

UConn Cyber places second at national cybersecurity competition

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On March 23, UConn Cyber placed second out of 165 teams in CyberSEED, a national cybersecurity competition hosted by the University of Connecticut. The team, ERROR 404, was composed of the club's president Anthony Crisci, vice president Robert Stawarz and treasurer Ronak Sahu, and earned 2290 points out of a possible 2400 at the competition.

CyberSEED is a "Capture the Flag" cybersecurity competition hosted annually by UConn, and gives teams a variety of cybersecurity challenges to battle for the top spot. These challenges include "reverse engineering, web application security, network traffic analysis, cryptography and more," according to CyberSEED's website. UConn Cyber has competed in CyberSEED previously, but has never placed second before, which earned them a prize of \$2500.

In an emailed response, the members of ERROR 404 talked about their experience with UConn Cyber and the competition.



The University of Connecticut's College of Engineering Connecticut Advanced Computing Center hosts a national cyber security competition, CyberSEED. Since 2014, this competition has allowed cyber security teams from all around the country to compete in "Capture the Flag" cybersecurity challenges. PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING CONNECTICUT ADVANCED COMPUTING CENTER

"We beat colleges with way better Cybersecurity funding, courses, and just generally way better Cybersecurity programs than UConn. It feels good and hopefully helps bring more attention to, in my opinion, one of, if not the most important area of technology," said Crisci. "Cybersecurity doesn't get much love from UConn in general (funding, courses,

etc.) so still being able to perform how we did just re-enforces our motivation to continue the club, continue learning on our own, and continue spreading our message of Cybersecurity importance."

One aspect of CyberSEED is the "incident report presentation." For this presentation, teams are given a prompt coming tasked with finding out what went wrong and give

a presentation on how the team uncovered it to a panel of cybersecurity professionals, who act as judges. They are tasked with finding out "the threat level, business solutions, and people who need to know about this so that the damage is as minute as possible and more," according to Sahu.

Sahu talked about how, before the incident report, their team was

fourth on the leaderboard, and they were expecting their overall score to go down after the report.

"In CyberSeed 2023 we got 110/300 [on the incident report] which was making me think that our rank was going to go down from fourth pretty bad," wrote Sahu. "But after the eighth team's score was released, it was really exciting to see that our team was not getting called up and we all were excited to know that we placed second and that we got 280/300 in the incident report briefing."

On April 5, UConn Cyber will compete in their next competition, the National Cyber League. UConn Cyber placed first at NCL in 2023, and they're hoping to carry that into this year's NCL along with their second-place finish at CyberSEED.

UConn Cyber is free to all students and meets from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. They strive to provide opportunities for hands-on experience, professional development and community service to all members. For more information, you can visit UConn Cyber's UConncontact.

Former Sen. Joe Lieberman, Democrats' VP pick in 2000, dead at 82



No Labels Founding Chairman and former senator Joe Lieberman speaks in Washington on Jan. 18, 2024. Lieberman died Wednesday, March 27, according to a statement issued by his family. FILE PHOTO/AP

NEW YORK (AP) — Former U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, who nearly won the vice presidency on the Democratic ticket with Al Gore in the disputed 2000 election and who almost became Republican John McCain's running mate eight years later, has died, according to a statement issued by his family.

Lieberman died in New York City on Wednesday due to complications from a fall, the statement said. He was 82.

The Democrat-turned-independent was never shy about veering from the party line.

Lieberman's independent streak and especially his needling of Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama during the 2008 presidential contest rankled many Democrats, the party he aligned with in the Senate. Yet his support for gay rights, civil rights, abortion rights and environmental causes at times won him the praise of many liberals over the years.

Lieberman came tantalizingly close to winning the vice presidency in the contentious 2000 presidential contest that was decided by a 537-vote margin victory for George W. Bush in Florida after a drawn-out recount, legal challenges and a Supreme Court decision. He was the first Jewish candidate on a major party's presidential ticket and would have been the first Jewish vice president.

He was also the first national Democrat to publicly criticize

President Bill Clinton for his extramarital affair with a White House intern.

Lieberman sought the Democratic presidential nomination in 2004 but dropped out after a weak showing in the early primaries. Four years later, he was an independent who was nearly chosen to be McCain's running mate. He and McCain were close pals who shared hawkish views on military and national security matters.

McCain was leaning strongly toward choosing Lieberman for the ticket as the 2008 GOP convention neared, but he chose Sarah Palin at the last minute after "ferocious" blowback from conservatives over Lieberman's liberal record, according to Steve Schmidt, who managed McCain's campaign.

Lieberman generated controversy in 1998 when he scolded Clinton, his friend of many years, for "disgraceful behavior" in an explosive speech on the Senate floor during the height of the scandal over his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Yet Lieberman later voted against the impeachment of Clinton.

He defended his partisan switches as a matter of conscience, saying he always had the best interests of Connecticut voters at heart. Critics accused him of pursuing narrow self-interest and political expediency.

In announcing his retirement from the Senate in 2013, Lieber-

man acknowledged that he did "not always fit comfortably into conventional political boxes" and felt his first responsibility was to serve his constituents, state and country, not his political party. He had a tortured relationship with Democrats.

During his final Senate speech, Lieberman urged Congress to look beyond party lines and partisan rancor to break Washington gridlock.

"It requires reaching across the aisle and finding partners from the opposite party," said Lieberman. "That is what is desperately needed in Washington now."

Harry Reid, who served as Senate Democratic leader, once said that while he didn't always agree with the independent-minded Lieberman, he respected him.

"Regardless of our differences, I have never doubted Joe Lieberman's principles or his patriotism," said Reid. "And I respect his independent streak, as it stems from strong convictions."

Privately, some Democrats were often less charitable about Lieberman's forays across party lines, which they saw as disloyal. He bolted his party and turned independent after a 2006 Senate primary loss in Connecticut.

Lieberman's strong support of the Iraq War hurt his statewide popularity. Democrats rejected Lieberman and handed the 2006 primary to a political newcomer and an anti-war candidate, Ned Lamont.

Defying Democratic leaders and friends, Lieberman ran successfully for reelection as an independent and drew support from some Republican allies. Lieberman won praise from the White House and fundraising help from prominent Republicans, such as then-New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg, who himself later ran as an independent.

Lieberman made his Senate experience and congressional clout a strong selling point, saying he'd fight hard for the state's defense jobs and its fair share of federal largesse. The strategy paid off.

Lieberman won reelection to a fourth term, even though many

of his Democratic allies and longtime friends, including former Sen. Chris Dodd, supported Lamont. Lieberman was candid about what he considered a betrayal by old pals such as Dodd, but the two men later reconciled.

After his rebound reelection in 2006, Lieberman decided to caucus with Democrats in the Senate, who let him head a committee in return because they needed his vote to help keep control of the closely divided chamber. But it wasn't long until Lieberman was showing his independent streak and ruffling his Democratic caucus colleagues.

Despite the decision of Democrats to let him join their caucus as an independent, Lieberman was an enthusiastic backer of McCain in the 2008 presidential contest.

Lieberman's speech at the 2008 GOP presidential nominating convention criticizing Obama, the Democratic presidential nominee, struck a deep nerve with many Democrats.

Lieberman cast Obama as a political show horse, a lightweight with a thin record of accomplishment in the Senate despite his soaring eloquence as a speaker.

"In the Senate, during the 3 1/2 years that Sen. Obama has been a member, he has not reached across party lines to ... accomplish anything significant, nor has he been willing to take on powerful interest groups in the Democratic Party to get something done," Lieberman said at the convention.

"Eloquence is no substitute for a record," he said.

Lieberman campaigned heartily across the country for McCain. Many Democrats considered it a betrayal to Obama and his former party colleagues.

"Joe Lieberman has said things that are totally irresponsible when it comes to Barack Obama," House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California said in a radio interview during the 2008 race.

After the election, there was speculation Senate Democrats might strip Lieberman of his chairmanship of the Senate

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee as payback. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., chair of the Judiciary Committee, was among those who said Lieberman should lose his chairmanship. Leahy branded Lieberman's attacks on Obama as "beyond the pale."

But at Obama's urging, Senate Democrats decided not to punish Lieberman for supporting McCain and the GOP ticket. Obama was eager to strike a bipartisan tone for his presidency and giving Lieberman a pass helped reinforce that message.

Yet Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent and staunch liberal, called it a "slap in the face" for millions of Americans who backed Obama.

Lieberman was known in the Senate for his hawkish foreign policy views, his pro-defense bent and his strong support for environmental causes.

Five weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, he became one of the first politicians to call for the ouster of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and later voted in favor of the military invasion of Iraq. His vocal support for the war would later help doom his candidacy in the 2006 Connecticut Democratic primary.

Lieberman tended to vote with Democrats on most issues and was a longtime supporter of abortion rights, a stance that would have proved problematic with conservatives had McCain chosen him as his running mate in 2008.

He played a key role in the legislation that created the Department of Homeland Security.

Lieberman grew up in Stamford, Connecticut, where his father ran a liquor store. Lieberman graduated from Yale University and Yale Law School in New Haven. As Connecticut's attorney general from 1983 to 1988, he was a strong consumer and environmental advocate. Lieberman vaulted into the Senate by defeating moderate Republican incumbent Lowell Weicker in 1988.

After leaving the Senate in 2013, Lieberman joined a New York City law firm.

Lieberman and his wife, Hadassah, have four children.

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THE DAILY CAMPUS
NEWSLETTER

News

Should college essays touch on race? Some feel the affirmative action ruling leaves them no choice

CHICAGO (AP) — When she started writing her college essay, Hillary Amofa told the story she thought admissions offices wanted to hear. About being the daughter of immigrants from Ghana and growing up in a small apartment in Chicago. About hardship and struggle.

