



**CONFIRMED 2021 COVID-19 CASES AT UCONN STORRS**  
Last updated on Sept. 22 \*positive test results

**6** Current Residential Cases (positive/symptomatic)

**18** Cumulative Residential Cases\*

**21** Cumulative Commuter Cases\*

**26** Cumulative Staff Cases\*

## Declaration of racism as public health crisis remains priority for USG's rally

by **Aiza Shaikh**  
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On Wednesday, Oct. 6 at noon, seven University of Connecticut student organizations will be hosting a walkout and protest on the Student Union Lawn called Rally for a Peaceful Planet.

The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) is one of the organizations leading the walkout. Others include UConn Collaborative Organizing, Praxis, UConn Human Rights Symposium, PowerUp UConn, Sunrise CT and Fridays for Future.

The protest is the first of its kind and specific to UConn. However, several college campuses across the United States are expected to follow UConn and host their own protests at the same time, according to Irene Soteriou, fifth-semester statistics and cognitive science major and USG speaker of the senate and UConn Human Rights Symposium president.

"To our knowledge, this will be the first time that the UConn community will come out in such numbers to advocate for peace since the anti-war movement of the '60s," Soteriou

**"While this is an excellent first step, and one that we wholeheartedly stand behind, the rally has always been, and will continue to be, focused on declaring racism as a public health crisis here at the University of Connecticut."**

IRENE SOTERIOU

said. The rally consists of three main foci: abolishing the 1033 program, removing refugee caps and declaring racism a public health crisis.

On Wednesday, Sept. 22, UConn Interim President Dr. Andrew Agwunobi responded to USG's third demand in a public statement to the UConn community.

Although UConn issued this statement, the third focus of the rally has not yet been accomplished, according to Soteriou.

"While this is an excellent first step, and one that we wholeheartedly stand behind, the rally has always been, and will continue to be, focused on declaring racism as a public health crisis here at the University of Connecticut," Soteriou said. "The

difference is that by focusing specifically on our university, we can work closely with administration to develop and implement the subsequent policies and programs that can tangibly address the barriers that students in our immediate community face."

USG is also prioritizing reform of the 1033 program and relaxation of refugee caps, according to Soteriou.

"We will be turning predominantly to our representatives, and particularly to our governor, to heed our call and join us in channeling this movement into fundamental social change," Soteriou said.

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Students participate in a walkout outside of Gulley Hall on Sept. 20, 2019 to protest inaction against the climate crisis. Organizers of the coming Oct. 6 Rally for a Peaceful Planet hope to see as large of a turnout for their walkout. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## UConn breaks record in research awards



The University of Connecticut posts a record-breaking fundraising year of over \$350 million in awards. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Amanda McCard**  
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Researchers at the University of Connecticut received a record-breaking amount of funding in the 2020-21 fiscal year, totaling \$357.6 million in awards, according to a UConn Today article. The article also reports that this record surpasses the funding received the year prior, which amounted to \$285.8 million and was a record at the time.

Dr. Radenka Maric, Vice President for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UConn and UConn Health, recognized the significance of this monumental increase in funding.

"Major awards such as these give UConn national recognition and raise awareness of the many talented faculty who are working here," she explained. "Landing research grants is hard work and the funding landscape is competitive."

**"Major awards such as these give UConn national recognition and raise awareness of the many talented faculty who are working here. Landing research grants is hard work and the funding landscape is competitive."**

DR. RADENKA MARIC

... collect data, which will be helpful in submitting [to] nationally competitive grant programs," he explained.

This sentiment was echoed by Dr. Andrew Agwunobi, Interim President of the University of Connecticut and CEO of UConn Health. He stresses that the arrival at this record is a testament to the university's continuous pursuit of excellence in its research.

"The newest record-high annual research funding total is a demonstration of that ambition and commitment," he told UConn Today.

The cause for this year's dramatic increase in research grants is multifaceted. In part, research at UConn is consistently growing due to the university's top-notch infrastructure.

"Our facilities research infrastructure, such as the Innovation Partnership Building's Research Laboratories and centers, the new Science 1 building under construction and our partnership with the Jackson Laboratory in Farmington, [is] world class and will support exceptional research for years to come," Maric said.

She adds that internal funding from the Office of the Vice President for Research creates opportunities for external grants later on.

"These seed funding programs that help faculty get early results... are very important in convincing funding agencies that we can do the work. We are starting to see evidence that all this hard work and investment across UConn and Connecticut is paying off."

Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan, Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Education at the UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, acknowledged the role that internal funding played in attracting such colossal research grants. He received \$10 million for his work on improving sustainability of poultry production.

"This seed funding helps faculty to

... collect data, which will be helpful in submitting [to] nationally competitive grant programs," he explained.

Venkitanarayanan also attributed full credit to the faculty for the shattering of UConn's funding record due to their increased efforts in writing grant proposals. He shares that they have a success rate of around 40% in getting submitted proposals funded.

Dr. David Steffens, a recipient of an award for his participation in research about depression in older adults, attributes some of this year's funding increase to the nation-wide pause presented by the pandemic.

"I can point to my own experience of writing two grants last spring/early summer during the time that our research activities were stopped then slowly resumed," he explained. "I suspect that other researchers found that without the time usually spent conducting, they were able to devote time to grant writing."

Steffens' grant money fuels his current two studies: one on how pandemic-related and other forms of stress impact older depression patients, and one on a computer game aiming to improve cognitive function of the frontal lobe in this same demographic.

According to Maric, this year's research funding included the largest grant in the history of the university. Dr. Jeffrey Hoch, director of the Gregory P. Mullen NMR Structural Biology Facility and a professor at the School of Medicine, accepted \$40 million from the National Science Foundation for his "Network for Advanced Nuclear Magnetic Resonance."

Other recipients of awards include Dr. Dave Garvey and Dr. Chiara Mingarelli.

See **RESEARCH**, p. 2

For more...

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Tweet of the Day

**Ghost Mike Toscano**  
@mtosc98  
Why do so many people type UCONN and not UConn? It's not a fucking acronym.

## News

# Report: Jet was going slower than usual before fatal crash



firefighters spray water at the scene of a small jet crash in Farmington, Conn. A preliminary report by the National Transportation Safety Board on the crash, which killed all four people aboard, says the plane was slow to accelerate on the runway before striking a utility pole. PHOTO BY MARIK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT VIA AP

(AP) — A small jet that crashed into a building in Connecticut, killing four people earlier this month, was going slower than usual as it took off from an airport runway, while witnesses saw a puff of smoke and noticed the aircraft was having trouble gaining altitude, according to a preliminary investigation report released Tuesday.

The report by the National Transportation Safety Board also said the plane's parking brake was found to be on, although it was not clear when it was activated.

The report did not say what may have caused the Sept. 2 crash in Farmington, which remains under investigation.

The twin-engine Cessna 560XL was to have flown from Robertson Airport in Plainville to Dare County Regional Airport in Manteo, North Carolina. But it crashed into a manufacturing building shortly after takeoff and burst into flames, authorities said.

Killed were a Boston couple who were both doctors, Courtney Haviland, 33, her husband, Wil-

liam Shrauner, 32, and the two pilots, William O'Leary, 55, of Bristol, and Mark Morrow, 57, of Danbury. Four people on the ground were injured, including one who was seriously hurt. Haviland and Shrauner left behind a toddler-age son, and Haviland was pregnant at the time of the crash, according to relatives.

As the twin-engine Cessna 560XL was accelerating on the runway at Robertson Airport in Plainville, one witness noticed it was going slower than usual, the report said. The flight data recorder showed it took the plane 17 seconds to accelerate from 20 knots to 100 knots, compared with 11.5 seconds and 12 seconds during its previous two flights, investigators said.

A witness saw a puff of blue-colored smoke from the jet's rear, and another witness believed something was wrong because the nose landing gear was still on the ground near the mid-point of the runway, the report said.

A third witness saw the plane leave the runway in a level position and its nose pitched up, but it was

not climbing, investigators said.

"The airplane then impacted a powerline pole, which caused a small explosion near the right engine followed by a shower of softball-size sparks," the report said. "After hitting the pole, the noise of the engine went from normal sounding to a much more grinding, metallic sound."

The jet then hit a grassy area next to the Trumpf Inc. manufacturing building, about 850 feet (259 meters) north of the utility pole. It then struck the building, causing a fire that consumed most of the aircraft, the report said.

Investigators who examined the plane after the crash noticed the parking brake was on, and skid marks were found on the runway. But the flight data recorder did not record the parking brake valve position, which was not monitored by the takeoff warning system, the report said.

NTSB officials say the final report, which would include the likely causes of the crash, could take a year or more to complete.

# Students asked to wear black to protest

## PROTEST, cont. from p. 1

Students are asked to bring posters and wear black clothing to the rally. The color choice symbolizes the rally's connection to the Black Lives Matter movement.

"The BLM movement is in many ways intrinsically linked to peace, and a lack thereof, in our global communities," Soteriou said. "Each of the three common-sense steps that the rally proposes can be applied to the scope of the BLM movement."

Another reason for the color choice is that many students already own black clothing.

"We are also recommending

black because from a sustainability-and-accessibility standpoint, black tends to be a color of clothing that the majority of people own," Soteriou added.

Soteriou noted that USG appreciates the ongoing support from UConn's administration regarding the rally and its three demands.

"We are incredibly fortunate to attend a university where the administration is not only willing but excited to empower and partner with students, and we hope to model this path of student-administrator solidarity for other campuses that may choose to follow in our footsteps," Soteriou said.

# Research funding

## RESEARCH, cont. from p. 1

Dr. Garvey, Director of UConn's Department of Public Policy, facilitates the BIPOC Cohort for National Leadership, a nine-month training program that aims to elevate People of Color who work in the nonprofit sector, with the help of a \$45,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven.

Dr. Chiara received two grants this year, adding up to over \$600,000, to fund her research on supermassive black hole mergers.

"I'm very grateful to UConn for their support in helping with the grant submission and application... the whole team was very supportive and understanding even during Covid," she said. "Everyone was really flexible and that made things a lot easier."

The increased research funding is

met with enthusiasm and excitement throughout the UConn community.

Maric stated, "I am optimistic about the future because UConn has great faculty, students and staff. Our research is made possible by exceptional students coming to UConn for their educations and the great things they do here and in their careers."

Agwunobi also emphasized how grateful UConn was for the research funding awards, and noted the importance of it for the faculty, staff and students.

"The growth of external research funding at UConn and UConn Health clearly tracks with the state's many investments throughout our campuses, for which we remain very grateful," he shared with UConn Today. "It is said that for whom much is given, much is required. Every day on every campus, the University, its faculty and staff and its students take that to heart."

# Senate votes to extend Lamont's emergency powers to Feb. 15

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The Connecticut Senate voted Tuesday to extend Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont's emergency powers for the sixth time during the COVID-19 pandemic, despite pushback from Republican lawmakers who argue the state is no longer in crisis.

