



The HuskyTHON experience: How the UConn community unites under one cause

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For the past 24 years, the University of Connecticut community has come together to celebrate HuskyTHON, a year-long fundraising event where students raise money for the patients and families part of Connecticut Children's, a Children's Miracle Network Hospital.

On Saturday, March 2, this year's fundraising came to an end at the HuskyTHON annual dance marathon. The event took place in the Hugh S. Greer Field House from 6 a.m. to midnight, where students spent time dancing every hour on the hour for the miracle children and their families.

This year proved to be HuskyTHON's most successful year yet, gaining 4,410 participants, the highest number yet, and raising a record-breaking \$1,736,591.22 overall for patients and their families.

Although many think of HuskyTHON as just the dance marathon, executive director Mackenzie Lynch explained that so much goes into the event, including other fundraising days and a lot of hard work by organizers and participants.

Lynch said that the 4,410 participants include a management team of 31 people and restraints, which encompasses volunteers, dancers, rising leaders, dancer representatives, captains and morale captains.

After being a dancer last year, fourth-semester political science and human rights major Bailey Brake decided she wanted to get more involved as a morale captain.



UConn students danced as much as their hearts desired to raise money during HuskyTHON 2024 on March 4, 2024. HuskyTHON ended up raising \$1,736,591.22 by the end of the event. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONN ON X

"In morale, you recruit dancers, create the morale dance, as well as pump people up while teaching others the dance at the dance marathon. You have to raise more money for it, but oh my gosh, it's so so fun," Brake expressed.

As well as being a morale captain, Brake applied to be the HuskyTHON chair and secretary for HerCampus UConn, an all-female magazine on campus. Any organization or club can register as its own team, so last summer Brake registered HerCampus UConn as a team.

"I started the HerCampus team in June when I registered and then recruited people to join our team. All the collective money that everyone raised went to our team total, which ended up being around \$7,000," said Brake.

Throughout the year, participants and teams partook in many fundraising events and days, according to Lynch. Some of these events included a kickoff to get students excited about HuskyTHON, tabling and advertising around campus to get the community engaged and interested, a 5k

fundraiser, push days and a Day of Strength.

"Day of Strength, which is 10 days before the dance marathon, is where we encourage our community to fundraise as much as possible. That day, we raised \$373,000 in 24 hours, which is amazing," said Lynch.

Brake expressed that she and HerCampus participated in many of these events and found different ways to fundraise. This included asking local grocery stores to put fundraising cans at their cash registers and encouraging customers to donate. Brake also asked family, friends and old teachers while posting on Instagram.

Nicky Amter, a fourth-semester electrical engineering major, also participated in HuskyTHON as a part of his fraternity's team, Alpha Sigma Phi. He asked friends and family for donations while also utilizing social media.

"A lot of the money I fundraised came from posting on my Snapchat story. One fundraiser I did was I posted, 'Donate 2 dollars, and I will add your picture to my phone wallpaper,' and as people donated, I made a collage of pictures to be my

wallpaper," said Amter.

On the day of the dance marathon, while the event began at 6 a.m., morale captains like Brake arrived at the field house at around 5 a.m. to welcome people and cheer them on as they came in.

Along with the morale dance, which happened every hour on the hour for 10 minutes, many activities were set up for students to participate in, according to Lynch. Some of the activities included blow-up inflatables, a silent disco, a hair donation station, food trucks, volleyball, dodgeball, spike ball and yoga.

At around 10 a.m., the miracle children began to arrive with their families to celebrate the event. Each team has its own miracle child assigned to them, and throughout the day, they spend time enjoying the activities together, according to Brake.

"Our miracle child's name was Dahlia and she was just the sweetest. It was so cool to interact with her and have fun. It was her day like whatever she wanted to do, we would do," Brake said.

Lynch explained that the children's families would share their

stories during the day so the UConn community could celebrate them. Having worked on the fundraiser all year, Lynch felt that spending time with the families made it feel like all her hard work was worth it.

"Being able to connect with them one on one throughout the day, seeing the joy on these kids' faces, and seeing everybody come together was just absolutely incredible. It was probably one of the best days of my life," said Lynch.

Although the goal is to aid children, HuskyTHON also helps form a sense of community on campus, said Lynch.

"I think HuskyTHON has such a widespread impact on campus because childhood illness affects so many people whether or not we realize it" said Lynch. We want a day when we no longer have to have a HuskyTHON because there's no more childhood illness. So it's a cause that brings people together, and it's amazing to be able to see such a positive turnout," said Lynch.

Amter agreed, stating that being part of a team raising money made it feel like he was making a real impact.

"When the miracle kids come on the day of the marathon, and you get to talk to them and meet them, you get to see where the money's going and the impact you're making with your fundraising," said Amter.

Despite the recent success, plans for HuskyTHON 2025 have already been announced on the HuskyTHON Instagram. A steering board meeting was held in the union on March 4, and applications for those interested in becoming a steering board member are now open.

UNIVERSITY 2024 SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CRITICIZED BY CAMPUS ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY GROUP

by **Jenna Outcalt**
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The University of Connecticut administration released its 2024 Sustainability Action Plan, which has already drawn criticism from an environmental group on campus.

The plan, released by the office of university president Radenka Maric, outlines the progress the university has made in improving its environmental sustainability and the goals that UConn will focus on in upcoming years. The Fossil Fuel Free UConn Coalition, an environmental advocacy club at UConn, released a statement on Feb. 28 that claims the plan did not live up to promises previously made by the UConn administration.

"Maric's Sustainability Action Plan is no more than a thinly-veiled attempt to placate student

demands for a sustainable future," the statement said.

Fossil Fuel Free UConn also contrasted the current plan with the plan announced in 2021. The 2021 plan, the statement said, had input from students, faculty and consulting groups, and was far longer than the most recent plan.

"Although there were issues with the 2021 plan, notably the cost estimation methods for decarbonization, the flagrant disparity between the comprehensive 2021 report and President Maric's recently published Sustainability Action Plan displays the UConn administration's lack of earnestness in pursuing sustainability," the organization wrote.

Fossil Fuel Free UConn said that the 2024 plan "neglects to include carbon zero by 2040 as one of its objectives," even though this goal was reemphasized by the administration as recently as October 2023. Although this objective is not listed in the plan's list of goals and projects, it is briefly mentioned as one of the goals of the president's Carbon Reduction Working Group, which was formed in 2023.

The key objectives outlined in the president's message introducing the plan include carbon neutrality by 2030, resource conservation, integrating sustainability in academics, fostering an inclusive and equitable community

dedicated to sustainability and collaboration with local and global partners to address concerns.

"Our commitment to measuring progress and fostering synergies between the Sustainability Action Plan and the University's Strategic Plan will be central to our success," the message said. "We are committed to accountability and transparency through regular assessments, benchmarking, and reporting on key performance indicators. Engaging stakeholders and regularly updating our community on progress will drive continuous improvement."

Fossil Fuel Free UConn's statement also criticized the repetitive nature of the new plan in comparison to previous initiatives.

"The vast majority of the Sustainability Action Plan is background knowledge already available to the public, making this document a collection of copied and pasted excerpts of text without much new information," the statement said.

The plan reviews UConn's previous progress to date, showcasing the university's successes in sustainability in categories such as energy efficiency, emissions and purchasing. According to the document, some of UConn's achievements were "a 26% reduction in emissions according to the 2001 baseline, although there has been a 44% increase in cam-

"The last section of the plan outlines current energy conservation goals and projects for the university."

pus square footage" and "a 10% reduction in water consumption from the 2020 baseline."

Fossil Fuel Free UConn also condemned aspirational and non-committal language in the report.

"Throughout the entire report, there is an utter absence of pragmatic propositions or detailed outlines for the implementation of any of the meaningful carbon reduction measures that would transform UConn into a carbon zero university," the statement said.

The last section of the plan outlines current energy conservation goals and projects for the university. This section includes UConn reevaluating their top 10 energy-consuming buildings for efficiency and improving safe, efficient campus transportation.

"The Sustainability Action Plan embodies our unwavering

commitment to lead by example, embrace innovation, and create a resilient and sustainable future for our university and beyond," Maric's message said. "Together, we will forge a path towards a more sustainable and equitable world."

Fossil Fuel Free UConn's statement, however, called the plan "woefully inadequate" and "insulting to the UConn community and all others who endure the effects of these social justice and environmental violations."

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News

International Women's Day celebration tomorrow

by **Hallie LeTendre**
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March is Women's History Month, and the University of Connecticut's Women's Center is kicking it off with a celebration.

Tomorrow from 11:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. an event will be held in UConn's Student Union Ballroom.

The event is free and open to any student interested in stopping in. Attendees can go to the event at any point and can stay for however long they'd like.

The event's theme is "Inspire Inclusion", an initiative to promote gender equality around the world.

"Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that's diverse,

equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality. Collectively we can all #InspireInclusion," the event webpage said.

The event will also celebrate the achievements of women and raise awareness about the patriarchal nature of society.

There will be speakers, performances and free snacks

throughout the day. The event will also be handing out flowers to everyone who stops in.

After spring break, there will be several other events that the Women's Center will be hosting.

On March 20, there will be an online and in-person seminar regarding reproductive justice beginning at 6:30 p.m., highlighting both Women's History Month and Social Work Month.

For those who wish to attend in person, the event will be held in SU421.

On March 27 there will be a film screening, also in SU421, beginning at 6 p.m.

Following the showing of "Chisholm '72," there will be an open discussion.

For more events and information interested students can visit the Women's Center website.

House passes \$460 billion package of spending bills. Senate expected to act before shutdown deadline

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House passed a \$460 billion package of spending bills Wednesday that would keep money flowing to key federal agencies through the remainder of the budget year. The Senate is expected to take up the legislation before a midnight Friday shutdown deadline.

Lawmakers are negotiating a second package of six bills, including defense, in an effort to have all federal agencies fully funded before a March 22 deadline. In the end, total discretionary spending set by Congress is expected to come in at about \$1.66 trillion for the full entire year.

A significant number of House Republicans have lined up in opposition to the spending packages, forcing House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., to use an expedited process to bring the bill up for a vote. That process requires two-thirds of the House to vote for the measure for it to pass.

