



Friday, November 3, 2023  
**HUSKY HOOPLA**



**THE BASKETBALL  
CAPITAL OF  
THE WORLD**

## Sports Special Edition

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

TYLER KOLEK, G,  
MARQUETTE

# MEN'S BASKETBALL

## DAILY CAMPUS STAFF PICKS

## FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR:

STEPHON CASTLE, G,  
UCONN

## COACH OF THE YEAR:

KYLE NEPTUNE,  
VILLANOVA

ALL  
CONFERENCE  
TEAM:

JUSTIN MOORE, G,  
VILLANOVA

RYAN KALKBRENNER, F,  
CREIGHTON

BRYCE HOPKINS, F,  
PROVIDENCE

KAM JONES, G,  
MARQUETTE

DONOVAN CLINGAN, C,  
UCONN

# MEN'S BASKETBALL PROJECTED STARTING 5

by **Evan Rodriguez** | ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR  
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**TRISTEN NEWTON, G (EVAN)**

Coming off UConn's 2023 National Championship run, there was some uncertainty on whether Newton would be in Storrs for the 2023-24 college basketball season. However, the veteran college guard opted to return for another season with the Huskies and Dan Hurley and company are certainly happy to have him back. Newton was a pivotal player during that dominant championship run and the impact he'll have on this lineup certainly won't change. The Texas native will be a critical offensive weapon for this lineup, especially with the scoring bursts he showed last season, with multiple triple-doubles and the ability to create offense when this team needed him the most. If Newton is able to outperform his numbers from last season, there's no doubt that he won't just be one of the Big East's top guards — he'll be one of the most talented guards in all of college basketball.

**STEPHON CASTLE, G (EVAN)**

As the most hyped prospect to come to the Huskies in a while, there's so much to love about Castle and what he brings to Connecticut's lineup. Despite being a freshman, he's already a polished playmaker. With the vast number of weapons, from Donovan Clingan in the frontcourt to his backcourt mate with Newton, he's got the potential to elevate this offense to new heights. That's all without talking about his ability to make shots as a three level scorer in a 6-foot-6 frame that makes him an intriguing defensive weapon too. When he brings such polished skills like that in year one, it's no wonder that he's projected to be an NBA lottery pick by many in the 2024 NBA Draft. Expect Castle to step in as an all-around weapon for this roster and break out as one of the most intriguing young prospects in all of college basketball.

**CAM SPENCER, G (EVAN)**

Projected to be one of the most exciting transfers in college basketball, Spencer adds a lot to this Husky rotation, including an ultra-competitiveness toward winning. The primary thing that sticks out about the Maryland native though, is his lethal jumpshot. One of UConn's biggest losses from last season was Jordan Hawkins, a player who could change games with his jumper. Spencer has the skills to fill that spot accordingly. Last season with the Rutgers Scarlet Knights, he shot a lethal 43.4% from beyond the arc. Those stats helped the Maryland native go on to average 13.2 points per game in the Big 10. That scoring is certainly going to be a huge weapon for this Huskies roster, especially if they want to go against many of the tough competitors on their schedule from Kansas to Marquette.

**ALEX KARABAN, F (CONNOR)**

When you look at who has grown the most from the beginning of last season to the national championship game, it is hard not to mention Alex Karaban. Early on in the season, the 6-foot-8 power forward struggled from the defensive end. However, as the season progressed, his defense transformed from a liability to an asset, playing a crucial role in the NCAA Tournament. The sophomore is also an offensive threat from pretty much anywhere. Last season, Karaban averaged nearly 10 points per game on 47.6% shooting. Perhaps the most impressive facet of his loaded arsenal are his abilities from beyond the arc. The Huskies forward shot 40.2% from beyond the arc, a number he'll look to build on, especially with higher volume. There is no reason to believe we have seen the best version of Karaban yet and he's poised to take on a bigger role.

**DONOVAN CLINGAN, C (CONNOR)**

What is the ideal center? Typically, coaches look for someone with size, someone who can be a disruptor on both ends of the floor and a threat in the paint. Clingan checks all of these boxes. Last year, the 7-foot-2 center had a tremendous campaign, despite being Adama Sanogo's understudy. The Bristol, Connecticut native averaged 6.9 points, 5.6 rebounds and 1.8 blocks per game. While these numbers aren't too impressive, you have to remember Clingan averaged 13 minutes per game. One glance at his per-40-minute statistics, and looks as good as anyone in college basketball. His scoring in the interior is nothing short of impressive, scoring on over 65% of his tries. Clingan's ceiling this season is massive. As it sits, Clingan is picked as a high NBA lottery pick by many, and he has a good shot at being the best player on the best team in college basketball.

# MEN'S BASKETBALL RANKINGS

**1. MARQUETTE****AVERY BECKER, CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT**

When coming up with a theme for the Golden Eagles' 2023-24 season, it would be redemption. After suffering a first-weekend exit to Michigan State in last season's NCAA Tournament, the program returns with head coach Shaka Smart, four starters and eight rotation players. Of the starters, the obvious star is incoming senior guard Tyler Kolek. Last year, the Rhode Island native averaged 12.9 points and 7.5 assists, good for No. 3 nationally. The preseason AP All-American selection won't be alone either, as the team brings back last year's leading scorer, Kam Jones. You can't forget about Oso Ighodaro either, who took a huge leap last season and is only going to get better in 2023. For fans of the Golden Eagles, this is the season to watch, as the team hopes to redeem themselves. They will begin their season on Nov. 6, where they'll face the Northern Illinois Huskies.

**2. UCONN****CONNOR SARGEANT, STAFF WRITER**

For Connecticut, there's no shortage of excitement. Coming off an incredible title run last season, they're looking for ring No. 6, but the program will have to do it without some important pieces. Jordan Hawkins, Adama Sanogo and Andre Jackson are all off to the NBA. That means the Huskies' entire rotation will all need to step up, but they certainly have the talent to do so. Look no further than players such as 7-foot-2 giant Donovan Clingan, who is expected to emulate Adama Sanogo's focal role from last year. Hurley and company also did a great job on the recruiting trail, adding five talented freshmen, including Stephon Castle. Castle is currently projected to be a one-and-done player in Storrs, Connecticut, mocking in the top 10 of next year's draft. If this season's second unit performs like they did last year, don't be surprised if UConn lifts up yet another championship trophy.

**3. CREIGHTON****COLE STEFAN, SENIOR COLUMNIST**

Despite losing Ryan Nembhard (12.1 PPG) and Arthur Kaluma (11.8) to the transfer portal, Creighton retains most of their nucleus from last year's Elite Eight run, which features Preseason All-Big East First Team selection Trey Alexander (13.6 PPG). Two of those returning stars thrive on the glass, with Preseason All-Big East First Team selection Ryan Kalkbrenner averaging 6.1 rebounds and graduate guard Baylor Scheierman grabbing 8.3 boards per game last season. Adding All-Mountain West First Team guard Steven Ashworth (16.2 PPG at Utah State in 2022-23) into the mix gives the Bluejays another layer of depth. While the Associated Press ranked them No. 8 in the preseason Top 25, with head coach Greg McDermott at the helm, Creighton has their sights set on taking the conference crown and earning a Final Four berth.

**4. VILLANOVA****JACKSON CRAINICH, CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT**

Going into Kyle Neptune's second season as head coach, Villanova looks like a team that could turn heads. Coming off a disappointing 17-17 campaign, the Wildcats added a lot of talent from the transfer portal, including veterans Tyler Burton (Richmond), Hakim Hart (Maryland) and TJ Bamba (Washington State), who are all expected to play a major role. Villanova lost some key players from last year's team, including first round pick and Big East Freshman of the Year Cam Whitmore. On the bright side, the Wildcats do return plenty of talent. A healthy Justin Moore looks to be a key contributor for this program and forward Eric Dixon returns after a stellar junior year averaging 15.4 points and 6.6 rebounds per game. If this Villanova team can stay healthy, don't be surprised if they're competing for a Big East Championship.

**5. ST. JOHN'S****CJ DEXTER, CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT**

St. John's made the biggest head coaching hire of the 2023 offseason with the signing of Basketball Hall of Famer Rick Pitino. While his legacy speaks for itself, the legendary head coach won't have an easy time guiding this roster in a tough Big East conference. The starting five for the Red Storm is expected to include four transfers and star center Joel Soriano, who averaged 15.2 points and 11.9 rebounds last season. Former Iona guard Daniss Jenkins followed Pitino to St. John's and is expected to start after averaging 15.6 points and five assists per game as a Gael. That's all without mentioning the addition of star Jordan Dingle, who comes in from UPenn after averaging 23.4 points per game and is expected to start at the two guard. The Red Storm look to return to their first NCAA Tournament since 2019 and make it out of the first weekend for the first time since 1999.

**6. PROVIDENCE****PATRICK BOOTS, CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT**

Despite the departure of former coach Ed Cooley, Providence comes into this campaign looking to surprise people. This season marks the first for new head coach Kim English, who will look to take the Friars to new heights in the post-Cooley era. After a 21-12 season record, the team returns many key pieces from their 2023 NCAA Tournament team. Junior guard Devin

Carter comes back after starting 33 games last season and should be a huge defensive cornerstone for the roster. While the departures of Noah Locke, Jared Bynum and Ed Crosswell will hurt this team, superstar Bryce Hopkins should be in line for another huge season after leading the team in both points and rebounds last year. There's also the addition of new freshman Garwey Dual, a player that has been touted as a special talent. If everything goes well for the Friars this season, the team could very well be a top threat in the Big East.

**7. XAVIER****NOAH REED, STAFF WRITER**

The Musketeers come into this year after having one of their best seasons in recent memory. Xavier, who went 27-10 in 2022-23, made it all the way to the Big East Championship game before falling to Marquette. They fought past Kennesaw State and Pittsburgh in the NCAA Tournament, only to lose to Texas in the Sweet 16. It was their deepest run in the tournament since they made the Elite Eight in 2017. However, most of their best players from a season ago are gone. Souley Boum and Colby Jones declared for the draft and Jack Nunge decided not to return to the program. Both Zach Freemantle and Jerome Hunter are dealing with potentially season-ending injuries, a massive blow to this team's hopes. Transfers Dayvion McKnight (WKU) and Abou Ousmane (North Texas) will look to solidify this roster and carry the success over from last season.

**8. GEORGETOWN****EVAN RODRIGUEZ, ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR**

No season has garnered more hype for Georgetown men's basketball than this one, at least not recently. The program will be entering a new era in its history, thanks to the hire of former Providence head honcho Ed Cooley. As a coach who's coming off an excellent tenure with the Friars, it's a match made in heaven for an excellent program rebuild. With that being said, the team will have some tough challenges ahead, especially in the frontcourt with just two players above 6-foot-10. But, this team is no slouch and Cooley did not come to D.C. empty handed. With additions like Illinois transfer Jayden Epps and UNC transfer Dontrez Styles, this is a roster that is capable of causing chaos against opponents and will immediately improve from the Patrick Ewing era. Regardless, the bottom line for this roster is to build up the reputation of one of the Big East's most historic programs.

**9. SETON HALL****BRIDGET BRONSDON, STAFF WRITER**

Coming off a mediocre year with a 17-16 season finish, Seton Hall will look to change the narrative on their program and climb the conference ladder. Despite their No. 9 Big East preseason rank, the lowest they have been seeded in the past decade, the Pirates will attempt to improve upon their 10-10 conference record from last year. Seton Hall made a swift exit from the Big East Tournament, as they were unexpectedly knocked out in the first round by DePaul. Despite the early conference fall, one of the team's greatest accomplishments was taking down UConn in a nail-biter win in early January. During the 2023-24 season, all eyes will be on Al-Amir Dawes as he led the team with a scoring average of 12.6 points per game last year. While Tyrese Samuel will be missed, Kadary Richmond's leadership and contributions should still make this team a feared opponent.

