



RESIGNATION OF CLAUDINE GAY FUELS FIRESTORM OVER PLAGIARISM, POLITICS ON CAMPUS

by John Haslun
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On Tuesday, Jan. 2, embattled president of Harvard University Claudine Gay resigned from her position effective immediately, concluding the shortest presidential tenure in the school's history. Gay's resignation came after consistent criticism over her handling of Harvard's response to the Israel-Hamas war, and subsequently, allegations over a consistent habit of plagiarism within her scholarly record.

The first calls for Gay to resign came after a congressional hearing on Dec. 5, in which the president equivocated about whether antisemitic remarks on campus, specifically calls for the "genocide of Jews," would be considered grounds for disciplinary action.

"It can be depending on the context," Gay said. "Antisemitic rhetoric when it crosses into conduct that amounts to bullying, harassment, intimidation — that is actionable conduct, and we do take action."

When pressed again on if calling for the genocide of Jews violated the Harvard Code of Conduct, Gay reiterated that it depended on the "context."

Gay's comments propelled her into the forefront of the national debate over antisemitism on campus, and subsequently, a broader battlefield relating to the increasing power of DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) frameworks within academia.

Opposition to Gay's conduct as president quickly morphed into an organized movement, led chiefly by anti-critical race theory activist

Christopher Rufo, who bears a master's degree from Harvard Extension School, and Harvard graduate and hedge fund manager Bill Ackman.

Two days after Gay's congressional hearing, Ackman criticized Gay's qualifications and insinuated she was a "diversity hire," writing on the platform X (formerly Twitter) that "the committee would not consider a candidate who did not meet the DEI office's criteria."

In the weeks following her hearing, Rufo and accomplices made significant allegations about plagiarism in Gay's academic body of work, including her Toppan Prize-winning dissertation in political science. The alleged plagiarism in Gay's work included entire paragraphs of text from other authors without proper citation, Rufo noted, a violation of Harvard University's policy on "verbatim plagiarism."

An independent review requested by the Harvard Corporation found Gay "failed to adhere" to Harvard's standards on proper citation and used "duplicative language without appropriate attribution" on multiple occasions. While the review corroborated many of Rufo's concerns, it stopped short at officially recommending Gay's ouster, determining the alleged plagiarism did not constitute research misconduct.

Some disagreed with the findings of the report. A member of the Harvard College Honor Council detailed in the Harvard Crimson that "when students omit quotation marks and citations, as President Gay did, the sanction is usually one term of probation — a permanent mark on a student's record."



Harvard University President Claudine Gay speaks during a hearing of the House Committee on Education on Capitol Hill, Dec. 5, 2023, in Washington. Gay resigned Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, amid plagiarism accusations and criticism over testimony at a congressional hearing where she was unable to say unequivocally that calls on campus for the genocide of Jews would violate the school's conduct policy.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK SCHIEFELBEIN/AP

"There is one standard for me and my peers and another, much lower standard for our University's president," the Honor Council member said, noting that a pattern of plagiarism at all similar to Gay's would see serious consequences for a Harvard student.

Following discussions with members of the Harvard Corporation, Gay formally resigned, expressing her concern at frightening "personal attacks and threats fueled by racial animus" and distressing doubt "cast on my commitments to confronting hate and to upholding scholarly rigor."

Rufo appeared elated at the victory of his conservative cadre, writing on X in the immediate aftermath of her resignation, "SCALPED!"

Many academics, on the other hand, were dismayed by the resounding success of his campaign, explicitly predicated on opposition to DEI and the perceived capture of American universities by the political left, in dethroning Gay.

"The attack on Claudine Gay was never about plagiarism," Fred Lee, a UConn Political Science professor who teaches classes on race and political

theory, remarked on X, "It was about anti-Blackness, anti-Palestine, and disciplining the Ivy League Management."

"The attack on Claudine Gay was never about plagiarism"

FRED LEE

The messaging was simple, Lee wrote, "We can get the President of Harvard fired. We can do much worse to you."

Lee's remarks reveal an increasing concern among academics in the aftermath of Gay's resignation. Further escalation in the war against universities and DEI, they attest, could trickle down to the affairs of individual professors, in the process jeopardizing free expression, academic inquiry, and social justice programs.

"Let's be real," wrote creator of the 1619 Project and Howard University faculty member Nikole Hannah-Jones, "[The campaign against Gay] is a glimpse into the future to come. Academic freedom is under attack. Racial justice programs are under attack. Black women will be made to pay."

Four days after Gay's resignation, a victorious Rufo outlined further plans for a "full-blown plagiarism war" to expose the "incompetence, the psychopathologies, and the ideological rot" of "elite academia."

"Harvard must once again become a meritocratic institution which does not discriminate for or against faculty or students based on their skin color," Ackman wrote in a public call for the end of DEI on college campuses, "We have a lot more work to do. Let's get at it."



People take photos near a John Harvard statue, left, on the Harvard University campus, Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, in Cambridge, Mass. On Wednesday, Jan. 10, several Jewish students filed a lawsuit against Harvard University, accusing it of becoming "a bastion of rampant anti-Jewish hatred and harassment."

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVEN SENNE/AP

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Top Dogs.

News

FUELED BY UNPRECEDENTED BORDER CROSSINGS, A RECORD 3 MILLION CASES CLOG US

MIAMI (AP) — Eight months after crossing the Rio Grande into the United States, a couple in their 20s sat in an immigration court in Miami with their three young children. Through an interpreter, they asked a judge to give them more time to find an attorney to file for asylum and not be deported back to Honduras, where gangs threatened them.

Judge Christina Martyak agreed to a three-month extension, referred Aarón Rodríguez and Cindy Baneza to free legal aid provided by the Catholic Archdiocese of Miami in the same courthouse — and their case remains one of the unprecedented 3 million currently pending in immigration courts around the United States.

Fueled by record-breaking increases in migrants who seek asylum after being apprehended for crossing the border illegally, the court backlog has grown by more than 1 million over the last fiscal year and it's now triple what it was in 2019, according to government data compiled by Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse.

Judges, attorneys and migrant advocates worry that's rendering an already strained system unworkable, as it often takes several years to grant asylum-seekers a new stable life and to deport those with no right to remain in the country. "Sometimes hope already sinks," said Mayra Cruz after her case was also granted an extension by Martyak because the Peruvian migrant doesn't have an attorney.

"But here I've felt a bit safer"

MAYRA CRUZ

"But here I've felt a bit safer," added Cruz, who said she had to flee with only the clothes on her back with her partner and their children after repeated threats from gangs.

About 261,000 cases of migrants placed in removal proceedings are pending in the Miami court — the largest docket in the country. That's about the same as were pending nationwide a dozen years ago, said Syracuse University professor Austin Kocher.

The backlog includes migrants who have been in the United States for decades and were apprehended on unrelated charges, but most are new

asylum seekers who declare a fear of persecution if they are sent back, he added.

Backlogged courts, administered by the Justice Department, often get little attention in immigration debates, including in current Senate negotiations over the Biden administration's \$110 billion proposal that links aid for Ukraine and Israel to asylum and other border policy changes.

When migrants are apprehended by U.S. authorities at the border, many are released with a record of their detention and instructions to appear in court in the city where they are headed. That information is passed on from the Department of Homeland Security to the Justice Department, whose Executive Office for Immigration Review runs the courts, so that an initial hearing can be scheduled.

"They're just being released without any idea of what comes next"

RANDY MCGRORTY

"They're just being released without any idea of what comes next," said Randy McGrorty, executive director of Catholic Legal Services for the Archdiocese of Miami, which has seen hundreds of thousands of migrants join its diaspora communities.

So many migrants go to them for advice that, in the last couple of years, they've largely switched to teaching how to self-petition and represent themselves before judges.

"We help them understand what judges want, and we help judges with efficiency and preserving fundamental rights," said Miguel Mora, a Catholic Legal Services supervising attorney in Miami.

Advocates say that most migrants ask for individual legal representation, something that's becoming increasingly rare given the huge numbers, and how to get work permits, which migrants can apply for 150 days after filing their asylum application.

It's a vicious cycle — without regular work, most can't afford even a low-cost lawyer, so their cases can take even longer.

"We don't have the money," Rodríguez, 23, told Judge Martyak, who had already granted him an extension for having no attorney at a pre-

vious hearing, as his partner rocked the stroller where their U.S.-born baby slept. They fled Honduras after the gang that had killed the father of Baneza's oldest child threatened further violence unless they started paying from the meager profits of their tortilla shop.

"We were left with no other option than get out of the country," Rodríguez told The Associated Press. "We've already had three court appearances. Time is helping. We're getting a little bit oriented."

But the slow-moving process also means it takes years for asylum-seekers to be able to reunite with families they left behind and integrate fully in American society, said Karen Musalo, an attorney and professor who leads the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies at the University of California in San Francisco.

Time also doesn't help with the backlog, even though government records show judges completed far more cases in the last year than ever before, because their dockets keep growing so fast. Their average caseload is now 5,000 per judge, said Mimi Tsankov, president of the National Association of Immigration Judges.

"The situation has gotten progressively worse since the Obama administration, when it really started getting out of hand"

PAUL SCHMIDT

She cited estimates that doubling the current number of judges to about 1,400 might solve the current backlog by 2032. In the new budget request, the Executive Office for Immigration Review is requesting funds from Congress to hire 150 new judges and support staff, said its press secretary, Kathryn Mattingly.