The House passed the measure by a vote of 339-85.

The nondefense spending in this year's bills is relatively flat compared to the previous year. Supporters say that keeping that spending below the rate of inflation is tantamount to a cut, forcing agencies to be more frugal and focus manpower on top priorities. Johnson cited a 10% cut to the Environmental Protection Agency, a 7% cut to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and a 6% cut to the FBI.

But many Republican lawmakers were seeking much steeper cuts and more policy victories. The House Freedom Caucus, which contains dozens of the GOP's most conservative members, urged Republicans to vote against the first spending package and oppose the second one being negotiated.

"Despite giving Democrats higher spending levels, the omnibus text released so far



Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., joined by fellow Republicans, speaks during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, March 6, 2024. The House is expected to vote to keep money flowing to scores of federal agencies before a midnight Friday shutdown deadline.

PHOTO BY J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

punts on nearly every single Republican policy priority," the group said.

Johnson countered that House Republicans have just a two-vote majority in the House while Democrats control the Senate and White House.

"We have to be realistic about what we're able to achieve," Johnson said.

Democrats staved off most of the policy riders that House Republicans sought to include in the package. For example, they beat back an effort to block new rules that expand access to the abortion pill mifepristone.

Democrats also said the bill would fully fund a nutrition program for low-income women, infants and children, providing about \$7 billion for what is known as the WIC program. That's a \$1 billion increase from the previous year.

As part of those negotiations, House Republicans pushed to give a few states the ability to disallow the purchase of non-nutritious food, such as sug-

ary drinks and snacks, in the food stamp program known as SNAP. The GOP's effort was unsuccessful for now, but supporters say they'll try again in next year's spending bills.

"The bill certainly doesn't have everything that we may have wanted, but I am very proud to say we successfully defeated the vast majority of the extreme cuts and hundreds of harmful policy riders proposed by the House Republicans," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro, the top-ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee.

House Republicans were able to achieve some policy wins, however. One provision, for example, will prevent the sale of oil in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China. Another policy mandate prohibits the Justice Department from investigating parents who exercise free speech at local school board meetings.

Another provision strengthens gun rights for certain veterans.

Under current law, the De-

partment of Veterans Affairs must send a beneficiary's name to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System whenever a fiduciary is appointed to help manage someone's benefits because they lack the mental capacity to manage their own affairs. This year's spending package prohibits the department from transmitting that information unless a relevant judicial authority rules that the beneficiary is a danger to himself or herself, or others.

Rep. Mark Takano, the top Democrat on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, said a finding of mental incompetency by the VA is typically based on "very serious mental health conditions like schizophrenia and dementia."

"They wanted so badly to make sure that vulnerable veterans could access more firearms," said Takano. "This is wrong. Lives are on the line. Veterans' lives are on the line, and I will not agree to legis-

lation that will cause more people's lives to be lost to gun violence."

Republicans have argued that current VA policy deters some veterans from seeking the care and benefits they have earned.

In a closed-door meeting with the House GOP, Johnson, looking to show that Republicans did get some policy wins in the negotiations, read from a news report about how Democrats were having "heartburn" about the gun provision, according to a Republican familiar with the discussion who was not authorized to discuss it publicly.

The bills to fund federal agencies are more than five months past due with the budget year beginning Oct. 1. House Republicans are describing an improved process nevertheless, saying they have broken the cycle of passing all the spending bills in one massive package that lawmakers have little time to study before being asked to vote on it or risk a government shutdown.

But critics of the bill, such as Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., were dismissive about how much the process really changed.

The first package covers the departments of Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Interior and Transportation, among others.

Democrats overwhelmingly supported the bill, with 207 voting for it and two voting against. The vote among Republicans was 132-83.

"Once again, Democrats protected the American people and delivered the overwhelming majority of votes necessary to get things done," said House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries.

Rep. Kevin Hern, R-Okla., said he opposed the bill because "I've not made any bones about it since I've been here. We have to get spending under control and we've lost the leverage."

The Daily Campus

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Roundtable:

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Best Way To Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner. In fact, it falls on Sunday, March 17! To many, it's a time to wear green, celebrate and have an enjoyable meal — yet it seems celebrations differ between towns and even between homes. This week, the Life Section reveals how they think it's best to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Let's see what they have to say!

by James Fitzpatrick
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St. Patrick's Day is a holiday kept prominent by tradition, yet its festivities are relatively scant. If it is not evident by my name, I am Irish, though unfortunately, I am not in touch with my roots as I have never been to the homeland. My dislike of corned beef and cabbage further distances me from the occasion and my ancestors, although I love toasted Irish soda bread drenched in butter. If Stew Leonard's is accessible to you, that would be my recommended spot to buy it.

On that note, the Shamrock Shake and Oreo McFlurry from McDonald's are not the most traditional treats that represent St. Patrick's Day, but if you want to do the bare minimum for rejoicing this season, try them; they are mighty fine.

Do my plans of moving to Idaho, the American land of the potato, compensate for my neglect of Irish culture? It is unlikely, but if you are also lost on what to do for St. Patrick's Day at the University of Connecticut, there will be a celebration on the second floor of Janet M. Blumberg Hall that could provide inspiration and ideas for future years because the holiday is going nowhere.

by Clyde D'Souza
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The one thing about St. Patrick's Day that always got me excited as a kid was the construction of leprechaun traps. The activity is almost always prescribed for elementary schoolers, who are charged with trapping the mascots of St. Patty's day, using cardboard, glue, popsicle sticks and

a side of wits. Inevitably, the only thing ever left behind was green dust and chocolate coins. Those were the days!

I am now in college and I feel oddly compelled to spend an inordinate amount of time trying to ensnare these creatures. Perhaps it is the broke college student in me that is desperate enough to pursue an outlandish source of funding: a pot of gold. Maybe it's my inner engineering student that is crazy enough to have another go at a task that does not ask me to make a bridge.

Something I have always wanted to do to mark the day is to attend a St. Patrick's Day parade. Especially here in the northeast, where Irish immigration has historically been prevalent. From Philadelphia to Boston, millions of spectators watch these parades. From their extravagant floats to their crazy costumes, I'm definitely going to have to check one out soon!

In my opinion as a resident

by Patrick Boots
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Emerald Isle antiquarian here at UConn, a great way to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day is the traditional Irish way — with a hearty colcannon (bacon and potatoes) dinner. And if you're wearing something green, leprechauns like me won't be able to see you!

Fairs and festivals are enjoyable, like parades in New Haven, New London and other fun events in Connecticut. If you still want some merriment in the fall, the Greater Danbury Irish Festival continues the good times and cultural connections. Perhaps you can listen to some traditional music (bagpipes and fiddle, anyone?) or enjoy some gaelic games.

Now, some good times are also had with the minty-green desserts and other fun sweets, like McDonald's Shamrock Shake, Dairy Queen's Mint-Brownie Blizzard and my favorite: leprechaun bites from O'Rourke's Diner in Middletown, Connecticut.

One of my annual Saint Paddy's (yes, with a 'd') traditions includes watching the

2001 Disney Channel Original Movie "Luck of the Irish." In this spoofy flick, young Kyle learns about his hidden heritage with some "lucky" antics along the way. It's nostalgic for me... chomping on some Taytos with Maltesers completes the deal.

No matter how you celebrate, appreciate the little things and enjoy your St. Patrick's Day!

by Ben Lassy
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If you asked me to name you all the holidays of the year, St. Patrick's Day, sadly, may be one of the last that I'd mention. And honestly, it's a shame because the holiday has got a lot going for it: Green is a bold and festive

color (and my personal favorite), mid-March temperatures tend to warm up a bit and to top it all off, Connecticut has a plethora of parades and events kicking off to celebrate the day.

All that being said, the best part about celebrating St. Patrick's Day is the creativity involved in celebrating it in so many different ways. Like D'Souza wrote, in elementary school I was grouped with other students to make a shoebox-sized contraption to catch leprechauns — that was a blast, even though teachers put fake green paint in the traps to convince everyone they caught one of the little green dudes, everyone knew it was a hoax. When I was a little older, the

celebration became more of a dinner affair, as mashed potatoes and corned beef were cooked, marking the one time per year we had that meal.

In fact, that dinner tradition is still how I'd recommend people celebrate it; but be a little more creative with it. Here's where I think some changes to the norm could help: First, St. Patrick's Day is on a Sunday, so cook and enjoy the corned beef on Saturday night. Next, here's the kicker, keep some leftovers to make a delicious fresh corned beef hash for a lovely St. Patrick's Day Sunday brunch. Now, St. Patrick's Day will be celebrated over the whole weekend, not just a Sunday with a dreaded Monday to follow it...



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn Spider-Man wants to remain anonymous, for now

by Emily Sharkis
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Picture this: I'm sitting in McHugh room 101 watching some movie that's required for my UNIV 3820 class. It's incredibly dark; the only light is coming from the screen. It's quiet. Suddenly, a door creaks open. Light pours in as a red and blue silhouette ducks into the room quickly, looks around and leaves. I laugh and shoot my friends a look as if to say, "Was that him?" They all smile, confirming my suspicions. UConn Spider-Man is in the building.

UConn Spidey has always been somewhat of a mystery to me. I have wondered about the motivations of the student, famous simply for wearing a Spider-Man suit around campus.

It has been almost two years since Spidey first appeared in Storrs, yet I have only seen him in person a handful of times. I was always too shy to go up to the seemingly confident man who is often surrounded by groups of starstruck fans. I had thought about what I would say to Spidey if given the chance. And I was.

Using Instagram DMs, Spidey and I set up a time to chat. However, as I sat in the empty Zoom room, I wondered if I had gotten the time wrong.

"Holy shit, I am so sorry I forgot," Spidey texted me three minutes after the set time. "I've been cramming for exams."

I laughed at the relatable message and suddenly, Spidey felt like less of a celebrity and more like a peer.

"No worries, I totally get it," I responded, trying my best to seem chill in front of what some have called a "campus legend."

"Let me just make sure my roommate doesn't walk in...he doesn't know," replied Spidey.

The second Spidey joined the call, I disregarded all of my prepared questions. Excitedly I asked "Your roommate doesn't know? How does that work?"