**10. BUTLER****SEAN AHERN, STAFF WRITER**

The Butler Bulldogs march into a new season after a disappointing year that saw them finish ninth in the Big East with a 14-18 record. Head coach Thad Matta will have his work cut out for him to improve on last season's finish that saw them get bounced in the first round of the Big East Tournament and miss the NCAA Tournament altogether. The main concern for this roster is how they will recover from losing last year's top five scorers. In the off-season, the program attempted to replace that production with five transfers, including former St. John's guard Posh Alexander, and four low-ranked freshmen. Adding 10 new faces into the locker room can definitely cause growing pains early on, but with how impactful the transfer portal is now, anything can happen. The Bulldogs will need to figure out their chemistry quickly if they want to emulate games like their ranked victory over Kansas State last year.

**11. DEPAUL****NAHUM VALIENTE, CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT**

The Blue Demons enter this season with hopes of an improvement in their performance. This season marks Tony Stubblefield's third season as head coach, which saw the team go 10-23 overall last season. After failing to improve the team's performance last year, Stubblefield seeks to change the team's fate with UCLA transfer Mac Etienne. Etienne's record includes a Final Four run with UCLA during the 2021 NCAA Tournament, though he played limited minutes. This year's roster also includes freshman five-star prospect Elijah Fisher. Fisher has experience in international play with the U-19 Canadian National Team. DePaul is also undergoing minor managerial changes, with the naming of new assistant coach Tony Harvey. Harvey's most recent experience came with Eastern Michigan and UIC.

## Sports Special Edition

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL RANKINGS

## 1. UCONN

## STRATTON STAVE, SPORTS EDITOR

The Huskies have their best shot at a national championship in a long time with one of their most loaded teams yet. The headliner is senior Paige Bueckers, who won National Player of the Year her freshman year, but has been plagued with injuries since. Coach Geno Auriemma claims she's in the best shape she has ever been in. It helps that All-American forward Aaliyah Edwards returns, along with Azzi Fudd, who had been poised to earn national honors before her season was derailed by injury. Nika Mühl is somehow the fourth player mentioned here, but is the two-time Big East defensive Player of the Year and holds UConn's single-season record for assists. The team brings in a slew of freshmen, but KK Arnold is poised to be the most impactful as the preseason Big East Freshman of the Year. There aren't many holes in this team's roster, as they'll look to break their seven-year drought.

## 2. MARQUETTE

## GAVIN FRIEDMAN, CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

After a disappointing first round exit in last year's NCAA tournament, the Golden Eagles are ready to have a bounce-back campaign. Graduate student Jordan King returns for her fifth season after being selected to the All-Big East First Team in 2022-23. Last season, King led the team with 15.9 points and 4.0 assists per game. While Marquette did add freshmen Skylar Forbes and Halle Vice, their primary source of improvement during the offseason came from the transfer portal. Marquette acquired Frannie Hottinger, Lee Volker, Abbey Cracknell and Bridget Utberg, which will bolster the depth on their roster. Hottinger has four seasons of experience at Lehigh, where she averaged 20.3 points per game last year. The duo of Hottinger and King will make Marquette one of the best teams in the Big East this season.

## 3. VILLANOVA

## SAM CALHOUN, STAFF WRITER

In her final season, superstar forward Maddy Siegrist became the Big East's all-time leading scorer. She led Villanova to their second ever Sweet Sixteen, their first since 2003. It will be up to guard Lucy Olsen, named to the Preseason All-Big East Team, to take over. She averaged 12.4 points and 4.4 assists per game, while shooting 41.1% from the field. Olsen was the second-leading scorer on the team and looks to have a breakout season. Forward Christina Dalce averaged 7.9 rebounds per game and is considered one of the best shot-blockers in the conference. While no one will replace Siegrist, who accounted for 41% of Villanova's points, the Wildcats should find themselves within the top four of the conference with the duo of Olsen and Dalce. Head coach Denise Dillon has not yet coached a team without Siegrist, so this will test how much of the Wildcats' success is from her or Siegrist.

## 4. CREIGHTON

## COLE STEFAN, SENIOR COLUMNIST

Any expectations the Bluejays had of another deep NCAA Tournament run vanished when the 11th-seeded Mississippi State Bulldogs downed them by 15 in the first round. Despite the tough defeat, the three-headed monster of seniors Lauren Jensen (16.1 PPG), Morgan Maly (14.6 PPG, 6.2 RPG) and Emma Ronsiek (13.2 PPG) have Creighton thinking title or bust. Look out for Molly Mogensen as an X-factor; her seven points and four rebounds per game finished fourth on the team in both categories. Only Rachael Saunders and Carly Bachelor departed during the offseason, so the Bluejays replaced their talents with McKayla Miller, who scored over 1,400 points at Cimarron High School in Kansas. This may be the final year Creighton can do something special with their current core, but they have the pieces to make it as far as the Elite Eight like they did two seasons ago.

## 5. ST. JOHN'S

## AVA INESTA, STAFF WRITER

Coming off a 23-9 season and fourth-place finish in the Big East, St. John's looks to do more this year. The Red Storm had some key departures: three players who started in all 32 contests last season and their two top scorers are gone. However, Jillian Archer (7.2 pts, 7.7 rebounds) and Unique Drake (8.6 points, 1.5 rebounds and 1.6 assists per game) are two notable returners for the Johnnies. The conference announced last week that Drake was named preseason All-Big East Honorable Mention. Along with four freshman additions, the Red Storm has four incoming transfers to bolster their roster; two that catch the eye are Phoenix Gedeon and Ber'Nyah Mayo. Making the NCAA Tournament after three straight losing seasons was huge for the program. From all that they've acquired and built around, there's a glowing outlook for head coach Joe Tartamella and his St. John's team this season.

## 6. SETON HALL

## BRIDGET BRONSDON, STAFF WRITER

In the wake of an average season, 19-15 overall and 10-10 in conference, the Seton Hall women's basketball team sits at No. 5 in the Big East Preseason Coaches' poll for the upcoming year. While this ranking is a small step up from last year's sixth place conference finish, the group is hoping to do more. Last season,

Seton Hall fell to Creighton in the second round of the Big East tournament in a 75-74 overtime nail-biter. The Pirates will also look to fill big shoes this season with the loss of Lauren Park-Lane, 2022-23 All-Big East First Team and all-time program leader in assists. Hoping to do that will be freshman Savannah Catalon, two-time high school league Offensive Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year. Despite the ups and downs of the year prior, Seton Hall will hope for an explosive start to the 2023-24 season.

## 7. DEPAUL

## NAHUM VALIENTE, CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

DePaul is coming off a mediocre season, with an overall record of 16-17. This season's performance also resulted in the team failing to qualify for the NCAA Tournament. The Blue Demons' unsuccessful campaign led many players, such as Aneesah Morrow and Darrione Rogers to depart the team and head to the transfer portal. However, there is some hope for DePaul with the return of Anaya Peoples. Peoples enters the season as a Preseason All-Big East selection. In the prior season, Peoples was third on the team in points per game (9.5). Legendary coach Doug Bruno will also return to the team, seeking to bring the program back into shape. With many players leaving, there are a number of newcomers ready to step up. Katlyn Gilbert, Brynn Masikewich and Michelle Sidor are all veterans transferring to DePaul. They will be accompanied by a cohort of four freshmen.

## 8. GEORGETOWN

## EVAN RODRIGUEZ, ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The entire women's college basketball world suffered a great loss before the season due to the death of former Georgetown head coach Tasha Butts. The Hoyas are left in the hands of Darnell Haney, and similar to the men's program, he'll be looking to build the women's program back up to greater heights. As for the specific talent on the court, Haney will get back last year's leading scorer for the Hoyas, Kelsey Ransom, but the loss of Kennedy Fauntleroy certainly stings for this roster. While this team has plenty of solid rotational pieces like Jada Claude or Brianna Scott, they'll need some players to step up in order to take that next big jump. Could that be Mya Bemby, a transfer from Seton Hall, or Alex Cowan, a transfer from Wagner? That remains to be seen, but with the amount of talent in the Big East this season, it looks to be another tough season for Georgetown fans.

## 9. BUTLER

## SEAN AHERN, STAFF WRITER

Despite a 2022-23 season where the Bulldogs finished tied for eighth in the Big East with a record of 11-19 overall, it was a step in the right direction for the program. In head coach Austin Parkinson's first season at Butler, he helped the Bulldogs go from zero Big East wins in 2021-22 to six. Losing leading scorer Rachel McLimore (11.0 PPG) is a tough blow to the offense, especially considering her game-changing 39% three point accuracy. However, returning second leading scorer Sydney Jaynes (9.8 PPG) and pairing her with two transfers and three new freshmen should keep fans optimistic about more improvement this season. There is still a lot of work needed to be competitive in the Big East, but Parkinson has made the proper changes thus far in his tenure to lead them in the right direction.

## 10. PROVIDENCE

## PATRICK BOOTS, CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

This year, Providence has an experienced lineup with some hopeful additions. Junior forward Olivia Olsen returns as a double-digit scorer and started 31 games last season, along with Nariah Scott and Brynn Farrell, two strong shooters. Rounding out returning players are Emily Archibald and Audrey Koch, who both played in every game last season. The team has welcomed some new players, including forward Sarah Bandoma, a strong starter from the Saint Francis Terriers, and Marta Morales Romero, transferring as a guard from Wake Forest after playing in Spain. The women's team is also experiencing a coaching shift, welcoming Erin Bath as head coach. Bath comes out as a successful assistant coach at North Carolina State and as a center for the WNBA's Cleveland Rockers. Closing out the era of former coach Jim Crowley, the Friars look to plant seeds for future success, though winning in the short term could be an uphill battle.

## 11. XAVIER

## NOAH REED, STAFF WRITER

Rounding out our predictions are the Xavier Musketeers. Xavier ended the year on a 20-game losing streak, all in conference play, to finish at 7-23. Mackayla Scarlett returns for her senior season after averaging 10.9 PPG, which led the team, while Billi Chambers takes over as head coach after spending the last 10 years with the Iona Gaels. Guards Kaysia Woods (35% 3PT) and Shelby Calhoun (67 AST) are two key players Chambers and the Musketeers are going to be dependent on if they want to improve this year. The Musketeers biggest loss of the off-season was Courtney Prenger. The forward transferred to FIU after leading Xavier in games started (29 out of 30) and total minutes. Replicating Prenger's output will play an important role for the Musketeers if they want to build upon a rough 2022-23 season.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL  
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## NIKA MÜHL (COLE)

When Mühl did not shoot the ball last season — she averaged 7.1 points on 20.4 shot attempts — she handed it off to her teammates. In the process, the Croatian guard broke Sue Bird's single-season record with 284 assists and earned All-Big East First Team honors. Paige Bueckers' return from a torn ACL should lighten Mühl's workload, but it will not stop her from dishing out assists in bunches. Beyond her playmaking prowess, the two-time Big East Defensive Player of the Year will be a force in transition and can strike when opposing guards least expect it. A 2024 Nancy Lieberman Award watch list selection, expect Mühl to be in All-American discussions by season's end because of what she can do on both sides of the ball.

## PAIGE BUECKERS (STRATTON)

The 2021 National Player of the Year is looking to return to her freshman year magic, hoping to get through her first full healthy season. The women's game has grown since then, particularly with the emergence of Iowa's Caitlin Clark, but it appears that Bueckers will return as if she didn't miss a beat. At Big East Media Day, coach Geno Auriemma indicated that Bueckers has never looked better than she currently does. If true, that would be incredible. Many forget just how incredible the guard was during her freshman year, averaging 20 points, 5.7 assists and 2.3 steals on 46% from the three point line. Not only that, she also carried her Huskies to the Final Four. The idea that she could be even better is terrifying, especially with her much improved supporting cast.

## AZZI FUDD (COLE)

Despite a strong start to the 2022-23 season, a knee injury hampered Fudd's sophomore campaign and prevented her from being the primary scorer that everyone expected her to be in Bueckers' absence. The 5-foot-11 junior earned a spot on the Cheryl Miller Award watch list, recognizing the nation's best collegiate small forward, but she can thrive at either the shooting guard or small forward position. Being a three-point threat helps the Preseason All-Big East Team selection, who finished third on the team with 34 triples despite appearing in just 15 contests last season. Fudd and Bueckers have only played 15 games together across the past two years, but a healthy season from both former No. 1 overall recruits gives the Huskies one of the nation's deadliest guard groups.

