



## UConn receives \$250,000 grant to provide dental services to patients with special needs

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The UConn Foundation received a \$250,000 grant from Delta Dental of Connecticut, presented to them at the UConn vs. Villanova Women's Basketball game on Sunday.

The three-year grant will help provide dental services to patients with special needs, according to Maria Kucinski, Vice President of MikeWorldWide.

"The three-year grant will enable the [UConn] School of Dental Medicine to hire faculty, provide training, offset dental expenses and offer more flexible hours, including weekends, to treat patients. The grant is aimed at helping patients with special health care needs, including developmental disabilities, autism, and patients with acquired disabilities, such as traumatic brain injuries or Parkinson's Disease," Kucinski said in an email.

The grant will allow the UConn School of Dental Medicine to host "Special Care Days" during the weekends this summer to treat patients with special needs. The increase in hours will allow more patients with special needs to be treated,

per Steven Lepowsky, dean of the School of Dental Medicine.

"One of the barriers these patients face is having family members or caregivers able to take time off from work to take them to the dentist. [...] This will expand our capabilities and our capacity to have a significant impact on the amount of care we provide and help address issues of access to care," Lepowsky said in the UConn Foundation announcement.

According to UConn Health, this increase in hours will allow more than 900 additional out-patients visits, 72 additional operating room procedures, and as many as 300 more visits on weekend "Special Care Days".

The grant will also help hire additional faculty members, including those who have experience in assisting patients with special needs. These new faculty members will also develop educational content to prepare UConn students to treat patients with special needs. This educational content includes "Continuing Education" courses offered to dentists around Connecticut as well.

The School of Dental Medicine already assists more special needs patients than anywhere else in the state, according to Lepowsky.

This includes hosting "Special Smiles" days, where UConn dental students volunteer to provide dental care to Special Olympics athletes during the Connecticut Special Olympic Summer Games. These "Special Smiles" days have been running for almost two decades accord-

ing to a UConn Today article.

According to the UConn Foundation announcement, the grant will allow "Special Smiles" day volunteers to expand their services.

"While hosting these 'Special Smiles' days, the faculty, students, and dental residents who run them have noticed that some of the athletes don't follow up with the recommended dental treatments. To address this, the grant will enable the school to partner with Special Olympics to implement a robust tracking and referral program to ensure that patients get follow-up appointments," the announcement states.

The School of Dental Medicine funds for families with

financial challenges will also increase due to the grant, according to Delta Dental Foundation President Caryl Russo.

"This program is important because, in addition to providing vital dental treatment, it also provides peace of mind to patients and their loved ones. Life is stressful, especially when someone you love has special health care needs," Russo stated in the UConn Foundation announcement. "This program will hopefully alleviate some of that stress and improve the oral health of thousands of patients that may have otherwise gone without dental care and address issues before they become more dire and critical."



The Hamden/New Haven Mighty Ducks, a Special Olympics team, pose for a group photo. Members like them will be able to access the increased dental services from UConn School Dental Medicine.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BARBARA BRESNAHAN, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## President Biden to end COVID-19 emergencies on May 11

(AP) — President Joe Biden informed Congress on Monday that he will end the twin national emergencies for addressing COVID-19 on May 11, as most of the world has returned closer to normalcy nearly three years after they were first declared.

The move to end the national emergency and public health emergency declarations would formally restructure the federal coronavirus response to treat the virus as an endemic threat to public health that can be managed through agencies' normal authorities.

It comes as lawmakers have already ended elements of the emergencies that kept millions of Americans insured during the pandemic. Combined with the drawdown of most federal COVID-19 relief money, it would also shift the development of vaccines and treatments away from the direct management of the federal government.

Biden's announcement comes in a statement opposing resolutions being brought to the floor this week by House Republicans to bring the emergency to an immediate end. House Republicans are also gearing up to launch investigations on the federal government's response to COVID-19.

Then-President Donald Trump first declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency on March 13, 2020. The emergencies have been repeatedly extended by Biden since he took office in January 2021, and are set to expire in the com-

ing months. The White House said Biden plans to extend them both briefly to end on May 11.

"An abrupt end to the emergency declarations would create wide-ranging chaos and uncertainty throughout the health care system — for states, for hospitals and doctors' offices, and, most importantly, for tens of millions of Americans," the Office of Management and Budget wrote in a Statement of Administration Policy.

More than 1.1 million people in the U.S. have died from COVID-19 since 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including about 3,700 last week.

Congress has already

blunted the reach of the public health emergency that had the most direct impact on Americans, as political calls to end the declaration intensified. Lawmakers have refused for months to fulfill the Biden administration's request for billions more dollars to extend free COVID vaccines and testing. And the \$1.7 trillion spending package passed last year and signed into law by Biden put an end to a rule that barred states from kicking people off Med-

icaid, a move that is expected to see millions of people lose their coverage after April 1.

"In some respects, the Biden administration is catching up to what a lot of people in the country have been experiencing," said Larry Levitt, the executive vice president for health policy at Kaiser Family Foundation. "That said, hundreds of people a day are still dying from COVID."

Still, some things will change

home COVID tests will also come to an end. And hospitals will not get extra payments for treating COVID patients.

Legislators did extend for another two years telehealth flexibilities that were introduced as COVID-19 hit, leading health care systems around the country to regularly deliver care by smartphone or computer.

The Biden administration had previously considered ending

the emergency last year, but held off amid concerns about a potential "winter surge" in cases and to provide adequate time for providers, insurers and patients to prepare for its end. Officials

mandates. They do not restrict school or business operations. They do not require the use of any medicines or tests in response to cases of COVID-19."

Case counts have trended downward after a slight bump over the winter holidays, and are significantly below levels seen over the last two winters — though the number of tests performed for the virus and reported to public health officials has sharply decreased.

On Monday, the World Health Organization said the coronavirus remains a global health emergency, even as a key advisory panel for the group found the pandemic may be nearing an "inflection point" where higher levels of immunity can lower virus-related deaths. China, for example, reported an unprecedented surge in December after lifting most of its COVID-19 restrictions.

Moments before the White House's announcement, Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., accused the president of unnecessarily extending the public health emergency to take action on issues like forgiving some federal student loan debts.

"The country has largely returned to normal," Cole said Monday, introducing a Republican-backed bill calling for an end to the health emergency. "Everyday Americans have returned to work and to school with no restrictions on their activities. It is time that the government acknowledges this reality: the pandemic is over."



A negative covid test. Then-President Donald Trump first declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency on March.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

for Americans once the emergency expires, Levitt pointed out.

The costs of COVID-19 vaccines are also expected to skyrocket once the government stops buying them, with Pfizer saying it will charge as much as \$130 per dose. Only 15% of Americans have received the recommended, updated booster that has been offered since last fall.

People with private insurance could have some out-of-pocket costs for vaccines, especially if they go to an out-of-network provider, Levitt said. Free at-

said the administration would use the next three months to transition the response to conventional methods, warning that an immediate end to the emergency authorities "would sow confusion and chaos into this critical wind-down."

"To be clear, continuation of these emergency declarations until May 11 does not impose any restriction at all on individual conduct with regard to COVID-19," the administration said. "They do not impose mask mandates or vaccine

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## News

# SCHOOL WHERE BOY SHOT TEACHER REOPENS WITH ADDED SECURITY

(AP) — The Virginia elementary school where a 6-year-old boy shot his teacher reopened Monday with stepped-up security and a new administrator, as nervous parents and students expressed optimism about a return to the classroom.

Richneck Elementary School in Newport News opened its doors more than three weeks after the Jan. 6 shooting. Police have said the boy brought a 9 mm handgun to school and intentionally shot his teacher, Abby Zwerner, as she was teaching her first-grade class. Zwerner, 25, was hospitalized for nearly two weeks but is now recovering at home.

Several police cars were parked at the school as teachers arrived.

The sign in front of the building read “Richneck Strong” and was framed by two red hearts. Other signs along the sidewalks read, “We are praying for you,” “You are loved” and “We believe in you.”

Students were greeted by a line of police officers, Mayor Phillip Jones, and other adults who gave them high-fives as they walked into the school.

Jennifer Roe said she and her fourth-grader, Jethro, saw a therapist after the shooting.

“He’s excited to get back to school. He’s missed it,” Roe said.

“There are concerns, of course,” she said. “We talked through it. His therapist gave

me a thumbs-up and said he’s good.”

Jethro said he still had some concern “it might happen again,” but that the increased security made him feel better.

“I’m still a little nervous, but I’ve calmed down a lot,” he said.

Melissa McBride, who brought her fourth-grade twins to school, said one of them wasn’t sleeping that well after the shooting, but the children felt better after attending an open house at the school last week.

“It was huge to see their friends and everybody being happy,” she said.

McBride said she was comforted when she saw the twins “going into school with no hesitation,” but that she was still “a little nervous.”

Many parents walked their children in, but Jordan Vestre said his third-grader, Jaxon, asked if he could walk in alone. Vestre said he gave Jaxon a hug and “stood back a little teary-eyed and watched him high-five all the police officers and the mayor.”

Vestre said his son “fully understands what happened.” But he added: “How do you talk to an 8-year-old about a school shooting? It’s ridiculous.”

Eve Parham said her fourth-grade granddaughter was very excited to return to school, particularly to her archery class. Parham praised the additional

safety measures, including the planned distribution of clear backpacks to students.

There were two other shootings in Newport News schools in the 16 months before the Richland shooting. Two 17-year-old students were wounded when a 15-year-old boy fired shots in a crowded high school hallway. Two months later, an 18-year-old student fatally shot a 17-year-old in the parking lot of a different high school.

