season-defining moments for the unproven squad. At the Fordham Holiday Tournament, Harvard will have the opportunity to enter Ivy League play on the rise—and have the momentum to compete for the Ancient Eight crown.

Princeton and Dartmouth have both given the Crimson trouble in recent history, and despite Cornell's freshman-heavy squad, the team was voted to finish in fourth place—one spot below Harvard. So the Big Red will definitely be a team to watch this season.

All roads to the throne seem to go through Philadelphia as Penn iscoming off a visit to the NCAA Tournament last season, as well as being unanimously selected to defend their title.

The Crimson is aware of Penn's potential for this season but feels that it is ready and prepared for the challenge.

"We think we'll be in the race, definitely," Delaney-Smith said. "Because of Penn's system and Penn's height—their system and their height sets everyone back on their heels. Our job is to be able to have a system where we sustain [good shooting]. I know we can do it. It's just a matter of the mental game and the relentless persistence in working hard and not worrying about getting your shot blocked. We have the three-point ability and the inside threat to play anyone."

Despite losing three key seniors, then, Harvard is ready to return to battle—and ready to do whatever it takes to be on top at the end of the season.

"We have a lot of good players on the team," Rooks said. "I'm willing to do whatever is necessary for me to do on the court. At the end of the day, I want to get the championship and wear that ring."

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### **BOEHM GOES THE DYNAMITE**

After losing one of the best forwards in Crimson history last year, the Harvard women's basketball team is looking to freshman Jeannie Boehm to take her spot in coach Delaney-Smith's rotation.



By SEAN CHANICKA

CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

Replacing graduated seniors is never an easy task. Filling the shoes of AnnMarie Healy '16, a first team All-Ivy selection and the leading scorer for last year's Harvard women's basketball team, is even tougher.

Freshman forward Jeannie Boehm understands the enormity of the task ahead of her. But she is more than ready for the challenge.

"I think there definitely is a lot of pressure that I felt going in," Boehm said. "Soon after I got here, I realized that I really do have to prove myself day in and day out. I think that, a month and half into school now, I'm just working on improving myself in all aspects."

There's good reason to believe that Boehm can thrive in her new surroundings. After finishing her high school career with 1,872 points, 1,169 rebounds and 254 assists while shooting 57.1 percent from the floor, Boehm was named a McDonald's All American this past spring.

She becomes the Crimson's second, and the Ivy League's third, All-Ameri-

can basketball recruit. If Boehm plays all four years with Harvard, she will be the first All-American to spend her entire career in the Ancient Eight.

The five-star recruit, ranked No. 41 overall in ESPN's HoopGurlz Rankings, was a highly sought-after prospect in high school. Thus, many were surprised when she decided to commit to the Crimson; in fact, she was the only top 50 recruit ever to commit to an Ivy League program.

So why did she choose Harvard?

"I definitely get that question a lot," Boehm said. "I would say the biggest reason is that I fit in really well with the team and the coaching staff. And I think another big thing obviously is the academic part. I felt as though I fit in with both the school and the program."

Boehm's appearance in the All-American game, in which she logged four points, four rebounds and two blocks in 14 minutes, was only the beginning of her busy summer.

After the game, she went off to practice with the United States U-18 national team in preparation for the FIBA Americas Championship in Valdivia, Chile. The tournament, in which the team took gold, was Boehm's first exposure to a level of talent beyond what she faced in high school.

"She's an incredible person and really, really good to coach," Harvard coach Kathy Delaney-Smith said. "We understand the pressure she's under, but she doubles that. Right now, that's what an All-American freshman would do. We talked about that when she was at USA basketball—she felt that kind of pressure. We're working towards relieving her of that kind of pressure."

Excellence in athletics is a common thread in Boehm's family. A native of Winnetka, Illinois, Boehm grew up with five brothers, the shortest of whom was 6'5".

Boehm's oldest brothers, twins Jack and Peter, pitched at Bucknell and played basketball at Harvard, respectively. Boehm's third eldest brother, Connor, who graduated this past May, was a four-year starting forward for the Dartmouth men's basketball team. Michael, now in his junior year, rowed for one year for Bucknell. The youngest of her siblings, Spencer, is a high school sophomore playing varsity basketball at Boehm's alma mater, New Trier.

"My brothers definitely didn't take me seriously basketball-wise for a long time; they now recently have started to," Boehm said. "I think a big part of what I got from growing up in a household like that is the toughness. It wasn't easy being the only girl with five athletic boys."

She hopes that such toughness will help her transition to the college game. Despite the pressure she faces externally and internally, Boehm is incredibly excited for her first season with the Crimson, as she knows what she needs to work on to do well at the next level.

"The defense at at the college level is so much different," Boehm said. "That's something I've been working really hard at, really trying to find my way around the congested double teams in the middle. I definitely want to play a big role defensively. That's something I've been working on."

With practices starting in earnest over the past few weeks, coaches have noticed that Boehm, traditionally a power player, has been trying to expand

There's a transition from the high school game to the college game. She's already grown in a month's time. It's scary how good she's going to be.

KATHY DELANEY-SMITH Harvard Head Coach

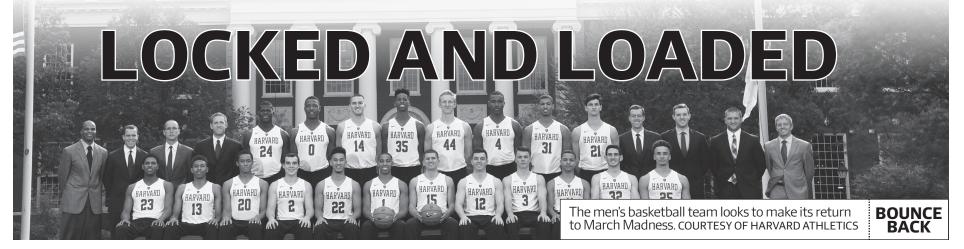
her game and stretch the floor, something she hadn't done in high school. At 6'3", Boehm has the height to take on bigger forwards and the agility to stretch the defense out of shape. That versatility makes Boehm quite the asset for her team.