"It all needs to end," said Sen. Rob Sampson, R-Wolcott. "No one can deny that there's no public health emergency and that individual, local and legislative powers must be restored."

Yet Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney, D-New Haven, said state legislators have a "much stronger reason" to extend the public health and civil preparedness emergencies than back in July, the last time

Lamont's powers were extended until Sept. 30. He noted how the state's COVID positivity rate and number of hospitalizations have increased since then due to the delta variant.

"It's self-evident the pandemic is still with us, no matter how much wishful thinking the Republicans may engage in by saying that it is not," he said. "Clearly we need to have the governor have these emergency powers when necessary to go forward."

The resolution to extend the governor's powers until Feb. 15 passed 18-15 on Tuesday with two Democrats joining the Republicans in opposition. Three senators were absent.

The vote came day after the House of Representatives voted 80-60 in favor of extending Lamont's renewed

declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies until early February, when the General Assembly's regular legislative session is scheduled to open. Democrats control both chambers.

While there were loud protests outside the state Capitol during Monday's House debate, including parents upset about Lamont's executive order requiring face masks in schools, it was much quieter on Tuesday.

Only a handful of people turned out for the Senate debate. A few watched the proceedings on TV on the first floor of the Capitol, the only floor where members of the public are currently allowed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

# Federal judge overturns South Carolina school mask ban

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — A federal judge Tuesday suspended South Carolina from enforcing a rule that banned school districts from requiring masks for students.

Parents of disabled children, helped by the American Civil Liberties Union, sued the state saying the ban discriminated against medically vulnerable students by keeping them out of public schools as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

The mask ban has been forcefully backed by Republican Gov. Henry McMaster and GOP lawmakers who said parents should decide whether students wear masks, not school officials.

The ruling wasn't even a close call, U.S. District Judge Mary Geiger Lewis wrote, stopping the state from enforcing a one-year

ban placed in the budget.

"It is noncontroversial that children need to go to school. And, they are entitled to any reasonable accommodation that allows them to do so. No one can reasonably argue that it is an undue burden to wear a mask to accommodate a child with disabilities," Lewis wrote.

Lewis compared the General Assembly preventing mask requirements to telling schools they can no longer install wheelchair ramps.

"Masks must, at a minimum, be an option for school districts to employ to accommodate those with disabilities so they, too, can access a free public education," the judge wrote.

McMaster's spokesman Brian Symmes said Tuesday's ruling isn't the last word in the case.

## The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 2,500 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at DailyCampus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers. Thanks for reading.

### Corrections and Clarifications:

Send Corrections to [EIC@DailyCampus.com](mailto:EIC@DailyCampus.com)

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# After 5 years, Obamas break ground on Presidential Center

CHICAGO (AP) — After five years of legal battles, gentrification concerns and a federal review, Barack and Michelle Obama dug shovels into the ground Tuesday during a celebratory groundbreaking on their legacy project in a lake-front Chicago park.

Construction on the Obama Presidential Center along Lake Michigan, near the Obama family home and where the former president started his political career on Chicago's South Side, officially began last month.

Standing near an excavator and other heavy equipment, Obama described how the city's South Side shaped him, first as a community organizer, then as a husband, father and elected official. He said the

center was one way of giving back and he hoped it would bring an economic boost to the area and inspire a future generation of leaders.

"We want this center to be more than a static museum or a source of archival research. It won't just be a collection of campaign memorabilia or Michelle's ballgowns, although I know everybody will come see those," he joked. "It won't just be an exercise in nostalgia or looking backwards. We want to look forward."

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and several city aldermen were among the few people allowed at the event, which was streamed online to limit crowds amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The presidential center will sit on 19 acres (7.7 hectares) of the 540-acre (291-hectare) of Jackson Park, named for the nation's seventh president, Andrew Jackson.

It will be unique among presidential libraries. Obama's presidential papers will be available in digital form. The sprawling campus will include a museum, public library branch, athletic center, test kitchen and children's play area.

The initial cost was projected at \$500 million, but documents released by the Obama Foundation last month showed it is now roughly \$830 million. Funds are being raised through private donations.

Organizers estimate about 750,000 visitors will come to the center each year.

# The Latest: Pfizer gives vaccine data from kids 5-11 to FDA

NEW YORK (AP) — Pfizer has submitted research to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on the effectiveness of its COVID-19 vaccine in children as it moves closer to seeking approval for expanded use of the shots.

The drugmaker and its partner, Germany's BioNTech, say they expect to request emergency use authorization of their vaccine in children ages 5 to 11 "in the coming weeks." The companies also plan to submit data to the European Medicines Agency and other regulators.

The two-shot Pfizer vaccine is currently available for those 12 and older. An estimated 100 million people in

the U.S. have been fully vaccinated with it, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Pfizer tested a lower dose of the shots in children. The drugmaker said last week that researchers found the vaccine developed coronavirus-fighting antibody levels in children that were just as strong as those found in teenagers and young adults getting regular-strength doses.

Earlier this month, FDA chief Dr. Peter Marks told the AP that once Pfizer turns over its study results, his agency would evaluate the data "hopefully in a matter of weeks" to decide if the shots are safe and effective enough for younger kids.



Former President Barack Obama, left, and former First Lady Michelle Obama toss shovels of dirt during a groundbreaking ceremony for the Obama Presidential Center Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021, in Chicago. PHOTO BY CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP PHOTO

# Mask opt-out bill for students clears Senate committee

(AP) — A bill that would allow parents in Pennsylvania to exempt their children from wearing a mask at school cleared a state Senate committee on Tuesday as Republican lawmakers started making good on their pledge to counter the governor's statewide mask mandate.

The legislation would hand the ultimate decision on masking at school to parents and guardians, allowing them to overrule any face-covering mandate imposed by the state Department of Health, a local health department or a school board.

The Senate Education Committee approved the bill on a party-line vote. It requires passage by the full

Senate and the House before going to Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf, whose office said he opposes the bill.

GOP leaders had promised to mount a legislative response to Wolf's statewide mask mandate for schools, which requires students, staff and visitors at K-12 schools and child care facilities to wear masks while indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

Wolf has said a universal, statewide order was necessary after most Pennsylvania school districts did not impose their own mask mandates and the delta variant of the coronavirus caused a statewide surge in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

# Court: Ex-USC soccer coach tells of faking athletic credentials

BOSTON (AP) — A former assistant women's soccer coach at the University of Southern California testified Monday during the first trial in the nationwide college admissions bribery scandal that she regularly created fake athletic profiles with exaggerated accomplishments coupled with images she found on Google to help get unqualified students admitted.

Laura Janke, 39, of North Hollywood, California, took the stand in U.S. District Court in Boston in the trial of former casino executive Gamal Abdelaziz and former Staples and Gap Inc. executive John Wilson, The Boston Globe reported.

They are among dozens of rich and famous parents charged in the Operation Varsity Blues case, which involved large payments to get undeserving children into elite U.S. universities with rigged test scores or phony athletic accomplishments.

When it came time to put together an applicant's profile, Janke said she generally didn't even know whether the student played a sport.

Janke, who worked at USC from 2007 to 2014, testified that she falsified the athletic profile of Abdelaziz's daughter, making it look like she was a basketball recruit from a Hong Kong school. Abdelaziz is charged with paying \$300,000 to get his daughter into USC as a basketball player even though she couldn't even make her high school varsity team.

"I had to make it believable enough without raising any red flags," Janke said.

Wilson, who heads a Massachusetts private equity firm, is charged with

paying \$220,000 to have his son designated as a USC water polo recruit and an additional \$1 million to buy his twin daughters' ways into Harvard and Stanford.

Their defense attorneys argued in court documents that their clients had no knowledge of any false information submitted about their children, and they thought they were making legitimate contributions to the universities.

Janke said she coordinated with college admissions consultant William "Rick" Singer, the man prosecutors say masterminded the entire operation.

And even though Janke put together the fake profiles, she never met or communicated with any parents, she said.

Janke was charged with conspiracy to commit racketeering, but in May 2019 she pleaded guilty in exchange for her testimony and a lenient sentence. No sentencing date has been scheduled.

Janke said in court she wanted to set an example for her own daughters.

"I need to show them that you need to take responsibility even when you've really messed up, and that's what I've done," Janke said.

Singer has also pleaded guilty in exchange for his cooperation with investigators.

Among the parents who have already pleaded guilty and served their sentences are actors Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin — and her husband, fashion designer Mossimo Giannulli.

Three other parents are scheduled to go to trial in January.

# 3 former WSU frat members plead guilty to alcohol charges

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Three former Washington State University fraternity members have been sentenced to eight months of probation after they pleaded guilty to supplying liquor to a minor on the same night a 19-year-old freshman died of alcohol poisoning at an initiation event.

Maxwell Rovegno, Cameron Thomas and Nolan Valcik were sentenced Friday after pleading guilty to one count of furnishing liquor to a minor, according to sentencing documents from the

Whitman County District Court.

The men were not accused of furnishing liquor to Sam Martinez of Bellevue, the freshman who died that night. The defendants were each sentenced to a day in jail and a \$1,000 fine with \$500 suspended.

Martinez died after attending an Alpha Tau Omega fraternity chapter event in November 2019. The Whitman County Medical Examiner ruled the student's death an accident by alcohol poisoning. Washington State suspended the

fraternity until 2026.

Fifteen people were charged in connection with the event. Only one defendant was accused of providing alcohol to Martinez.

Martinez's parents filed a wrongful death lawsuit last year against the university and the fraternity which he was pledging to join. The lawsuit indicated that Martinez and another pledge were given half-gallon bottle of hard alcohol and the pledges were instructed to consume it before the end of the evening.

# Ohio State sex abuse survivors plan appeals, defend motives

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — After a judge recently dismissed some of the biggest unsettled lawsuits against Ohio State over decades-old sexual abuse by a long-dead team doctor, Steve Snyder-Hill heard a familiar voice questioning why he and other alumni keep pressing their cases against the university.

Even his own mother wondered if it was just about seeking more compensation, he said. He assured her that at least for him, it's not about the money.

He and some of the other men planning to further appeal their cases say what they're after is less tangible.

Snyder-Hill wants bigger changes in how sexual misconduct is handled. Dan Ritchie wants an outcome that doesn't block the survivors from criticizing how Ohio State responded as accusations became public over the past few years.

Mike Schyck wants an ending that forces the university to acknowledge more specific responsibility for what went wrong, beyond the broader public apologies it has made for failing to stop Dr. Richard Strauss, even though students had raised concerns.

"They prop you up and say: Thank you for your bravery, and we're sorry this has happened, you know, but sorry, not sorry," said Schyck, a former

wrestler.

Ohio State officials contend the university took the allegations seriously, had a law firm investigate, responded with transparency and empathy, made changes to prevent and address sexual misconduct, and tried to do the right thing through settlement offers.

The university reached nearly \$47 million in settlements with 185 survivors — an average of about \$252,000 — and then offered certain remaining plaintiffs an individual settlement program with average payouts limited to that same amount.

In all, Ohio State said it settled with more than 230 men. The total sum hasn't been disclosed.

