

## Remembering former UConn President John DiBiaggio

by Rachel Philipson  
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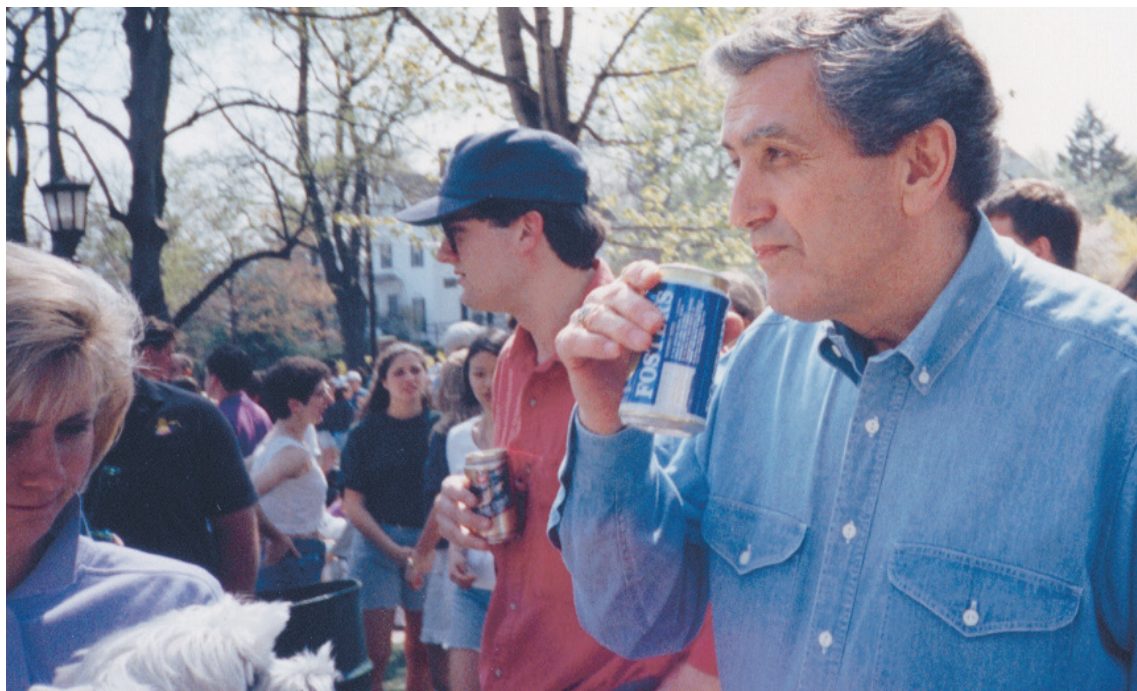
The University of Connecticut's 10th president, John DiBiaggio, passed away on Feb. 1, 2020, at the age of 87, according to UConn Today.

DiBiaggio served as UConn's president from 1979 to 1985. He was initially the vice president of Health Affairs and executive director of the UConn Health Center for three years before being named president, according to UConn Today. After leaving UConn, he served as the president of Michigan State (1985-1992) and Tufts (1992-2001).

Stephanie Reitz, UConn's spokesperson, said that she met DiBiaggio back when she was a freshman at Michigan State and was writing for the school newspaper, The State News. Reitz said that what made DiBiaggio special as president was his unique ability to recall people and his friendly nature.

"Actually in some ways, he reminds me of Katsouleas," Reitz said. "Both people are friendly from the start and warm up very quickly to people ... They are interested in what people have to say."

During DiBiaggio's tenure at UConn, he aided in the creation of the first capital campaign called the Second Century Fund, which raised more than double its goal of \$25 million, according to UConn



Former UConn President John DiBiaggio at Tufts University Spring Fling. DiBiaggio passed away on Feb. 1, 2020 at the age of 87. PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Today. He also helped with the Tuition Fund, which allowed the university to retain tuition payments.

Reitz said that DiBiaggio's work helped set UConn's approach of emphasizing internal growth as well as promoting university funding.

"[DiBiaggio knew] how important it was for a university to have good research enterprises and be willing to innovate," she said. "It is the same priorities we have now, and we just have more

resources."

DiBiaggio enjoyed interacting with UConn students, according to UConn Today. He was known to eat in campus dining halls and play Ooze ball while dressed as the university's mascot.

"I think UConn has had a good history of presidents who were open with students," Reitz said. "[DiBiaggio] wanted to hear what the students were thinking about and made a point to be out and about with them."

Reitz said that DiBiaggio was

a big supporter of UConn Athletics during his presidency. While president of Michigan State, he was a member of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, according to UConn Today. According to Reitz, he "worked to promote reforms that supported and strengthened the educational mission of college sports." DiBiaggio was also a member of the NCAA Foundation Board.

"I wish he were here to see us go back to the Big East," Reitz said. "He would have enjoyed that."

### Summer entrepreneurship training available to undergraduates this summer

by Ashley Anglisano  
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Undergraduate students at the University of Connecticut have the opportunity to take part in a paid research experience this summer, including entrepreneurship training and laboratory research from the UConn School of Engineering.

*"This summer program will give UConn students the unique opportunity to have hands-on research with faculty in UConn labs."*

DR. HADI BOZORGMANESH

The program, Experiential Entrepreneurship Research Experience for Undergrads (E2REU), is open to juniors and seniors at Connecticut institutions, and is held for 10 weeks over the summer at the UConn Storrs campus.

"This summer program will give UConn students the unique opportunity to have hands-on research with faculty in UConn labs, leading to discovery of commercializable technology," Dr. Hadi Bozorgmanesh, the head of the program, said.

According to a flyer for the program, in addition to experience, students will receive a \$4,000 stipend, fully paid housing in UConn residence halls and a \$500 meal allowance.

Bozorgmanesh said the program will teach students what it takes to build a viable technology project and startup venture.

"It enables students to become more innovative and develop entrepreneurial skills, which are becoming more and more marketable for companies," Bozorgmanesh said.

Applications are due March 16, and more information can be found on their website <https://ee-reu.engr.uconn.edu/apply-for-reus/>.

*Students will receive a \$4,000 stipend, fully paid housing in UConn residence halls and a \$500 meal allowance.*

*Applications are due on March 16.*

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## ITS will begin identifying phishing emails through banner warnings

by Amanda Kilyk  
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Starting Feb. 26, Information Technology Services (ITS) will warn University of Connecticut email users about emails sent from third parties that could be trying to steal personal data, according to an email sent by UConn's Chief Information Officer.

An automated banner, which will read "message sent from a system outside of UConn," according to the email, will appear in a contrasting color at the top of the message body. The warning won't take up more than one line of preview on a typical smartphone, Michael Mundrane, the vice president of Information Technology, said.

"Most phishing emails, which attempt to steal your personal data, come from outside of the University," the email said.

These types of phishing emails are relatively common, according to Mundrane.

The IT Knowledge Base website gives some red flags to watch out for in order to identify a message as a phishing scam, including urgent requests, bad spelling or grammar, incorrect email address information, a generic signature line or unexpected requests for personal information.

Once a hacker is able to steal data from an account, the web of emails that can also become compromised grows.

"The secret password is how the account holder is validated by the system," Mundrane said. "Once an account has been compromised, it can be used to send emails as the account holder, exploiting information available to the address book, to harvest more

I have a video of you watching p [redacted] Inbox ☆

[redacted] to me 1:46 PM ↩ ⋮

Hi!

I will be direct. You watch adult content often, and I caught you n [redacted]. We all do it from time to time. How I did this? Your router was vulnerable. I was able to inject some code into the firmware, and every device connected on the network, including phones, was compromised. Then I set every device available to record with the camera only when you watch adult content. I also got your contact lists, phone numbers, emails, social media contacts, and here is the deal. If you don't pay me 1000 dollars worth in Bit-Coin, I will send your m [redacted] video and search history to all your contacts.

Amount: 0.14 BTC (approximately)

accounts."

If students believe their accounts have been compromised, they should immediately change the password to their account.

"A compromised account is merely one where your username and password are known by somebody other than yourself," Mundrane said. "Once these credentials are known, they can be used just like you would use them to access any service you would access or take any action you would take."

If students are suspicious of an email and are unsure if it is safe to open, Mundrane said there are a few precautions they can take.

"Students can forward suspi-

cious messages to phishing@uconn.edu if they think a message is fraudulent," Mundrane said. "They can hover over attachments and make sure they are what they say they are. They can hover over links for a similar review. A Microsoft rewritten safe-link can be translated at <https://0365atp.com>. This restores the Office365 link into its original form."

While most phishing scams originate outside of the University, Mundrane said students should continue to exercise caution when opening emails, whether or not they are coming from the University.

"Simply receiving an email

from a UConn account is not proof that it is valid," Mundrane said. "There is no way for students to differentiate a fraudulent individual using stolen credentials from the actual account holder."

Mundrane reiterates that email users should continue to be wary of emails that don't contain the banner.

"Criminals can and do use stolen UConn credentials to send fraudulent emails, and because they originate from within our email system, they will not have a banner," said Mundrane. "Phishing is an ongoing problem and to protect yourself, you must be careful with all emails."

### Protecting Yourself from Phishing Scams

- Step 1:** Identify the message as a phishing scam.
- Step 2:** Check out links and attachments before you click.
- Step 3:** Report and delete

Email reportphishing@uconn.edu to alert ITS to phishing emails.

**A phishing email received by a UConn student. The university's Information Technology Services have issued a warning to students about a recent bout of phishing emails that have plagued the student body.** EMAIL COURTESY OF ANONYMOUS UCONN STUDENT/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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I was just chillin n remembered I still have to pay my UConn parking ticket :-)

## News

# New Hampshire culls Dem field: Yang drops out, others next?

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Polls closed across New Hampshire Tuesday night as fiery progressive Bernie Sanders fought for Democratic front-runner status in the first-in-the-nation primary. The party hoped for results that would bring some clarity to a presidential nomination fight that has so far been marred by dysfunction and doubt.

As Sanders predicted victory, former Mayor Pete Buttigieg hoped to seize the backing of his party's establishment with a strong finish. Joe Biden wanted to avert political disaster after leaving the state hours before the final polls closed at 8 p.m.

New Hampshire began culling the Democrats' unwieldy 2020 class even before the final results were known. Political newcomer Andrew Yang, having attracted a small but loyal following over the last year, was suspending his campaign.

"Tonight is not the outcome we fought so hard to achieve. It is bitterly disappointing for many of us, but it shouldn't be," he told supporters in New Hampshire, noting that he outlasted several senators, governors and congressmen.

