

The Daily Campus



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Wednesday, September 13, 2023

UConn's high stance in WSJ ranking comes at somewhat of a surprise

by **Hallie LeTendre**
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Last week, the Wall Street Journal ranked the University of Connecticut within the top 50 colleges across the nation.

Out of every public and private university, UConn took the 46th spot.

Since 2016, the WSJ has published an annual list of the top colleges in the U.S. Last year, UConn ranked 103rd.

This year's WSJ criteria ranked colleges based on their influence in student lives and wellbeing, a UConn today article explained.

UConn's current ranking, out of 400 other colleges, puts the university above Berkley, Brown, UCLA and more as highlighted in a TikTok video published by UConn mathematics professor Álvaro Lozano-Robledo in response to his surprise regarding the rankings.

"This Wall Street Journal ranking is wacky," Lozano-Robledo said in the TikTok video he published. "The colleges at the top are ones that you would expect, but as you go down the list, things start to get strange."

Several colleges with prestigious affiliations ranked a dozen or more spots behind UConn.

"Initially, I was surprised because the rankings, not just of UConn, but other schools as well, do not match my preconceived ranking of some of these colleges and universities," Lozano-Robledo said.

And while Lozano-Robledo expressed his pleasure to work at UConn and the pride that comes with this year's ranking, he did note the reality of his perception of rankings.

ILLUSTRATION BY MIA LUPO, ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



"I think all rankings are artificial in some way or another and all of them are flawed in one way or another. And yet, I do have some vague idea of how schools are ranked and the WSJ ranking clashed with my thoughts," Lozano-Robledo said.

Some of the categories that UConn ranked highly in were affordability, amount of years it takes for students to earn their degree and the value and

"We are providing an excellent education at UConn that is very much worth the tuition that students pay for their education, and that's what matters."

Álvaro Lozano-Robledo

salary which a UConn degree provides, UConn spokesperson Stephanie Reitz said.

"These are all tangible factors that benefit UConn students and their families not only while they are here, but also well into the future," Reitz said.

Since beginning his teaching career in 2008 at UConn, Lozano-Robledo explained that while a ranking is subjective, his experience here has been positive and that he believes

students get a well rounded education come graduation.

"We are providing an excellent education at UConn that is very much worth the tuition that students pay for their education, and that's what matters," Lozano-Robledo said.



An aerial view of Gampel Pavilion, an iconic building on the UConn Storrs Campus. Gampel lies at the heart of the campus, next to some of the busiest roads for students.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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Tweet of the Day

Daily THE STARK TANK | PAGE 7
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Will UCONN football be okay after 0-2 start?

Bill Lyman
[@BillLyman9](https://www.twitter.com/BillLyman9)
UConn has a football program??? Who knew???

News

Massachusetts city got nearly 10 inches of rain in 6 hours, flooding homes and eroding dams

(AP) - Heavy rainfall — nearly 10 inches in 6 hours — flooded parts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, with two communities declaring a state of emergency as water poured into homes and forced boat rescues of residents. Concern about a dam listed in poor condition led to more evacuations.

Weather officials described the rainfall as a “200-year event.” More rain was in the forecast for Wednesday. Winds and flooding from Hurricane Lee were expected to affect Rhode Island, eastern Massachusetts, southeastern New Hampshire and central and coastal Maine during the weekend, forecasters said.

Up to 300 people were evacuated by Tuesday morning in Leominster, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) northwest of Boston, Mayor Dean Mazzarella said. That included residents of a high-rise apartment building and a nursing home. All schools were closed and two shelters were opened.

Mazzarella said the city has not seen such widespread damage since a hurricane in 1936. He said most buildings downtown flooded and some collapsed. Rail service into Boston also was disrupted.

“The storm stopped over us last night. It didn't move for close to five hours. It had dumped 11 inches (28 centimeters) of rain,” Mazzarella said at a news conference Tuesday morning. Mazzarella said Leominster has 12 hills, “and obviously, from those hills comes the water.”

On Monday night, in a recording posted online, Mazzarella had urged people to “Find a high spot somewhere.” He said if there were any injuries they were minor. Leominster's director of emergency management Athur Elbthal said two dams out of 24 in the city sustained damage, but held. He said the city is working to reinforce them.

Matthew Belk, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Boston said a trained spotter near Leominster recorded 9.5 inches (24 centimeters) of rain. Belk described the rain as a “200-year event” meaning the chances of it happening in any given year is one in 200. The record for rainfall in a single day in Massachusetts was set Aug. 18, 1955, when Tropical Storm Diane dropped just over 18 inches (45 centimeters) in Westfield, Belk said.

Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey said she's keeping a close eye on forecasts of heavy rains Wednesday and how Hurricane Lee may affect the state as she toured damage in North Attleborough, about 55 miles (88.5 kilometers) south of Leominster.

“It was really scary, the amount of water that fell in just a short amount of time and the incredible devastation that it caused,” Healey said, adding she has reached out to the Biden administration, the congressional delegation and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for assistance.

Steve Forcier, 62, said he was half asleep in his mobile home when firefighters knocked on his door late Monday.

“It was a little intimidating, a little frightening,” he said Tuesday morning outside the school where he and others spent the night. “When I looked out there, I said, ‘Holy crap!’”

The water outside was about waist-high, Forcier said, but he had minimal damage to his home when he evacuated. Firefighters used inflatable rafts to rescue residents of the mobile home park.



A brook in Leominster, Mass. overflows into the garage of a home following heavy rains overnight, Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023. PHOTO BY MICHAEL CASEY/AP

In North Attleborough, Nathan Bonneau's home was condemned Tuesday after a building inspector assessed the flood damage. He said the water rose nearly to his height of 5'10" (178 centimeters).

“It just kept getting worse,” he said. “I watched the water go from trickling into my garage floor to coming in my front door in a matter of 35 minutes.”

Outside a shelter where at least 80 people stayed overnight, Leominster Schools Superintendent Paula Deacon said “it's been a very emotional roller coaster” for many.

“They don't know what happened to their homes, many of them left with nothing,” she said.

Early Tuesday, the city said people living in areas near a brook and the North Nashua River in Leominster should “immediately evacuate” as a precaution, “due to a potential issue at the Barrett Park Pond Dam.”

“This particular dam is one that we're actually about to replace,” Mazzarella said.

The dam is a 15-foot-tall (4.5-meter-tall) earthen structure listed in poor condition and posing a significant hazard, meaning its failure could result in economic damages, but would not be expected to cause loss of life, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' National Inventory of Dams. The database shows it was last inspected in November 2017, though it's supposed to be inspected every five years.