## AUBREY GRIFFIN (STRATTON)

When discussing those who may start on this year's women's basketball team, many tend to leave Griffin as an afterthought. Don't let the other big names on the team fool you — a lot of this team's success hinges on the redshirt senior from Ossining, New York. Griffin is the team's defensive anchor and played a key role for the Huskies last year, particularly as they became worn down with injuries. She lacked offensive consistency, but exploded in moments, including her 29 point, 10 board, 11-11 outburst she recorded to help avoid an upset against Princeton. Whatever she brings on offense will be helpful, but the way she glues the defense together is even more valuable. She's not going to be the flashiest, but Griffin is a player who contributes to winning in a big way.

## AALIYAH EDWARDS (COLE)

The only player to appear in each of UConn's 73 games over the past two seasons, Edwards earned Third Team All-American honors behind a junior campaign where she averaged 16.6 points and nine boards. Dorka Juhász's departure makes the Preseason All-Big East Team selection the focal point of the Huskies' frontcourt, though that should not slow down Edwards from attacking on defense. On top of shooting at a team-best 58.9% clip, the Katrina McClain Award watch list selection forced 44 steals and finished tied for the team lead with 41 rejections. Edwards has all the tools to vie for a First Team All-American spot in 2024, and as long as she builds off last season, that possibility can become a reality.

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

PAIGE BUECKERS, G,  
UConn

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL  
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AZZI FUDD, G,  
UConn

LUCY OLSEN, G,  
VILLANOVA

AALIYAH EDWARDS, F,  
UConn

CHRISTINA DALCE, F,  
VILLANOVA



## NATIONAL NEWS: BIDEN ADMINISTRATION COMBATS ANTISEMITISM, TRUMP FAMILY BEGINS TO TESTIFY

by **Pierce Colfer**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
HE/HIM/HIS  
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### Second man to receive genetically modified pig heart in transplant passes away

The second person to ever undergo heart surgery to receive a genetically modified pig heart, Lawrence Faucette, passed away on Oct. 31, six weeks after the transplant. As it continues to be studied, this operation could lead to a potential breakthrough in heart transplantation.

According to a CNN article, Faucette, 58, had been experiencing symptoms of heart failure, and was admitted to The University of Maryland Medical Center on Sept. 14. Faucette was ineligible for a human heart transplant due to pre-existing conditions, and underwent the experimental procedure six days after he was admitted. The heart was not showing signs of rejection until Faucette's last few days, which has been reported as the cause of death.

The experimental treatment was performed by Dr. Bartley Griffith at the UMMC Griffith is the clinical director of the Cardiac Xenotransplantation Program at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and has been working on xenotransplantation since 2018.

Faucette is the second person to receive a pig heart transplant, after 57-year-old David Bennett in January 2022, which was also performed by Griffith at UMMC. Bennett died two months after his surgery.

If this procedure becomes a viable alternative to a normal human heart transplant, this would be a scientific breakthrough which could help expedite surgeries for people currently waiting for a transplant. There are over 3,000 people currently on the waiting list for a heart transplant, according to a statistic by the federal government.

### Biden administration to take action against antisemitism on college campuses

In light of the Israel-Hamas war that began in early October, the Biden administration has announced that they plan to take action to combat growing antisemitism on college campuses.

According to an article by NBC News, the Departments of Justice and Homeland Se-

curity will be working with campus law enforcement, providing federal resources and help to track down threats relating to the situation. The article says they will be targeting "specific and credible threats that are flagged online."

Experts in cybersecurity and protective security from the Department of Homeland Security have already been engaging with schools across the nation on how to deal with online threats amidst the very volatile situation that has led to protests across the country.

The White House has also stated that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 also encapsulates antisemitism and Islamophobia, and will be acting on such measures.

Many high-ranking officials will be meeting with Jewish organizations and visiting college campuses, including Education Secretary Miguel Cardona, second gentleman Doug Emhoff and White House domestic policy advisor Neera Tanden. They plan to discuss reports of growing antisemitism on college campuses and hold roundtables with Jewish students.

### Trump family begins to testify in civil fraud case against the Trump Organization

As The Trump Organization's civil fraud trial in New York continues, Donald Trump Jr., former President Donald Trump's eldest child, testified this Wednesday. He is the first member of the Trump family to testify in this case. His testimony is set to continue during the week, and is expected to be followed by the testimony of his brother Eric Trump.

According to an NPR article, Trump Jr. testified that he was never involved in compiling his father's financial condition statements, and he relied on others to vet these documents. According to his testimony he did have the responsibility of signing these documents.

The trial, which began on Oct. 2, 2023, is a civil lawsuit and investigation put forward by New York Attorney general Letitia James. James alleges that the Trump Organization and specific individuals, including the former president and his two eldest sons, engaged in financial fraud by disproportionately presenting property values to tax officials and potential lenders, in vio-

lation of New York Executive Law. Arthur Engoron, the presiding judge, has already ruled that the Trump Organization did commit fraud, but it is yet to be ruled whether the fraud was on purpose, and what the penalty should be for those found liable.

The former president is scheduled to testify this Monday, with his daughter, Ivanka Trump, also being scheduled to give testimony sometime next week.

### Resolution to expel George Santos from the House of Representatives fails

George Santos, the representative of New York's third congressional district, survived an attempted expulsion from the House of Representatives on Nov. 1. This exclusion resolution, put forth by fellow New York Republicans, said that Santos was "not fit to serve," in light of Santos allegedly lying about his background on numerous occasions.

In a bipartisan vote which needed a super majority of two-thirds to expel Santos, 179 voted for Santos' expulsion, with 213 against and 19 voting present. The votes to expel included 23 Republicans voting across party lines while 31 Democrats voted against expelling Santos.

According to an NBC News article, House Republicans and Democrats cited multiple reasons for voting against the expulsion. Some Republicans, including Speaker Mike Johnson, said they were concerned about expelling a fellow Republican when the majority they have in the House is already very slim. Both Republicans and Democrats said that they wanted the House Ethics Committee to finish handling the case before they make any judgements.

The Ethics Committee, which has been investigating Santos since March, announced on Tuesday that they plan on releasing the next steps of the case on Nov. 17.

The resolution, written by New York Representative Anthony D'Esposito, cited multiple reasons for the vote to expel Santos. These reasons include Santos lying about his educational and work background, lying about his family's Jewish heritage and connections to tragedies including the Holocaust and the 9/11 terrorist attacks, being indicted on 13 charges on May 9, 2023, an additional 10 charges on Oct. 10, 2023, and more.

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Should you adopt a pet in your twenties?



HEALTHY HUSKIES | PAGE 7  
The problem with partying



WOMEN'S BB | PAGE 15  
Pre-Season exhibition

Tweet of the Day

**Sexy Red**  
[@SexyyRed314\\_](https://www.instagram.com/SexyyRed314_)  
Goodmorning to my glasses wearing baddies too

## News

# VAPING BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DROPPED THIS YEAR, SAYS US REPORT



Varieties of disposable flavored electronic cigarette devices manufactured by EB Design, formerly known as Elf Bar, are displayed at a store in Pinecrest, Fla., Monday, June 26, 2023.

AP PHOTO BY REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP

NEW YORK (AP) — Fewer high school students are vaping this year, the government reported Thursday.

In a survey, 10% of high school students said they had used electronic cigarettes in the previous month, down from 14% last year.

Use of any tobacco product — including cigarettes and cigars — also fell among high schoolers, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report.

“A lot of good news, I’d say,” said Kenneth Michael Cummings, a University of South Carolina researcher who was not involved in the CDC study.

Among middle school student, about 5% said they used e-cigarettes. That did not significantly change from last year’s survey.

This year’s survey involved more than 22,000 students who filled out an online questionnaire last spring. The agency considers the annual survey to be its best measure of youth smoking trends.

Why the drop among high schoolers? Health officials believe a number of factors could be helping, including efforts to raise prices and limit sales to kids by raising the legal age to 21.

“It’s encouraging to see this substantial decrease in e-cigarette use among high schoolers within the past year, which is a win for public health,” said Brian King, the

**“It’s encouraging to see this substantial decrease in e-cigarette use among high schoolers within the past year, which is a win for public health.”**

BRIAN KING

Food and Drug Administration tobacco center director.

The FDA has authorized a few tobacco-flavored e-cigarettes intended to help adult smokers cut back but has struggled to stop sales of illegal products.

Other key findings in the report:

— Among students who currently use e-cigarettes, about a quarter said they use them every day.

— About 1 in 10 middle and high school students said they recently had used a tobacco product. That translates to 2.8 million U.S. kids.

— E-cigarettes were the most commonly used kind of tobacco product, and disposable ones were the most popular with teens.

— Nearly 90% of the students who vape used flavored products, with fruit and candy flavors topping the list.

In 2020, FDA regulators banned those teen-preferred flavors from reusable e-cigarettes like Juul and Vuse,

which are now only sold in menthol and tobacco. But the flavor restriction didn’t apply to disposable products, and companies like Elf Bar and Esco Bar quickly stepped in to fill the gap.

The growing variety in flavors like gummy bear and watermelon has been almost entirely driven by cheap, disposable devices imported from China, which the FDA considers illegal. Those products now account for more than half of U.S. vaping sales, according to government figures.

In the latest survey, about 56% of teens who vape said they used Elf Bar, trailed by Esco Bar and Vuse, which is a reusable e-cigarette made by R.J. Reynolds. Juul, the brand widely blamed for sparking the recent spike in teen vaping, was the fourth most popular brand, used by 16% of teens.

The FDA tried to block imports of both Elf Bar and Esco Bar in May, but the products

remain widely available. Elf Bar has thwarted customs officials by changing its brand name, among other steps designed to avoid detection.

On Thursday, the FDA announced another round of fines against 20 stores selling Elf Bar products. The agency has sent more than 500 warning letters to retailers and manufacturers of unauthorized e-cigarettes over the past year, but those citations are not legally binding and are sometimes ignored.

In the latest report, the CDC highlighted one worrisome but puzzling finding. There was a slight increase in middle schools students who said they had used at least one tobacco product in the past month, while that rate fell among high school students. Usually those move in tandem, said Kurt Ribisl, a University of North Carolina researcher. He and Cummings cautioned against making too much of the finding, saying it might be a one-year blip.

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Study Break

# THE DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

- 1 Representative
- 6 Comets, to some
- 11 "Pow!"
- 14 Like some opposites
- 15 Manuscript sheet
- 16 Single
- 17 Farmer's tan?
- 19 Ill. neighbor
- 20 Save for later
- 21 "Lonely Planet" recommendation
- 23 Skewer
- 24 Buzz
- 28 "I \_\_\_ to say it, but ..."
- 29 Org. with complex schedules
- 30 Battle hymn?
- 33 "u crack me up"
- 35 Purple Heart recipients
- 36 Copa locale
- 38 Shaggy ox
- 39 One handing out cigars in a waiting room, perhaps
- 45 Winner's gesture
- 49 Don rose-colored glasses?
- 51 Pinch
- 52 Beyoncé's "Cadillac Records" role
- 53 High-and-mighty sort
- 54 Aquarium growth
- 55 Piehole
- 58 Rapper Kendrick who won a Pulitzer Prize in 2018
- 60 JFK-to-Tokyo carrier
- 61 Added panache, as was done three times in this puzzle?
- 66 Some NIH grant recipients
- 67 Seized items
- 68 Acrobatic
- 69 Make a fast stop?
- 70 "Is that my cue?"
- 71 "Woman With a Parasol" painter Claude

**DOWN**

- 1 PD advisory
- 2 Joins the big leagues

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
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60				61		62	63	64						65
66				67						68				
69				70						71				

By Zachary David Levy

11/3/23

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

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11/3/23

- 41 Stay longer than
- 42 Relaxed sounds
- 43 Stock room?
- 44 Big bother
- 46 Like many state mottoes
- 47 Regulation that restricts discussion
- 48 Org. with Thunder and Heat
- 50 Up to the task
- 54 "¡Mi hombre!"
- 56 Alt-rock band Better Than \_\_\_
- 57 Not us
- 59 Scott of "Severance"
- 62 Initials in the news
- 63 Menagerie
- 64 Retail channel
- 65 Gently stroke

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Flip for answer :)

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9	6	3	1	8	2	7	5	4
2	7	2	5	3	6	1	8	9
1	2	1	3	7	5	4	8	9
5	4	5	6	2	9	8	3	1
3	8	9	6	1	7	5	4	2

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CARTOON BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## HEALTHY HUSKIES: THE PROBLEM WITH PARTYING

by Abigail Bonilla | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS | [abigail.bonilla@uconn.edu](mailto:abigail.bonilla@uconn.edu)

During college, students have many options in terms of social activities. College offers many different paths for you to take in terms of managing your free time. Thus, one of the activities that college students often turn to is partying.

