

UConn Fire Chief on administrative leave



by Gabriel Duffany
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One of the UConn Fire Departments firetrucks, located on Eaglesville Road. The department was founded in 1898, and has served the Storrs community ever since.

FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

University of Connecticut fire chief William Perez has been on paid administrative leave since Friday, Sept. 6. University spokesperson Stephanie Reitz confirmed that the conditions of Perez's absence are not disciplinary in nature but refused to provide further details on the matter.

"UConn does not comment on personnel-related matters," said Reitz, who refrained from divulging more context on the issue.

Unconfirmed reports have observed that Perez's work vehicle has remained on campus subsequent to his departure. In Perez's absence, deputy chief Chris Renshaw has assumed the position of interim fire chief.

"The University of Connecticut Fire Department is made up of many dedicated men and women who love the university and care deeply about the health and safety of ev-

eryone on its campuses," said Renshaw. "It has been that way since the department was founded in 1898, and will always be the case regardless of who is serving in specific leadership roles at any given time."

Perez has served as UConn's fire chief since Sept. 2018, marking the most recent position in his 40-year career as a first responder.

In his role as chief, Perez, "oversees three divisions: fire

operations, fire administration and the fire marshal unit. With this, he is responsible for providing the education to the university in fire, life safety and disaster preparedness, as well as enforcing university safety codes," according to the UConn website.

Perez has received multiple accolades throughout his career, including an induction into the Connecticut Firefighters Hall of Fame in 2023.

In a report from the fall of 1999, the only public disciplinary infraction leveraged against Perez was a one-day suspension from his position as an East Hartford medical officer for holding a knife to a colleague's neck twice in an incident he described as horseplay.

It is not currently known when Perez will return to the department in his full capacities as fire chief.

UConn Family Weekend: A celebration of community, food, and Husky spirit

by Keira Conrad
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The University of Connecticut's annual Family Weekend was held this year from Sept. 13 to Sept. 15. Throughout the weekend, many events and food options were offered to students and their families in hopes of bringing them together and celebrating Husky pride.

Activities and Events

One of the various activities that UConn had to offer this weekend was the comedy show hosted by Saturday Night Live star Colin Hanks, along with two openers. This sold-out show was held in the Jorgensen Center for Performing Arts on Saturday night.

According to first-semester student Hudson Glassberg, the show exceeded expectations.

"Typically, I am not a huge fan of any comedians, but I most definitely am now," said Glassberg. "Each of the three comedians had completely different entertainment styles and pulled them off brilliantly."

Remaining on the perfor-



First year UConn students perform the Husky chant with Jonathan XV.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SYDNEY HERDLER, PHOTOGRAPHER/UCONN PHOTO

mance arts note, UConn's choir groups put on a show in the von der Mehden Recital Hall. A member of the Glee Club, Dinyar Unvala, said he enjoyed his experience.

"We all sang the Alma Mater school song at the end," he said. "Glee Club opened the concert with a song called St. Nicholas, where some of us stood at the back of the audience and started singing while the female choir

(UConnabile) sang onstage at the risers. It was an energetic start to the show."

Unvala added, "everyone had a lot of fun and the audience was spellbound by the sheer talent and power that erupted from the stage."

Another entertainment event that drew in a large crowd was magician Hayden Childress, who performed at the Union Theatre on Saturday afternoon.

First-semester student Lauren Reibeling attended this event with her family.

"I love watching magic tricks and it was super cool to see the ones the magician performed," she said. "He brought on student volunteers too, which made it even more exciting and hilarious to watch."

Students and families also filled the bleachers for the women's volleyball games, where the

Huskies defeated both Albany and Dartmouth.

Food Festivities

On Saturday, the Student Union lawn held an all-you-can-eat barbecue, which earned great reviews from food lovers. The menu consisted of a variety of southern barbecue options from pulled pork to baked mac and cheese.

Ashley Rysz, a first-semester student, went with her family and said she had a positive experience with the food and social scene.

"The weather was perfect for an outdoor barbecue," she said. "My family and I had the opportunity to eat a delicious meal together, and the casual atmosphere made it easy to connect with other families who were there. It was a blast, and everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves."

Many students mentioned ending their weekend with a trip to the UConn Dairy Bar, and that the weekend's offerings provided the perfect setting for everyone to come together and kick off the fall semester.

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The Vision: UConn's Black Arts and Wellness Journal seeks submissions

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The Vision, a Black arts and wellness journal produced by the African American Cultural Center at the University of Connecticut, has announced that submissions for its latest issue are now open. The journal, which focuses on highlighting

the work of Black- and Brown-identifying individuals, invites contributions from across the UConn community and the broader Connecticut area.

According to the press release, the AACC emphasized that the journal provides “a great opportunity for individuals to receive the first opportunity to publish their art” and that “all Black- and/or Brown-identifying individuals will be given publication

priority.”

The Vision aims to support the creative expression and wellness of marginalized communities through art, literature and other forms of media according to the press release.

The reopening of submissions for The Vision offers a platform for Black and Brown artists, writers, and creators to share their work with a wider audience. With the support of the

UConn Writing Center and the African American Cultural Center, contributors are encouraged to submit their work and participate in this initiative.

The journal is open to submissions from the entire UConn community, including students, faculty and staff from regional campuses, as well as individuals outside of UConn, including Connecticut high school students and staff. The AACC encourages submissions from these groups, noting that this is a unique opportunity for diverse voices to be heard.

Although the journal prioritizes Black and Brown-identifying individuals, submissions are open to all. Flyers with information about the submission process are being circulated within the UConn community and local Connecticut communities. The AACC asks that these flyers be distributed widely to ensure that

all potential contributors are aware of the opportunity.

The AACC has also partnered with the UConn Writing Center at the Storrs campus to provide additional support for potential contributors. The Writing Center will assist with processing submissions and offers space for students to workshop their ideas. According to the press release the partnership makes it easier for contributors, particularly students, to refine their submissions before sending them in.

In the press release, the AACC highlighted the Writing Center's expanded role, noting that it has “made submissions to The Vision available to a broader community of individuals, notably high school students and students from UConn's regional campuses and organizations.”

Students interested in utilizing the Writing Center's resources can create an account and book an appointment through the UConn Writing Center's portal.

Contributors can submit their work through the provided submission portal.