In 2021, the city was awarded a \$163,500 grant from the state for engineering and permitting costs associated with repairs and improvements to the dam.

Mazzarella said Tuesday there were at least several homes in Leominster where “the water washed out around them” and foundations could be seen about 8 feet (2.4 meters) below, as well as underground pipes.

According to a city planning document, low-lying areas of

Leominster are particularly subject to periodic flooding. The North Nashua River experienced three notable high flows in March 1936, September 1938, and August 1955.

“During these floods, streets were inundated, dams were overtopped and bridges collapsed,” the plan said.

Other communities experienced flooding Monday night. In North Attleborough, the town said in a statement that crews worked to clear water from roads Monday night and about 200 homes had flood damage. Some roads in Rhode Island and in Nashua, New Hampshire, also were flooded.

In Providence, Rhode Island, downpours flooded a parking lot and parts of a shopping mall on Branch Avenue. Firefighters used inflatable boats to help rescue more than two dozen people who had become stranded in their cars.

Both Leominster and North Attleborough declared states of emergency.

Storms were expected Wednesday afternoon and evening, and with some producing heavy rain, the National Weather Service said.

New England has experienced its share of flooding this summer, including a storm that dumped up to two months of rain in two days in Vermont in July, resulting in two deaths.

Atmospheric scientists say floods occurring in different parts of the world are fueled by climate change.

Mathew Barlow, a climate scientist at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, said it's been hot and humid in the region, resulting in more moisture in the air. That's related to climate change since warmer air can hold more water.

“As long as fossil fuel emissions continue, this will get worse,” he said. “So this won't be a new normal. This will be way station on the way to ever more intense systems unless we choose to dramatically decrease emissions.”



Vehicles make their way through a flooded Lancaster Street during heavy rain in Leominster, Mass., Monday, Sept. 11, 2023. PHOTO BY RICK GINCLAIR/AP

The Daily Campus

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Artists (Meetings at 10 p.m. on discord)

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Study Break

THE DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Say "I'll be there," maybe
- 5 Officers-to-be
- 11 In the past
- 14 Aspire laptop maker
- 15 Firenze locale
- 16 Break in continuity
- 17 Primatologist who wrote "The Chimpanzees of Gombe"
- 19 Draw upon
- 20 Jungian inner self
- 21 Photographer Goldin
- 22 Provo resident
- 24 Cream ingredient
- 26 Double ___ Oreos
- 27 Plaything made from a clothespin, perhaps
- 32 Liberated
- 35 Fictional gentleman thief Lupin
- 36 Brazilian port
- 37 Locally organized lecture series
- 38 Minor issue
- 39 Accomplish
- 42 Gather dust
- 43 Cartoon girl whose best friend is Boots
- 45 Director Ang
- 46 Spanish "precise"
- 48 Sweater spoiler
- 49 Actress/entrepreneur whose son is Lorenzo Lamas
- 51 Study feverishly
- 53 Fish sought by Marlin and Dory
- 54 Like udon, ramen, and pho
- 56 Play a part
- 58 Goats
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- 63 Lentil dish from western India
- 66 Issa of "Barbie"
- 67 Trapped
- 68 Short letter
- 69 Meditation sounds
- 70 High-calorie cakes
- 71 Alum

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- 2 Virus check
- 3 "___, vidi, vici"

- 4 Put together early
- 5 Tech-focused exec
- 6 Paid for one's sins
- 7 Absurdist art movement
- 8 Joie de vivre
- 9 "How Long ___ Black Future Month?": N.K. Jemisin collection
- 10 Port ___: creamy French cheese
- 11 Taquería drink with tamarindo and horchata varieties
- 12 Deep cut
- 13 Vulnerable
- 18 Lead-bearing ore
- 23 Feathery cluster
- 25 Buck
- 26 Eastern European language
- 27 Mascara applicators
- 28 Film production company named for a constellation
- 29 Shuns
- 30 Cantilevered window
- 31 Stretch the truth

- 33 "Downton Abbey" sister
- 34 Laud
- 40 "How Stella Got ___ Groove Back"
- 41 Not subject to taxes
- 44 Taj Mahal city
- 47 Loving lots
- 50 Main course
- 52 Fretful feeling
- 54 Hairstyle for Diana Ross and Bob Ross

- 55 Baseball gripping point
- 56 Not closed all the way
- 57 Links transport
- 59 Aroma
- 60 Spreadsheet input
- 61 Downhill racer
- 64 ___, dos, tres
- 65 Some internet search results

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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By Max Schlenker
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by Patrick Boots
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With autumn right around the corner, many student organizations are conducting events to get students in the seasonal spirit and to offer a break from classwork. The University of Connecticut Hillel, the center for Jewish life on campus, is sponsoring numerous activities for UConn students of all different walks of life this fall.

September usually coincides with a selection of Jewish holidays, including Rosh Hashanah, the start of the Hebrew year. Traditionally, apples dipped in honey are eaten at Rosh Hashanah to represent a good year to come. In celebration, those visiting the Student Union on Friday Sept. 15 can enjoy apples with honey and learn more about the history and traditions of the holiday. Since Rosh Hashanah spans longer than one day, special services will also be held at the Hillel House on North Eagleville Road from Sept. 15 - Sept. 17.

Later this semester, various enrichment activities will be hosted such as a Jewish Life on Campus expo, a bagel brunch and yoga sessions. Also featured are special events for Sukkot, a seven-day harvest celebration, and an opportunity for students to bake challah bread with university President Radenka Maric, both happening in October. Challah bread is often enjoyed by the Jewish community around special occasions such as Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur is one of the most solemn Jewish holidays, wherein people abstain from eating and drinking for the day and participate in traditional prayer and meditation, as well as ask and accept forgiveness from one another. A variety of recreational activities are in the works, including the Hillel Hummus Experience, an annual favorite. UConn students make a team of 3-4 students and compete in a TV-style cooking competition to see who can invent the best flavored hummus. This year's Hillel Hummus Experience will take place Wednesday, Nov. 1 — all supplies will be provided and no cooking experience is necessary.

As the winter approaches, events centered around the Hanukkah tradition are planned, as well as other fun activities including tote bag painting nights, group hikes, special guest speakers and more. UConn Hillel will also be offering a variety of experiential opportunities, such as an excursion to Israel early next year. All student leaders are welcome to join, although spots are limited. UConn students will explore the country and learn about topics such as Palestinian and Israeli society, history, culture and human rights.