Still, 10 candidates remained in the competition for the chance to take on President Donald



**In this Feb. 7, 2020, photo, Democratic presidential candidate entrepreneur Andrew Yang speaks during a Democratic presidential primary debate at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H.** PHOTO BY ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Trump this fall. Tuesday's contest comes just eight days after Iowa caucuses injected chaos into the race and failed to report a clear winner.

While the action was on the Democratic side, Trump easily won New Hampshire's Republican primary. He was facing token opposition from former Massachusetts Gov. Bill Weld.

New Hampshire Democrats headed into Tuesday's primary with a focus on matters of fairness.

Just over 1 in 10 said they were "very confident" that their party's process for choosing a presidential nominee was fair, according to a wide-ranging AP VoteCast survey. At the same time, nearly 8 in 10 also viewed

the economy as unfair, although there was little consensus on which candidate would do the best job of stewarding the world's largest economy.

For Sanders, the New Hampshire primary was an opportunity to build on his dominance of the party's left flank. A repeat of his strong showing in Iowa could severely damage progressive ri-

val Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who faced the prospect of an embarrassing defeat in a state that borders her home of Massachusetts.

While Sanders marches forward, moderates are struggling to unite behind a candidate. After essentially tying with Sanders for first place in Iowa, Buttigieg, the 38-year-old former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, began his day as the centrist front-runner. But Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar was mounting a spirited bid for the same voters.

Having already predicted he would "take a hit" in New Hampshire after a distant fourth-place finish in Iowa, Biden was essentially ceding the state. He was traveling to South Carolina Tuesday as he bet his candidacy on a strong showing there later this month boosted by support from black voters.

More than a year after Democrats began announcing their presidential candidacies, the party is struggling to coalesce behind a message or a messenger in its desperate quest to defeat Trump. That raised the stakes of the New Hampshire primary as voters weighed whether candidates were too liberal, too moderate or too inexperienced — vulnerabilities that could play to Trump's advantage in the fall.

## Klobuchar faces tough questioning in case of juvenile lifer

NEW YORK (AP) — As voters made their way to the New Hampshire polls, Democratic presidential candidate Amy Klobuchar faced pointed questions Tuesday about her oversight of a high-profile murder case in which a black teen was sentenced to life after a flawed police investigation.

"I mean, how do you defend something like that, to someone like me, who is the mother of a black boy, a black teenager?" asked Sunny Hostin, co-host of the ABC show "The View." "This case would be my worst nightmare."

Klobuchar, a Minnesota senator who has drawn enthusiastic crowds following her debate performance Friday night, said, "All of the evidence needs to be immediately reviewed in that case. The past evidence and also any new evidence."

The back-and-forth between Hostin and Klobuchar, the former top prosecutor in Minneapolis, concerned an Associated Press investigation into the case of Myon Burrell. Burrell was 16 when he was apprehended in the 2002 death of

an 11-year-old African American girl, killed by a stray bullet while doing her homework.

No gun, fingerprints or DNA were ever recovered, and the case against Burrell relied on the testimony of a teen rival who offered conflicting stories when identifying the trigger man, who was standing 120 feet away, mostly behind a wall, the AP reported.

The AP also uncovered questionable police tactics in the case, including an investigator who offered cash for information, and interviewed a prison inmate who said that he was the triggerman and that Burrell was not on the scene when Tyesha Edwards was shot and killed.

Klobuchar, whose office prosecuted the case, has raised the case throughout her political career — even during her 2020 presidential campaign — as an example of how she helped find justice for victims of violence.

After the AP's story, Klobuchar said evidence in the case should be reviewed. But her exchange with Hostin was especially heated and took place at a pivotal moment in her candidacy.



**Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., speaks during a campaign event at Exeter Town Hall, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020, in Exeter, N.H.**

PHOTOGRAPH BY ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

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## Trial team quits Roger Stone case in dispute over sentence



In this Feb. 1, 2019 photo, former campaign adviser for President Donald Trump, Roger Stone, leaves federal court in Washington. The Justice Department said Tuesday it will take the extraordinary step of lowering the amount of prison time it will seek for Roger Stone, an announcement that came just hours after President Trump complained that the recommended sentence for his longtime ally and confidant was “very horrible and unfair.” PHOTO BY PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

WASHINGTON (AP) — The four lawyers who prosecuted Roger Stone quit the case Tuesday after the Justice Department overruled them and said it would take the extraordinary step of lowering the amount of prison time it would seek for President Donald Trump’s longtime ally and confidant.

The departures raised immediate questions over whether Trump, who earlier in the day had blasted the original sentencing recommendation as “very horrible and unfair,” had at least indirectly exerted his will on a Justice Department that he often views as an arm of the White House.

The department said the decision to undo the sentencing recommendation was made Monday night — before Trump’s tweet — and prosecutors had not spoken to the White House about it. Even so, the departures of the entire trial team broke open a simmering dispute over the punishment of a Trump ally whose case has long captured the president’s attention. The episode was the latest to entangle the Justice Department, meant to operate free from White House sway in criminal investigations and prosecutions, in presidential politics.

The four attorneys, including two who were early members of special counsel Robert Mueller’s Russia team, comprised the entire Justice Department trial team that won convictions against Stone last fall.

Each had signed onto a Monday sentencing memo that recommended between seven and nine years in prison for Stone, who was convicted of lying to Congress, witness tampering and obstructing the House investigation into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to tip the 2016 election. None lent their names to a Tuesday memo that called the original recommendation excessive.

The departures leave in limbo the resolution of a case that was one of the signature prosecutions of Mueller’s team and that cut to the heart of his mission — to determine whether the Trump team had access to non-public information about Democratic emails hacked by Russian operatives and provided to

WikiLeaks.

The Justice Department’s leader, Attorney General William Barr, has been a steady ally of the president’s since taking the position. Barr last year cleared the president of obstruction of justice even when Mueller had pointedly declined to do so, and has declared that the FBI’s Russia investigation — which resulted in charges against Stone — had been based on a “bogus narrative.”

It’s not clear what sentence the department will ultimately seek — a new sentencing memo filed Tuesday evening indicated that the original recommendation was too harsh but proposed no specific punishment of its own.

A Justice Department official said authorities decided to step in and seek a shorter sentence because they had been taken by surprise by the initial recommendation. The person, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said prosecutors had told the department to expect a recommendation for a shorter sentence.

In their revised sentencing memo, Justice Department officials argued the initial recommendation could be “considered excessive and unwarranted under the circumstances” but also said they it would defer to the court.

It is extremely rare for Justice Department leaders to reverse the decision of its own prosecutors on a sentencing recommendation, particularly after that recommendation has been submitted to the court. A mass exodus from a case is also rare, though the tumult did conjure an episode from last summer when Justice Department lawyers abruptly left a lawsuit over whether a citizenship question could be added to the census.

The day of upheaval began with a morning tweet from Trump that the Stone case was a “miscarriage of justice.” He later told reporters he didn’t speak to Justice Department officials, though he said he could if he wanted.

“I have the absolute right to do it. I stay out of things to a degree that people wouldn’t believe, but I didn’t speak to them,” Trump said.

**“I have the absolute right to do it. I stay out of things to a degree that people wouldn’t believe, but I didn’t speak to them.”**

**PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP**

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## Japan confirms 39 new virus cases, 174 total on cruise ship



A reporter walks near the quarantined Diamond Princess cruise ship in Yokohama, near Tokyo, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020. Japan’s Health Minister Katsunobu Kato said the government was considering testing everyone remaining on board and crew on the Diamond Princess, which would require them to remain aboard until results were available. PHOTO BY JAE C. HONG/AP

TOKYO (AP) — Japan’s health ministry said Wednesday that 39 new cases of a virus have been confirmed on a cruise ship quarantined at a Japanese port.

The update brings the total found on the Diamond Princess to 174 cases.

The ministry also said the virus was confirmed in an official who participated in the initial quarantine checks the night the ship returned to Yokohama Port near Tokyo on Feb. 3. The quarantine official is being treated in the hospital.

The new cases bring Japan’s total to 203 people infected by

the the new virus, COVID-19.

The night of the ship’s arrival, Japanese health officials began medical checks on all of the ship’s 3,700 passengers and crew after one previous passenger tested positive for the virus.

The U.S.-operated Diamond Princess had completed a 14-day tour during which it stopped at Hong Kong and several other Asian ports before returning to Japan. An 80-year-old man who disembarked in Hong Kong tested positive for the virus, prompting Hong Kong to notify the ship and Japanese authorities, who then ordered the quar-

antine and testing.

Concerns over the virus have rerouted and canceled other cruises. The Westerdam cruise ship carrying 2,257 passengers and crew is now in the Gulf of Thailand with nowhere to dock after being refused entry in Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines and Thailand. There are no confirmed cases of the virus on board, but it stopped in Hong Kong less than two weeks ago, which is within the incubation period of the virus.

COVID-19 is a coronavirus that emerged in China in December.

## TEACHER UNIONS: CHILDREN TERRIFIED BY ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILLS

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The nation’s two largest teachers unions want schools to revise or eliminate active shooter drills, asserting Tuesday that they can harm students’ mental health and that there are better ways to prepare for the possibility of a school shooting.

The American Federation of Teachers and National Education Association joined with the advocacy group Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund in calling for an end to unannounced drills or drills that simulate gun violence.

“Everywhere I travel, I hear from parents and educators about active shooter drills terrifying students, leaving them unable to concentrate in the classroom and unable to sleep at night,” said Lily Eskelsen Garcia, president of the National Education Association. “So traumatizing students as we work to keep students safe from gun violence is not the answer. That is why if schools are going to do drills, they need to take steps to ensure the drills do more good than harm.”

The report released Tuesday recommends schools concentrate on training teachers to respond to an active shooter incident rather than drilling students.

It also issued guidelines for schools that decide to use drills. Those include never simulating an actual shooting; giving parents, educators and students advance notice of any drill; working with mental health officials to create age-appropriate and trauma-informed drills; and tracking the effects of drills.

About 95% of schools drilled students on lockdown procedures in the 2015-16 school year, according to a survey by the National Center for Education Statistics.

“In Indiana they were shooting teachers with rubber pellets so they would feel the adrenaline of what a school shooting would feel like,” said Shannon Watts, founder of Moms Demand Action, which is part of Everytown. “In California recently, a superintendent hired a stranger to wear a mask to rattle the doors of classrooms without letting faculty and students know. We’ve seen students asked to pretend to be victims and lie down using fake blood in the hallway.”