Submissions are open until Dec. 17 and the AACC encourages individuals to take advantage of the opportunity to showcase their work in a journal dedicated to Black arts and wellness.

For additional information, individuals can contact Alexis Greene, the editor-in-chief of The Vision, at alexis.greene@uconn.edu. Questions regarding the submission process or the journal itself can be directed to this email.



The African American Cultural Center, located at the Student Union

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC WANG, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Rang De Storrs coming to UConn in February



Dancers perform Garba-Raas in a local competition.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @RANGDESTORRS ON INSTAGRAM

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Coming next February, the University of Connecticut will be hosting its first Rang De Storrs Garba-Raas competition.

Garba-Raas is a high-energy, traditional Indian dance style, originating in Gujarat, India. Colleges across the nation will be traveling to UConn to compete in this competition and bring their own interpretation of the storytelling, choreography and music, according to the Rang De Storrs directors.

The idea came to be from UConn's own Raas team after traveling around the country for competitions last year.

“We were inspired by the vibrant energy and cultural pride at each event and knew we wanted to bring that same experience to New England and the UConn community,” said Sidharth Masarur, a sixth-semester student.

The competition directors for Rang De Storrs are Pardhip Nair, Sidharth Masarur, Samveda Menon and Shravani Daptardar. The group met in their freshman year and decided that “hosting a competition to bring an element of our culture to the greater UConn and New England commu-

nity would be the perfect way to complement our love for dance,” according to Menon, a sixth-semester student.

Currently, their board has 34 members helping with the planning and logistics for the event.

“We initially faced struggles figuring out how to get started as a new competition, but we were able to find the proper guidance and right resources to start finding successful methods towards building more sustainability,” said Daptardar, a sixth-semester student.

The team said it is still looking for student volunteers to help run the event. Next month, emcee positions will open. In November, applications for team liaisons will be available. Additionally, volunteer positions for the actual event will be available starting in January, all in time for the event to be held on Feb. 8, 2025.

This event will be a place of cultural pride, in which all students are welcome to observe and come together to celebrate South Asian culture through the excitement of Raas-Garba, said the directorial team.

For more information on the event and possible positions available, follow them on Instagram @rangdestorrs.

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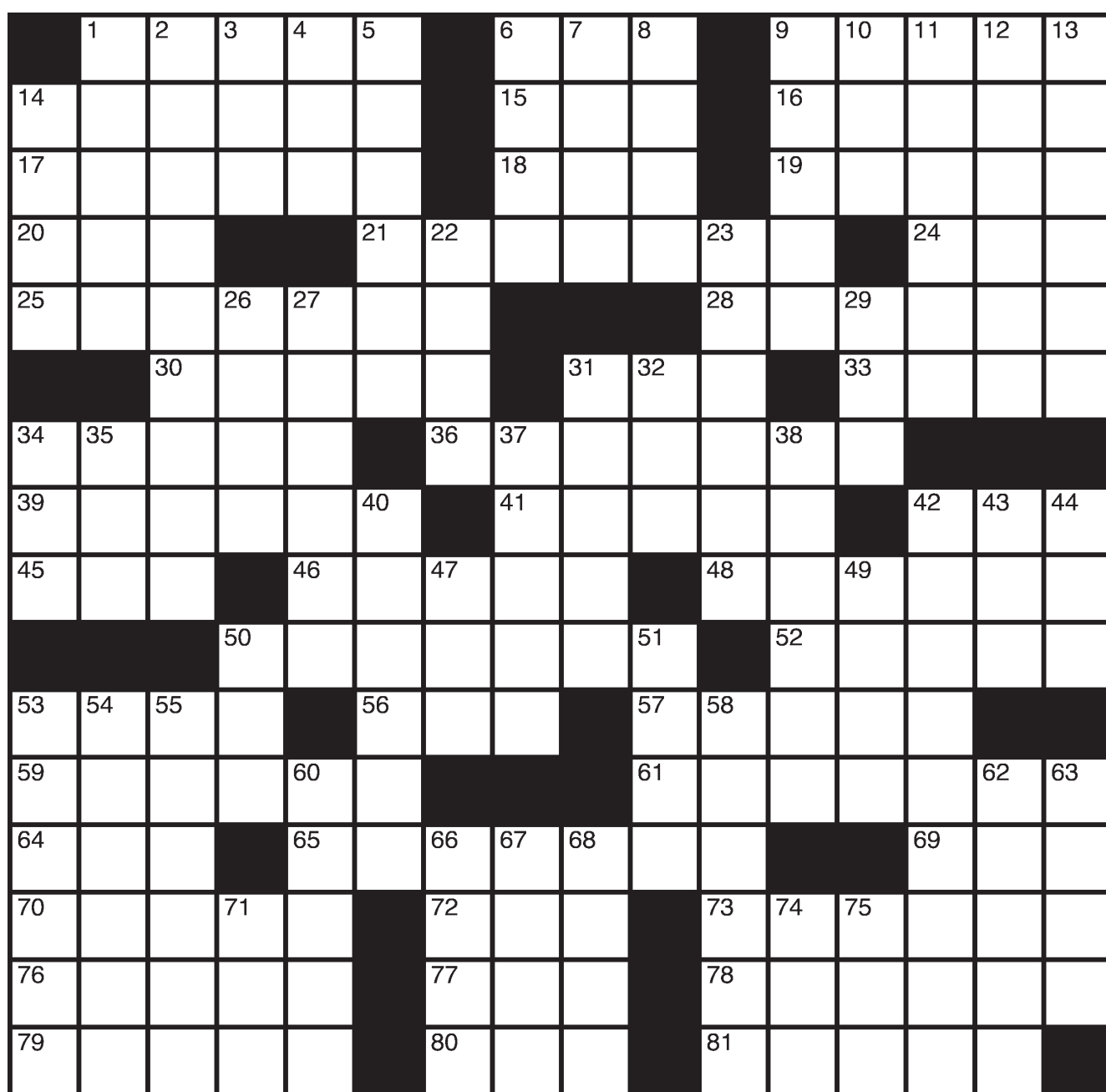
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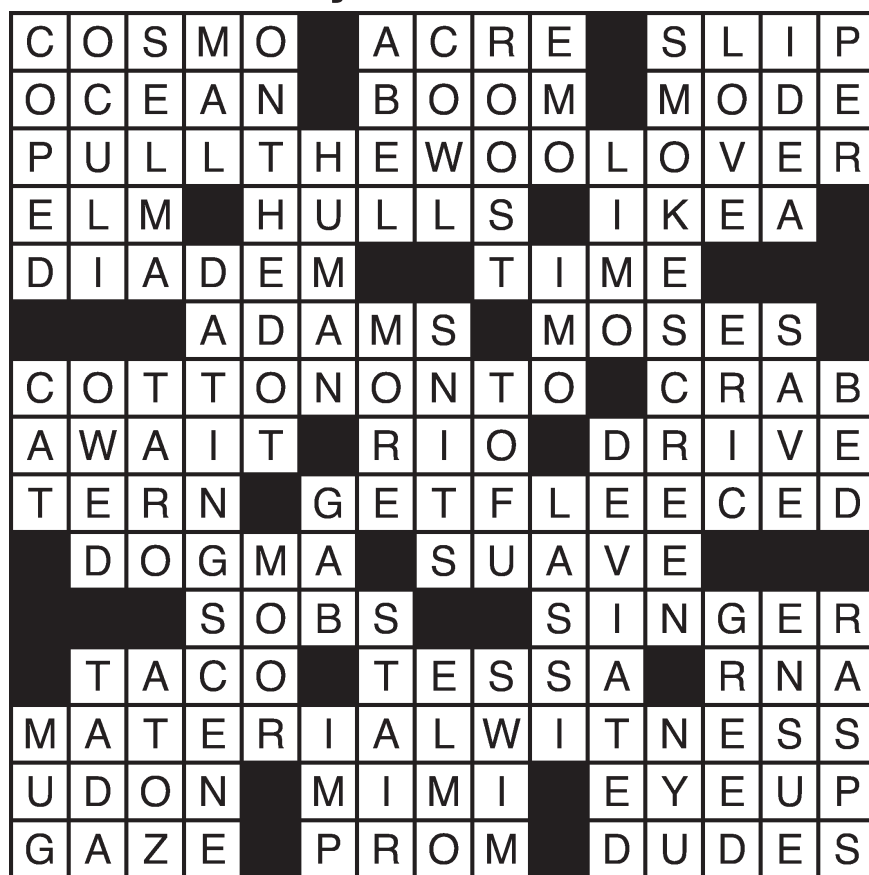
By Will Pfenhauer