"I'm quick, so if we get the ball, I may beat Jeannie down the floor and post up. And she plays the four," said captain and forward Destiny Nunley. "In the half-court set, it may be different... It's not like 'Jeannie is a five.' she's a great passer and jack of all trades."

While it's yet to be seen how Boehm fits into the Delaney-Smith's offense, there's no doubt she'll be playing a pivotal role for Harvard moving forward. Boehm's desire to improve hasn't gone unnoticed by her teammates and coaches, who note the challenges associated with transitioning from high school to college.

"There is a transition from the high school game to the college game," Delaney-Smith said. "She's already grown in a month's time. It's scary how good she's going to be."

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### By **STEPHEN J. GLEASON** CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

There is new energy around this year's men's basketball team.

Last season, the team's quest for a sixth straight Ivy League crown hit a wall before the campaign had even started, as an ACL injury ended the season of point guard Siyani Chambers and proved too much for an already inexperienced Crimson squad to overcome. Although Harvard had its tournament hopes dashed before Valentine's Day, the team managed to knock off Princeton and Penn in the regular season's final weekend to finish 6-8, good for fourth in the Ancient Eight.

Now, with Chambers running the show once more for a core group of returners led by senior forward Zena Edosomwan and sophomore shooting guard Corey Johnson, the focus shifts to a program that already has undergone a number of sea changes—the arrival of the most historic recruiting class in program history, the multi-million dollar upgrade to its arena, and the adoption of a conference postseason tournament.

Amaker's teams are known for being some of the stingiest in the nation on the defensive end and for gaining offense through its bigs. Integrating new pieces and establishing chemistry early on will be keys for this year's team.

"We have a lot of moving pieces with our team, and now we're trying to settle in and figure it out," Harvard coach Tommy Amaker said. "That may take a while. It might be a long while before things get settled, but that's the fun part—the tinkering, the moving, the finding out who's going to give us what."

While asignificant portion of the team lacks big-game experience—or college experience in general—the 2016-2017 roster could go down as the one of the most talented of the Tommy Amaker era. It boasts six recruits who were rated as top 150 players in their high school classes and returns two All-Ivy selections in Chambers and Edosomwan. Depth should not be an issue this season, as seven players on this year's roster averaged at least eight minutes a game last year, while Chambers and up to five freshmen figure to compete for playing time.

Amaker traditionally utilizes an eight- or nine-man rotation and is a big proponent of easing his freshmen into the college game. This year could be a different story with all of the weapons the 10th-year head coach has in his arsenal. Playing time this season will largely be dictated by which players fit in best with Harvard's core group of Chambers, Johnson, and Edosomwan.

Sophomore Tommy McCarthy and freshman Bryce Aiken will compete for minutes as Chambers' backup. McCarthy started 25 games last season, putting up numbers similar to those that Chambers put up during his junior campaign.

"They did a great job last year," Chambers said of last year's team. "I just try to add my voice. They're doing a great job. I just try to fit in. I'm still trying to work on coming back, a lot of new faces that I haven't seen or played with before, not just the freshmen but also the sophomores, so I'm just trying to fit in where I can."

Both McCarthy and Aiken could see time on the wing, Harvard's biggest question mark offensively entering the season. Johnson figures to be a key for the Crimson at the twospot, and co-captain Corbin Miller will likely see significant minutes as the team's sixth man and three-point specialist. However, the sharpshooting duo rarely played together last season due to their similar skill sets and struggles on the defensive end. Freshman Seth Towns could be the X-factor on the wing. He's long (6'7") and a natural scorer. The Columbus, Ohio native seems like an ideal fit to play alongside either Johnson or Miller, while junior Andre Chatfield figures to see limited minutes as a defensive specialist.

Sophomore Weisner Perez was used as an undersized four last season, but could see time on the wing this year due to the logjam in the frontcourt. Regardless the offense will run through Edosomwan; who is playing alongside the Ivy League's double-double leader from a year ago remains to be seen.

Junior Chris Egi has the most experience of Harvard's other big men, but his skill set as a back-to-the-basket big could limit the amount of time he is on the floor with Edosomwan. Freshmen Robert Baker and Chris Lewis each bring intriguing attributes to the Harvard backline. Baker is long and lanky, has a polished midrange game, and possesses jump-out-of-the-gym athleticism. Lewis, on the other hand, is more of a power guy, who figures to use his size and upper body strength to become an elite rebounder and shot blocker in the Ivy League.

"I'm getting such a variety of big men that I play alongside and against that I can't wait to continue to understand how they play and grow their games," Edosomwan said. "It's been really good. It's something I didn't have last year, so it's something that I think will help me grow regardless."

This year's team will be longer and more athletic than in past years but still figures to pride itself on suffocating defense and playing an inside-out game through its big men on the offensive end.

The 2016-2017 campaign gets off to a unique start on Nov. 11. The Crimson will take on Stanford in the second annual Pac-12 China Game in Shanghai. While the game is historic for both programs, it is also a major opportunity for this year's Harvard team to establish itself on an international stage against a major conference opponent.

Harvard's nonconference schedule does not feature a team like Virginia or Kansas like it has the past two seasons. But the Crimson does have dates with New England foes and other mid-major opponents. Harvard went 4-5 last season against the teams it squares off against in this year's non-conference slate. Patrick Steeves '16 returns to Cambridge for the Crimson's clash with George Washington on Nov. 29. Harvard will also make trips to Vermont, the favorite in the America East, and Houston, a darkhorse pick to win the American.

Come January, this year's Ivy League will gothrough Princeton. The Tigers were picked first (seven votes ahead of the Crimson) in the Ivy League preseason media poll and return 98.9 percent of their minutes and 99.3 percent of their offensive production from a season ago. Led by senior All-Ivy forwards Henry Caruso, Spencer Weisz, and Steven Cook, Princeton is looking to make its first NCAA tournament appearance since 2011.

Unlike last season, in which the Ivy's top four teams had their travel partners fall in the bottom half of the league standings, the Penn-Princeton matchup this year looms large. This competition harkens back to early days, when the programs claimed every Ancient Eight title from 1963 to 2007. In 2016-2017, the Quakers are led by a strong sophomore class and have a bevy of talented guards. Steve Donahue's squad was picked fourth in the preseason poll.