Then she deleted it all.

“I would just find myself kind of trauma-dumping,” said the 18-year-old senior at Lincoln Park High School in Chicago. “And I’m just like, this doesn’t really say anything about me as a person.”

When the Supreme Court ended affirmative action in higher education, it left the college essay as one of few places where race can play a role in admissions decisions. For many students of color, instantly more was riding on the already high-stakes writing assignment. Some say they felt pressure to exploit their hardships as they competed for a spot on campus.

Amofa was just starting to think about her essay when the court issued its decision, and it left her with a wave of questions. Could she still write about her race? Could she be penalized for it? She wanted to tell colleges about her heritage but she didn’t want to be defined by it.

In English class, Amofa and her classmates read sample essays that all seemed to focus on some trauma or hardship. It left her with the impression she had to write about her life’s hardest moments to show how far she’d come. But she and some of her classmates wondered if their lives had been hard enough to catch the attention of admissions offices.

“For a lot of students, there’s a feeling of, like, having to go through something so horrible to feel worthy of going to school, which is kind of sad,” said Amofa, the daughter of a hospital technician and an Uber driver.

This year’s senior class is the first in decades to navigate college admissions without affirmative action. The Supreme Court upheld the practice in decisions going back to the 1970s, but this court’s conservative supermajority found it is unconstitutional for colleges to give students extra weight because of their race alone.

Still, the decision left room for race to play an indirect role: Chief Justice John Roberts wrote universities can still consider how an applicant’s life was shaped by their race, “so long as that discussion is concretely tied to a quality of character or unique ability.”

“A benefit to a student who overcame racial discrimination, for example, must be tied to that student’s courage and determination,” he wrote.

Scores of colleges responded with new essay prompts asking about students’ backgrounds.



Max Decker, a senior at Lincoln High School, sits for a portrait in the school library where he often worked on writing his college essays, in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, March 20, 2024. PHOTO BY AMANDA LOMAN/AP

Brown University asked applicants how “an aspect of your growing up has inspired or challenged you.” Rice University asked students how their perspectives were shaped by their “background, experiences, upbringing, and/or racial identity.”

WONDERING IF SCHOOLS ‘EXPECT A SOB STORY’

When Darrian Merritt started writing his essay, he knew the stakes were higher than ever because of the court’s decision. His first instinct was to write about events that led to him going to live with his grandmother as a child.

Those were painful memories, but he thought they might play well at schools like Yale, Stanford and Vanderbilt.

“I feel like the admissions committee might expect a sob story or a tragic story,” said Merritt, a senior in Cleveland. “And if you don’t provide that, then maybe they’re not going to feel like you went through enough to deserve having a spot at the university. I wrestled with that a lot.”

He wrote drafts focusing on his childhood, but it never amounted to more than a collection of memories. Eventually he abandoned the idea and aimed for an essay that would stand out for its positivity.

Merritt wrote about a summer camp where he started to feel more comfortable in his own skin. He described embracing his personality and defying his tendency to please others. The essay had humor — it centered on a water gun fight where he had victory in sight but, in a comedic twist, slipped and fell. But the essay also reflects on his feelings of not being “Black enough” and getting made fun of for listening to “white people music.”

“I was like, ‘OK, I’m going to write this for me, and we’re just going to see how it goes,’” he said. “It just felt real, and it felt like an honest story.”

The essay describes a breakthrough as he learned “to take ownership of myself and my future by sharing my true personality with the people I encounter. ... I realized that the first chapter of my own story had just been written.”

A RULING PROMPTS PIVOTS ON ESSAY TOPICS

Like many students, Max Decker of Portland, Oregon, had drafted a college essay on one topic, only to change direction after the Supreme Court ruling in June.

Decker initially wrote about his love for video games. In a childhood surrounded by constant change, navigating his parents’ divorce, the games he took from place to place on his Nintendo DS were a source of comfort.

But the essay he submitted to colleges focused on the community he found through Word is Bond, a leadership group for young Black men in Portland.

As the only biracial, Jewish kid with divorced parents in a predominantly white, Christian community, Decker wrote he constantly felt like the odd one out. On a trip with Word is Bond to Capitol Hill, he and friends who looked just like him shook hands with lawmakers. The experience, he wrote, changed how he saw himself.

“It’s because I’m different that I provide something precious to the world, not the other way around,” he wrote.

As a first-generation college student, Decker thought about the subtle ways his peers seemed to know more about navigating the admissions process. They made sure to get into advanced classes at the start of high school, and they knew how to secure glowing letters of recommendation.

If writing about race would give him a slight edge and show admissions officers a fuller picture of his achievements, he wanted to take that small advantage.

His first memory about race,

Decker said, was when he went to get a haircut in elementary school and the barber made rude comments about his curly hair. Until recently, the insecurity that moment created led him to keep his hair buzzed short.

Through Word is Bond, Decker said he found a space to explore his identity as a Black man. It was one of the first times he was surrounded by Black peers and saw Black role models. It filled him with a sense of pride in his identity. No more buzzcut.

The pressure to write about race involved a tradeoff with other important things in his life, Decker said. That included his passion for journalism, like the piece he wrote on efforts to revive a once-thriving Black neighborhood in Portland. In the end, he squeezed in 100 characters about his journalism under the application’s activities section.

“My final essay, it felt true to myself. But the difference between that and my other essay was the fact that it wasn’t the truth that I necessarily wanted to share,” said Decker, whose top college choice is Tulane, in New Orleans, because of the region’s diversity. “It felt like I just had to limit the truth I was sharing to what I feel like the world is expecting of me.”

SPELLING OUT THE IMPACT OF RACE

Before the Supreme Court ruling, it seemed a given to Imani Laird that colleges would consider the ways that race had touched her life. But now, she felt like she had to spell it out.

As she started her essay, she reflected on how she had faced bias or felt overlooked as a Black student in predominantly white spaces.

There was the year in math class when the teacher kept calling her by the name of another Black student. There were the comments that she’d have an easier time getting into college because she was Black.

“I didn’t have it easier because of my race,” said Laird, a senior at Newton South High School in the Boston suburbs who was accepted at Wellesley and Howard University, and is waiting to hear from several Ivy League colleges. “I had stuff I had to overcome.”

In her final essays, she wrote about her grandfather, who served in the military but was denied access to GI Bill benefits because of his race.

She described how discrimination fueled her ambition to excel and pursue a career in public policy.

“So, I never settled for mediocrity,” she wrote. “Regardless of the subject, my goal in class was not just to participate but to excel. Beyond academics, I wanted to excel while remembering what started this motivation in the first place.”

WILL SCHOOLS LOSE RACIAL DIVERSITY?

Amofa used to think affirmative action was only a factor at schools like Harvard and Yale. After the court’s ruling, she was surprised to find that race was taken into account even at some public universities she was applying to.

Now, without affirmative action, she wondered if mostly white schools will become even whiter.

It’s been on her mind as she chooses between Indiana University and the University of Dayton, both of which have relatively few Black students. When she was one of the only Black students in her grade school, she could fall back on her family and Ghanaian friends at church. At college, she worries about loneliness.

“That’s what I’m nervous about,” she said. “Going and just feeling so isolated, even though I’m constantly around people.”

The first drafts of her essay focused on growing up in a low-income family, sharing a bedroom with her brother and grandmother. But it didn’t tell colleges about who she is now, she said.

Her final essay tells how she came to embrace her natural hair. She wrote about going to a mostly white grade school where classmates made jokes about her afro. When her grandmother sent her back with braids or cornrows, they made fun of those too.

Over time, she ignored the insults and found beauty in the styles worn by women in her life. She now runs a business doing braids and other hairstyles in her neighborhood.

“I stopped seeing myself through the lens of the European traditional beauty standards and started seeing myself through the lens that I created,” Amofa wrote.

“Criticism will persist, but it loses its power when you know there’s a crown on your head!”

The Daily Campus

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ACROSS

1 Tap

4 Garment that may be draped in the nivi style

8 Buyer’s incentive

14 Hoopla

15 Jeff Bridges sci-fi franchise

16 Toyota sedan since 1994

17 Gets just right

19 Silently agreed

20 Places to pray

21 ___ de deux

23 Physics quantity

24 Rental agreement

25 Get off the partner track?

27 Car alarm

29 Slick

32 Final Four game

35 Yahoo

37 “Thanks, I got it”

39 Handi-Snacks cookie

40 Have a loan from egg in Minecraft

43 Jackman’s “The Greatest Showman” role

45 “___ your heart out!”

46 Apple computer

47 Siete días

49 Centipede’s multitude

51 Body of work

53 Firm

57 Chatted privately, briefly

60 “It’s not really working for me”

61 Admonition to bickering kids

62 Electric guitar effect

64 “Back so soon?”

66 Audrey Tautou role

67 Long for

68 Vox populi, vox ___

69 Flexor counterpart

70 “Who ___ could it be?”

71 Parka part

DOWN

1 Vatican-related

2 “I Drink Wine” singer

3 Sandwich on a bolillo

4 Typical opening?

5 Story shapes

6 Deteriorate

7 What a mood board might provide, informally

8 Return correspondence?

9 Former Bolivian president Morales

10 Creedence Clearwater Revival hit with the line “I see trouble on the way,” or what can be found in three long Down entries

11 “M*A*S*H” star

12 The ten in “hang ten”

13 Split ___

18 Bella Hadid and Precious Lee, for two

22 Burro

25 Chew (on)

26 Lav

28 Key information for a hotel guest?

30 Cubs or Bears

31 Juno’s Greek counterpart

32 Cry loudly

33 “-zoic” periods

34 No more than

36 Extra charge

38 Advent mo.

41 Yarn

44 Dubai’s fed.

48 Madison in NYC

50 Axle coating

52 Pay to play, e.g.

54 Food Network chef De Laurentiis

55 Less friendly

56 “Canadian tuxedo” fabric

57 “Dang!”