"Yeah. I mean, it's hard keeping a secret like that. I had a different roommate when I first started this, so he does know but he hasn't told anyone... my new roommate doesn't know," explained Spidey. "He's not really much of a social person, so I kind of doubt he's heard of me."

Spidey went on to explain the hidden "go bag" he keeps in his closet.

"If I ever need to put on the suit or someone needs something, I quickly go back to my room and grab my other backpack. It's got everything I could need. My suit, the mask, the face shell. It's got wipes in case it's dirty. It's got like a stick of gum for breath, just like anything I could need in that moment, it's there," he said, describing the bag.

"But why Spider-Man as opposed to other superheroes?" I asked.

"It was the easiest. It doesn't

have a face. You know, you could get a suit anywhere. But I also grew up with Spider-Man too, so he very easily became the first choice. And I mean everybody likes Spider-Man," he replied.

UConn in particular seems to love Spider-Man. An example of the enormity of the hero's popularity is the time he attempted to walk past Gampel Pavilion.

As is normal for basketball season, the sidewalk surrounding Gampel Pavilion was lined with students hoping for a prime seat in the student section.

"The lines were long and I mean like around the corner, in every exit kind of long and everyone was cheering for the basketball team," recalled Spidey.

However, as Spidey turned the corner the crowd of students began cheering his name instead.

"The craziest part was that people actually got out of line to come take a picture with me and then went to the back of the line because they valued that picture more than the basketball game. It wasn't even like two or three. I had like a line of like 40 people, like immediately. Thank God I had a mask because I was crying, taking all these pictures," he said.

While his main goal is to have fun and make people smile, Spidey has also been involved in more heroic efforts such as standing up against the homophobic street preachers that frequent UConn's campus.

According to an article from WHUS Radio, the presence of these street preachers at UConn dates back at least a decade. When they showed up on Sept. 28, 2022, Spidey knew what he had to do.

First, he told his boss he needed an hour off for a job interview — a fabricated story to buy himself time and eliminate suspicion.

He then sped out of work, ran to his dorm room, and transformed into the superhero. After about 45 minutes of protesting, he switched back to his regular persona and went back to work.

"I totally lied, but I had to get out there. That was one of the times I felt the most loved by the campus. I felt like an avenger walking in," said Spidey.

While Spidey is certainly a symbol of hope and joy, he also wields a lot of power — some-

thing he learned while attending his second protest.

While standing in the hot sun, Spidey noticed the crowd starting to get violent.

"I very quickly realized my role in the situation. I was like, although I may disagree with the preachers here, like fundamentally, there's no reason to fight them. We don't want to get the police involved here," said Spidey.

"It's funny," I added. "Because I imagine people would be like 'Spider-Man save us!'"

"You're not wrong. People did that," began Spidey. "But I realized that when I was shouting at them, the crowd got really excited and they began, you know, almost trying to fight these guys."

Not wanting to be the reason for violence, Spidey decided to step away from the energized crowd and stand in silence.

"The crowd sort of just followed what I did...it was really strange," Spidey said, "but it was worth it because eventually the preachers walked away."

One of Spider-Man's biggest appeals is that while he web-slings throughout New York City, underneath the mask, he's a regular student with a somewhat regular life. While UConn Spidey is no different, staying anonymous is something he is sure about, at least for right now.

"Maybe when I graduate I will [reveal my identity], but also I might just do it next year," said Spidey. "At the same time, I don't really want to be known for it. I like the idea that it could be anybody, that it is just an anonymous guy trying to be nice and help out people... I'd hope to have it revealed in a dramatic way though."

"Well, no matter how you do it, I'm sure people would be really excited," I told him.

"I hope people don't see me and they're like damn, he's ugly... that's part of why I've just been so secretive. I'm not ready to be judged by the internet. I'm shy as shit in real life as it is," said Spidey.

Spidey considers himself to be a regular student, balancing work, academics and being a superhero. He's even changed his major multiple times. The hardest part, he says, is living a double life.

"[When] my friends are like, 'how was your weekend,' I have to lie. I'd have to be like, 'Oh, it

was boring,' but really I was at a frat rager... at some points, I got confused as to who I was and I got frustrated because I couldn't share the experiences that I wanted to at the expense of the secret identity," explained Spidey.

While Spidey has successfully remained anonymous for almost two years, there have certainly been close calls.

"I was studying with this group of people and I had to leave in a few hours because someone else wanted to do an interview for a podcast thing," recalled Spidey. I left after studying with this person for like three hours and I switched to the suit and I was heading over to the podcast room. This woman starts calling my name. I turn around and it's the woman I was just studying with. And I was like, 'oh fuck, this is it, it's game over. This is where I get revealed'...all she wanted was just a picture and then she walked away...I thought that might have been game over, but no, it was okay."

I asked Spidey about the legacy he wants to leave behind after he graduates.

"I hope that the people I had experiences with keep them in their heart and move forward in the same way I do and for those who see me, just think back and laugh and take a minute away from the harsh reality of school and education, and stress and exams and just remember that there's a dude in a Spider-Man suit just chilling," he said.

"Do you think you'll try to recruit someone to take over [after you leave]?" I asked.

"I don't know. It's hard because at its best, this is a great way to socialize and at its worst, it's cheesy. You need someone who is willing to do it and not take the fame for it... I haven't really found that person yet," he explained.

While Spidey is clearly a humble individual, there is no doubt that he has reached a certain level of fame on UConn's campus. He's even dealt with imitators.

"One person told me that some guy tried to claim that they were me and pick up [a girl] ... and I just I was like... what woman is going to be like, 'Oh, that's so hot. You're Spider-Man,'" joked Spidey.

"You'd be shocked," I said.



IMAGE COURTESY OF @UCONNSPIDEY ON INSTAGRAM

Spring 2024 Innovate Wellness Challenge results

by Desirae Sin
 STAFF WRITER
 SHE/HER/HERS
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The Student Health and Wellness program at the University of Connecticut has concluded its Innovate Wellness Challenge for the semester. The first place winners receive \$500 per person along with \$1,500 in seed money to bring their idea to life. Second place winners would receive \$300 per person and third place winners receive \$200 per person. Three groups addressed the topic: How can UConn improve the health of both students and the environment in the midst of the climate crisis?

3RD PLACE: HUSKY CYCLE SHARE COMPETITION

The Husky Cycle Share Competition team was composed of second-semester student Disha Parikh and sixth-semester students Suraj Kalaria and Keshav Desibhatla. Their idea was to host a cycling competition at the Storrs campus. To accomplish this, they planned to incentivize students to participate by awarding them with UConn swag packages based on the amount of miles traveled. They also wanted to use this competition to encourage bike accessibility by partnering with the UConn Recreation Center.

The group was inspired to pursue this project because they wanted to "promote the physical well-being of students, along with reconnecting with nature," according to Desibhatla. To address the prompt, they argued that the competition would reduce the carbon footprint of UConn students through promoting biking—as opposed to driving or using the campus shuttles — and improve their cardiovascular function and mental health.

Their project would essentially become an extension of the Cycle Share program the Rec Center offers, where students can rent a bike for one day, one week or an entire semester. It also comes with free maintenance, a helmet and bike lock.

To track students and their progress, the group showcased Strava, a free mobile app that can track a variety of physical activities. Strava would provide leaderboards for students to participate in and as they rack up miles, they can submit their routes to Strava in different brackets of difficulty.

2ND PLACE: TACKLING ECO-ANXIETY THROUGH POSITIVITY

The second place winner was the Tackling Eco-Anxiety through Positivity team, which had sixth-semester students Mia

Rice and Naiiya Patel and eighth-semester student Colin Piteo. Their project was the creation of the Climate and Mind Network club at UConn. It is "an organization dedicated to helping students through the climate crisis. As an organization, we seek to combat the growing eco-anxiety and stress surrounding global climate change," according to their description on UConn contact.

The club's creation began through their observations of the current attitude towards climate change for young people. Patel explained that the broad definition of eco-anxiety is "experiencing major 'negative' emotions, like worry, guilt, and hopelessness in relation to climate change." She noted that the usage of the word "major" in this definition has been used by journals to "make it seem like less people suffer from it and debilitate it ... Eco-anxiety is definitely something I've grappled with," said Piteo.

An initial meeting of the CMN was held in February as a test-drive for their idea. Piteo stated that about 40 people were in attendance, including both students and faculty. The content of the meeting was going over a few tips on how to help eco-anxiety by Linda Aspey, a British Association for Counseling and Psychotherapy member. These strat-

egies included avoiding doom scrolling, practicing self-care and reconnecting with nature.

The future of their club was outlined in the presentation. They explained that for March they would hold a SHaW mental health discussion, where they would have SHaW present on how to deal with mental health stress and connect it back to eco-anxiety. Their plans for April are to hold a field trip to the UConn Spring Valley Student Farm in order to learn how farms operate along with encouraging students to get involved.

1ST PLACE: THE GREEN GARDEN

The first place winner of the challenge was The Green Garden team, composed of second-semester students Sugita Mahendarkar and Tamara Parks. Their mission was "to combat environmental and social isolation" by creating a community garden and conversational space at the Storrs campus, according to Parks.

Some issues that the pair saw on campus was the lack of community, few accessible green spaces and not being able to give back to the environment. The goal of the community garden is to both improve the student wellness and environment at UConn. Their plan is broken

into three segments: conversation benches, art and produce and native plants.

The group conducted street interviews with UConn's undergraduate student population and found that they wanted more resources for mental health and climate change, increased greenery, opportunities for climate action and more outdoor social spaces. The Green Garden address these desires by being "for them, by them," Parks stated.

The conversational benches would be modeled after the "Chatty Bench" projects found in Britain and Northern Ireland, which were attempts by the communities to combat the isolation and loneliness due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To further encourage students to socialize, the group wanted to have the community garden also as a place to hold public art. They wanted to hold community events where students could create murals, decorate signage for plants and showcase utilitarian and decorative art pieces. "Bonding over public art is beneficial to the community," commented Mahendarkar.