“Unfortunately, the teacher had to be our sacrificial lamb to bring this to light,” Parham said, referring to Zwerner. “I applaud her. And I’m grateful that she’s okay and that it caused this reaction.”

Eric Billet, who has a second-grader and a fourth-grader at Richneck, said that although he’s happy with the increased security, he also fears that Richneck could be “slightly overcorrecting” with some of its new policies, including not wanting students to bring in toys or anything that’s not considered educational.

“It’s good, but I just don’t want it to turn into a prison feel if you start cracking down on too many things,” Billet said.

Not all teachers were ready to return.

James Graves, who heads the local teachers union, the Newport News Education Association, said he has heard from several who were told that if

they weren’t ready to come back, they must use their personal leave time or the Family and Medical Leave Act, which provides some employees with up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave.

“There are teachers who are glad to kind of go back because they care about the kids, and there are teachers who cannot handle trauma and stress the way other teachers can,” Graves said. “I want to make sure the teachers who cannot handle that stress because of what happened, that they are taken care of.”

The school board chair, Lisa Surles-Law, said roses were handed out to the students and therapy dogs were made available to all first-graders.

Zwerner’s classroom remained closed. Her students will be taught in another classroom, Surles-Law said.

“I walked the building a little while ago, and (the teachers) are very excited to welcome their students back,” she said.

The shooting sent shockwaves through Newport News, a city of about 185,000 that is known for its shipbuilding industry. It has also raised questions about school security and how a child so young could gain access to a gun and shoot his teacher.

Since then, two metal detection systems have been installed and two security officers have been assigned to the

school, said district spokeswoman Michelle Price. Before the shooting, one security officer was assigned to Richneck and another elementary school. The officer was not at Richneck at the time of the shooting.

The principal and assistant principal both have left their jobs, and a new administrator has been appointed to lead the school.

Superintendent George Parker, who was fired by the school board last week, has said that at least one school administrator received a tip that the boy may have brought a weapon to school, but no weapon was found when the boy’s backpack was searched.

Zwerner’s lawyer, Diane Toscano, said that on the day of the shooting, concerned staff at Richneck warned administrators three times that the boy had a gun and was threatening other students, but the administration didn’t call police or remove the boy from class.

Police said the handgun was legally purchased by the boy’s mother. In a statement released through their attorney, the boy’s family said the gun was “secured.” Attorney James Ellenson told The Associated Press that his understanding is that the gun was in the mother’s closet on a shelf well over 6 feet (1.8 meters) high and had a trigger lock that required a key.



Students return to Richneck Elementary in Newport News, VA., on Monday, Jan. 30, 2023.

BILLY SCHUERMAN/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT VIA AP



Police look on as students return to Richneck Elementary in Newport News, VA., on Monday.

BILLY SCHUERMAN/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT VIA AP

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# Officials: Estimated 100,000 hens died in Connecticut fire

(AP) — An estimated 100,000 hens died in a week-end fire at a Connecticut farm owned by one of the country's largest egg producers, Connecticut officials confirmed Monday. It's one of several such fires that have killed millions of chickens around the country over the past decade.

The blaze Saturday at the Hillendale Farms property in Bozrah, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) southeast of Hartford, drew dozens of firefighters from the area and took hours to put out. The cause remains under investigation. No people were injured.

The state Department of Agriculture said it appears approximately 100,000 egg-laying hens

died. It credited farm employees and emergency responders with preventing more hen deaths by containing the fire to one of the farm's several buildings.

The agency also said the impact on egg prices was expected to be "minimal to none."

Hillendale Farms, which has corporate offices in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, said in a statement that it is "working with fire officials to support a thorough investigation of the cause of the fire. All employees are safe. There will be no further comment at this time."

On its website, the company says it raises more than 20 million chickens for eggs.

In nearby Lebanon, Connecticut, a fire in 2016 at a Hillendale

Farms subsidiary killed 80,000 to 100,000 hens. The company also lost more than 100,000 chickens in a farm fire in Tyrone Township, Pennsylvania, in 2017.

The Animal Welfare Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based animal protection advocacy organization, urged farms Monday to boost safety measures.

The organization said some of the country's largest egg farm fires include one in North Manchester, Indiana, in 2017 that killed 1 million chickens and another in Bloomfield, Nebraska, in 2020 that killed 400,000 hens.

In a report last year, the institute said heating and other electrical malfunctions caused a large majority of barn fires.

# How did Brazil go from rising BRIC to sinking ship?

(AP) — Most of the headlines in recent weeks have focused on Brazil's troubling political crisis. But the country is also in the midst of a deep economic recession.

The economy has been shrinking since the second quarter of 2014. It contracted by 3.8 percent in 2015 and is expected to shrink by a similar amount this year. Earlier this month, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said it sees the recession continuing into 2017.

Yet it was only in 2009 — in the middle of the global financial crisis — that the Economist magazine featured a story entitled "Brazil takes off," with a photo of the Corcovado — the iconic statue of Christ that overlooks Rio de Janeiro — launching like a rocket. That article emphasized why Brazil deserved to be one of the "BRICs" — the rapidly growing economies including Russia, India and China that now account for nearly 25 percent of global GDP.

How could the outlook for Brazil have changed so rapidly? Is this sort of boom and bust unprecedented or a recurring theme in Brazil's history?

In this article, we provide a historical perspective on the current economic crisis, relying on our own scholarship and years of analysis of the Brazilian economy.

Brazil arrives  
Brazil has been knocking at the door of the developed world for quite some time.

It has been dubbed the "country of the future" since Stefan Zweig coined the phrase in the title of his 1941 book. And that future seemed attainable.

From 1900 to 1980, Brazil had one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. Income per capita rose faster in Brazil than in the U.S. The country was transformed from a rural, agricultural economy — producing coffee, sugar and other products for export — into an urban, industrial powerhouse.

Yet a closer look at Brazilian economic history reveals frequent cycles of boom and bust, where considerable optimism fell by the wayside, leaving behind unfulfilled dreams. The future, it seems, has always been just around the corner.

Several analysts in Brazil have begun to repeat the claim that the current recession is likely to be worse than what Brazil faced in the 1930s. While technically correct, in our view, this is not the appropriate comparison.

Brazil did quite well in the 1930s relative to many other countries. After growing at over 10 percent a year in 1927 and 1928, the Brazilian economy only contracted in 1930 and 1931. The recession was then followed by eight years of fairly robust growth.

The 1980s and early 1990s were a much more painful time in Brazil, following a particularly potent boom known as the "Brazilian Mir-



A photo of Brazilian currency. The economy has been shrinking since the second quarter of 2014. It contracted by 3.8 percent in 2015 and is expected to shrink by a similar amount this year.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PXHERE

acle." We return to a comparison with this period below.

State-led industrialization and the "Brazilian Miracle"

Following World War II, Brazil's federal government began to plan for economic development and target industrialization and high rates of growth.

Juscelino Kubitschek became president in 1956 and promised to deliver "50 years of progress in five." This was a period of immense optimism, and Brazil seemed like an endless construction site, with highways, buildings and industries popping up throughout the country.

As a symbol of this progress, Brasilia was inaugurated in 1960 as a planned capital city with a modernist architecture. Yet the optimism of the 1950s quickly gave way to the political turmoil of the early 1960s.

When Jânio Quadros abruptly resigned the presidency in 1961, the left-leaning Vice President João Goulart took office. His support of labor rights, land reform and other populist policies led to his removal by the military in a 1964 coup, with the support of the Brazilian elite and U.S. government. The generals would run the country until 1985.

Brazilian democracy and a more inclusive model of development were the principal victims. Growth, in contrast, quickly resumed, and this contributed to rapid poverty reduction. In what became known as the Brazilian Miracle, real GDP expanded at over 8 percent annually in every year but one from 1968 to 1976. Poverty fell by over 20 percentage points from 1960 to 1980, even while income inequality continued to rise.

What went wrong

Unlike with the slowdowns of the 1930s and mid-1960s, the depth and length of the economic crisis of the 1980s were much more severe.

The global economy had changed in the 1970s and Brazil was slow to adapt. It relied on foreign debt to prolong the inward-looking industrialization model that had worked so well for decades, but this too came to an end in 1982 when a debt crisis erupted throughout Latin America.

The optimism of the miracle years would be replaced by stagnation and hyperinflation. From 1981 to 1992, the economy experienced negative annual growth in five separate years, and annual inflation soared into the thousands. Income per capita peaked in 1980 and would only permanently surpass this level again in 1994.

This was a "lost decade" for Brazil in terms of living standards, but popular discontent forced the military to exit power in 1985 and led to the writing of a new Constitution in 1988.

Back to boom

The foundations for the most recent cycle of growth and optimism were laid from 1994 to 2002.

First, after numerous failed attempts, in 1994 the government finally devised a stabilization plan — the Real Plan — that succeeded in defeating hyperinflation. Then, from 1995 to 2002, a number of important policies were adopted under President Fernando Henrique Cardoso. These included a modest reform of the public sector social security system, the creation of an anti-poverty conditional cash transfer program tied to kids going to school and the adoption of an important fiscal responsibility law that — 15 years later — would be used to justify removing President Dilma Rousseff from office.

Cardoso also made progress in adopting more sound macroeconomic policies as he let the exchange rate float in 1999 and then instituted a system of inflation and fiscal targets. While this was a period of slow growth and international turbulence, inequality began to decline for the first time in at least 30 years.