Former hockey player Roger Beedon felt the offers "just didn't add up" for him and some of the other plaintiffs in light of what they experienced.

Many of the accusers said they were fondled in required medical exams at campus athletic facilities throughout his two decades at Ohio State, or at a student health center, the doctor's home or his off-campus clinic. Some said they were raped.

U.S. District Judge Michael Watson last week dismissed the bulk of the unsettled cases, involving more than 200 plaintiffs. He concluded that though university officials turned a

blind eye to Strauss' abuse of hundreds of young men, the legal time limit for the claims had passed.

Cases filed even more recently, involving dozens of plaintiffs, are still pending. Ohio State has argued those should be dismissed, too.

Attorney Richard Schulte said he has over 50 clients in that group who didn't get to mediate their cases or participate in the individual settlement program.

"Ohio State has decided for whatever reason to exclude all these survivors and deny them any accountability whatsoever," Schulte said.

Attorneys for many of the men who came forward with claims have argued most didn't recognize their experiences as abuse or understand Ohio State's role in enabling it until after accusations about Strauss first became public in 2018.

A statement from lawyers representing Snyder-Hill and more than 100 others said Watson's ruling "sends a disturbing message that the very real challenges sexual abuse survivors often face in understanding what has happened to them — and who enabled the abuse they experienced — is irrelevant when they ultimately ask for the court's help in holding abusive people and institutions accountable."

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## Opinion

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# The restaurant industry is in a terrible state

by Madeline Papcun

STAFF COLUMNIST  
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I have been away from my waitress job in my hometown for about a month since moving to the University of Connecticut at the beginning of the semester, which is an odd feeling. I've worked at this restaurant since I was 16 years old, and have thus become extremely close with my coworkers. In fact, spending all summer working overtime at said restaurant was only bearable because I was surrounded by my best friends. In my experience, the exhausting shifts created what felt like one of the longest summers ever; but they weren't bad in the moment. However, looking back on the 12 to 13 hour long days I was working almost every day, I'm shocked at the state of the service industry and how poorly we treat our workers.

The pure insanity of everything I underwent at work over the summer wasn't even apparent to me until I was telling a coworker about my new copy editing job at The Daily Campus, to which he responded, "Wow, imagine how nice that's going to be." I agreed, stating my excitement about finally working in a field that actually interested me, and he replied, "Well, that's a good thing too. But I really

just meant that it's going to be nice to sit down at work." And that was my wake up call, standing in the restaurant kitchen with my best friend. It was finally clear how truly exhausted we all were. Restaurant life in 2021 is draining to the point where you don't realize you're burnt out until you think sitting down at work is a privilege.

This anecdote is a little funny, but the state of the restaurant industry is not. The service industry in general needs massive reform. We need to protect workers instead of asking them to sell their souls for tips. It's not new information that servers live a lifestyle full of odd scheduling, consistently stressful, physically exhausting shifts and irregular wages. Obviously, the fact that these aspects of the restaurant industry negatively impact restaurant workers physically, mentally, emotionally and socially is not enough for restaurant reform, as this has been the norm for a

while. However, COVID-19 has only exacerbated these issues restaurant workers were already facing. Quality of life is worse than ever before in the restaurant industry and nobody cares.

We've talked about being thankful for our essential workers since March of 2020, but we have not shown it. Restaurants that managed to survive the pandemic are now understaffed, as the dangers and frustrations of working with the public during

a pandemic led many individuals away from the industry altogether. This is not surprising, considering the lack of benefits, low-quality pay and disrespect restaurant workers deal with walking into every shift. I know personally that I met some of the rudest customers ever after reopening post-quarantine in the summer of 2020. Entitled guests treated my coworkers and me worse than ever before, using us as scapegoats

for the general frustrations from living in unprecedented times. It's no longer just a fear of being exposed to COVID-19 at work (which is enough of a concern in my book); the jobs are just not worth it anymore.

The restaurant industry isn't going away anytime soon, but it also won't be bearable without significant change. Thus, we should protect our restaurant workers by any means necessary. This means raising minimum wages, including tipped minimum wages. We need to give servers and bartenders consistent schedules that avoid the extremes of either working too many hours with barely enough time to sleep, or not getting scheduled to the point where they cannot pay their bills. Moreover, employers should give full-time employees benefits, pay sufficient overtime rates and make sure employees are getting breaks during their shifts.

I know I only made it through the summer because my coworkers and I prioritized looking out for each other, since no one else was going to. And I'm not saying we're special for doing so; there are many other workers forced to do the same just to get through the day. But I don't think I'm only speaking for myself when I say I'm not going to be able to do this much longer if things don't change.

I agreed, stating my excitement about finally working in a field that actually interested me, and he replied, "Well, that's a good thing too. But I really just meant that it's going to be nice to sit down at work."

## Test us now, for we are scared

by Owen Silverman

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The University of Connecticut needs to test every single one of its residential students for COVID-19, and it needs to do so immediately.

At the time of writing, UConn has administered 1,945 COVID-19 tests, 18 of which have come back positive (an approximately 1% positivity rate). There are also currently six active cases of COVID-19 among residential students, or 0.05% of the student body. These statistics may seem unalarming, and that is exactly the problem.

Connecticut College recently transitioned to online learning due to an outbreak of over 50 COVID-19 cases, followed by another 34 positive tests in the following week. But, they have also administered over 14,000 tests, 1,829 in the past week alone (Sept. 20-26). For perspective, UConn has administered 1,945 tests all semester, despite having an on-campus population of 10,830 students (compared to Conn College's 1,800). Similarly, Conn Col-

lege and UConn have nearly identical on-campus vaccination rates, with 98% and 97%, respectively, further evidence that even highly vaccinated populations are still at risk of an outbreak.

Granted, this is extrapolation, right? Yes, Conn College is its own entity, 45 minutes south of Storrs, but given that we are in the same state, fighting the same virus and have 10 times the student population, is reasonable to say that this warrants concern.

So what has the university done to protect its students? Thankfully, UConn has handed out masks and PPE's to all residential students, enforced proper mask-wearing in public spaces (such as the Rec Center and the library), ensured proper social distancing in dining halls (where masks are not required while eating) and provided clear and consistent information on testing procedures and requirements. Oh, what's that? My sources are telling me otherwise.

UConn has done essentially nothing to enforce its COVID-19 policies. Masks have not been distributed to any students. Students

are often able to wear masks below their noses or not at all in public spaces while studying or exercising with little to no warnings or punishment. Students have cited an unofficial "week of leniency" upon arrival to campus regarding mask-wearing in their residence halls. The COVID-19 Dashboard is only updated once per week and is largely reliant on students voluntarily self-reporting posi-

**"It has become increasingly clear that the university is comfortable leaving the physical health of its students up to the discretion of the virus."**

tive results from outside testing organizations (many of which go unreported). Clubs remain helpless due to the lack of clarity of information given when one of their members tests positive. Togo boxes are not offered at dining halls during late-night, forcing non-vaccinated or sick students to eat maskless among other students (don't worry though, the tables are sanitized!). Bars continue to operate, while the university remains negligent to their lack

of mask and distancing policies. Off-campus parties are back and overflowing with students. And, not for nothing, doesn't it seem like everybody is sick right now?

I'm not the only one who gets paranoid when I hear someone next to me cough their lungs out, or when I overhear people say things such as "it's just a cold" or "I'm not getting tested, I don't have time to quarantine." People are sick, further proof that masks alone do not provide us with immunity to the spread of disease, and until mandated surveillance testing is reinstated, students have no reason to get tested and will continue to neglect symptoms of COVID-19 in pursuit of their education or social life. This cannot continue.

The university clearly recognizes some sort of problem, as Rec Center basketball was recently halted due to mask noncompliance. But, was this implemented to protect students? Or is UConn trying to protect itself from potential legal or political scrutiny?

UConn's lack of enforcement of its COVID-19 policies, allowing students to seemingly shrug off

"common colds" and sore throats, puts us in an incredibly volatile and dangerous situation, one that should frighten us all. A growing attitude of "you can't test positive if you don't get tested" has infected the university (no pun intended), and without any mandatory COVID-19 testing protocols for all students, it has become increasingly clear that the university is comfortable leaving the physical health of its students up to the discretion of the virus.

Seeing as UConn does not plan to bring back weekly mandatory surveillance testing anytime soon, and that getting tested is next to impossible due to an extreme lack of consistent information, it is on us as students to do our part in protecting the pack and educating ourselves. Stay home if you're sick, wear your mask properly and please go get tested if you or someone around you is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Information about how to schedule a COVID-19 test is available on the SHaW website, or you can call (860) 486-4700 to schedule an appointment over the phone.

Stay safe, Huskies — we will get through this together.



**Life**

@dailycampuslife

**‘RACE AND RELIGION’:**

**HOW WHITE CHRISTIAN SUPREMACY**

**PERPETUATES RACIAL**

**AND RELIGIOUS OPPRESSION**



by Esther Ju  
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The separation of church and state is a notion often emphasized in the U.S. This is the same country that claims not to have an official religion yet allows Evangelists to visit college campuses every week just to preach outside of the ITE building. However, the false perception of religious equality in the U.S. does not relate to religion alone. It is the product of an intersection between both race and religion, which goes overlooked when analyzing either issue.

Race and Religion: The Illusion of Religious Equality in the U.S. was a lecture session hosted on Tuesday, Sept. 28 via Webex. It was moderated by UConn Sociology Professor Bandana Purkayastha, who introduced the evening’s speaker, Dr. Khyati Y. Joshi, a current professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University and author of the book “White Christian Privilege: The Illusion of Religious Equality in America.” Joshi offered insight on what sparked her own interest in dealing with race and religion, as well as an interesting comparison between racism and religious oppression.

Being Indian American and Hindu herself, Joshi explained how her experiences in dealing with discrimination were misleading, as she was never sure if they were racially or religiously motivated. She pointed out that religion is often more involved in racial incidences than we think, citing violent events like the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, a “Muslim” Hindu family being intentionally run over in southern California and the infamous Muslim ban signed by former President Trump.

“Not being Christian has been a constant undercurrent in the story of exclusion,” Joshi said.

Her statement was a segue into the session’s main topic, which explored the parallels between racism

and religious oppression. According to Joshi, racism is made up of a system of advantages (white privilege) and disadvantages (prejudice against BIPOC) based on race, just as religious oppression is also a system of advantages (Christian privilege) and disadvantages (prejudice against religious minorities, atheists and humanists) based on religion. She went on to explain how developments like White Christian supremacy play a part in the further alienation of BIPOC people within their religious communities.

“We have Asian American Christians, African American Christians, Hispanic Christians who have Christian privilege, but then there’s White supremacy that exists,” Joshi said. “Christian communities of color don’t have the same level of privilege that White Christians do. So White Christian supremacy is the overarching phenomenon going on.”