The big wild card in the league is Yale. The Elis took home the Ivy League crown last season and defeated Baylor in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Yale returns Makai Mason, the conference's best player, but lost All-Ivy forwards Justin Sears and Brandon Sherrod. Several sophomores and juniors who saw time coming off the bench last season will look to plug in the holes left by the duo. Overshadowed by the hype of Harvard's 2016 recruiting class are Jordan Bruner and Miye Oni. Bruner was rated a three-star recruit in his own right coming out of South Carolina, while Oni is a long wing and dynamic scorer.

Dartmouth and Cornell, respectively tabbed sixth and seventh in the preseason poll, both have new coaches but return players who gave Harvard fits last season. The Big Green has Ivy League Rookie of the Year Evan Boudreaux back, while the Big Red will be led by the high-volume-shooting backcourt of Robert Hatter and Matt Morgan, both of whom could compete for the conference's scoring title.

After finishing third in the conference and winning the CollegeInsider.com Tournament last season, Columbia will be in rebuilding mode following the graduation of its best senior class in program history and coach Kyle Smith's decision to take the head job at San Francisco. Meanwhile Brown returns a core group of seniors and hopes to get out of the conference's basement in Mike Martin's fifth season at the helm.

"A lot of us as coaches have been saying this, but I think over the last 10 years we've seen how incredibly strong and challenging and difficult our league has been from top to bottom," Amaker said. "I'm not sure it's gotten the kind of attention and recognition outside of our league outside of the last few years, but we're known that internally. Our league is going to be difficult."

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## **ON POINT**

After taking last year off due to a season-ending injury, the Crimson's star point guard Siyani Chambers will look to lead his team to another Ivy Title.

### By THERESA C. HEBERT

CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

On Sept. 2, 2015, the trajectory of the 2015-2016 Harvard basketball season changed.

"Rising senior and returning captain Siyani Chambers will take a voluntary leave of absence from the college for the 2015-2016 academic year, after sustaining a torn ACL to his left knee while working out over the summer," read a statement from the Harvard Athletic Department.

The Crimson was already concerned with replacing starters Wesley Saunders '15 and Ivy League Defensive Player of the Year Steve Moundou-Missi '15. Now, all of a sudden, the team was losing its top returning scorer and former Ivy Rookie of the Year.

With the loss of Chambers and senior point guard Matt Fraschilla (who also suffered an ACL tear early in the season against Providence), freshman guard Tommy McCarthy was thrust into the starting role, with shooting guard Corbin Miller forced to fill in at the point behind the rookie McCarthy.

Although McCarthy eventually found his rhythm, Chambers's absence was felt on and off the court.

Certainly the loss was exacerbated by a lack of depth at the position, but Chambers would have been difficult to replace in any circumstance. During his first three years with the Crimson, the Minnesota native earned three All-Ivy League nods, was a finalist on the 2014 Bob Cousy Award Watch List, and vaulted into sixth in Harvard history with 446 career assists.

The 6'0" guard has averaged 11.1 points per game since arriving in Cambridge, with his best season coming in 2012-2013: He notched 12.4 points per contest in that one. But aside from scoring, Chambers consistently has been the first- or second-best player in the league in assists per game. He also had to guard the Ivy League's top point guards.

Aside from being a major factor on the court, Chambers is a major locker room presence for the team. Initially voted a captain for his junior season, Chambers was reelected to the captainship alongside Miller for his senior season despite being away from the team in 2015-2016.

"Just being able to play with him and having him yell at you when he's on the court is a lot better than having him yell at you when he's off the court," Miller said.

But Chambers had praise for the way the team responded to his absence last season. Although he was on campus for a portion of last year with a babysitting job, Chambers has to learn to play with a lot of new faces. While all of the other returning players have the already serious adjustment of learning the playing styles of seven new freshmen, Chambers has never played with the freshmen or sophomore class—which make up 13 of the 20 roster spots on this year's young squad. He is the only player who has been a member of the program's last three NCAA tournament appearances.

"I was playing with guys like Wesley and Steve and Kenyatta and even Corbin to an extent and Zena," Chambers logue is to in CHAMBERS in

said. "We've built chemistry.... [I'm] just trying to get an open dialogue, because the more you know about your teammates the easier it is to instinctively act on the court."

Chambers will be key to ensuring that the freshmen, especially Aiken, become acquainted with the Harvard way for this season and beyond. Chambers and Miller know what it takes for the Crimson to return to the NCAA tournament, with both playing major minutes in the team's 2014-2015 campaign in which it nearly upset North Carolina.

> With the large roster, the point guard position is deeper than it has been in recent memory for Harvard. While the Crimson returns Chambers, Fraschilla, and McCarthy, many anticipate that freshman four-star recruit Bryce Aiken could be first off the bench to replace Chambers.

But with Amaker's reluctance to give freshmen significant minutes and Chambers's history of success, one can expect that Chambers will certainly get the majority of the minutes at the point. In fact, the senior has rarely spent time on the bench during his time in Cambridge. He has started all but two of his 92 games and has averaged 35.5 minutes per contest.

"He is our undisputed leader," Harvard coach Tommy Amaker said. "It was evident what we missed from him when he was not here due to that unfortunate knee injury. Now we have him back, and we feel the difference."

Though Chambers has been recognized for his ability to be a playmaker on offense, his defensive performance will be key this Ivy League season as the top competitors in the Ancient Eight return strong backcourts that will put pressure on the Crimson. Ivy favorite Princeton returns sophomore Devin Cannady, who averaged just over 11 points per game and shot over 45 percent from behind the arc. Chambers's toughest

assignment, however, will be Yale's Makai Mason who led the Bulldogs past Baylor in last season's NCAA Tournament. Cornell lead guard Matt Morgan and fellow sophomore Jake Silpe of Penn also had breakout games against the Crimson.