58 Many a viral post

59 Level

61 Peck

63 ___ de Janeiro

65 Cruet liquid

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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by **Desirae Sin** | STAFF WRITER | SHE/HER/HERS | desirae.sin@uconn.edu

Dr. Oscar Guerra showcased his new documentary “Invisible Wounds: Unveiling Migration Trauma” as part of the last Fellow’s Talk of the semester on Wednesday, March 27. Guerra is an associate professor of film and video production at the University of Connecticut and a producer at PBS Frontline.

The movie “chronicles 15-year-old Ruth’s migration from Honduras to the U.S. upon discovering her pregnancy,” according to the synopsis. “The film critically examines mental health barriers, offering a timely and empathetic portrayal of the often-overlooked struggles faced by this vulnerable sector of American society.”

Guerra first described his creative process for the film, where he collaborated with Johns Hopkins University, Harvard University and UConn. He initially came across research on immigration and mental health through faculty at Johns Hopkins, where he asked them “Do you think anyone in the community is reading this?” They answered no, and Guerra knew that he needed to turn their research into a visual medium for audiences to understand.

The main protagonist of the film is Ruth Fajardo, whom Guerra met through contacts at Harvard. He emphasized the importance of fostering relationships with the film’s subjects by earning and maintaining their trust.

The movie was an emotional journey for all involved. Guerra stated that “it’s about finding commonalities at the end of the day.” He found that the Fajardo family’s stories resonated with him, as he understood what it’s like to come

from an immigrant family.

There were also challenges associated with the film itself beyond its emotional toll. Guerra described a situation in which he spoke with a distributor, and they stated that people are tired of hearing immigration stories. But this did not deter him as Guerra understood the power of storytelling. “It’s doing work for the people you’re trying to help,” said Guerra.

At the talk, Guerra showed about 15 minutes of the 34-minute film. It begins with Fajardo recounting her mental state at the time. “Nobody talks about depression in Latino houses,” stated Fajardo. She became pregnant at 15 years old, and her family believed she’d be better off in the United States. The journey took her through Guatemala and at various points, she had to cross rivers and avoid border patrols. On Dec. 1, 2004, Fajardo completed her journey.

The movie includes interviews with both Fajardo and her mother, who both acknowledged there was a disconnect between them. Previously they had mostly spoken over the phone, but this was the first time they had been together in close proximity for a long period of time.

After giving birth, Fajardo dealt with postpartum depression, which exacerbated her already declining mental health. An incident that occurred between the two was when Fajardo left the house at night, leaving her baby in the crib. When her mother found out, she struck Fajardo, leading to Fajardo leaving the house on her own.

See **GUERRA**, p. 5

LATINO MIGRANTS AND MENTAL HEALTH



Dr. Oscar Guerra (right) showcased his upcoming documentary “Invisible Wounds: Unveiling Migration Trauma” at UConn’s Humanities Institute on Wednesday, March 27, 2024. Dr. Ana María Díaz-Marcos (left) responded to Guerra’s presentation.
PHOTO COURTESY OF DESIRAE SIN, STAFF WRITER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

GUERRA, cont. from p. 4

After talking about this incident, Fajardo reveals to the audience that she was molested by her uncle at four years old, but the environment in Honduras and the church prevented her from healing past her trauma. The notion that a woman must be a virgin to be wed was, and still is, prevalent, so Fajardo felt that she was unworthy because of this. “I always felt like I didn’t have anybody,” said Fajardo.

The end of the 15-minute showing revealed that Fajardo’s mother took her baby away from her custody, and it ended on the unfortunate note that it led to Fajardo attempting to commit suicide. Guerra stopped the film but assured the audience that Fajardo is now well and accounted for.

A response came from Dr. Ana María Díaz-Marcos, a professor of Spanish studies at UConn who specializes in Spanish women writers, Spanish theater and literature. She began by mentioning previous work by Guerra and how these immigration stories involve familial separation and reunification. “Ruth’s story is about overcoming challenges,” stated Díaz-Marcos.

She brought up how women are sometimes ignored or neglected in these stories but commended Guerra for focusing on the female struggles of immigration and mental health. Guerra responded by stating that he comes from a matriarchal family, so he may be focusing innately on strong women because he was surrounded by them. “A theme finds you, not the other way around,” noted Guerra.

Díaz-Marcos also asked what Guerra hoped to gain from his film. Guerra stated that the movie intends to tell these stories to lawmakers who control policy. He hopes that watching these stories will push them to make the right decisions and see migrants in a sympathetic sense.

IMAGES COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

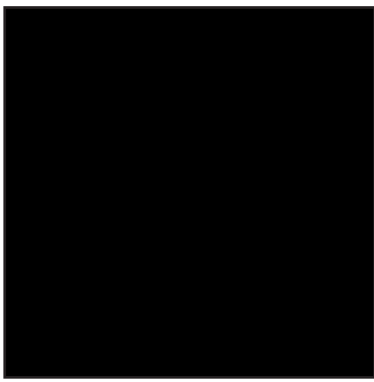


Life

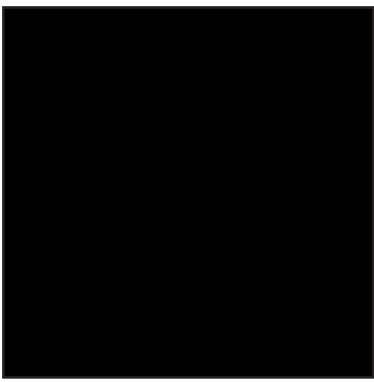
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COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

STUDENTS SHOULDN'T
PAY TO PARK

by Luke Feeney
WEEKLY COLUMNIST
HE/HIM/HIS
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Last week, I had a meeting scheduled for 4:50 p.m. in Oak Hall. I know it has a new name, but given my hatred of the new name, I refuse to recognize it. You're going to have to pay me at least \$355K to change my mind about the new name.

Anyways, my meeting was only supposed to be 10-15 minutes long and Storrs was being Storrs, so naturally there were screaming winds. These factors left me with two choices: park in Lot K (my assigned lot) and rely on the University of Connecticut's notoriously late busing system, or park on campus, which means risking a ticket from UConn's notoriously strict Parking Services. These factors left me with two choices: park in Lot K (my assigned lot) and rely on the University of Connecticut's notoriously late busing system, or park on campus, which means risking a ticket from UConn's notoriously strict Parking Services. But Parking Services operates from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., so I liked my odds of not getting a ticket. I chose the second option, went

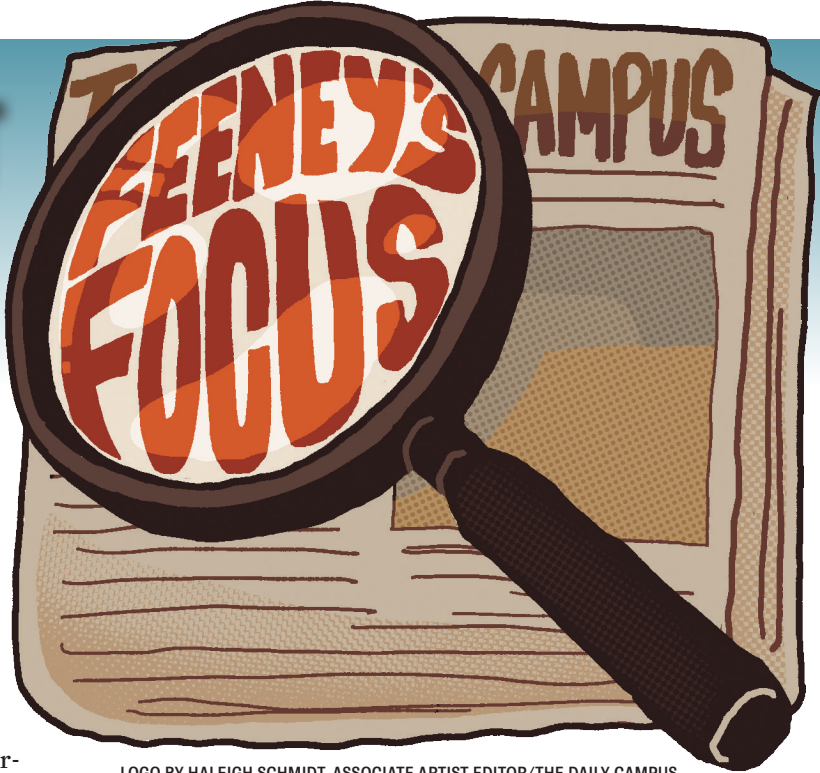
to my meeting and I regret to inform you that I got a ticket. Following 20-40 seconds of screaming words I am not allowed to put into print, I started wondering why students must pay to park. I understand, and have no objection to, charging non-students to park on campus since they are visiting. I also think it is more than reasonable for UConn to set a minimum of 54 credits for students before being eligible to purchase a parking pass.

Here's what is unreasonable: every other part of UConn's parking policy. Lord help you if you are parked in a spot where you shouldn't be parked. It's common knowledge that Parking Services is notorious for handing out tickets in all sorts of manner; in 2018 they issued over \$966,000 in tickets, ranging from \$30 to as much as \$150, and Parking Services has indicated that they only want to increase the overall cost of these fines. They've

even toyed with the idea of installing boots on cars that are parked illegally. "We have increased enforcement presence from the start of the academic year this year compared to last year. And it's actually the other way around, more people decided it's just okay to not buy a permit and take their chances and get a ticket. So it's been a strange, really unexpected thing," said Associate Director of Logistics Andy Kelly.