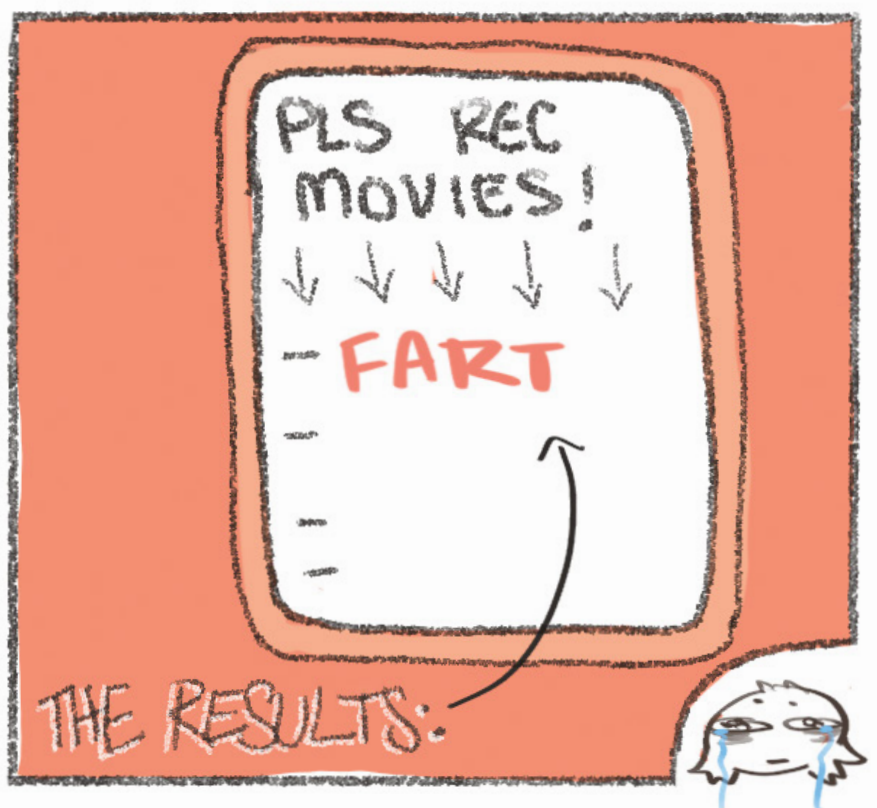
Editor's note: Naiiya Patel is the Business Manager for The Daily Campus and Colin Piteo is the News Editor for The Daily Campus. Both participated in the Innovate Wellness Challenge.



Life

COMICS!

@dailycampuslife



COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



CARTOONS BY LEE ERNEST, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Opinion

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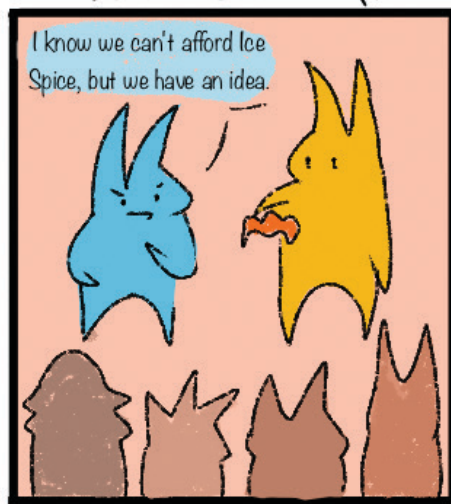
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The White Collared Worker

(SUBOG HQ)



Jason J Sampson

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



CLIPART COURTESY OF SHMECTOR

by Luke Feeney
WEEKLY COLUMNIST
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Entering March of my senior year at the University of Connecticut, I have felt an overwhelming sense of uncertainty and at first, I was not really sure why. Things have been going well, yet I have been feeling like I have been watching over my shoulder for something horrible to happen. While I was initially unsure of the origin of my unease, I recently pieced things together; I was in this exact situation four years ago.

Four years ago, I was entering March of my senior year in high school. In high school, I was an active member of the cross country and track team. Really, it became more than a team to me; my teammates were my best friends in high school and my favorite part of my day was going to practice. As previously mentioned, I was a late bloomer in high school, so I didn't really come into my own until my senior year. That was when things started to click for my running — I was getting stronger and faster by the day.

The majority of my improvement was not the consequence of anything I did, instead it was often a result of trying to be as fast as my teammates. While our team was full of guys who were brilliant at a multitude of events, our senior year, our 4x800 relay shined on the track. These guys were electric — they basically trained together every day our senior year. It was evident when they raced. They won everything during the winter season. What made their success so enjoyable was that these were my best friends. I loved not only seeing them win, but the joy of winning you couldn't buy that would follow.

While our 4x800 team was dominant at the town and county level, when it came to the state championships they were categorically unlucky. At the 2019 indoor state championships, they were one second short of earning all-state honors; at the outdoor state championships in the spring of that year, their leadoff runner was tripped up and they finished in last place because of it. So for the 2020 indoor state championship, their goal was simple: win the whole damn thing.

See FEENEY'S FOCUS, p. 8

Roundtable: DOES 'SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE' STILL WORK?

"Saturday Night Live" is one of America's preeminent comedy programs, preserving the tradition of live broadcasting and sketch comedy for audiences that are increasingly becoming accustomed to streaming. However, the show may no longer be in its comedic heyday in its 49th season, rarely delivering iconic sketches to the caliber of "Matt Foley: Van Down by the River," or — editor's favorite — "Haunted Elevator (ft. David S. Pumpkins)." But a separate question altogether rises: Does SNL still offer relevant commentary on our political and cultural moment? In other words, in this roundtable, we ask The Daily Campus Opinion Section: Does SNL still work?

NELL SRINATH,
OPINION EDITOR:

Yes, but only in a specific sense. SNL has long served as an uncontroversial political mouthpiece for the ruling

class, drowning any potential they have for scathing critiques of powerful people in unfunny (with the exception of James Austin Johnson), flailing impressions. Their ridiculous depictions of the average MAGA Republican only served to reify the dominant view that elite, condescending liberals are at odds with hard working, salt-of-the-earth conservatives — a silly and fictitious view of class in the United States. Yet having hosts like Elon Musk and Donald Trump shows that executive producer Lorne Michaels is willing to flirt with far-right politics when it suits him. Most recently, the "College Presidents" cold open pokes harmless fun at far-right congresswoman Elise Stefanik while, similar to the congressional hearing it depicts, continues to falsely frame pro-Palestine activism as antisemitism.

As an aside, all their funniest sketches were cut for time. Justice for Kyle Mooney.

See ROUNDTABLE, p. 8



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

MOON KNIGHT IS THE BEST MCU SHOW

by Isaac Grad
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"Moon Knight" excels above the other Marvel Cinematic Universe shows in a variety of ways. Not only is the cinematography superb, but the soundtrack, writing and acting are all incredible. Something that makes this show stand out is its isolation from the rest of the MCU projects. If not all, most MCU movies and shows reference one another. Often-

However, while "Moon Knight" outlines serious consequences if the protagonist doesn't win, the show does not focus on them. The majority of the fight scenes consist of hand-to-hand combat because Moon Knight's powers are healing-based.

The audience becomes invested in the life of Steven and Marc — two personalities that share the same body — as a result of their characterization. The choice of the showmakers to open with Steven presented as "the original" was different from any other representation

certain ways, they stayed true to many of the important aspects of them. Attention was paid to Moon Knight's disorder and his ethnicity. In the comics, Marc's Jewish heritage plays a much bigger role in the development of his DID. Despite the difference in what caused the formation of his disorder, this complex relationship with his religion is represented in the show. While not the focus of the plot, it's nice to see Jewish superheroes represented in the MCU. Many have noted that it was not shown enough in the show, but I thought it was perfect; it was realistic and subtle rather than forceful for the sake of representation.

The incredible attention to the characters is really what made this show for me — not just the writing, but also the acting of Oscar Isaac. He clearly put a lot of care into his portrayal of all the characters he played. What amazed me was his ability to differentiate the two main characters he played, Steven and Marc, based on physicality alone. One could discern who was present based solely on body language despite the two characters being played by the same actor. This is no easy feat, but Isaac did a wonderful job. He created very distinct characters with their own quirks, views, backgrounds and thought processes.

See MOON KNIGHT, p. 8

The incredible attention to the characters is really what made this show for me — not just the writing, but also the acting of Oscar Isaac.

times watchers need to have watched every film in the franchise to understand niche references in the new shows. "Moon Knight" is different in this way.

"Moon Knight" also stands out due to the subject matter. While it does contain engaging fight scenes, it is very character-driven, which is why I love the MCU so much. Along with that, many of the MCU's recent projects prioritize making their new shows as "big" as possible. Instead of street-level fighting, the central conflict usually threatens the existence of life as we know it.

of Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID). This show dealt with very serious topics, such as mental illness and abuse, but handled it with grace. While they differed from the original comic, I particularly enjoyed the changes to Steven and Marc's characters. In the comics, Marc is the focal point; by making Steven a whole character of his own and treating the two personalities as separate entities, the writers did them both justice.

Though the story and the representation of the characters differed from most of the comics in

IMAGE COURTESY OF IMDB

Opinion

Huskytalk | Should there be a minimum/maximum age limit for serving as UConn's mascot (the dog)? Why?

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTIAN WELCOME, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



“Jonathan should be the mascot as long as he is in good health.”

Sara Mustafi
Pharmacy
Fourth-semester



“If we appoint our Supreme Court justices for life I don't see why our mascot should be any different.”

Briana Sadiku
Pre-law
Fourth-semester



“There's too young and too old, especially for too young. The mascot should have enough time to be trained and enjoy its youth.”

Claudia Huang
Biomedical Engineering
Fourth-semester



“I believe that the proper age for Jonathan to become mascot emeritus is 10 years old. Huskies that are taken care for can live up to 15 years, and the Jonathans are left in the good hands of my fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega.”

Santino Soto
Pre-vet
Fourth-semester

FEENEY'S FOCUS

FEENEY'S FOCUS, cont. from p. 7

And the craziest thing happened: They did win. They utterly dominated, leaving the rest of the field in the dust, and the anchor runner was able to jog through the line. I can honestly say that the immediate aftermath of that victory was one of the most emotional moments of my entire life. Ev-

everyone was crying — parents, coaches, teammates — it didn't matter. We all knew that what we just saw was special and we couldn't wait for the future. Everyone was motivated for the next season wanting to live up to the title of state champions.