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva pursued similar macroeconomic policies

during his presidency from 2003 to 2010, reformed the social security system and transformed and expanded the anti-poverty policies. With a much more favorable international environment, until 2009, and a strong commodity boom, the economy expanded at around 4 percent per year, and poverty declined by around one third. This was the first time in at least 50 years that Brazil simultaneously experienced growth and a reduction in both poverty and inequality.

With rising living standards and falling poverty, Brazil once again entered a phase of considerable optimism. As Brazil paid off its debt with the IMF, the country began to discover large reserves of oil. International rating agencies elevated the classification of Brazilian foreign debt from speculative to investment grade, clearing the way for U.S. pension funds to invest in Brazil. Among Brazilian policymakers, it became common to talk of "sustainable development."

The optimism only intensified when Brazil was chosen, in 2007, to host the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics two years later — in the middle of the global financial crisis.

The financial crisis slowly grips Brazil

President Lula initially dismissed the crisis.

In October 2008, he said that although it might be a tsunami in the U.S., by the time it arrived in Brazil it would just be a little wave. At a G20 Summit in London in 2009, President Barack Obama was caught on camera calling his Brazilian counterpart "the most popular politician on earth."

At first it seemed as if Lula might be right. Brazil had a single year of recession in 2009, and the economy rebounded by over 7 percent the following year.

But it soon became clear, as in earlier periods, that Brazil's fate is very much tied to the health of the world economy and its choice of public policies. The economy came to a screeching halt in 2014, with zero growth, and contracted severely in 2015 and 2016. Simultaneously, the government deficit ballooned to over 6 percent of

GDP in 2014 and over 10 percent in 2015.

President Rousseff, who came to power in 2011, disguised the deteriorating fiscal situation during the election of 2014, just as the corruption scandal at Petrobras widened. This, together with a debt downgrade, provided the economic backdrop that led to her removal from office as she awaits an impeachment trial later this year.

Three lessons from the past

It is too soon to tell if the current recession will be more like the downturn of the 1930s or the "lost decade" of the 1980s. But there are several lessons that can be drawn from recent history that allow us to conclude that Brazil's rosy future is still out of reach. We highlight three.

First, investments in physical and human capital were a central component of the development success stories in China and the East Asian Tigers. Brazil, in contrast, has repeatedly fallen short on these fronts. Most recently, Brazil squandered the opportunity presented by the commodity boom to invest heavily in infrastructure.

Second, Brazil's history of runaway inflation was, in part, a reflection of the inability of successive governments to make difficult policy choices. Similarly, while the commodity boom lasted, the government seemed able to satisfy all demands — from raising the minimum wage and subsidizing national business "champions" to expanding cash transfers to the poor — all while it built stadiums for international sporting events and cut debt as a share of GDP. Now that the boom years have ended, the time for reckoning has arrived. Unfortunately, it is often the poor who pay the price.

Finally, Brazil needs deep institutional reforms in order to lay the groundwork for a successful 21st century. One of the most challenging reforms relates to the country's dysfunctional political system. With over two dozen parties in Congress, it is extremely difficult to govern. This fragmentation creates an environment ripe for the kinds of corruption scandals witnessed in 2005 — with the bribery scheme in Congress contributes to mismanagement and corruption at all levels.

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Box Office Break

“AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER”

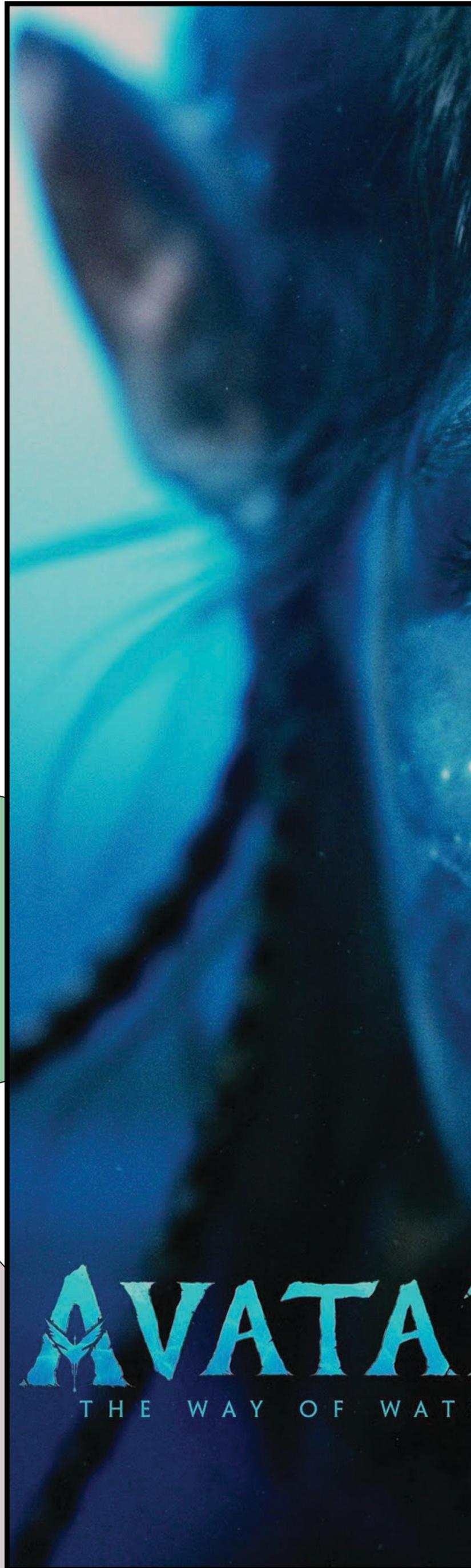


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**by Zachary Wisniefsky**  
 BUSINESS MANAGER  
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Seven straight weeks. This weekend, “Avatar: The Way of Water” became only the second film of the 21st century to top the charts for that amount of time.

The other film? “Avatar” in 2009. “The Way of Water” continued its incredible run this weekend, earning another \$15.7 million to move its domestic total north of \$620 million. The film sits at no. 11 on the all-time domestic charts and is all but guaranteed to take 2012’s “Avengers” no. 10 spot over the next few days. Worldwide, the film has cleared \$2.1 billion, making it the 4th highest grossing film of all-time. “The Way of Water” now has its sights set on a fellow James Cameron-juggernaut, as “Titanic” sits less than \$80 million ahead of it. With only a 22% drop this weekend and two more weeks without blockbuster competition, “Avatar” may very well clear \$700 million domestically by March.

Placing in second again is “Puss in Boots: The Last Wish” with a weekend gross of \$10.6 million. The famous feline just keeps on rolling, falling only 10% to increase its domestic total to \$140 million. This entire time, “Puss in Boots” has sat underneath “The Way of Water,” but is quietly putting together an incredible run. The film now sits at #49 all-time for films that have never had a #1 weekend. By the time its run concludes, there is a chance “Puss in Boots” places in the top 10 on that chart. “The Last Wish” has been available on premium on-demand since early January, making this run all



LOGO BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST E...