Performance against these teams and their point guards will be especially important given the introduction of an Ivy League playoff tournament in which the top four finishers will compete for the league's guaranteed spot in the NCAA Tournament. Harvard was selected to finish second in the Ancient Eight preseason media poll, with Princeton taking the top spot and Yale and Penn rounding out the top four.

With the new competition inspired by the Ivy League tournament and the youth of the Crimson team, Amaker has placed significant responsibility on Chambers and the rest of the seniors.

"If they take the reins of the season, of the season, of the program, I like the chances of us having a very successful season," Amaker said.

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## **Here They Come**

### By TROY BOCCELLI

CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

Top 10—in its roughly 100 years of history, top 10 are two words that have rarely been associated with the Harvard men's basketball team. In fact before the 2011 season, the Crimson was a team that hadn't made the NCAA Tournament since 1946—an ordeal that saw the Crimson eliminated by Ohio State in the first round.

Somehow though, come Thursday evening when the team tips off against MIT, seven Harvard freshmen—who comprise the 10th-best recruiting class in the nation—will all be wearing Crimson.

To many it may come as a surprise, but to anyone paying attention to Harvard coach Tommy Amaker over the past few seasons, this year's freshman class is only an extension of the success he's brought to the program. When asked about his touted freshman class, however, Amaker is quick to point out that his program is more than a simple ranking or even seven of the best freshmen in the nation.

"I think they're talented and bring a lot of youthful enthusiasm and exuberance, but I think the key to our team will be the leadership of our veterans and certainly the growth and development of our veterans as we go along," Amaker said. "The upperclassmen, as always, I've been able to count on."

There's little doubt that Amaker will look to his most seasoned players—namely co-captain Siyani Chambers and classmate Zena Edosomwan—to lead a program composed mostly of underclassmen. In the mix among the rookies are

four forwards and three guards.

While it remains to be seen how Harvard's seven freshmen will fit into Amaker's lineup—which includes 20 players in total—the amount of talent in this year's class along with the return of Chambers was enough to warrant one vote for the Crimson in the Associated Press' preseason rankings. Harvard was ranked second in the Ivy League preseason poll, behind Princeton who returns just under 99 percent of its minutes from the 2015-2016 season.

Following the departure of forwards Agunwa Okolie '16 and Evan Cummins '16, the biggest question regarding the freshman class lies largely at the forward position. While junior forward Chris Egi could potentially start alongside Edosomwan in the frontcourt, there could be a serious case made for one of the freshman forwards to be in the rotation as well. reshman Chris Lewis and classmate Robert Baker will push Egi to be the starter at the four spot. Lewis was tasked with going against Edosomwan in the Crimson Madness scrimmage in October and held his own in the paint against last year's leading scorer for the Crimson.

When he committed to Harvard late last fall, Lewis—ranked 44th in his class by ESPN at the time—was the highest-ranked player to commit to the Crimson. Throughout high school and on display at the annual Crimson Madness event, Lewis has been a strong presence in the post, a position that the Crimson has typically looked to for depth despite Edosomwan's breakout junior season.

For a squad that's been historically guard heavy, the recent increase in height is one that has been well-received

"I went from the second tallest guy last year to the fifth now, I'm a little shorty," Edosomwan said. "It's nice for me when I'm getting my shot blocked, seriously I'm getting m y The most highly touted freshmen recruiting class in lvy League history step on the court for the first time on Nov. 3 against MIT, where they will compete for roster spots from day one.

shot blocked. I'm not finishing as well so these are things that I'm having to learn and how I can score against different size. You have Robert Baker, sitting under me with just super long arms and then Chris Lewis' strength and his shot blocking ability."

Along with Baker and Lewis are forwards Henry Welsh and Seth Towns. With Welsh and Baker both measuring up at 6'10", there will be no shortage of height on the court for the foreseeable future in Lavietes. With a bit more of a perimeter shot, Towns could also find a spot in the rotation as a small forward or a stretch four alongside Edosomwan in the frontcourt.

While the questions surrounding the team's forwards remain unanswered, one thing is certain: Siyani Chambers will be anchoring the Crimson at the point guard position. While sophomore Tommy Mc-Carthy showed flashes of success in last year's underwhelming season, there exists the possibility that the Crimson also have a worthy successor to Chambers in freshman Bryce Aiken. The four-star recruit out of New Jersey came to Harvard despite offers from some major programs including Oklahoma, Miami, and Illinois. In limited minutes this offseason, he has shown that he's more than capable of running the floor when needed.

Also in the mix at the guard spot are freshman Christian Juzang and Justin Bassey. While the two will likely be competing for minutes behind Chambers, McCarthy, and Aiken, both bring talent typically absent from