The world can have funny ways of blowing up our expectations for the future. Just a week after the State Championship, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed an executive order closing all schools down in the state for two weeks. Just like that, all the promises of spring were ripped away as we stayed inside. The worst part of COVID-19 for me wasn't missing out on prom, graduation or even the last day of classes. I

could deal without any of that, but knowing I would never go to another track practice was crushing. Having something so important to my sense of self disappear just like that, with no payoff, felt inconceivable.

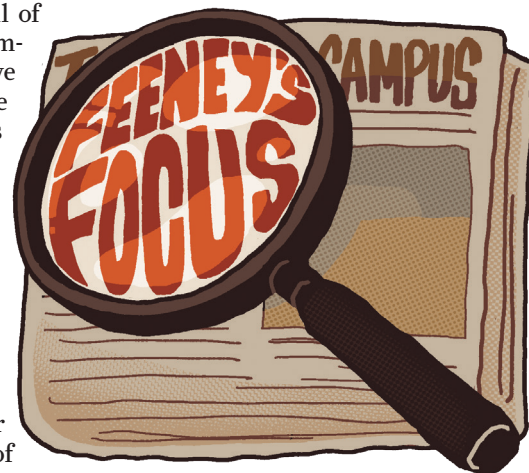
I remember the day it was announced that spring sports were canceled, ending my track career. I didn't want to eat or drink and I could barely sleep. It felt like the world was ending. That's why I was so fearful of March 2024; I am afraid of having everything I am looking forward to just be ripped away from me while I am powerless to do anything about it, much like March 2020.

But here's the thing, the world didn't end during COVID-19

and, even if it feels like it, the world isn't ending now. I'm not a member of a track team, but I still run when I can. I won't ever go to track practice again, but at least I can see all of my former teammates when we are home. We've made countless lifelong memories together since graduating.

I may have missed the end of my senior year, but getting to watch my little brother during his senior year has been one of the coolest things

I've gotten to experience. So instead of being fearful this March, I'm just going to sit back, smell the roses and enjoy the ride with you all.



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



ILLUSTRATION BY LEE ERNEST, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

MOON KNIGHT, cont. from p. 7

The development of the characters was great as well. When we are first introduced to Steven, he is very lonesome, quiet and insecure. Marc is distant, alone, angry and hopeless. By the end of the show, they both realize they are more than what they thought. Steven's confidence grows; he realiz-

es he isn't helpless and he's brave. Marc realizes he isn't just a killer, he isn't alone and he doesn't have to be scared of vulnerability. Steven was left in the dark his whole life, not knowing the truth about a number of things, but he and Marc work together to combine their abilities and piece together the world around them.

“Moon Knight” was a breath of fresh air for the MCU, which

was seemingly stuck in a rut by trying to usher in a new era of superheros. “Moon Knight” stands out in its focus on quality, attention and time spent on each aspect of the show. Its seclusion from the rest of the MCU allowed it to develop and focus on its own world. It told the story of a very underrated and interesting person by bringing new life to his original comic character.

ROUNDTABLE, cont. from p. 7

DAN STARK,
ASSOCIATE OPINION
EDITOR:

Absolutely not. The quality of their political content fell off a cliff since Biden was inaugurated. SNL feasted on the comedy goldmine that was the Trump era with political sketches basically every episode for four years. But with Biden in office, they pulled back significantly on their political content. For every five sketches they did involving Trump, there's one that involves Biden. They've simply refused to go after him like they did Trump, despite having great opportunities to do so. The show has the ability to offer meaningful political commentary, especially with the great James Austin Johnson in their cast, but has failed to utilize this during the Biden administration. Until they take advantage of their potential, SNL will continue to fall out of cultural relevance.

LUKE FEENEY,
WEEKLY COLUMNIST:

I think from a political commentary standpoint, especially post-Biden inauguration, it's a dumpster fire. However, the overall cultural appeal of SNL is alive and well. I wish the show went after Biden the way they did Trump because I do think it would be much funnier. Despite this, I think it has its moments from a comedic standpoint (every few weeks I usually find a sketch to be pretty funny).

Another problem SNL faces is that over the past decades so many sketch comedy shows have just been funnier. “I

Think You Should Leave,” “Key & Peele” and even YouTube sketch comedy like the guys at Almost Friday TV routinely deliver funnier content. But SNL is too culturally entrenched to ever really go away.

TOMAS HINKLEY,
WEEKLY COLUMNIST:

It's around times like these when I wish I watched more SNL to be able to give a more informed and nuanced take on the show as a whole, but then I remember that it's boring and I go on with my life.

Hot take: the best part of SNL is the musical performances (See Bruno Mars and the legendary RATM performance). Also, if it wasn't for its reputation of being funny from past years, people would not be laughing as much nowadays. Just being real...

EVELYN PAZAN,
CONTRIBUTOR:

It is not often that I sit down and watch SNL, but sometimes I will find myself in a YouTube spiral watching the SNL “Celebrity Jeopardy!” sketches with my dad. “Celebrity Jeopardy!” is by far the best thing to come out of SNL and it hasn't even aired in the past four years. In the past few years, SNL has definitely lost its appeal. The humor has been underwhelming and the political sketches have been repetitive and one-sided. It is truly a shame, because I believe that SNL is a valuable program that encourages political involvement and brings people together. I wish SNL would more evenly balance their political commentary and find some funnier writers. Maybe then more people (e.g. me) would pay attention.

ROUNDTABLE

The Rod Wave: Why I don't think Saquon Barkley will return to New York and 3 suitors for the former Giant

by Evan Rodriguez | ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | evanrodriguez@uconn.edu

With the announcement that Saquon Barkley won't be franchise tagged by his former home, the New York Giants, he becomes one of the most interesting names to enter NFL free agency during the offseason. To have a player on your team that's shown to be an electrifying addition to your offense is certainly something that would be welcomed.

But, why would that mean that someone of Barkley's caliber wouldn't be welcomed back to the franchise? There would be three reasons for that: durability, money and the NFL Draft.

As for his durability, the former Penn State back first showed signs of this issue during the 2020 season, when a knee injury forced him out of the season. From there, other than an impressive 2022 season, Barkley has shown signs of the injury bug throughout his career. Unfortunately for the former NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year winner, he plays in one of the most dispensable positions in all of the NFL: running back.

That brings me to my second reason as to why Barkley won't be brought back: money. After being placed on the franchise tag last season, a second — straight year in that position would cost New York a total of \$12.1 million. As mentioned previously, running backs are one of the most replaceable positions possible, and unless you're one of the most prolific at your position, you're already on the chopping block. If Barkley was in the position decades prior, he most likely would've already been signed to a bigger contract by the Giants or another NFL squad. But, because of my third reason, he most likely may be in a different position next season.

It's no secret that the NFL Draft has been incredible in

finding plenty of running back talent in previous seasons. Just ask the Atlanta Falcons or Detroit Lions, who scooped up two incredible young players in Bijan Robinson and Jahmyr Gibbs, respectively. While this upcoming NFL Draft may not have the names of last year, there are certainly options the Giants could clinch for cheaper than \$12.1 million.

With that being said, while the 2018 NFL Draft pick certainly has the option to head back to New York, there should be plenty of suitors on the market who may be willing to open their checkbooks for Barkley. As for as those options, here are my top three:

The Dallas Cowboys

As crazy as it sounds for Barkley to jump ship to a division rival, it's not as far-fetched as it sounds when you consider the position that Dallas is in.

Following the team's elimination in the NFL Playoffs and their decision to not tag Tony Pollard, they're going to need to get another option in that department if they ultimately choose not to resign Pollard. Because the Cowboys are looking toward having a massive rebound season, someone like Barkley would certainly be a great option.

Since Dallas consistently

has an excellent offensive line and the former Giant has shown to be both a great rushing and passing back, it should be clear that Barkley should be at the top of owner Jerry Jones' wish list if they opt to replace Pollard. That fact remains especially true with the current outlook of this Cowboys roster.

Baltimore Ravens

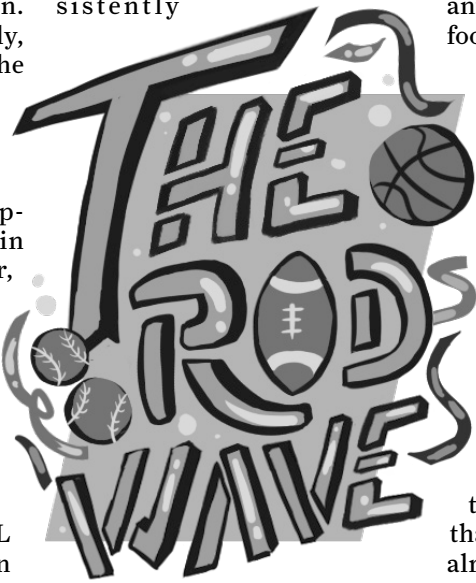
While it was certainly an incredible season for Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens, the team fell just short at home against the Kansas City Chiefs. This unit is certainly strong, but with Gus Edwards headed to free agency, they could certainly upgrade their offense with Barkley.

This team's offense is already a powerhouse with Lamar Jackson at its helm, and Barkley would probably cost less than Edwards if they choose to resign him. However, this is the same team that dropped \$15 million on former Giant Odell Beckham Jr. so it certainly wouldn't be a surprise if they opt to add another big offensive weapon.

Las Vegas Raiders

According to the New York Daily News' Pat Leonard, Las Vegas has already expressed interest in Barkley for good reason.

After deciding to let Josh Jacobs have a chance at free agency, the team could choose to pivot toward the former Giant in this new era of Raiders football. Following a disappointing 2023 for Jacobs himself, it's certainly an option. But compared to the potential locations that I just named for Barkley, it's not going to be at the top of his list unless Las Vegas brings out the checkbook, especially when you consider how long Jacobs has been a Raider. But that's unfortunately not very realistic considering what the former Penn State back brings to the table and the money that teams like New York have already declined to pay him.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Huskies in the Pros: Tverberg heats up in AHL, Fatukasi let go by Jags, update on Huskies in the G-League

by CJ Dexter
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AHL: Maple Leafs prospect Ryan Tverberg finding his way after winning AHL Player of the Month

Picked in the seventh round of the 2020 NHL Draft, former UConn center Ryan Tverberg has been a great late-round find for the Toronto Maple Leafs. Despite missing six weeks with a leg injury, the 22-year-old has 28 points in 37 games for the Toronto Marlies (AHL) and took home AHL Player of the Month honors in January.