# Breakdown: "Avatar" SOARS PAST \$620 MILLION

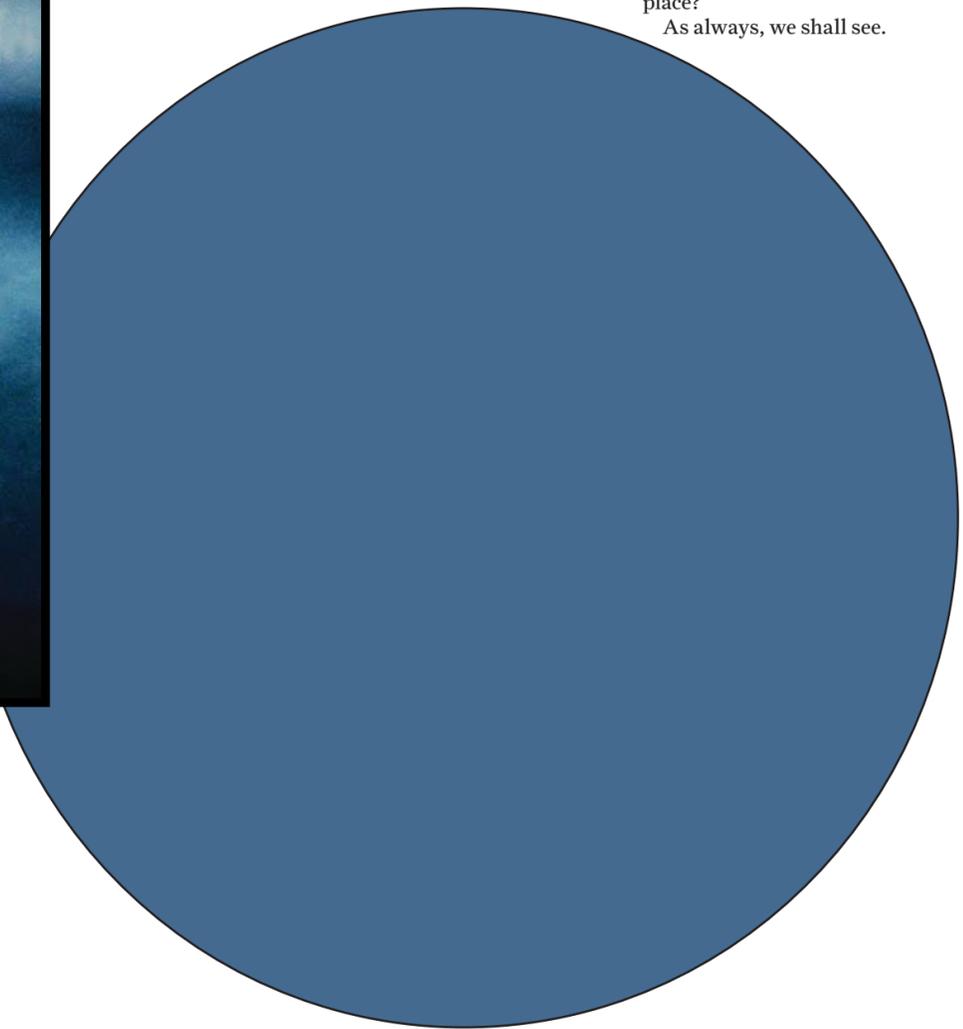
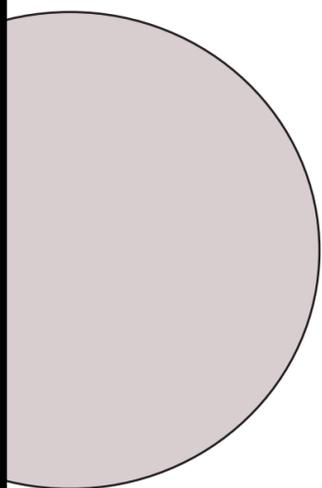
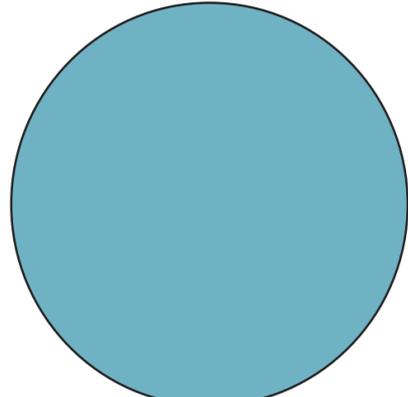
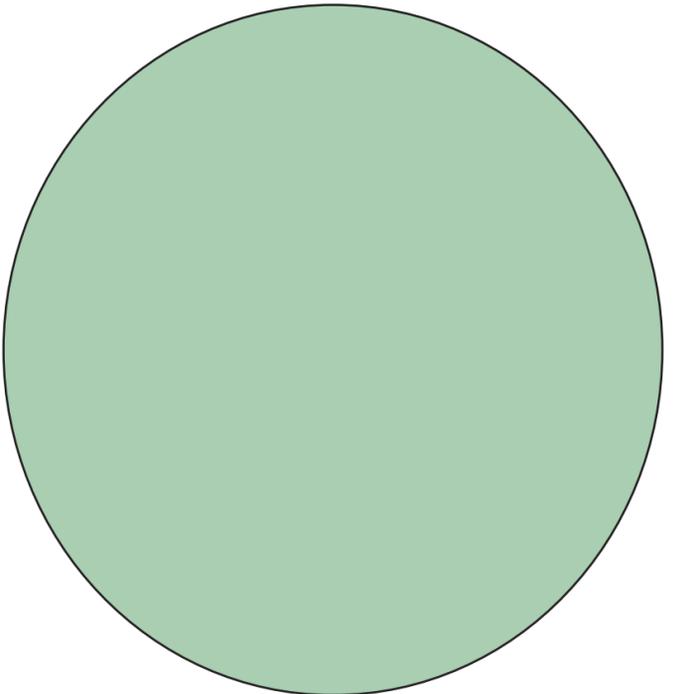


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EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



the more impressive.

In third place is "Pathaan," the new Shah Rukh Khan-led Bollywood action thriller, which grossed \$6.8 million domestically this weekend. The film set some historic marks in India, having the largest opening weekend ever for a Hindi-language film. This is a comeback for SRK, starring in his first film since 2018's "Zero." With almost \$10 million earned domestically, "Pathaan" is on track to become one of the highest grossing Bollywood films in the U.S. and globally.

In fourth and fifth are "A Man Called Otto" and "M3GAN" which earned \$6.7 million and \$6.4 million respectively. The Tom Hanks-helmed drama fell only 24% this past weekend, pushing its domestic total to \$45 million. With a reported \$50 million budget, the film will not likely profit but with a path to \$60 million domestically, this is a strong performance for a comedy-drama in the post-pandemic marketplace. "M3GAN" fell 34% in its 4th weekend, moving past \$80 million domestically. If it can keep its batteries charged a little longer, the film should clear \$100 million in its run.

Next week brings the release of the new M. Night Shyamalan horror film, "Knock at the Cabin." Based on the novel "The Cabin at the End of the World," the film stars Dave Bautista, Jonathan Groff, Ben Aldridge and Nikki Amuka-Bird. Shyamalan's films typically open well at box office, leading me to predict "Knock at the Cabin" will earn \$28 million in its opening weekend.

Will "Avatar: The Way of Water" continue to ride the number one wave or will "Knock at the Cabin" burst into first place?

As always, we shall see.

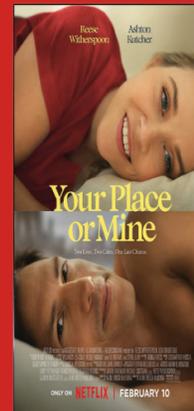


# Life

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## FEBRUARY FLICKS: This month's streaming options

### New Releases



MOVIE POSTERS COURTESY OF IMDB

**by Maxim Soroka**  
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With temperatures starting to take a nose dive this week, it seems like Mother Nature has set the perfect weather for many of us to catch up on our favorite shows and movies. There are a handful of attractive options that are just beginning to emerge on Disney+, Hulu, Apple TV+, HBO Max and Netflix that make a cozy night-in seem desirable. Not only are some notably popular shows returning this month, if you're in a bit of a show-hole, there will be plenty of new stories to get invested in.

Starting off with Netflix, who just released their promo highlighting their most anticipated February releases. Some popular movies that will be added by the end of this week include critically acclaimed titles like "Call Me by Your Name" (2017), "La La Land" (2016) and "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

Netflix Original romantic comedy "Your Place or Mine" will also be released on Feb. 10, just in time for Valentine's Day. Starring '90s icons Ashton Kutcher and Reese Witherspoon, the two play Peter and Debbie, long-distance friends who deliberately swap living arrangements for a week. While Debbie is free to pursue her dreams in New York City, Peter agrees to look after her son in Los Angeles.

Some of Netflix's notable television shows are releasing new seasons as well, with the beloved "You" and "Outer Banks" returning. Reality dating shows

including "Love is Blind" and "Too Hot to Handle" are also planned to make comebacks.

Hulu, one of the more popular streaming services, with nearly 43 million subscribers, doesn't seem to be releasing too much original content this upcoming month. Despite this, it is adding significantly to its film collection.

Compelling dramas like "The Green Mile" (1999) and "If Beale Street Could Talk" (2018) will be added, as well as cult classic comedies with "Happy Gilmore" (1996) and "Superbad" (2007). I would recommend any of those titles if you haven't seen them before, but there will also be plenty more options to choose from.

For any Marvel fans out there, "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" (2022) will be making its debut on Disney+ tomorrow — the perfect opportunity for interested viewers if they missed out on its theatrical release. Disney+ is also adding to its reality TV repertoire, with titles like "Celebrity House Hunting" and the infamous "Dance Moms" as well as its subsequent spin-offs.

Personally, the content I'm most excited for to be released not just this month, but throughout the spring, is on Apple TV+ and HBO Max. The latter has rocketed to the top of the industry, with 45.2 million subscribers, while Apple TV+ boasts a subscriber-base of 19 million.

Apple TV, being the first streaming service to have a title that won the coveted Best Picture Oscar, has a strong reputation to live up to in 2023. This

month, they are set to release the highly anticipated film "Sharper" on Feb. 17. The film follows a con-artist portrayed by the talented Sebastian Stan who takes on billionaire Manhattan socialites played by theatrical powerhouses John Lithgow and Julianne Moore.

Apple isn't just making moves in film though, as they have recently released an interesting series that is gaining traction. "Shrinking," written by Jason Segel and starring himself and Harrison Ford, just premiered last Friday, Jan. 27 and follows a grieving therapist who begins to treat his patients in engaging and unorthodox ways. I found the first episode very intriguing and am excited to keep up with its weekly releases. Further down the road, Apple's most successful series "Ted Lasso" is supposed to release its third and final season this spring.

HBO Max is also geared up to have a great deal of movies added to their library, with classics like "Platoon" (1986) and "The Silence of the Lambs" (1991). HBO has acquired a fair amount of Oscar nominees this year, which makes it a great resource to view them before the awards in March.

Known for their cinematic series as well, HBO has been climbing the charts with its latest endeavor "The Last of Us," based on the popular post-apocalyptic video game of the same name. The series has been greenlit for season two after just the first two episodes and will continue to air weekly during their prime time spot: Sundays at 9 p.m.