Partying is not necessarily bad; in fact, it can be an essential part of the college experience. For many students — especially incoming freshmen — attending a college party is something that many look forward to. Whether it be a house party, a night out at the bar or an evening at the club — a party can be a great place to socialize and have fun. However, it's important to note that the party scene is not for everyone. College parties often include loud music and bright lights which can be triggering for neurodiverse students or students suffering from anxiety. However, this certainly is not the case for every neurodiverse person, as everyone's sensory experience will differ.

Most notably, parties can be a nerve-racking place for students identifying or presenting as women. While anyone of any identity or gender presentation can experience sexual harassment and sexual assault, it is known that this

occurrence happens disproportionately toward women and female-identifying people. In a study conducted by Indiana University, it was discovered that as many as one in four women will experience sexual assault at college parties in America. The University of Connecticut even came under fire last year for its mishandling of sexual assault cases on campus. The story came about after Alexandra Docken, a 20-year-old student, stood in the rain protesting against how the school handled her sexual assault case. A photo of her protesting soon went viral on Instagram, gaining over 72,000 likes. Soon after, hundreds of students participated in a walk out on the Storrs campus, in solidarity with victims and survivors of sexual assault and harassment.

While sexual assault and harassment can happen anywhere, parties are often a breeding ground for this type of crime. It is important to remember tips to keep yourself safe at parties: Always keep an eye on your surroundings and your drink, and stay with a group of friends.

Finally, parties can also be a place of issue for students struggling with substance use

issues. Parties are spaces that often have a copious amount of alcohol and drugs — something that can be extremely triggering for students who currently struggle with substance use, or students who are trying to recover from substance use. According to a study done by the National Institute on Alcohol and Alcoholism (NIAAA), almost 50% of college students consumed alcohol within the month before the study, and 27.4% of those who consumed alcohol did so by bingeing.

While participating in parties can be a fun part of the college experience, it can also be problematic. When considering going to a party, figure out ways to keep yourself as safe as possible, it's important to think about how you may react to the new environment. If you are someone who struggles with substance use, it's important to think about whether a party is the right social event for you and your health.

If you are a victim of sexual harassment, assault, or are a student struggling with your substance use, please reach out to Student Health and Wellness for support or call their phone at (860) 486-0744.

# “All the Light We Cannot See”

## An evocative dive into the heart of war on screen

by Tianyue Zhang  
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“Open your eyes and see what you can with them before they close forever.” These captivating words are etched deeply into the narrative of Anthony Doerr’s masterpiece, “All the Light We Cannot See.” With a backdrop as tumultuous and unpredictable as World War II, Doerr crafts a tale that isn’t just about the war itself, but the myriad of human experiences and emotions intertwined within it.

At the heart of this epic story are two unlikely protagonists: Marie-Laure, a blind French girl who learns to navigate the world through touch, sound and memory, and Werner Pfennig, a German soldier whose own moral compass is tested in the crucible of war. Through their journeys, Doerr weaves an intricate tapestry that explores the depths of human endurance, the power of love and the often painful choices we make in the face of unimaginable challenges. The convergence of their paths amidst the chaos of war serves as a passionate exploration of fate, destiny and the invisible threads that connect our lives.

The four part miniseries adaptation of Doerr’s novel not only remains true to the original narrative but also elevates it, adding layers of visual and emotional depth. Every episode is an emotional rollercoaster, capturing humanity’s deepest vulnerabilities and its potential for resilience. The series manages to encapsulate the essence of war — the adrenaline, the raw fear, the moments of unexpected kindness and the heartbreaking choices thrust upon the young and old. At the core of this adaptation is the indomitable spirit of humanity, highlighted by the intersecting lives of its protagonists. The miniseries delves

deep into the psyche of its characters, capturing their internal struggles amidst the larger turmoil around them. The raging war is ever-present, influencing decisions, redirecting destinies and altering lives irreversibly.

The portrayal of World War II in the series is immersive. It’s not just about large-scale battles or political maneuvers; it’s about the little girl seeking refuge, the boy torn between duty and morality and the countless souls trying to find a glimmer of hope in an engulfing darkness. The streets of occupied France, the intensity of the Hitler Youth camps and the perilous journeys undertaken are depicted with a visceral realism that resonates deeply with the viewer.

The cinematographic choices are impeccable. The play of light and shadow, the sweeping landscapes and the tight, intimate close-ups come together to weave a visual story that complements Doerr’s lyrical prose. The casting decisions mirror this precision, bringing characters to life in a manner that’s so real, it’s almost tangible. Witnessing Marie-Laure’s world of darkness and Werner’s world of grays, viewers are offered a front-row seat to their evolving dynamics. Their stories, unfolding against the vast canvas of war, offer a heart-breaking yet inspiring view of human nature and its potential for love and sacrifice.

In essence, while the book laid the foundation of a timeless tale of humanity and war, the miniseries builds upon it through visual storytelling. It’s a deep dive into the multifaceted nature of war, exploring not just its overarching narratives but its personal, intimate stories that often remain untold. For those who held the book close to their hearts, this adaptation is a rekindling of that first love. For newcomers, it promises an unforgettable journey through the annals of history, underscored by raw emotion and profound insights.

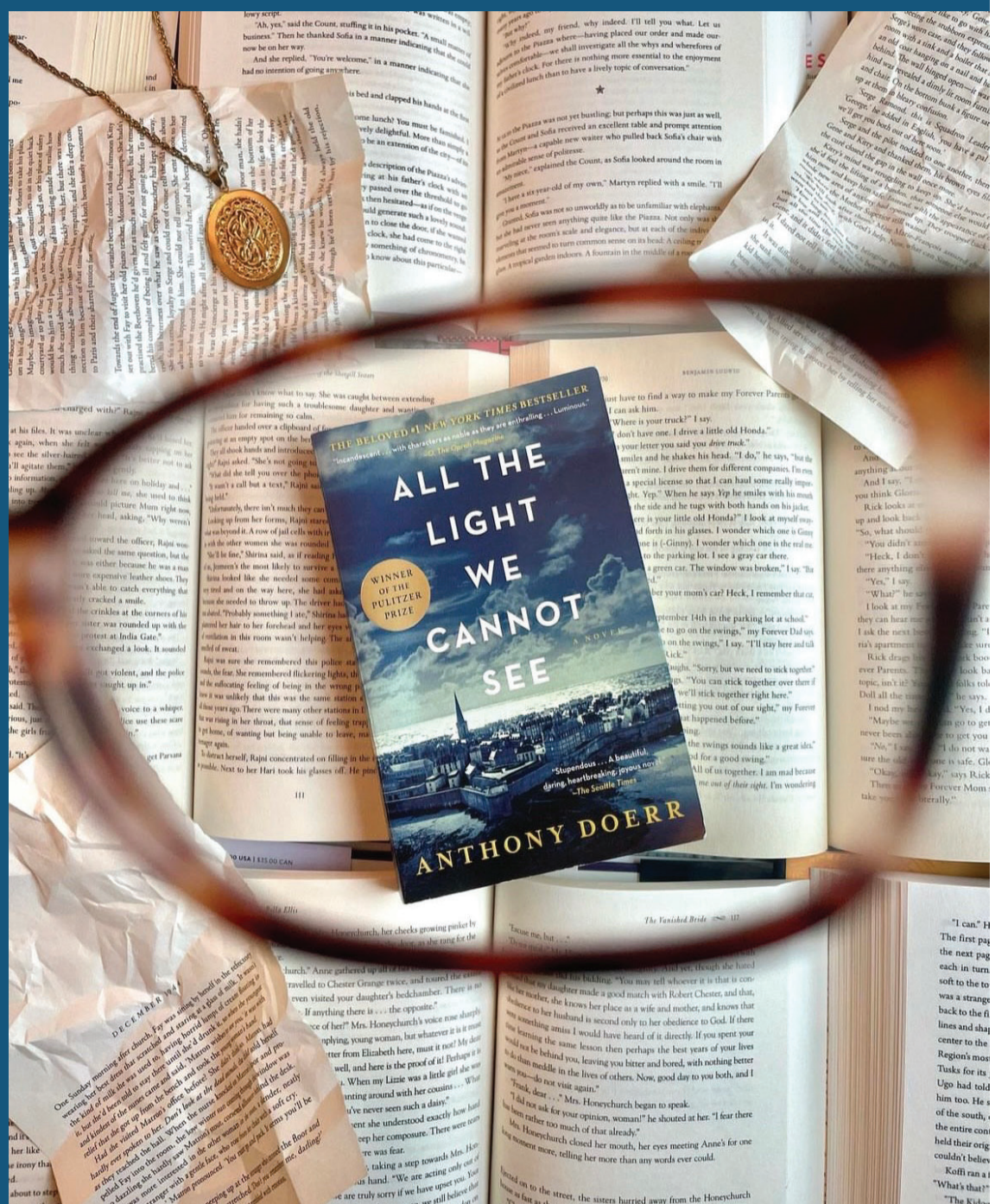


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# Rating:





# Life

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# TALES FROM THE TURNTABLE: THE WEEZER EFFECT

by Henry St. Pierre | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | henry.st\_pierre@uconn.edu

With the release of a new single from Green Day and new album from Blink-182, I'm often reminded of the classic late 1990s and early 2000s pop-punk wave. Green Day, Blink-182, Weezer, The Offspring, Fall Out Boy — the list goes on. One thing ties these bands together, they started out as some of the most respectable musical acts of the past 30 years, only to become some of the most hated groups in all of music. I'm not here to comment on the quality of these bands, this isn't a review column. Instead, I'll be exploring what changed in these artists that soured their fans.

The pop-punk explosion debatably started with a single event: The death of Kurt Cobain halfway through the 1990s permanently changed the musical landscape and triggered the swift death of grunge rock as a favorite genre among listeners. Just weeks after Cobain's

death, the pop-punk movement kicked off with Weezer's self-titled debut album. The record would be certified platinum within a year after release, cementing the transition from grunge to punk. Later that year, Green Day would release what many consider the quintessential pop-punk album, "Dookie," becoming another instant hit.

A seemingly never-ending stream of punk was released in the late '90s, becoming the favorite genre of many angst-filled teens. Going forward into the 2000s, there were no signs of slowing down, with bands like Fall Out Boy and Panic! At the Disco exploding onto the scene with their emo-influenced brand of rock.

Arguably, the first shift in pop-punk that made fans weary was the release of Weezer's second self-titled album, colloquially known as the "Green Album." This release forwent the brazen rock sound of their

'90s output. Instead, Rivers Cuomo and company offered a poppy, soft record full of catchy choruses in major keys. This is the catalyst for what I like to call the "Weezer effect." After the massive success of the "Green Album," many other punk bands followed suit, softening their sound to gain even more commercial notoriety. While many artists gained massive popularity from this switch, it came at the cost of losing the respect of many early fans.