Experts like retired judge Paul Schmidt, who also served as government immigration counsel while the last major reform was enacted nearly forty years ago, say the broken system can only be fixed with major policy changes. An example would be allowing most asylum cas-



The hearing calendar for the day hangs next to a courtroom, Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024, at an immigration court in Miami. Immigration courts are buckling under an unprecedented 3 million pending cases, most of them newly arrived asylum-seekers. The number of migrants trying to fight their deportation in front of a US judge has grown by 50% in less than a year.

PHOTOGRAPH BY WILFREDO LEE/AP

es to be solved administratively or through streamlined processes instead of litigated in courts.

"The situation has gotten progressively worse since the Obama administration, when it really started getting out of hand," said Schmidt, who in 2016, his last year on the bench, was scheduling cases seven years out.

In the mid-2010s, families and children from Central America seeking asylum became the majority of illegal crossers at the U.S. southern border. In response, the Obama administration as well as the Trump and Biden administrations started prioritizing some categories of cases they want solved faster to reflect enforcement priorities.

But courts are ineffective deterrents to people desperate to flee their countries, and judges say shuffling cases around only adds to the chaos as they wade through dozens if not hundreds of cases a day.

At the courthouse in Miami last week, one judge went looking for a Haitian family who hadn't shown up, then granted an order of deportation in absentia, just as she had for a Colombian family who also failed to appear at their hearing immediately before.

Another judge found that a Cuban mother, then a Venezuelan man had applied for other forms of protection special to their countries and dismissed their cases, telling them they were done with the court. The woman broke into grateful tears. The man, who had come more than 200 miles for the minutes-long hearing, mumbled "God bless you" in Spanish.

And a steady stream of migrants went to find Catholic Legal Services — one couple directed there by the judge to figure out how to present in court their video of the gang murder that had forced them to flee.

The Daily Campus

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DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Ballplayer's hat
- 4 Bygone Persian rulers
- 9 Under
- 14 Baton Rouge sch.
- 15 Certain Tuscan
- 16 Suspect's excuse
- 17 Feel ill
- 18 South American home of many pink dolphins
- 20 At one's leisure
- 22 More current
- 23 Potato spot
- 24 Scientific studies of pooled data
- 28 "Don't believe the ___"
- 29 Make a mistake
- 33 Very small
- 35 Healing ointment
- 39 Top of the line
- 40 Diner dessert topped with a scoop
- 44 "Star Wars" heroine
- 45 Sing the praises of
- 46 Snapchat snicker
- 47 Court game
- 50 "Knives Out" filmmaker Johnson
- 52 Bowlful of letter-shaped pasta
- 58 Grampa Simpson
- 61 Feudal lord
- 62 Fire truck item
- 63 New venture that may collaborate with Y Combinator, and what 18-, 24-, 40-, and 52-Across each literally has?
- 67 "With all ___ respect ..."
- 68 "West Side Story" role for Rachel Zegler
- 69 Sierra ___, Africa
- 70 Place for a napkin or a cat
- 71 Hit the books
- 72 Spanish mister
- 73 Above-the-street rumbler

DOWN

- 1 Call one's own
- 2 "All kidding ___ ..."

- 3 End a project due to lack of funding, say
- 4 Place to take it easy
- 5 He/___ pronouns
- 6 Yoga posture
- 7 Witch ___: astringent lotion
- 8 Like some winter nights
- 9 Wooden wine container
- 10 Yale student
- 11 Reside (in)
- 12 Follow orders
- 13 Undercover agent's device
- 19 Loch ___ monster
- 21 "Great news!"
- 25 Altar area
- 26 Half-moon tide
- 27 Former name of Thailand
- 30 Simple flotation device
- 31 Reverse
- 32 Kumquat coat
- 33 Poet Whitman
- 34 Fencer's blade
- 36 Untruth
- 37 Irk
- 38 Gulp down
- 41 "Blue Banisters" singer-songwriter Del Rey

- 42 Ancestral stories, e.g.
- 43 Settled on a branch, as a bird
- 48 "Darn tootin'!"
- 49 Rotisserie rod
- 51 ___-blond: grayish shade
- 53 Recovers
- 54 Share an opinion
- 55 Pick to win at the track
- 56 Regular's order, with "the"

- 57 Marshmallow treats shaped like baby birds
- 58 Cash dispensers
- 59 Score more points than
- 60 Beige shade
- 64 Camouflaged
- 65 Game in which a player may get a red or a yellow card
- 66 According to

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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By Kevin Curry
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A REVIEW OF UCONN'S HOTTEST NEW SPOT:

by Stratton Stave | SPORTS EDITOR, DC FOOD OUTSIDER | HE/HIS/HIM | stratton@uconn.edu

RULES

It's not every day that the UConn community gets a new spot to eat. There are around 20 restaurants in the downtown area, even though it can often feel like there are a lot fewer due to preference or taste. In 2023 there were a handful of new additions to the existing set, one being Haven Hot Chicken.

The Storrs location opened in November 2023 and is the chain's fifth restaurant since starting in New Haven, Conn. in 2020. The decision to bring the fast-growing restaurant to UConn shouldn't be a surprise though; co-founders Rob La-Tronica ('10) and Craig Sklar ('08), are both Husky alums.

They likely wanted to share their vision of Nashville Hot Chicken in the Nutmeg state and their former stomping grounds, but it isn't the first fried chicken spot in Storrs. Jefferson Fry, which opened in 2022, specializes in interesting and uniquely-topped french fries, fried chicken and burgers. It has a signature "Husky Hot Chicken" sandwich, which seems to directly compete with Haven's offerings. As I'll discuss, Haven is better.

Assessing Haven Hot Chicken

There's no perfect way to rate a restaurant, but I'll try to give it a shot. I have five categories and each will get a rating out of a maximum of five Maple Leaves. Five is the best. The categories are service and presentation, atmosphere, taste, variety and price. Taste will be worth twice as many points as it is the most important factor, so the final score will be out of 30.

SERVICE & PRESENTATION

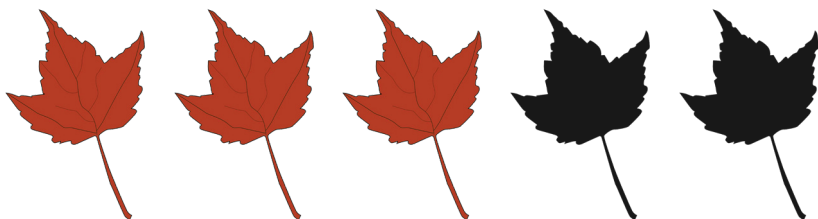
As a quick-serve type of place, it's important to set expectations in this category. I'm not envisioning excellent service. I'm not going to expect presentation that blows anyone's mind. The service was solid, but there's often only one or two registers open, so it can take a while to order. Over the three times I went, the fastest I was served (from entering to having food in my hands) was in 10 minutes, but it took around 25 the first time.

Twenty-five minutes isn't amazing given the concept of a quick-serve, but it's not long enough to deter me from going. Just make sure to give yourself enough time when you go. The presentation is virtually the same for take-out and eat-in. They serve it to you in a takeout box, on a tray with some napkins and utensils as opposed to in a bag.

I'll give it a pretty average rating here, since it doesn't stick out in a terribly positive or negative way.



IMAGE COURTESY OF @HAVENHOTCHICKEN ON INSTAGRAM



ATMOSPHERE

The atmosphere isn't anything to write home about. As noted with the presentation, you can't expect too much from a quick-serve spot. The music is often pretty loud, which isn't positive or negative. Haven doesn't differentiate itself from any other quick-serve places on campus, but it

does have a very nice mural by the seating area. This isn't an art review, but the mural with fries and chicken among significant landmarks of the Storrs campus is a nice view as you eat. That leaves another average rating, doing what it's supposed to do and not much more.



Storrs newly opened Haven Hot Chicken Stands ready for customers on Jan. 15, 2024. It is located on the corner of Storrs Road and Country Yard Lane.