Other popular events UConn Hillel has hosted in the past include Hillel Well Fair, giveaways, hands-on self-care stations, presentations and other special celebrations. Although focused around the Jewish faith and tradition, all UConn students are invited to participate and learn. UConn Hillel is also a member group of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford and the United Jewish Federation of New Haven. The group strives to empower students by energizing and deepening the commitment of Jewish students already participating in the religion and programs activities at all five of UConn's satellite campuses.

UConn Hillel is sure to add a bit of fun to your fall schedule this year. For a complete listing of events and further information, visit the UConn Hillel webpage at uconnhillel.org.

UConn Hillel spices up the fall with its upcoming events



FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

SEPTEMBER

APPLE PICKING
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

JEWISH LIFE ON CAMPUS EXPO
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

HIGH HOLIDAYS
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15-MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

OCTOBER

SUKKOT EVENT
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

Bake Challah with President Radenka Maric
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

FAMILY BAGEL BRUNCH
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

HIKING WITH HILLEL
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

NOVEMBER

HUMMUS EXPERIENCE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

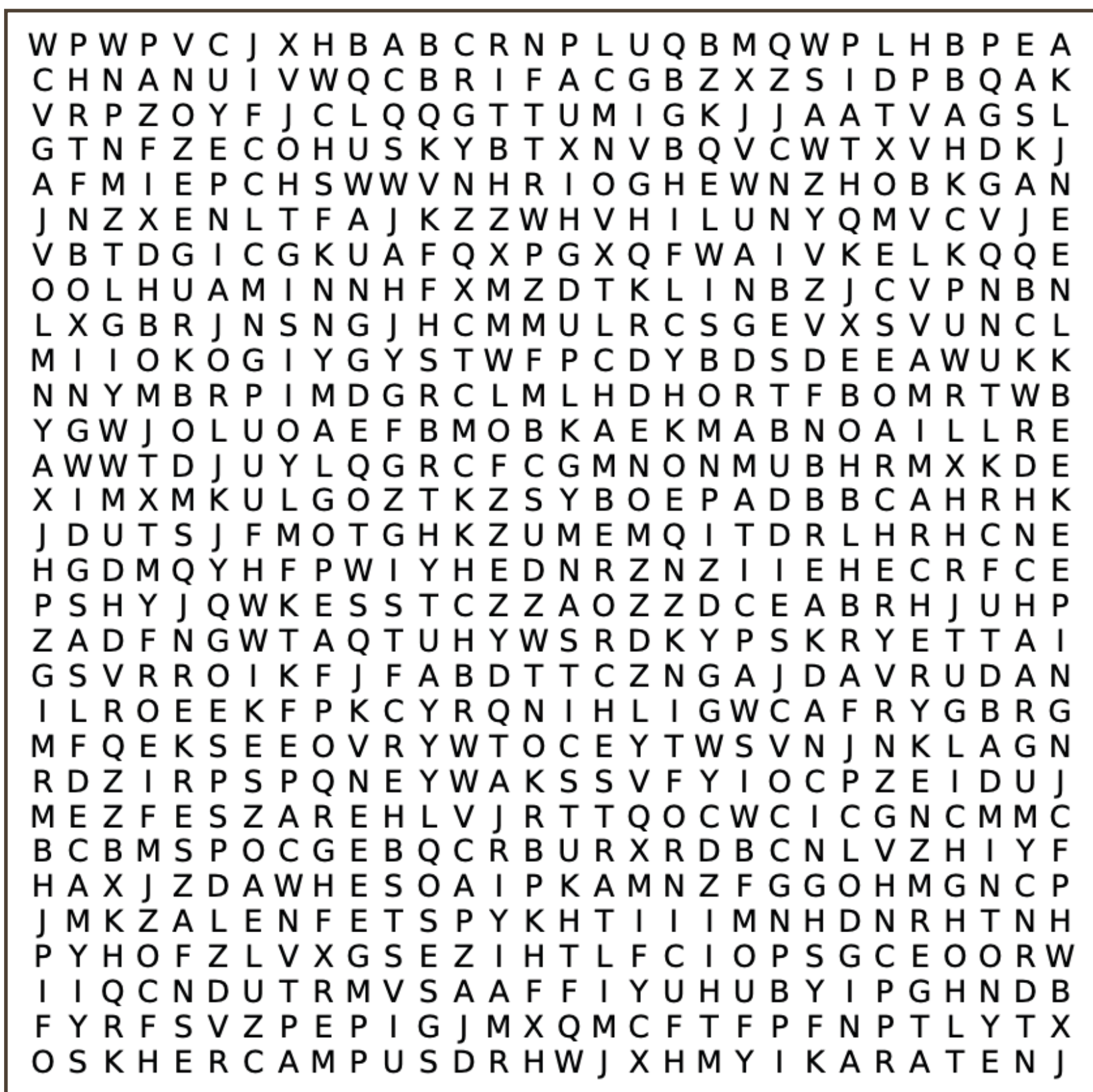
TOTE BAG PAINTING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

DECEMBER

HANUKKAH CELEBRATION
TBA

Get Involved!

UCONN CLUBS WORD SEARCH

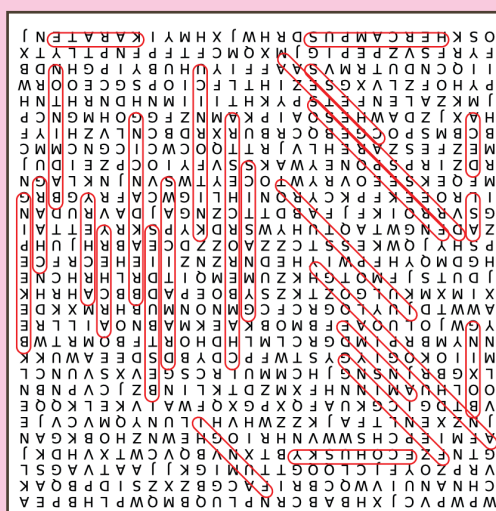


One of the best ways to meet people and explore new hobbies and interests is by joining on-campus organizations!