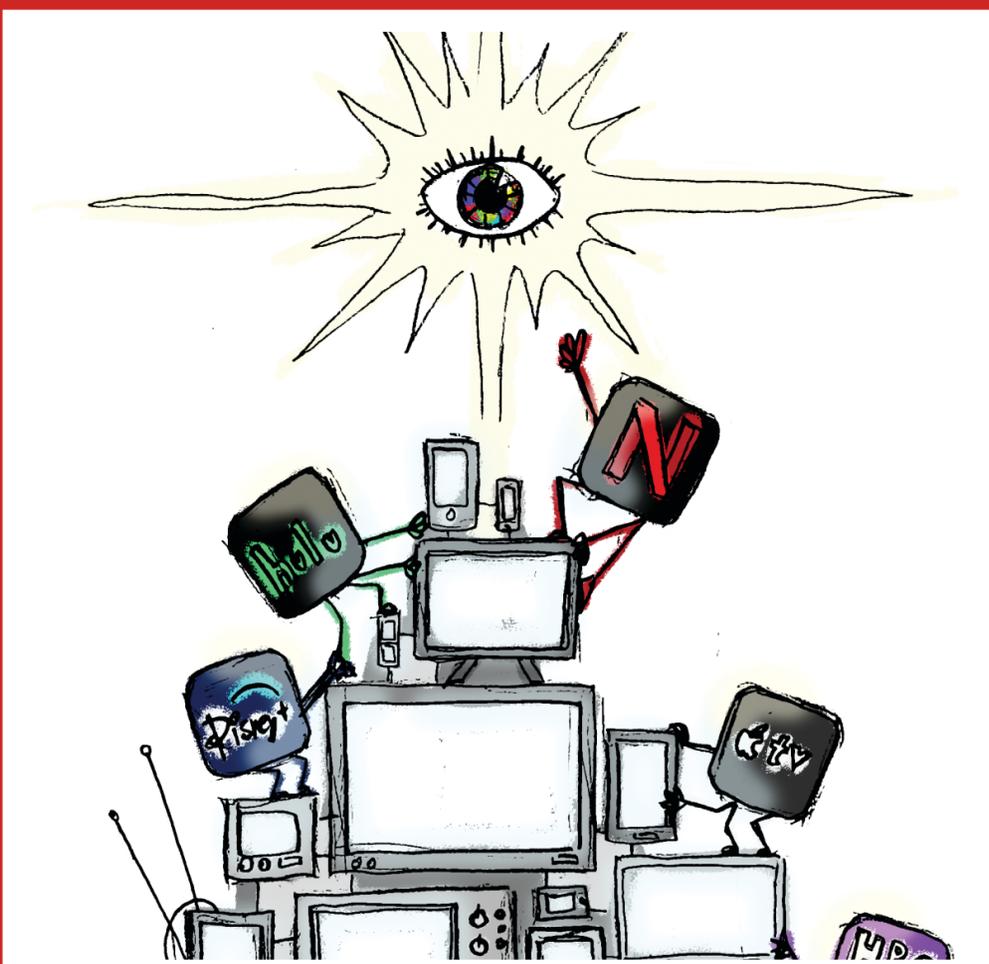


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# Opinion

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COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

### ► Editorial

## Statement on Tyre Nichols and police violence

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The police body camera released this past Friday showed the police brutality against Nichols in vivid detail, conjuring painful memories of the police killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks and other Black Americans which sparked global protests nearly three years ago. Many media outlets and organizations were also quick to forget the death of Keenan Anderson, a DC-based English teacher who died in Los Angeles police custody on Jan. 3 of this year after being stunned with a taser for over 40 seconds.

The Daily Campus stands with the Black community at the University of Connecticut and around the country, who should not have to tolerate a single death by police violence; nor should they have to endure



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constant, viral circulation of Black death on the news and on social media. As an organization, The Daily Campus reaffirms its commitment to covering ensuing demonstrations and memorials in solidarity with victims of police killings with care and accuracy.

After the national reckoning with police brutality and white supremacy in 2020, we saw the importance of protests in galvanizing communities against systemic oppression. We also witnessed both the outcry by elected officials and their sense of urgency die down as public mobilizations decreased in number alongside reforms such as body cameras, challenging qualified immunity for police and other attempted changes which have failed to end police brutality and violence.

We encourage community members who are interested in combating white supremacy and demanding fundamental changes regarding policing and prisons to be global citizens and remain aware; to exercise their rights to demonstration and speech; to not choose silence when social inequity runs rampant. Most importantly, whether it's from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic or militarized responses to protests, keep yourself and your community safe.

## Wear what you want

by Madeline Papcun  
OPINION EDITOR  
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madeline.papcun@uconn.edu

As a woman in her twenties, I've terrified people with my getting-ready process. No matter how clean my room is when I start, I'm guaranteed to have 85% of my entire wardrobe sprawled throughout the room by the end - shout-out to my roommate for embracing this tendency of mine in stride.

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tempting to pick out an outfit is kind of how remarkable, especially considering at this point in my life, I'm (theoretically) an adult who has curated her closet according to her own tastes, rather than having someone else shop for me. Yes, I will admit, I made my family late for Christmas lunch about a month ago because I convinced myself I needed to change my pants for the third time that morning. And even after all this hubbub, I still seem to end up wearing a rotation of the same five outfits each week. Really, it's exhausting.

I think one of the best ways to explain it is with a scene from one of my favorite shows as a kid - "Bear in the Big Blue House." On this show there is a character named Tutter, who is a little blue mouse that lives in the Big Blue House with Bear. In episode 111, "A Waggon of a Different Color," Tutter has to pick an outfit to go to the market, and tries on a variety of different scarf and hat combinations. This does not occur without noteworthy theatrics. When first picking out an all-red outfit, he yells, "Oh, they'll probably look at me and say 'Hey! Look at that little mouse in red!' He must really like to get attention!" Tutter has similar breakdowns trying on other outfits, with Bear attempting to calm him down. Eventually, Bear convinces Tutter to wear what he likes best, rather than worrying about what others might think.

If you've seen the clip I described, and thus heard the ferocity with which Tutter screams his frustrations out, it might sound like an exaggeration. However, I promise you, Tutter is exactly how I feel getting dressed each day. It's not just my intense love for the Muppets that makes this episode stick out to me - I genuinely act like this.

And before you say it - I'm fully aware Bear is right. There is no one else scrutinizing my clothing choices as closely as I am. I know that anyone who truly cares about me wouldn't

care what I wear and anyone who cares what I wear probably doesn't care about me. That being said, I still can't get over the mental block of having to pick an outfit. In general, I worry about being perceived and hold a significant envy for those that can just get up and go in the mornings.

So I'm writing this column both as an argument and to set a goal for myself. And, because so much of the world exists in gray rather than black and white, it's yet again a middle-of-the-road take.

We shouldn't care what we wear. Sure, it's reasonable that we do to some extent - probably not at the level of having a Tutter-like breakdown each morning, but you get my drift. It's okay to take pride in your appearance; there is nothing wrong with a little bit of vanity. If you want to wake up early so you have time to style your hair, follow a complicated makeup tutorial and put on a complicated-yet-coordinated outfit, all while filming a "Get Ready With Me" video so others can see this process, more power to you. If it brings you joy, you should embrace it. On the flipside, you shouldn't feel pressure to go through this routine if that's not your version of an ideal morning. You shouldn't put that kind of pressure on yourself either, or let society do so for you.

We know that America - and much of our 21st-century world - is appearance-obsessed. It's what keeps the makeup industry alive and well, and is why buccal fat removal was trending across platforms in December of last year.

The second we let these societal ideals - that in reality don't really say anything about the content of our character or the impact we have on the world - invade our daily lives to the point where just getting dressed in the morning is an insurmountable task, we've gone too far. The desire to conform and fit in is strong, especially as clothing trends come and go on an immensely short time scale - hence the fact that the fast fashion industry further complicates matters.

I think Tutter's reactions to getting dressed for the market are valid - what if everyone does automatically assume the little mouse in red really loves attention? There are a million reasons or thought-cycles that could spark the outfit-picking-induced spiraling depicted in this episode of "Bear in the Big Blue House," emulated in my own life. But we shouldn't let these go to our heads. At the end of the day, you should wear what you like because you like it. Plain and simple.



ILLUSTRATION BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS  
LOGO BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS





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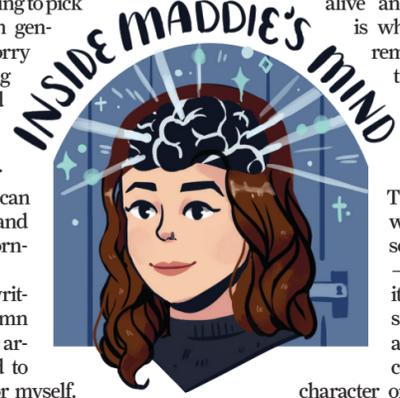


ILLUSTRATION BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS  
LOGO BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Track & Field: UConn with strong showing at Dr. Sander Columbia Challenge

by Jonathan Synott  
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This past weekend, the UConn men's and women's track and field teams continued their hot start to the season, setting records and earning top marks in the Dr. Sander Columbia Challenge.

Overall, each side of the program took home a podium finish. The women took home third place with 76.5 points, while the men took home second place with 95 points. Schools from across the country brought their best to the two-day meet, a lineup that included UCLA, South Carolina, Maryland and Syracuse.