PHOTOS BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

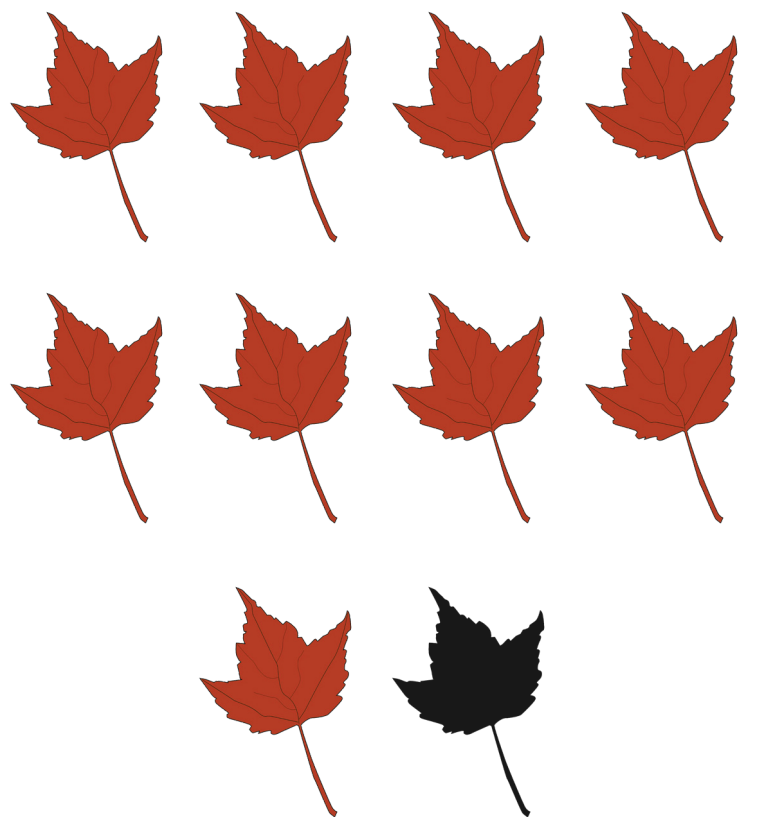
HAVEN HOT CHICKEN

TASTE

The taste is really where Haven Hot Chicken excels. In my three visits, I've had "The Sandwich Combo" twice and the "Tendie Trio Combo" once. I've gotten the tenders and sandwich once in the "Hot" (4/5) spice level and the other sandwich at "Medium" (3/5). It's pretty rare that you get legitimate spicy food in Storrs, so I wasn't expecting much when I ordered the "Hot" sandwich. I was blown away with the level of flavor and heat it delivered. As someone who eats authentic NYC spicy food, the sandwich was on the upper end of my comfortable heat spectrum, but really caught me off guard. There's no other place (that I've found at least) on campus that boasts a legitimate spicy

dish — and it wasn't even their spiciest offering. Apart from their spice, which is definitely higher than that of Chick-fil-A or Popeyes (neither of which are in Storrs, but are fair comparators), it's a great sandwich. The texture on the outside is the desired crispiness and the chicken meat is also perfect. The Martin's Potato Roll is solid, but not outstanding. Toasting it for a crispier bite would be a nice touch, but the sandwich doesn't suffer too much. The "Rob Sauce" (a cousin of spicy mayo) that serves a similar purpose to the Chick-fil-A sauce is also great, but doesn't distinguish itself from its competitors. The tenders were of similar quality. Their crispiness was phenomenal and the Rob Sauce

was more of a star than it had been in the sandwich, provided as a dipping sauce. Without additional cost, you only get one small sauce cup of Rob Sauce though, which is far from enough to sustain the amount of chicken they give you. The final part I'll touch on are the french fries. The primary add-on as a part of the combo, the fries are as good as any in the area. No, they aren't the best I've ever had, but they're crisp on the outside with a fluffy interior. It does well to compliment the chicken. Overall, there's not too much more one could ask for in the taste department. As the part that stands out most in the meal, Haven gets an exceptional taste score.



VARIETY

Variety is a peculiar category, mainly because there's a fine line to walk. Restaurants need to provide a balance of specialty and variety, which is not easy. Some restaurants have so many items that it's difficult to know what will be good or bad. Others have a few great ones, but it's easy to get sick of them. Although

I've only had two of Haven's offerings, the menu seems to do a nice job with their variety. Their "Sweet Heat Mac Bowl" and "Chicken and Waffles" are less run-of-the-mill options, which is a positive on paper. I'd want to try them, but on the surface, it seems like there is a solid blend of quantity and quality.

PRICE

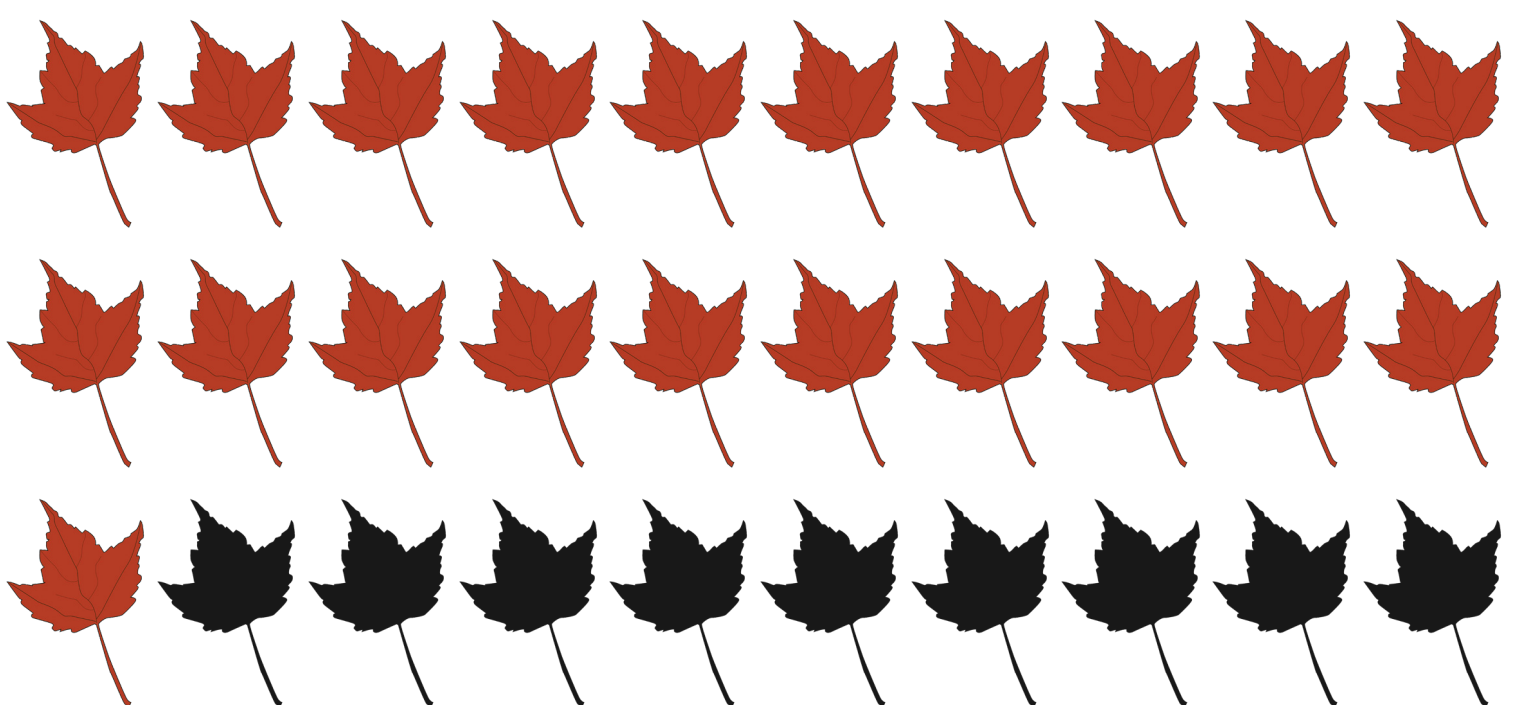
Lastly, price is the area where Haven does the least well in. The portions are solid, but I can easily finish a combo meal in one sitting. College students are known for their frugal spending habits, so \$20 (after tax) for a signature combo meal feels like a lot. Meals under \$15 aren't difficult to come by in

Storrs and the quality of the food here doesn't warrant the raised prices. Pricing strategies are always interesting in markets like these, where the target customers are low-income. It may be wiser to make their traditional items a bit less pricey, but we'll see how their popularity evolves as the initial novelty wears off.



THE BOTTOM LINE

Overall, Haven Hot Chicken is a solid new spot on campus. Their food is great. I'm not convinced there's a better bite on campus, but they lack in the other areas. Their prices are high for what they're providing both in the food department and the general ambiance. For \$20 per person, I'd prefer better presentation, more involved service and a more holistic experience than you'd find at a quick-serve spot. I'll definitely be going back, but not as frequently as if they had a better price point.





Life

@dailycampuslife

The Backlog: Duke it out in 'Brawlhalla'

BRAWLHALLA

IMAGE COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

by Desirae Sin
STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
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Welcome back to The Backlog. We're back from a winter break that felt way too short. After the final exams from last semester, I coped with my subpar grades through eating, sleeping for 12 hours straight and playing video games for the other 12 hours of the day. This month we will be reviewing games based on the word "fight." This category encompasses the vast majority of games, but one that I believe truly encompasses the word is "Brawlhalla."

Created by Blue Mammoth Games and published by Ubisoft, "Brawlhalla" was initially released in 2014 as an early-access game on Steam. Later it was fully released in 2017 and can be found on the vast majority of consoles, PC and mobile devices. The free-to-play fighting game is simplistic yet addictive to those who feed off of competition and find happiness in the suffering of others.

Those who do not know what the platform fighting game genre encompasses may be more familiar with some of its bigger titles, such as "Super Smash Bros." or "Nickelodeon All-Star Brawl." These are games with a 2D stage, in which many players can duke it out with a variety of characters, each having their own abilities and limitations. There usually isn't a cohesive story element in fighting titles, as in "Brawlhalla" all the lore is located in each character's description. Essentially, each character has their own tale and wound up in Valhalla; where they can battle worthy opponents forever.

The gameplay is simple and easy for newer players to

learn. I've become accustomed to playing the game on the PS5 with a controller. I have used a keyboard but I feel that it goes much smoother with the controller. "Brawlhalla" is the perfect game for those who have guests in their home. Local matches can have up to four players, and more if you include online players. Though they usually say the more the merrier, it can quickly become a chaotic slugfest as you have to dodge attacks and avoid falling off the stage.