HARVARD

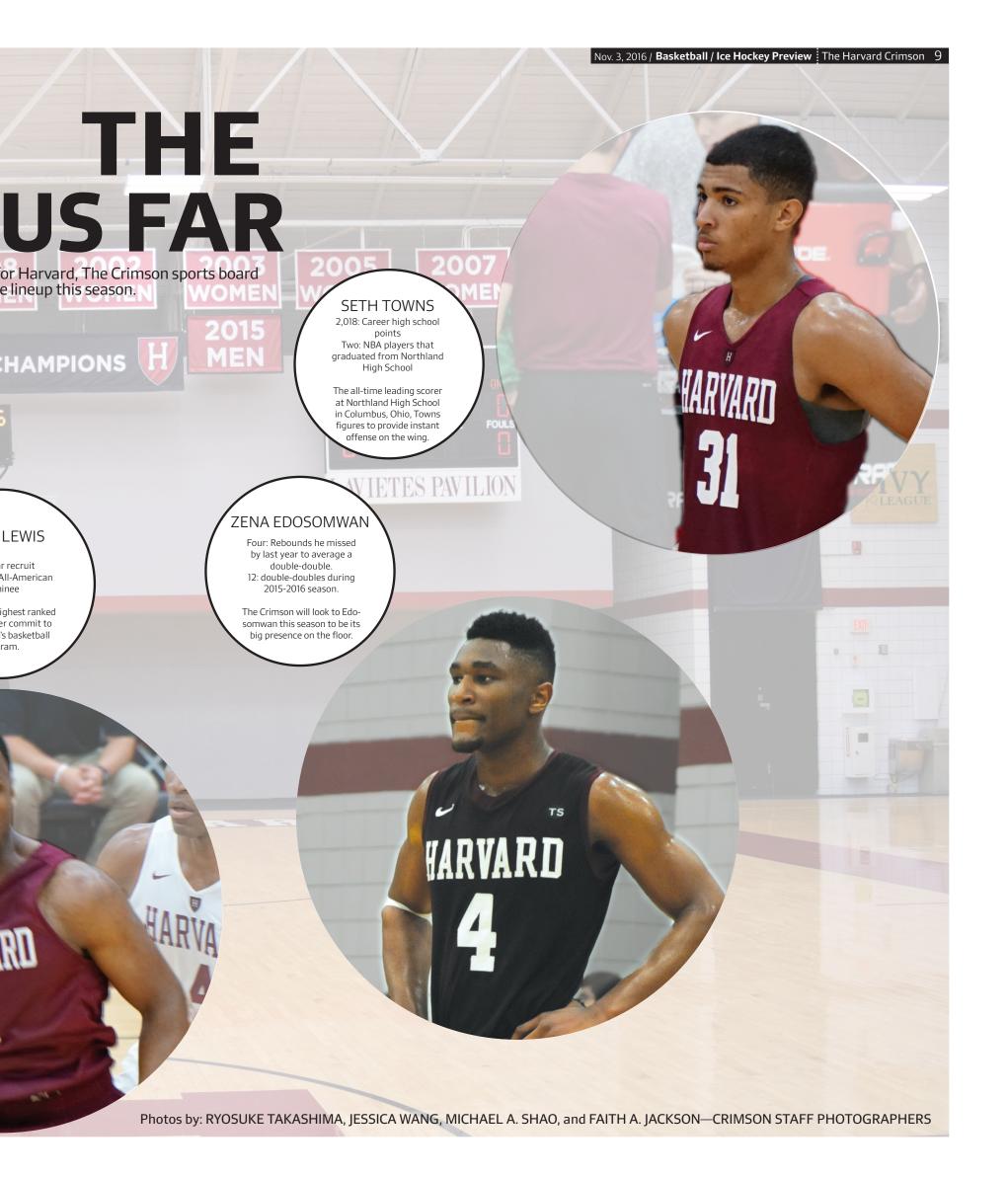
the Crimson in recent years. With sophomore Corey Johnson and captain Corbin Miller likely taking up most minutes at the two spot, minutes among the team's new guards will be thin, but given the amount of experience they bring, Amaker finds himself with a great problem when it comes to talent.

While only time will tell what the limit on Amaker's highly touted freshman class will be, he isn't one to forget they're freshman at Harvard after all. As someone who pitches Harvard as a 40-year decision to prospective recruits, he's well aware of the fact there's a big learning curve associated with stepping foot on campus for the first time.

"I'm really, really knocked back with how they're handling everything," Amaker said. "Not that I didn't expect that, but I'm just very pleased with how they're handling it. We always talk about our young kids and our freshman having a willingness to fit in and show us that they really want to work hard—they've done that as best or better than any freshman group we've brought in this far."

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### ICE ICE SKATING

After losing some key players, the Harvard women's hockey team will channel youth and experience this year.

### By **ARIEL SMOLIK-VALLES** CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

The Harvard women's hockey team doesn't believe in rebuilding years. After graduating five seniors last year and recruiting six new freshmen to the ice in Cambridge, the team is prepared to prove wrong those who view the 2016-2017 season as one solely for growth.

From the way this season has panned out thus far, it seems that the critics may be right. After starting the season on a positive note with a 5-1 win against Dartmouth on Oct. 23, the Crimson (1-2, 1-2 ECAC) dropped the following two games on the road to No. 8/8 Clarkson and No. 7/8 St. Lawrence, both by a score of 4-0.

"It was great we won our first game against Dartmouth," co-captain Briana Mastel said. "That was huge—getting the first win is always important. Then the next weekend we dropped both games, but I think that's better to get done earlier in the year to expose our weaknesses. That isn't a bad thing."

Harvard is up against a wall of expectation this season, with 2016-2017 being the first campaign in the last three in which there hasn't been an Olympian on the squad. Moreover, this season marks the first year without a handful of now-alumni who were influential in the team's success during previous seasons. Miye D'Oench '16, who ranks 15th in program history in points with 122 and 14th in goals with 64, left a clear hole in the Crimson's offense.

On the defensive side of the puck, Harvard must establish a new force in goal, as Emerance Maschmeyer '16 graduated. She owned the overall program record for careers saves with 2,538.

What the team has lost in veteran talent, it made up for in youth. The newly minted class of 2020 brought in defensemen Ali Peper and Kyra Colbert, forwards Kat Hughes and Val Turgeon, and goalies Beth Larcom and Emily Yue.

"[Getting young players] is the beauty of being in this program," head coach Katey Stone said. "You want to have kids in the program that are awesome while they're here, and you hope that the great habits and discipline become contagious with the young-



er players. They carry the torch further, so again transition is everywhere."

With the new mix of players, Mastel and fellow co-captain Sydney Daniels have made efforts to integrated new players with familiar faces both on and off the ice.

"My hat is off to those guys," Stone said. "They've done a tremendous job and so has the senior class. They've shared the load and the responsibility of having a young team forward and so far it's been fantastic."

After finishing fifth in the ECAC at the end of last season and falling to Colgate in three games during the ECAC quarterfinals, the Crimson came into the 2016-2017 slate without a national ranking for the first time in the past three seasons. Currently Harvard stands tied for sixth in the ECAC with Rensselaer and Cornell.

Despite the lack of formulated expectations for the team, the players still expect to make a splash in the upcoming season and do not see the predictions as indicative of how the season will pan out.

"I actually think [being unranked] puts us in a better spot because we have an underdog mentality," Mastel said. "It's almost better to not have expectations from other people. That way we can just work on ourselves—working on getting better everyday and taking care of things we can control."