Jean-Paul Guilbault, the chief



In this Friday June 9, 2017 photo, students are led out of school as members of the Fountain Police Department take part in an Active Shooter Response Training exercise at Fountain Middle School in Fountain, Colo. The nation’s two largest teachers unions want schools to revise or eliminate active shooter drills, asserting that they can harm students’ mental health and that there are better ways to prepare for the possibility of a school shooting.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DOUGAL BROWNLIE/THE GAZETTE VIA AP

executive of the Alice Training Institute, which runs active shooter drills, said they are ef-

**“According to a recent study conducted by The U.S. Secret Service, most school shootings last for two minutes or less, and nearly half of the events ended within one minute.”**

**JEAN-PAUL GUILBAULT**

fective when done appropriately. He said his company never runs surprise drills but believes that simulating an event is the best

way to prepare for one “and allow students to practice their options, whether that be lockdown or evacuation.”

“According to a recent study conducted by The U.S. Secret Service, most school shootings last for two minutes or less, and nearly half of the events ended within one minute,” he said in a written statement. “That means it is up to us to keep ourselves safe for those seconds that will feel as slow as a lifetime. We drill so everyone has a plan when faced with danger, to give people a chance at survival.”

But Abby Clements, who was teaching second grade at the Sandy Hook school in Newtown when a gunman killed 26 people in 2012, said she doesn’t believe a drill would have saved lives there.

“Our students knew what to do,” said Clements, who now teaches at another elementary school in town. “We taught them what to do in an emergency. We knew evacuation routes and where a safe spot was in the room, where nobody could see inside. But frightening students with some type of active drill, I think that is barbaric.”



# Opinion

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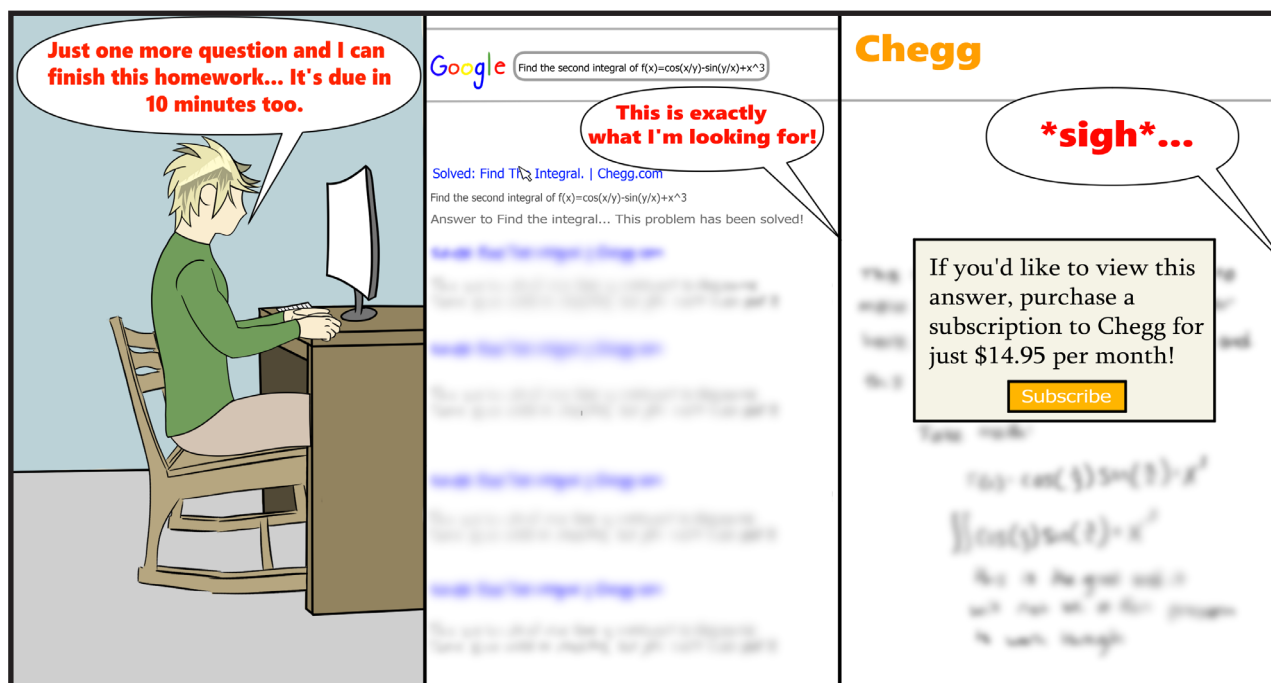
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CARTOON BY ALEC DURANTE, CARTOONIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

### ► Editorial

## UConn needs to focus on facilitating job opportunities for all students.

Last week, the University of Connecticut's Center for Career Development hosted its yearly Internship and Co-op week. Among the workshops and events and seminars, the Internship and Co-op fair in particular allowed many students to meet representatives of companies they may still try to get an internship with this summer. While applications for internships start popping up in the fall, events like these are a good way to push through the process and try to get some real-world experience over the summer.

Events like these conflict with the traditional, romantic notion of higher education. University feels on some level as though it is supposed to be about the pursuit of knowledge for its intrinsic value. In this way, it should be merit and understanding above all else that matters. But colleges now go out of their way to stress the importance of "networking," often to the point where it elicits eye-rolls from actual students. Even pushing events like the Internship and Co-op week seem odd at first glance — shouldn't success at the university be enough?

Unfortunately, we do not live in a meritocracy, and that is never how the world really worked. Who you know — and who will vouch for you — was, is and will continue to be as important as what you know. As a college degree becomes more necessary in the modern world, being able to stand out through networking only gets more important. And when companies automatically screen through hundreds of applications, being able to get to a human in the equation is the first step.

Unfortunately, we do not live in a meritocracy, and that is never how the world really worked. Who you know — and who will vouch for you — was, is and will continue to be as important as what you know.

In that way, the CCD is doing a service for UConn students. When college is more job prep above all else, it's important to be well-prepared. The only issue, then, is not being as clear and far-reaching with these programs as possible.

It feels like many in college try to avoid thinking about the future, or at the very least feel lost when the dream plan does not work out right away. This feeling is only intensified in non-STEM fields, which are often underrepresented or under-discussed at these career-building events. UConn needs to work actively to ensure that their students don't feel left behind in the soul-crushing process of finding internships and other summer opportunities. If the application process is a rat race by nature, the very least UConn can do is teach everyone how to run in it.

Demystifying the job/internship search process is encouraging. Being honest with statistics and outlooks is helpful. And working hard with students and companies alike to give each group the right assistance in this ugly process is imperative. UConn and the CCD should continue to expand its efforts, both in quantity and breadth of major.

## Signal Boost

# No Teachers, No Money ON THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN AMERICA

by **Peter Fenteany**  
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peter.fenteany@uconn.edu

When I was in seventh grade, I took a full year of science and a full year of history. At my former primary school, middle schoolers now only take each for one semester. The teachers split their time between two grades, teaching each for one semester. Other schools have opted to remove subjects altogether: After cutting music and arts down to size, even history classes aren't safe in many places.

This should make your skin crawl. No art or music education was pathetic enough, but now core academic subjects are also being cut? It's horrifying to think that there are children not being exposed to science and history right when their minds are just starting to develop a taste for it. Especially during a time of widespread misinformation online, having a good basis on which to view the world is imperative.

And make no mistake, these cuts are not affecting United States schools across the board. Small towns are being hit hard. Poor neighborhoods are being hit hard. Public schools are being hit hard. Those students sequestered away in wealthy areas attending elite regional private schools get to experience art and music and history in as much depth as ever. The current state of the American school system is racist and classist, deepening the divides we see in our society today.

There are two reasons for these constraints we are seeing: There is not enough money in public school systems, and there are not enough teachers willing to teach under the existing conditions. Ultimately, the roots of these issues are the same.

In America, public schools are funded through local taxes and federal funding. The former is inequitable for a variety of reasons, but it is often the latter which decides what gets cut. Many grants and

other funding avenues are tied to the school's ability to reach progress benchmarks on standardized tests. The problem is, the scope of these standardized tests do not at all reflect the wide array of valuable information students learn in their primary education. Art and music weren't needed for the tests, so they were cut. Science and especially history are not as important to the tests, so they are getting cut. There is a reason teachers shudder at the phrase Common Core. It constricts teachers, and it constricts school systems.

This is closely linked to the shortage of teachers nationwide. Especially in high-poverty schools, it is getting harder and harder to find anyone who wants to teach. It is yet more difficult to find quality teachers, those with experience and certifications. When looking at the state of teaching, though, is anyone surprised by this?

See **EDUCATION**, p. 8

## Esports are the next big thing in sports

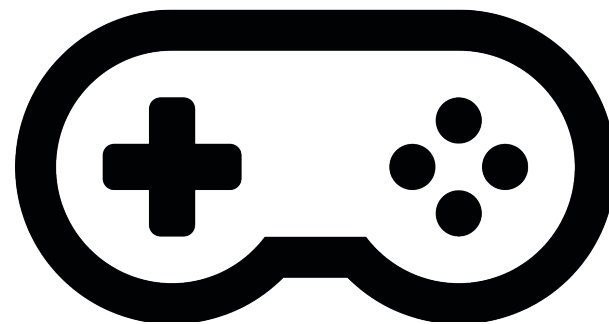
by **Ashton Stansel**  
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You step into a crowded arena. The stands are filled with cheering fans, wearing jerseys and holding drinks and snacks. Families roam just outside the actual arena, between the food stands and the merchandise booths. When you pause for a moment, you can hear the shouts of disappointment from the crowd when a crucial shot is missed.

But you're not there to watch a basketball game, or a football game or a baseball game. There's no movement before you, no figures sprinting back and forth reaching for a ball or a stick. Their hands are on keyboards and mice and headsets, eyes darting across pixelated screens.

They're athletes in one of the fastest-growing ecosystems in the world: esports, or professional video gaming. Esports are quickly becoming the next biggest thing in sports, even as many people have never heard of them.

Esports are a relatively new phenomenon. Most of today's most popular esports like League of Legends, Dota 2, Overwatch or Counter-Strike: Global Advantage Offensive came out in the last 10 to 15 years. Compared to sports like baseball or football, which often feel like they've been played forever, these games are still in their infancy. But esports have shown massive growth in their short history, which has helped to establish their positions as legitimate sports.



Today, as baseball viewers age and football players suffer brain damage, it seems logical that sports in which people don't actually have to risk most of their physical body will continue to grow in popularity.