Joshi made sure to mention the long history of White Christian supremacy, including its humble beginnings starting in 1492, when Jews and Muslims were expelled from the Iberian Peninsula, South Asia and Africa were colonized by British explorers and Africans were sold to slave traders. White colonialism was not only fueled by a perceived ordination from God; it ended up perpetuating the interchangeable nature among the words “Free,” “White” and “Christian.”

To illustrate this perpetuation, Joshi went over three ways in which “Christianity has had a significant role in the construction of Whiteness”: the genocide of Indigenous and Native American populations following laws like the Manifest Destiny Civilization Act of 1819 and the 1830 Indian Removal Act; the Biblical justification for slavery which later led to the Three-fifths

Compromise and the initiation of Jim Crow laws; and the social and legal exclusion of non-Protestants through strict immigration and citizenship laws.

“Whiteness and Christianity are built into the edifice of American history, law and line,” Joshi said.

The session was later accompanied by a Q&A, where attendees were able to submit questions using the chat feature. The last question of the evening was announced by Purkayastha.

“There is a separation of church and state in this country,” Purkayastha read. “Do you see some of the ideas — our understanding of how race and religion intersect and the outcomes it has — do you see that somehow being fragmented simply because of this church-state separation? How do you place that against this background?”

Joshi first answered by clarifying that “separation of church and state” is not mentioned anywhere within the country’s founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. It was merely a phrase written by Thomas Jefferson in a letter to Danbury Baptists. She then continued to explain the government’s role in the issue.

“Religion can be present, it really can,” Joshi said. “Government should not be endorsing a religion or the idea of religion. That’s what our friends who are atheist and humanist have been arguing and suing because of the phrase ‘under God’ in the Pledge of Allegiance, for example. And the turmoil that causes for young children — and teachers by the way — who don’t want to say it ... but that’s important to make note [of], is that that’s another big myth around these issues that people believe: ‘Oh, there’s separation of church and state.’ Yeah but no, it’s not in any founding document.”



by Sam Zelin  
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When I, a devoted fan of the Freshens cafe in the Rec Center at the University of Connecticut, left campus due to COVID-19 in the spring of 2020, I assumed it would still be there when I returned — let's be honest though, I also thought I'd be returning in two weeks, so we can't get everything right, I guess. Alas, I was wrong, and I found that Freshens had been replaced by Mango, a university-owned cafe that seems to offer basically the same things as its predecessor. Since returning this fall, I've been to Mango a few times, and to be completely honest, I remember enjoying Freshens more. Naturally, instead of just keeping this to myself and drinking my smoothie in peace, I had to find out what others thought.

I'd like to state that I am not claiming that the survey I conducted was very scientific in its nature. For starters, the only people who may have possibly responded were people who follow me on Instagram, as the initial poll took place on my Instagram

Story. The one scientific thing I did do for this was to limit the factors tested; as I am solely a smoothie drinker when it comes to the Rec's cafes, I chose to only ask about smoothies. Any data relating to other products sold at either Freshens or Mango was not included in my findings. So, when I asked on my Instagram Story if anyone had had a smoothie from the Rec Center before, I was pleased to find that about 60 people responded yes. Unfortunately, this number needed to be whittled down to 16, which represents the people who have had both a Freshens smoothie and a Mango one.

Of the 16 people who I talked to that have tried Freshens and Mango smoothies, five of them considered the two offerings to be about the same, four of them preferred Mango and seven of them preferred Freshens. Firstly, I thought it was very interesting that more than twice as many people had a strong opinion about one or the other compared to



Students purchase smoothies and food at Freshens: Fresh Food Studio in the Student Recreation Center, on Sept. 3, 2019. Mango replaced Freshens at the Rec Center after students went home as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.  
PHOTO BY JULIE SPILLANE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

those who stayed neutral. Secondly, I was surprised by how many different reasons people gave for liking their preferred option.

Among the reasons given were the smoothies' consistency, sweetness, portion size, complexity of content and general taste. These were applied by members of both groups, so I think they are purely about preference. It really begs the question of whether or not there is a perfect smoothie at all. Some people drink smoothies as a post-workout ritual, while some are just looking for a midday snack to help cool them down on a hot day. No matter what, purely based on all these factors, there really is no concrete winner, as no one smoothie is going to please everybody.

However — and this where my opinion writer hat falls back onto my head — one factor was brought up multiple times, specifically from fans of Freshens over Mango: the price. Mango smooth-

ies are more expensive than the ones from Freshens, and the only possible cause can be traced to who owns the space. Freshens is a nationwide chain, with over 200 locations on college campuses, while Mango is just another UConn property under the umbrella of UConn Dining Services.

At the end of the day, this argument really is irrelevant, as Freshens is not coming back and Mango is here to stay. It is a good sign that some people do not see a difference, and some people consider the new to be better than the old. Yet it seems as if the real test for Mango will be if patrons are willing to pay more for smoothies, as what's being offered doesn't really seem to have any significant upgrade that would warrant jacking up the price.

Lastly, I'd like to thank all 120 people who either participated in the initial poll or answered additional follow up questions!



The Rec Center reopened for the fall semester with Mango as its new smoothie bar. Writer Sam Zelin talked to students to compare and contrast Mango and Freshens.  
PHOTO BY MAGGIE CHAFOULEAS, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# GRIMES AND ELON MUSK END THREE YEAR RELATIONSHIP



Musician Grimes and Tesla founder Elon Musk have split up after three years of being in a relationship. They have a 1-year-old child together. PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

by Edison Escobar  
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After being in a relationship for three years, musician Claire Elise Boucher, who goes by the stage name Grimes, and tech mogul Elon Musk have split up. The news comes directly from Musk, who revealed the information to celebrity news site Page Six.

“We are semi-separated but still love each other, see each other frequently and are on great terms,” Musk told Page Six.

Musk stated that the reason for the separation was mostly because his two companies, SpaceX and Tesla, require him to be away from home for large periods of time. Musk also told Page Six that

Grimes is still currently living in their home in Los Angeles with their son.

Grimes and Musk first met after bonding over an artificial intelligence joke on Twitter in 2018. They began dating afterwards and made their first public appearance together at the Met Gala on May 7, 2018.

While the breakup may seem abrupt, there were many public controversies surrounding the relationship and even public arguments between Grimes and Musk. The biggest controversy arguably being the name they chose for their child.

The couple’s son, who was born on May 4, 2020, was infamously given the name X AE A-XII. Musk explained on the Joe Rogan podcast that Grimes had come up with most of the name, and that it is pronounced, “X Ash A-12.” The choice to name their son X AE A-XII drew a lot of national headlines and criticism towards Musk and Grimes. The name was so controversial that the state of California had to step in and tell the parents that any use of non-alphabetic symbols wasn’t permitted.

There was backlash from many Grimes fans when first hearing about her relationship with Musk.

Grimes had developed a reputation of someone who had many anti-conservative views and her fans saw her relationship with the billionaire as a sign of her abandoning her ideologies. The fact that Grimes supported Musk donating thousands of dollars to the Republican Party was seen as an example of her hypocrisy.

There were also constant Twitter arguments between Grimes and Musk, with the two of them unfollowing and following each other many times during their three year relationship. Musk posted a handful of tweets that Grimes publicly denounced.

“Another government stimulus

package is not in the best interest of the people in my opinion” and “Pronouns suck,” were two infamous tweets that Musk wrote on July 4, 2020. Grimes would go on to tweet that Musk should give her his phone and that she couldn’t support his hate.

One of the last notable public appearances for Grimes and Musk was when Musk hosted “Saturday Night Live” and Grimes acted in a skit. The two were last seen together during the 2021 Met Gala. Despite the breakup, the two are still on good terms and plan on parenting their 1-year-old son together.

“Most importantly, I need to remember one simple word: breathe.”

## REAL TALK WITH *Rebecca*

by Rebecca Friedman  
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# SOMETIMES ALMOST IS GOOD ENOUGH

If you are looking for a safe space to escape your daily struggles with anxiety or mental health, you have found the right place. Welcome to my column, “Real Talk With Rebecca,” where I will be writing weekly about daily struggles with mental health. For those of you struggling with mental health on campus, I hope you can relate to this column and not feel so alone. Feel free to email me if you have any topics you would like me to discuss, or if you just want to vent!

This week I will be discussing how sometimes almost doing something is success in itself.

I tried to go to the gym the other day. I didn’t necessarily make it to the stairmaster or even break a sweat, but I tried, and that’s all that matters. I walked all the way down the hill from where I parked my car and was about to walk inside the Rec Center. Before I could enter, my brain did that super annoying thing where it starts overthinking about everything and anything.

Are these pants weird? Do I look bad in this shirt? What if someone thinks I look stupid on the squat machine? Do I have time for this? I should probably go back home and do homework. Wait, my friends are all going to the mall, and I need to go with them so they don’t have fun without me.

These are just a few of the millions of thoughts that raced through my head moments before I felt my face become wet with tears, and I turned around and headed back to my car.

At least I almost made it. Is “almost” good enough though? Doesn’t almost just mean I was not successful? A failure, one might call it. But can’t almost be good enough? Almost could also mean a baby step in the right direction.

In these situations where I almost do something, it’s so hard to not feel defeated. Letting anxiety

win small, simple tasks like going to the gym is beyond frustrating. I often find myself wishing I could be “normal.” Sometimes it is hard for me to even grasp the idea that there are people in this world who don’t struggle with anxiety, because I can’t remember my life without it.

The next time I face this situation — which I am sure will be soon, considering I don’t think my anxiety is going anywhere anytime soon — there are a few things I plan to do to overcome these intrusive thoughts. Sometimes I find blasting music in my headphones to be helpful. This way, I can’t even think about anything if I wanted to. Lose myself in music and save the thoughts for later. Of course, it is also a great option to bring a friend with you, but sometimes we don’t always have that luxury. Most im-

portantly, I need to remember one simple word: breathe.

Taking a minute to breathe probably could have saved me from turning around and heading back to my car. A reality check with myself probably would have helped me realize that no one else would think any of the thoughts going through my head — let alone even notice me at all. Half of the time, if I sit and talk out my thoughts, I realize that I am worrying and overthinking things that have not even happened or are unrealistic. So what is the point of working myself up about things before they even happen? Unfortunately, that is what anxiety does to you.

Next time I find myself upset that

I “almost” did something, I plan on changing the way I view the word. Sometimes, almost is good enough.

“Sometimes almost doing something is success in itself.”