9/20/24

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Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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The activist group advocating against sexual assault at UConn

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**

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Note: Content warning for mentions of sexual assault and harassment.

Revolution Against Rape, often shortened to RAR, is an activist organization centered around combating sexual assault and rape culture at the University of Connecticut through advocacy and activism.

The first RAR meeting of the semester was a slideshow detailing what the organization is about, what activities they do and ideas for events RAR could host. The meeting had free donuts, t-shirts and tiny dinosaurs to be less daunting since the serious subject matter of the organization can be rightfully distressing.

Grian Wizner, a seventh-semester secondary English education major and president of RAR, gave a land and labor acknowledgment before progressing with the presentation.

Attendees were asked to introduce themselves with their names, pronouns, majors and minors and what they're most excited about in the fall.

Julia Stout, a seventh-semester human rights and political science major, introduced what RAR is, emphasizing the importance of educating oneself and the community at large through "awareness projects, discussions, community outreach and public events."

RAR is an organization that is specific to UConn and was founded in 2012 according to Wizner. It is a completely confidential safe space to disclose information that will not leave the room. It's for students, by students.

RAR has advocated for survivors in legislation, such as with the UConn board of

trustees in speeches they gave at their meetings.

"We fight for you so that you don't have to be alone," Wizner said. RAR also manages rallies as highlighted by the poster board the organization made representing RAR and is working with the Women's Center for a better sexual assault education program for first-year students, as some tend to skip through the current program and not learn anything.

The third and final main item that RAR hosts is fundraisers and crafts. Wizner floated the idea of a cupcake fundraiser with words written on the cupcakes about consent.

After a five-minute break, Wizner asked the attendees what they would like to see moving forward as Kyle Latella, a seventh-semester communications major, wrote the responses down.

"We want ideas of what people want," Wizner said. Watercolor, air dry clay, scrapbooking, a potential archery trip, friendship bracelet making, creative writing, slam poetry, pumpkin painting and writing letters to UConn President Radenka Maric were some ideas that were passed around.

The e-board then asked the attendees what concerns they have on campus. UConn police officers not knowing how to address sexual assaults in a non-intrusive manner is one of them. Graffiti advocating for sexual assault and catcalling on campus were others.

Stout said she wants to print pamphlets for RAR to use, saying that "if you have something physically with you, it helps" to remember the available resources and use them. The RAR Instagram has a Linktree with resources as well. Wizner, who has an integral role in the Rainbow Center's Fostering Academ-



UConn student volunteers posing for a photo at the Involvement Fair. Revolution Against Rape is a volunteer organization at UConn. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNRAR ON INSTAGRAM

ics, Maturity, Independence, Leadership, Empowerment and Excellence (FAMILLEE) mentoring program, offered to show the attendees the list of resources compiled for the mentees of that program.

The presentation ended with an Angela Davis quote, "I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept."

After the general body meeting, the attendees and e-board members chatted with one another.

"RAR is an incredibly important organization," said Stout. "It's sad that it has to exist, but we feel very strongly about combating sexual assault. More than anything, we want to support victim-survivors. We want to make UConn a safe place for everyone."

Despite how daunting tackling subjects such as sexual assault and rape culture are, advocating against it and finding people who actively want to change the injustices into justice and prevent sexual assaults from happening again

can be welcoming. Although it can be lonely being a survivor of sexual assault, you don't have to be alone in the struggle. There are other people who have gone through similar experiences and can relate to your experiences. If people don't talk about these experiences, how are we supposed to learn and prevent things like this from happening again?

Revolution Against Rape meets every other Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Rainbow Center program room.

Puppet Arts students to perform in UConn Puppet Slam and Ballard Museum hosts discussion forum

by **Patrick Boots**

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Students in the University of Connecticut's puppet arts program will be performing short-form acts of puppetry for adults as part of the quarterly UConn Puppet Slam on Friday, Sept. 20 at the Harriet Jorgensen Theater. As a promotion for the event, the Ballard Museum hosted a panel discussing the history of puppet slams and the evolution of the art form for the 21st century.