While esports can lead to wrist injuries and carpal tunnel, brain damage or other severe physical damage are far less likely.

Esports are most popular among younger viewers; the majority of their viewership comes from the 15 to 34-year-old age range which means that esports are doing well to attract younger viewership. The biggest problem for esports is attracting older fans, many of whom are far less positive toward video games. This is not helped by the fact that most esports athletes fit into the same age range as the viewers, which means young viewers can relate more with the players than older viewers.

Financially, esports have grown massively in the last decade. In some esports, like Dota 2, teams and players make money primarily off of prize pools. The biggest Dota 2 tournament of the year, The International, is held once a year and

generally boasts a prize pool of over \$20 million, meaning the winning team takes home over \$10 million. This is on top of a number of Majors a year, which boast million-dollar prize pools of their own.

In other esports, like League of Legends, player salaries are rapidly growing. The average salary is reportedly over \$300,000 and some players like star botlaner Doublelift and toplaner Huni reportedly make seven figures a year.

Esports still have a long way to go to reach viewership levels that can compete with traditional sports, but they have made progress. The League of Legends World Championship peaked at 44 million viewers worldwide during its Final series last year, and over 100 million viewers total.

While esports still have a ways to go to reach the level of traditional sports, the impressive increase in the last few years shows a promising trend. As we learn more and more about the physical consequences of sports like football, it seems likely that esports will grow to fill those gaps and claim their place on the pedestal of sporting entertainment.



# Life

@dailycampuslife

## New NBC musical series introduces sweet, not silly, lead

**by Stephanie Santillo**  
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How many shows have you seen with a cute, quirky lead who just can't seem to get her life together? Probably a lot. "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist" is, luckily, not exactly like all those other shows but does match the heart and tone of them.

Zoey (Jane Levy) is a sweet character, but she's not exactly eccentric or bumbling like other common quirky characters. Unlike Jessica Day of "New Girl" or Kimmy Schmidt of Netflix's eponymous series, Zoey is a little older and seems comfortable in the life she's made for herself. The 30-year-old software engineer's story doesn't seem like it will focus so much on her growth and development in a career as much as it will on her changing relationship with her parents and her quest for romantic love.

Instead of filling her world with a cast of zany friends, the first episode introduces viewers to Zoey's family and her close friend at work, Max. While Zoey has a seemingly perfect life (great job, nice apartment, a

good friend), her father Mitch's medical condition is devastating her family. Though his disease is not mentioned by name, viewers can see that he has lost the ability to talk as well as a lot of his motor capabilities. Zoey's mother Maggie cares for her husband, and Zoey and her brother visit their parents often.

This dimension of the show — a look at what it's like when a parent is in poor health — sets "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist" apart from other shows with young women leads. Instead of having her new date in the back of her mind each episode, Zoey is always contemplating her father and his worsening condition. It adds a layer of depth to the show while also allowing series creators the opportunity to show a family's resilience and strength in the face of a devastating condition.

Billed as a comedy, "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist" isn't always all sadness and despair. One of the main features of the show is its musical numbers, which only Zoey can see. When something goes wrong during an MRI Zoey gets after fearing she might have her father's con-

dition, she can suddenly hear everyone's inner thoughts in song. Strangers, Max and even her father sing to her their desires and struggles. Admittedly, this element of the show is very contrived, especially since no one but Zoey can see the grand musical numbers occurring obviously in the middle of busy streets or in her office. Nevertheless, this ability allows Zoey to connect to people on another level and reveals to her others' thoughts and feelings she never would have been privy to otherwise.

Besides the strengths of the story, the show also benefits from the talents of some notable actors. Skylar Astin, who played Jesse in "Pitch Perfect," portrays Zoey's best friend (and shy admirer) Max. Similarly, Alex Newell has some musical credits from his role as Unique on "Glee" and plays Zoey's neighbor Mo.

With its heart and humor, you'll want to catch "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist" when it moves to its normal 9 p.m. Sunday timeslot on NBC on Feb. 16.

**Rating: 4/5**



NBC's newest series, "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist," is about a software engineer that realizes she can hear everyone's inner thoughts in song. The show premiered on Jan. 7, 2020. PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

## Winter skincare tips

**by Hollianne Lao**  
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You're probably well aware of the havoc that winter's harsh weather wreaks on your skin. No matter your skin type, you no doubt have felt the effects of dryness, irritation and flakiness from the cold temperatures and are sick of chapped lips, cracked heels and patchy cheeks. And if you have previous skin conditions like eczema or dermatitis, those are only exacerbated by the season. To combat these skin terrors, you need to change up your typical skin routine. Here are some tips and products you should try out to keep your skin healthy and hydrated.

### Switch up your showering routine

I know you love your hot shower as much as the next person, but unfortunately, extended exposure to heat isn't the best for your skin. Not only is the shock from "cold air to hot shower" bad for your skin, according to dermatologist Dr. Elizabeth Hale, who spoke to Bustle, but the overexposure to the hot temperature is bound to dry your skin out. So either

shorten your hot showers, or use lukewarm water.

### Moisturize right after you shower

Applying hydrating lotion after you shower takes advantage of your moist skin, which absorbs the lotion better. Don't be afraid to be generous, especially on notoriously dry areas such as your hands, elbows and knees. You might want to pass on your usual favorite scented lotions like from Bath and Body for more intensive options like Vaseline, Cerave or Nivea. They're less expensive and more rich in texture, but not greasy. If you still want to indulge in your signature Pearberry or Warm Vanilla Sugar scent, then maybe use those lotions in the morning and the more intense ones at night. And don't forget about your face! Use a face cream based on your skin type (dry, oily or combination), as regular body lotion won't cut it for your delicate face skin.

### Don't forget SPF

Even if you don't feel the intensity of the sun's rays as much as you would in the summer, don't forgo SPF in

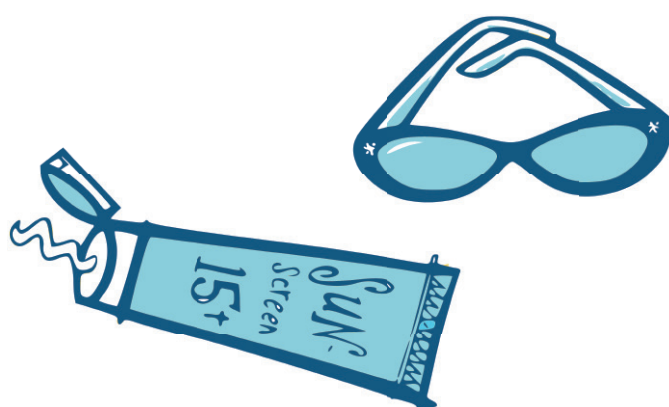
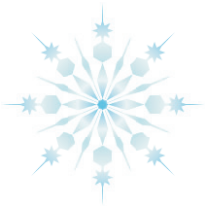
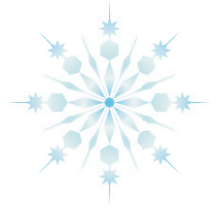
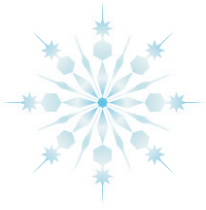
your daily routine. Protecting your exposed skin, such as your face, helps "prevent premature aging" and "keep[s] a youthful and radiant complexion," according to Dr. Hale. Using face cream with light SPF, such as SPF 15, is perfect for when you're out and about and won't clog your pores.

### Use acne treatments sparingly

If you use any products to treat your acne with ingredients such as benzoyl peroxide or salicylic acid, you may already know that those ingredients work to dry out the acne. However, this also dries out your skin in general and probably makes me more flaky. In the winter, use items with these ingredients less frequently, or make sure to balance out their use with a moisturizer.

### Stay hydrated

One of the most obvious, but also forgotten, tips is to keep yourself hydrated with lots of water. Remember to drink water throughout the day, and it will keep your energy up, as well as keep your skin hydrated.



# Cozy Couture

*Fashion for the average college student*



**by Caroline LeCour**

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Most average college students start their day by choosing an outfit. After hitting the snooze button a couple of times, you might wake up and throw on the first sweatshirt you can find. Although this is definitely the easiest option, don't be so quick to sacrifice your own style for the price of comfort.

A lot of people sometimes wonder how and why I get so dressed up every day, even for my college classes. For me, style is a way to express myself; my body is my canvas. My sense of fashion reflects my mood, aesthetic or something I'm going through that week. Many believe that maintaining a sense of style during their college years is difficult and requires hours of shopping, planning and mood-boarding, but that simply is not the case. Putting effort into what you're wearing, especially on a mundane weekday, can give you an extra boost of confidence.

In the age of Yeezy, many sometimes pair two casual and comfy ath-leisure pieces that look expensive and call it a day. Whether that outfit is a designer T-shirt paired with expensive grey joggers and tennis shoes, this modern style is both sleek and comfortable. However, like your mother may have told you about eating sweets, "If you do it all the time, it doesn't become special anymore!" Therefore, I am here to help you craft some "rolled out of bed" inspired outfits that will look like you put in twice the effort for only half the struggle.

The key to this hard-to-acquire "cozy couture," is to keep the pieces that stem from a lazy Sunday's 'fit and add either accessories or other pieces one would wear for their Sunday best. In the outfit pictured, I kept my grey sweatshirt but paired it with a jean skirt and tights. If the skirts and tights combo scares you, sub this out with a pair of comfy light-wash jeans (bonus points if you cuff the pants) to add a little tailor. Add a collared shirt underneath your sweatshirt and boom — now you look like a million bucks. I wore a blue pinstripe collared shirt underneath to give some fun contrast with a pattern.

The second step is to add the accessories. I wore a pair of juicy cherry earrings to add a pop of color, as well as a watch to trick your on-lookers into believing that you definitely always get where you need to go on time, wink. Wear a low heel or loafer like I did, or pair some bright socks with a fresh-white pair of sneakers.

If you're still stuck, I point to the art of layering. Especially on a cold day, layering a turtleneck with a patterned collared shirt or Hawaiian shirt can make for a funky ensemble. Many underestimate how comfy some "business casual" clothing; snag some tailored khaki or tweed pants in a soft fabric for your "I don't wanna plan an outfit" day. Now keep hitting that snooze button and walk to your class in style!