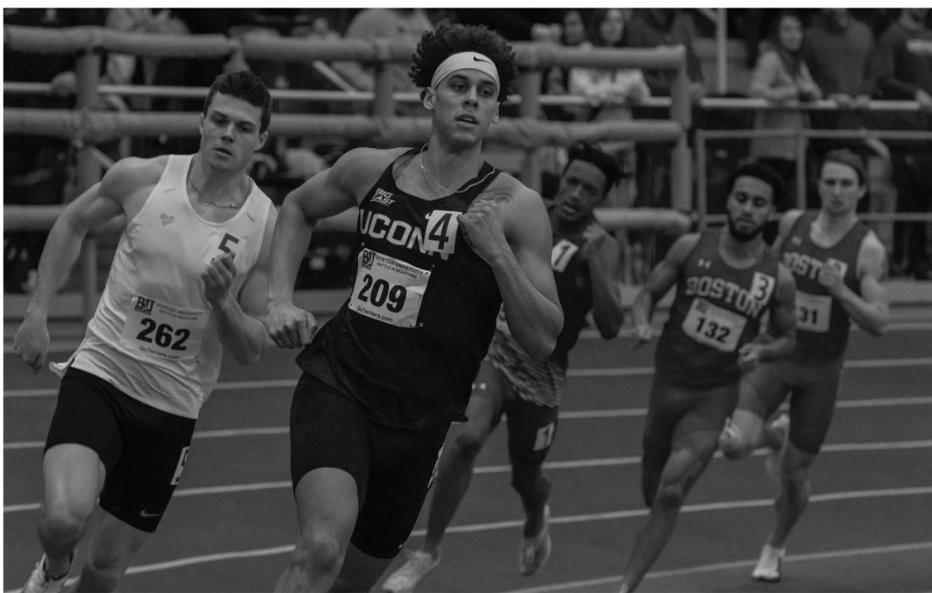
Senior Caroline Webb led the way for the women's side, taking home the gold in the 5000-meters and setting a new personal record of 17:07.56. A'lyyah Thomas excelled as well, taking second in the long jump and fifth in the 60-meter hurdles, personal bests for both. Thomas jumped 6.07m while clearing the hurdles in 8.62 seconds. Jasmine Barrow, already holding the No. 5 all-time program mark for the triple jump, improved upon her record with 12.53m, good for third place in the event.

As for the men, Terrel Williams continued his dominant stretch, taking home first place in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 7.74 seconds. The sophomore's time barely beat South Carolina's Filip Demsar, who completed the event in 7.76 seconds. That personal best is also significant to the program, as it is close to the top mark in UConn history.

Travis Snyder also dazzled this weekend, breaking both



The UConn men's and women's track and field teams competed in the Dr. Sander Columbia Challenge this past Friday, Jan. 27 and Saturday, Jan. 28. With new records and podium finishes, the Huskies carry a promising season. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNTFXG ON INSTAGRAM



The Huskies will be traveling to Boston this weekend to attend the Crimson Elite/Scarlet & White Meet hosted by Boston University, where UConn hopes to continue its streak of success. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNTFXG ON INSTAGRAM

his own and the school's record with a 5.47 meter jump. With a mark of that caliber, Snyder took home the gold by 0.42 meters.

James Maniscalco ran away with another gold, as the senior's mile time of 4:05.57 proved a personal record. With his finish, Maniscalco sits at No. 8 all-time in program history.

It was a weekend of successes for the Huskies, with 23 top-five results and personal records aplenty. Even this early on in the season, the program has plenty to be excited about.

**It was a weekend of successes for the Huskies, with 23 top-five results and personal records aplenty. Even this early on in the season, the program has plenty to be excited about.**

"Our team was just really well prepared," Director of Track & Field Beth Alford-Sullivan said. "We competed extremely well. The highlight takeaways were Terrel running a 7.74 to hold off a very talented and successful hurdler from South Carolina for the win and of course Travis with a huge personal best and school record set in the pole vault. Also, for the women A'lyyah Thomas had a big breakthrough in the 60-meter hurdles setting a big personal best."

Up next for the Huskies is a trip up to Boston. They will compete on Friday and Saturday in the Crimson Elite/Scarlet & White Meet, hosted by Boston University.

# Tennis: The Huskies get blanked by the Eagles in season opener

by Ajeeth Vellore  
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After a disappointing end to last season in the Big East playoffs, the University of Connecticut tennis team looked to turn over a new leaf and begin winning ways in the 2023 season. Unfortunately for the team, that was not meant to be, as the Huskies were completely over-matched by Boston College in a 7-0 rout. As a matter of fact, UConn could not even manage to pick up a set against a dominant Eagles squad, making it a frustrating loss for the Connecticut women.

Despite starting last season quite strong, even at one point finding themselves at 7-3 overall, UConn ended the season a mediocre 9-11, losing eight of their last 10 meets. However, that did not deter them from seeing some success in the playoffs; they managed to take a decisive 4-0 victory over Villanova in the first round of the conference tournament before getting swept 0-4 in the next round by St. John's University. Hoping to wash that sour taste out of their mouths and enter a new season with new hopes and expectations, the women looked to make the Friday meet in Chestnut Hill a competitive one, but the might of the BC Eagles would not allow it.

From the offset, it seemed as though UConn could not get any momentum going. It showed throughout the day, as they lost all three of their doubles matches to kick things off. Both teams of Olivia Wright and Maria Constantinou (doubles 1) and Aleksandra Karamyshe and Isabel Petri Bere (doubles 2) kept in stride with their opponents by totaling 6-4 scores each, but it only went downhill from there. Doubles 3 lost 6-2, and



UConn women's tennis hosts Bryant, Wesleyan and Sacred Heart at UConn starting against Bryant on Friday, Sept. 16, 2022. Over the weekend, the Huskies won 12-5 in singles matches and 8-1 in doubles matches. PHOTO BY IZZI BARTON, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Despite UConn's loss against Boston College on Friday, the Huskies expect to bounce back during their next meet. They are set for a matchup against Fairfield University tomorrow in Manchester, Conn. PHOTO BY IZZI BARTON, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

BC's singles 1 and 2, Marice Aguiar and Seren Agar, respectively, trounced their UConn counterparts, Wright and Constantinou. Karamyshe had the most competitive set of the singles portion of the event in a match against the Eagles' singles 3 Stephanie Sanchez, but still fell in two sets, 7-5 and 7-6. There was no resistance left for the Huskies' lineup to muster, as Bere, Caroline Cook, and Cameron Didion all lost in two sets just like everyone before them, sealing Connecticut's weekend as one that went completely sideways.

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There is no shame in this loss for the Huskies, though; Boston College has regularly dominated UConn. Their loss in Chestnut Hill will hopefully serve as a reminder that there is more work to be put in over the course of the season, and that getting back up from a brutal loss like this will make them stronger. The Huskies hope to use this experience to propel them to a win in their next meet against Fairfield University on Wednesday in Manchester, Conn.

## Sports

## Photo of the Day | Scream of glory



UConn's Dorka Juhász (14) yells along with her teammate Nika Mühl (left) after landing a vital 3-point field goal that helped secure the Huskies' 63-58 victory against Villanova at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. on Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## MEN'S BASKETBALL: SLIDING HUSKIES FACE ROAD TEST AT DEPAUL

by Jonathan Synott  
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The first 14 games of the UConn men's basketball season fared better than many expected - an undefeated run in non-conference action including wins over high-quality Alabama and Iowa State squads. Their successes even trickled into Big East play, defeating Villanova at the XL Center on Dec. 28.

Since then, it's all been downhill for the Huskies (16-6, 5-6 Big East). Losers of six of their last eight, Connecticut hasn't been able to find its footing after three road losses to ranked Xavier, Providence and Marquette. This past Wednesday, UConn fell to the Musketeers at home in an 82-79 nailbiter.

From that game, there were plenty of highs and lows. The Huskies allowed Xavier to climb to a 17-point lead, all before leading a charge to bring the contest back within one. After the Musketeers extended their lead back out to 11, UConn battled back to get within one, ultimately falling short. At times, the team looked like one of the best in the country. Other times, not so much.

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Over this span of hardship, the Huskies have shown their best and worst parts of their game. On the road at Seton Hall, signs pointed to UConn finding their groove again, only to give up their 17-point lead in the second half. The ball was moving well against Butler, but the next con-

test with Xavier started out as cold as could be.

Huskies head coach Dan Hurley has taken things in stride, acknowledging his team's performance, but remains positive the setbacks will make Connecticut more battle-tested for the Big East and NCAA Tournaments in March. At this stage, the once-dominant squad just needs to find their consistency, which is easier said than done. This matchup with DePaul provides them with another opportunity to pick up a hard-to-come-by Big East road win.

The Blue Demons (9-13, 3-8 Big East) have had quite an interesting season to say the least. Ranked No. 136 in the nation in the KenPom ratings, Tony Stubblefield's squad has mainly underwhelmed in a solid year for the conference overall.

DePaul recently was a topic of discussion after toppling Xavier, previously undefeated in Big East action, at home. They followed that incredible performance up with road losses to Providence and bottom-feeder Georgetown. The Blue Demons are losers of three straight and are looking to snap that streak at home, where all three of their conference victories have come this year.

Leading DePaul this season is graduate transfer Umoja Gibson. Previously playing at Oklahoma, the guard averages 16.2 points, 4.9 assists and 2.6 rebounds per game. In the team's recent loss to Marquette, Gibson enjoyed a 25-point performance on 8-for-12 shooting, including 5-for-7 beyond the arc. He will certainly look to continue his scoring success, while the Huskies hope to contain their top defensive target.

Since the losses of both RJ Cole and Tyrese Martin to the professional ranks this off-season, it seemed as though UConn was missing a true scoring point guard to lead this offense. As of late, transfer student Tristen Newton has filled that role for the Huskies.

The guard finished the Xavier game with 23 points on 6-for-12 shooting, attacking the rim and getting his team some much-needed points. Postgame, he said his mentality has changed over the course of the season, and he's instilled more confidence in himself. He'll look to build upon his recent stretch of games on Tuesday night.

Tip-off is set for 8 p.m. at Wintrust Arena in Chicago, Illinois. The game will be broadcast live on FS1 with stats provided by StatBroadcast.

## Husky History No. 16: Kerry Connors



LOGO BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Jonathan Synott  
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Hello all, and welcome back to Husky History, a column focusing on one accomplished UConn athlete per week. Each article details the athlete's accolades at Connecticut, as well as their ability to take their games to the professional level. This week's Husky History focuses on women's soccer legend Kerry Connors.