The featured panelists included professor John Bell, director of the Ballard Museum, Brenna Ross, theatrical producer of the Puppet Slam Network and Heather Henson, daughter of the late visionary Jim Henson and a contemporary puppeteer in her own right. Henson also co-founded the nonprofit Green Feather Foundation, co-sponsor of the evening's forum in partnership with the Puppet Slam Network, which helps provide support to groups hosting these avant-garde performance events where performers and puppeteers bring five-to-10-minute short form puppet acts to life.

"We're trying to showcase

where puppetry was, where we are now, and what it could become in the future," said Bell.

The puppet arts program at UConn has been hosting its puppet slam every semester for over 15 years. This fall's slam will include performances from current UConn puppet arts students and alumni, including some who have worked in a variety of film, television and stage productions as puppeteers. Admission to the event will be free as part of a grant made possible by the Puppet Slam Network.

"I really want to see what you guys can do," said Henson when speaking with UConn puppet arts students. "You're the next generation."

Puppet slams are the name for these evenings born out of elements from vaudeville theater, cabarets and the fringe performance scene. Many include live music, dance groups or other artistry — the name is a nod to poetry slams, originating from a similar movement. A timeline of prior puppet slams was presented at the forum, highlighting examples in Providence, Phoenix, New York and at Connecticut's own Eugene O'Neill Theater, which hosts



Students of the Uconn Puppetry major pose for a photo in front of the Puppet Arts Complex. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNPUPPETARTS ON INSTAGRAM

the National Puppetry Conference annually.

The discussion was hosted in the Ballard Museum's black box theater, filled with UConn puppet arts students and enthusiasts. The audience posed questions about the types of short-form acts usually seen at puppet slams, best practices and differences between puppet slams in different regions and abroad. Performances also make use of different scales of puppetry, owing to the question: "What can or can't be a puppet?" Past UConn puppet slams have included tables and

chairs, eggs, string and guitars all manipulated as puppets.

"There are innately human elements in puppetry," said Gail Bennett and Marie Sawyer, both third-semester puppet arts majors. "Visiting a puppet slam like ours can help expose people to it all."

Students also took the opportunity to discuss their upcoming puppet showcase at the Celebrate Mansfield Festival on Saturday, Sept. 28, which tells the stories of different types of birds making use of large and small puppets, masks and walkaround costumes.

The Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry is an extensive museum located in Downtown Storrs-Mansfield, showcasing exhibitions, performances and forums related to puppetry and theater. UConn is one of few colleges to offer puppetry programs and is the only school in the country to offer a master's degree in the field.

For more information about the Ballard Museum, visit bimp.uconn.edu. To learn more about the Puppet Slam Network, go to puppetslam.com and facebook.com/uconnpuppetslam.

‘Healthy Huskies:’ National Recovery Month with the URC



CARTOON BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Abigail Bonilla**
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September is recognized as National Recovery Month, a month to celebrate those in recovery from substance addiction. It is also a time to honor the lives we have lost to the disease of addiction. National Recovery Month is an important time to bring awareness to issues of addiction, and nobody on the University of Connecticut’s campus understands this message better than the UConn Recovery Community (URC).

For over 11 years, the URC has been providing essential services and support to the student body. Located at the Cordial Storrs House, the recovery community aims to guide students through the difficult process of starting their own recovery from addiction or other mental health issues. As a peer-based support program, the URC offers a variety of different meetings to student members throughout the week, in order to help students find out what works best for them and their recovery.

First walking into the Cordial Storrs House, you are immediately met with an inviting and friendly energy. This welcoming environment would

not have been possible without the hard work of the staff at the URC, who are the first contacts for new students starting their recovery journey. Matt Gallup has been the director of the URC for a year and a half, and his passion for the job at hand is evident.

“The URC believes that you are in recovery when you say you’re in recovery, and that there are multiple pathways to get there,” said Gallup. “We provide educational training aimed primarily at reducing shame and stigma that continues to be coupled with substance misuse. The URC continues to put their best asset forward to lead, facilitate and provide support and resources.”

He continued, saying, “students support students, as well as share their experience, strength and hope with one another to build connections. They let others know they are not alone in where they have been and where they are going.”

Gallup also took time to remark on the activities being offered at the Cordial Storrs House this September.

“We have a ribbon activity currently going on at the house, where students can display different ribbons representing their loved ones,” he said.

“There are three ribbons, one to celebrate someone in recovery, one for an intention of hope for loved ones to find recovery, and one representing someone who lost their battle to addiction. We are also planning to represent UConn at the CCAR Recovery Walk on Saturday, Sept. 28 at Bushnell Park in Hartford.”

The graduate students at the URC are another key element in the community. Leah Nelson and Alexandria Crawford are both graduate students at UConn and provide one-on-one recovery coaching to the students of the URC. Nelson said, “I love supporting students who are early in their recovery journeys. I was once in their shoes but didn’t have a place like the URC; I wish I did! It’s gratifying to see so many students coming together to support each other wherever they are in their journey.”

When asked about her favorite part of the job, Crawford said it is “the fun we have together. Whether we’re going to sports games, having dinner as a group, or having a dance party in the house — it’s always such a fun time. The house is often filled with laughter, and I think for students who are at times struggling with a lot of heavy stuff, that’s so important.”

However, the power of the community does not just extend to the staff of the URC. Countless students have been helped along their journey by the community created in the group. One student who wished to remain anonymous shared a piece of their inspiring story.

“I have been a member at the URC for four semesters, and I am currently in my fifth semester with the community,” the student said. “The URC really helped me with the transition from high school to college. I have autism and change can be difficult for me. My depression was pretty bad freshman year, and I continued to struggle with it. The graduate assistants and staff at the URC made me feel less alone and helped me find coping strategies to keep me on track. Just having the URC to rely on and find comfort in really helped me through that situation.”

When asked about their favorite part of the community, the student replied, “the URC is just a great community and environment. It’s full of people with positive vibes and energy, who are so helpful and want nothing but the best for you. If I could tell people one thing about the URC, it’s that we’ve got your back. We’ll support you and you’re not alone — no matter what your struggles may be.”