The next major shift came with Green Day's "American Idiot." While it was certainly punk, and revered by fans and critics alike, it was different. Hits like "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" and "Wake Me Up When September Ends" showcased a softer side to their sound, one that was a far cry from "Basket Case" or "Welcome to Paradise." To many fans of their edgier music, "American Idiot" was when the

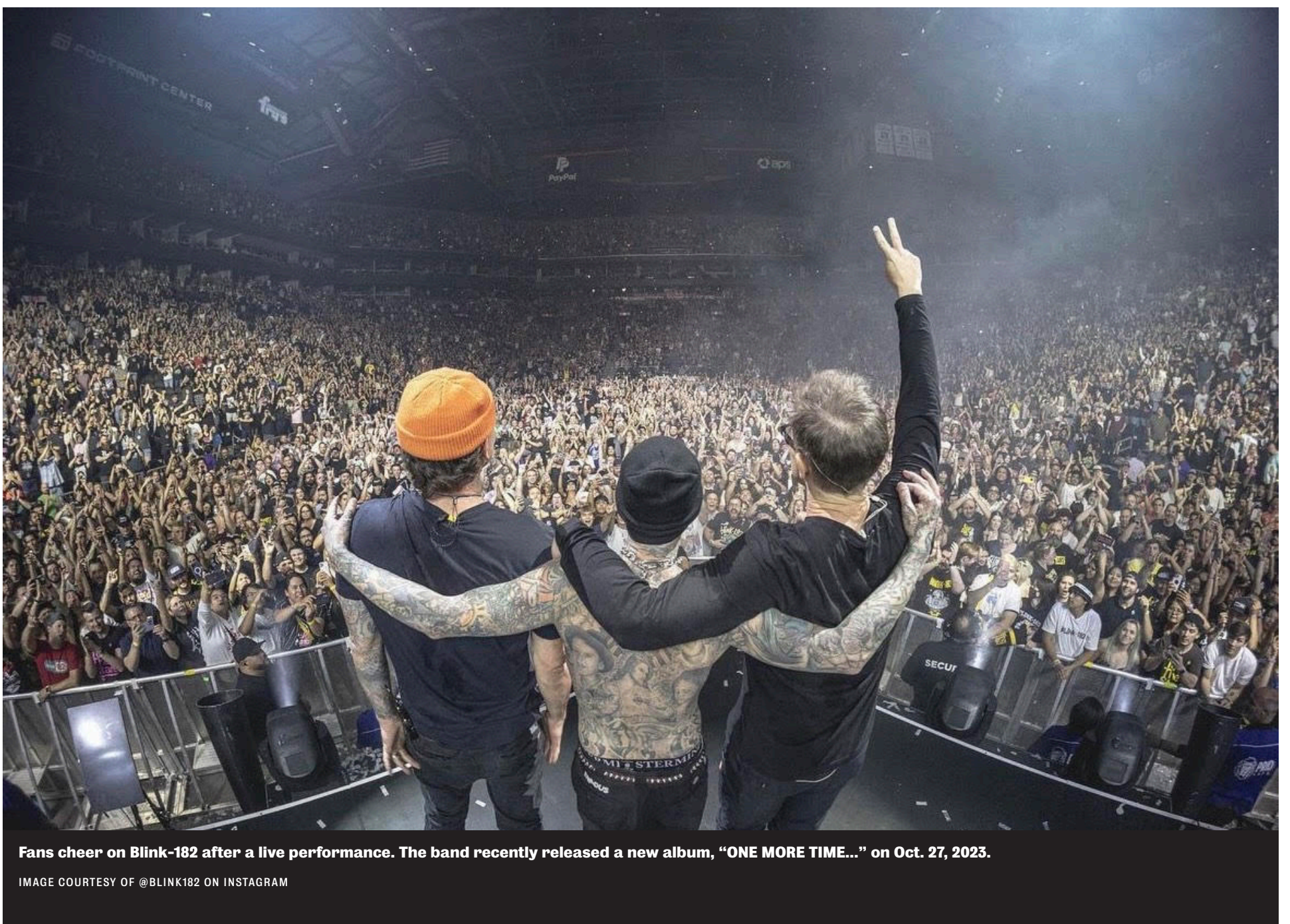
band had sold out. As many more punk bands turned pop, their fans would often decry them as "sellouts," an insult that became synonymous with mediocre music and rounded edges.

Eventually, many began to completely hate pop-punk as a genre. For years, every album put forth by these once beloved bands received nothing but hate from their fans and critics alike. While some were able to turn things around, like Weezer's 2021 baroque pop album "OK Human," most others cannot say the same. Many groups are forever deemed sellouts and out of touch for merely attempting to change and evolve their sound.

Though many are quick to blame the bands for this sudden hatred, it's important to look at the broader context of the music industry during the 2000s.

Hip-hop was starting to become a force to be reckoned with in the music industry; it wouldn't be long before rap overtook rock as the dominant genre of music. Following the turn of the millennium, rock music was also rapidly changing. Indie rock was gaining momentum, with bands like Radiohead, Arcade Fire and The Strokes releasing albums that pushed the boundaries of rock music. Dwindling interest in the punk genre combined with a drastic change in bands' sound led many to experience fatigue with the music of the pop-punk explosion.

Though the bands may have become the butt of many jokes, they still have legions of fans awaiting their next musical leap. Punk has also been thriving in the underground, as many heavier brands of the genre flourish in basements and small venues, still influenced by the pop-punk of yesteryear.



Fans cheer on Blink-182 after a live performance. The band recently released a new album, "ONE MORE TIME..." on Oct. 27, 2023.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @BLINK182 ON INSTAGRAM

Daily

## Opinion

## The Daily Campus

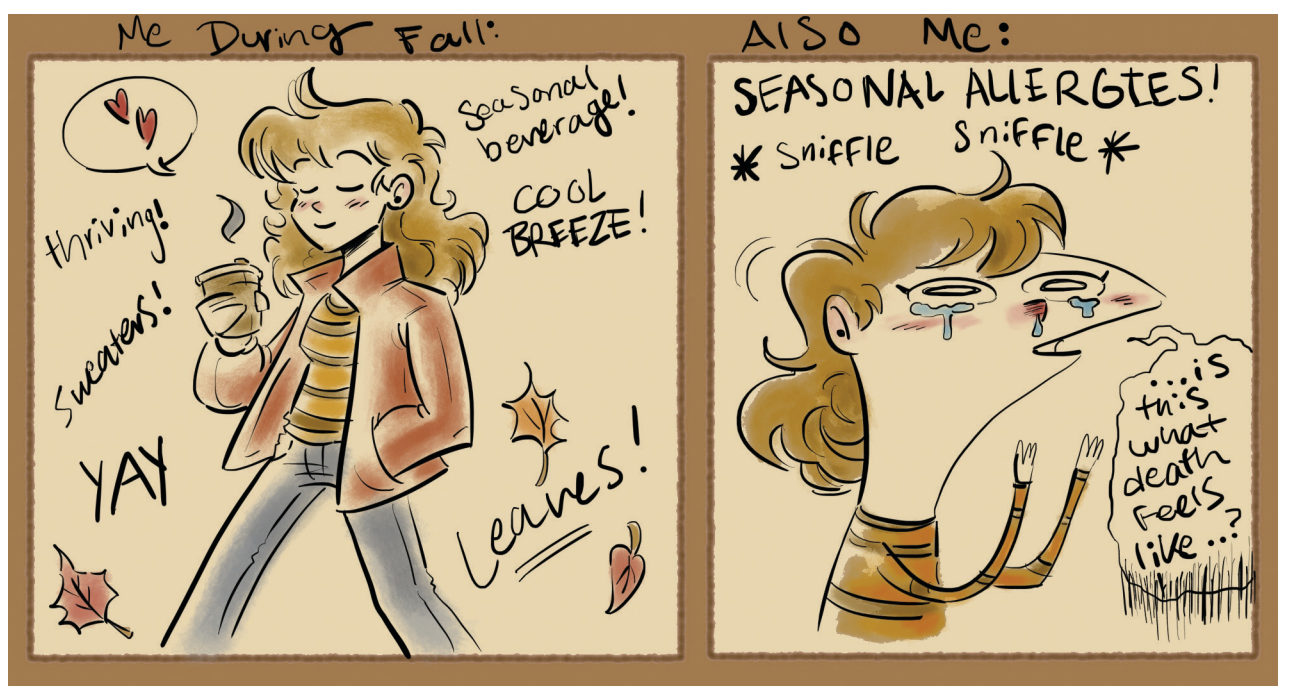
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COMIC BY SAMANTHA HASS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## IN DEFENSE OF THE HATED PROTAGONIST

by Emma Mattingly  
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There is nothing worse than the feeling of closing a book and coming to terms that you've wasted your time because you hated it. However, there's also nothing worse than someone hating an entire work simply because they didn't like the main character.

For many readers, having a protagonist be some horribly despicable or unbearable character is enough to turn a positive review of a story into a negative one. However, the purpose of any great piece of literature, whether it be a novel, short story or even the occasional epic poem, is to pursue larger themes and concepts, let the reader experience a flurry of emotions and cause them to question their world view or even themselves. Sometimes, to accomplish that goal, the author must make the protagonist someone completely awful.

This doesn't mean the hated character has to be loved because of what their traits or background bring to the overall story. But readers should keep in mind just how much their role has to offer in some of the best works and approach pieces with a more open mind. After all, the unlikable protagonists are there to serve a greater purpose than being someone you'd want to get a drink with.

Take for example Holden Caulfield in J.D Salinger's "Catcher in the Rye." The novel follows a teen's two days after being expelled from a private elite preparatory school. In it, Holden is not only a hated protagonist, but he's also the narrator for this entire piece.

As the narrator, we see everything through his eyes, and we are provided a twisted perspective of a teen's life as he navigates the process of wanting to grow up yet remaining immature. No one has to like how Holden views the world around him or agree with his decision making. It should be

acknowledged, though, that the book provides a perspective that most readers (hopefully) would otherwise not have, yet get to experience in the time they read the novel. Additionally, for Salinger to develop a character with so many struggles and a rich background, along with the capability to convey Holden's distaste for the "phonies" around him — that has to be something any reader should appreciate.

The same defense can be made for short stories as well. In Henry James's iconic novella, "Daisy Miller: A Study," the expatriate Winterbourne is oddly obsessed with Daisy Miller, viewing her as an enigma in a stiff and dreary expatriate society in Europe. His desires for assimilation however, lead him to not be interested in Daisy, ultimately leading her to find fun and acceptance from others, along with her death from malaria.

While Winterbourne is not at fault for Daisy's death, his cowardliness and follower

mentality serve to symbolize the societal issues that strip Daisy of her spirit. His undesirable character shows how individuals who desire to belong are easily swayed to follow the group opinion. Beyond that, it becomes even more applicable to different situations, with his very character being the catalyst to question the point of standards and morals of a society. And these are just some of the interpretations to extract from this novella. The hated character can provide us with more concepts that leave us questioning the societies before our time, as well as today.

There are some stories too, where the protagonist wasn't even designed to be a hated character. For that very reason, it has led to numerous uses of lenses to read these pieces through.

In George Orwell's "1984," readers meet the depressed and awakened Winston Smith. Living in the repressed society of Oceania, Winston one day lays eyes on his love interest Julia. Filled with misery, he ends up

having thoughts of wanting to assault and kill her. The romantic subplot is troubling for any reader, but regardless of whether Orwell intended on crafting such a despicable character, it has led to great feminist readings of the piece.

"1984" in this case would then be depicted as more than just mere oppression by an opponent-less party. The biggest losers in this world are the women. Additionally, for everything Winston stands against, a feminist reading would show that he in fact fits right in with the male expectations and desires. It is through applying these literary lenses, acting as the interpretation of literary art, that provides readers with a specific reading that can answer their questions and allow them to approach the book in so many different ways.

So, you can still hate the horrible protagonists. But, you should also understand how important their role is in creating depth and beauty in the great stories we read.

ILLUSTRATION BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



## ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE READY FOR A PET?

by Grace Sim | STAFF WRITER | SHE/HER/HERS | grace.sim@uconn.edu

A lot of us were not allowed to have a furry friend when we were young and were stuck with parents who did not want another responsibility in their household. We dreamed of adopting (don't buy!) our own dog or cat when we were able to move out and have our own independent space. While this may sound like the dream life, there are many things to consider before adopting a friend and being its caretaker for life.

A South Korean entrepreneur and best-selling writer, Seong-ho Kim spoke about this in his lecture and said that those in their 20s and early 30s should not adopt an animal, as their lives will revolve around their pets. Because cats and dogs are considered a mem-

ber of the family, and those in their 20s and 30s are not considered "fully independent," having a pet at this stage can actually ruin your life. He then explains that since we cannot focus on our self-development, adopting a dog or cat should be something done after we are finally settled with our careers and goals.

After all, pets cannot be left out of every small or big choice we make in life. This may sound cruel, but in some ways, it may be what binds us in the end. This is a controversial statement and I don't agree with everything he has said about the time when someone is fully independent, as it differs for each individual. Nevertheless, his words made a lot of people, including myself, think about whether they are prepared or not. About 6.5 million cats and dogs are abandoned

each year and one of the main reasons people give up on their pets is because of a change in their lifestyles. There are so many animals that are abandoned after their owner moves to somewhere else and the new landlord doesn't allow pets. Although that does not give an excuse for abandoning your pet, I have heard many stories of people regretting their decision to get a pet during their most insecure and imperfect times.