Connors, a Somers, Conn. native, started out as a talented, multi-sport athlete. In high school, she played both soccer and basketball, quickly grabbing the attention of legendary UConn women's soccer coach Len Tsantiris. After earning all-state honors and taking her team to the 1992 Class S semifinals, it was time for the midfielder to take her talents to Storrs.

"I always wanted to come to UConn. I grew up watching them play, knew they had a great program and a great school," Connors recalled on her decision.

Her freshman year, Connors was a staple on the roster, helping the Huskies to a 17-6-1 overall record. Thanks to her play, the midfielder was named to the NEWISA All-New England team.

Her sophomore year was an interesting one, as the second-year battled a knee injury the entirety of the season. That 1994 team had a stacked roster, making the College Cup semifinals before falling to North Carolina 3-0. After toughing it out for her team, Connors had necessary surgery and implemented some big changes to her game.

"The knee injury really changed my attitude," Connors said in 1995. "I think the surgery and the rehab made me mentally tougher. Soccer

is one of the most significant things for me. Right now, I think I'm in the best shape of my life because I have worked that much harder."

All of that hard work certainly paid off, as Connors made a big leap in her junior year notching 17 assists. While goal scorers sometimes get all of the glory, Connors enjoyed the art of orchestrating the offense.

"I just play," Connors said. "But I do think some players see things better than others. I started playing when I was very young, and I've always been a good distributor, but I can't really say why. I think playing with great players certainly helps."

UConn would fall to Notre Dame in both the Big East Championship and the NCAA Quarterfinals, but the Somers native took home Big East Offensive Player of the Year and All-American honors. Paired with freshman phenom and conference Defensive Player of the Year Sara Whalen, the team was a sight to behold.

"[Connors is] a big-time player," Tsantiris said in 1996. "She came on last year, but this year she's even better. She makes things happen for us."

She certainly made things happen in 1996, her senior year. Connors upped her single-season assist record from 17 to 18, notching 20 goals as well. The Huskies went 22-3, falling to Notre Dame in the Big East Final and in the NCAA Quarterfinals to Santa Clara. Connors played the role of the hero in the first round of NCAAs, scoring the lone goal in a 1-0 victory over Dartmouth. Award season was kind to her yet again, as Connors took home All-American and Big East Offensive Player of the Year nods once more, capping off an illustrious college career. As it stands, the midfielder is one of 11

members of UConn women's soccer's coveted 100 point club. She sits at No. 5 all-time in program points and fourth all-time in assists with 128 and 42, respectively.

After her senior season, the two-time Big East All-Academic teamer wasn't quite finished with her sociology degree. Connors stayed with the team in the fall as a volunteer assistant coach, helping her team win the coveted College Cup from the sidelines. Her play throughout her college career also attracted the attention of U.S. National Team head coach Tony DiCicco, who called her up in 1997 to play for her country.

"I like Kerry Connors as a player and a person," DiCicco said at the time. "She's got the character that's consistent with this team and the successful players that have been here for a while."

Connors competed in four games for the U.S. National Team, starting in two of them. With her help, the United States finished 16-2-0 in international play that year. On that squad, Connors played alongside greats like Mia Hamm, Briana Scurry and UConn teammate Sara Whalen.

In 2000, Connors was selected by the New York Power of the Women's United Soccer Association in their inaugural player draft. She made 19 appearances for the Power, scoring a goal and notching two assists. Over the next few years, she played for the Philadelphia Charge and San Diego Spirit of the WUSA, as well as the New England Mutiny and Boston Aztec of the WPSL. For her efforts, she was nominated to the WPSL All-Star team in 2005.

Today, the UConn legend works as an assistant director of procurement at Springfield College, not far from the pitch she called home.

# Big East Baller Update No. 9: Georgetown Recognition Week

by Cole Stefan  
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LOGO BY STEVEN COLEMAN,  
ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

In the 1980s, the Georgetown Hoyas were a powerhouse in the young but potent Big East conference. Led by Hall of Fame head coach John Thompson Jr., almost no one could stop the Hoyas' annual national title quests. Georgetown won it all in 1984 and nearly ran it back in 1985 before the No. 8 seed, the Villanova Wildcats foiled their plans.

The Hoyas treaded water after Thompson resigned in 1999, and even though they went to the Final Four in 2007 as a No. 2 seed, they have fallen on hard times since hiring legendary alum Patrick Ewing as head coach in 2017. So severe were their losing ways that their Big East Tournament championship in 2021 (as a No. 2 seed) was the last time Georgetown beat a conference foe. What you are about to read is how they won a conference game for the first time in almost two years.

Writer's Note: The Hoyas went 0-19 in conference play last season and had lost over 25 straight to Power six opponents dating back to December of 2021.

## Player of the Week:

Tyler Kolek - Marquette

## Freshman of the Week:

AJ Storr - St. John's

## Georgetown vs. Villanova (Jan. 16): They almost won

Out of every conference game that Georgetown played between the start of last season and last week, this loss against Villanova was their closest one.

Down 11 in the first half, the Hoyas made it a two-point game right from the start of the second. Jordan Riley responded to a 5-0 Wildcat run by making three straight buckets and Akok Akok gave Georgetown the lead. That Hoya advantage could not be sustained as two free throws from Eric Dixon gave it back to Villanova.

Two jumpers from Primo Spears put Georgetown up two, but layups from Brandon Slater and Eric Dixon in the next minute gave the Wildcats a lead they never surrendered. A Cam Whitmore breakaway dunk and a missed three from Brandon Murray in the final 15 seconds sealed the deal, as Villanova avoided the upset 77-73.

Four of the five Wildcat starters scored in double figures, led by Caleb Daniels' 16 points, while Mark Armstrong had 14 off the bench. Spears led the Hoyas with 19 points on 8-13 shooting, while Riley had 18 on 8-12 shooting. Georgetown had a two-point lead against the then eighth-ranked Xavier Musketeers slip away

from them in Cincinnati five days later, but then it happened.

## DePaul vs. Georgetown (Jan. 24): They finally won

After 682 long days, the Hoyas' 29-game conference losing streak came to an end in Washington DC. Despite the win, the DePaul Blue Demons, who won the first meeting back

final seconds 81-76. Georgetown fans in attendance rushed the court in jubilation after the final buzzer, and although it does not change much about the program, it satisfied a lot of people rooting for them to win.

Spears played all 40 minutes of the Hoyas' win, scoring 21 points without a three, while Murray and Akok had 12 apiece. The Blue Demons got most of their scoring from Umoja Gibson, who had 24, and Johnson, who had 13, despite shooting almost 50% from the field. By securing the win against a Big East

foe, Georgetown had already improved from last season's disaster, but opportunities to win conference games were not gone yet.

## Georgetown vs. St. John's (Jan. 29): A new streak almost emerges

The Hoyas had a chance to go on a winning streak in conference play, something they had not achieved since the 2021 Big East Tournament. That winning streak could have started in the same building Bryson Mzone buried a late three, but then AJ Storr hit the game-winning triple with four seconds left.

## Honorable Mention: No. 23 Providence vs. Villanova (Jan. 29): Wait that's not Georgetown

The Providence Friars may have entered South Philadelphia with the upper edge, but Justin Moore's return gave the Wildcats a much-needed boost.

A 6-0 run following a Cam Whitmore dunk gave the Friars the lead before Mark helped Villanova snatch it back. The Wildcats had a seven-point lead with 10:42 to play, but that is when Jared Bynum started to hit water. Bynum made each of Providence's next three field goals to retake the lead, and his bucket in the final 30 seconds proved to be the dagger as Villanova came up short 70-65.

Bynum finished with 19 points off the bench with three treys, while Ed Crosswell led all starters with 14 and Bryce Hopkins finished a rebound shy of a double-double. As for the Wildcats, Whitmore shot 50% from the field and downtown with 21 points, while Dixon had 14 and Moore picked up five. Even though they did not come out on top, Moore's return made Villanova a much stronger team and the conference a whole lot more interesting heading into February.

Thus concludes a passionate story about how the Hoyas finally won a Big East game. This felt long overdue for Georgetown, a team that has the pieces to win more than once in conference play, but just could not finish the job. The Hoyas still have nine games left and may win again before the season is over.

Regardless of what happens next, the Hoyas will be as tough of an opponent to beat as everyone else in the Big East. Perhaps it could affect the conference standings before the tournament, but even that is a mystery right now.



# Coppola's Column: Ranking the NFL MVP award finalists

by Dante Coppola  
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After a long NFL season filled with more surprises than I think anyone expected, the league appears to be on the right track as the Super Bowl grows nearer. The MVP race was tumultuous for most of the season, with the favorite changing seemingly every week. The finalists for the award were finally released over the last week, and now we can take a look at who has the best chance to take home the most coveted award in football.

## 5. Justin Jefferson

The state of this league disproportionately favors quarterbacks over any other position for the award. Jefferson is the only non-quarterback that was named a finalist and deservedly so after leading the league in receptions and receiving yards, despite having questionable quarterback play in Kirk Cousins. His 1,809 yards places No. 6 in a single season all time, although it's worth noting that it was done with an additional 17th game. Jefferson's receiving yards per game, in comparison, ranks No. 21 all time.

There were a few guys that had a shot at replacing him as a finalist for the award. Micah Parsons, who has a good chance at winning the Defensive Player of the Year award, had a shot at being named after a second stellar season to start his career. For other quarterbacks that could've potentially found their way in, Tua Tagovailoa could've been a front runner if he had played a full 17 games. However, with head injuries taking him out for four games, the efficient Dolphins quarterback missed out. The same goes for Jimmy Garoppolo, who was having a very efficient year for the 11 games he played, but that amount of

time is not nearly enough to be given consideration. Geno Smith could've found his way as well, but his team was not good enough to warrant an inclusion.