For Life writer Caroline LeCour, fashion is an outlet for her to express herself. These photos show her pairing a grey sweatshirt with a jean skirt and tights to pull off a comfy, yet stylish, look.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEX LEO

# Husky on the Road

## Sweet stops in Connecticut

by **Kate Luongo**  
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From chocolate shops, authentic French bakeries and the best farm fresh ice cream around (you know what I'm talking about Huskies), Connecticut has something for every sweet tooth. With Valentine's Day just around the corner, this is the perfect time to plan a sweet local road trip. Go with a date, friends or treat yourself this weekend; you deserve it.



Located in Woodbury, Conn., Ovens of France offers fresh baked bread and a variety of French pastries such as croissants, macrons, eclairs and meringues. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE AUTHOR

### Ovens of France, Woodbury

This is the next best thing to going to a bakery in France. If you can't afford the plane ticket, but still crave an authentic chocolate croissant, check out Ovens of France in Woodbury. As soon as you step in the door, the aroma of freshly baked bread welcomes you. Among the variety of French pastries and baked goods include both sweet and savory flaky croissants as well as delicate macarons, eclairs and meringues.

### Castle Hill Chocolates, Newtown

Castle Hill Chocolates might be small, but they have a big variety of chocolates and candies. They feature gorgeous decadent truffles as well as uniquely packaged chocolates. They also sell chocolate from the Vermont Nut Free factory, which is a great gift for anyone with food allergies.

### The UConn Dairy Bar, Storrs

This stop hardly needs an introduction. The best ice cream (in my humble opinion) is located right up by Horsebarn Hill at UConn. Their menu includes freshly churned ice cream and soda shop favorites like milkshakes and floats. They also offer special seasonal flavors and are currently selling Valentine's ice cream cakes.

### Deborah Anne's Sweet Shop, Ridgfield

Ice cream, candy, chocolate and fudge are among the sweet treats to be found at this whimsical shop. Bright colors and funky decorations as well as old fashioned candy favorites, makes this a novelty stop.

### Village Chocolatier, Guilford

The Village Chocolatier, located on the Guilford green, sells specialty chocolates, homemade fudge and Ben and Jerry's ice cream. This charming shop is decorated with a striped awning, balloons and a bright pink door, resembling a classic candy store from the past.



Guilford's own Village Chocolatier sells specialty chocolates, homemade fudge and Ben and Jerry's ice cream. PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK @THEVILLAGECHOCOLATIER

### Sweet Cupcascions, Milford

If you are a fan of buttercream frosting, this Milford bakery won't disappoint. Owners Sue Schowerer and Darlene Delaney were even winners of "Cupcake Wars" on Food Network. I recommend sampling the "I Love Lucy" cupcake, a red velvet cake with cream cheese frosting and dark chocolate curls. They also offer gluten free cupcakes and a dog friendly "pup cake." The pastel colors add to the sugar sweet atmosphere.

### Milkcraft, Fairfield

This unique ice cream shop makes for a fun and tasty experience. The ice cream is made to order using liquid nitrogen and served in photo-worthy Hong Kong bubble cones. The flavors are also wild, including strawberry balsamic, s'mores campfire and milk and cereal.

### Bridgewater Chocolates, Bridgewater

It's hard to beat this well-known local chocolate company. Bridgewater Chocolates was founded in 1995 by Eric Landegren, who moved to Connecticut all the way from Stockholm Sweden. The chocolates are described as "American-style with European quality ingredients." With two factory locations, the original in Bridgewater and one in West Hartford, you can also find packaged chocolates at many retail locations across Connecticut.

I hope everyone has a sweet Valentine's Day!



Milkcraft, located in Fairfield, Conn., is a popular ice cream shop made to order using liquid nitrogen and served in photogenic Hong Kong bubble cones. PHOTO COURTESY OF MILKRAFTCA.COM

# Opinion StudyBreak

Photo of the Day | I thought the ballroom was Gampel



The Ballroom Dance team practices in the Student Union Ballroom. They practice on Tuesday's at 6:30 p.m. and teach different styles including: Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Cha Cha, Rumba and Swing. PHOTO BY ERIC YANG, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## YOU CAN'T INSULT FOOTBALL TRANSFERS — WE NEED THEM

by Ben Field

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On Wednesday, Feb. 5, the UConn football program welcomed a 25-man recruiting class to their ranks: 22 high-school players and three junior college transfers. However, noticeably missing among them were any graduate transfers or members of other four-year universities.

Why not anyone from the transfer portal?

"I'd rather go with high-school kids or junior-college guys... Guys going into the [transfer] portal, to me, they've got issues. They've got issues. That's why they're going into the portal," said head coach Randy Edsall. "Sometimes these guys from the portal think that they're enabled and entitled to something. You know, maybe it didn't work out because you didn't stay there and finish."

There's a lot to unpack with this statement. The transfer portal has been a welcome addition to the confusing college transfer system for most athletes. Three of the four quarterbacks in the college playoffs last year were transfers. Universities use this to bolster their rosters, and students use it to guarantee the best opportunity for their talents and education. And yet, here Edsall is, calling those who may find UConn the best place for them to succeed "entitled." Whether he realizes this or not, Edsall's remarks close the door on recruiting through the

portal for quite a while. Why would any player want to come and play for a coach who thinks of them as entitled? With UConn's record of six wins over the three years of Edsall's return, closing doors on recruiting talent is certainly something they cannot afford.

Perhaps Edsall is expressing frustration with losing players to the portal year after year. This year, 21 players have decided to explore the transfer portal, with eight of them committing to new schools, among those, last year's beginning-of-season starting quarterback, Mike Beaudry. The portal allows athletes to go where they will be most successful. This isn't being entitled, or having issues with the current program; it's making the best for yourself. So instead of being frustrated with a system that lets athletes choose the best place for themselves to be, leadership should focus on convincing people that UConn can be that place. Athletes coming and going is natural for an athletic program, and being appealing to athletes should be the goal of the football team leadership.

UConn football is particularly frustrating, as there is a lot of potential, and not a lot of success. The players want to win, and they give it their all. Loyal fans still make their way to Rentschler Field every weekend, willing to cheer on their team despite the recent hardships. And so, when we see the football team leadership make statements like this, we can't help but feel

disappointed. The players in that locker room deserve better. That frustration builds when the players who switch positions back and forth to be the most useful for their team are called entitled. It builds when they don't release an official depth chart, a standard for football programs. It builds when we see a group of dedicated athletes not being given the tools to succeed.

So how can leadership fix this? Issuing an apology would be a good start. UConn has talented transfers currently on the roster, and talented players who decided to transfer and play somewhere else. Neither of these groups deserve to be insulted by a coach that they played for, that they gave their all for. Secondly, leadership should work to modernize their approach, and dedicate themselves to becoming a competitive team. This would mean following the standards of success for college football: depth charts, working with the transfer portal and an effort to succeed and attract the athletes of the future.

This statement alone doesn't doom the football program to be bad forever, and it certainly isn't the only thing wrong with it. But it is a symptom of a greater problem, and a bad sign of what's to come if something isn't done to correct that line of thinking. As a loyal UConn football fan, I look forward to the day where UConn can be a place to work hard and improve oneself, both as an athlete and a student.

## Signal Boost: Education

EDUCATION, cont. from p. 4

Teachers are given very little freedom in content, often must buy their own supplies for their classroom and work long hours planning, grading and babysitting. Almost half of teachers give up on the profession within five years; of course we're going to have trouble finding people to teach our children.

Both of these come down to a lack of respect. It's evident in the rude attitude many parents and locals display toward teachers. More materially, our entire system for funding schools is fundamentally broken. Look at the way our current administration talks about public school systems. Better yet, look at the way our current administration cuts funding for schools time and time again.

The United States has no respect for teachers. It's a terrible opinion to have, for sure, but it is the country we live in. I fear for the future adults in America, that they have to grow up with little preparation for the challenges they will face. When climate change, vast inequality and bigotry are at our door, we need now more than ever to invest in our children so they are equipped to deal with the world we are leaving them. Currently, we are not.

Greed and opulence are sucking our society dry in every way, and nowhere is this more evident than in education. There is no respect and no financial support for our primary and secondary schools. Unfortunately, we reap what we sow. America is facing a shortage of teachers and funding, and it has only itself to blame.

*Greed and opulence are sucking our society dry in every way, and nowhere is this more evident than in education.*

DYK?

*The critically endangered Kakapo bird has a strong, pleasant, musty odour which allows predators to easily locate it. Hence, it is critically endangered.*

FACTS COURTESY /R/ASKREDDIT



CARTOON BY KAITLYN TRAN, STAFF CARTOONIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Williamson's 31 points pushes Pelicans past Blazers, 138-117

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Zion Williamson scored a season-high 31 points, and the New Orleans Pelicans used a dominant second half to defeat the Portland Trail Blazers 138-117 on Tuesday night.

Playing 28 minutes in just his ninth NBA game, Williamson used his 6-foot-6, 285-pound frame, quick feet and explosive vertical to have his way with every defender Portland tried against him. Williamson was either too strong, too fast, or both. He mixed spinning dribbles and sudden baseline drives into his usual arsenal of soaring transition dunks and tenacious putbacks.

JJ Redick scored 20 and Josh Hart had 17 points for New Orleans, which trailed by as many as 16 in the first quarter before taking command en route to a third straight victory. Jrue Holiday contributed 16 points and 10 assists, while Lonzo Ball added 10 points and 10 assists.

Portland star Damian Lillard scored 20 points — less than half of his 42-point average over his previous 10 games. But his playing time was limited in the fourth quarter when the Pelicans, who led by as many as 26, had put the game out of reach.

CJ McCollum had 18 points for the Trail Blazers, and Carmelo Anthony also finished with 18, but just four after half-time. Hassan Whiteside had 17 points and 14 rebounds.

After Williamson's early dunk and free throws helped New Orleans surge to a 12-7 lead, Portland suddenly turned the tide with a 24-3 run that began with a pair of turnaround jumpers by Anthony, who later added a cutting dunk. McCollum hit a pair of 3s, Whiteside scored on a floater and a hook shot, and Lillard added a driving layup while being fouled.

That stretch put the Pelicans in a 31-15 hole, out of which they gradually climbed for the duration of the half.

Williamson, who scored 17 in the first half, helped fuel the comeback, throwing down Holiday's alley-oop lob with two hands to cut Portland's lead to 60-54. Hart and Jackson each hit 3s late in the period, Holiday added a slashing transition layup through a crowd of converging defenders and Williamson's free throw cut Portland's lead to 65-63 at halftime.

New Orleans then pushed in front in the third, when Hart scored 12 points on shots ranging from a pull-up in the lane, to a breakaway dunk after his steal, to a left-wing 3.