What makes "Brawlhalla" so familiar however is the fact that it has become a big game for esports players. They regularly hold online tournaments pitting the most skilled against one another. The prizes are often large sums of money, which would motivate anyone to compete. However, these tournaments aren't the only way to compete: A good way to master one or a few characters is to go through the ranked battles which can be done as a 1v1 match, or you can invite a friend and compete in 2v2 matches. There certainly is a big difference in how you play if you are doing so with a friend; friendly fire is on so there have been many instances where I almost knock out my partner in real life because they accidentally knocked me off the stage.

What keeps drawing me into the game is the fact that it is updated often, not just with skins or customizable features, but with new characters and mechanics. An example of this is the plethora of items that can be obtained. The main category of items are weapons that correspond to each character's arsenal. The others are gadgets which have a variety of effects. Some are as simple as a bomb you

could throw, or a horn that summons your sidekick who drops a weapon. The developers regularly experiment by introducing new gadgets and seeing how players respond. Recent additions have been the boomerang and the sticky bomb.

Although "Brawlhalla" is free, there are many in-game purchases available, so much so in fact that I find it takes away from the heart of the game a bit. You can earn currency in-game but there is another currency that is pretty much tied to real money. While I don't feel the need to collect every single skin for each of the characters, it is tempting since they regularly release crossover skins. A character that I use (and therefore refuse to use anyone else) is Diana, a monster hunter who wields a bow and blasters. A crossover skin for Diana that I use a lot is Lara Croft, the protagonist of the famous "Tomb Raider" franchise. Skins and other customizable features are indicators of those who spend a lot of time playing, although this could be deceptive since I have run into many players who use the default skins and still destroy me in record time.

"Brawlhalla" is a polished experience and I haven't encountered too many issues, the only complaints would be against other players who are too good at killing me by pushing me off screen. Yet, I find that it doesn't do anything too inventive — not that it needs to. It is very friendly for esports competitions but that is all it is; it lacks a compelling casual experience. For most players, it's just a good way to mindlessly pass time without having to think too hard about your moves.

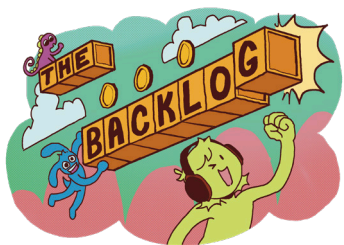
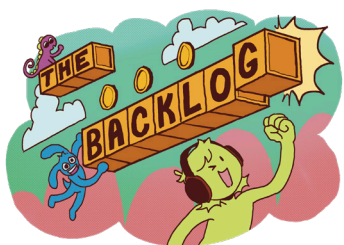
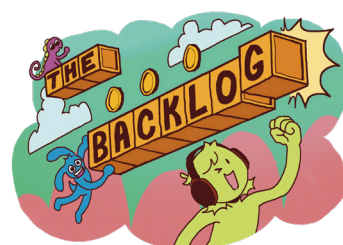
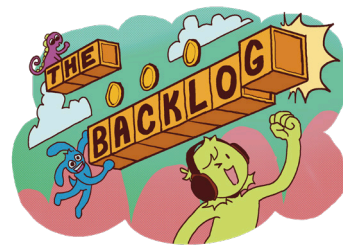


IMAGE COURTESY OF @BRAWLHALLA ON INSTAGRAM



LOGO BY HALEIGH SCHMIDT, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

RATING





Opinion

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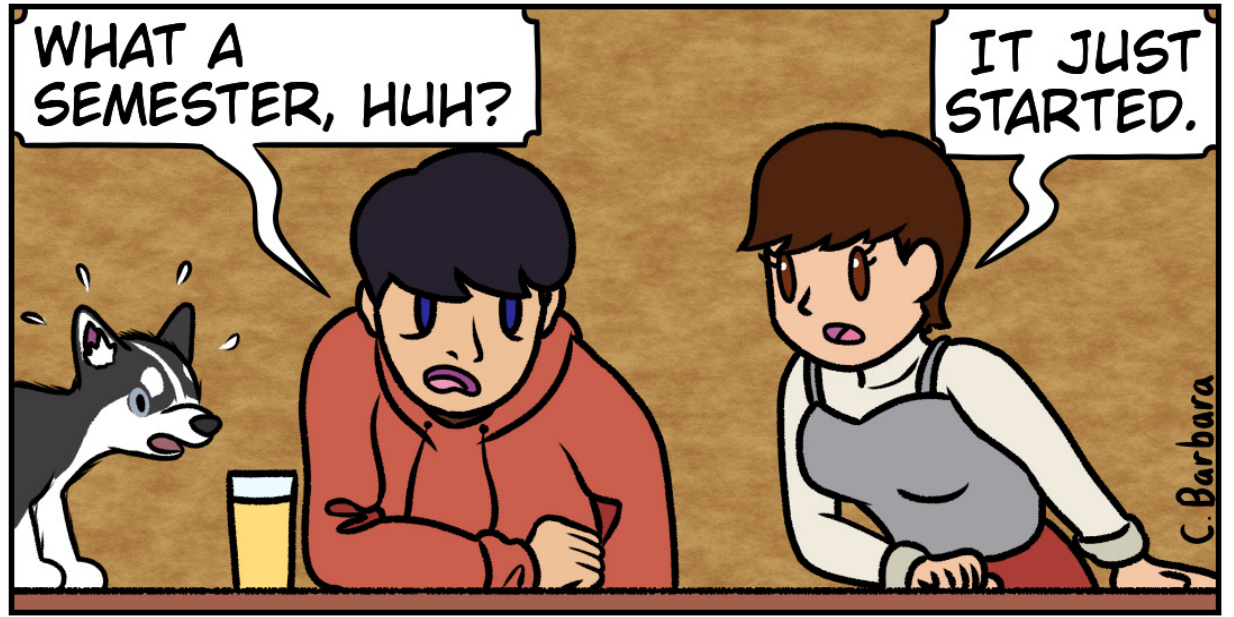
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COMIC BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Editorial

AN ANALYSIS OF UCONN'S 10-YEAR PLAN

PART 1: THE ENDOWMENT

Given the sheer amount of information within the strategic plan, one article would not suffice in accurately covering it. This article will be the first of multiple articles by the Daily Campus Editorial Board analyzing the strategic plan.

Over winter break, the University of Connecticut announced their intention to move forward with implementing a 10-year strategic plan. The plan had three main pillars promoting holistic student success: expanding the university's research impact and helping Connecticut thrive. Throughout the creation of this plan, the university engaged with over 10,000 people: students, faculty, staff, alumni and industry partners, among others.

There are four key performance indicators outlined specifically by President Radenka Maric for the next 10 years. Those indicators include increasing the university endowment to \$1 billion, achieving a 90% six-year graduation rate, obtaining \$500 million in research funding and reaching carbon neutrality by 2030.

At the beginning of the Fall semester, UConn announced a fourth consecutive year of record-breaking funding, amassing \$157.9 million in donations to the endowment. In previous articles, The Daily Campus Editorial Board has pointed out how growth of the endowment does little by way of affordability and student welfare across the board, exemplified by the fact that the cost of living at and attending UConn has increased year after year.

Maric has made it clear that fundraising increases to the UConn Foundation, the private, non-profit organization responsible for managing the endowment, are a priority for success. The Daily Campus Editorial Board has shown the lack of transparency within the UConn Foundation and how its structure shirks democratic input. For example, donors have full discretion over where the money goes instead of the current students and employees of the university. While it is reasonable that donors should have a say where their own donations go, we must reiterate the importance of dialogue between those providing resources and those most in need of them. Given the fact that the UConn Foundation is not beholden to public records requests, the information gap concerning how the endowment is invested will only grow should the Foundation meet its ambitious goal.

Despite the over 1,200 funds for donors to choose from, according to the Foundation's website, the daily benefits to students from these donations are limited to scholarships or research grants.

For example, despite a commitment to responsible and sustainable investments, environmental activists at UConn have long alleged that the Foundation has directly and indirectly invested millions of dollars worth of the endowment into fossil fuel companies.

In addition, the UConn Foundation has received millions of dollars from military manufacturing giants Lockheed Martin, Sikorsky and Raytheon. The Daily Campus Editorial Board has pointed out how while UConn promotes human rights, they gladly take millions of dollars from the very companies worsening human rights crises around the world. Despite stating carbon neutrality as one of the main indicators of success, UConn will continue to receive millions of dollars from the military-industrial complex and the fossil fuel industry, two of the worst sources of pollution globally.

The race to increase funds to the endowment by UConn could lead to the receipt of gifts from corporate donors whose enterprises directly conflict with UConn's stated goals. Students should be asking how a university can have a goal to reach carbon neutrality while accepting millions of dollars from some of the world's worst polluters. The Editorial Board has pointed out UConn's consistent pattern of coming up short on their goals regarding sustainability. Using a billion dollar endowment as an indicator of success could yet again contribute to the university's pattern of coming up short in regards to the climate.

Two things can be true at once: Fundraising is a valuable fountain of resources for academic departments, aspiring researchers and UConn as a whole; and growth in itself is not a measure of welfare for a university and those who live, learn and work at it. The Daily Campus Editorial Board hopes that individual donors will consider that working to solve the affordability crisis of American universities through their gifts is just as valuable as giving back to the academic program that nurtured them. We also ask members of the UConn community writ large to understand the limitations of philanthropy as an agent of change, and to be vigilant should the university's ideology of endless financial growth deepen our dependence on harmful industries.