Another obvious reason is the financial cost. Like a human child, pets need constant medical care. In a country with one of the worst healthcare systems, I don't know how people can afford to pay for the medical bills. It is difficult to cover the costs even if you are taken to the hospital, so it is questionable how you can cover the medical costs of

your pet. While they're young kittens and puppies, it might be at an affordable level. However, the price will skyrocket once they reach older ages. Ten percent of dogs and more than 50% of dogs over 10 years old end up getting diagnosed with cancer. If they have to go through chemotherapy, it can cost over \$10,000 on average. Don't forget about the other expenses that come with pet ownership. Even if you're not getting a diamond collar, many pet owners spend a fortune on their pets for the basics, so you should consider that.

The purpose of this article is not to say that we shouldn't think of adopting a pet in this economy. It's not to say that it's not worth having a pet and we should leave the shelters flooding with unwanted animals. This article addresses that all lives are precious and

should be taken care of with respect and love. Pets aren't just cute, cuddly accessories and should be a much higher priority than a lot of people think in emotional and financial aspects. They are much more than a funny meme on the internet and require most of your attention, time and effort to provide them with even the most basic things to survive. Therefore, if you are thinking of bringing your cat or dog dreams to reality, make sure to check all the boxes and do your research before committing to a life-changing decision. To those who think it's reasonable to abandon their pet when going through a hard time in their life; this article is for you to not even think about adopting one in the first place!

## Opinion

Photo of the Day | Nighttime views



A look at the Wilbur Cross Building at night on Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023. Due to its location in the center of campus, countless students, faculty and staff walk by the Wilbur Cross Building on a daily basis.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# RON DESANTIS TRAMPLES ON THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH

by Tomas Hinckley | CONTRIBUTOR | HE/HIM/HIS | [tomas.hinckley@uconn.edu](mailto:tomas.hinckley@uconn.edu)

Ron DeSantis recently ordered Floridian public universities to ban chapters of Students for Justice in Palestine on their campuses, citing a Florida law which prohibits providing material support to terrorist organizations. This is absolutely a violation of first amendment rights, and it presents a clear danger coming directly from a state governor and presidential candidate. As a disclaimer, nothing I am about to say will be regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict directly, but specifically about first amendment rights here in America and why they are in danger. Now, with that being said, this situation is both extremely in character and extremely hypocritical coming from DeSantis. He leads the charge in the culture war against the “cancel culture” (which he loves to hate), yet at the same, this is just another example of him participating in it.

Students for Justice in Palestine is a national organization with 200 loosely connected chapters around the country that advocate for the liberation of Palestine. They operate specifically in North America and advocate for boycotts, divestment and sanctions on Israel from governments and universities. In terms of their methods, they hope for chapters to wield their political power through sit-ins, teach-ins and signing various statements of support. Although the language may be somewhat inflammatory or emotional, at the end of the day all they’re doing is simple political protest. In terms of the law which DeSantis is using, there is nothing that the National SJP or the local Florida chapter does which could be considered “material support for a terrorist organization.” The one sentence from the toolkit specifically cited by DeSantis in his order was

“We as Palestinians in exile are PART of this movement.” The toolkit does not mention Hamas specifically at all, but more so in this sentence it only refers to the vague “movement” of liberation which does not at all necessitate any connection to the organization. The evidence is clear that there is no substantive basis for DeSantis to use this law to disband these chapters, and as such this is an unabashed and clear violation of these students’ right to free speech. This issue cannot be ignored.

So now this raises the question of why DeSantis is trying to do this now, and the answer is clearly put by one of the most unlikely of allies in this case. Vivek Ramaswamy recently said in a tweet, “It’s a shameful political ploy... It’s unconstitutional. It’s utter hypocrisy.” First off, this shows that this is not a partisan issue, nor is it an issue of those for or against Israel. Ramaswamy is

one of the strongest pro-Israel candidates in the Republican Party, and even he is on the side of defending these student groups he disagrees with. The second thing this quote alludes to is the underlying cause of this action by DeSantis: political gain. Throughout his career, he has been no stranger to making bold moves simply for political attention, but this is one of his more unashamed moves. It is obvious that he is currently running for president, and being the man with the strongest actions in support of Israel would definitely help him make up ground in the primaries against Donald Trump. Yet, there lies an even more specific answer to this question, and his name is Randy Fine. A Jewish representative in the Florida state legislature had formerly endorsed DeSantis, but recently wrote a harsh op-ed in the Washington Times switching his support to Trump and claiming that DeSantis never backed up the Jewish community with anything but words. Although the DeSantis team denies it, the context and incredible timing doesn’t do them any favors.

A threat to constitutional rights anywhere is a threat to them everywhere, especially when the one suppressing free speech is one of the frontrunners for president of the United States. It doesn’t matter what your opinion is on any matter of foreign policy, because this issue is entirely domestic. Students have a right to free speech, they have a right to protest for what they believe in, and conflating that to material support of terrorism is an extremely dangerous precedent to set. Do not let political attention grabs be the cause of genuine suppression. Do not let DeSantis win here and let this injustice stand. Our rights are worth more than that.

**DO NOT LET POLITICAL ATTENTION GRABS BE THE CAUSE OF GENUINE SUPPRESSION. DO NOT LET DESANTIS WIN HERE AND LET THIS INJUSTICE STAND. OUR RIGHTS ARE WORTH MORE THAN THAT.**

# Men's Hockey: UConn set for road series at Vermont

by Ava Inesta

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Set to take it to the road up north this weekend, the UConn men's hockey team is gearing up for their second Hockey East series of the season against Vermont. Both of the games will take place at Burlington, Vermont. The series will open on Friday, Nov. 3, puck drop is at 7 p.m. and it will close on Saturday, Nov. 4, starting at 6 p.m.

The Ice Bus is coming off a split series against UMass Lowell; they earned their first win of the season in the Hockey East conference in the opening game through an overtime thriller. Junior Chase Bradley and senior Andrew Lucas were the offensive anchors as they scored both the equalizer and the overtime winning goal for the Huskies. UConn came out of this game firing and ready to battle; they added consistent pressure to UMass Lowell, and it ultimately led them to coming out on top. However, the Hockey East foes split the series as the River Hawks blanked the Huskies in the series finale.

Recently, the Ice Bus has been heavily reliant on their freshman and sophomore players who have scored five of the nine goals they have this season. This will be the Huskies seventh and eighth game on the road this season, as they only had two home games so far, so they are quite used to the away matches. For the Huskies, freshman Jake Richard has led the way with two goals and five assists totalling seven points.

Vermont is entering this series with a 1-2-1 record and 0-1-1 in conference play. The Catamounts have yet to earn their first Hockey East win so they are definitely going to come into this series against UConn with the mindset to get back into the win column.

However, they played a very competitive series with Providence this past weekend and did step up to the occasion. It will definitely be interesting to see how this weekend pans out against the Huskies who are hungry for wins.

"It's always tough playing up at the Gut [Guterson Fieldhouse] and we'll definitely have a big challenge ahead of us," said head coach Mike Cavanaugh on playing Vermont this upcoming weekend.

This Huskies team has been struggling with a recurring theme with being unable to score goals. They have earned wins but it has not come easy and with a tough Hockey East schedule on the horizon, they need to light a spark on offense. Despite the slowed offense, UConn has shown resilience and a fight within their team to the point where they never back out of the game.

"It wasn't because we lacked grade-A opportunities," said Cavanaugh. "I wish I had an answer for it but I don't. I keep telling the kids to stay the course because eventually they will start going in."

"We have had great practices this week. As disappointed as I think some of us are with the record we've had right now, we've played really well. I can't honestly say that there was a game this season where I was like 'We just did not really play well,'" Cavanaugh said.

UConn came away with victories in both of the two games it faced off against Vermont last season and it looks to keep that pattern alive. The Ice Bus will travel up to Vermont for a two game series against the Catamounts. The series will open on Friday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m and the last game will follow on Saturday. Both of the games will be available to stream on ESPN+.



The UConn Huskies play the UMass Lowell Riverhawks on Saturday, Oct. 28 at the XL Center. They unfortunately lost 1-0, even after having 46 shots on goal.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SHELAGH LAVERTY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## WOMEN'S HOCKEY: HUSKIES BEGIN TOUGH HOME-AND-HOME SERIES AGAINST NO. 13 NORTHEASTERN

by Sam Calhoun

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The UConn women's hockey team (3-3-1, 2-3-0 Hockey East) is looking to pick up where they left off last Friday after an almost flawless performance against Providence College.

They'll travel to Boston, Massachusetts to take on No. 13 Northeastern University (7-4-0, 3-2-0 Hockey East).

Both teams began their season against Penn State, with Connecticut going 1-0-1 while Northeastern went 1-1-0.

Both teams have suffered losses early in Hockey East play so far, with Northeastern losing to Merrimack College and the College of the Holy Cross and UConn getting swept by No. 14 Boston College and splitting a two-game series against the University of New Hampshire.

However, despite the early losses, Northeastern is still in third place, four points behind first-place Boston College.

It will come to no surprise that the series will feature a star-studded goaltender battle.

For late September and early October, Northeastern goaltender Gwyneth Philips was named the Hockey East Stop It Goaltending Goaltender of the Month. She was awarded this honor following seven wins and four shutouts, leading the NCAA, to start the season. Out of starting goaltenders, Philips is one of the best goaltenders in the country, leading the nation in goals-against average (.820) and save percentage (.966).

On the other hand, junior Tia Chan has been in net for the most part, seeing some of her playing time go to back-up Megan Warren as well. Chan has had a rocky start to the season but is still considered one of the best goaltenders in the conference. She's allowed 1.76 goals per game with a save percentage of .938.

It is expected that Chan gets the start in a crucial series.

For UConn's offense, forward Coryn Tormala is coming off a two-goal game against Providence last week. The graduate student from Chassell, Michigan leads the team with those two goals and has four assists this season for a team-high six points. It's early in the season, but there has not been a standout player statistically. Forwards Brooke Campbell, Ashley Allard, Riley Grimley, Jada Habisch, Kathryn Stockdale and Christina Walker all have two goals each this season.

However, Connecticut's offense will have to deal with Northeastern's defense. Defenseman Megan Carter had three blocks over two games in their series against Holy Cross. The graduate student from Milton, Ontario has been impactful on the offensive end, with six assists, tied for most out of all Hockey East defensemen. For her contributions against Holy Cross, she earned Hockey East Defender of the Week honors.

Northeastern had a clean 3-0-0 sweep against UConn

last season, with now-fifth year forward Katy Knoll leading the team with four points on three goals and one assist.

Connecticut's history against Northeastern is not pretty. Including a shootout loss, UConn is currently on a 17-game losing streak coming into the first game of the season against a conference rival. The last time Connecticut defeated Northeastern was 2018 and the last time before that was 2011. It's safe to say UConn wins over Northeastern are rare. The overall record is lopsided, with a 45-18-12 record heading into this weekend's series.

The first game of the series will be at the Matthews Arena in Boston, with puck drop set for Friday, Nov. 3, at 6 p.m.

The second game will be at the Toscano Family Ice Forum for \$2 Beer Night and also a White Out. Saturday's series finale will be at 6 p.m. on ESPN+.

Following the series, UConn will travel to Orono, Maine to take on the University of Maine in a two-game away series.

Northeastern will stay at home for a home-and-home against Providence next week.



The Huskies played the Frairs on Friday evening at the Toscano Family Ice Forum on Friday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. The score at the end of the game is an incredible 6-1 win for UConn, giving them a 3-3-1 record.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SHELAGH LAVERTY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Sports

## Photo of the Day | Devastating loss



UConn suffers a shocking loss to Florida International University with a score of 17-24 on Sept. 16, 2023 at the Rentschler Field in East Hartford, Conn. The Huskies have returned to a losing streak seen many times before in recent years, aside from the success they achieved last season.  
PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL: UCONN WELCOMES SETON HALL AND ST. JOHN'S IN WEEKEND REMATCHES

by **Bridget Bronsdon**  
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The Huskies will look to another sequence with Seton Hall and St. John's, two groups they've already fallen to this season. Although the Huskies will be heading into the weekend with three consecutive losses at their backs, they have remained steadfast in their efforts to take on a challenging season.