New Orleans scored 41 points in the period alone, leading by as many as 21 when Redick hit his second 3 of the quarter to make it 104-83.

### TIP-INS

Trail Blazers: Wenyen Gabriel had 12 points in 13:36 off the bench. ... Fell to 10-19 on the road. ... Anthony was assessed a technical foul in the second quarter for arguing with officials after he had been called for a foul on Williamson's inside shot. Anthony's face and Williamson's arm appeared to make contact on the play. ... Lillard was assessed a technical foul for comments to officials at the end of the first half.

Pelicans: All-Star wing player and leading scorer Brandon Ingram missed his second straight game and is day to day. ... Frank Jackson scored 13 points, and Nicolo Melli had 10. ... Pelicans reserves combined for 59 points. ... Have won 17 of 26 and trail Memphis, which currently holds the final Western Conference playoff spot, by 4 1/2 games with 28 to play.

### UP NEXT

Trail Blazers: Visit Memphis on Wednesday night.

Pelicans: Host Oklahoma City on Thursday night.



New Orleans Pelicans forward Zion Williamson (1) dunks the ball against the Portland Trail Blazers in the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020. PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA/AP PHOTO

# Wooden Award hopefuls

WOODEN, cont. from p. 10

Cassius Winston, Michigan State

Just as Michigan State was the consensus No. 1 team in the country in the preseason, Cassius Winston looked a shoe in to be raising the Wooden award. This season has not gone entirely to plan for the Spartans or Winston. Losing his brother early in November impacted him in ways we cannot even imagine. Cassius admitted that his death adversely impacted him. A quote from Winston in the Detroit Free Press says that the basketball court is not where he belonged right now. If his heart is not enough to merit unwavering respect from everybody, he is carrying the Michigan State basketball team by himself. With 18.6 points and 6 assists a game, nobody means more to any team in the country than Winston does to this Michigan State team. It is as much a one-man show as anywhere else in the nation, let alone the Big Ten. Teams throw two, and often three guys at Winston on every possession knowing that he is the sole offensive creator on the Spartans. On the three game skid Michigan State finds themselves in, Winston has scored over 20 points in each of them, while dishing out nine assists in a disappointing home loss to Penn State. Tom Izzo believes Michigan State's role players are very close to being ready to provide Winston the support he needs to make the Spartans the national title contenders they're supposed to be. He has shown more heart this season on and off the court than any player I've ever seen. When the Spartan wins in the last couple of weeks back that statement up, he will be as deserving a Wooden award candidate as any.



Michigan State's Cassius Winston, center, attempts a 3-point basket against Penn State's Mike Watkins with seconds remaining during an NCAA college basketball game, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020, in East Lansing, Mich. The shot was off the mark. Penn State won 75-70. PHOTO BY AL GOLDIS/AP PHOTO

# Gourde lifts Lightning over Pens 2-1 in OT for 8th straight

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The puck ended up on Yann Gourde's stick and for a split second, the only thing the Tampa Bay Lightning forward felt was a sense of panic.

It passed. It always does these days for the NHL's hottest team.

Gourde collected Brayden Point's cross-ice feed and ripped a shot to the short side over the right arm of Pittsburgh goaltender Matt Murray to give the Lightning a 2-1 overtime victory Tuesday night. The win was Tampa Bay's eighth straight and 20th in its last 23 games and came at the end of a draining back-to-back that started with an emotional overtime triumph in Columbus on Monday.

Barely 24 hours later, the Lightning found a way yet again despite playing the third period and the extra session without leading scorer Nikita Kucherov, who left late in the second with a lower-body injury. Still, Tampa Bay kept right on rolling when Gourde found the back on the net 2:45 into OT for his seventh of the season and first since Nov. 23.

Gourde admitted he thought about going over Murray's glove but sensed an opening up high. Tampa Bay's 38th and last shot ended with the goal lamp blinking red as Gourde's teammates poured over the boards in celebration.

"It was a huge team effort and it really felt great to score that goal at the end there, finally," Gourde said.

Mikhail Sergachev scored his ninth goal and Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 35 shots for Tampa Bay, which drew within one point of Atlantic Division leader Boston for the best record in the NHL.

"That was definitely a mash unit tonight," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "It's a tough league to win in, especially against a team as talented as that. But that was one of the guttier ones I've seen."

Evgeni Malkin got his 18th goal for Pittsburgh and Mur-

ray finished with 36 saves but didn't get his right arm high enough fast enough to get a piece of Gourde's winner. Jason Zucker played 15:26 in his debut with Pittsburgh after being acquired in a trade with Minnesota on Monday.

The Penguins, who have been searching for a replacement for injured All-Star forward Jake Guentzel, moved aggressively to land Zucker. Pittsburgh sent forward Alex Galchenyuk, defensive prospect Calen Addison and a conditional 2020 first-round draft pick to the Wild in exchange for Zucker, a proven two-way player who can do a little bit of everything.

Pittsburgh didn't exactly give Zucker time to get settled. In the span of a day he went from playing on the fourth line on a team with fading postseason hopes to serving on the top line with Sidney Crosby for a franchise where reaching the playoffs has been a given for well over a decade.

Zucker called his rushed move from Minneapolis to Pittsburgh "surreal" and acknowledged it was "bizarre" to pull on Penguins' black and yellow after spending his entire career with the Wild. While his new teammates praised Zucker's skill and speed, Zucker believes he wasn't particularly sharp in his debut.

"I don't think I played very well tonight," he said. "My hands were terrible. I pretty much mishandled every puck."

As steady as the Penguins have been through the first four-plus months of an injury ravaged season, they haven't been quite as spectacular as the Lightning. Tampa Bay has been the NHL's best team since Christmas, a stretch that included a taut victory over Pittsburgh last week and a 2-1 overtime triumph at Columbus on Monday night. The victory over the Blue Jackets offered a small — very small — level of solace after Colum-

bus stunned Tampa Bay in the opening round of the playoffs last spring.

If the win drained the Lightning, it didn't exactly show. They jumped on Pittsburgh early, though found themselves trailing 11:31 into the first when Malkin pounded home a rebound on the power play. No matter, Tampa Bay responded early in the second when Sergachev's wrist shot from the point snaked through a sea of players and over Murray's right arm. The goal 3:59 into the second ended a streak of 13 successful penalty kills for the Penguins.

It set up a tense third period that Pittsburgh seemed to control for stretches. But the play of Vasilevskiy and a lethargic power play in the final five minutes of regulation went nowhere. A couple of shots that hit the post didn't help, and neither did a late shift change in overtime that freed up Gourde to end a 35-game goal drought.

"It's going to be tight hockey from here on in," Crosby said. "They're a team that's playing well right now. Not giving up a lot. We had our opportunities. Doesn't make it any better when you lose."

NOTES: Several members of the gold-medal 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team — including assistant coach Craig Patrick (who later served as Pittsburgh's general manager for 17 years) and captain Mike Eruzione — held a ceremonial puck drop in advance of the 40th anniversary of the "Miracle on Ice." ... Both teams went 1 for 4 on the power play.

### UP NEXT

Lightning: Welcome Edmonton on Thursday. The Oilers will be without star Connor McDavid, who is out two to three weeks with a quad injury.

Penguins: Host Montreal on Friday night. The teams have split their first two meetings this season.

## Sports

## Photo of the Day | Post-Win Interview



Christian Vital sits down to chat in a postgame interview after the Huskies defeated Cincinnati 72-71 at Gampel Pavilion on Feb. 9. Vital recorded 19 points, five rebounds, four assists and three steals in the win. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## MLB Offseason Outlook: NL East

by **Jorge Eckardt**  
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The NL East was the most competitive division in baseball in 2019 with four teams finishing .500 or better, while no other division had more than three. They're host to the reigning World Series champions, and they didn't even win the division. With four legitimate playoff contenders, this division will be one of the most exciting to watch. While there might not be a 100-game winner that comes out of the NL East, that will be a result of the top four teams beating up on each other. But don't be fooled by the record, as whichever team ends up coming out on top will be more than capable of making a deep playoff run. Oh, and the Marlins are here, too.

### Atlanta Braves

One of the most intriguing parts about the NL East is that all of the rosters have seen some sort of significant shakeup from last season. The Braves are no different, losing third baseman Josh Donaldson and his 6.1 WAR to the Minnesota Twins, but bringing in outfielder Marcel Ozuna to fill his spot in the lineup. Although Ozuna is a step below Donaldson, he is a proven major league bat who has had All-Star seasons in the past. They strengthened their rotation by adding veteran Cole Hamels, who at age 36 is going into his 15th season in the MLB, returning to the NL East after spending 2006-2015 in Philadelphia. They've got a young superstar in Ronald Acuna Jr., longtime Braves star Freddie Freeman and NL Rookie of the Year runner up Mike Soroka - and that's just the tip of the iceberg. This team is going to be scary.

### Washington Nationals

Now it's time for the reigning World Series Champions, and if I'm being honest, they're probably my pick right now to

finish in third or even fourth in the division. The biggest reason is they lost Anthony Rendon, who over his seven years in Washington transformed into a bona fide superstar, finishing in third in the NL MVP race last year with an OPS of 1.010. Now having teamed up with Mike Trout, the Nationals are going to have a serious hole to fill, and they haven't done much to try. They spent most of their free agent money this offseason on resigning Steven Strausburg, and while yes that keeps one of the best three-man rotations in baseball of Scherzer, Strausburg and Corbin intact, they're now in line to have Asdrubal Cabrera starting at the hot corner. Cabrera is fine, but he's no Rendon. They're still a really good team with that top-end rotation and stars like Juan Soto and Trea Turner, but they've gotten worse.

They weren't even the best team in baseball last year; they just got really hot at the right time, and it's going to be a lot harder to do that again without Rendon.

### New York Mets

While it wouldn't be the craziest thing to pick the Mets to win the division, I'm going to try to remove all bias and pick them to finish second (with wild card positioning), yielding the top spot to Atlanta. After an offseason filled with turmoil, the Mets look to be going into spring training with a problem that many teams would love to have: too much depth. Their rotation, even though they lost Zack Wheeler, is still better than it was going into last season. I'd take deGrom, Syndergaard, Stroman, Matz and Porcello/Wacha over deGrom, Syndergaard, Wheeler, Matz and Vargas in a heartbeat. They have improved their bullpen by adding Dellin Betances, but mainly seem to be counting on bounce-back seasons from Edwin Diaz and Jeurys Familia because they just can't be worse. On top of all that, their

bench is extremely crowded, with J.D. Davis, Dom Smith and Yoenis Cespedes all in line to fight for playing time at left field, and that's not even mentioning Jed Lowrie who may or may not exist. They (knock on wood) should be set up well for when they're eventually hit by the injury bug.