# Opinion StudyBreak

## Photo of the Day | Sweet serenade



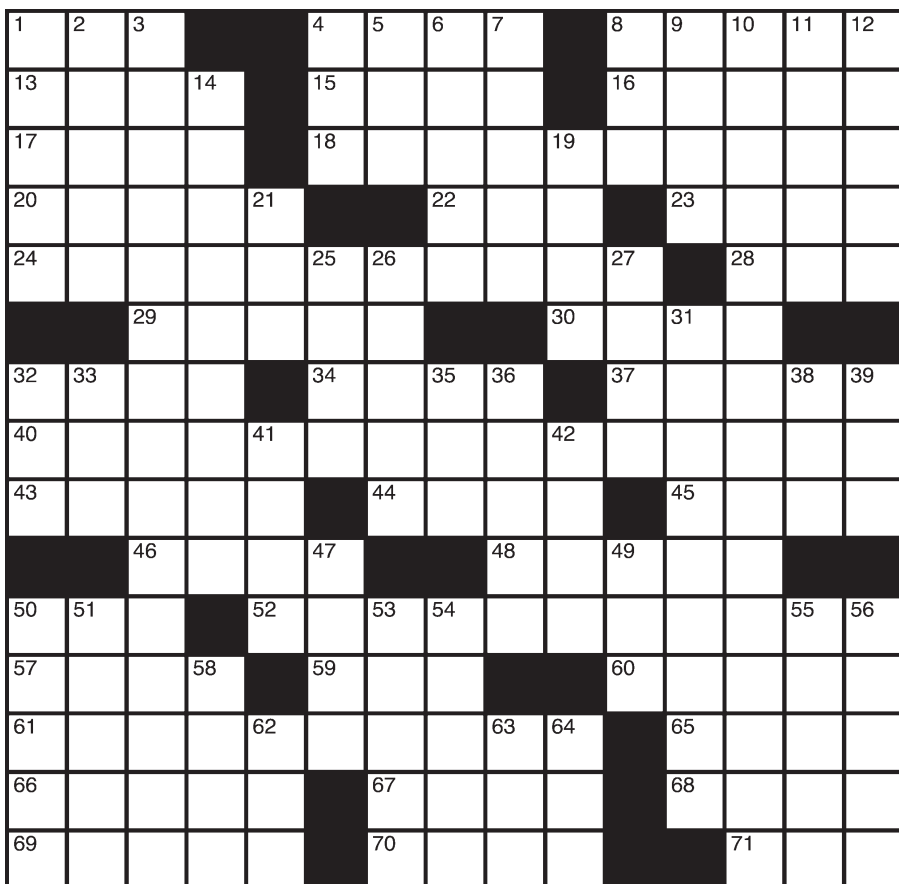
Greg Aniolek, a UConn senior, serenades Fairfield Way on his saxophone after his classes. People passing by stopped to sit and admire his music and praised his talent.

PHOTO BY IZZI BARTON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

### Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 A third of XXX, maybe?
- 4 Rorschach image
- 8 Make oneself decent, so to speak
- 13 "That's rough"
- 15 Clothing store website category
- 16 Spunk
- 17 Colombian coin
- 18 \*Steam
- 20 One in a Hollywood crowd
- 22 Yoko who voiced a self-named character in 2018's "Isle of Dogs"
- 23 Sedate, say
- 24 \*Western capital
- 28 PC file suffix
- 29 Skip over
- 30 Come clean, with "up"
- 32 \_\_\_ buco
- 34 Paul who founded a pet food company
- 37 Utterly lost
- 40 \*Systematic rumor spreading
- 43 "Buffalo Stance" singer Cherry
- 44 Fail to enunciate
- 45 Love of money, to all evil?
- 46 Faltering step
- 48 Condescend
- 50 "So pretty!"
- 52 \*Wite-Out alternative
- 57 Made fun of
- 59 Zero-\_\_\_ game
- 60 Hyundai sedan no longer sold in the U.S.
- 61 Hikers' starting points ... or what the ends of the answers to starred clues can be?
- 65 Work on text, maybe
- 66 They're rarely worth splitting
- 67 Blue prints, e.g.?
- 68 Do a fall chore
- 69 Tear up
- 70 With everything in its place
- 71 Young guy



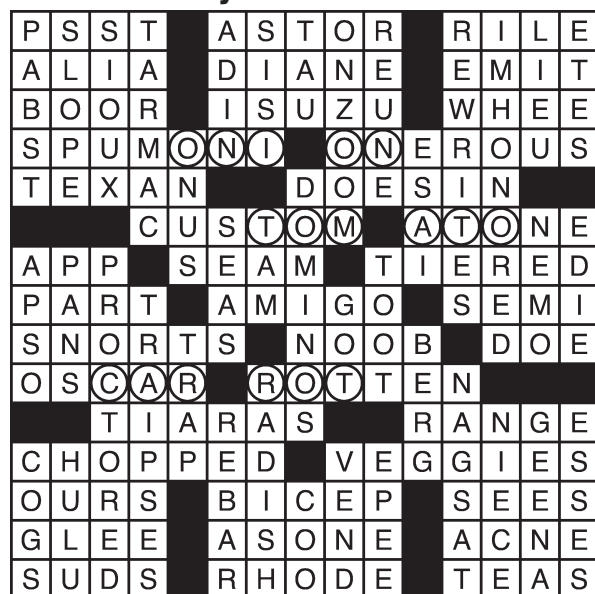
By August Miller

9/29/21

**DOWN**

- 1 Records, old-style
- 2 Siri counterpart
- 3 Daydreams
- 4 Munich-based automaker
- 5 Bucolic setting
- 6 En pointe
- 7 Taiwanese golfer Yani \_\_\_\_, youngest to win five majors
- 8 It's known for lines, briefly
- 9 Fork locale
- 10 Steel guitar device
- 11 Dakota tribe
- 12 Suit material
- 14 Postgame griper
- 19 It may be pitched
- 21 Provençal pal
- 25 Dog in the comics
- 26 Raises
- 27 Half-moon tide
- 31 Telescope toter
- 32 Come clean, with "up"
- 33 \_\_\_-crab soup
- 35 Commonly injured ligament for NFLers

**Tuesday's Puzzle Solved**

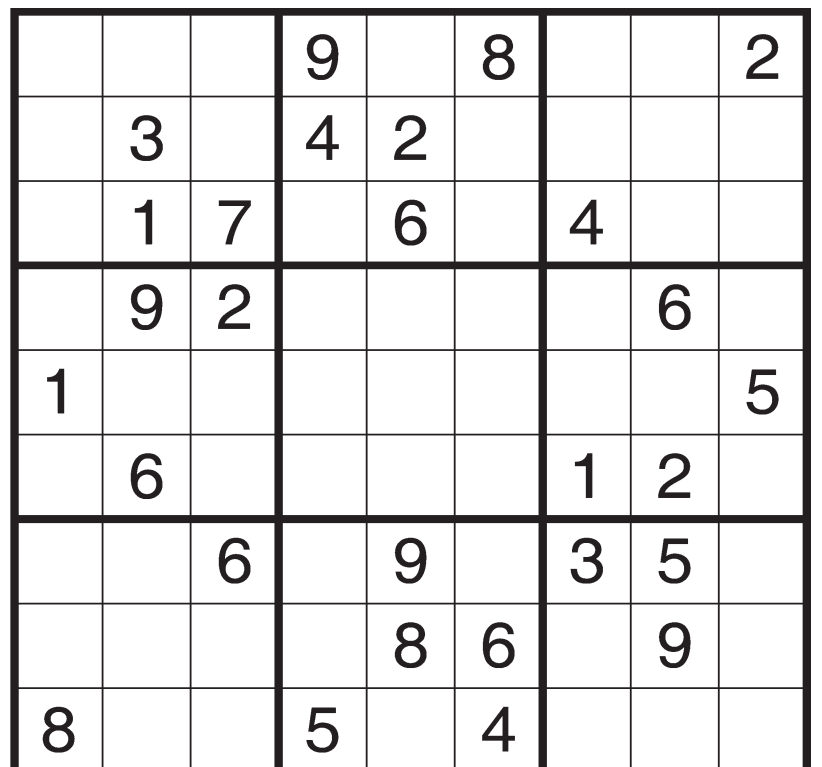


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9/29/21

- 36 Riyadh native
- 38 Freudian focus
- 39 Carpenter
- 41 Singer Collins
- 42 TV's talking horse
- 47 "Don't be silly!"
- 49 Brewpub initials
- 50 They're taken on stands
- 51 Daytime TV mogul
- 53 Knight adventure
- 54 MSG flavor
- 55 "Get Out" actress Alexander
- 56 Like books on goodreads.com
- 58 Very serious indeed
- 62 Drug whose effects are similar to psilocybin
- 63 July 4th letdown
- 64 Pigs' digs

### Sudoku



### DYK?

*McDonald's once made bubblegum-flavored broccoli*

**THE FIRST ORANGES WERE GREEN**

*Peanuts are technically legumes, not nuts*

**ARMADILLO SHELLS ARE BULLETPROOF**

FACTS COURTESY OF READER'S DIGEST

## Woodson wants to lead Hoosiers basketball back to pinnacle

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — Trayce Jackson-Davis made up his mind about Mike Woodson after one, 10-minute meeting.

He wanted to play for Indiana's new coach.

Race Thompson and two other players who thought about leaving the program needed a little more time before reaching the same conclusion. Now all four and a flurry of new teammates are on board with Woodson as they start writing a new chapter in Hoosiers history.

"He was perfect," Jackson-Davis said Monday at Indiana's media day. "The transition was so smooth. He came in and brought a positive vibe right from the get-go. I think people are excited, really excited and I don't think I could say that in the past."

Clearly, things are changing as Indiana begins its first season under one of Bob Knight's prized pupils.

In June, roughly 150 former players showed up to the basketball team's reunion in French Lick, Indiana. Some wanted to mingle with Woodson; all came to hear The General speak.

The sights and sounds around John Mellencamp's small town, Bloomington, Indiana, are different, too. The famed candy-striped pants are fashionable again and there's a buzz about Indiana basketball that's been missing recently. Even Woodson senses the difference.

But the truth is, he never really left campus after graduating in 1980 with more than 2,000 points.

"You seem to think I've been away for 40 years. I've been here every year, you guys just didn't know it," he said. "My walk around town has been great, man. People are excited, I'm excited. I came back for one reason and that's to put this team back on top. I know there's a

lot of work to do."

Hoosiers fans have heard those words from various voices for decades now, but since 1987 nobody has delivered. The closest they got to a sixth championship came in 2002 when Knight's successor, Mike Davis, took the surprising Hoosiers to the 2002 championship game. Maryland won 64-52, ending the most recent Hoosiers run beyond the Sweet 16.

Sure, the gruff-speaking, old-school 63-year-old Woodson may seem like an unlikely choice to lead Indiana back to the pinnacle of college basketball. After playing 11 NBA seasons and spending another quarter-century coaching NBA players, many wondered how he would fit with today's college athletes.

What Woodson has found, though, is players like his style.

"I was originally committed to Texas and ended up here so I feel like I'm here at the right time, being part of the first wave of players coach Woodson has at Indiana," freshman guard Tamar Bates said. "Coach Woodson just brings a positive vibe every single day and it makes us want to play harder for him. When we go out there, we're playing to win."

Woodson's simple, honest recruiting pitch didn't just convince Jackson-Davis and Bates.

It seems to be resonating with younger players everywhere as Woodson lands the kind of talented players Indiana has struggled to get in recent years.

Four of the seven Indiana players who entered the transfer portal following Archie Miller's firing decided to stay. So did top recruit Logan Duncomb.