Tverberg's record-breaking January included a game that saw him score four goals in a single period against the Belleville Senators, becoming the first player in Marlies history to ever achieve that feat. The 6-foot center finished the month with five goals and 10 assists across 11 games and is emerging as one of the top prospects within the organization. The Maple Leafs signed Tverberg to a three-year entry-level contract

following the end of his collegiate career with Connecticut. In his final year in Storrs, he had 15 goals and 30 assists over 35 games and was a finalist for the Hobey Baker Award for the best NCAA men's hockey player.

NFL: Folorunso Fatukasi released by Jacksonville

On a day when the former UConn standout was supposed to be celebrating his 29th birthday, former Jaguars and Jets defensive tackle Folorunso Fatukasi was released. This came hours after the Jaguars gave him a "Happy Birthday" shoutout on social media. The move, as poorly timed as it was, saves Jacksonville \$3.5 million on their salary to help with flexibility for building their roster for the 2024-2025 season. Fatukasi was selected in the sixth round of the 2018 NFL Draft by the New York Jets and his solid play earned him a three-year, \$30 million contract in 2022 from the Jaguars. Teams looking for depth on their defensive interior could come calling in the coming weeks for Fatukasi's services.

G-League: Update on Huskies in the G-League

Adama Sanogo: The 2023 final four MOP scored 23 points and grabbed 14 rebounds in just 22 minutes against the Cleveland Charge on Monday. Sanogo has 23 double-doubles on the season for the Windy City Bulls.

Tyrese Martin: One of the key pieces in Dan Hurley's rebuild at UConn, the 2022 second-rounder scored eight points on 2/8 shooting in the Iowa Wolves' Tuesday loss to the South Bay Lakers. Martin is averaging 16.5 points and 7.2 rebounds for the Wolves this season.

Amida Brimah: The 2014 national champion scored nine points to go along with six rebounds and a blocked shot in the Santa Cruz Warriors' Monday night win over the Mexico City Capitanes. Brimah is just seven blocked shots away from having the most blocks in G-League history.

Joey Calaterra: A key bench piece on UConn's 2023 championship team, he scored three points in two minutes off the bench for the South Bay Lakers on Tuesday.

Husky History: 2006 UConn men's basketball

by Sean Ahern
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Welcome back to another edition of Husky History. On this special week, rather than highlighting an individual athlete for their success, an entire team will be honored: the 2005-06 UConn men's basketball team.

In light of the current UConn men's basketball team clinching the Big East Regular Season Championship, let's take a look back at the last time UConn had at least a share of the title.

Just two seasons removed from the 2004 national championship, Hall of Fame head coach Jim Calhoun crafted a team full of talent from top to bottom. Led by sophomore Rudy Gay and senior Rashad Anderson, the team sported a total of eight top-100 recruits coming out of their respective high school classes.

The team's potential was recognized in the preseason with a No. 3 ranking in the AP Poll. They would stay there for the next four weeks as they stacked up 11 straight victories, nine of them by double digits.

Similar to this current season, the Huskies lost their first Big East matchup in 2005, falling to Marquette 94-79. Gay struggled from the floor that game, shooting 3-of-12 and fouling out before the game's end. On the defensive end, the Huskies allowed forward All-Big East senior Steve Novak to explode for 41 points and seal the win.

Following the loss, UConn went on another 11-game win streak. During that stretch they claimed the No. 1 spot in the AP Poll for four straight weeks. The match with No. 4 Villanova approached fast, setting up a showdown with the two best teams in the Big East.

The Huskies traveled to Villanova with the goal of extending their quest of an outright Big East Regular Season title. UConn shot the ball well from the floor and attacked the glass, but the plus-eight turnover margin ultimately cost them the game. The Wildcats went on to win 69-64.

UConn responded well coming off the loss, winning five straight heading into the much-anticipated Big East Tournament. The biggest game of the stretch, however, came when the Huskies welcomed Villanova into Gampel Pavilion.

With Villanova only owning one Big East loss on their resume, a loss at home to the Wildcats would crown Villanova the outright regular season champions. With this on their minds, the men came together to click perfectly on both ends of the floor. The Huskies won convincingly 89-75 with senior forward Denham Brown notching a game-high 23 points.

Unfortunately, the momentum of clinching a share of the title did not carry over into the conference tournament. As the No. 1 ranked team in the country, they lost in overtime in the quarterfinals to an unranked Syracuse.

The team shot an abysmal 30.3% and could not prevent all five of the Orange starters from scoring in double figures. It was a disappointing early exit, but there was still optimism heading into the NCAA Tournament.

The Huskies had eight days off to prepare for the opening round game against Albany. It was a No. 1 versus No. 16 matchup and the Huskies took care of business winning 72-59. Junior guard Marcus Williams led the way with 21 points, four rebounds and eight assists.

The next round proved to be a difficult task against a deep Kentucky team. However, the combination of the starters scoring 63 points and the offense forcing Kentucky to foul 21 times helped the Huskies take a narrow 87-83 victory.

In the Sweet 16, UConn matched up with Washington who was led by future NBA Rookie of the Year Brandon Roy. Williams came up huge for the second consecutive game, notching 26 points, four rebounds and eight assists in the Huskies' 98-92 victory.

It was shaping up to be another Final Four appearance for Calhoun and his crew, but the Huskies ran into that year's tournament Cinderella team: 11-seeded George Mason. The lack of defensive intensity caught up to UConn. For their final three tournament games, they let up at least 80 points.

It was an unsatisfying end to a season that had championship hopes. That being said, not every season can end in a championship, but there was plenty to reflect on and be proud of.

One of those highlights of the season was the buzz players generated from the NBA. Calhoun already established a great track record of molding bona fide NBA players, and the 2005-06 season was no different.

In the 2006 NBA Draft, five UConn players were selected, becoming the first school to accomplish the feat. Those players were Gay (No. 8), Hilton Armstrong (No. 12), Williams (No. 22), Josh Boone (No. 23) and Brown (No. 40).

Despite coming up short in both the NCAA and Big East Tournament, the season shaped up to be a legendary one for the program moving forward. The similarities between the 2005-06 season and this one are striking, with the NBA-level talent each one has. The core from last year's championship will have to lead the way in the quest to become college basketball's first repeat champions in 17 years.



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

Sports

Photo of the Day | Tight corner



UConn's women's hockey vs Boston College finish off the first quarter 1-0. The Huskies won in overtime, 2-1. PHOTO BY BRIAN JEREZ, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Nick Spinali

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After being selected with the 30th overall selection in the 2022 Major League Baseball draft by the San Francisco Giants, former UConn two-way phenom Reggie Crawford has decided that his future on the baseball diamond lies on the pitching mound.

"We're going to try to figure out how we're going to plan out [batting practice] a couple of times a week, but the primary focus is pitching," Crawford told MLB.com. "I decided on that a few weeks ago, so that's what we're going to do."

As the No. 8 prospect in San Francisco's minor league system according to MLB Pipeline, the Giants allowed Crawford the opportunity to both hit and pitch while he developed in the Minors. The 23-year-old tried to get more hitting reps toward the end of the year last season in the Arizona Fall League, but he only managed to go 8-for-58 (.138) with two home runs and 30 strikeouts over 17 games.

"That gave me feedback of how far behind I was," said Crawford. "Because it was probably two years-plus removed from the last time I was hitting consistently."

After returning from Tommy

John surgery last season, Crawford compiled a 2.84 ERA with 32 strikeouts over 19 innings in 13 starts between Single-A San Jose and High-A Eugene in 2023. The Giants are being cautious with their 2022 first-rounder, as the team capped each outing at two innings and limited him to only 17 at-bats in between starts.

Crawford was set to make his first impression in front of the big league club after being invited to Spring Training as a non-roster invitee and added to San Francisco's 40-man roster. However, a left lat strain has kept him off the field as Spring Training has commenced. He could be closing in on a return over the next couple of weeks.

Crawford believes that focusing on just pitching rather than trying to hit and pitch will allow him to become more comfortable and establish a feasible routine.

"There was a point in time where I would have sacrificed time to get back to a spot in the box to where I felt comfortable," said Crawford. "But I sat down and thought about it for a few weeks, and I was like, 'I'm not willing to sacrifice time anymore to get to that point, rather than just see what's right in front of me

and run with that.' That was kind of the thought process going into it." With the Huskies, Crawford appeared in seven games on the mound, starting one. He managed to go 1-1 with a 2.25 ERA over eight innings of work. He struck out 17 batters compared to just four walks. Opponents managed to hit just .194 against the 6-foot-4 lefty.

Spin Cycle: Former Husky Crawford to stick with pitching



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMOUS

his two seasons, playing as a first baseman on most of the days that he hit. He managed a .309 batting average over 64 games. He smacked 14 home runs and drove in 78 runs in those games. He also added 18 doubles and a triple, totaling 81 hits in his college career.

Crawford was a beast at the plate for Connecticut in

CHRIS'S COLUMN: WHAT'S NEXT FOR JASON KELCE?

by Chris Charbonneau

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Philadelphia Eagles center Jason Kelce officially announced his retirement in an emotional press conference Monday. Following his retirement, he will now be eligible for the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2029.

The beloved offensive lineman thanked the organization, the city, his wife Kylie, his parents, Ed and Donna and his brother Travis Kelce of the Kansas City Chiefs. He delivered numerous and powerful remarks reflecting on his career.

"Thank you for letting me represent this city and allowing me into your homes every Sunday," said Kelce.

Jason Kelce, a Cleveland Heights Native, began his football career as a walk-on linebacker at the University of Cincinnati. In his junior year, he was named second-team All-Big East, starting all 13 games at left guard. From there, he won two Big East Conference championships in 2008 and 2009.

"It has always been a goal of mine to play my whole career in one city, and I couldn't have dreamt a better one and a better fit if I tried," said Kelce.