This mentality has climbed up to the coaching staff

as well, with the realization that the team needs to play in order to prove itself.

"I think the main thing is to prove people wrong.," Stone said. "Yes, we have a young team, but that doesn't mean that we can't be successful. Like any other season that I've been here, your goal is to put yourself in a position to win a national championship. You do that by trying to get better every day, and you do that by making the commitment."

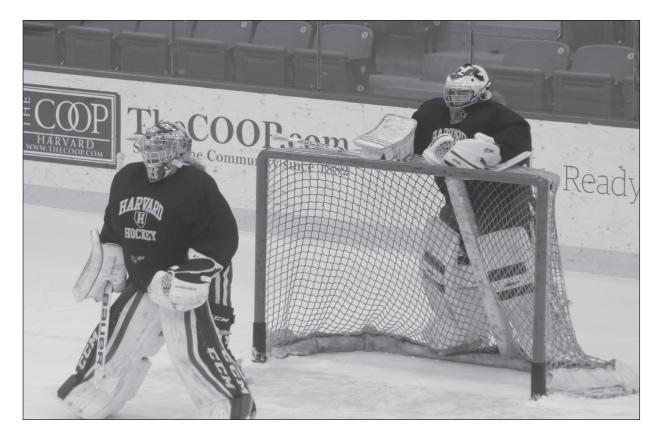
This season, the offense will be spearheaded by a combination of Daniels, Turgeon, and junior forward Haley Mullins.

At this point in the season, senior goaltenders Brianna Laing and Molly Tissenbaum are both in contention for the starting spot between the posts. On her career, Laing has started 22 games and has a .886 win percentage, while Tissenbaum has started four games and has a .625 win percentage.

Despite the shift in multiple lines of the offense and a new face taking over the majority of time in the net, the team still has one goal set in its mind: winning the national championship.

"No matter the expectation, every game we are setting out to win," Daniels said. "We aren't going to settle for anything less. We're working hard, focusing on ourselves and the little things. We'll get there."

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### Their Goal is to Stop Yours

Senior goalies Brianna Laing and Molly Tissenbaum will have large skates to fill as they look to continue Maschmeyer's legacy.

By **JULIO FIERRO** CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

Athlete turnover is fairly mundane in collegiate athletics. Every year coaches have to deal with graduating players—whether seniors, transfers, or early professional entries—and install new athletes in their places. Sometimes veterans get their first shot in the starting lineup; sometimes rookies make their debut at the college level.

Rarely, however, do coaches have to replace arguably the best player in program history at a certain position.

In the 2016-2017 season, that's exactly what Harvard women's hockey coach Katey Stone has to do—deal with the graduation of netminder and former co-captain Emerance Maschmeyer '16.

The Bruderheim, Alberta native, who is currently playing for the CWHL's Calgary Inferno, graduated with a program record 2,583 saves and was constantly considered one of the best goalkeepers in the nation. In particular Maschmeyer has shone at the international level, constantly featuring for her native Canada as a college student, including time as the starting netminder at the IIHF World Championships.

Even so, Stone doesn't express much worry about having to deal with the departure of Maschmeyer, not to mention all the other players from last year's graduating class.

"That happens," Stone said. "That's the beauty of being in this program. We want to have those kids in our program; it's awesome when they're here. Their great habits and discipline become contagious with the young players, and they carry the torch further. Transition is everywhere, and, with it, so is opportunity."

With Maschmeyer gone, Harvard will look towards a pair of senior goalkeepers in between the pipes. Brianna Laing and Molly Tissenbaum, who shared time backing Maschmeyer over the past few seasons. The two have battled for the starting spot this year, starting at least

### That's the beauty of being in this program. Transition is everywhere.

#### Katey Stone

Women's hockey coach

one game each as Stone experiments with different rotations.

Thus far the two players have posted similar numbers, with Laing allowing five goals in two starts and Tissenbaum allowing four in her lone start. Both goalies let in four scores this past weekend at No. 8/8 Clarkson and No. 6/7 St. Lawrence, demonstrating that they have plenty of work to do in order to fill Maschmeyer's shoes.

Despite any pressure to perform immediately, both Tissenbaum and Laing will continue to use their battle for the starting position to push each other and get better as the season progresses.

"Our approach has always been to work to make each other better." Tissenbaum said. "Whether it was Maschmeyer and Brianna or the four of us this year, our approach has always been to battle in practice and make each other better. It's really out of our hands at that point."

In addition to protecting the Crimson net, Tissenbaum and Laing will also have to step up in terms of mentoring as the team welcomes two rookie goalies to the squad. Freshmen Emily Yue and Beth Larcom likely will not see much playing time this year as Laing and Tissenbaum continue their battle. But the duo figures large in the future of the team.

With no other goalies on the squad, Tissenbaum and Laing will have to pass on their knowledge and experience to Yue and Larcom, making this season all the more vital.

In their three years with the Crimson, Laing and Tissenbaum have seen action in 38 games combined, with 26 of those being starts. This year will likely be the lone season the pair will get extensive playing time and experience, which will be key as the seniors prepare the new generation of goalies for the future.

The two freshman goalies have had plenty of success in their pre-collegiate careers–Yue led her club team to silver and bronze medals at USA Nationals, while Larcom was part of the U18 USA Team that won gold at the IIHF World Championships. But a year of learning will go a long way in preparing the rookies for the rigors of college hockey.

Tissenbaum and Laing believe that

they have built a good relationship with the freshmen thus far and are hopeful that the younger players will be ready to shoulder key burdens for the team in later years.

"It's been fun." Tissenbaum said. "It's been kind of cool having the younger kids to teach them how to do what we do and be part of the Harvard hockey program."

While there is a level of uncertainty

### Our approach has always been to work to make each other better.

Molly Tissenbaum Goaltender, Women's hockey team

at the goalkeeper position that hasn't existed over the past few seasons, both Tissenbaum and Laing will be counted on to provide some stability and facilitate the transition in their last year donning the Crimson uniform.

Though the task might be daunting, Laing insists that the role remains the same regardless of who is between the sticks.