TRY AND FIND THE FOLLOWING UCONN CLUBS IN TODAY'S WORD SEARCH:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| CHAMBER ORCHESTRA | ANTHROPOLOGY | ASL |
| BREAK DANCING | DRAMATIC PAWS | DRESSAGE TEAM |
| KNIT FOR NICU | GYMNASTICS | BEEKEEPING |
| BEST BUDDIES | BADMINTON | JUMPSTART |
| FREE PRESS | HER CAMPUS | FENCING |
| ECOHUSKY | ARCHERY | ARCHERY |
| BOXING | KARATE | CHESS |
| FUNGI | ANIME | CHAARG |
| DECA | | |

**ANSWER KEY
(FLIP UPSIDE DOWN)**





Life

@dailycampuslife



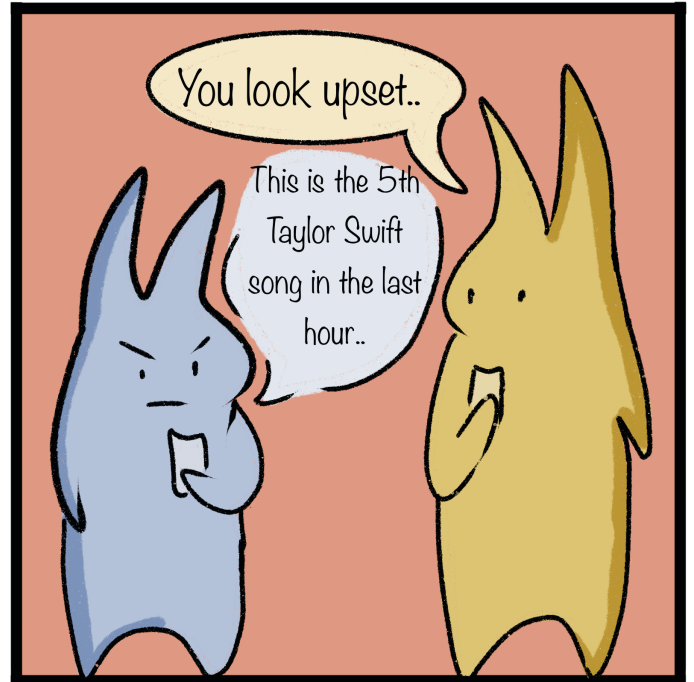
COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

COMICS

THE DAILY CAMPUS

ARTIST SECTION

The White Collared Worker



Follow me @whitecollaredworker on tiktok!



Jason J. Sampson



COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY RACHEL ZIMMERMAN, ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Opinion

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COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

BLACK HOLES AND REVELATIONS

by Dan Stark
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"Our hopes and expectations, black holes and revelations." This lyric from the song "Starlight" by Muse repeated in my head this past week as I attempted to write my column for this week. It refers to the frustration of the creative process, specifically the all-too-common problem of writer's block. Every writer has probably faced this at some point in their career, and I've admittedly struggled with it this week.

...there is a different kind of writer's block that needs to be discussed as well: having too many ideas.

Now, when people think of writer's block, the common perception is that it is a period

where a writer cannot come up with any ideas. But there is a different kind of writer's block that needs to be discussed as well: having too many ideas. This seems like a good problem to have, but it becomes frustrating when organizing one's thoughts. Having too many ideas makes it hard to zero in on what to focus on when writing. It can result in writing that comes off as scattershot and trying to go in too many directions, something that most writers try to avoid.

It was this kind of writer's block that I struggled with this week. I had a great topic that I had been pondering for two weeks and was excited to write about. I made a detailed outline with the main points I was going to talk about and even had some zingers ready, something that I don't usually prepare before I write. It had the makings of a great column that would be both fun to write and informative for readers. But as I sat down to write earlier this week, putting my thoughts on paper proved to be more difficult

than I anticipated. My problem was that I had too many ideas going at once. I tried five different introduction paragraphs but none of them set up the article the way I wanted it to. I felt motivated to write, but couldn't properly express what I wanted to say. My creative flow simply wasn't there, so I shelved the article for another time, only the second time I've had to do that here while writing at The Daily Campus. I found myself in the "black hole" phase of the writing process, my creativity swirling in nothingness searching for that spark.

What makes writer's block frustrating for myself and other writers is that there's no definitive cause of it. Since it isn't an official medical condition, writer's block can be traced to a variety of internal and external factors, including overthinking and distractions. There's a myriad of other factors out there, but these ones particularly stood out to me. Overthinking how I wanted to open and structure my article ultimately

proved to be a detriment rather than a benefit. Some of the best work comes when you just sit down and write, letting the flow of writing take you on the journey.

I guess I've been distracted since coming back up to college. It's hard to stay focused on a single task when you're thinking about other work you have to get done, where you're going for dinner or what you're going to do over the weekend. While I'm generally good at staying on task and getting everything done that I need to, I'm susceptible to losing my focus when I can't find my creative spark. It's especially frustrating because I love writing and sharing my thoughts on current issues in a creative, thought-provoking way and I hate not being able to.

But out of these black holes of writing come the revelations, moments of brilliance that can't be predicted. I've had times where I've been staring at a page for what feels like hours and then start furiously typing away in a great awakening of thoughts. These mo-

ments are the most fulfilling as a writer since they're so unpredictable. You never know when a revelation will hit, but there's no better feeling.

But out of these black holes of writing come the revelations, moments of brilliance that can't be predicted.

The cycle of these black holes and revelations may be frustrating, but it's a normal part of the cycle. My attempts to write the column I wanted too felt like the black hole phase, but writing this has been a therapeutic revelation. I love talking about politics and American culture, but the occasional personal column like this can be extremely satisfying.

Now "Starlight" is going to be stuck in my head even more than it already was. Great.



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Pollinate!



A new installation of tables and flower boxes sits just outside The Dairy Bar on the UConn Storrs campus on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023.

PHOTO BY EMILY O'BANNON, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

SUDOKU

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The Rod Wave

WHY ANTHONY RICHARDSON IMPRESSED ME THE MOST IN WEEK 1 OF THE NFL

by **Evan Rodriguez**
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 HE/HIM/HIS
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Week 1 of the NFL was truly a show that you couldn't miss, but then again, that was pretty obvious. You had players with poor performances like Daniel Jones against the Dallas Cowboys and you had Deshaun Watson of the Cleveland Browns.

But then there are those really impressive performances. Going into a game against the Jacksonville Jaguars, I didn't know what to expect out of the young, yet promising, Anthony Richardson. As an NFL fan, you hear about his world class athleticism and the clear comparisons to former Panthers star Cam Newton, yet he was also raw as a prospect. With not many talented options at quarterback in 2023, he was expected to be the clear savior of a franchise that was coming off a 4-12-1 season and hasn't had a true star at the quarterback position since Andrew Luck retired.