CARTOON BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Volunteers for Student Health and Wellness posing for a photo on Sept. 12, 2024. The UConn recovery Community hosted a table at the annual Student Health and Wellness fair in Storrs.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNSTUDENTHEALTHANDWELLNESS ON FACEBOOK



Life

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Agatha All Along: The spellbinding sequel to a Marvel favorite

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If you were anywhere near a screen in early 2021, you were probably aware of the hold Marvel's "WandaVision" had on the internet. Wanda and Vision's superpowered sitcom suburbia took the world by storm, inspiring countless Marvel movie binges and themed Halloween costumes. Fans especially loved the show's anti-hero and survivor of the Salem witch trials, Agatha Harkness. This week, Kathryn Hahn reprises her role as the devious witch in the spinoff series, "Agatha All Along." The show's two-episode debut hit Disney+ on Wednesday night and immediately put fans under its spell.

Harkness' story picks up inside a parody of HBO's crime drama "Mare of Easttown," where our leading witch spends the days as a sardonic, violence-prone detective. She is still without powers, another reminder that we are in the same town "WandaVision" took place in only three years prior. The "Mare of Easttown" imitation ends within the first episode, which is a relief.

Hahn's typical fiery acting is nowhere to be seen in the small-town police department.

Hahn's lines are delivered in a forced and overly scripted manner, causing the scenes between her and costar Aubrey Plaza's mysterious FBI agent, Rio Vidal to often fall flat. The clever and mysterious energy from the show's predecessor is almost there, but audiences are left wanting more from their beloved and infamous witch.

The action picks up in episode two, possibly explaining why the decision was made to premiere with two of the nine total episodes expected in the season. Harkness takes the hunt for her powers on the road with a coven including "Heartstopper" star Joe Locke, who plays an amateur witch and a big fan of Harkness'.

Harkness' coven is made up of a crew of household names, including Patti LuPone, Sasheer Zamata and Ali Ahn. Avoiding as many spoilers as possible, the coven of beloved actresses find themselves in a Nancy Meyers-reminiscent world turned house of horrors, filled with wine, musical numbers, sinkholes and narrowly-escaping handbags. Both Hahn's and Plaza's characters get plenty of screen time with renewed chemistry to make up for what was lacking in episode one. After a series of

what many fans would say has been an underwhelming run of releases from Marvel Studios, "Agatha All Along" has the potential to be both what the fans need to stay invested and what the studio needs to stay relevant in the cinemas and on streaming platforms.

Something that new fans will appreciate is that this series doesn't require extensive knowledge of the Marvel cinematic universe. Unlike other recent releases, such as "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" and "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania," this series is enjoyable with little to no background knowledge of the inner weavings of Marvel characters and plotlines.

Phrases like "the dark hold" and "the witches road" are used, but can be figured out through context clues or a quick search on Google. This series is a perfect mix of mystery that keeps you on your toes and a relaxing watch that doesn't make you think too hard.

Episodes one and two are available on Disney+ now, and new episodes are released every Wednesday night at 9 p.m. until Oct. 30. Be warned: It starts slow, but if you're a fan of anything witchy you'll be enchanted soon enough!

Rating: 3/5



On Aug 10, Disney+ revealed a new poster. Now streaming: Agatha All Along on Disney+ starring Kathryn Hahn.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @DISNEY+ ON INSTAGRAM

'Survivor 47' Premiere: A new season of high stakes, surprises and survival

by **Molly Daigle**
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On Sept. 18, the two-hour premiere of "Survivor 47" aired on CBS. The popular reality show featured 16 new castaways who were marooned in the beautiful islands of Fiji and forced to forge connections, think strategically and put their survival skills to the test. Only those who can outwit, outplay and outlast the competition make it to the end of the game, where they plead their case as to why they deserve to claim the \$1 million-dollar prize and the highly coveted title of sole survivor.

The premiere's opening scene featured host Jeff Probst welcoming the new band of excited castaways as they arrived, preparing for the 26-day adventure of a lifetime. The players were divided into three tribes. Donning blue was the Tuku tribe, red was the Lavo tribe and yellow was the Gata tribe.

They immediately moved into the opening challenge — an intense, muddy race through the jungle to collect giant puzzle pieces, leading to a final puzzle. The sprint was neck-and-neck at the beginning, but the Gata tribe began to fall behind.

However, Gata tribe castaways never counted themselves out and eventually pulled out the win at the last-minute, after rapidly solving the puzzle. In turn, they won basic camp supplies: a pot, machete and flint.

After the challenge, the losing tribes, Tuku and Lavo, were presented with a new twist compared to the new era's traditionally used "sweat versus savvy" tasks to earn their basic camp supplies. Probst gave players a difficult decision: choose one tribe member to face a mystery challenge for a chance to earn their own tribe's supplies. The Tuku tribe's TK Foster, an athlete marketing manager from Washington, D.C., and the Lavo tribe's Aysha Welch, an IT consultant from Houston, Texas, were chosen for the task and immediately got on a boat to make the journey to another island.

Upon their arrival on the island, they were presented with their challenge. They had to use photo clues to find keys along separate paths. However, only one could claim the win and return a hero to their tribe with the highly coveted camp supplies. The castaways raced through the dense jungle and

into the ocean to retrieve their keys, with the race for the final key coming down to mere seconds.

Back at each tribe's camp, conversations flourished, alliances formed and the search for idols commenced. On the Tuku tribe, Gabe Ortis, a radio host from Baltimore, MA, found a "Beware Advantage" — an advantage that offers great power, but doesn't come without its risks. If a player decides to accept the risk, they must complete a task to earn an advantage. However, until then, they lose their vote at tribal council. In a game where the numbers are key to survival, every vote is extremely valuable.

Ortis ultimately accepted the risk, digging up a mystery box where he was instructed to find a key to unlock it. Upon finding the key and unlocking the box, he realized the task didn't end there. He found a hidden immunity idol — an advantage that can grant a player safety should they feel unsafe at tribal council, though this idol was only valid for the first round. To extend its power, he was tasked with finding yet another key and faced the difficult decision of whether to

risk it all once again.

The search continued for the other tribes as Rome Cooney, an esports commentator from Phoenix, Ariz, found the Lavo tribe's "Beware Advantage." He ended up having to fish out his key from the bottom of his tribe's well, risking getting caught and putting a target on his back.

The immunity challenge presented players with the first opportunity to fight for the most sought-after reward in the game: immunity. Castaways competed in a difficult multi-stage obstacle course both in the water and onshore. Two tribes even ended up completely flipping their boats over during their efforts to lug heavy puzzle-piece-filled chests to shore.