"At the end of the day, our job is just to stop the puck." Laing said. "That's our focus, to stop the puck, one shot a time."

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## THE FULL ENSEMBLE

Following the departure of its two biggest stars, Ted Donato and the Harvard men's hockey team will look all the way down the lineup to get the production necessary to compete for a title in the ECAC and return to the NCAA tournament.



### By **JAKE MEAGHER** CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

Gone are the days of the one-man show at the Bright-Landry Hockey Center. That exhibit has been relocated to a destination where all such spectacles thrive— Broadway. Or, if we want to be more precise, a few blocks further south at Madison Square Garden.

But fear not Cambridge, for the Bright lights are not to be extinguished just yet. A new act is in town, and it's ranked No. 12 in the nation. But if this show wants quality reviews, it's going to take the full ensemble.

All right, enough metaphor. But hey, it's not like the storylines surrounding the Harvard men's hockey team are anything new. Hobey Baker winner Jimmy Vesey '16—the face of the program for the last two seasons—is now a member of the last two seasons—is now a member of the New York Rangers. Not to mention, two-year captain Kyle Criscuolo—the leader of the program over that same stretch—has departed as well.

Those two alone combined for 39 percent of the Crimson's goals in their final two seasons. And their stat lines to the tune of 92 goals and 92 assists over two years are not easy to reproduce.

Harvard knows that. Coach Ted Donato '91 knows that. But the skipper also knows that he has a large cast ready to take on the challenge as a unit.

"It's not hard for us as a coaching staff to convince our team that no one guy is going to try to replace what we had go out the door," Donato said. "As far as who steps in, I think we have to do it a little bit more across the board. We're going to have to not really look to a player or a line, but more of a team game. And I think that we're capable of doing it."

The Crimson rides into the 2016-2017 campaign boasting two dynamic forward lines—ones Donato said he hopes to be able to call "1 and 1A." Co-captain Alexander Kerfoot, the last man standing from last year's first line, will be joined atop the depth chart by a pair of sophomore wingers—Ryan Donato and Lewis Zerter-Gossage.

Ryan Donato, who notched a hat trick last season in his one appearance on the top line, logged 13 goals and eight assists as a rookie. The Boston Bruins prospect knows he has big skates to fill, but he says he'll be trying to emulate Vesey and Criscuolo, "perfect hockey players" in his mind.

"[I want to] be more of a leader," Ryan Donato said. "I'm in a more important role than I was last year, and I think they expect me to do more things than I did last year as well. I just want to do what I can do, control what I can control, and help the team whatever way I can."

While Ryan Donato always looked like a lock for a promotion, Zerter-Gossage was far from a shoe-in considering that the Montreal native spent most of his time on the fourth line last year. But the line came together in captain's practices, and Ted Donato soon saw something click.

Next in line is a trio of senior roommates, Sean Malone, Tyler Moy, and Luke Esposito. The three forwards have played on a line together in the past, but not for long stretches of time. But given their chemistry, the three amigos were eager to try and make the combination work.

Up against Arizona State, it certainly did. Albeit against weak competition, the trio exploded for 15 points in Harvard's first two regular season contests last weekend.

"We had high expectations for our-

selves coming in, and I think we may have exceeded them," Esposito said. "So now the expectations are higher."

Nonetheless, while Harvard's offensive potential draws the headlines, the Crimson has also quietly stocked up on blueline talent this offseason. Freshmen John Marino and Adam Fox—draft picks of the Edmonton Oilers and Calgary Flames, respectively—are expected to contribute right out of the gate.

Thus far, Marino has been playing alongside perhaps the Crimson's best returning D-man, 6'7" Wiley Sherman, who is fully healthy after suffering a season-ending arm injury last postseason. And Fox—who Donato likened to Patrick McNally '15, Harvard's last true offensive defenseman—has already logged three assists and become a core piece of the power play.

"These guys with great offensive abilities and great decision-making and great instincts, sometimes I feel they're born as much as they are developed," Ted Donato said. "I think a guy like Adam Fox... really sees the second and third layers of offense."

In the back, junior goaltender Merrick Madsen is set to mind the Crimson net once again. Madsen had a breakout year last season, producing an 18-7-3 record, a 2.00 goals against average, and a .931 save percentage—eighth best in the country.

Meanwhile, sophomore Michael Lackey, who battled Madsen for the starting job last season, will be unavailable at least for the first few months of the season with an undisclosed injury. Donato says Lackey had some work done this offseason and the team will re-evaluate where he stands "closer to the New Year."

With all these pieces, Harvard was predicted to finish third in both ECAC preseason polls—right where the Crimson wound up at the end of the regular season a year ago. Furthermore, Kerfoot says the team has "really high expectations."

"We obviously lost some key guys... but the last two years, we made it to the final of the ECAC championship and made it to the NCAA tournament," Kerfoot said. "We want to build off that and take another step this year."

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After a three years behind Jimmy Vesey, captain Alex Kerfoot is set to lead a new era of Harvard men's ice hockey.

### **ONE LAST CHANCE**

#### **TAKING THE REINS**

After the departure of star forward Jimmy Vesey, co-captain Alex Kerfoot is set to lead the Crimson's offense. Y. KIT WU—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

### By **JAKE MEAGHER** CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

#### "Alex Kerfoot."

The name did not leave Jimmy Vesey's mouth easily, but it left deliberately. Despite struggling to stave off tears, Harvard's star forward was not going to forget his center of the last three years on his way out the door.

"I definitely got most of the publicity over the last two years," continued Vesey, sitting at the podium following the Crimson's elimination from the NCAA tournament. "And they always kept their mouth shut."

> "They" of course referred to not only Kerfoot, but Kyle Criscuolo. However, Criscuolo sat beside Vesey, knowing, likewise, that his time was up. Kerfoot, on the other hand, had another chapter remaining.

> > During the 2015-2016 season, Kerfoot—healthy for an entire season for the first time at Harvard—logged a career-high 34 points. And his contributions were certainly felt, as Harvard did not win a regular season game in which the New Jersey Devils prospect did not earn a point.