Woodson then plucked three transfers out of the portal — 7-foot center Michael Durr from South Florida, 6-7 forward Miller Kopp

from Northwestern and 6-3 point guard Xavier Johnson from Pittsburgh. All are expected to play key roles this season.

With three highly-rated recruits committed for next fall, Woodson's also been busy planning for the future.

What's the attraction?

While Woodson, like Knight, is a defense-first coach, high school and college players have developed an affinity for his NBA ties, a

free-flowing offense and his ability to communicate.

"I came here to be pushed to be more than just a shooter to be challenged defensively and be a better rebounder," said Kopp, who hit 36% from 3-point range over the past three seasons. "Coach Woody and the staff want me to shoot the ball when I'm open, but they want me to improve at defending every possession and rebounding."

So after hearing Woodson's vi-

sion for Indiana basketball, these motivated Hoosiers were eager to get started.

"He really was being real with me," Thompson said, describing Woodson's sales pitch after he considered transferring. "He's a real human, he's a good guy. He was telling me who he is and I could tell he was real. I talked to my dad afterward and he said, 'I don't know how you could say no to coach Woodson.'"



Indiana men's head coach Mike Woodson talks about having his team look at the championship banners hanging above them and letting them know that's their goal as a team during the program's NCAA college basketball media day in Bloomington, Ind., Monday, Sept. 27, 2021. PHOTO BY RICH JANZARUK/AP

## After Wilson flap, rougher, tougher Rangers set for 2021-22

(AP) - No one player or executive had a greater influence on how the New York Rangers will look in 2021-22 than Tom Wilson of the Washington Capitals.

A game after the Rangers had been eliminated from playoff contention last season, the Caps' enforcer gave the Blueshirts a black eye.

In a span of seconds, Wilson punched a prone Pavel Buchnevich in the back of the head in a goal-mouth scramble and later rag-dolled star forward Artemi Panarin to the ice, ending his season.

Over the next few days, the league fined Wilson \$5,000. The Rangers ripped the NHL and they

were fined \$250,000. Team president John Davidson and general manager Jeff Gorton were fired after the team owner disagreed with their approach, and Chris Drury took over for them. Coach David Quinn also was fired.

In the offseason, the Rangers decided to revamp the lineup to give it a more physical presence. They acquired enforcer Ryan Reaves from Vegas, signed the gritty Barclay Goodrow as a free agent, and traded Buchnevich to St. Louis for Sammy Blais, another physical player. No-nonsense coach Gerard Gallant was hired.

The days of the Rangers playing four skill lines are over. No one is going to push them around any-

more.

"I think if you look at the teams in the past that have won, you have the hard-nosed players that produce offense, but they're tough to play against," Rangers defenseman Jacob Trouba said. "They kind of set a tone to a game, set an edge. They're just guys that are not fun to play against. We've played against them in the past and they're guys that you'd rather have on your team."

The Rangers certainly have enough skill players with Panarin, Mika Zibanejad and Chris Kreider. There also is a corps of young talent that includes Alexis Lafreniere, Kaapo Kakko and Filip Chytil. The defense is led by Norris Trophy winner Adam Fox, Trouba, and

K'Andre Miller. The goaltending is solid if Igor Shesterkin and Alexander Georgiev stay healthy.

Wilson downplayed his role in the transformation, saying it was a perfect storm that led to the changes.

"They obviously wanted to play tougher. They wanted to bring in some grit," Wilson said. "I mean, in the first place it shouldn't be a guy like Panarin that's jumping on my back. That whole situation — I won't speak to it too much — but he shouldn't feel like he ever should have had to do that."

Wilson called Panarin one of his favorite players in the league, adding he's a great player with a great personality.

"So I'm glad that's in the rearview a little and obviously they've made some moves that they think's going to make their team better," Wilson said. "I mean, maybe it does a little bit have to do with the toughness of the division, but I wouldn't credit that to me."

Here's what to watch in a season the Rangers will highlight in January with the retirement of the No. 30 jersey worn by star goaltender Henrik Lundqvist. He retired in the offseason after missing last season with a cardiac issue.

### NEW BOSSES

Drury and Gallant are running the show at the Garden after the team missed the playoffs with a 27-23-6 record.

Gallant is best known for leading Vegas to the Stanley Cup Final in their expansion season in 2017-18. This will be the fourth team the 58-year-old has handled, including tours with the Panthers and Blue Jackets.

On the ice, Gallant was a scorer who didn't mind playing a physical game. He expects his players to play two-way hockey and take care of teammates.

A former Rangers' captain, Drury was in demand around the league. He was in the right spot at the right time when owner James

Dolan got fed up waiting for his team to succeed.

### FOX RISES

Adam Fox has come a long way since being acquired in a trade with Carolina in April 2019. He had eight goals and 34 assists in 70 games as a rookie. The 23-year-old had five goals and 42 assists and was a plus-19 en route to winning the Norris Trophy as the NHL's top defenseman. He averaged almost 25 minutes in 55 games.

If the progression continues, the Rangers will have a shot at the postseason.

### YOUNG KIDS

The Rangers know they are going to get goals from Panarin, Zibanejad, Kreider and Ryan Strome. They lost 20 goals trading Buchnevich.

Lafreniere, the No. 1 overall pick in 2020, and Kakko, No. 2 the year before, need to pick it up this season along with Chytil and Vitali Kravtsov. The four combined for 31 goals last season.

### POST LUNDQVIST

Shesterkin gave the Rangers what they wanted in the year after Lundqvist was not re-signed. Shesterkin went 16-14-3 with a 2.62 goals-against average and got four-year contract in August.

Georgiev was a roughly .500 goalie as the backup. Keith Kinkaid flashed some old form, going 3-2-1 with a 2.59 GAA after injuries got him in the lineup.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

The Rangers were good on special teams last season but could be better.

They finished No. 14 on the power play, scoring 37 goals and converting on 20.7% of their chances. The penalty kill was even better. They were No. 10, killing of 82.3% while scoring eight short-handed goals.



New York Rangers Chris Kreider (20) plays the puck against New York Islanders Thomas Hicky (2) during the second period of a preseason NHL hockey game, Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021, in New York. PHOTO BY NOAH K. MURRAY/AP

## Sports

Photo of the Day | Staying on our feet



The Huskies suffer a 0-3 defeat at the hands of St. John's University at Morrone Stadium in Storrs, Sept 23. The Huskies let up a goal early in the first half and another two at the beginning of the second. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, PHOTO AND VIDEO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Point/Counterpoint: Who deserves the coveted backup power forward spot more: Akok Akok or Samson Johnson?

by **Stratton Stave**,  
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As we grow nearer to the start of the highly anticipated UConn basketball season (41 days, but who's counting?), things are beginning to take shape for the team, but questions still linger. Who will be the stars? Who will start? Who will get significant minutes? Last week, Mike Anthony of Hearst CT Media interviewed Huskies head coach Dan Hurley on the state of the program, where the coach revealed that junior Akok Akok and freshman Samson Johnson are in a fierce battle for the backup 'four' slot. Stratton Stave and Evan Rodriguez debate who is more deserving in this week's point/counterpoint.

**Stratton:** To start this out, I think that Evan and I can both agree that Akok and Johnson are both great players in their own right and would each deserve this spot if the other was not in their way. However, they are and Akok is the clear choice between the two. Akok holds a massively intimidating defen-

sive presence, with the ability to block shots at an incredibly high rate. Before going out for the season to an injured achilles in 2019, Akok was a top-10 shot blocker in the country, averaging 2.6 swats per game across his 25 contests. When on the floor, Akok completely changed the opponent's gameplan. They were forced to either get their shots swatted inside by the 6-foot-9 NBA prospect or shoot from outside. The way Akok anchored the Huskies' defense made them very difficult to score on and it will only improve with the weight that he put on in the past year and a half. Not only should he have his blocking abilities, the new strength should prevent him from getting bullied inside by bigger defenders, a concern that some had.

**Evan:** Honestly, I don't really see it as such a clear choice for Akok and I would be leaning towards Johnson if I were creating a game plan for the Huskies. As you said, Akok is coming off a serious achilles injury in 2019 and there really is no guarantee that he will be right back to where he left off despite the impressive weight gain. With Johnson, you know exactly what you're getting and he will most certainly add to

his already impressive statline throughout the season. With a high school senior year that saw Johnson averaging nearly 3.5 blocks per game, he already looks great from the defensive end. What separates Johnson from Akok is Johnson's offensive game. In 28 minutes per game, Akok only averaged 5.8 points per game and shot fairly below average at 41.3% a game. Johnson was able to average nearly 14 points per game and showed encouraging signs of an effective jump shot, a trait that Akok has yet to fully develop with below average shooting statistics. Johnson is only going to get better throughout the year and if Akok is coming off an injury, why shouldn't Hurley let Akok slowly adjust back to his impressive former level. For now, the choice is Johnson.

**Stratton:** The thing about Akok's injury is that he is now 100% healthy. In a similar situation to that of Brooklyn Nets superstar, Kevin Durant, who also tore his achilles, came back just as good in the same amount of time. Now, I know that different people recover differently, but Hurley has talked numerous times about how Akok is looking great in the offseason and videos from UConn's

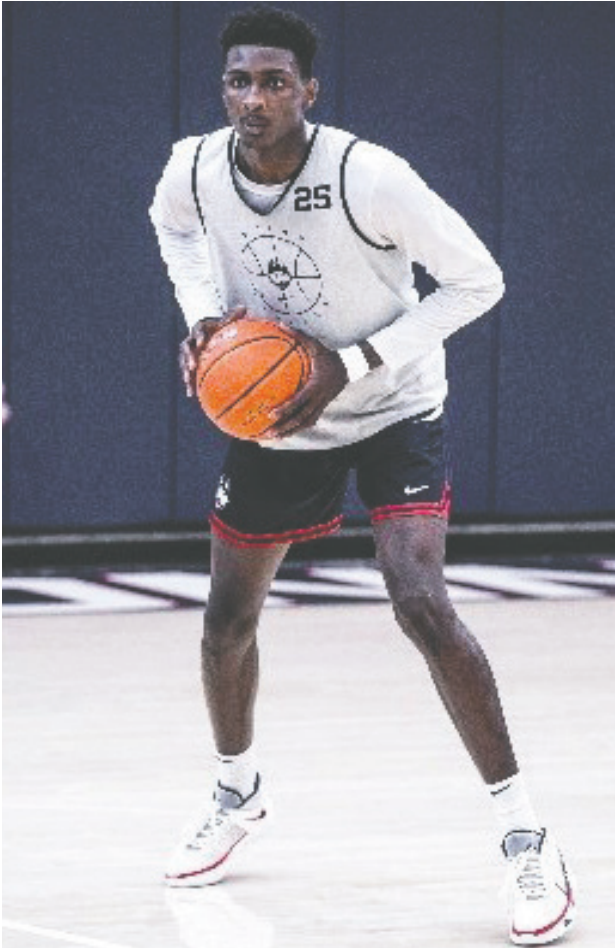
social media teams have confirmed that. A benefit that players do see during an injury such as an achilles injury is plenty of time to work on shot mechanics. In 2019, Akok only shot 26.5% from beyond the arc, but with time to practice his shot and an inability to do contact drills, it is highly likely that his shooting will see an increase in production this year. Additionally, at the college level, big men can often see a dip in their impact as compared to high school because of the increased physicality at the college level. Akok saw this. Granted though, in New Jersey, Samson was playing against some great players, but the talent is just going to be more challenging, especially with many opposing upperclassmen already on three to four years of strength training programs. I just don't totally know what we're entirely getting quite yet with Johnson, so I'll stand pat with Akok's jumper that is due for improvement.