With a new head coach in Shane Steichen, there were plenty of possibilities for the Colts to capitalize on the abilities of Richardson in the passing game and the run. It took just one game to see that and it was not only a great debut out of the former Florida quarterback, but it impressed me the most out of any quarterback all weekend and there were certainly some electric performances to choose from.

Now, I'm not gonna sit here and say that Richardson had a

perfect game. He did still lose by 10 and his fourth quarter interception with just over five minutes left would prove to be the dark moment of the game for the rookie; But, those mistakes are going to happen. The bright spots certainly stuck out to me more than his blunders in Sunday's loss. It's certainly not something to get discouraged by in Week 1 of a long NFL season.

In just his first game, Richardson had to duel one of the game's brightest young quarterbacks in Trevor Lawrence and truly made it a competitive game. To top it all off, Jacksonville's defense was not doing the rookie any favors as they made quick work of a poor Colts offensive line. It forced no. 5 and Steichen to start getting creative with their play-calling and it would force the Jaguars to quickly adapt to the varying moves.

It was particularly awesome to watch him execute his run-designed plays throughout the game. Going into Sunday's matchup, everyone knew that Richardson's mobility was a key asset of his game and it was going to play a big role in whether Indy win or lose. While it didn't end up going the way that Colts fans hoped for, their young quarterback's mobility was certainly not a negative. That attribute quickly allowed him to navigate out of trouble despite pressure from Jacksonville, whether no. 5 had to scramble to get off a pass or get ready to cruise for one of his 10 rushing attempts for 40 yards.



Anthony Richardson competes in his NFL debut against the Jacksonville Jaguars on September 10th, 2023. PHOTO COURTESY OF @MBFANTASYLIFE ON X

Richardson's second half would highlighted what he needs to clean up and that was his passing. While he was certainly getting pressured a ton, the accuracy issues were clear for the Miami native and it would lead to several poor drives. Ideally, he'll need to stay calm under pressure and make improvements to his passing accuracy to continue on a positive trajectory for his rookie season and career.

Long story short, despite not knowing what to expect

from him, I'm super excited to see what the former Florida quarterback's future holds. His game looked much more polished than I expected, as it was being considered incredibly raw throughout the draft process. As long as the rookie cleans up his passing and takes Lawrence's advice to protect himself from the threat of injury, the sky's the limit for what Richardson could achieve as a member of the Colts. Just wait and see.



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Anthony Richardson takes off his helmet during halftime of his NFL debut against the Jacksonville Jaguars on September 10th, 2023. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @NFL_DOVKLEIMAN ON X

Sports

Photo of the Day | Don't hold me back!



UConn men's soccer competes against Manhattan College on Sept. 11, 2023 at Morrone Stadium. The Huskies finished the match with a 3-0 victory.
PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

NFL: Ron Rivera and three other head coaches who could be on the hot seat in 2023

by **CJ Dexter**
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Football is finally back and with Week 1 completed, all 32 teams gave fans their first impressions for the 2023 season. With 32 head coaches aspiring to lead their teams to a Lombardi trophy, some teams will exceed, meet or fail expectations this season. Teams that often fail expectations evaluate the head coaching position during or after the season. With that being said, here are four NFL head coaches who could be on the hot seat in 2023.

#4: Matt Eberflus

There is no denying that Eberflus couldn't have walked into a worse situation when hired by Chicago prior to the 2022 season. The Bears had very minimal draft capital, limited cap space, and one of the worst rosters in the league. His first season went as expected, finishing 3-14 and finishing the season on a 10-game losing streak. Expectations for this team would change in the offseason with Chicago adding D.J. Moore, Tremaine Edmunds, T.J. Edwards and DeMarcus Walker to revamp a talent-lacking roster from a year ago. One

week into the season, the excitement from the fanbase quickly turned into panic as Chicago was embarrassed at home by Green Bay 38-20 to open 2023. Eberflus has been labeled a "defensive mastermind" after his tenure as the Colts' defensive coordinator, but the Bear's defense showed zero improvement from last season as Jordan Love shredded their secondary all afternoon. If Chicago's season doesn't show any signs of improvement from a year ago, expect the second-year head coach's seat to get hot at the end of the season.

#3: Josh McDaniels

Hired to attempt the recreation of "The Patriot Way" in Las Vegas, Raiders head coach Josh McDaniels could not have had a worse first year on the job in 2022. Coming off a playoff birth in 2021, Vegas made the splash of the offseason, reuniting all-pro wide receiver Davante Adams with his college quarterback Derek Carr to declare the franchise all in for the 2022 season. In McDaniels' first season, the Raiders won four fewer games than the season prior, set an NFL record with five losses when holding a double-digit lead and benched their

franchise QB, leading to his eventual departure from the franchise. Rumors around the team suggest that many players don't believe in McDaniels and with another poor showing in 2023, don't be surprised if Vegas is looking to fill the head coaching vacancy with a new face for 2024.

#2: Brandon Staley

Brandon Staley's seat is without a doubt the hottest seat in the league right now. The Chargers went into last season with arguably the most loaded roster in football and had their season crumble in the wild-card round, blowing the third-largest lead in NFL playoff history (27-0) to the Jacksonville Jaguars. The Chargers, on paper, have top-tier talent at almost every position on the roster, and yet this team struggles to live up to expectations, especially on the defensive side of the ball. Over the past few seasons, the Chargers have added all-pro caliber playmakers Khalil Mack and J.C. Jackson to pair with defensive anchors Derwin James Jr. and Joey Bosa. Yet, the defense continues to significantly underwhelm, as it did on Sunday to open the 2023 season. In their Week 1 matchup against the Miami

Dolphins, the Chargers defense surrendered over 530 yards of total offense in a 36-34 losing effort. Labeled a "defensive guru," Staley could be out of a job during the season if defensive showings from Week 1 become a habit for Los Angeles.

#1 Ron Rivera

Coming in as one of the most respected coaches across the league, Washington Commanders head coach Ron Rivera was hired to stabilize the culture and lead the team to postseason runs as he did in Carolina. Following the termination of problematic owner Dan Snyder, Washington's new ownership is going to be focused on delivering results and establishing a winning culture. Rivera's resume since Cam Newton's 2015 MVP season is why he could be an early candidate to land on the hot seat in 2023. He has yet to lead a team to a playoff victory since 2015 and has produced five consecutive losing seasons, including the end of his tenure with the Carolina Panthers. If the Commanders can't show signs of life in a relatively weak NFC this season, don't rule out the tenured head coach losing his job after the season.