UConn TARNISHES THE LEGACY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

by Nell Srinath | OPINION EDITOR | THEY/THEM/SHE/HER | nell.srinath@uconn.edu

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a celebration that needs no introduction. Observing his immeasurable contributions to civil rights and racial equality in the United States, corporations, universities and governmental agencies throughout the country line up to wax compassionate on Dr. King's life and legacy, share brief, uncontroversial quotations of the reverend and, if we're lucky, reaffirm their own commitments to racial justice. Users on X, the social media platform formally known as Twitter, from President Biden to the official accounts of Sesame Street and the U.S. Department of Defense commemorate Dr. King as if he wasn't among the most controversial figures in the country at the height of his prominence, according to Pew Research polling.

Even the Federal Bureau of Investigation — which heavily surveilled Dr. King and even sent him an infamous letter in 1963 urging him to commit suicide when they couldn't prove their bogus suspicions of communist ties — chimed in. As the agency wrote on X, "The #FBI honors one of the most prominent leaders of the Civil Rights movement and reaffirms its commitment to Dr. King's legacy of fairness and equal justice for all," effortlessly emulating comedian Jaboukie Young-White's timeless parody of the progenitor of COINTELPRO: "Just because we killed MLK doesn't mean we can't miss him."

Joining the chorus of performative observance is the University of Connecticut. Addressing the UConn community in an email, the Office for Diversity and Inclusion wrote that "King's vision...can motivate us to lean on, support, and encourage one another, particularly in times when we are faced, day after day, with what King once called 'the fierce urgency of now.'" ODI's call for reflection of "what it means to commit to justice, equality, and shared humanity" is an important one. UConn itself is a far-cry from a community in which everyone is a civic-minded agent of social change, much less a steeled freedom fighter like Dr. King and many of his contemporaries.

While the ODI statement avoids the lazy cliches that most corporations use to pay lip service to Dr. King's legacy — toothless appeals to colorblindness and peaceful political action being chief among them — it nonetheless offers the same selective reading of history that all other neoliberal institutions do when cherry picking the reverend's words and values for their own agenda.

It is a disservice to Dr. King's memory that he is upheld in the popular imagination as a singular fighter for "racial equality." This image is convenient to conservatives who deny or underplay the existence of systemic racism to proffer "All Lives Matter" type criticisms of racial justice movements. So too is it convenient to liberals who think "justice" is a matter of making the Forbes billionaire list a bit more diverse, ignoring King's later propensities towards democratic socialism and economic upheaval away from capitalism.

The most attractive reason for reducing Dr. King's legacy to a malleable heap of platitudes and inoffensive quotes is that it allows powerful people to easily jettison the most threatening aspect of his politics: anti-imperialism.

By 1966, just three years after the March on Washington, Dr. King made important ideological connections between the civil rights movement and the U.S. imperialist war in Vietnam. He articulates the germ of a truly internationalist framework no better than in his speech, "A Time to Break the Silence," in which he recounts engaging with Black men in poor communities in the north about choosing non-violent change over violent resistance. Their response, "What about Vietnam?," delivers him an epiphany:

"They ask if our own nation wasn't using massive doses of violence to solve its problems, to bring about the changes it wanted... I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today — my own government."

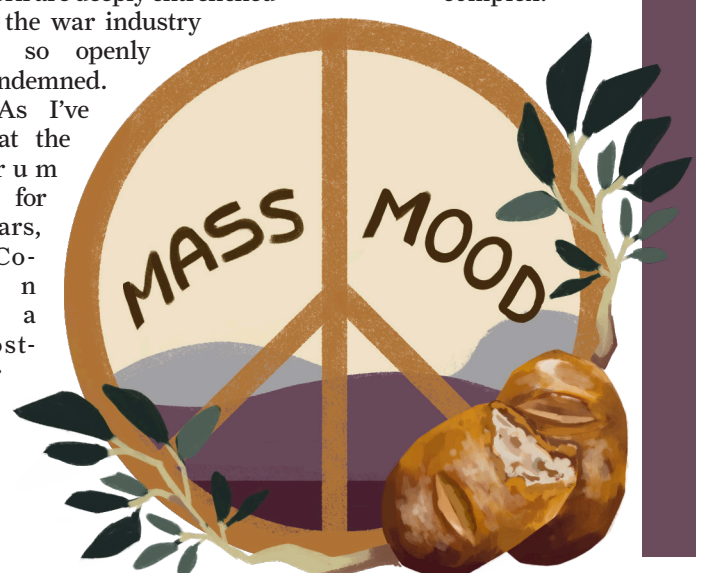
Dr. King crystallized the connection between anti-racism and anti-imperialism when he named the "Three Evils of Society" as "the sickness of racism, excessive materialism and militarism." Yet the institutions that dare utter his name and claim to honor his work are deeply entrenched in the war industry he so openly condemned.

As I've beat the drum on for years, UConn is a poster

child for militarism, embodying what Senator William Fullbright dubbed the "military-industrial-academic complex." Military recruitment, whether by weapons manufacturers or the Army itself, are a semi-permanent fixture at UConn, rendering war a desirable career outcome for a significant portion of graduates. UConn's manifold connections to the occupation and genocide of Palestinians, through study abroad programs as well as through economic ties to arms manufacturers aiding in the ethnic cleansing of Gaza this very moment, render it especially complicit in the atrocities committed by the state of Israel and supported by the United States.

Even further, according to the Office of the Vice President of Research, roughly \$35.6 million of research grants in 2022 were sponsored by the war-making Department of "Defense," amounting to over one-eighth of total research funding. The OVPR's annual report from 2022 openly acknowledges that UConn is "also a strong partner with the Department of Defense, Raytheon Technologies, Electric Boat, and other collaborators in research that advance or support our national security." Although historical revisionists try to paint the genocidal U.S. war in Southeast Asia as the tragic mistake of a clumsy empire, it was in reality bolstered by the same appeals to national security vis a vis the containment of communism.

If they have the confidence to quote Dr. King, UConn and all universities would be wise to heed his caution: "when scientific power outruns moral power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men." Appealing to a legacy of racial justice and anti-imperialism while acting in the exact contrary manner is nothing short of a travesty. In order to meaningfully honor Dr. King, UConn must cut its extensive ties to the military-industrial complex.



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion StudyBreak

Photo of the Day | Silly geese



A flock of geese rest in a partially frozen Mirror Lake on Jan. 15, 2024. Countless students have skated on Mirror Lake when it freezes over throughout the spring semester. PHOTO BY ZACHARY MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

THE DAILY CAMPUS

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FLIP THE PAPER UPSIDE DOWN FOR THE ANSWERS!

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The Weekly Reed: Hey Willie Green, play Jordan Hawkins

by Noah Reed
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Dan Hurley's Huskies are becoming a problem not just for other college teams, but for the NBA as well. While Hurley and UConn were busy earning the number one spot atop of the AP poll for the first time since March 2009, the Huskies in the pros were getting it done too.

Andre Jackson Jr., one of if not the most vital part of the championship run a season ago, notched his first career double-double with the Milwaukee Bucks, earning high praise from coaches and teammates for his efforts on the court. With the Bucks, Jackson has played in 34 games, starting in seven of those appearances and bringing the energy that Milwaukee needed when they drafted him.

Adama Sanogo, the 2023 tournament's Most Outstanding Player, put on an impressive yet quick performance for the Bulls earlier this month, scoring eight points along with six rebounds in just nine minutes of play against the 76ers. In the G-League, Sanogo is dominating, averaging 25 PPG and 11.3 rebounds per game.

The lone Husky left from the 2023 national championship is lottery pick Jordan Hawkins. The guard who earned all-tournament team was picked up by

the New Orleans Pelicans with the 14th overall pick, hoping he'd bring his offense with him.

At the beginning of the year, the Pelicans were using him pretty consistently, playing over 20 minutes in 18 of his first 27 games. Hawkins was performing too, leading the team in 3-point plays made and filling in the gaps that were left by the injured Pelicans.

Then at the end of December when the team started getting healthy, Hawkins lost minutes. He was sent down to the G-League by the team in a move they labeled would help in his development.

It was a move that was ridiculed not only by UConn fans but Pelicans fans too. But fans wouldn't have to wait long to see him in the NBA again.

Hawkins only played one game, scoring 32 points in 37 minutes and got recalled just a couple days after being sent down.

The issue with Hawkins is the inconsistent playing time. New Orleans has been struggling with injuries which gave him a lot of chances to play at the beginning of the year. Those players have started to come back, and it's been keeping Hawkins off the court.

Even since coming back from his short stint in the G-League, Coach Willie Green hasn't given him much space in the rotation. Hawkins has

played in eight games since his promotion back to the NBA. In the four games that he played under 10 minutes, the Pelicans were 2-2. In the four games in which he played over 20 minutes, the Pelicans were 4-0.

This article itself comes off a terrific performance from Hawkins, scoring a career-high against the Dallas Mavericks on the road and leading the team to a win. He scored 34 points and played in 37 minutes, both of which led the team.

While the Pelicans are currently the fifth seed in the Western Conference, one thing stands out about them which is where I think Hawkins fits well.