The season premiere of "Survivor 47" showcased an epic start to a new game that will feature new alliances and betrayals, leading fans on an exciting adventure. One castaway has already let the paranoia get to him, putting his life in the game on the line, so stay tuned for what's in store.

"Survivor 47" airs on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on CBS and is available to stream on Paramount+.



TK FOSTER IN AN INTERVIEW FOR SURVIVOR SEASON 47. TK FOSTER IS A PARTICIPANT FOR THE FAMOUS REALITY TV SHOW. PHOTO COURTESY OF @SURVIVORCBS ON INSTAGRAM



Opinion

The Daily Campus

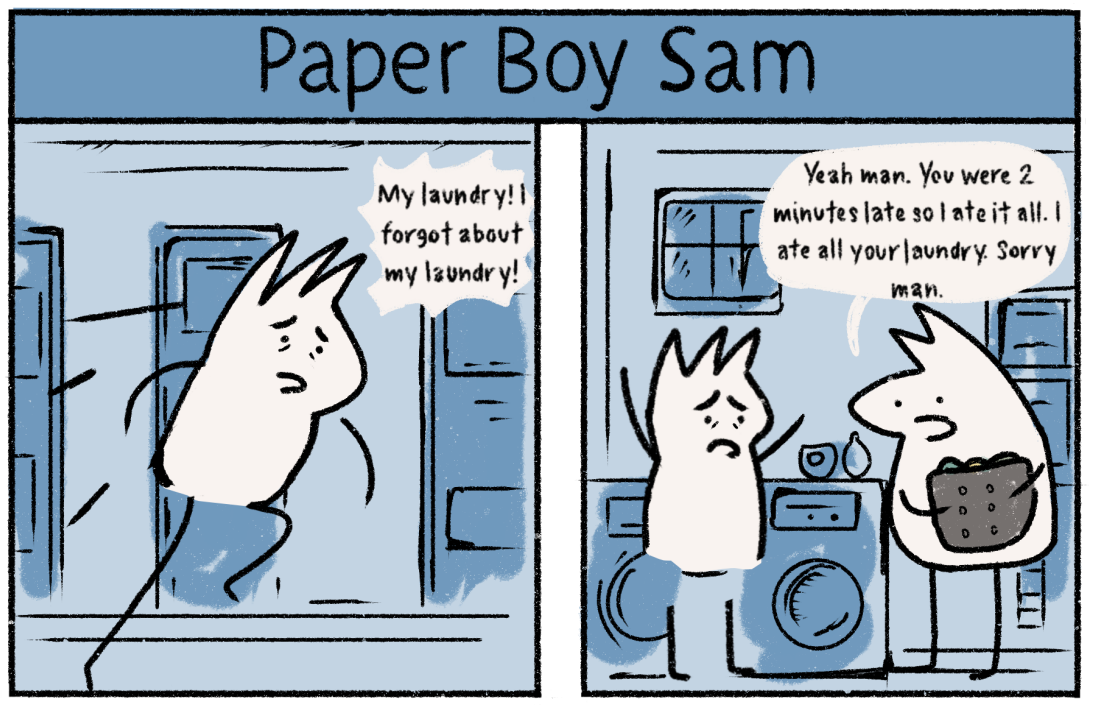
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COMIC BY JASON J SAMPSON, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

From Headphones to Heartbeats: How my first concert transformed my love for music

by **Thaomy Phung** | SHE/HER/HERS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | thaomy.phung@uconn.edu

I, an avid listener of all things jazz, pop, rock, indie - you name it - went to my first-ever concert this summer: Lizzy McAlpine's "Older" Tour at the MGM Music Hall at Fenway Park in Boston. One of the most important things that I took away from that incredibly magical night was that live music is a life-altering experience that no individual should miss. I learned that although listening to music in-person may be the main propulsion to go to a concert, there is much more to experience than just the songs alone.

When it came to getting in line for general admission, I saw the wide array of not-so-varied white skirts. It may have seemed like a cult, but it weirdly felt like family to me. I began to understand how music united people from around the world. Typically, waiting in lines is mundane and feels like watching paint dry, but there was never a dull moment. Silence was a foreign language, and the crowd was buzzing with excitement, a common language. There was talk of cute outfits, surprise

songs and all things Lizzy McAlpine. The concert line was a place to meet others with similar interests, where strangers became friends, bonded by shared playlists and favorite lyrics. Conversations flowed effortlessly like the concert had been a 10-year reunion. It seemed as if every person carried the same sense of nerve and anticipation, ready for the family that had formed in line.

When the doors finally opened, the adrenaline became an epidemic. It was a race as my friend and I sped to the front, hand in hand. When we got there, we had instantly made new friends who were equally as ecstatic as we were. We spent the next hour and a half talking about our lives and playing "Heads Up!," taking pictures and laughing with each other, creating a bond that was cul-

tivated by music and maintained by camaraderie. I'd like to call it a "forever" bond. The people we met may live two hours away, but a quick weekly dive into my camera roll, reliving that night, makes it feel like the distance is much less than 100 miles. Still, after three months without seeing each other, we talk occasionally, hoping we find each other at the

place for her. McAlpine had commented previously that touring had been "taxing on [her] mental and physical health," which explained the minimalistic set-up. Although many other famous artists are branded by their extravagant and energystimulating concerts, McAlpine's was very subtle, yet authentic and genuine, while still invoking a special type of feeling amongst her fans.

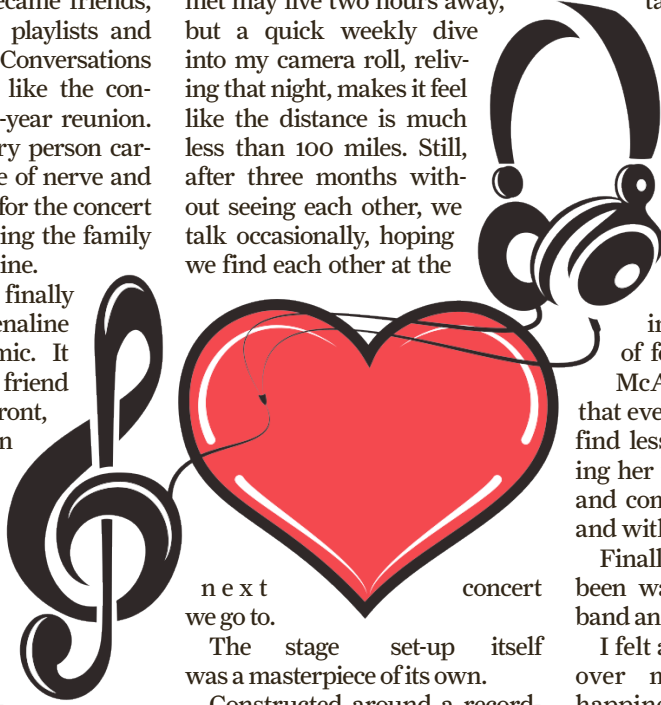
McAlpine created a space that everyone in the room would find less anxiety-inducing, helping her fans feel more connected and comfortable with her music and with each other.