### Philadelphia Phillies

The Phillies took a big swing last offseason when they signed Bryce Harper away from the Washington Nationals, and it didn't work exactly as they hoped. Harper had an okay year, but a .882 OPS is not what they pictured when they gave him \$330 million. So they took another, slightly smaller but still decently sized swing this year and signed Zack Wheeler to a five-year, \$118 million deal. While Wheeler has never put up ace numbers, he's always shown the potential to, being compared to Gerrit Cole and the jump he took from the Pirates to the Astros. They also added DiDi Gregorius to be their starting shortstop, reuniting him with new manager Joe Girardi, giving their infield depth. While their lineup might not be the best in the league or the division, it's still really solid, which is a microcosm of what I expect the Phillies to be. Good, not great.

### Miami Marlins

And yes, now we're here. I'll keep it short, because we all know their deal. The Marlins have the second smallest payroll in the league. If not for \$10 million in dead cap that's going to Wei-Yin Chen, it would be the smallest. The Marlins are part of the problem. They're not even trying to compete, so I'm not going to waste my breath.

And there you have it. Six divisions. Thirty teams. One offseason outlook for every franchise. My 2020 prediction right now? Unbiased: Dodgers over Yankees. Biased: Mets over whomever #LFGM.

## Making a case for each of the top Wooden award candidates in a wide open field

by **Tamir March**  
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The Wooden Award is the most prestigious individual honor that can be bestowed upon a college basketball player. Similar to the national championship field this year, the Wooden race is wide open. Zion Williamson won last year's award essentially the second he walked on campus; this year's race is so close that it will very likely come down to the last buzzer.

### Payton Pritchard, Oregon

Earlier in the season I called for Payton Pritchard to start receiving credit for how important he is to this underrated Oregon team. The nation responded and now Pritchard is one of, if not the favorite to win the Wooden. This is a talented, but young Oregon team that many thought was not going to be able to compete this season, yet with the season winding down they are right in the mix. In nearly every big game, Pritchard has willed his team to victory, most notably his absurd game winning three on the road against Washington, in which he proclaimed to the hostile Seattle crowd: "This is my (expletive) city." Dropping 22, including 6/12 from three in that game gave him a solid case to make such a claim. Pritchard is the most consistent player in the country, averaging 19.5, 4.3 and 6, while navigating his Ducks through an extremely difficult schedule that included Gonzaga, Seton Hall, Michigan, North Carolina and Memphis in the non-conference slate. His impact goes well beyond the box score and in every game he seems to be the one making the biggest play on either end of the floor when it really matters.

### Markus Howard, Marquette

When the Hauser twins decided to transfer from the Golden Eagles in the off-season (free Joey Hauser), pundits across the country were already bidding adieu to Marquette's chances of being competitive. The Hausers were very open about the reason for their transfer: Markus Howard. In response, Howard has led Marquette to a 17-6 record while averaging an almost unheard of 27.4 points a game. Being able to produce NBA numbers and winning when every team's game plan is almost solely to shut you down is a monumental feat. Howard is doing this efficiently as well, shooting 40% from deep and 85% from the stripe. If he continues to put up these scoring numbers and Marquette successfully navi-

gates through a tough final Big East stretch, it would be near criminal for Howard not to earn Wooden award honors come seasons end.

### Luka Garza, Iowa

Garza is the most surprising candidate in the field. Last season he helped Iowa almost upset No. 2 seed Tennessee, before falling in overtime in heartbreaking fashion. He was a good, not great, big man that didn't really stand out much, given the depth of posts in the Big Ten. We knew he would have to take on a much larger role this season, especially given the season ending injury to star guard, Jordan Bohannon. Garza burst into the national spotlight with a 44-point performance on 53% shooting early in the season against Michigan. He hasn't looked back since en route to averaging 23 points and 9 rebounds, including shooting three's at nearly 40% on the year. He has nearly single-handedly kept Iowa near the top of a very competitive Big Ten. Garza is the best Big in the country and one of the most influential two way players in the country. If Iowa is able to pull off a few upsets in the final conference stretch, Garza will be the reason and will garner many votes from the traditionalists among the Wooden voters.

## [Garza] has single-handedly kept Iowa near the top of a very competitive Big Ten.

### Obi Toppin, Dayton

As Ja Morant was last year, Obi Toppin is this season's mid major sweetheart. 21-2 Dayton may very well be on their way to a No. 1 seed this season, on the shoulders of sophomore Obi Toppin. Toppin is perhaps the most versatile player in the country, fully capable of guarding 1-5 and able to score from anywhere on the court. It's one thing to put up high scoring numbers taking 18 shots a game (direct shot at you Myles Powell). Obi averages just under 20 points on only 12.6 shots per game. That equates to 62.6% from the field and a staggering 70% from two. Talk about efficiency. A Wooden award parlayed with being a top five draft pick in June is definitely a possibility for the Brooklyn native.

See **WOODEN**, p. 9



In this Sept. 28, 2019, file photo, New York Mets' Pete Alonso reacts after hitting his 53rd home run of the season during the third inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves in New York. Alonso clubbed a rookie-record 53 homers and the Mets finished only three games out of a playoff spot last season following a big second half. PHOTO BY ADAM HUNGER/AP PHOTO

# Hey Seanny J: Who's going to win each NBA All-Star event?

by Sean Janos  
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NBA All-Star weekend is just days away, and the most talented and exciting basketball players in the world will be competing against each other in various events. Dribbling, passing and shooting will be on full display in the skills challenge, the deadliest sharpshooters will try to make more threes than their competition and the league's highest flyers will look to punish rims in the most creative ways possible. Also, the NBA's rising stars and best players will play exhibitions against one another. Sean's here to definitely tell you who will definitely win each All-Star 2020 event.

## NBA Rising Stars

Since converting to the Team USA versus Team World format in 2015, Team World holds a 3-2 advantage. However, an incredibly deep Team USA beat Team World by 17 last year. This season, Team USA looks very deep again, while Team World is pretty top-heavy with Luka Doncic and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander.

If Team World wins, expect it to be because of this duo, who are both triple-double threats.

Though Team USA got 65 points from Jayson Tatum and Kyle Kuzma, who won't be there this year, Trae Young had 25 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds. Young is back as a sophomore, accompanied by impact rookies Ja Morant, Tyler Herro and the freak of nature known as Zion Williamson. I expect Team USA to win again this year, and one of either Young or Herro to get super hot from behind the arc and take home the MVP.

## Skills Challenge

Winners from three of the past five contests, Jayson Tatum, Spencer Dinwiddie and Patrick Beverley, will all be participating this year. This trio will look to join the ranks of Dwyane Wade and Steve Nash as the only players to win more than once. Sadly, Derrick Rose would be one of the guys trying to become a multiple-time winner, but he had to drop out for injury-related reasons (classic D-Rose). It would have been

cool to watch him in this event in front of the Chicago crowd.

Replacing Rose is Gilgeous-Alexander, who I am picking to take home the dub. With a similar build to Dinwiddie, SGA is a freak athlete who gets up and down the floor fast, a very accurate passer and aside from Tatum, is the most likely to make the shot from the top of the arc on the first try.

## 3-Point Contest

The 3-point Contest has a new wrinkle to it that reflects where basketball is today. There are two new spots, positioned between the center rack and each wing rack. Each spot holds just one ball, but the ball is worth three points — one more than the classic “moneyball” on each regular rack. Here's the kicker: Those spots are six feet behind the arc.

With these new shots, Steph Curry is the first name to come to mind, but he unfortunately isn't participating this year. The next guy with limitless range is James Harden, but he isn't playing either. Next has to be Damian Lillard and Trae Young, both of whom are in the contest. I give Lillard the slight edge for two reasons. One, he has done this competition before, scoring 15 last year, while Young has never done this event. Secondly, he is one of the hottest shooters in the league right now, and many of his threes are coming from well beyond the arc. Saturday night is going to be “Dame Time.”

## Slam Dunk Contest

I love when Aaron Gordon is in the dunk contest. He has such insane hops and wonderful creativity. I hate that Zach Lavine isn't in it. These two went toe-to-toe in 2016, and it revived the event and might have been the best dunk contest I had ever seen live. Lavine, guard for the Chicago Bulls, would be an insane home favorite, but instead he is doing the 3-point contest. Disappointing.

Though Gordon is great at this event, this is his third time



Miami Heat forward Derrick Jones Jr. (5) dunks over Golden State Warriors guard Andrew Wiggins (22) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020. PHOTO BY JEFF CHIU/AP

doing it. Fans could be sick of seeing him, and he could be out of ideas. Instead, I am going to go with another previous contestant. No, not Dwight Howard, but Derrick Jones Jr. The Heat forward has some of the best hops that I've ever seen. His arms and legs are freakishly long, and the arsenal of acrobatic feats he can accomplish is beyond my comprehension. He could have a very special performance that we remember for years.

## NBA All-Star Game

The 69th ever All-Star game is undergoing a new format to not only enhance competitiveness, but also honor NBA legend Kobe Bryant. It's tough to explain, but essentially, the leading team's score at the end of three quarters will be taken for a little math equation. The winning team's score will have 24 added to it, which will then become the target score for both teams to go after to win. So if one team leads 100-94 after the third quarter (that second number could be anything), the first

team to 124 will win the game.

The general consensus is that LeBron James drafted a vastly superior team to Giannis Antetokounmpo. James is accompanied in the starting lineup by his teammate Anthony Davis, James Harden, Luka Doncic and Kawhi Leonard. Antetokounmpo is joined by Trae Young, Kemba Walker, Pascal Siakam and Joel Embiid. In my mind, all four of Team LeBron's starters are better NBA players than those on Team Giannis.

However, the NBA All-Star game isn't that black and white. Many called Antetokounmpo a terrible drafter, but he actually had a great strategy. He drafted the hungriest players that will actually try hard in an exhibition contest. While James picked just three first-time All-Stars, Antetokounmpo picked six. Think back to middle school gym class. Who would win, the best athletes, or the try-hards? I'm going against the grain and going with Team Giannis, and I think Captain Greek Freak himself will win the MVP.