What Kelly neglects to mention here is the insane cost that UConn has decided to put on an essential means of transportation for their students.

UConn offers seven parking areas for commuters: Lot C, Lot I, Lot K, Lot N, Lot W, Lot Y and the South Parking Garage. These prices range from \$353 to nearly \$1,000 for an entire year. Students who



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

are already paying thousands of dollars to live on campus are offered parking at slightly lower rates, though it's certainly not a cheap investment; residential student parking pricing ranges from \$353 to nearly \$600 for an entire year.

Kelly leaves out another massive problem, and it is in my opinion why more students are taking their chances to park on campus without a permit: a lack of viable alternatives. Students who live off campus — nearly a third of UConn's total population — have two options for transportation: drive to campus or take the bus. UConn is a massive campus, spanning 4,400 acres. Despite the scope of the campus, UConn has persistently stripped away sources of reliable public transportation for its students. The closest train station to the university is Hartford Union Station, which is still a 30-35 minute drive from campus. According to UConn's own website, "We are unable to provide transportation to and from Hartford Union Station."

It's not just trains; UConn recently announced that hours for HuskyGo shuttles are ending earlier, and certain bus lines will have a reduced number of shuttles. It is fascinating witnessing Parking Services' anger at students for illegally park-

ing on the campus they are already paying thousands of dollars to attend, while also stripping away any alternative form of transportation.

The solution to the problem is simple: we just create a robust campus with strong, frequent and reliable public transportation that would curb the overall need for students to have to drive their cars. This would also decrease overall traffic on campus, and we should've done that about 50 years ago.

To prospective students, UConn loves to pitch themselves as more than a university. UConn loves the slogan, "Students today. Huskies forever." They adore the idea that no matter where you go in the world, no matter where your talents take you, you'll always have a home at UConn. But let me ask you, would you charge your own family hundreds of dollars to park their car at home? Take away resources that could make their commute easier and continue to threaten to increase the punishment time and time again? I certainly wouldn't.

It almost makes it seem like UConn views their relationship with the student body as more transactional than familial, but then again what do I know? I just had to pay them \$30 because I parked somewhere for a half hour.

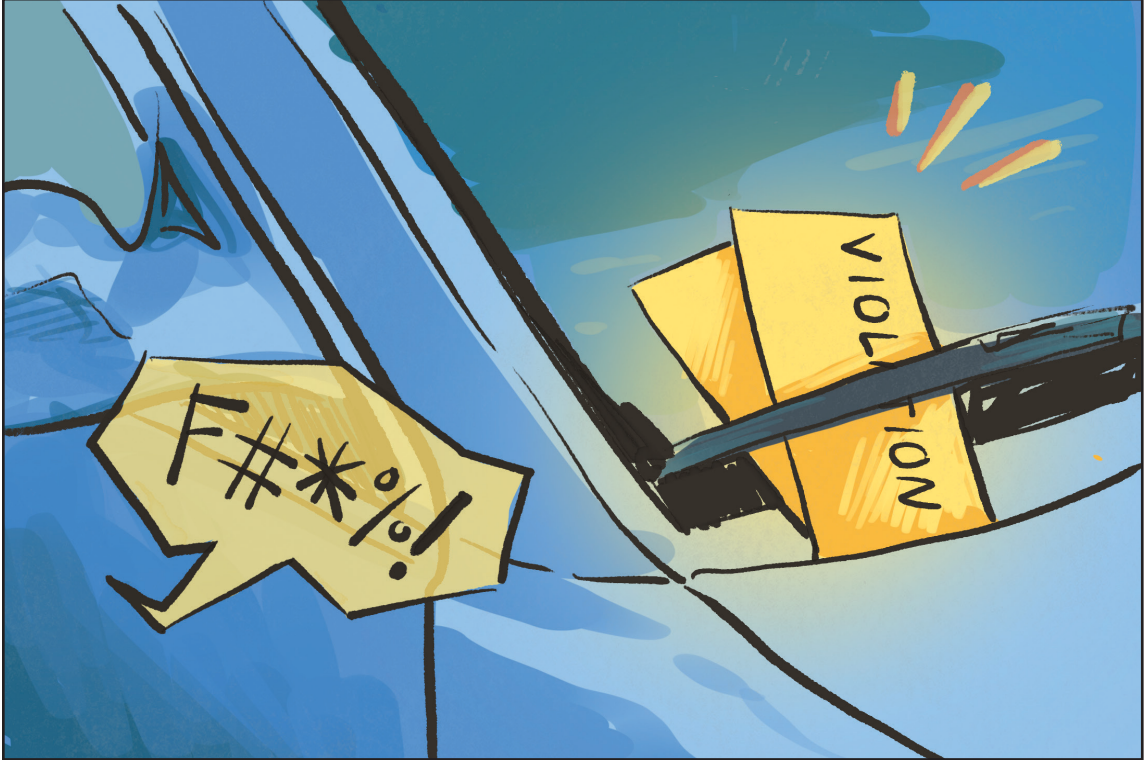
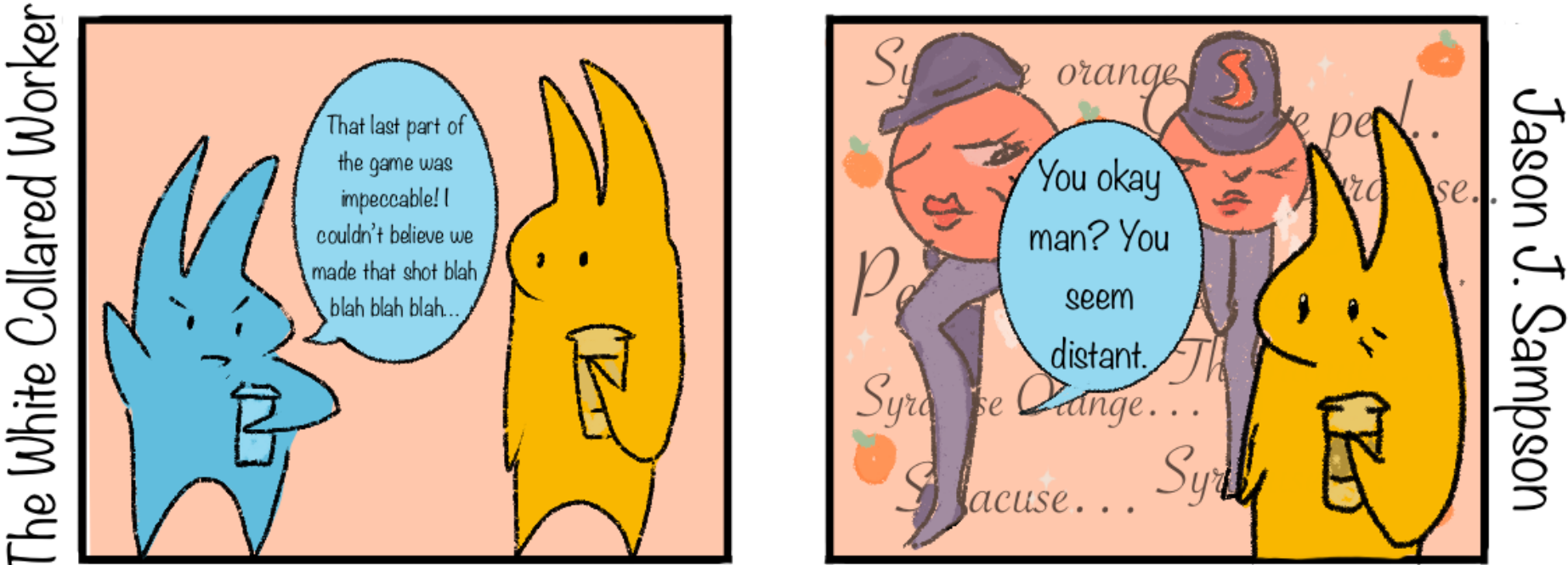


ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY JASON J. SAMPSON, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Huskytalk | You have 30 seconds to talk to anyone in history. Who is it and what are you telling them?

PHOTOGRAPHY BY OLIVIA RILEY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

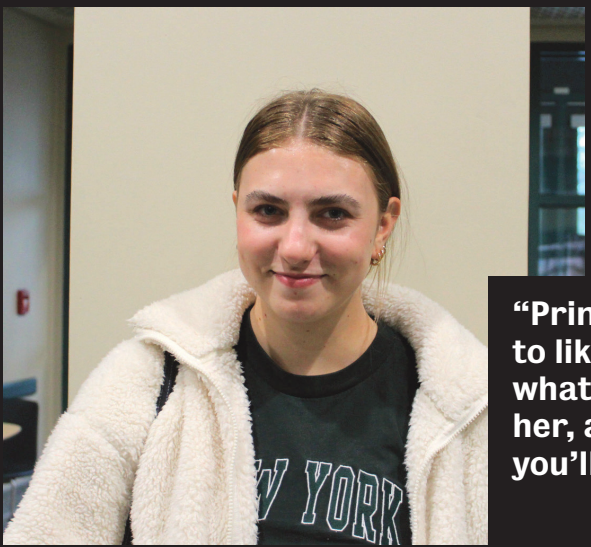
“Martin Luther King Jr. because I would ask if his real reasoning for wanting segregation to be over was because he was cheating on his wife with a white woman.”

Brianna Davis
Mechanical Engineering
Second Semester



“Princess Diana, just to like really know what happened to her, and tell her that you’ll be fine.”

Luiza Zima
Physiology and Neurobiology
Second Semester



“Marilyn Monroe, I would ask what happened to her.”

Emma Allard
Actuarial Science
Second Semester



“Abraham Lincoln, and I would ask him what was going on with the top hat.”