Yet, when you play with wingers as talented as Vesey and Criscuolo, your job is to distribute. Thirty of Kerfoot's 34 points came via assists, explaining exactly why Vesey dominated more headlines than the junior from West Vancouver.

Things are different now. With Vesey and Criscuolo gone, a year of feeding now gives way to a year of leading. That is, Kerfoot is one of two new co-captains set to march the Crimson into a new era.

That means no more lurking in the shadows. No more "keeping his mouth shut." In the blink of an eye, Kerfoot has become the figurehead for Harvard men's hockey.

"I think playing with guys like Jimmy and Crisco, he didn't get as much attention as he might've deserved," said Lewis Zerter-Gossage, one of two sophomore wingers who will join Kerfoot on the first line. "But within the team, we all kind of knew exactly how good he was."

A fourth-liner last year, Zerter-Gossage said he's excited to work with Kerfoot, who quickly caught his attention when Zerter-Gossage was here on a recruiting trip a few years ago.

> "It was maybe one of his first games playing as

a freshman, and I was really impressed with how he played," Zerter-Gossage said. "I think it's pretty cool that now I get the opportunity to play next to him."

Zerter-Gossage will assume the spot on Kerfoot's right, while sophomore Ryan Donato will take the left. Donato and Kerfoot played on the same line once before when Vesey was sidelined for a game in February. That night, the then-rookie lit the lamp three times once off a feed from Kerfoot. Therefore, it's no surprise that the captain has plenty of faith in the guys around him.

"I think we've still got a lot of skill on that line," Kerfoot said. "They can both shoot the puck, so I'm just going to try to use my speed, get open, and get them the puck in good areas. I think we can have a lot of success together."

Those words realistically could have been taken from any of Kerfoot's four years here. But they should not surprise anyone; after all, the co-captain has experienced his greatest successes when embracing a passfirst mentality.

Yet, while Kerfoot is a passer by trade, he does want to bring a new element to his game.

"I want to kind of make a concerted effort to take pucks to the net more and get more shots just to add another dynamic to my game," Kerfoot said. "[That way] guys can't just back off me and be expecting a pass."

This falls right in line with a league-wide prediction that this is Kerfoot's year. Expecting the co-captain to change his game entirely would be foolish, but so would expecting the preseason first team all-ECAC center not to surpass his four-goal total of last year.

Kerfoot emphasized he's not looking to make a change because of his new surrounding cast; he'd want to make the effort no matter what. But tweaking his game now makes more sense than ever. When something isn't broke, you don't fix it. And the old line was firing on all cylinders, providing little reason to make adaptations.

But now that the line's a work in progress, what better time to try something new?

Kerfoot has already established himself as one of Harvard's top players. But after ranking ninth on the Crimson in shots last season, throwing more pucks at the net could be what elevates his game to another level.

"I definitely think he's got stuff to show," said Colton Kerfoot, Alex's brother who is now a freshman on the team. "He's had a pretty great couple last few years, so hopefully he can have another big one, and hopefully he can lead us down the stretch."

That's a message the rest of the Crimson would certainly agree with. It's just too bad the praise had to come from the younger brother.

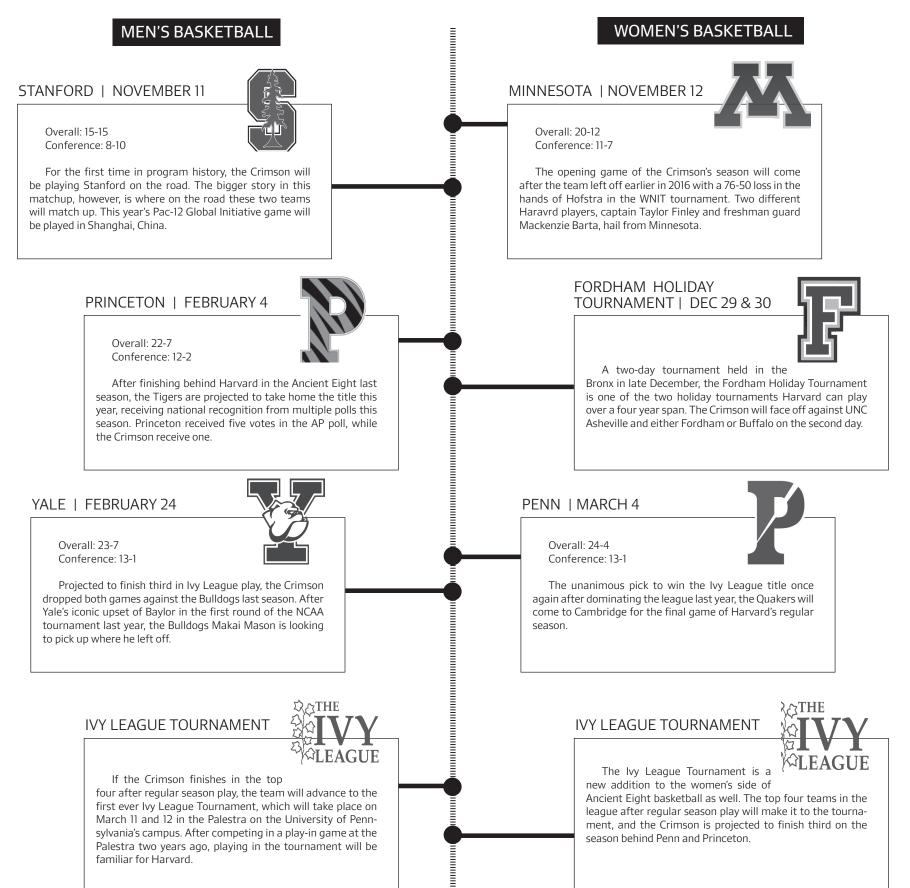
"I was sick of him before he got here," Alex joked. "I'm definitely sick of him now."

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### BASKETBALL

## **Games To Watch**

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## **Games To Watch**

BOTH LOSING KAY PLAYERS FROM THE CLASS OF 2016, THE MEN'S AND WOM-EN'S ICE HOCKEY TEAM LOOK TO USE THEIR YOUNG CORES TO IMPROVE.