**Evan:** If we're going to talk about Akok's level of work in the gym, why not mention Johnson, who was heavily recruited for his impressive work ethic and will continue to improve like Akok. Unless Akok comes back from injury with a considerable improvement in his all-around game, I really don't believe he's the better option. I'm heavily confident that Johnson is willing to outwork anyone who stands in his way, especially for an important spot in the Huskies roster. While Akok may see an improvement in his shot and even that's questionable, Johnson already has a solid and reliable jumpshot that will continue to improve over time as he garners more minutes in UConn's lineup. Even with an increase in talent, I believe that Johnson will work heavily to compete and will continue with the talented play that UConn scouted the young big man for. With how well fellow big man Adama Sanogo's transition to college basketball was, I don't think it's a far stretch at all to expect the same or even better for someone as good as Johnson, especially with both talented big men coming from the same high school.

**Stratton:** As we discussed a few weeks ago, we obviously disagree about how comparable Samson Johnson and his high school/current teammate Adama Sanogo are. Sanogo came to UConn with a college-ready body, sitting at 6-foot-9 and 260 lbs, while Johnson mea-

sured in at 6-foot-10 and 200 lbs. It will be difficult to bully defenders inside offensively with his body type, which will force him to focus more on shooting threes. Especially with the college line moving back next year, the adjustment to shooting will likely cause a hit in his efficiency from deep. The college line is now about 2.5 feet further than the high school line, which is a lot when it comes to shooting. At the end of the day, Akok is just more accustomed to the college game. We've seen Akok play in college and there is buzz that his increased strength will make him an absolute force this year. I'm not going to say that Johnson will not be better than Akok by the end of the year, but he is largely unproven right now and will endure some growing pains, which is why Akok is the better and safer option for the Huskies.

**Evan:** I would say that Johnson has certainly proven himself enough, especially to Hurley. Hurley has continued to praise Johnson's athletic talent when talking about the battle between Akok and Johnson for the third frontcourt spot. While it will be difficult to bully defenders inside offensively with his body type, I have a hard time believing that Johnson is not up for the challenge with his level of athletic talent and work ethic. The noticeable difference in the three point line is definitely a good point, but Johnson is still able to knock down mid-range jump shots consistently and can continue to adapt later in the year to three point jump shots. While Akok may have increased his strength over the offseason, his jump shot is still a question mark in a level of basketball where a dependable jump shot is highly necessary. At the team's current offensive state, where they lost a dependable offensive weapon in guard James Bouknight due to the guard's transition to the NBA, the Huskies could use some extra offense and Johnson is perfect to fill that role. Even if we have yet to see Johnson play a single minute of college basketball, I'm much more inclined to take the freshman with his skill set and hype over Akok, who still has so many question marks. I love Akok's top tier defense and what it brings to the Huskies, but it's just not enough to put him over Johnson for me. While many of these questions will be answered as the season progresses and he could certainly prove me wrong, I'm taking Johnson as my choice for right now.



Samson Johnson is a freshman on the UConn men's basketball team. He averaged nearly 3.5 blocks per game in his senior year of high school. PHOTO COURTESY OF KDROOS\_13 ON TWITTER



Akok Akok is a junior on the UConn men's basketball team. After recovering from a torn achilles, he is 100% healthy and ready for the season. PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONNHUSKIES.COM

## Shoddy quarterback play has Big Ten scrambling for answers

(AP) - Illinois coach Bret Bielema needed one word to answer whether he considered changing quarterbacks last weekend.

No.

The most oft-repeated question in football has made a resounding resurgence around the Big Ten after another weekend filled with less than stellar quarterback play.

"We will internally name a starting quarterback Tuesday when we talk to our guys," Purdue coach Jeff Brohm said Monday, two days after Aidan O'Connell replaced Jack Plummer and led the Boilermakers to the game's only touchdown in a 13-9 victory over the Fighting Illini.

Everybody should stay tuned.

As league play begins in earnest, quarterback quandaries, as usual, are starting to emerge as the make-or-break point for underperforming teams.

Bielema appears to be leaning to keeping Brandon Peters as the starter despite a second straight poor performance since returning from a left shoulder injury and amid pleas from fans to give Artur Sitkowski, the Rutgers transfer, another shot. Illinois (1-4, 1-2 Big Ten) has lost four straight as it prepares to face Charlotte this weekend.

Minnesota coach P.J. Fleck also faced the question after Tanner Morgan went 5 of 13 for 59 yards with four sacks and two interceptions in a stunning 14-10 home loss to Bowling Green. The Golden Gophers (2-2, 0-1) will try to rebound at Purdue (3-1, 1-0) this weekend.

"I have to play way better," Morgan said.

So does Wisconsin quarterback Graham Mertz, who threw a career-worst four interceptions and had two returned for scores in a blowout loss to Notre Dame. The worst game of Mertz's career also came against his predecessor, Jack Coan.

Since opening last season with



Michigan quarterback Cade McNamara (12) throws a pass in the second quarter of an NCAA college football game against Rutgers in Ann Arbor, Mich., Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021. PHOTO BY TONY DING/AP

seven TD passes and no interceptions in two wins, Mertz has gone 3-5 with three TDs and 11 interceptions. Yet coach Paul Chryst will stay the course and Mertz said he is confident he can turn things around this weekend when the unranked Badgers (1-2, 0-1) host No. 14 Michigan.

"I will never lack trust in myself," Mertz said. "As soon as that goes, you lose everything."

Sometimes, a switch works out.

No. 11 Ohio State (3-1, 1-0) held out injured quarterback C.J. Stroud against Akron and Kyle McCord responded by throwing for 319 yards and two scores in a 59-7 rout. McCord was named Big Ten freshman

of the week. Coach Ryan Day said Tuesday that Stroud, if healthy, will start Saturday against Rutgers (3-1, 0-1).

Northwestern coach Pat Fitzgerald benched Hunter Johnson against Duke and the Wildcats still lost. Ryan Hilinski started the next game and led Northwestern past Ohio.

Nebraska coach Scott Frost believes Adrian Martinez seems to have learned from last season's struggles, though his quarterback has been sacked 18 times and sputtered in the red zone this season. The Cornhuskers (2-3, 0-2) host Northwestern (2-2, 0-1) next.

"I benched Adrian last year when

he was not playing well enough and he is playing at an elite level right now with some of the things he is doing," Frost said.

There are myriad reasons for what's gone wrong this season.

While nobody has blamed Peters' struggles on his injury or Plummer's on a depleted supporting cast, Morgan and Minnesota are still adapting to life without running back Mohamed Ibrahim, their best offensive player.

Defenses also are adjusting.

When Purdue was missing all-conference receiver David Bell (concussion protocol), Bell's backup, Mershawn Rice (foot) and their top two running backs, Bielema de-

cidated to get physical.

"This is the game we wanted to play," he said. "We wanted to keep the ball in front of us, bang their receivers around, make them play a brand they don't execute all that much. We wanted to bang their receivers."

Other Big Ten teams are coping with similar challenges.

No. 14 Michigan and No. 17 Michigan State are contending with more defenders at the line of scrimmage after strong ground games led both to 4-0 starts. The result: Two surprisingly close calls last weekend.

Rutgers shut out the Wolverines in the second half as Cade McNamara completed nine passes in a season-high 16 attempts but missed some open receivers including one in the end zone. He'll almost certainly face a similar scheme this weekend against a rugged Wisconsin defense.

Spartans quarterback Payton Thorne finished with 183 yards and one TD in an overtime win over Nebraska but also had one interception and was sacked three times when the Huskers dared him to throw deep. He may need to do more this weekend as his defense deals with Western Kentucky's high-scoring offense.

"I'm ready for the challenge," Thorne said.

Indiana's Michael Penix Jr. could give Thorne a scouting report after throwing for 373 yards and running for a touchdown in a 33-31 victory over the Hilltoppers last weekend. The Hoosiers (2-2, 0-1) visit No. 4 Penn State (4-0, 1-0) on Saturday.

But the real question remains how many teams are willing to yank a starter if things don't get fixed.

"When you are switching guys in and out of the offense, you're looking for the right ingredients," Bielema said. "I'm no 'Master Chef,' but I know what's good."

## Sun forward Jones, coach Miller win major AP WNBA awards

(AP) - Jonquel Jones is no stranger to winning Associated Press WNBA awards.

In previous years, the Connecticut Sun forward has been honored by the media that votes on the weekly AP WNBA power poll as the Sixth Woman of the Year and Most Improved Player. This year, the 6-foot-6 Jones is the unanimous choice AP Player of the Year honors by the 14-member panel.

The WNBA will announce its league awards over the course of the postseason, which begins Thursday.

Jones guided Connecticut to the best record in the league and the top seed in the WNBA playoffs.

"She's been tremendous all year long from Day 1 that she arrived," said Sun coach Curt Miller, who was unanimously chosen as the AP's Coach of the Year. "With Alyssa Thomas out the majority of the year she had the opportunity to be a facilitator, getting the ball off the defensive glass and bringing it up herself."

Jones finished the season averaging a career-best 19.4 points and a league-leading 11.2 rebounds.

"She is the elite rebounder in the world when she plays," said Miller, who won the Coach of the Year award for the second time. "She anchored a historic rebounding season for us. She's the main piece for that. We hung our hat on that. The record-breaking type of season we had rebounding wise is a contributing factor to our win-loss success."

The Sun also have the AP's Most Improved Player in Brionna Jones. She averaged a career-best 14.7 points, 7.3 rebounds and shot 57.1% from the field.

Miller informed the two Joneses of their awards after practice Wednesday in front of the entire team which drew loud cheers from the group. Jen Rizzotti, the president of the Sun, surprised Miller with the news that he was named AP Coach of the Year.

Other AP winners included:

— Sylvia Fowles as Defensive Player of the Year. It's the third time she's been honored with the award since 2016 — the first year the AP gave out awards.

— Kelsey Plum is the Sixth Woman of the Year, ending Las Vegas teammate Dearica Hamby's two-year run as the league's top reserve. Plum also earned the Comeback Player of the Year award. She missed last season with an Achilles' tendon injury only to return this year and average a career-best 14.8 points and 3.6 assists.

"Comeback means a lot more to me than the sixth man," Plum said. "I don't know what people expected from me coming back. I knew it would be like this. It's cool that other people can see that."