Finally, what everyone had been waiting for: the artist, the band and the music.

I felt a rush of emotions come over me: an overwhelming happiness. I'm here, present, with thousands of other people who came for the same reason. Without this concert, I would

never have known that there were so many other people who were just as enthralled as I was. Listening to my favorite artist not just in my headphones but in person, erupted a feeling through our veins we never could have expected. En-trenched in awe and happiness, we lived in the moment, basking in a pool of surrealness. As we collectively swayed and sang along to the performer onstage, the thousands of voices became one community.

My passion for all things music was shared with everyone around me. It was a festival of happy tears, people dancing arms-linked and forever friendships forming. I knew then that my heart had been forever touched by the reverberations of the crowd's feet bouncing against the floor and the unity in screaming together. My first concert was an experience I needed to share with the world - one that every person should experience.



next concert we go to.

The stage set-up itself was a masterpiece of its own.

Constructed around a recording studio-like ambiance, I assumed that she centered the coziness of the stage to act as a safe

CLIPART COURTESY OF VECTOR PORTAL

Unique to Uniforms: Fashion and style has gotten lazy

by **Hayden Cromer**

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Clothes are such an integral part of our society. They keep you warm, they give you confidence and most importantly, having them on keeps you out of jail. But over the last few years, I have come to notice that everybody looks the same: from their shoes to their pants, shirt, jacket and even down to the little tote bag slung around their shoulder. I see this because I looked in the mirror one day and that's exactly what I was wearing: same everything, even down to the little tote bag slung around my shoulder.

With my observations, I've seen the rise of a "uniform," something so common because it is so popular, widely socially acceptable, easy or all three. That's why you have seen things like UGG boots become synonymous with colder weather and align with the fall aesthetic, alongside North Face fleeces and whatever seasonal latte your local coffee shop is offering. That's a uniform. Obviously, it all depends on the social context. Of course, we're all going to wear sweats in the gym and not a fancy suit, because that just doesn't make any sense. But when I'm on campus I see the same thing all the time: jersey, baggy pants and shoes that barely go past your ankle. In fact, I'm wearing that right now as I type this. It's

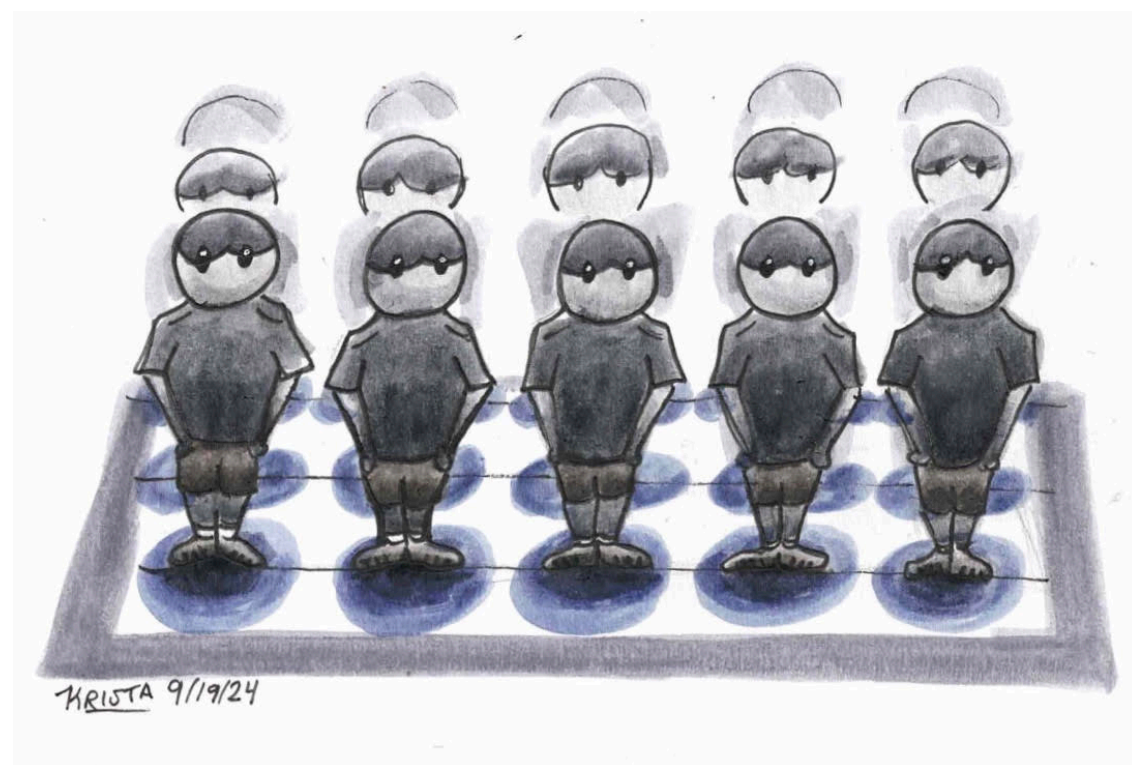


ILLUSTRATION BY KRISTA MITCHELL, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

easy and I know that I'll be perceived in a positive light.

That's where I believe a lot of the lack of customization in people's closets stems from: the fear of not being liked. Instead of wearing something you personally deem interesting, you choose to put on your uniform and fall in line. Obviously, we dress for the sake of being perceived positively, and I do understand that sometimes you just want to throw something on that you know works. I get that. I've been there. But the soul and

self-expression are lost when it comes from a place of constant need for approval. I personally believe that the constant desire for public approval rips the heart out of art and creativity, and you can see that through what a lot of brands put out today.