## 4. Josh Allen

It's somewhat a surprise that Allen was even named a finalist. The Buffalo Bills quarterback struggled to find consistency throughout the season, mixing stellar performances with games reminiscent of the era before his arrival. The season wasn't as poor as last season, a year in which he fell off heavily from his near-MVP campaign in 2020. The year still left a lot to be desired, especially considering how the team was finally looking to make a run at the Super Bowl.

The upside is that he was only second behind the MVP frontrunner in touchdown passes with 35. He also tagged along with the seventh-most passing yards in the season, surpassing 4,000 for the third time in his young career. The downside is that Allen was also tied for third with 14 interceptions and was in the bottom half of the league in completion percentage. He wasn't sacked a lot and he still had his usual weapons around him, so there is hope he can potentially turn it around next season. For now, it doesn't place him in good standing for the MVP.

## 3. Joe Burrow

Burrow is once again back in the conversation after breaking out in his second season. Last year, he was probably the second best player in the league, only behind Aaron Rodgers and his stellar MVP-winning performance. He followed up that Comeback Player of the Year season with a strong second showing, though not quite as good. His yards, completion percentage, and touchdowns went down this campaign, though he



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes is at the top of the list. He displayed stellar performances this season — albeit inconsistently — being first in touchdown passes and breaking his previous tossing record from 2018.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF @PATRICKMAHOMES ON INSTAGRAM

threw fewer interceptions.

Burrow was still good for second in both completion percentage and touchdowns this season, racking up the fifth-most passing yards as well. The LSU alum's strong 100.8 passer rating ranked No. 6 in the league, but his 12 interceptions were the seventh-most in the NFL. Meanwhile, at the time of writing, the Bengals have made it to the AFC championship game and still look to contend for a Super Bowl.

## 2. Jalen Hurts

For the longest time, Hurts was considered the favorite of many. His team boasts the best record in the league with a top-three offensive unit. While this is a regular season award, they just destroyed the 49ers in the NFC Championship game, and have a good shot at

taking home the Lombardi for the second time in six years. Hurts, for his part, has taken a massive jump in year three, going from one of the weakest quarterbacks in the league to one of the very best. It's not unusual for a quarterback to make a leap in year three, and following the addition of A.J. Brown in the offseason, we saw a significantly better product from the former Alabama standout.

*Hurts, for his part, has taken a massive jump in year three, going from one of the weakest quarterbacks in the league to one of the very best.*

Hurts only threw for 22 touchdowns, and under 4,000 yards, but there's more to his performance than those numbers. His interceptions dipped to only six, and his completion percentage jumped up to 67%. Despite getting sacked the seventh-most in the league, he managed the fourth-best passer rating with a 101.5 as well. That's all without mentioning his impact on the ground. He finished No. 2 in the league in rushing touchdowns with 13, one shy of Cam Newton's record. For the second season in a row, he also averaged 50 rushing yards a game, which placed top-35 in the league and the second most by a quarterback behind Justin Fields. There's a bright future ahead for Hurts and this Eagles team, although he will have to wait at least another year to get this accolade.

## 1. Patrick Mahomes

Who else but Mahomes should be here at the top spot? He has everything going for him, both from a team success and personal perspective. The Kansas City Chiefs tied with the Eagles for the best record in the league, and their offense ranks first in both points and yards. Despite how likely his MVP accolade is at the moment, it didn't always seem that way. He was a bit inconsistent for a portion of the season, but absolutely excelled the last four weeks to take the lead.

Unsurprisingly, he was first in touchdown passes with 41, six more than Josh Allen. He also tossed for over 5,250 yards, breaking his previous total of 5,097 that he collected in his first MVP campaign. That mark is also good for the fourth-most all-time in a season. 2018's MVP win was more up in the air thanks to how good of a season Drew Brees had, but the path appears much clearer this year.



# Sports

## Inside the mind of one of UConn's most dedicated basketball fans



Standing for five hours outside Gampel Pavilion is no big deal to Max Seguro (left). It was inevitable that Seguro would become a UConn superfan after growing up surrounded by Husky spirit. But with Jim Calhoun's departure, some of that optimism got lost. His freshman year was when things picked up again. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNSTUDENTS ON INSTAGRAM

by **Stratton Stave**  
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Like most students, Max Seguro begins his day by waking up, grabbing breakfast then going to his classes. On days when the UConn men's basketball team plays, Seguro's routine starts to look a little different once he finishes up his work. Roughly five hours before tip, he, along with 10-15 other superfans, lines up outside Gampel Pavilion to ensure they can snag the hottest and most sought-after seats at the front of the student section.

The time that Seguro and his friends arrive is largely determined through a series of texts and takes effort to coordinate. If other fans post on Twitter that they've already arrived, he might go earlier so that he doesn't get too far behind anyone else planning to come early.

Many people may look at fans like Seguro and wonder why he decides to spend so many hours in the harsh cold of Storrs, Conn. What makes this an appealing activity?

"We started because we realized that never again in our life - unless one of us really does well - will we be able to afford to sit courtside at a big event like this," Seguro mentioned. "We decided to take advantage of this now, we get free seats. It's just waiting and we're all friends. We can sit there for the five hours, that's nothing."

A senior economics and communications double major from West Hartford, Seguro has followed the Huskies for much of his life.

"UConn basketball has always been a passion for me, a lot more as I grew older because my mom worked in the athletics department

before I was even born," Seguro said. "Growing up in Connecticut too, you get to choose between New York and Boston teams, but nothing really feels like your own. To have UConn basketball, that felt like something was my own; I didn't feel like I was stealing it from some other place."

Although Seguro has followed the Huskies through thick and thin, he felt a disconnect once legendary coach Jim Calhoun left and things began to go south for the program. It wasn't until his first year as a student himself when he rediscovered his love for the Huskies.

"Freshman year, the UConn vs. Memphis game at the XL Center was the moment that I really got back into it," Seguro noted. "That was the game where it just switched for me. I had to go to all of them after that."

Even though Coach Dan Hurley's first signature win against the Tigers was the big moment for Seguro, he didn't start camping out until last year.

"Freshman year, we were just happy to be there and we weren't as fixated on being at the front," said Seguro. "Last year because we missed out on so much with COVID-19, we decided we were going to go to the front row every single time and it's worked out pretty well."

After waiting in line with the same people for such a long amount of time, there's a level of camaraderie that develops.

"Our bond is really tight," Seguro mentioned. "We just stand there, we've become really close friends with everyone who's there in line with us and we just talk about sports. It's a sports nerd's dream. The closer we get to opening up the doors, the more exciting it gets."

One of the biggest things that drives the group's motivation is the support they've gotten from

fans all around the country, particularly those on Twitter. Fans, namely user BigLarryForearm, sends them pizza to help the group make it through the wait.

"When they send us food, it means a lot," Seguro said. "It shows that people appreciate what we do and the passion that we have. It's rewarding to know that someone's looking after you. Most of those fans have done the same things as we do, so they know how cold it gets up here and how hungry you get. I really do appreciate it because it's good to know that people are seeing us and seeing the passion we put into this."

Perhaps even bigger than the fan support was the recognition they received from Coach Hurley. Prior to the Huskies' big win over Oklahoma State on Dec. 1, the head coach visited the group and thanked them for their support.

"It was very cool," Seguro noted. "I wasn't expecting that. I knew word was going around that we had been there that early—we got there at 10 a.m. that day—but to see him come out and greet us that was a top highlight. I know he loves us and he appreciates us coming out so it was really awesome."

Seguro and his fellow fans will continue supporting and powering their Huskies, especially as they look to break out of an eight game rut. He's not concerned about the team though. Seguro sees just one more regular season loss in the Huskies' future, with nothing but victories in their remaining home games. As for March? He foresees Connecticut cutting down the nets in Madison Square Garden at the Big East Tournament, along with a deep run in March. This may seem a bit far-fetched after the Huskies' play of late, but with the support and commitment of fans like Seguro, nothing is impossible.

**"UConn basketball has always been a passion for me, a lot more as I grew older because my mom worked in the athletics department before I was even born. Growing up in Connecticut too, you get to choose between New York and Boston teams, but nothing really feels like your own. To have UConn basketball, that felt like something was my own; I didn't feel like I was stealing it from some other place."**

MAX SEGURO



For Max Seguro, making friends with other Husky superfans is easy. "We just stand there, we've become really close friends with everyone who's there in line with us and we just talk about sports," Seguro said. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNSTUDENTS ON INSTAGRAM

### WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

<b>UCONN SCOREBOARD</b>  <b>0 vs. 3</b> <b>Women's Ice Hockey</b> <b>Sunday</b>		<b>Upcoming Games</b>  <b>vs.</b> <b>MBB, 8p.m. Today</b> <b>Chicago, IL</b>   <b>vs.</b> <b>W</b> <b>Women's Tennis, 1 p.m. Weds</b> <b>Manchester, Conn.</b>
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### INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY

@jonathanhusky14  
#flashback to my first snow.  
#snowdog #justababy #smallboi

### TWEETS OF THE DAY

**Daniel Connolly**  
@DanielVConnolly  
UConn's Nika Mühl is one of 10 candidates for the Nancy Lieberman Award watch list, which goes to the best point guard in the nation.

**tori**  
@victoria\_grace3  
i'll never forget in the big east tournament when nova fans chanted "we want uconn" just to lose by 30

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