New Orleans has the third lowest 3-point attempts per game as a team and is in the middle of the pack (14th overall) for two-point field goal percentage.

Since his G-League game, Hawkins has shown flashes of being the lights out 3-point threat he was with the Huskies. In just six minutes against the Clippers, Hawkins shot three for three from deep and

ended up scoring 13 in a quick run on the court. He made four out of five attempts from three in the Pelicans' win against the Warriors and six for twelve in his season-high game versus Dallas.

Hawkins literally just makes your team better. New Orleans is perfectly set up to take on tough offensive teams with a defensive rating of 111.9, best for sixth in the league overall. It's offense where they struggle.

That's why Jordan Hawkins should be playing more now, and on the NBA team, not the G-League.

He has proven that he can hang with the best of the best and he adds another dimension to your offensive scheme as a threat

from deep. As we saw at UConn, Jordan Hawkins can come in clutch and make the baskets that quiet your opponent. He's continued to do that at the next level so there is no reason he should be losing playing time when everyone's healthy. Make him a part of your rotation every game.



Big East Baller Update No. 5: Karaban leads Huskies to first AP No. 1 ranking since 2009



The UConn Huskies scored a major win against Georgetown on Jan. 15, 2024 at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. The final score was 80-67.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNMBB ON TWITTER



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Sam Calhoun
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College basketball is heating up, with eight of the teams in the AP Top 10 losing in the past week, including Houston going 0-2 in the past week. Those teams losing has helped UConn, who earned its first AP No. 1 ranking since 2009 following wins at Xavier and home against Georgetown. Creighton kept itself in the AP Top 25 following an exhilarating victory over St. John's on Saturday. Marquette, the preseason No. 1 team in the conference, saw its home winning streak end on Wednesday as Butler stunned the Golden Eagles. We'll recap everything around Big East basketball in the past week on Big East Baller Update's first edition of 2024.

Player of the Week: Kadary Richmond, G, Seton Hall (22 PPG, 10 RPG, 6.5 APG in two games)

UConn fans may hate this pick, as Kadary Richmond and Alex Karaban have been neck-and-neck the past two weeks for the Big East Player of the Week honor. However, Richmond is having the best season of his career up to this point, becoming my frontrunner for the Big East Player of the Year so far. Despite Karaban's high shooting percentages, especially from downtown, Richmond has carried Seton Hall in Big East play. In the Pirates' 78-72 win over Butler, the Syracuse transfer finished with 24 points, 12 rebounds, five assists and five steals. He's been impressive, to say the least.

Freshman of the Week: Stephon Castle, G, UConn (13 PPG, 6 APG, 5 RPG in two games)

Castle doesn't look like a freshman on the floor for the Huskies, becoming a massive contributor on both ends of the floor for the top team in the country. He's been unselfish with the ball, becoming one of the best passers on the team. In Connecticut's 80-75 win over Xavier, the future first-round pick dropped 12 points, eight assists and six rebounds.

Top Games
Butler downs No. 11 Marquette in Milwaukee, 69-62

Butler has looked completely different from last year's team, with a more efficient team on both ends of the floor and better ball movement from St. John's transfer guard Posh Alexander. He had seven assists along with 10 points and five steals, helping the Bulldogs top Marquette on Wednesday night. Tyler Kolek, the reigning Big East Player of the Year, did not live up to last season's award, as he was held to just two points on 1-for-13 shooting. The loss stung even more for the defending Big East champions as key reserve guard Sean Jones was ruled out of the season following a knee injury late in the game.

St. John's escapes Providence in final seconds, 75-73

St. John's had been on fire to start Big East play, beginning 4-1, the only loss coming in a close game at UConn. The Friars will be without star forward Bryce Hopkins for the rest of the season, fueling the fire that guard Devin Carter has to his game, finishing with 31 points, 13 rebounds and four steals. Jayden Pierre dropped 17 points and five assists. However, his 3-point play as time expired did not go in as the Red Storm, led by a 16-point, seven-rebound performance from center Joel Soriano, held off Providence in the World's Most Famous Arena on Wednesday night.

No. 22 Creighton toughs out win vs. red-hot St. Johns, 66-65

Creighton's offense did not look like what the college basketball world was used to seeing from them as they shot just 36.7% from the floor and 22.2% from 3-point range. Creighton center Ryan Kalkbrenner, a two-time Big East Defensive Player of the Year, led the way with 18 points, nine rebounds and four blocks. One of those blocks became the play of the game, denying St. John's Daniss Jenkins in the final minute, leading to star guard Trey Alexander's game-winning free throws.

Top Games this week (excluding Creighton at UConn. Stay tuned for a preview on Wednesday.)

St. Johns at Seton Hall (8:30 p.m., FS1)

Two of the most surprising teams will face off tonight in an old-school Big East showdown at The Rock. Richmond has been the best player in Big East play so far, while Joel Soriano continues to prove he's one of the best bigs in the conference. The trend in the Big East is winning road games is among the most difficult things to accomplish. Seton Hall has an 8-1 record at home this season, with the only loss being against in-state rival Rutgers. It's Hall of Fame coach Rick Pitino's first game against the Pirates since the first game of his stint at Iona, where the Gaels lost 86-64 in 2020.

No. 17 Marquette at St. John's (Saturday, 12 p.m., FOX)

Two of the best coaches in the conference will face off as Pitino hosts reigning AP Coach of the Year Shaka Smart on Saturday. Soriano and Kolek headline the matchup, two players on the pre-season All-Big East First Team. The Golden Eagles have won four consecutive games against St. John's and have not lost at Madison Square Garden since the 2022 Big East Tournament quarter-final round. It will be a big test for both. Marquette wants to get back on the right path toward defending its Big East crown. St. John's wants to prove that they're one of the best teams in the conference.

No. 18 Creighton at Seton Hall (Saturday, 12 p.m., FS1)

The Pirates received votes in Monday's AP Poll, with Richmond taking the conference by storm. The frontcourt will be tested against Kalkbrenner and big guard Baylor Scheierman. I'm excited to see center Jaden Bediako, Seton Hall's leading rebounder, go to work against a 7-foot-2 giant who is considered the best defensive player in the Big East. Creighton will be coming off an extremely tough matchup at No. 1 UConn. This is an important game for both of these teams battling in the top half of the standings.

Sports

Photo of the Day | Women's Basketball



The UConn Huskies guard Paige Bueckers scored 22 points for the team during their game against the St. John's Red Storm. The final score of the game was 92-49, ending in a victory for the Huskies.
PHOTO BY EVAN RODRIGUEZ, ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Swim and Dive: Huskies open 2024 with 167-132 win over Seton Hall

by CJ Dexter
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Patiently waiting for over a month for their return to the pool, the UConn women's swim and dive began the spring season on Saturday with a head-to-head matchup against the Seton Hall Pirates.

The two teams traded event victories throughout the match, but late triumphs in the 500-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly helped Connecticut pull away late for their fourth consecutive win.

The Huskies struck first with early victories in the 200-yard medley and a first-place finish from senior standout Niamh Hofland in the 1000-yard freestyle. The Pirates countered with a victory in the 200-yard freestyle, but captain Kayla Mendonca helped swing momentum back in favor of the Huskies with a win in the 100-yard backstroke.

The Pirates continued to answer back, as they took the victory in the 100-yard breaststroke by less than a tenth of a second, but UConn pulled back ahead with a dominant showing in the 200-yard butterfly.

Despite the Pirates having first-place finishes in the one- and three-meter diving events by Silvia Alessio, the Huskies showed their depth by taking the next five places in both races. Junior Julia Pioso tallied seven points with a third-place finish in the one-meter and a second-place finish in the three-meter.

Later in the match, Hofland tacked on another distance victory with a 5:02.79 clocking in the 500-yard freestyle. This was the turning point in the day, as Connecticut followed with overwhelming victories in the 100-yard butterfly and 200-yard individual medley to begin pulling away.

The Pirates snuck in one more win in the 400-yard freestyle relay but it wasn't enough as the Huskies pulled away with the ultimate triumph.

Now sitting at 6-2 on the season, the Huskies got out to a 2-0 start with wins over Southern Connecticut State and Georgetown before going on a mini, two-game skid against Villanova and Northeastern. Saturday's road win over the Pirates comes on the heels of their 188-111 rout of Vermont, and previous victories over Bucknell and Rhode Island. These games were all on the road.

The well-tested Huskies will hit the road for the final time this season as they head to Durham, N.H. for a matchup with the New Hampshire Wildcats, in search of their fifth consecutive win.



UConn women's swimming lost their home meet against Villanova with a score of 146-154 on Oct. 21, 2023 at the Wolff-Zackin Natatorium in Storrs, Conn. This was their first loss of the season, after securing wins against SCSU and Georgetown.

PHOTO BY ANGELINA LARRACUENTE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



The UConn women's hockey team took on the Boston College Eagles on Saturday at the Toscano Family Ice Forum. The Huskies came back with two goals in the third period tying up the score 2-2.

PHOTO BY ANGELINA LARRACUENTE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Ice Hockey: No. 11 Huskies up to three-game win streak following wins vs. Merrimack and Boston University

by Sam Calhoun
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The No. 11 UConn women's ice hockey team (14-6-2, 11-3-1 Hockey East) is just a point behind No. 13 Boston College but could slide into first place in the conference standings if they continue to stay hot, as the Huskies are currently on a three-game winning streak.

