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Laurier soccer team plays three

top U.S. teams in exhibition series

Wilfrid Laurier University's soccer team, the Golden Hawks, take on Yale, as well as Boston University and Amherst College in a pre-season visit to the New England states this week.

Coach Barry Lyon said the series will give him an opportunity to see how his players look for the coming regular season.

"And, of course, I am delighted to play Yale, not to mention the other two colleges, all with good soccer reputations in the United States," he said.

It is unusual for a Canadian team to play against these teams but Laurier has made a surprisingly strong mark in soccer since it began to play the game three seasons ago. In that year, under Coach Lyon, it reached the Canadian finals-- something even the coach and players didn't expect.

The team plays Yale in New Haven, Conn., Sept. 9 in the Yale Bowl, which seats 70,000, but only 2,000 are expected. Game time is 4 p.m.

On Sept. 10 it meets Boston University under the lights at 7 p.m. on the artificial turf of the university's 60,000-seat stadium.

Boston University's soccer players are all scholarship students. The striker is from the Nigerian national team and there are three players from the Venezuelan Olympic team.

The Laurier-U.S. series ends Sept. 12 when the Golden Hawks play Amherst College at 2 p.m. Amherst is an exclusive private college near Boston.