Atlanta Hawks guard Trae Young (11) reacts after scoring a three pointer in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, in Atlanta. PHOTO BY TODD KIRKLAND/AP PHOTO

# Point/Counterpoint: Is spring training a waste of time?



In this Feb. 14, 2018, file photo, Boston Red Sox manager Alex Cora (28) and bench coach Ron Roenicke (10) chat during baseball spring training in Fort Myers, Fla. The Red Sox announced on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020, that Roenicke has been named interim manager. He takes over from Alex Cora, who was let go for directing the sign-stealing scheme with the Houston Astros in 2017, the year before he took over in Boston. PHOTO BY JOHN MINGHILLO/AP PHOTO

by Danny Barletta  
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After a long, action-packed offseason, baseball is officially back. Well, kind of. Pitchers and catchers report to spring training this week, but we are still almost two months away from meaningful baseball games. This week we are debating whether spring training is worth watching, or if it's a waste of time.

## Danny Barletta:

I feel the same way about spring training as I do about preseason football and basketball. It's terrible and nothing but a tease. I see people getting all excited about players reporting to spring training, and I'm tempted to transition into baseball mode. But then I remember that spring training sucks and

it's not real baseball. All that happens are practices for the first couple of weeks, so you can see Gerrit Cole in shorts and a T-shirt throwing 60% off a bullpen mound. Yippee! Or you can see footage of Cody Bellinger taking soft toss in the cages. Must-watch TV am I right?

No, spring training is brutal. It's even worse than other sports' preseasons because it lasts forever. Players report at the beginning of February, but the season doesn't start until the end of March at the earliest. The spring training games are boring as hell too. The starters barely play, and when they do, they're not really trying. It's basically a bunch of scrimmages that I have absolutely zero interest in watching. The only marginally interesting part is seeing the guys on the roster bubble competing for the last few spots, but in my opinion, that doesn't make spring training worth actually watching.

I'll find out on Opening Day who made the team.

## Mike Mavredakis:

Spring Training is great, partially because it means so little. It is your first glimpse at a baseball player, outside of boring press conferences, for five months. No matter what team you root for there is always the possibility of a fresh season on the horizon. For the good teams, it gives fans a chance to look at the future of their franchise once their stars move on. For the bad ones, it gives you hope for the franchise around the corner.

I feel like your argument is simply that players of a lesser caliber are not worth watching because they don't get paid as much or they may be working toward the Majors. I disagree, I think those players are what makes baseball great. They are grinding away every day trying to be better, putting in the work to reach new heights.

## Danny Barletta:

I have nothing against the hopeful big leaguers. I respect their grind as much as anyone. They're the only people that spring training really matters for. I do enjoy the stories that come out during the spring about the journeys that players have been on who have a chance at finally making a major-league roster. But as far as actually watching the games? I'll pass. I'd rather watch college basketball, NBA basketball, college hockey, NHL hockey or even XFL games that actually mean something than a bunch of glorified scrimmages. From a media standpoint, spring training is when some of the best stories come out, which I will read. But you won't catch me watching a second of the exhibition games. Wake me up when March ends.

## Mike Mavredakis:

I can see why you wouldn't want to watch the games because they are “glorified scrim-

mages,” but honestly that's one of the most appealing parts about it for me. I love how free it is; the games really don't matter so teams can experiment and have fun playing baseball. As a fan of the game, nothing draws me into the game more than when it feels like the people playing are having a great time doing it. I love seeing a team start to come together and form their identity. That starts in spring training. I love watching the college teams get to play their local MLB franchises at the very start of the spring. I love seeing players like Bobby Dalbec and Sam Travis hit tanks and light their fandoms on fire for a month at a time, even if they don't have a clear shot at the roster. Spring training is like a whole season of low-commitment baseball, where all players care about is getting in their work and putting on a show. It's some of my favorite baseball to watch.



# Sports

## Men's Basketball: Huskies look to stay hot in matchup with SMU

by Kevin Arnold  
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An 0-2 start in conference play was a tough start. Losing four of the next six by seven or fewer was deemed “brutal.” Now, after knocking off The American’s top team in consecutive games, the Huskies are reeling with confidence heading into their lone matchup with the SMU Mustangs.

“We’re a tough team to beat. We played eight games straight, losing by two, three points and we’re just showing now that we can win these games,” freshman James Bouknight said after UConn’s 72-71 overtime win over Cincinnati. “We played much harder, everyone was in tune and we just played a good game.”

Bouknight, who posted career high point totals in each of the last two games, was named the conference’s player of the week while averaging 22.5 points per game, 4.5 rebounds and 2.0 steals. He is the first Husky to claim the honor since Jalen Adams in February 2017 and is one of two Huskies who currently averages more than 10 points a game averaging at 11.6, Christian Vial being the other, averaging at 14.3.

Since entering the starting lineup, Bouknight is averaging nearly 14 points a game and, with 4-for-5 and 3-for-6 marks from downtown in his last two games, he is leading all active Huskies in 3-point percentage (38.1%). He’s gone from “show-

ing flashes” of his top-100 recruit status to being UConn’s (13-10, 4-6 The American) go-to scorer, even late in games.

“Unleash him and let him play through things and get the valuable experience,” head coach Dan Hurley said prior to UConn’s loss to Tulsa at home. “He’s making less defensive mistakes.”

While there’s room for improvement for Bouknight — Hurley goes onto mention being “tighter with the ball” and more “shot ready” — UConn fans have gotten a taste of what the future in Storrs will look like. But first, the Huskies have a date with the Mustangs.

SMU (16-6, 6-4 The American), fresh off a loss to Temple, sits two spots above UConn at No. 5 and boasts the top offense in the conference. The Mustangs score 75.9 points a game thanks to a conference-leading free throw percentage (76.3) and field goal percentage (45.9), while dropping more dimes than any other team in The American with 16.8 per game.

The Mustangs move the ball effectively and score often, resulting in four players averaging double-digit point totals. Kendrick Davis, a sophomore transfer from TCU, is responsible for nearly 30 points every time he takes the floor. He scores at a 15.8 clip and has 132 assists (6 per game), more than double teammate Tyson Jolly’s second-best 56.

Jolly, a junior, can score the ball pretty well himself, with

a 39.6 3-point percentage and 14.8 points per game, good for second best on the team. He trails Isaiah Mike (41.8) and C.J. White (42.9) in makes from deep, but the three round out SMU’s group of top scorers.

UConn will need to play to its identity, its defense, if it will leave Dallas with its third-straight win. The Huskies allow 65 points and are the conference’s top shot-blocking team (6.6), with Akok Akok providing 2.83 a night, good enough for 10th-best in the nation. Christian Vital is tied for tenth in college basketball with 2.43 steals a game (UConn averages just north of six) and will maybe see some help from Alterique Gilbert, who snagged three steals against Memphis in his first game coming off the bench.

UConn’s offense still seems to be a bit streaky and inconsistent, but has vastly improved as Bouknight plays through the growing pains of a freshman. The Huskies are trending in the right direction of late, but are not satisfied yet.

“It’s a step in the right direction, but this is not what we came here for, to win two games in a row,” Vital said after beating the Bearcats. “We gotta keep going. We’re gonna enjoy ourselves tonight, sleep a little bit better tonight, but once we wake up tomorrow, we gotta get ready for SMU.”

UConn and SMU will tip off at 7 p.m. from Moody Coliseum in Dallas, TX. The game will be broadcast by ESPN News.



Josh Carlton backs down a Cincinnati defender in a game on Feb. 9. The Huskies won a thriller 72-71 in front of the home crowd at Gampel Pavilion. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Women's lacrosse looks to start season strong against Fairfield



The women's lacrosse team runs the field in a game against Temple on April 5, 2019. UConn lost the game 17-13 as part of its 3-14 season last year. The Huskies begin a new season against Fairfield on Wednesday. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Jonathan Synott  
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Lacrosse season is finally back, folks. The wait is over. The UConn women’s lacrosse team kicks off a 16-game season today with its home opener against Fairfield University at 3 p.m.

The Huskies hope to improve upon last season, as they finished with a 3-14 record (1-4 in conference) and finished fifth in the American. In the AAC Preseason Poll, UConn was ranked fifth in their con-

ference of six teams.

Key returner Sydney Watson looks to lead the Huskies again this year after a strong 2019 season, which culminated in an All-AAC First Team nod. Last year, she scored 39 goals, accumulated 51 points and 92 draw controls. She was a unanimous selection to this year’s Preseason All-Conference Team (UConn’s sole representative) as well.

The Huskies lost seven seniors last year, including midfielder Caitlin Leary, who was second on the team in goals scored with 28. This year,

there are five seniors on the team, including goalkeeper Grace Beshlian. Beshlian finished her junior year with 148 saves, nine forced turnovers and a 0.429 save percentage in 15 games played.

Katie Woods, in her tenth year as head coach of the lacrosse team, stands as the most successful coach in the program’s history. Her 84 wins (and counting) along with her 0.552 winning percentage prove her worth to the team. After two straight losing seasons, she looks to increase both numbers with

a big win over a historically good opponent.

Fairfield poses a tough test for the Huskies, as they finished last year with a record of 15-4 and won the MAAC. They have already played their first game, losing 10-8 at home to Holy Cross.

Over the last four matchups between these two teams, UConn is 3-1, only dropping the most recent game, 7-13, in an away loss. In that game, the Huskies turned over the ball 24 times, matching a tie for second most that season. If the Huskies want to win

today, ball control will have to be a major key, especially with junior co-captain Maggie Reynolds of Fairfield earning MAAC Defensive Player of the Week recently.

Looking down the road, the team is set to play James Madison on Sunday at the U.S. Lacrosse Headquarters, and then heads home for next week’s game against UMass-Lowell at the Sherman Sports Complex. In the quest for a bid into the NCAA Tournament, the journey starts here at 3:00 p.m. against a formidable Fairfield opponent.

### THIS WEEK IN UCONN SPORTS

#### Men's Basketball



vs.



Tonight 7 p.m.  
Dallas, TX



Women's Lax  
Today 3 p.m.  
Sherman Sports Complex



Men's Hockey  
Friday 7:30 pm  
Orono, ME

### INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconnhuskies  
Can confirm. #broomstickchallenge

### TWEETS OF THE DAY



Ed Daigneault

@EdDaigneault

UConn Twitter is the best. The women have lost three games in a season and Armageddon is upon us. The men have two nice wins in a row and some are talking NCAA tourney seeding.

Luke Swanson

@Lukefrom2011

This whole trade deadline saga with Memphis has taught me that Jae Crowder stans actually exist

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