Teresa Krawiecki
Allied Health
Second Semester



YES, NO, MAYBE-SO:

To VOTE OR NOT TO VOTE?

As the 2024 electoral showdown between President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump escalates, one issue plaguing the incumbent among segments of the Democratic party is the Biden administration’s handling of the Israeli military onslaught against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Voters sympathetic to Palestine are thus faced with a difficult decision: Vote for President Biden against a candidate that some see as worse on foreign policy issues; vote “uncommitted” in the Democratic primary to move the party platform away from carte blanche support for Israel; or back away from the ballot entirely.

In this “Yes, No, Maybe-So,” Luke Feeney, Dan Stark and Nell Srinath discuss the merits of voting Biden, uncommitted or not at all.

LUKE FEENEY,
WEEKLY COLUMNIST:

VOTE FOR BIDEN

Let’s get one thing straight: I am not saying that Biden is the candidate to save America, nor am I even suggesting that you should vote enthusiastically for him, but barring a complete fundamental overhaul of the last century of American elections (as well as an undoing of an institution founded in the American constitution) or death itself, the reality is Nov. 5 is coming and one of two men will be assuming the office of president: Biden or Trump. In that context, it is not even close who I would prefer; it’s Biden.

I understand his ineptitude, and the very valid concerns with his age. But every issue you can rip Biden on, Trump does worse and louder. Trump’s domestic policy? Horrific; in his final year in office his utter failure to contain COVID-19 led to the deaths of more than 450,000 Americans, and life expectancy fell by 1.13 years: the biggest decrease since World War II. So many of these deaths were avoidable; COVID-19 mortality in the U.S. was 40% higher than the average of the other wealthy nations in the G7.

On the global stage, the man who didn’t write “The Art of the Deal” showed just how terrible he was at making deals. Trump pushed a foreign policy that undermined America’s position in the world; North Korea built its nuclear stockpile and better missiles despite Trump’s personal diplomacy with Kim Jong Un. Iran reduced the time it would need to develop nuclear weapons following the Trump administration’s unilateral exit from the 2015 nuclear pact (the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action). Venezuela’s dictatorship is stronger, Russia, Syria and Iran increased their influence across the Middle East after America withdrew troops and support. Give me incompetence over insanity; give me Biden.

DAN STARK,
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR:

VOTE UNCOMMITTED

Voting uncommitted is viewed by many as a cop-out and a waste of a vote, when really it can send a strong, damning message to the Democratic Party from its voters. Democratic dissatisfaction with Biden is nothing new; he only won the 2020 Democratic Primary because he was viewed as the best candidate to take on Trump, not because he was well-liked among Democrats. Today, polling has shown that Biden’s support among Democrats is crumbling, even as he became the presumptive nominee for a rematch with Trump in November. In addition to criticism of his foreign policy in the Israel-Palestine conflict, two other major weaknesses for Biden have been his recent speeches and his avoidance of the press, both of which are easily exploitable by Trump and the Fox News outrage machine, and could drive Trump to victory in November, which could have disastrous consequences.

Democrats had four years to find someone younger and more in-touch with younger voters and simply refused, leaving them with an incredibly vulnerable candidate. Voting uncommitted sends a message to Party that voters are Biden on the ballot deride it as a waste-ful vote, but Biden locked up anyway, symbol of discontent.

NELL SRINATH,
OPINION EDITOR:

DON’T VOTE

No politician or political party that has materially backed the ongoing genocide in Gaza should be rewarded by votes, either in upcoming primaries or in the general election next November. This includes Biden and the Democratic Party at large. Continued support for Biden and the Democrats despite funneling billions of dollars into the Israeli war machine is the ultimate betrayal of Palestinians — a clear sign that Americans are incapable of holding our leaders accountable even if they aid and abet in the slaughter of over 30,000 Palestinians.

After nearly six months of slaughter, the American political establishment has just barely begun to move on unconditional support for Israel, to little effect. This is evinced by Vice President Kamala Harris’ and Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s feckless warnings against a ground invasion of the Rafah border crossing, which Israel has already been bombing for weeks. The notion of voting for the Democratic party as a form of so-called “harm reduction” has lost all credibility, as the harm exacted by the Biden administration on Palestine has crossed every threshold. Supporting Biden in the name of preventing a lesser evil sends a message to the war hawks of Washington that their most violent plans are tolerable to the American people if they have a “D” in their title rather than an “R.”

Editor’s note: “Rapid Fire,” “Point-Counterpoint” and “Yes, No, Maybe-So” are not necessarily accurate reflections of writers’ opinions and may be written solely for the sake of crafting an argument.

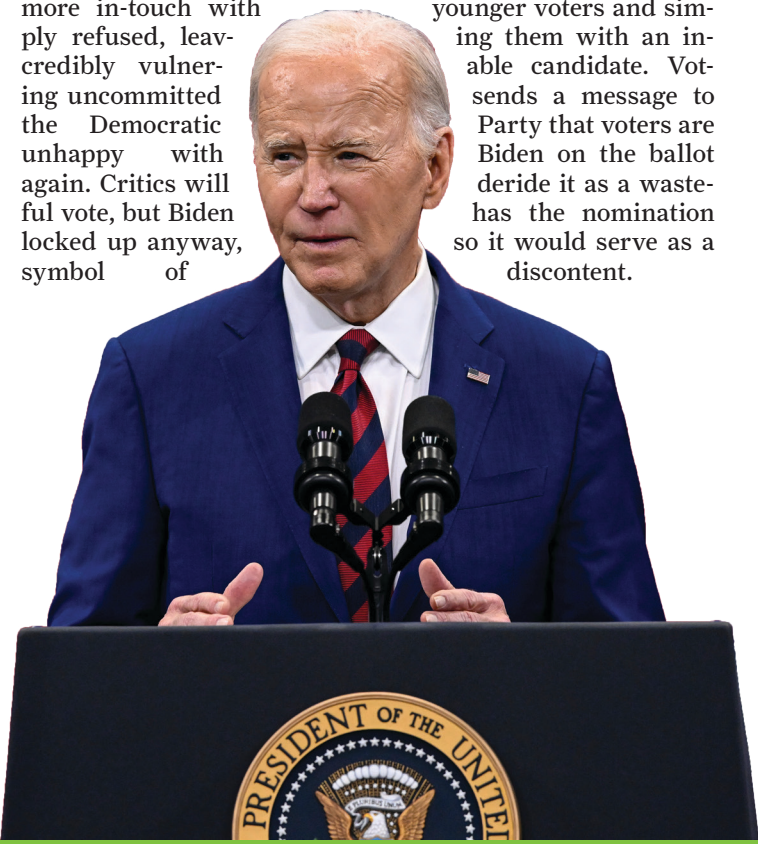


IMAGE COURTESY OF MATT KELLEY/AP



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

by Sean Ahern
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Welcome back to another edition of Husky History, the column that highlights a former UConn athlete and their accomplishments in their collegiate and professional careers.

I often focus on athletes who went on to enjoy great success in playing professionally, but this week I will flip the script and highlight Tom Penders.

Penders, born on May 23, 1945, was named to the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame as a coach in 2021 for his achievements leading the Tufts, Columbia, Fordham, Rhode Island, Texas, George Washington and Houston programs.

Although his playing days began back in 1964 for the UConn men's basketball squad, Penders still has well-known family ties present on campus. His nephew is UConn baseball's Jim Penders, the program

leader in wins by a head coach.

Back to Tom Penders, he was a dual-sport athlete in his time in Storrs. He achieved a great feat of playing in both the NCAA Tournament and the College World Series as a baseball team member.

In his sophomore season on the court in 1964-65, the Huskies won the Regular Season Yankee Conference Championship with a perfect 10-0 league record, landing them at 23-3 overall. Penders was as reliable a player as head coach Fred Shabel could ask for, leading the conference in games played while averaging 8.6 points and 1.5 rebounds.

The squad qualified for the NCAA Tournament that year for the third season in a row. Penders posted six points and four rebounds in a loss to St. Joseph's in the first round.

The next time UConn made the NCAA Tournament was in Penders' senior campaign when the team won the Yankee Conference once again. That season,

the guard averaged 8.0 points and 1.3 rebounds, but fouled out with five points in a first-round loss to Boston College in the Big Dance.

It was certainly a solid playing career, but where Penders shined was drawing up the x's and o's. Shortly after his time at UConn, he began his coaching career at Tufts University, a small research school located in Medford, Massachusetts. It did not take him long to turn the team around into a high-level program, and his efforts were noticed at the Division I level.

Penders was handed the job of coaching Columbia in 1974, just over a decade after he was a freshman at UConn. In four seasons, he compiled a 43-60 record.

After Columbia, the coach moved on to Fordham where he enjoyed more success. He led the Rams to the 1983 MAAC Conference Tournament title, defeating Iona 54-53. By the end of his tenure, he sported a 125-114 record.

After that, he returned to New England to coach Rhode Island for a short two-year stint. It ended up being a tremendous move for his career; in 1987 he was named A-10 Coach of the Year after leading the team to a 20-10 record. Despite losing in the Sweet 16 in the NCAA Tournament to Duke 73-72, the season made Penders a hot name in the coaching carousel.

His next stop at Texas rejuvenated a quiet fanbase with his team's success. From 1993 to 1995, Penders secured consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances by winning the SWC Regular Season and Conference Tournament Championships.

His last two stops came with George Washington and Houston, both of which he led to NCAA Tournament bids, with Houston's appearance coming in his final coaching season.

When it was all said and done, Penders put together a solid career that is unmatched by most coaches. In 33 years, he assembled a 594-420 record at

major schools with four conference and regular season championships. It's important to note he led four different teams to the NCAA Tournament: something very few coaches have been able to accomplish.