Plum said she is happy she can inspire others, not just athletes, who have been hurt that they too can overcome major injuries. She had been inspired by Breanna Stewart, who had returned from the same the year before.

As far as keeping the Sixth Woman of the Year award in the Las Vegas family, she credited Hamby for being a big reason she was able to adjust to playing well coming off the bench.

"To me it's a co-award and I'm accepting it with Dearica," Plum said. "Me and her have been through a lot and it's not easy coming off the bench knowing you're a quality starter and player in this league. She really helped me since she's been given this role for so many years and handled it with such grace."

— Michaela Onyenwere was the unanimous choice as Rookie of the Year. The No. 6 pick of the New York Liberty averaged 8.6 points and started 29 of the 32 games this season.

"It's an honor knowing the players who have come before me," Onyenwere said. "I couldn't have done it without my teammates and coaches who believed in me from the start."

Onyenwere was joined on the

AP all-rookie team by her teammate Didi Richards, Aari McDonald of Atlanta, Dana Evans of Chicago and Charli Collier of Dallas.

The AP's first-team all league includes Jonquel Jones, Brittney Griner, Skylar Diggins-Smith, Breanna Stewart and Tina Charles. The second team is A'ja Wilson, Jewell Loyd, Fowles, Candace Parker and Courtney

Vandersloot,

POWER RANKINGS:

Connecticut was a unanimous first-place choice in the final AP power poll of the season. The Sun were followed by Las Vegas, Minnesota, Seattle, Phoenix, Chicago, Dallas, New York, Washington and Los Angeles were the next five. Atlanta and Indiana rounded out the field.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Loyd scored 37 points in a win over Phoenix that clinched the four-seed for the Seattle Storm and a first-round bye in the playoffs. The Storm's star guard matched a WNBA record with 22 points in the first quarter of that win. Other players receiving votes were Aerial Powers of Minnesota, Plum and Arike Ogunbowale of Dallas.



Connecticut Sun forward Jonquel Jones (35) controls the ball during the first half of a WNBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Sparks in Los Angeles, in this Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021 photo. PHOTO BY ASHLEY LANDIS/AP



# Sports

## Jon's Column: Frustrations of a Red Sox fan

by Jonathan Synott  
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I'm just gonna say it. What the hell, guys. After a stretch of seven straight wins, this team did not show up to play in the defining series of the year, dropping three straight games at home to their all-time rival to not only wrap up their home schedule, but drop from two games up in the first Wild Card spot to one game back, barely clinging to the second spot with the dangerous Toronto Blue Jays looming behind. Really? I have never, ever seen a team lose a series due to two players. If you take away runs caused by Nathan Eovaldi and Darwinzon Hernandez in their combined 3.0 innings pitched (including players Tanner Houck left for Hernandez), the Yankees would have scored two runs total in the first two games. That is horrendous. If there was halfway competent pitching in place of those two, the Sox take the series before the third game even rolls around. Eovaldi was slated to start the Wild Card game for Boston, but that looks highly unlikely following his seven run outing. If the Sox are looking to save ace Chris Sale for a potential Game 1 of the ALDS against the Rays, Nick Pivetta looks like a viable option, going 5.1 innings deep on Saturday with one earned run on three hits. He would have carried the team to a win had Houck and Hernandez not come in. While Houck had some trouble early on, walking two guys on eight straight balls in the seventh, he easily turned it around with a

quick double play and a strikeout. He came out and dealt in the eighth, striking out two Yankees batters to start out the inning. Houck got the count to 1-2 on Brett Gardner, meaning with nobody on base, Boston was leading 2-1 in the eighth and needed one pitch to end the inning and feel great going into the ninth. Things didn't go as planned. After walking Gardner, then Aaron Judge, manager Alex Cora rightfully took out Houck for Hernandez, who proceeded to hit Anthony Rizzo, then gave up an absolute moonshot to series MVP Giancarlo Stanton to not only give up the lead, but any hope at winning the game as well. That wasn't the only mistake made this past weekend by any means. First baseman Bobby Dalbec, for all of his offensive contributions in the second half, needs to be better defensively. In Saturday's contest, he dropped a much needed foul pop up that was admittedly in the stands, but could've easily landed in his glove had he taken the last half-step to the wall. An almost identical play happened in Sunday's game as well, which led to Dalbec looking afraid of getting anywhere close to the wall. These two botched plays came during pitching jams, when outs come at a premium. Boston cannot let New York hang around, because players like Stanton will capitalize on blunders like that. Speaking of mistakes, what was Rafael Devers doing on Sunday, swinging at a 3-0 pitch? The Sox were down 2-1, had two outs in the fifth, and got a couple baserunners off of singles. Devers found himself in a 3-0 count, yet still sat on a

fastball, hoping to take it deep. He hit the warning track, as a routine fly out ended the inning. While the pitch was a strike, you cannot be swinging at 3-0 pitches unless there is absolute certainty that the ball will go out. Take the rest of the at-bat, draw a walk, and allow All-Star Xander Bogaerts to do what he normally does with runners in scoring position: drive them in. Obviously, umpires don't make-or-break who wins the game. But the crew on Sunday certainly didn't help Boston's efforts. In the eighth inning, the Red Sox were up 3-2, and had two men on base for Aaron Judge. A foul tip for strike three found its way into the glove of catcher Christian Vasquez, but a quick transfer to his throwing hand caused the ball to slip out, giving the impression of a dropped pitch despite temporary possession of the ball. This call cannot be challenged, even though a transfer/drop call can be challenged for every other position on the field (turning double plays, tagging up on fly outs). Unlucky. Judge took full advantage, hitting a two-run double. Want some good news? The Red Sox are still in sole possession of one of the two Wild Card spots, and have a remaining schedule that sees two last place teams in their respective divisions. Meanwhile, the Yankees play the AL East Division winners in the Rays, as well as the dangerous Blue Jays. New York definitely propelled themselves to a Wild Card appearance after this weekend, giving themselves ample breathing room between themselves and the Blue Jays. Their problem is they are in danger of falling back to the second slot, not having home field advantage. So in

a way, this series meant absolutely nothing for the Red Sox. From a completely other perspective, this series meant everything for the Red Sox. To maintain possession of home field, all that was needed was to win one game, at home, against a team that had struggled as of late. Meanwhile, Boston was on a seven game winning streak. These are their all-time rivals, and haven't beaten them since July 25. Worst of all, they had all three games at home, with a chance to bury the Yankees out of playoff contention. Is this a team you trust to be victorious in a winner-take-all, one game play-off against New York, at home or away? It absolutely can be done, but Boston has to show up to play, something they clearly didn't do in this frustrating weekend for Red Sox Nation.



Starting Pitcher Nathan Eovaldi, pictured above, combined for only 3.0 innings pitched with fellow SP Darwinzon Hernandez, as both struggled. PHOTO COURTESY OF OVERTHEMONSTER.COM

## Evan's Take: Why Lonzo Ball NEEDS to take the next step in Chicago

by Evan Rodriguez  
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"I think just do what it takes to win," said Lonzo Ball on sacrificing his role for team success. "For me, sacrificing is all about winning." Ball, the new starting point-guard for the Chicago Bulls, has truly gone through an unordinary NBA journey. From going #2 overall in the NBA Draft to then being traded to the small market New Orleans Pelicans to becoming a Chicago Bull, Ball has fought through adversity from the media, fans and even his own family. The overzealous expectations put upon him by fans (and specifically his father, Lavar Ball) has not only put the spotlight on him, but also hurt his play on the court. "I think it's just part of the journey. Everybody has a different path. For me, it's been up and down the last four years. I'm blessed and everything I go through is for a reason," said Ball. If there is any ideal time for Ball to break out and become the player that scouts saw for him as a flashy guard out of UCLA, it is this season. The Chicago Bulls are a great fit for Ball's skill set on paper, especially with his improvements over time. With stud Zach Lavine, new addition DeMar DeRozan and All-Star Nikola Vucevic, Ball has plenty of options to spread the ball around and facili-



Lonzo Ball is the new starting point guard for the Chicago Bulls ahead of the 2021-22 season. The Bulls made moves in the offseason, bringing Ball and DeMar DeRozan to Chicago, and hope to find success. PHOTO COURTESY OF NBA.COM

tate his wealth of offensive options. His overall talent on the court gives head coach Billy Donovan the ability to take Chicago's playstyle in many directions. To start the season, Ball is switching back to a position he is most comfortable with, the traditional point-guard role. Chicago's wealth of offensive options have certainly played a key role in Ball's return to a traditional point guard and head coach Billy Donovan will be sure to allow him to facilitate

the offense with the young journeyman's brilliant playmaking abilities. Playmaking is just one of the many upgrades that Ball has achieved throughout his short tenure in the league. One of the highest criticisms Ball has received throughout his time in the league has been his unorthodox jumpshot. While he shot over 40% from the 3-point line during his time at UCLA and had overall positive shooting splits, his rookie season

with the Los Angeles Lakers told a different story, as he looked like a completely different player with poor shooting performances that limited the offensive potential of Los Angeles. Ball shot just 30.5% from the 3-point line. His change in shooting mechanics has not only paid off for him, but also allowed him to regain the trust of NBA coaches and fans. With Ball's ability to play as a spot up shooter for Chicago in clutch situations, he is able to help expand

the court and provide shooting options for a Bulls lineup that could use it. It's clear that Ball is in the best position of his career to flourish. He has had to go from a traditional guard role to an atypical spot-up shooter and then finally back to his original role throughout his time in the league. Both the Los Angeles Lakers and New Orleans Pelicans have seen little team success with Ball controlling the offense despite having stars Zion Williamson and former All-Star Brandon Ingram as options. Poor coaching and offensive strategies have limited Ball's ability to play his brand of basketball on these teams and with Donovan's ability to cater to his players, a breakout season is certainly in his reach. The young guard needs to absolutely take advantage of everything Chicago has to offer, especially with a real chance at his first entrance into the NBA playoffs. It's time for him to take the next step in his career and transform himself into a legendary player. At just 23 years old, this could certainly be the move for Ball that transforms his career and transitions him into the beginning of his prime years in the league. On the historic grounds of another great guard from Chicago, Ball must be great and there's no doubt in my mind that if Chicago does not do well with Ball running point this year, it's certainly going to hurt how other franchises view him later in his career.

**UConn SCOREBOARD**

**Football Saturday**

vs.

**22** vs. **24**

**UPCOMING GAMES**

vs.

Women's Soccer, Thursday, 6 p.m.  
South Orange, NJ

vs.

Field Hockey, Saturday, 12 p.m.  
Princeton

**INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY**

@uconn  
Another day, another incredible sunset from Horsebarn Hill!!! (Credits: @miltonlevin)

**TWEETS OF THE DAY**

**GQ Sports**  
@GQSports  
Is PSG the favorites to win the #ChampionsLeague?

**James Harden**  
@JHarden13  
Year 13 you already know what I'm on!

**UCTV Sports**  
@UCTVSports  
The score remains 13-10 UConn going into the fourth quarter.

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