Ron Rivera is talking with new Commanders Owner Josh Harris on September 7th, 2023.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @NFL_DOVKLEIMAN ON X.

Sam's Section: Recapping Week 1 of the NFL season

by Sam Calhoun
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Week 1 of the NFL season has wrapped up, and there are a lot of stories that resulted from just the first week. Whether it was a season-ending injury to a future Hall of Famer or not scoring a single point on Sunday night football, here are some of the takeaways I have as we recap the first week.

The Chiefs will go far as long as Travis Kelce is healthy. Travis Kelce is one of the greatest tight ends of all time. However, he was not on the field for the Chiefs' home opener, which celebrated the team's second Super Bowl win in the Patrick Mahomes era. Kelce hyperextended his knee in practice the week before the regular season began. Mahomes struggled without his trusty tight end, passing for 226 yards, two touchdowns and an interception returned for a touchdown. Kansas City did not even score a touchdown in the second half, both coming in the second quarter. The All-Pro tight end had 110 receptions for 1338 yards and 12 touchdowns last season. The Chiefs are optimistic that he will be back for Week 2's game against the Jaguars, but if he misses more time you could see the Chiefs needing help for a playoff spot at the end of the season.

The 49ers are the best team in the NFC and might be the best team in the NFL. The 49ers were dominant in the team's season-opener against the Steelers, a team that improved its defense with the new addition of defensive back Patrick Peterson. However, Pittsburgh's defense did not look like it improved, as they allowed two touchdowns from wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk

and a 65-yard touchdown run by running back Christian McCaffrey. The trio of quarterback Brock Purdy, McCaffrey and Aiyuk is one of the best in the league. Purdy has emerged as the franchise quarterback in San Francisco, leading the team to the NFC Championship last season. The defense was strong, only allowing one touchdown and forcing two turnovers. With wide receiver Deebo Samuel and tight end George Kittle, both some of the best at their respective positions, the 49ers are lethal on both offense and defense. They will have another road test on Sunday as they face Matthew Stafford and the Rams.

The Packers still own the Bears, even without Aaron Rodgers. A new era has begun in Green Bay, with Jordan Love becoming the new starting quarterback for the Packers. In his first game as the QB1, he passed for 245 yards and three touchdowns, two of which went to wide receiver Romeo Doubs. Despite only completing about 55% of his passes, Love looked comfortable despite all the pressure and shoes he had to fill. Running back Aaron Jones had a strong game, scoring a rushing and receiving touchdown in the third quarter. The Packers knew the game was theirs once Quay Walker picked Justin Fields off for a 37-yard pick-six. Fields was not impressive, only passing for 216 yards and a touchdown in addition to the interception. The two rivals will face off at the end of the season at Lambeau Field for the rematch. Bill O'Brien was exactly the type of change Mac Jones needed to succeed. Mac Jones and the Patriots' offense struggled last season with Matt Patricia as the de facto offensive coordinator.



Patriots coach Bill O'Brien speaks with Mac Jones, the Patriots quarterback.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @JOEYRIZZ17 ON X

Bill O'Brien is now the offensive coordinator, having spent time in New England in that role during part of the Tom Brady era. Jones regressed last year in his second year in the league, completing 65.2% of his passes for 2997 yards, 14 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. In Week 1, he passed for 316 yards, completing 35 of his 54 attempts, three touchdowns and one interception. He looked more poised in the pocket, getting rid of the ball consistently under 2.5 seconds. Seeing O'Brien's offense has been a breath of fresh air, as it was hard to watch last season. They still have room for improvement, including decision-making on big plays and the offensive line, but I think this will be a big year for Jones under the new offense.

Despite a massive win in overtime, the Jets are no longer contenders. There was a lot of hype coming into this season for the Jets as they acquired legendary quarterback

Aaron Rodgers from the Packers. However, the four-time MVP was only on the field for four snaps, as he completely tore his Achilles tendon, ending his season and possibly his career. He did not even complete a pass, and former No. 2 overall pick Zach Wilson had to take over for the remainder of the game and will likely be the starting quarterback for the rest of the season. Wilson hadn't been impressive in the NFL before Monday night and did not impress during Week 1's game against the Bills, passing for 140 yards, a touchdown and an interception. Josh Allen performed abysmally, with three passes intercepted and only passing for one touchdown. With a lackluster performance from Buffalo's offense, many would think that the Jets would have taken care of business in regulation. However, Xavier Gipson returned a punt for 65 yards to win the game in overtime. The Jets have a talented roster, but

losing Rodgers puts them out of contention. I am certain that Rodgers would have taken advantage of the Bills' mistakes on offense.

The Titans can't start Ryan Tannehill. The Titans did not score a touchdown in the season-opener against the Saints, relying on the leg of Nick Folk, who drilled five field goals in the 16-15 loss. Ryan Tannehill did not complete over 50% of his passes, passed for less than 200 yards, and threw three interceptions. The offense looks strong on paper, with running back Derrick Henry and wide receivers DeAndre Hopkins and Treylon Burks. I am surprised the team did not go with Malik Willis as the starting quarterback as they continue to prepare Will Levis for his inevitable NFL debut. Tennessee's defense only held New Orleans to one touchdown, but turning the ball over three times will not secure Tannehill's job as the starting quarterback.

Connor's Corner: Brandon Aiyuk

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Hello and welcome back to Connor's Corner, a column where I discuss a standout performance in professional sports and that player's journey from high school to the professional level.

It's finally that time of year again. The nearly six-month marathon of crowning one team as Super Bowl champions is underway, and with a crazy week one in the rear-view mirror, one team, in particular, looked strong out of the gates: the San Francisco 49ers. This past weekend, The Niners had a 30-7 offensive explosion against the Pittsburgh Steelers, and 25-year-old wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk is responsible for that detonation.

San Francisco came into this matchup as the 2.5-point favorite against a Steelers team with high hopes. Kenny Pickett had a good pre-season, leading his squad to five touchdowns on as many

drives. T.J. Watt looked to resume his dominance from two seasons ago when he tied Michael Strahan's single-season sack record of 22.5. Allen Robinson II hoped for a return to his 2015 campaign where he had 14 scores on 400 receiving yards. Unfortunately, Steelers fans did not get their wish this opening weekend, although Watt had a good game with three sacks. Pittsburgh's offense came out looking flat, as they went three and out and immediately punted the ball to San Francisco, who wasted no time drawing first blood. Brock Purdy played exceptionally, commanding a methodical drive that ended in him finding Aiyuk for the first score of the young season. Purdy found Aiyuk for a 23-yard game on their next offensive series that set up a 41-yard field goal. Aiyuk's number was called on early and often, as he finished with eight catches for 129 yards and two touchdowns. While this game wasn't close, Aiyuk's performance is a positive sign

for 49ers fans, as many in the organization believe that this is his season to take a step forward as one of the few elite route runners in today's game.