College basketball coaches are often scrutinized for their tournament success. What is overlooked is the young men they help prepare for their professional basketball careers. Penders has had a handful of players make appearances in the NBA, including Tom "Chief" Garrick, who had a four-year stretch in the NBA after a monumental career at Rhode Island.

Penders displays what UConn fans have grown accustomed to: former athletes succeeding at all and any levels of their sport. If interested in learning more about him, he's active on his X account and is the author of his autobiography "Dead Coach Walking: Tom Penders Surviving and Thriving in College Hoops."

MEN'S GOLF: HUSKIES FINISH MIDDLE OF THE PACK AT BRIDGESTONE COLLEGIATE INVITATIONAL

by Connor Sargeant
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After a two-week hiatus, the UConn men's golf team returned to action last Monday and Tuesday, competing in the Bridgestone Collegiate Invitational in Napa, California. Despite being in a crowded field of 11, the Huskies were in the middle of the pack, finishing seventh overall.

BYU won the event outright, finishing an absurd 12 under par and eight strokes ahead of second-place Sam Houston and 37 ahead of Connecticut. The Cougars' Cooper Jones led the field with an excellent seven under par in the two-day event. Despite what may have seemed like an eyesore of a score, Con-

necticut had a solid outing at the links.

Freshman Bradley Sawka had the best week of any Husky, finishing six under par in a highly competitive field and second among all golfers with 15 birdies. His performance was so good that the Ellington native tied for second place overall. Unfortunately for Connecticut, Sawka competed as an individual, meaning his score did not factor into UConn's total.

Sawka was the only UConn golfer to finish under par. Behind him at five over par were both Alex Heard and Tommy Dallahan, who led the charge for the Huskies lineup. Dallahan led the tournament with 42 pars, an excellent accomplishment given the difficult nature

of Silverado Resort and Spa Golf Course. Not far behind him was Junior Ray Dennehy, whose best performance came on the final day, finishing with 71 strokes. His performance was all the more encouraging considering he struggled to find his footing in the second round, finishing nine strokes worse.

Ultimately, the par 4 holes gave Connecticut and the rest of the field trouble this past week. UConn finished a whopping 34 above par in that regard, which was the third worst in the field. For comparison, Sam Houston led the field at 11 over, a testament to the difficult nature of this course. Despite those struggles, the Huskies made up for it in other ways.

Their performance on par 3

holes kept them afloat, finishing in fifth place at 12 over par. Like the par 4 holes, no program finished at or below par. As a unit, the Huskies fared the best on the par 5 holes, finishing in the middle of the field at four strokes below par. UConn's ability to get it done on their par 3 opportunities is even more impressive when you consider that the par 3 hole No. 7 threw the entire field for a loop. Nearly everyone got into trouble on this hole at one time or another; out of 288 total plays in three rounds, there were 79 scores over par, by far the highest of any hole.

Jimmy Paradise also had a weekend to remember. While he did not play his best golf last week, glimpses of his talent were there. The 2023 Big East

Player of the Year was one of seven players in the field to finish with an eagle.

This was a tough week for the Huskies and it's never easy to take on a challenging field or course. Playing three rounds in two days is also tricky, although it is ideal for building endurance on the course. There were positive performances and much for the program to look ahead to and work on. Husky fans should watch how the team fares with the par 4 holes, as their shortcoming has not been unique to last week. Connecticut will return to action this Monday and Tuesday for the Golfweek Invitational in beautiful Pawley's Island, South Carolina.



UConn men's golf hosts their invitational at Greathorse Country Club in Hampton, Mass. on Oct. 1, 2023. The invitational played out for the next two days.
PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Photo of the Day | The moment of anticipation



UConn takes the win against Northwestern on Sunday, March 24, 2024 in the second round of the NCAA. The Huskies won with a score of 75-58 and will play against San Diego State next.
PHOTO BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



LOGO BY ANNA IORFINO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Cole Stefan
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It is Opening Day in Major League Baseball. The 2024 MLB season technically began in Seoul, South Korea, where the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Diego Padres split a dramatic two-game series last week. Nevertheless, all 30 teams will have played at least one regular-season contest by tomorrow night. Several prospects, notably Wyatt Langford and Jackson Chourio, will make their Major League debuts later today. Like New York Yankees shortstop Anthony Volpe last year, both will get to sport a small patch on the side of their jersey indicating they are playing in their first Big League game. 25-year-old right-handed pitcher Ben Casparius is one individual who could also don that patch this season. Casparius, Perfect Game's No. 1 player in the state of Connecticut in 2017, began his collegiate career at the University of North Carolina. The 2017 Connecticut Gatorade Player of the Year went 1-0 with a 1.69 ERA and a save in 10 games as a freshman. His sophomore slump in 2019 resulted in a 4.41 ERA in 16.1 innings. Part of the expectation when Casparius transferred to UConn

was that he would be a two-way player for the program. That never occurred, but the Westport native emerged as the Huskies' ace in 2021 after sitting out the COVID-19-shortened 2020 campaign due to NCAA transfer rules. Casparius had five starts with 10+ strikeouts and pitched into the fifth inning all but once that season and four where he fired at least seven shutout frames. Notably, the Westport native silenced the Creighton Bluejays in the Big East Tournament semifinals on May 29 and picked up his first win with eight scoreless frames on March 5. Casparius' 127 strikeouts were the second most in one season at the time behind Colin McLaughlin, who had 138 in 1979 (Austin Peterson broke the record with 147 in 2022). Los Angeles selected the All-Big East Second Team member with the 162nd pick in the fifth round of the 2021 MLB draft. Casparius started seven games for the Single-A Rancho Cucamonga Quakes in 2022, striking out at least seven batters in his last three outings. By June 1, he was starting games for the High-A Great Lakes Loons. The 2021 fifth-round pick split the rest of the 2022 season either starting the game or coming out of the bullpen. Despite his 1-4

THE COLEUMN: BEN CASPARIUS AND HIS POTENTIAL ROLE IN THE NEW-AGE DODGERS PITCHING

record in Midland, Michigan, he struck out 67 hitters in 60 innings while allowing 32 walks. Casparius had just one quality start for the Loons in 2023, striking out five in six shutout innings against the Dayton Dragons on April 14. The Westport native struck out at least three hitters in his eight starts, earning a promotion to the Double-A Tulsa Drillers of the Texas League on May 25. Although he had his ups and downs — he went 2-7 in 18 games — Casparius struck out 76 batters in 70.2 innings. No two-game stretch shows a higher potential for the 2021 First Team Northeast All-Region selection than his consecutive starts against the Northwest Arkansas Naturals. Between those two starts, Casparius struck out 10 batters in 10.2 innings while allowing just one unearned run. He earned the win in both of those starts. The 6-foot-2 righty will likely begin his fourth Minor League season in Tulsa next week. A promotion to the Oklahoma City Baseball Club might not be far away. There is a slight catch: MLB.com does not list Casparius in the Dodgers' current top 30 prospect rankings. Eight right-handed pitchers and four southpaws are listed in that

poll. Some of the notable arms ahead of the Westport native include Gavin Stone, Kyle Hurt, Los Angeles' No. 2 prospect Nick Frasso, Landon Knack and River Ryan. Both Hurt and Stone have pitched a combined 10 career games (and made four total starts) in the big leagues. Frasso had offseason shoulder surgery in November that could sideline him for most of this year. Ryan possesses three quality pitches that opposing batters can have difficulty attacking. Knack, meanwhile, displays remarkable composure and was one of five players who made 10+ starts for Oklahoma City last season. The rest are either not with the organization anymore or will likely spend most of this year in the big leagues. Even though the Pacific Coast League champions had several other starting arms, including Emmet Sheehan and Ryan Pepiot, they will need some consistent members for this year's rotation. When the time comes, perhaps soon, Casparius taking one of those regular spots should not come as a surprise. Should the 2021 Big East All-Tournament Team pitcher handle most Triple-A hitters he faces, there is a chance he could get called up to the Major Leagues at some point this season.

Part of the reason that could happen is because of Los Angeles' current pitching depth, something that plagued them in last year's National League Division Series. The Dodgers addressed it during the offseason with notable acquisitions Yoshinobu Yamamoto, James Paxton and Tyler Glasnow, but there are several other arms out of action with injuries. Sheehan is dealing with forearm inflammation; two are recovering from Tommy John surgery; Clayton Kershaw and Dustin May are coming off other surgeries. With how loaded the Dodgers' rotation is, even amidst their injury woes, the 25-year-old righty will get reps in the bullpen should he get promoted. Given his devastating slider and varied success as a starter in the minor leagues, Casparius will probably be a middle reliever. Los Angeles has a handful of arms that will begin the year on the injured list but return and make an impact as the season progresses. That might cause a logjam for several minor league pitchers hoping to fulfill their dreams. If Casparius maintains a strong start to the year through the summer and further develops his fastball, one of those 13 big-league pitching spots could belong to him.