They began the weekend in North Andover, Mass., where Merrimack College (7-13-2, 4-9-2 Hockey East) looked for revenge against the Huskies after the first meeting ended in an overtime loss for the Warriors.

The game started with strong plays from the back line. Defenseman Claire Peterson sent the puck down the ice to forward Riley Grimley, who set up freshman Ashley Allard for her third goal of the season, giving the Huskies a 1-0 lead in the first period.

Merrimack was aggressive on offense,

shooting the Huskies 8-6.

Defense was the key for both teams in the first 40 minutes, as the second period went scoreless. Following a penalty killed by the Warriors, Stockdale wrapped the puck around and fired a behind-the-back shot for the senior's fifth goal of the season, which ended up being the game-winner.

However, shortly after the goal, Merrimack responded with forward Maria Lindberg cutting the Warriors' deficit back to one goal.

With junior Megan Warrenery tying her season-best in saves with 26, the Huskies stayed perfect against Merrimack this season, with a 2-1 victory.

It was High School Day and Jersey Day for the Huskies on Saturday, as they hosted Boston University (9-10-2, 7-8-1 Hockey East) at the Toscano Family Ice Forum.

found forward Coryn Tormala, who found the top right shelf for UConn's second goal of the game three minutes after the first goal.

Boston University's Sydney Healey cut the Terriers' deficit to one after finding the back of the net less than two minutes after Tormala's goal.

The Terriers had the edge in the second period, scoring the period's only goal off the stick of Lilli Welcke, who tied it up midway through the period. Despite

scoring the only goal, they failed to outshoot Connecticut, who won that battle 21-18.

Allard and Grimley continued to have a strong weekend as they connected to set up Habisch, who was wide open on the right side to break the tie. Allard found Peterson, who sniped the bottom right corner of the net to give the Huskies a 4-2 lead. Josifovic put the cherry on top of a prolific third period with an empty net goal, giving UConn a 5-2 win.

Head coach Chris MacKenzie became the winningest coach in program history with 164 wins in 11 years.

UConn will look to stay undefeated against the University of Maine (11-11-1, 7-8-1 Hockey East) this season on Friday night in Storrs. Following that, they will travel to face the University of New Hampshire (10-10-2, 7-6-2 Hockey East) on Sunday.



CLIPART COURTESY OF WANNAPIK

ess - when they went on the power play due to a body-checking penalty on Grimley and an interference call on forward Kathryn Stockdale, but could not tie the score in the first 20 minutes despite out-

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:

Bueckers' efficient night helps Huskies steamroll Johnnies

by Stratton Stave

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The last time the No. 13 UConn women's basketball team faced St. John's, the Huskies were riding the high of big victories over the Big East's top two teams. It was a home contest in Hartford, Conn. 11 months ago, and was not one that many expected to be competitive, given Connecticut's 30-point thumping of the Red Storm a month earlier. This time, the Huskies entered on a nine game win streak and could have overlooked this one. They didn't fall into the same trap.

With a business-only mindset, the Huskies took care of the Johnnies, who were dealing with an illness that had spread around the team. It looked like UConn was going to run away with the game before it even had a chance to get going.

Thanks to their stifling defense, the Huskies went on a 16-0 run that lasted over

four minutes. It also helped that Connecticut was shooting the lights out from deep, with three different Huskies contributing to them making five of their first six threes. Up 22-6 just 7:30 into the matchup, St. John's was showing no signs of life.

Out of nowhere, things clicked. Whether it was a lack of focus, a burst of energy or a mix of both, the Red Storm finished the period on a 12-2 run, closing the gap to just six. The run was enough to bring the Huskies' focus right back into place, as they scored the first 13 points of the second, which effectively put the game out of reach. St. John's never got closer than 18, largely thanks to the play of Paige Bueckers.

The once-national POTY delivered a vintage performance, scoring 22 points in 25 minutes. The impressive part was that it took nine shots to get to the total, hitting eight. In their previous two blowouts, Bueckers deferred more to her teammates, but is really finding her stride. She was a bit shakier to start the year coming off an ACL tear, which is to be expected. The way she's responded has been tremendous for the team, who seems to get thinner by the minute.

One person who stepped up big time amid the attrition was redshirt-freshman Ice Brady. She recorded a personal-best 17 points

and grabbed four boards. With Aubrey Griffin sidelined for the season, newer faces stepping up is as important as ever. Brady recorded 23 minutes and was more assertive, attempting 11 shots. Her six giveaways were a mark of normal growing pains, which are to be expected. The positives of having another viable frontcourt option cannot be understated, with depth in that department currently a big weakness.

The current frontcourt anchor, Aaliyah Edwards, had herself a great day too. She finished with 16 points, 10 rebounds and four assists. With the aforementioned lack of depth at the big, Edwards' consistency comes at a premium. As they line up against the nation's bests, long minutes and excellent play will be a must to win.

They didn't need her 'A' game against the Johnnies, but she still delivered on it. This was a part of a larger team-effort, with Connecticut outclassing their hosts in nearly every category. Perhaps most jarring was UConn's 37-14 advantage on the glass, demonstrating high effort levels. They also won the paint battle by 32 and out-assisted St. John's 28-9.

Spearheading that passing effort was Nika Mühl, who led the team with six dimes. Though her calling tends to be getting her teammates involved, Mühl has thrived as a shooter lately. She ends up drawing a number of open looks beyond the arc because of the way teams guard her and she's been making them pay. Including her three makes on four tries Saturday, the point guard is nine of her last 14.

She and the Huskies' next chance will come on the road against Seton Hall. Perfect at 6-0 in conference, they'll take on the 3-3 Pirates.



The UConn Huskies faced off against the St. John's Red Storm on Jan 13, 2024. The game was a part of the 2024 Big East Conference and helped the Huskies earn a first place standing.

PHOTO BY EVAN RODRIGUEZ, ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Aaliyah Edwards, number 3 of the UConn Huskies, scored 16 of the teams 92 points against St. Johns. The game on Jan 13, 2024 took place in the UBS Arena in Elmont, N.Y.

PHOTO BY EVAN RODRIGUEZ, ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



CLIPART COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

TRACK & FIELD DOMINATE IN BOSTON

by Jackson Crainich

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This past weekend, the UConn Huskies Track & Field team traveled to Boston to participate in the Suffolk Invitational as they looked to continue their strong start to their 2023-24 indoor campaign. At the meet, the team saw success all over the place with 13 first place finishes, two facility records and additional indoor school records.

Senior Jenna Zydanowicz set a personal record in the 1000-meter run with a time of 2:46.47 seconds. This was also a school indoor record, breaking the record that was previously held by Heather Wilson who has had the record since 2011 with a time of 2:46.97 seconds.

Fans also saw another record time in the mixed 1600 relay. While sophomores Zachary Barry, Anish Rajamanickam, Megan Perrotta and Caroline Rice came in second in the race, the group would set the school record with a time of 3:38.20 seconds. Perrotta also went on to have a strong showing in the 1000-meter run, placing fifth with a time of 2:58.86 seconds.

There was a lot of success seen from both the men's and women's teams this past weekend.

On the men's side, sophomore Mekhi Stone placed first and set a personal record in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.50 seconds.



The UConn men's and women's track & field teams competed against the University of Massachusetts, University of Massachusetts Lowell, and Holy Cross on Dec 7 and Dec 8, 2023. The Huskies won a combined 25 events during the two-day meet.

PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Noble Gongon also had an incredible performance in the 200-meter dash, placing second with a time of 21.76 seconds. Mawali Osunniyi placed first and set a personal record as well. The freshman from Linwood, New Jersey jumped 2.16 meters

in the High Jump event. Dar Jankovic, a freshman, came in third place in this event with a jump of 2.00 meters. Senior Kasey Savage placed first in the long jump after leaping 7.28 meters and setting a new personal record. Graduate Student Travis

Martin and sophomore William Watson won their respective events as well. For Martin, he placed first in the 1000-meter run with a time of 2:22.99, while Watson placed first in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.17 seconds for a new personal record.

Outside of Zydanowicz's record-setting performance in the 1000-meter run, the women's team saw more success. Junior A'lyiah Thomas set a facility record in the long jump event with a mark of 6.25 meters to score first in the event by a large margin. Caroline Towle, a senior, placed first in the mile run with a time of 4:58.36.

The Huskies went on to capture the top three spots in the 1000-meter run. Zydanowicz came first with a school record time of 2:46.47, followed by freshman Malin Rahm with a second place time of 2:52.79 seconds and freshman Calista Mayer, who placed third with a time of 2:56.29 seconds. The women finished with five of the top six finishes in the 1000-meter run.

They also showed out in the 200-meter dash. Though the group was unable to grab first place, there were seven Huskies who finished inside the top 10 of the event. Graduate student Patricia Mroczkowska took first place in the high jump event, jumping a height of 1.75 meters. Sophomore Rachel Mason placed first in the pole vault, eclipsing a height of 3.65 meters. Senior Felicia Quainoo brought the Huskies yet another first place finish, winning the triple jump event by jumping 11.55 meters.

Overall, Connecticut had a very successful weekend and started off 2024 with a bang. Next up, the group will look to carry on their momentum in their meet on Jan. 20 at the Collegiate Showdown.