Undoubtedly, Aiyuk has had one of the most unorthodox and unlikely journeys to becoming an NFL star. The future 49er attended Robert McQueen High School in Reno, Nevada, where he didn't play football initially. The Nevada native waited until he was a senior in high school to lace up on the gridiron, a testament to his strong abilities as an athlete. Aiyuk only caught a few passes as a receiver - he primarily was a return man and defensive back. His freak athleticism attracted the attention of Sierra College, the same Sierra College that the likes of Joe Montana, Jerry Rice and the rest of the Niners spent their dynasty years attending training camp.

Aiyuk was excellent during his time at Sierra, as he accumulated over 1500 yards and 19 touchdowns in his two seasons with the Wolverines,

however, that isn't his most impressive feat. Not many can return kicks like he does. Aiyuk averaged 38 yards per kick return with two touchdowns in his 2017-2018 campaign; that same year, Aiyuk averaged 22.4 yards per punt return, returning one of them to the house. Due to his explosive ability on the field, he transferred to Arizona State, where he shined bright. Aiyuk accumulated nearly 1700 yards and 11 scores in his two seasons with the Sun Devils. Due to his athletic abilities, the San Francisco 49ers selected him with the No. 25 pick in the 2020 NFL Draft, where he has grown tremendously.

Unless you are a die-hard football fan or play fantasy, chances are you've never heard of Aiyuk, and why should you? After all, he is the number two wide receiver on the team, behind Deebo Samuel.

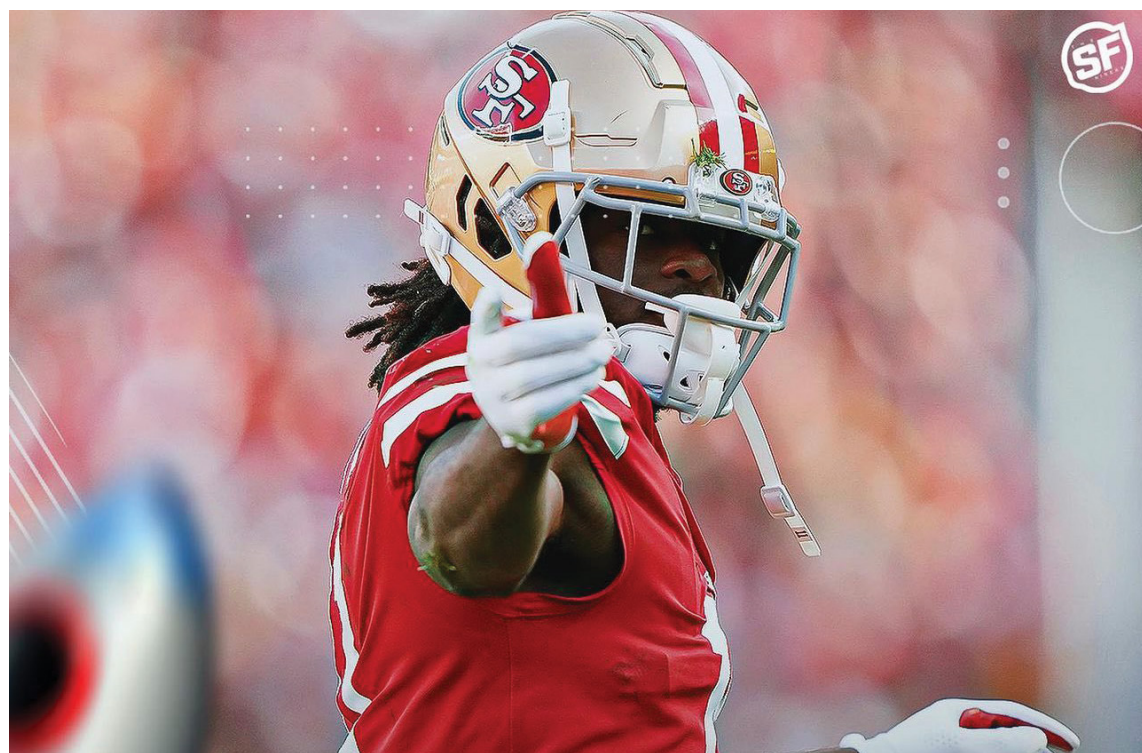
Not to mention, San Francisco has arguably the most talented cast in the National Football League, which is part of why he hasn't broken out. To add insult to injury, his rookie campaign was the strange COVID-19 season. In 2021, he had a slow season due to a hamstring injury suffered in training camp. Aiyuk's last season was the first time he garnered significant media attention, racking up 1015 yards and eight scores. Being a silent assassin is his modus operandi, as in 2021, defensive

teammate Fred Warner believed that the wideout could be great - but was lacking the fire within himself. To make up for Aiyuk's "shortcomings," Warner would agitate him through either trash-talking or hitting him late, which led to a scuffle between the two teammates during a practice. Eventually, both players mellowed out, however, Aiyuk changed.

His former coach from Sierra, Ben Noonan, attested to this, saying, "To be honest with you - his sophomore year especially - he just was really dominating everybody that he went against...nobody really got in his face. So I didn't see a whole lot of that honestly; this is a new side."

Whether Warner's methods ultimately benefited Aiyuk or not has yet to be seen, however, it appears Aiyuk has finally lit that spark, and the rest of the league is on notice.

Many experts have the 49ers making a deep playoff run this season, even as far as winning Super Bowl LVIII. If the Niners wish to hoist their sixth Lombardi Trophy, they need to be firing on all cylinders, Aiyuk included. Whether you agree with Warner's methods or not, San Francisco needs Aiyuk to produce not just a spark but a blazing fire that torches opposing defenses, leaving them in peril and ruin.



Brandon Aiyuk is pointing directly at a nearby camera during a timeout in a game against the Pittsburgh Steelers on September 10th, 2023.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @THESFINERS ON TWITTER



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

Point Counterpoint

WILL UCONN FOOTBALL BE OKAY AFTER 0-2 START?