SPIN CYCLE: THE BALTIMORE ORIOLES WILL WIN THE 2024 WORLD SERIES

FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Nick Spinali
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There are many reasons to think the birds can end the 2024 season atop Major League Baseball. Aside from being easy to root for (Baltimore fans are still trying to forget that 2017-2021 was a real period of time), the front office has done a tremendous job sitting patient while their young prospects have developed and eventually broke through to the Big Leagues. Along the way, they've brought in savvy veterans

and have received contributions from unlikely heroes to even out the roster. The final product finally became clear last season when the team won 101 baseball games, won the American League East division for the first time since 2014 and qualified for the postseason for the first time since 2016. They only continued to add talent this past offseason. It seems that Baltimore's championship since 1983 is wide open and will be for the foreseeable future. I think that they'll be quick to cash in by claiming the Commissioner's Trophy this season. Here's

why: They let the kids play. The birds' youth movement started in 2022 when they promoted former No. 1 overall draft pick Adley Rutschman to the majors. Since then, all he's done is become one of, if not the best offensive catchers in MLB, providing stability at a position where offense is typically an afterthought. Aside from Rutschman, former top prospect Gunnar Henderson became an everyday piece of Baltimore's offense last season and overcame a rough first half to end the season as one of baseball's hottest hitters. The latter sample size figures to be a more-accurate representation

of what can be expected from the third baseman, giving the Orioles a solid one-two punch in the heart of their lineup. The same logic applies to right-handed starter Grayson Rodriguez, another former top prospect. He wasn't great to begin his Major League career at the start of last season but also turned in a stretch of solid performances to end the year on a high note. There's a reason why he was Baltimore's top pitching prospect for so long before he finally got the call up. What's most scary about the Orioles' youth movement is that it doesn't stop there, as elite prospect Colton Cowser

made the team's Opening Day roster after a strong spring. Meanwhile, they also have MLB.com's No. 1 overall prospect and perhaps the best pure hitter in the minors in Jackson Holliday just waiting for the opportunity to finally be called up to the majors. He should get the promotion at some point this season and when he does, the birds' lineup will be oozing with young talent, raw and proven alike, to form what may be the most exciting offense in baseball. Arms, and arms, and arms, oh my!

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TRACK AND FIELD: HUSKIES SPLIT UP FOR TWO-MEET WEEKEND TO KICK OFF THE 2024 OUTDOOR SEASON

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The Connecticut track and field teams are coming off an incredible indoor season, in which both the men's and women's teams took first place in the indoor Big East Championships for the third straight year.

To kick off the outdoor season, the Huskies are splitting up, as one group heads to Ra-

leigh, North Carolina to compete in the Raleigh Relays at Paul Derr Track, hosted by North Carolina State. The other meet will take place in Storrs for the UConn Dog Fight Invitational.

The Raleigh Relays is a three-day event, starting Thursday and concluding on Saturday. The first couple hours of each day will consist of field events, followed by track events that will run for the rest of the day. On Thursday and Friday, the

first events begin at 7:30 a.m. and the day concludes at 10:35 p.m. On the final day of the meet, the first event kicks off at 9:45 a.m. and the final event takes place at 5:35 p.m. The meet will host many schools from across the country including Virginia, Duke, Michigan State, Minnesota, Ohio, Georgia and many more.

The UConn Dog Fight Invitational is a one-day event, taking place on Saturday at George J.

Sherman Sports Complex. The meet will start at 11 a.m. with field events, followed by track events at noon. At last year's Dog Fight Invitational, the Huskies came up just short, as the men's and women's teams both placed second behind Cornell. Some of the schools present at the event this year will be Northeastern, Yale, Albany, Boston College, Dartmouth and Southern Connecticut State. With the absence of

last year's winners, the Huskies are looking to take first place on their home turf.

As dual Big East Indoor Champions, the Huskies are looking to carry their momentum into the outdoor season. Last year they got off to a good start with an impressive showing at the UCF Black and Gold Invitational, and this year they are looking to impress again in both the Raleigh Relays and the UConn Dog Fight Invitational.



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

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This upcoming NFL season is going to be a whole lot different with the introduction of new rules inspired by the XFL football league and online memes from the Adam Sandler movie "The Waterboy." The NFL approved 29-3 in favor of changing the kickoff rules.

This new rule will feature the following change: "10 players on the kicking team and at least nine players on the receiving team will line up just five yards apart and won't begin running until the ball gets back to the returner, meaning players won't be going full speed when they crash into each other, which caused so many injuries on kickoffs in years past."

The kicker is all by himself, which will be hilarious to watch, but also a weird adjustment as an avid football watcher. The kicker will not be able to cross the 50-yard line (mid-field) until the ball reaches the returner. Once the ball hits the landing zone or the end zone or the returner catches the ball, it will be considered "in play."

Another adjustment will be for all other players on the kickoff. They will be lined up on the receiving team's 40-yard line and all players must have at least one foot on the 40-yard line. You cannot load a bunch of players on one side of the ball like an onside kick, and the kicking team needs to have five players on each side of the ball.

The kickoff is ruined from a fan perspective, especially watching players like Devin Hester, Jacoby Jones and early Julian Edelman perform 100-yard kickoff return touchdowns.

In recent years, the NFL has dealt with horrific freak injuries on kickoff returns and their main goal is to reduce those injuries with this new change. Keep in mind, players throughout the 2023-24 season demanded other adjustments like swapping out all turf fields to grass.

Hip-drop tackles have also been an ongoing topic this off-season for the NFL. They have finally banned the move because of the number of injuries that this tackle caused. NFL executive Jeff Miller said, "the tackle was used 230 times last season and resulted in 15 players missing time with injuries."

The NFL is focused on the safety and reduction of injuries, but why are there so many changes all of a sudden? When watching games from the comfort of their homes, fans would usually tune in and get anxious around kickoff. The feeling of a dramatic 40-yard return to change the momentum of a game is gone. While it is a one-year trial rule, it's unclear in what direction the NFL is trying to go.

A kicker must feel weird kicking and then watching 21 people all standing on the same side of the field waiting for the returner to start running. Onside kicks are no longer a surprise; you must tell the other team beforehand that you're doing it. A kicker has to tailor their kick now in the landing zone. Where is the NFL going with a rule like this?

Shannon Sharpe on ESPN's "First Take" said, "I'm not sure I could have made it to the NFL, I made the team and became the player that I became because I got an opportunity to play on special teams."

a key X-factor on UConn's 2023 national championship squad. Upon the conclusion of his collegiate career, the 6-foot-3 guard landed with the South Bay Lakers with hopes of making the difficult climb from undrafted free agent to NBA prowess. The former Connecticut and USD guard didn't see the floor much until March 13, when he played for more than 12 minutes for the first time in his G-League career, totaling five points and two steals. Joey Calcaterra has seen the floor for nearly 20 minutes a night and went off for a career high 17 points and five

three pointers in the Lakers' 129-113 loss to the Valley Vipers on March 21. With performances like that, it will certainly be hard to keep the first-year pro off the court as the season continues.

NBA: DRUMMOND RECORDS DOUBLE-DOUBLE IN LOSS TO WASHINGTON

In Chicago's 107-105 loss to the Washington Wizards on Monday, veteran big man Andre Drummond recorded his 14th double-double of the season off the bench. The former lottery

pick of the 2012 NBA Draft has carved out an important bench role with the Chicago Bulls over the last two seasons after establishing himself as one of the best rebounders the game has ever seen. In 72 games played this season, the former UConn glass king is averaging 8.3 points and 8.8 rebounds per game.

NHL: THOMPSON RETURNING TO FORM AS POINTS STREAK REACHES 5 GAMES

On Sunday, Sabres right winger Tage Thompson scored a goal and assisted on another

beginning of the game will be. Will fans lose interest in the new format? Is the game evolving or declining? These are all questions NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and his team need to consider this season.

in the team's 4-1 win over the Calgary Flames. The former UConn star now has 10 points (four goals and six assists) over the last eight games, with the team winning five of those games. The former first round pick exploded for a career high 94 points last season (47 goals and 47 assists), but an injury to his left hand kept the former Husky sidelined for a chunk of this season. Thompson has 22 goals and 23 assists this season and will look to continue this hot stretch of play with the team as they sit eight points behind the final wild card spot.

Chris's Column: New NFL rules helping the game?

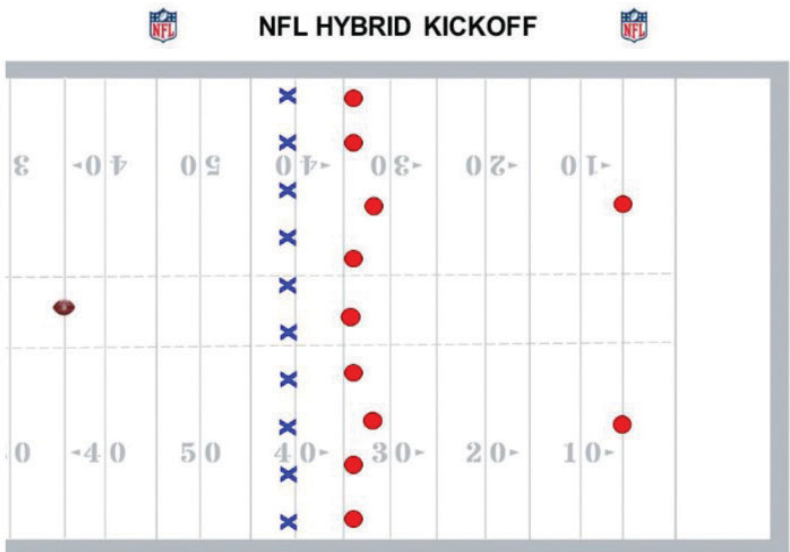
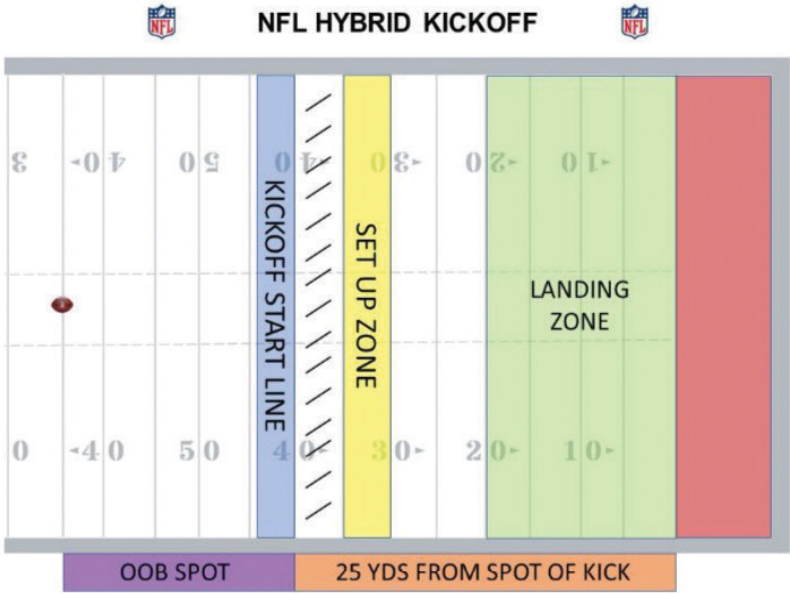


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Sports

MEN’S BASKETBALL: HUSKIES SHIP UP TO BOSTON FOR REMATCH WITH AZTECS

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When the UConn men’s basketball team heads up to Boston for a Sweet Sixteen matchup with the San Diego State Aztecs at TD Garden at 7:39 p.m., it will be the toughest challenge of their run thus far.