The last time UConn came face-to-face with Seton Hall was late September when the Huskies fell 0-3. The Pirates came storming out of the gates to blow past the Huskies with a significant scoring margin. Graduate student Madeline Matheny was one of the Pirate's greatest assets as she nailed a remarkable 15 kills. UConn team leader Emma Werkmeister fought to keep up as she responded with an impressive 12 kills. Seton Hall didn't stop there and made sure to excel with aces and was able to earn double that of the Huskies. Although it was swiftly beaten by its counterpart, UConn demonstrated exceptional group chemistry which aided its composure in the face of loss.

Regardless of their strong offensive play, Seton Hall will not be facing the same team they did in September. Since then, UConn has significantly improved upon its offensive play and matching the drives of their opponents. On top of this, the Huskies have demonstrated exceptional resilience set after set. With all this in mind, both groups will have their work cut out for them this weekend.

The next opponent will most likely be the toughest of the weekend, St. John's. When the duo first battled it out earlier this season, St. John's was occupying the top spot in the conference. Since then, the Red Storm has been knocked down by Creighton to a No. 2 seed.

In the September contest, UConn struggled to keep up with the Red Storm as their court intensity was relentless. The Huskies were also substantially hindered by a series of hitting errors which prevented any offensive progress. While the Red Storm nailed kill after kill, the Huskies were pushed back to a scoring margin of double digits. Unfortunately, the second and third sets finished with an unfavorable score of 25-13.

Although the fall to St. John's was one of the most consequen-



UConn volleyball takes on Creighton at home on Oct. 20. The Huskies lost the match with a final score of 0-3.  
PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

tial losses of the season, the Huskies have been fine-tuning their gameplay to target the Red Storm offense. In addition, since this is their second matchup, the Huskies are now familiar with the Red Storm's offensive techniques and will be able to target any weak areas in the lineup.

Undeterred by a 2-10 conference record, the Huskies have been able to bounce back week in and week out and remained headstrong.

The weekend contests will also host several festivities. Friday's matchup will be Flashback Friday ('90s day) and will feature

throwback music and a photo booth with props and giveaways. Saturday's contest is Junior Husky Club day and will host all students eighth-grade and below registered for the club. Eventgoers will be able to participate in a poster-making station, postgame autographs and giveaways.

## Men's Soccer: Huskies begin run at Big East title against St. John's

by **Nick Spinalli**  
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This Saturday, the UConn men's soccer team will look to make a run at this season's Big East title when they travel to Queens, New York to take on the St. John's Red Storm in the first round of the conference tournament.

The Huskies clinched the fifth seed in the conference tournament after going 4-4 in conference play, garnering 12 points on the season. Overall, the team managed a 8-7-1 record. Meanwhile, the Red Storm managed to go 3-1-4 in Big East play this year, narrowly beating Connecticut with 13 points to clinch the fourth seed in the tournament. As the higher seed, St. John earned home field advantage for the first round.

UConn was bested by Xavier in their final matchup of the regular season last Saturday, losing by a final score of 4-0. The Husky offense had difficul-

ty generating scoring opportunities throughout the entire 90 minutes as the team managed just five shot attempts, putting two on-goal. Entering halftime Connecticut found themselves down just 1-0, but three scores over the span of just 12 minutes gave Xavier a lead that they would not relinquish.

The Red Storm moved ahead of the Huskies on the final day of the regular season after posting a 2-2 tie against Creighton. Nicolas Fleuriau Chateau provided all of the Johnnies' offense with two first half goals. After pulling ahead 2-0 with five minutes before half time, Creighton managed a goal to enter the break down just one score and was able to tie the game with another goal in the fifth minute of the second half.

The growth of Scott Testori has been one of the most interesting developments for UConn soccer this season. After starting just five games last season and finishing third on the team with seven points, Testori went nuclear this season after see-

ing his playing time increase by over 200 minutes. The junior led Connecticut in goals (seven) and points (18) while finishing second in shots (27) and shots-on-goal (13). After experiencing a bit of a skid during the middle of the season, Testori got hot as the Huskies gained traction towards clinching a playoff berth. He scored four goals and added two more assists over a three-game stretch between Oct. 14-21 in which UConn went 2-1. After a lackluster performance by the team's offense in the final regular season game, the Huskies will rely on Testori to be a spark plug throughout the postseason.

Fleuriau Chateau has been one of the best players in college soccer this season for the Red Storm. His two goals against Creighton upped his season total to 14, tying him for the most goals scored across all of NCAA DI. He's scored multiple goals in three contests this season and has scored in an astounding 11 of his team's 16 matches so far this season. The forward has

scored 10 more goals than the next-closest Johnnie, amassing 29 points thanks to his 14 scores and one assist. Amazingly, he's the only player for St. John's who has attempted more than one shot with a shot-on-goal percentage over .500 despite him taking far and away the most shots on the team. The two-score effort against Creighton gave Fleuriau Chateau his first Big East Offensive Player of the Week honor for the final week of the regular season. According to the Big East webpage, Fleuriau Chateau is averaging a goal every 52.4 minutes. To say that he'll be the centerpiece of the Red Storm's offensive attack would be a severe understatement.

In the past when Connecticut and St. John's have met, the Red Storm have had the Huskies' number. UConn is 13-17-7 all-time when facing the conference opponent. The two last met in September of this year, when the Huskies defeated the Johnnies 2-1. Naturally, both team's top scorers this season

in Testori and Fleuriau Chateau converted goals in the contest. It was Pierce Bateson, another standout development for UConn this year, who managed the game-winner and secured the win. The Huskies are 1-9-5 against the Red Storm when playing as the away team and will look to rewrite the narrative with a win to advance to the semi final round of the tournament.

"Playing on the road in the Big East is difficult but I think that we're certainly capable of doing it," UConn head coach Chris Gbandi said following the loss to Xavier last Saturday. "Anybody can beat anybody in our league at any given moment. Once you have an opportunity to keep playing, that's all that you can ask for... so we'll look forward to our next game [against St. John's]."

Gametime is set for 6 p.m. from Belson Stadium in Queens, New York on Saturday. Fans at home can catch the Huskies live by tuning in to the Big East Digital Network.

# FOOTBALL

## HUSKIES TRAVEL TO KNOXVILLE FOR MONUMENTAL CHALLENGE

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Neyland Stadium is one of college football's most renowned locations. Home to the Tennessee Volunteers, it's the eighth biggest stadium in the world and has hosted events big enough to draw the attendance of presidents like Richard Nixon. On Saturday, it will be the spot for UConn football's bout against the

No. 17 Volunteers in a game that will likely be much less interesting than the venue's history.

Tennessee was just announced as the No. 17 team in the first edition of the College Football Playoff pre-season rankings. Though they are all but out of contention for any championships, they are still an excellent football team.

The Volunteers handled overmatched Virginia and FCS Austin Peay squads to start

their campaign. Traveling to Florida ultimately proved to be too big a test, as they lost following a 20-0 second quarter by the Gators. A win over UTSA was just what the doctor ordered before they returned to SEC play.

The Vols jumped all over an unusually poor South Carolina team, winning by three scores before overcoming a halftime deficit to beat Texas A&M. Then came an away game at No. 11 Alabama. Up

13-0 halfway through the second quarter, things were looking promising, but the Crimson Tide jumped on Tennessee for 27 straight points. This will be UConn's second opponent of the season that lost to Alabama by exactly 14 points. The Volunteers followed that breakdown with a tight win at Kentucky and now stand at 6-2.

Trying to replace the magic that former QB Hendon Hooker brought to the program last year has proved impossible, but QB Joe Milton III has done a pretty good job picking up the slack. The sixth-year student began the season as a major threat on the ground, but hasn't been able to put together too much scoring there since. In his first four games he scored four times, including an electric 81-yarder against UTSA. His yardage has been inconsistent, but he has routinely been able to string together at least a few decent carries every game, while minimizing sacks.

Through the air, Milton has been serviceable, but nothing special. He's thrown for just 1,763 yards, which barely puts him in the top 50 nationally. He hasn't had a game with more than two scores, but has thrown for at least one in each contest. Milton also has tossed just four interceptions on the season. All of this to say that he is reliable. It's not common for him to put up insane numbers, but he simultaneously limits his mistakes.

The Volunteers have a split rushing attack, with three different key players. Jaylen Wright will deservedly draw the start with seven

yards per carry, totaling 713 yards on the campaign. Jabari Small has drawn 20 fewer carries and has only accounted for 415 yards. Small and Wright's production have been great, but Dylan Sampson has a nose for the end-zone, with seven touchdowns, more than the other two combined.

For UConn, the player to watch will be Camryn Edwards. Though the Huskies haven't been performing great this year, Edwards has been a bright spot. The former DB has worked his way into the picture thanks to his effort and departures, but took over lead-back duties for the game against South Florida. Since then, Edwards has been great, combining for 288 yards and three touchdowns. He's fast, tough and hasn't turned the ball over, qualities that come at a premium for running backs. Tennessee conversely has a top 25 rush defense. Has Edwards success been a product of facing rush defenses that rank in the bottom half of the FBS or is he the real deal?

The matchup as a whole should be lopsided. ESPN Bet has Tennessee listed as 36 point favorites. It'll also be the Vols' homecoming game, which will likely draw a good crowd. When a mostly unstoppable force meets a very moveable object, the outcome isn't in much doubt. Maybe UConn will pull something crazy like its opening kick return against Clemson a few years back, but don't expect a win.

The contest will kick off at 12 p.m. and can be viewed on SEC Network.



UConn suffers a shocking loss to Florida International University with a score of 17-24 on Sept. 16, 2023 at the Rentschler Field in East Hartford, Conn. The Huskies have returned to a losing streak seen many times before in recent years, aside from the success they achieved last season.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## WOMEN'S SOCCER: HUSKIES' SEASON ENDS IN BIG EAST SEMIFINALS, LOSING TO DEFENDING CHAMPION GEORGETOWN, 1-0

by **Sam Calhoun**  
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If you want to be the best in the Big East, you need to go through the best in the Big East.

That was what the UConn women's soccer team (10-4-5, 6-1-3 Big East) needed if they wanted to earn a spot in Sunday's Big East Championship Match against No. 17 Xavier University.

The Huskies were up against Georgetown University (11-1-7, 6-0-4 Big East), which has won the last three Big East titles.

It was a rematch of a scoreless draw on Sept. 28 in Washington, D.C., where the Hoyas outshot Connecticut 17-12, despite the Huskies having five shots on goal compared to four for Georgetown.

The first half did not have either team finding the back of the net, but it provided a back-and-forth battle between two of the best defensive teams in the Big East.

UConn forward Chioma Okafor, named to the All-Big East First Team on Wednesday, found herself with multiple opportunities to break the scoreless tie. However, Georgetown defender Julia Leas, the Big East Defensive Player of the Year, was there to make the stop.

That was not the only opportunity for the sophomore from Malawi, as she had the ball right in front of the net and air-mailed the ball just over the net.

It wasn't just Okafor finding opportunities and creating opportunities against goalkeeper Allie Augur. Forward Cara Jordan received a centering pass and had a wide-open net on the opposite post and despite getting past Augur, the shot went just wide.

The Hoyas found some more momentum in a standstill first half with 90 seconds remaining in the half, keeping the ball on their at-

tacking side of the field. Despite that, it seemed that Connecticut was the better team in the first half based on the eye test. The statistics agreed that the Huskies had six shots compared to Georgetown's five.

UConn drew eight fouls in the first half alone, which seemed to wear the Huskies down as the second half began.

Whatever Georgetown head coach Dave Nolan told his team at halftime seemed to work, as the Hoyas came out blazing hot to start the second half.

In the 46th minute, Georgetown forward Maja Lardner got the first shot, which was blocked and resulted in a corner kick.

UConn goalkeeper Kaitlyn Mahoney, the Big East Goalkeeper of the Year, made a

huge save as defender Brianna Riley's shot on the low left forced the senior from Manorville, New York, to dive to keep the match scoreless.