Sports

Men's Basketball: No. 4 Huskies rout Hoyas 80-67 in scrappy Big East showdown

by **Connor Sargeant**
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Up to this point, the UConn men's basketball team has looked impressive in Big East play with a 4-1 in-conference record coming into Sunday afternoon. The program extended its winning streak to five following their 80-67 win over the Georgetown Hoyas.

Early on, the Huskies experienced the highs and lows of Big East basketball. This was a major reason why Connecticut only led by nine at the break. They were initially slow out of the gate, turning the ball over eight times in the first half. However, the program had many moments where they thrived on both ends,

of the first 20 minutes. The officials were all of a sudden not letting the conference rivals duke it out. An influx of fouls were called towards the end of the first half and both teams quickly found themselves in foul trouble soon after. UConn finished with 12 first half fouls, while Georgetown had 11. This has been a theme all season long for the Huskies, as the program leads the Big East in committed fouls.

As the 40-31 first half score indicates, the first half was a back-and-forth slugfest. Both teams had their runs, although it was Alex Karaban's first half performance that put the Huskies over the top. The Massachusetts native finished with 19 points on 6-8 shooting, includ-

ance, Georgetown head coach Ed Cooley noted that it was just another day in the office for the Massachusetts native.

"[Karaban] to me is a player not a lot of people give credit to. He's as versatile as a player in the country. He can play inside and outside. He is definitely somebody who needs to be accounted for, he was great today. He was a first-round pick today."

Cam Spencer also had it his way on Sunday with 20 points on 6-9 shooting. The Rutgers transfer played a crucial role in the second half, as his 11 points kept UConn atop. Despite this, a big takeaway from Spencer was his squad's performance in the rebounding department. The graduate guard noted that this was a



UConn men's basketball takes on DePaul at Gampel Pavilion on Jan. 2, 2023. The Huskies took an easy win, finishing the game 85-56.

PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

especially their 7-11 performance from three-point land.

The first 20 minutes were different from previous contests in terms of their high-percentage looks. They were fluid in transition and this was catalyzed by their aggressive defense that fans have been accustomed to all season long. From the first tip to the final whistle, Connecticut put tremendous pressure on Georgetown as they utilized their full-court press defense that often led to a turnover or a poor shot. This allowed UConn to sprint down the court, either taking it coast-to-coast or finding a man standing at the three-point line for an easy three.

The first half on Sunday started as a classic and physical Big East slugfest. This was a reason why Stephon Castle finished the first half 0-3 from the field. While he went to the charity stripe on three separate occasions, two of his misses that did not yield a free throw featured extreme contact from his defender. Many of these physical plays have been called fouls in games past. However, the narrative changed at the tail end

ing 5-6 from beyond the arc.

For the Hoyas, it was the Supreme Cook show in the first half. The New Jersey native went nuclear, scoring 16 points on 4-4 shooting. The 6-foot-9 forward also made his presence felt on the glass, grabbing over half of his team's first half rebounds. His performance was a large reason why they were in this ballgame as long as they were.

The second half was more or less the same story as the first 20 minutes. However, this time it was the Hoyas fuming at the officials. With six and a half minutes left in the first half, Georgetown's top scorer, Cook, fouled out. Jayden Epps put together a solid outing with 16 points. However, the Virginia native was much more inefficient than his teammate, finishing 5-19 from the field. Cook's absence would prove to be the knockout blow that the Huskies needed.

Karaban had one of the most complete performances from any Husky this season, scoring 26 points on 9-13 shooting, including 6-8 from beyond the arc. Despite his impressive perfor-

crucial piece as to why this game was within single digits.

"I think we have to do a lot better job on the boards," said Spencer. "We just didn't finish possessions, so going forward we need to do a better job of that."

As a unit, Connecticut finished with 33 rebounds to Georgetown's 31. It should be noted that 7-foot-2 big man Donovan Clingan has been out with an injury, although the team is optimistic that the Bristol native will return soon.

With the combination of their win over Georgetown and the three teams above them losing, the Huskies are in line to be No. 1 in the AP Poll. This is a massive win for a team that came in with a chip on its shoulder being ranked No. 6 in the country despite coming off a national championship. The team accepts all the nuances that come with it, however, it doesn't change their day-to-day mission: winning basketball games. The Connecticut men return to action this Wednesday against No. 22 Creighton for \$2 beer night at Gampel Pavilion.



The UConn Huskies rematch the UMass Lowell River Hawks on Friday night on Dec. 1 at the Toscano Family Ice Forum. Goalie Ethan Haider gets a shutout, beating the River Hawks 2-0.

PHOTO BY SHELAGH LAVERTY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Ice Hockey: Ice Bus splits weekend set versus No. 7 Maine

by **Nick Spinali**

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The UConn men's ice hockey team split their weekend matchup against the No. 7 University of Maine Black Bears, losing their grasp on a winnable contest on Friday before returning for a victory on Saturday to advance their record to 9-10-2 overall this season.

The Huskies hosted UMaine at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. for both games of the series. In Friday's match, Connecticut took hold of an early lead when junior Chase Bradley scored the game's first goal just 26 seconds following puck drop. Sophomore Tristan Fraser rattled home a tip-in score later in the period to give the home team a 2-0 advantage. The Huskies defense held the Black Bears off the scoreboard to maintain the lead at the period's conclusion.

Both sides saw opportunities to score in the second period but were unable to find the net. UConn goalkeeper Ethan Haider tallied 13 saves in the period while Maine's Victor Ostman had six of his own. Both teams also were unsuccessful on one power play each in the period.

Maine's offense finally broke through on a power play early in the third period with Harrison Scott scoring the visitor's first goal of the contest. Hudson Schandor sank home the Ice Bus' third goal of the game to regain a two-score advantage at 3-1 with 13 minutes left in regulation. However, it was all Maine from that point forward as the team scored four unanswered goals to stun UConn. Brandon Holt scored a goal to bring the Black Bears within one before a power play led to Bradly Nadeau tying the game at three-all with just under eight minutes remaining. Josh Nadeau, Bradly's brother, gave Maine its first lead with a goal in the 16th minute before an empty net score by Holt with under two minutes left gave the away team the 5-3 lead. The score was finalized when the final buzzer sounded.

Overall, the Black Bears outshot Connecticut 37-28 in Friday's game. Haider tallied 32 total saves in the match while

Ostman corralled 25, ultimately receiving the win following his team's impressive comeback.

The two teams returned to the XL for game two on Saturday afternoon. With captains Hudson Schandor and Jake Flynn both out due to injuries, the Ice Bus defense needed to stand strong and did so throughout the first period. Despite being outshot 13-2 in the frame, UConn escaped the first still knotted at zero against the Black Bears while goalkeeper Arsenii Sergeev was terrific with 13 saves. The scoreless affair continued into the second period though the roles were reversed: the Huskies outshot Maine 17-3, generating more offense but failing to rattle home a score in the period.

Sophomore Tabor Heaslip scored the game's first goal in the first minute of the third and gave the home team the lead. It was John Muldowney who scored UConn's second goal following a steal and assist by Fraser four minutes later to give the Huskies a 2-0 advantage. The Ice Bus defense held its ground to fend off Maine over the second half of the period and helped earn the upset victory.

For the second straight game, the Black Bears outshot the Huskies, 27-19, but could not replicate the success they had had on Friday. Sergeev earned the win after tallying 27 saves en route to the first shutout of his collegiate career. Meanwhile, Maine's Albin Boija corralled 17 total saves in the opposing goal.

The Ice Bus is now 5-7-1 against Hockey East opponents, good enough for 17 total points and placing the team fifth in the conference. The win and loss moves Maine to 14-4-2 overall this year, including a 6-3-1 mark in Hockey East play. That equates to 19 points, placing them third in the conference.

The Huskies will return to action with two games against the New Hampshire Wildcats next weekend. Game one is set for Friday at 7 p.m. at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn. Game two will take place on Sunday at 4 p.m. at the Whittemore Center Arena in Durham, N.H. Fans at home can watch both games live on NESN.

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

UConn SCOREBOARD

vs.

80 **67**

Men's Basketball

Sunday

Upcoming Games

vs.

Men's Basketball

7 p.m. Wednesday

Storrs, Conn.

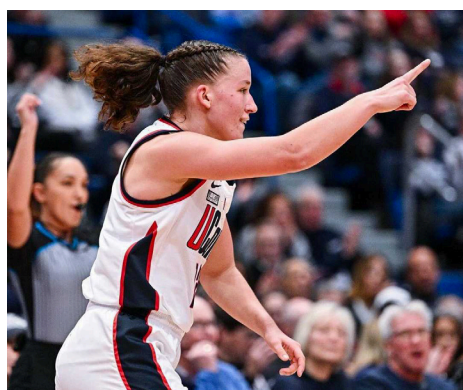
vs.

Women's Basketball

8:30 p.m. Wednesday

South Orange, N.J.

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconnwbb
For the fourth time this season, Ashlynn Shade is the BIG EAST Freshman of the Week!

TWEETS OF THE DAY

The Field of 68
@TheFieldOf68
For the first time since 2009, the UConn Huskies are No. 1 in the AP Poll!

Ghost Mike Toscano
@mtosc98
I cannot possibly imagine being a fan of UConn men's basketball without being a fan of UConn women's basketball. I cannot possibly imagine being a fan of UConn women's basketball without being a fan of UConn men's basketball. We are UConn. We are one.

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