He broke down in tears throughout the entire press conference and showed

true emotion when talking about how the city represented brotherly love. Any athlete retiring in front of their friends, family, spouses and teammates is bound to display some level of emotion.

Kelce was drafted in the sixth round by the Philadelphia Eagles in the 2011 NFL Draft and would be one of the biggest steals of the year. The Ohio native was elected to the Pro Bowl seven times (2014, 2016, and 2019-2023) and named NFL AP-All Pro six times. Kelce is widely considered as one of the league's all-time greatest centers.

The longtime Eagle was part of Philly's Super Bowl run in 2017, defeating the defending champions New England Patriots 41-33. He started 193 games for the team and holds the record for most consecutive starts with the franchise. Additionally, he was the team's Walter Payton Man of the Year nominee in 2021 and has been involved in charity with his work for the Eagles Autism Foundation.

What's next for the beloved star? Many consider the possibility of him staying in the realm of sports due to his highly successful podcast with his brother Travis. "New Heights" is a podcast run by the Kelce brothers and has recruited famous guests across the NFL.

They have 2.31 million subscribers on YouTube, 2.5 million followers on Instagram and 4.1 million followers on TikTok. It seems fitting that the former Eagle will continue to dump his time into the podcast, and potential big-name media companies could eventually buy the rights of the show.

Having former players as analysts has been crucial to draw in higher viewership and revenue for stations like ESPN, ABC, Fox News, CBS, Prime Video, the NFL Network and NBC. He will be one of the most appealing free agents because of the high engagement and success he's had from the "New Heights" podcast.

Kelce's life vastly changed with his brother dating global sensation Taylor Swift. Embracing that popularity has been astonishing for the entire Kelce family as the group has been one of the most searched names on the internet. There was a documentary released through Prime Video called "Kelce" and people across the world were immediately drawn in by how Kelce raised his family.

For the Swifties, Kelce did name drop some references from her songs in his retirement speech.

"It's only too poetic I found my career being ful-

filled in the city of brotherly love, a relationship all I knew all too well," said Kelce.

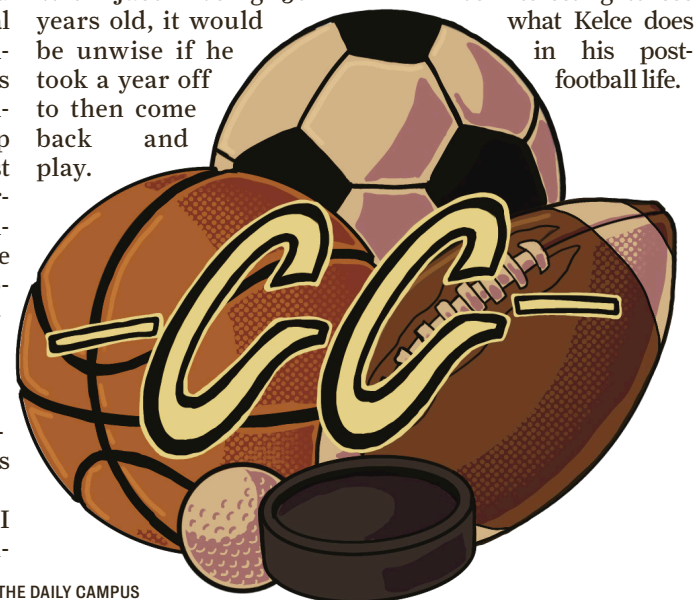
A couple of days later, "New Heights" officially released their 80th episode, "Jason on Retirement, Travis Down Under and Flaming Tables." Kelce had debated retiring the last few seasons and reflected on how nerve-racking it was announcing his retirement on Monday.

Travis joked with Jason throughout the podcast about how he wanted Jason to keep playing. In the past, the NFL world has seen other retired players like former Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski join Tom Brady in Tampa Bay. With Jason being 36 years old, it would be unwise if he took a year off to then come back and play.

"To have you out of it, man it feels empty and it definitely feels like it's complete. It was a success," said Travis as he broke down into tears on the podcast with Jason.

Jason Kelce demonstrated his love for Philadelphia and has cemented himself as a city legend. His 2018 Super Bowl rant at the Eagle Super Bowl Parade will forever be remembered as one of the most memorable victory speeches in football history.

The multi-time Pro Bowler will have many options on the table for sports announcing, coaching, podcast appearances and, who knows, maybe acting. It will be interesting to see what Kelce does in his post-football life.



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

WOMEN'S HOCKEY: UCONN DEFEATS BOSTON COLLEGE IN OVERTIME VICTORY TO ADVANCE TO HOCKEY EAST



UConn women's hockey finishes off the first quarter 1-0 against Boston College. The Huskies won in overtime, 2-1. PHOTO BY BRIAN JEREZ, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Bridget Bronsdon**
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Following a massive 4-2 win over Holy Cross, the No. 1 Huskies set their sights on the Hockey East semifinals against No. 4 Boston College.

The Huskies were coming off a massively successful week for the program, as head coach Chris MacKenzie was named Hockey East Coach of the Year. Heading into the contest, the program was prepared to continue its successes.

The last time UConn came face-to-face with Boston College was for a two-game series in mid-October, which resulted in back-to-back losses for the Huskies. This time around, UConn was determined to change the narrative.

The match could not have started better for the Huskies as Jada Habisch nailed the Eagles with a 1-0 start. After catching a bouncing puck from Ava Rinker, Habisch

was able to whiz past the Eagles' defense to face off with the Boston goaltender. Effortlessly, the senior found the net to bring the Huskies to an early advantage and bring in her 17th goal of the season.

Habisch leads Hockey East in game-winning goals and is currently enjoying the Hockey East Player of the Week title, thanks to her exceptional performance in the Holy Cross matchup last Saturday.

The majority of the first was characterized by the Eagles in the neutral zone. Boston College frequently found themselves defending their net or struggling to break through the seemingly impenetrable Husky defense. Husky goaltender Tia Chan had little interaction with the Eagles, as her offensive and defensive lines were all over the puck.

As the period neared the end, there was significant foot traffic near the Eagles' goal as the Huskies dominated the offensive line. With three min-

utes left, the first power play of the game came to the Huskies due to a penalty from the Eagles.

Although Boston was able to kill the penalty in the final moments, the period was a massive success for the Huskies.

In the second period, the Eagles upped the ante as they were able to dance around the Huskies' defense and get several early shots off. Despite this newfound intensity from Boston, UConn was familiar and ready to respond to a swift increase in competition.

Early on in the period, UConn was challenged to defend Chan more closely as the Eagles moved their dominance from the neutral zone into the Huskies' danger zone.

The Eagles dominated for a solid portion of the period with several strong shifts. Just minutes in, the Huskies were given a leg up for their second power play, but were ultimately unable to capitalize as Boston killed the advantage. In the small-margin

game, every play mattered.

Throughout the period, several UConn athletes just missed the back of the Eagles' net, as they were ultimately unable to connect to get a shot off.

The third period began with a bang as Boston earned a powerplay in the first minute. Just seconds later, the Eagles shot through the five-hole on Chan to tie up the game 1-1 and score on the advantage.

With the contest now knotted up and as the possibility of overtime lingered, the stakes were the highest of the night.

A body-checking penalty against Boston then reversed the roles and gave UConn the powerplay. In the midst of the advantage, a massive hit to Habisch granted the Huskies a five-on-three power play. Despite having a significant upper hand, UConn was unable to secure a lead and the play soon turned into a successful kill for the Eagles.

Despite several close shots by UConn and massive saves

from the Boston goaltender, the teams were unable to pull away from one another and headed into overtime at 1-1.

The duo headed into a 20-minute period of five vs five sudden death overtime. With the Hockey East Championship on the line, it was all or nothing for the Huskies.

After dancing around the ice and several close calls for both teams, senior Kathryn Stockdale nailed the game-winner for UConn. On an assist from Megan Woodworth, Stockdale was able to split the Boston defenders and five-hole the Eagles' goaltender.

Sporting ear-to-ear grins and jumping into a massive team celebration, the Huskies win was clearly well worth the wait.

UConn will now be headed to the Hockey East Championship against Northeastern where they will look to defend their reigning title. This will be Northeastern's seventh season in a row appearing at the Championships and this year they will be representing the No. 2 seed behind UConn's No. 1.

SARGEANT'S ORDERS:

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL MAKES COMPELLING CASE FOR RERUN OF LAST YEAR'S MARCH MADNESS SUCCESS

by **Connor Sargeant**
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Writer's note: This article was written prior to their contest at Marquette on Wednesday, March 6.

College basketball is a sport like no other, with a uniquely exciting postseason in which fortunes can change in the blink of an eye. Upsets, dramatic moments and Cinderella runs are the norm. Even in an era of such uncertainty, many factors point towards the UConn men's basketball team cutting down the nets this April in Glendale, Arizona.

Tristen Newton and Cam Spencer are the best backcourt duo in the country

The level of play up to this point from the duo of guards Tristen Newton and Cam Spencer has been nothing short of elite. Newton is amid an All-American-caliber campaign, posting 15 points, seven rebounds and six assists a night in 33 minutes of work. On top of these raw averages, KenPom ranks the El Paso native as the fourth-best player in college basketball based on numerous efficiency statistics.

Spencer is also putting together a great season, averaging just south of 15 points a night. What makes the 6-foot-4 guard's campaign all the more special is the efficiency with which he does it. Not only is Spencer the most

consistent shooter on the Huskies, but also in program history. The grad transfer has a real chance at joining the coveted 50-40-90 club. Spencer owns a FG%, 3P% and FT% of 49.7, 45 and 91.7, respectively. He would join Sue Bird as the only UConn player to achieve such a feat, a testament to the level he is playing at. No backcourt in college basketball can match up to these two. For the upcoming Big East and NCAA tournament, look out for this duo, as the Huskies will need them to be on their A-game. The grad students have been at the forefront of the program's success, and there is no reason to believe anything will change now that they're facing the bright lights of March.