However, after two blocked shots by Lardner, midfielder Tatum Lenain found the back of the net on the high center part, giving the Hoyas a 1-0 lead.

It seemed like Georgetown was stepping on Connecticut's neck already, with another massive opportunity coming off the leg of midfielder Emma Davis. However, Mahoney, named to the All-Big East Second Team, made another incredible stop.

The rest of the second half was at a standstill for the most part, with Georgetown staying in control with a one-goal lead.

The Huskies were desperate to keep their season alive as the final 15 minutes showed UConn being aggressive on the attack.

Augur had to make two saves in ten seconds as Jordan and forward Abbey Jones put shots on target.

Two minutes later, midfielder Jessica Mazo tried her luck against the All-Big East First Team goalkeeper, but Augur was a brick wall for those two minutes.

The final minutes of the Huskies' season showed UConn hurrying, taking any chance that they could to tie the match. However, the shot by Mazo would be the final one the Huskies had.

Overall, Georgetown outshot Connecticut by a small margin, 15-13, with seven shots on goal

compared to UConn's six. It was clear that the second half decided who would face Xavier for the Big East Championship.

UConn's overall record against the Hoyas drops to 12-7-1. The Huskies will have to wait until the 2024 season to try and get its first win over Georgetown since 2021.

While UConn's season is now over, the team left no doubt that they could compete with anyone and had a roster full of some of the best players in the conference.

Along with Okafor, Mazo made the All-Big East First Team. Defender Lucy Cappadona joined Mahoney and Jordan on the All-Big East Second Team, while Jones was named to the All-Big East Third Team.



UConn women's soccer plays against Xavier at the Morrone stadium in Storrs, Conn. on Oct. 8, 2023. The Huskies put up a good fight but lost 0-1, ending their 5-game winning streak.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Sports

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: NO. 2 HUSKIES SQUARE OFF WITH SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT IN PRESEASON EXHIBITION

by Cole Stefan | SENIOR COLUMNIST | HE/HIM/HIS | cole.stefan@uconn.edu

Missing the Final Four for the first time since 2007 last season, head coach Geno Auriemma has one goal in mind for the UConn women's basketball team: "shut the f-k up and win games." Although just an exhibition, that tour starts at Gampel Pavilion when the Huskies host the NCAA Division-II Southern Connecticut State Owls on Saturday.

UConn ranks second in the Associated Press' preseason Top 25 poll behind the defending national champion LSU Tigers, but the primary storylines heading into the 2023-24 season revolve around Paige Bueckers' return after missing last season with a torn ACL. Bueckers, who will play in Saturday's exhibition, averaged 18 points, 4.5 rebounds and 5.1 assists and won AP Player of the Year as a freshman across her first two seasons in Storrs, Connecticut.

Azzi Fudd missed 22 games last season with a knee injury but still put up 15.1 points per game with 34 three-pointers. Despite a hot start to her sophomore campaign that included consecutive 32-point outings, Fudd never looked the same after her knee injury in early December and finished the year with no more than three triples made in every postseason contest. Bueckers and Fudd being in the same backcourt should not shine the spotlight away from senior guard Nika Mühl, who broke Sue Bird's single-season record with 284 assists last year. Dishing out more assists than shots she attempted per game, Mühl also took home her second straight Big East Defensive

Player of the Year with 50 steals and 122 defensive rebounds.

Caroline Ducharme, meanwhile, could be one of the team's X-factors. An All-Big East Second Team selection as a freshman, neck stiffness and a concussion limited Ducharme's abilities in the 23 games she played during her sophomore year. Putting in the work during practice and earning a spot on the Cheryl Miller Award watch list awarded to the nation's top small forward, expect a bounce back season from the junior guard after she averaged 7.4 points and 4.1 rebounds as a sophomore.

Given the talent that the Huskies have at guard, graduate student Aubrey Griffin will likely take the forward spot opened via Dorka Juhász's departure. Griffin did it all with 11.3 points and 6.6 rebounds per game while forcing 50 steals and shooting 53.5% from the field, but what she lacks in the attention she receives she makes up for through her grit. Down to seven players in their game against the Princeton Tigers when Mühl suffered a concussion, Griffin stepped up with 29 points and 10 rebounds on a night where she went a perfect 11-11 from the field.

Senior forward Aaliyah Edwards also locked it down defensively last season, grabbing 234 total rebounds and rejecting 41 shots on top of leading the team with 16.6 points per game at a 58.9% clip. Notably having a 23-point, 20-rebound night against the Creighton Bluejays in late December and recording 14 double-doubles, Edwards became UConn's first All-American forward since Megan Walk-

er while also earning Big East Tournament Most Outstanding Player honors last season. With Juhász in the WNBA, where she earned a spot on the All-Rookie Team with the Minnesota Lynx, the senior forward could exceed the numbers she posted during her All-American campaign as the team's primary post player.

The Huskies' frontcourt may be unproven behind Edwards and Griffin, but that does not mean someone will step up and serve a significant role off the bench. Sophomore Ayanna Patterson and junior Amari DeBerry both averaged 2.2 points last season and bring unique qualities that can help UConn defensively. DeBerry swatted 18 shots in 26 games and can be an intimidating presence down the middle while Patterson attacked the paint with 44 defensive rebounds.

Expect a breakout sophomore season from the Indiana native in an expanded role, even if she is not playing in Saturday's exhibition, but do not be surprised if redshirt freshman Ice Brady introduces herself to the college basketball world. The San Diego native has not yet played a game at the collegiate level after missing last year with a knee injury, but averaged 20.7 points, 12.8 rebounds and 1.8 blocks during her senior season at Cathedral Catholic High School in California.

No player transferred into the program, but the Huskies welcomed three freshmen into their ranks. Preseason Big East Freshman of the Year KK Arnold enters as ESPN's No. 6-ranked recruit for the class of 2023 after

a four-year career that included a state championship and three Associated Press Wisconsin State Player of the Year awards. Ashlynn Shade ranks 15th, averaging 24 points and nine boards during her senior season at La Lumiere School in Indiana. Do not sleep on Qadence Samuels despite her national ranking at 41; her 17.6 points and 7.8 rebounds per game as a junior in high school make her a dynamic piece on both ends of the floor.

Southern Connecticut State went 17-11 in Kate Lynch's eighth season at the helm, finishing tied for sixth in the Northeast 10 Conference at 11-9. NE10 All-Conference Second Team selection Zoë Amalbert, Isabella Santoro and Delaney Connors all graduated, but the Owls brought back forward Katie Williamson for her senior season. While not a member of last year's NE10 All-Defensive Team, Williamson led the team with 6.9 rebounds per game and 31 blocks.

Junior forward Ashley Evans is the only other returner from last year's starting lineup, but expect a major jump from her sophomore campaign where she averaged five points and 3.5 boards in 26 games. Adding graduate guards Julianna Bonilla from Marist and Makenzie Helms from Quinnipiac alongside projected starter Connors (8.0 PPG, 4.5 RPG in 2022-23) gives Southern Connecticut State the pieces they need to compete in the NE10.

UConn's 2023-24 season unofficially tips off at 1 p.m. EDT on UConn+. Fans who do not have UConn+ can catch the game on WWAX via WFSB Channel 3.



The Huskies women's and men's basketball teams kick off their season with the annual First Night event at Gampel Pavilion on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. In spirit of the date, UConn became college basketball's worst nightmare with its Friday the 13th theme.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ZACHARY MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

### WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

#### UConn SCOREBOARD

 vs.   
**0** vs. **1**  
**Women's Soccer**  
**Thursday**

#### Upcoming Games

 vs.   
**Women's Ice Hockey,**  
 6 p.m. Friday  
 Boston, Mass.

 vs.   
**Men's Ice Hockey,**  
 7 p.m. Friday  
 Burlington, Vt.

### INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconn  
If you see Officer Carson on campus today, be sure to give him extra pets - it's his fifth birthday! Happy birthday, Carson!

### TWEETS OF THE DAY

**UConn Women's Basketball**  
@UConnWBB  
Paige Bueckers and Aaliyah Edwards are on the Wade Trophy watch list!

**Maggie Vanoni**  
@maggie\_vanoni  
"She's come back and she's better than what I remember"  
UConn women's basketball redshirt freshman Ice Brady will make her debut in next week's season opener after missing her true freshman season last year with a knee injury

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# HUSKY

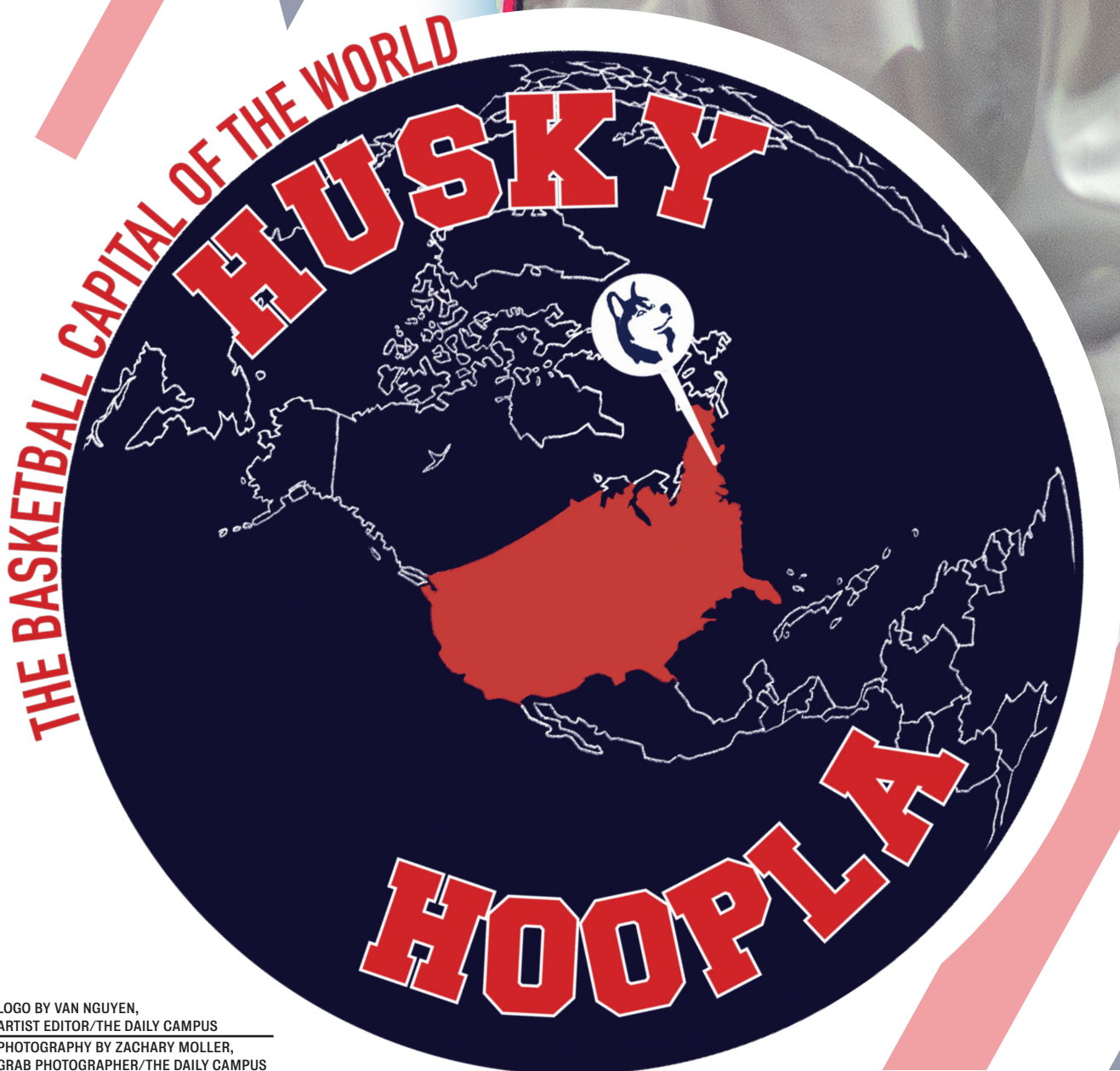
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ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS  
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