While a team like Northwestern has some great talent like Boo Buie, San Diego State is a whole different beast. If you’ve read my article outlining some of the strengths of this Aztecs roster, there are certainly reasons why this squad can give Connecticut some issues, especially on the defensive end.

“Yeah, I mean, definitely a blessing to be here in the Sweet 16 again. To be able to play UConn again is great too. They took us down last year, so we definitely want some revenge back a little bit. It’s an honor to be here. We can’t wait to play,” said guard Lamont Butler.

As Butler stated, they’re going to have a shot at having the last laugh against this Huskies squad. When you have players like Jaedon LeDee on your roster as a game changer on the offensive end, that’s a big positive when you’re going against arguably the toughest team in the NCAA Tournament with one of the most dynamic offenses in the country.

There are plenty of notes that fans should consider when watching Thursday’s contest, but how coach Dan Hurley’s offense operates may be the biggest. Against the ninth most efficient defense in the country, things certainly aren’t going to be very easy in grabbing a bucket.

One of the biggest storylines with Connecticut’s win over Northwestern was how the team shot from beyond the

arc, a poor 13.6% mark. While there’s plenty of optimism that the reigning National Champions can rebound from that performance, they can’t expect to have an easy time with this Aztecs roster if they’re putting up those numbers.

But the bright side with this UConn team is how “bullet-proof” this roster can be when they’re so successful in other areas of the game, whether that’s rebounding, playmaking or their overall defense.

“When I talk about bullet-proof, for me the formula is top-10 offense, top-10 defense, be a tremendous rebounding team, be a team that plays with utter desperation in terms of how hard we play and then having depth to survive the other night a 2-for-22 three-point effort or three, and one of those was from a walk-on not named Andrew Hurley at the end of the game. We shot the ball horribly, but we were bulletproof the other night because of our defense and our passing, our ability to score rim twos. We can win a lot of different types of games. You want to make yourself as bulletproof as possible in this tournament by just being as well-rounded and as deep,” said Hurley.

One of the ways that this team can really carve out an edge on the scoreboard is with their standout defense, a big factor in their last win over the Wildcats. Stephon Castle was a major factor behind their terrific play in that department and he should once again be a crucial part of their gameplan. Due to how the All-Mountain West First Team member plays with terrific speed and the ability to score primarily across both the midrange and paint, it should be a group effort on the defensive end. As one of the players tasked with guarding LeDee, Donovan Clingan knows that he has to lock in.



UConn takes the win against Northwestern on Sunday, March 24, 2024 in the second round of the NCAA. The Huskies won with a score of 75-58 and will play against San Diego State next.
PHOTOGRAPH BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

“I mean, he’s physical. Can score at all three levels. Puts the ball on the floor. He can get to the rim off the dribble. He attacks the offensive and defensive glass at another level. He’s a great player. Much respect for him. I just have to lock into his matchup,” said the Bristol native.

Along with the tremendous positives that this team brings with them into their next venue, it’s a positive to be playing in Boston, dubbed Storrs North. No one may be happier than Alex Karaban, a Massachusetts native.

“Super excited to play in Boston. Probably the only chance I get to play with UConn in Boston. It definitely will be special. At the same

time, it’s a Sweet 16 game for us. So we’re just locked in as if it was at any other location. I’m trying to get a lot of friends and family. I don’t really know the number yet,” said the redshirt sophomore.

Coach Hurley echoed the sentiment of his starting forward. “We’ve earned that by the season that we’ve had. This wasn’t some gift by the committee to try to make it as easy as possible for us. We’ve earned our position. We’ve manifested Brooklyn to Boston since really April, since last year when we won the championship. We’ve worked incredibly hard over that time period to earn the opportunity to play in front of hopefully a 60 percent UConn type of crowd.

Hopefully, Illinois’s fans and Iowa State’s fans don’t get involved.”

If Connecticut looks to get closer to its goal of a sixth National Championship, this matchup becomes even more important than the immense stakes they already carry. The winner of this game will go on to face either the most efficient defense in America, the Iowa State Cyclones, or the most efficient offense in the country, the Illinois Fighting Illini. A potential path to college basketball greatness for one of the most dominant teams in America depends on these next few days.

If you’re unable to make it to TD Garden, UConn vs. SDSU will be televised on TBS.

Baseball: Connecticut suffers two midweek defeats to Boston-based schools

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Eight weeks ago, three University of Connecticut athletic programs battled the Providence Friars five times in four days. While the No. 1 overall seed UConn men’s basketball team is currently up in Boston, the UConn baseball team welcomed two programs from Beantown to Elliot Ballpark. Unlike their home opener last Wednesday, neither midweek contest ended in victory.

First-year righty Ben Schild walked the first two batters he faced Tuesday afternoon against the Boston College Eagles. Second baseman Bryan Padilla prevented either runner from touching home with a 4-3 double play. Boston College instead struck first in the second inning. First-year right

fielder Adam Magpoc stole second base and took third on a throwing error, scoring on Owen DeShazo’s RBI squeeze. Connecticut countered in the bottom half. Junior catcher Matt Garbowski redeemed his defensive miscue on a 1-1 count with Hook C runners on the corners, whacking an opposite-field, game-tying RBI single past a diving Sam McNulty. Eagles righty Kyle Kipp relieved Brian McMonagle after he collected two straight outs; Padilla smacked his first pitch straight down Broadway for a go-ahead RBI single.

Schild was one strike away from working around a leadoff base on balls in the fourth when McNulty mashed a single. Head coach Jim Penders brought in righty Ian Cooke following that base knock. That is when things started to unravel for UConn. Two pitches after Patrick Roche’s walk loaded the

bases, Cameron Leary laced a grand slam over the right field wall for a 5-2 Eagles advantage. Designated hitter Luke Broadhurst tried to give the Huskies’ one of those runs back in the bottom half, leading the frame off with a walk and swiping second. Kipp kept Broadhurst at third. Connecticut instead responded in the fifth against righty Travis Lane, knocking him out of the game almost immediately behind consecutive free passes.

Gavin Hasche walked Paul Tammaro on four straight pitches to load the bases with nobody out; two of them scored. Corey Morton drove in one on a fielder’s choice while first baseman Maddix Dalena followed suit with a sacrifice fly that made it a 5-4 ballgame. Junior southpaw Braden Quinn relieved Cooke in the seventh inning, running into trouble when Leary

and Kyle Wolff singled on consecutive pitches. Although Leary stole third, the Hook C went around the horn for the inning-ending double play.

Tammaro walked and stole second in the bottom half with two down. Jordan Fisse left him right there when he struck Morton out swinging. Both teams put a runner on third in the eighth, with the Eagles’ Austin Hartsell swiping two bases and Dalena doubling in the bottom half. Neither of them touched home plate. Brady Afthim relieved Quinn in the ninth and nearly got out of a bases-loaded jam unscathed when Parker Landwehr hit his 0-2 pitch.

But UConn committed an error on the play, giving Boston College two essential insurance runs. Eric Schroeder subsequently retired the side in the bottom half for the two-inning save as the Eagles bested the Huskies 7-4.

Infield miscues again plagued Connecticut in the first inning versus the Northeastern Huskies the following afternoon. Graduate lefty Gabe Van Emon nearly got out of a two-runner jam, but Alex Lane’s line drive went through Ryan Daniels’ glove, bringing Tyler MacGregor home unearned. Jack Doyle continued making the Hook C pay for their mistake with an RBI groundout.

Right fielder Jake Studley prevented righty Michael Gemma from striking out the side with a single in the second, taking second base on Broadhurst’s five-pitch walk. Team captain Ryan Hyde subsequently hammered Gemma’s 2-0 pitch, equalizing the contest at two on a loud double that nearly got out. It did not take long for Northeastern to get their lead back, however, as Doyle drove in Mike Sirota on a fielder’s choice in the third.

Northeastern’s senior starter mowed down UConn’s hitters over the next two frames, setting the stage for his team to break the game open. Van Emon hit Harrison Feinberg and Luke Beckstein on back-to-back pitches, forcing Penders to turn to the bullpen after he walked Sirota to load the bases. In came redshirt sophomore Tommy Ellisen, whose first pitch doubled Northeastern’s one-run advantage when Lane hit a sacrifice fly.

Doyle struck again two pitches later. The junior third baseman cleared the left-field fence on a 1-0 pitch for a three-run shot that put Northeastern ahead 7-2. Ellisen quickly stopped the bleeding when Carmelo Musacchia grounded out.

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