Connecticut just keeps getting better and better

While the Huskies never had a significant cold stretch, the program still faced adversity. It seemed like the entire team faced an injury at one point, with Donovan Clingan, Stephon Castle and Alex Karaban each missing time. Despite that, Connecticut powered on, competing with the best. For instance, during the team's Dec. 1 loss at current No. 14 Kansas, Clingan was not at full health, Spencer got banged up and Castle was out. Yet Dan Hurley's squad went into arguably the most hostile environment in college basketball and only lost by four. Since getting back up to full speed in the following months,

Clingan and Castle have improved on both sides of the ball.

Clingan struggled with foul trouble for a portion of the year, although he has significantly improved in that department. From the start of the season, the Bristol, Connecticut, native has lost around 10 pounds. Clingan is quicker to the ball and more mobile. His weight loss also puts less stress on his foot, meaning the probability of regravitating his previous injury has decreased significantly. Since the Bristol native is quicker to the ball, he can move into favorable defensive positions with more ease, not fouling as much — and he hasn't. Not only has he improved pretty much everywhere statistically, but watching him move around tells the whole story: Clingan is more confident and shuts down the paint.

Castle is similar to Clingan in respect to his growth this season. He's had a roller-coaster type of year, missing extended time after suffering a knee injury in his second game and slowly getting back up to speed. Not only has Castle put together some highlight-worthy performances lately, but he's looked more athletic. The 6-foot-6 guard has been more explosive, driving to the rim and finishing with either a highlight slam or a tough layup. He can also shoot the ball at a decent clip, although Newton and Spencer are much more reliable in knocking down jumpers. With

every game, Castle keeps improving and Husky fans have no reason to believe that he'll stop any time soon. There is real potential for the freshman to be a one-and-done player in Storrs as his draft stock rises on the daily. How the guard performs under the bright lights will be watched closely. The upcoming Big East tournament is a good preview of how he performs in a high-pressure, neutral site environment, similar to the task the Huskies will face if they end up in the East Region.

As hard as it is to believe, Selection Sunday is nearly upon us. With Connecticut's dominance over the rest of the Big East conference and the country, many have them as a Final Four lock. However, even though many experts predict them as the eventual champion, anything can happen in March; just ask Purdue. UConn has played consistent basketball all year against some of the best college basketball has to offer. Despite the significant turnover from last year's squad, three of UConn's five starters have been to the big dance before. Hurley is a championship-caliber coach, and the program knows what it takes to finish the job. For those reasons, UConn makes the most compelling case to repeat as champions of college basketball — and at this point, it's theirs to lose.



Sports

THE COLEUMN: WHY MARCH IS THE BEST MONTH IN SPORTS

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

As of approximately 8 a.m. EST, planet Earth has rotated seven times in the month of March. Just one week in, the thrills of the third month of the year have already begun; two days ago in men's basketball, the 10th-seeded Jacksonville Dolphins upset the top-seeded Eastern Kentucky Colonels in the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament. That same evening, Cleveland Cavaliers guard Dean Wade outscored the Boston Celtics by himself in the fourth quarter as his team completed a 22-point comeback.

Within the past week, Iowa guard Caitlin Clark became the all-time leading scorer in Division I basketball history. Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James became the first player in the National Basketball Association to score 40,000 career points.

Historic moments and milestones like these make March the best month of the year. The fun is just getting started.

It begins with college basketball's premiere event: March Madness. Sixty-eight teams in both men's and women's basketball compete for the chance to bring home a national championship. Once the field has been revealed on Selection Sunday, people like me create their brackets and pick who wins it all. Everyone, from co-workers to the president of the United States, gets in on the fun of making what they hope will be a perfect bracket.

Watching the Round of 64 games has become as much of a national pastime in the U.S. as watching baseball. The Thursday and Friday after Selection

Sunday are the two days of the year where I find it the hardest to get any work done. Between men's and women's college basketball, there are several marquee single-elimination matchups that can grab anyone's attention, including mine.

March is also the month of NCAA ice hockey tournaments, at least for the 27 total teams between men's and women's hockey that qualify for them. While college hockey is not as popular as college basketball or even college football, their games are still fun to watch. Part of that is because they are single-elimination contests, but college hockey's atmosphere can make each battle a joy to watch. Both championship games last year were decided by a goal, with the Quinnipiac men's hockey team winning the national title 10 seconds into overtime.

Even though three out of those four tournaments go into the first week of April, the most exciting moments come during those weekends in March. Collegiate sports are not the only ones who get in on the fun, however.

Between the National Hockey League and the NBA, most of the 62 teams are still competing for a playoff spot. Although both seasons end in early April, very few clubs are officially out of playoff contention when March begins. Those that do usually have the highest chances to earn the first overall pick in their respective draft lotteries.

The NBA's Play-In Tournament means that two additional teams from each conference can compete for a

chance at securing one of the two lowest seeds. It is almost like the MLB's single-elimination Wild Card Games. The only difference is that the winner in the battle between seventh and eighth place goes directly to the playoffs while the loser's postseason hopes to live another day. Competing for those play-in berths allows more teams to play meaningful basketball during the final weeks of the year.

In the NHL, the playoff push begins once the trade deadline ends. Although there is no play-in tournament, finishing within the top four in an eight-team division is ideal. Just to get a glimpse of how heated the competition can be, second through seventh place in the Metropolitan Division are separated by 14 points as of 5 p.m. yesterday. The Stanley Cup Playoffs are fun to watch, but getting there makes watching hockey that much more interesting.

March is when the vernal equinox occurs. In the spirit of spring, baseball fans breathe in a whiff of fresh air and await Opening Day for the MLB. It always energizes baseball fans like me and marks the start of another exciting season. The only times when Opening Day may unofficially occur earlier in the month is if the league does international events such as this year's Seoul Series. Those contests count toward the regular season record.

Spring Training, which takes up the rest of March, also creates some notable buzz. Most of that comes from big-name prospects and marquee acquisitions

producing in either Arizona or Florida. Prospects specifically gain valuable experience against big league veterans in Spring Training that help them get better. Hearing that a top prospect has broken camp and made a Major League roster satisfies me even more.

While March is the most exciting month for sports, October and June are incredible in their own right. Despite the intensity that they bring, however, I feel like there are fewer teams competing for glory during those times.

October has a playoff chase in Major League Soccer culminating in Decision Day while Major League Baseball has their 12-team postseason. These thrilling events, along with three other regular seasons, typically result in most of the sport equinoxes that have occurred in history. June, meanwhile, has two critical championship series, the NBA and Stanley Cup Finals. Every other sport that month, including most spring sports in college, is either not in action or does not have that much on the line.

There is something different about March, however. Intense action and critical games (such as North Carolina vs. Duke) fill every single day in a way that no other month can.

March is named after Mars, the Roman god of War. Regardless of the sport, the third month of the year is nothing short of a thrilling competition that will have fans on the edge of their seats. With how the first seven days have gone, I cannot wait to see what the rest of March has in store.

CLIPART COURTESY OF GREAZILLA

MEN'S HOCKEY: UCONN SET FOR LAST GAME OF REGULAR SEASON AGAINST VERMONT

by Ava Inesta
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The UConn men's hockey team will wrap up their regular season with a mid-week matchup against Vermont. Puck drop is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 7.

The Huskies have not seen Vermont since the beginning of the season, and this will be the third match between the schools. The last time these two teams played each other was in November of this season and it was a weekend series split. That series as a whole saw a combined 12 goals.

"Even when we played them back there in October, I was very impressed with what Steve had done with the program," said head coach Mike Cavanaugh at Wednesday's media availability. "They skate really well, they've got good size, they play hard, [Gabe] Carriere has always been an excellent goaltender. It showed with their progress this year. Made a huge jump in the standings under his leadership. It's going to be a great test for us tomorrow night."

Vermont is entertaining this matchup with a 13-16-3 overall record and 7-12-3 in Hockey East action. They are coming off a split series with No. 9 Maine. The Catamounts took home the win on Friday night and dropped the series finale on Saturday both played at Gutterson Fieldhouse in Burlington, Vermont. This single game against the Huskies on Thursday will not be the last game of the season for the Catamounts as they have one more matchup on their schedule to face off against No. 2 Boston University on Saturday in Massachusetts.



On March 2, 2024, at the Toscano Family Ice Forum, the UConn men's hockey team faced a 4-2 loss against the Northeastern Huskies. The two goals were scored by Samu Salminen and Oliver Flynn. PHOTO BY LUISA MASSASSO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

As for UConn, they are coming off a 1-1 weekend against Northeastern. The Huskies got the win in game one on Friday evening in Boston and dropped game two against Northeastern at home on Saturday. Matthew Wood had one of his best weekends in a UConn uniform last weekend against Northeastern; the sophomore scored a hat trick on Friday night leading the Huskies to a victory over Northeastern. Sophomore Ryan Tattle assisted on all three goals scored by Wood.

The current playoff seedings are up for grabs. The Huskies and the Catamounts are

currently tied for eighth place, so home ice for the first round of Hockey East playoffs is still to be determined. If UConn wins, they will host the opening playoff game.

The Huskies have seen a lot of luck with number two recently. When scoring two goals or fewer against Hockey East opponents, UConn is tied with UMass to lead the conference with five total wins. Despite their struggles to be able to score goals this season, the Huskies are seeing some light in the tunnel that Cavanaugh is a fan of.

"I think it's been frustrating," said Cavanaugh. "But it's one of those things that you can't dwell

on and you can't make it the focal point of your season. You have to understand that you've gotta keep grinding and you've got to keep playing well and creating chances and bear down when you have those chances."

"The one area where I feel better about our team is, in the past few games I feel like we haven't missed the net as much as Grade A opportunities," Cavanaugh said. "I think that was really a recurring theme for us — It's an area that I think we keep focusing on I think goals will come."

Recently, the sophomore class for the Huskies have been putting the pieces together. The

second-year players have been on the rise with Jake Percival and Tattle seeing an uptick in goals, while Tristan Fraser, Tabor Heaslip and Tom Messineo have continued to make their impact on the other side of the ice to set up opportunities for their teammates to score goals.

The Huskies are set to wrap up their regular season slate against the Vermont Catamounts with a single game on Thursday, March 7. Puck drop is set for 7 p.m. at Toscano Family Ice Forum. The game will be available to be streamed on ESPN+ for "Game Show Night" in Storrs, Connecticut.