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A year ago, UConn came into the 2022 season with a record of 4-32 over their last three seasons and a seven-year bowl game drought looming over the program. Expectations could not have been lower as the program had been relegated to among the worst teams in college football since departing from the American Athletic Conference. First-year head coach Jim Mora was tasked with rebuilding a program back to the prominence it once had in the early 2000s, an era that saw Connecticut appear in five bowl games over a seven-game span.

Last season, the Huskies battled through injuries and AP-ranked opponents en route to a slow 1-4 start. Following three straight losses by 30+ points, the program sparked new life into their season, pulling off one of the greatest upsets in team history with a 19-14 comeback win against Fresno State. UConn would ride that momentum and rejuvenated confidence from the fan base to victories over Florida International, Boston College, UMass and 19th-ranked Liberty on the final week of the season to finish 6-6 and clinch their first bowl game appearance since 2016.

The impressive 2022 season from the Huskies has raised expectations for 2023 to heights the program hasn't seen since the 2000s. Through two weeks in the season, Jim Mora's squad lost 24-14 to an impressive NC State team in front of a record crowd at Rentschler Field and lost 35-14 on the road in an uninspiring effort to Georgia State to begin the season 0-2.

Will Connecticut football return to a bowl game for their second season in a row? Or is the 0-2 start just the beginning of things to come for Connecticut in 2023?

CJ: After making a bowl game despite starting 1-4 last season, how can anyone quit on this team with Mora at the helm? Last week's 35-14 loss to Georgia State was one of the worst displays of football in the Mora era. The quarterback situation has yet again been impacted by a season-ending injury with UMaine transfer Joe Fagnano going down to a shoulder injury in the second quarter of the



Members of the UCONN football team are heading towards the bench in their game against Georgia State on September 5th, 2023. PHOTO BY GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER, SKYLER KIM.

Georgia State game. While Connecticut turns to Ta'Quan Roberson in an attempt to solidify the quarterback position, the defense has been shredded by mobile quarterbacks, and their run game (which was supposed to be the strength of this team) ran for 50 yards on 31 attempts this past weekend. With that being said, I'm not concerned about this team. UConn has a very winnable game at home this weekend against an FIU team that they rolled past on the road last season. The Huskies have thrived at home in the Mora era, and three straight home games are exactly what this team needs. Roberson impressed in the second half when relieving the injured Fagnano, throwing for over 200 yards and 2 TD. With Fagnano's status in doubt for this Saturday's contest against FIU, Roberson could be in a position to lock down the quarterback job and jolt some confidence back into this season with a big game in front of a home crowd. Connecticut still has extremely winnable games against UMass, FCS-level Sacred Heart, Utah State and South Florida this season. This season is far from over.

Gavin: I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but things aren't looking good for the Huskies to have the same success they had last year. One of the most concerning issues I've noticed so far is Connecticut's poor per-

formance in the first half of both games this season. Aside from their opening drive against NC State, the Huskies have produced very little offense in the first half. In their two games this season, Connecticut has averaged 100.5 yards per game and 3.5 points per game in the first half. This is a significant difference compared to 160.8 yards per game and 10.2 points per game the Huskies scored in the first half in 2022. This is a team that cannot afford to be down early in the game, especially due to the struggles we've seen on defense. This was important for Connecticut in arguably their biggest win last season against Liberty. They started off with a 14-3 lead at the end of the first quarter, which helped them keep the game close until the very end. Last week's game against Georgia State gave me little hope that the Huskies will be able to do that against a tough opponent, which will most likely be necessary if they want to live up to their expectations and make another bowl game. While I hope the Huskies prove me wrong, I just don't see the team that played the way they did over the weekend making a bowl game this season.

CJ: I absolutely agree that in the first half of games, the offense has been extremely ineffective to begin the season. While I do argue that UConn will be okay, another poor show-

ing against an inferior Florida International team will most likely change my mind. With that being said, I truly believe that the turnaround of this season will come from the trenches. Our offensive line returns four starters from last season, a unit that surrendered just 17 sacks all season and led the way for our run game to rack up 184 yards per game (36th in FBS). With all the returning talent we have up front and the dynamic running back tandem of Victor Rosa and Devontae Houston I truly believe that our ground game is going to explode the rest of the season and that our performance on the ground this weekend against Georgia State was just a fluke. On the defensive side of the ball, our secondary has held its own with just 149 yards per game surrendered, but this unit has been torched by mobile quarterbacks, and that's something to keep an eye on as the season continues. There are significant playmakers on both sides of the ball and if this team can figure out the passing attack and stifle the ground game, the remaining schedule isn't overbearing enough for this team to not reach six or more wins on the season.

Gavin: I see what you're saying, but I'm not sure the UConn run game we saw against Georgia State was a fluke. The run game clearly struggled against Georgia State but aside from Rosa's 71-yard touchdown run

against NC State, the Huskies had 25 carries for 89 yards in their season opener. The run game has been lackluster in both games this season and while big touchdown runs are nice to have, Connecticut can't be relying on that in order to stay in games. UConn's ground game was very important to their success in 2022 when they averaged 191 rushing yards per game. This year, the Huskies are averaging only 105 rushing yards per game, meaning that they haven't been nearly as productive as they were last season. Seeing such a significant drop in rushing production has me really concerned that the run game won't be able to help the Huskies win games the way they did last season. Lastly, I feel like much of the Huskies' struggles last season had to do with the team's adjustment to a new coaching staff. After everyone was able to adjust to Mora's coaching, they were able to turn their season around with the win against Fresno State. However, with most of the coaching staff returning from last year, the same can't be said for the struggles that we've seen in the first two games this season. While the Huskies do have some winnable games left this season, including this week's game against FIU, this team has not convinced me that they can win some tough games and make it to a bowl game.



The UCONN football team are in a huddle in their game against Georgia State on September 5th, 2023. PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

<p>WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK</p>		<p>INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY </p> <p>@uconnhuskies Back at the Rent this weekend</p>		<p>TWEETS OF THE DAY </p> <p>UConn Baseball @UConnBSB Using every opportunity to get better #HookC</p> <p>Gavin Keefe @GavinKeefe UConn coach Jim Mora say quarterback Joe Fagnano is out for the year. Will have shoulder surgery on Friday. "He has to have surgery. It's really devastating for Joe. As a team, we have great confidence in Ta'Quan (Roberson)." @KingJames</p> <p>Follow The Daily Campus @dcsportsdept</p>	
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