Consumers are chasing this idea of "vintage." There are "vintage" shirts everywhere now. Who was sitting on thousands and thousands of shirts from the '90s? You could get a "vintage" shirt of damn near anything now. Why do you

have a vintage Franz Wagner shirt on? He's 23-years-old. He is nowhere close to vintage. Also, why him out of everybody? But I digress. Brands everywhere have been trying to, and are successfully, profiting off of this lost and misconstrued idea of "vintage," which leaves no room for new ideas.

I'd also like to blame social media and influencers for this lull in creativity as well. There was a point in time where blank tees with either ironic or shocking statements screen-printed

on than were popular. I can understand hopping on trends — that's why they're trends — but I feel like seeing people wearing blank shirts with the text saying "I LOVE DRUNK DRIVING" or something like that, is a very obvious tell that people are lazy. It's not even a new idea as t-shirts with ironic and shocking text is very 2000s/'10s.

This idea of the uniform and a quest for approval leaves a void for my generation's defining "style." I do think you could argue that the ambiguity is a positive thing, as everyone isn't defined to one style. But chasing the illustrious idea of "vintage" and falling in-line with our uniforms leaves us unoriginal. Funny enough, I do think we are revisiting every major era of clothing trends. Right now, we're in the '00s, so I think eventually we'll find something to call our own soon enough.

But with that being said, no matter how hard you try, there will always be an international student on campus outdressing you. So why not dress for yourself rather than the perception of others? Wear that nerdy graphic tee, that jersey, those pants you're too scared to put on or that blank tee with screen-printed words on it if you want. Throw on that UConn dining services shirt if you got one. Who cares? Wear what you want, but don't fall in line. Wear it for you.

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Fresh cut flowers



Coming to the end of summer, the farmers market along Fairfield Way continues to sell fresh flowers to students on Sept. 19. This upcoming Sunday will mark the first day of fall of 2024. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

comics



COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY COLBI LORANGER, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

comics

THE MLB PLAYOFF PICTURE WITH 2 WEEKS LEFT IN THE SEASON

by **Ava Inesta**
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With about ten games left in the MLB's regular season, the playoff picture is slowly starting to come together. Twelve teams will be included due to the recent expansion, six teams from both the American League and the National League.

The Milwaukee Brewers were the first team to clinch a berth in the postseason, followed by the New York Yankees. Milwaukee clinched the NL Central, while New York leads the AL East. The Bronx Bombers have been in a battle with the Baltimore Orioles for the top spot in their division all season. Both of those teams, along with the Cleveland Guardians, are still fighting for who will end with the best overall record in the American League.

As in who can be the next team to clinch, the Los Angeles Dodgers, Philadelphia Phillies, Orioles and Guardians all have at least a 99% chance of reaching the postseason, according to FanGraphs. The Houston Astros, Kansas City Royals and San Diego Padres are all above 90%. Teams like the Arizona Diamondbacks, Minnesota Twins and New York Mets have the postseason in their sights, but their chances aren't as high as the others.

A lot of teams will be battling for a playoff position until the final weekend of the season. Though most of the division leads are comfortable, the Wild Card race in both leagues is a whole different story.

"We're definitely competing to clinch, and it's going to come down to one play, one pitch. And that's what the playoffs is

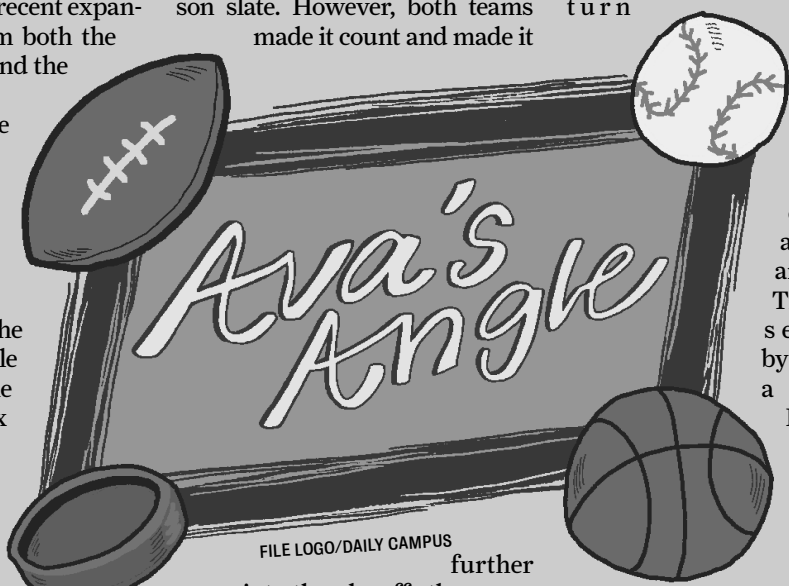
about," said Mets infielder Jose Iglesias on Monday.

Last year's World Series featured two Wild Card teams. Neither the Texas Rangers nor the Diamondbacks clinched a postseason berth until the penultimate day of the regular season slate. However, both teams made it count and made it

both teams, as the Wild Card race is just that close. The Diamondbacks and the Padres are the two other teams that are in this Wild Card battle, and this fight won't be decided until the very last games of the regular season, unless there is a major turn

of events. The same scenario is happening over in the American League as the Twins and Detroit Tigers are separated by just half a game. The Royals are in the lead by 1.5

tant tiebreaker advantage if the two teams were to end the regular season with the same record. That could come into play for either a division or a Wild Card spot in the playoffs. There's a lot to think about and keep track of as these standings change every single day. But it will all end in a little over a week as October is just around the corner. The playoff field is shaping up and now we are just awaiting the potential tiebreakers and clinch scenarios for each team in the races.



FILE LOGO/DAILY CAMPUS

further into the playoffs than anyone would have imagined, resulting in the Rangers being crowned champions.

Sometimes this race comes down to the tiebreaker as one game could send a team to the Wild Card Series and the other home. This season series between the Mets and Atlanta Braves is tied. What makes this interesting is that the Mets will travel down to Atlanta to play three games at Truist Park from Sept. 24-26. That series has the potential to decide the postseason fates of

games, and the Tigers have an impor-



Brewers players celebrating after defeating the Phillies. The Brewers are now 88-65 on the season. PHOTO COURTESY OF @BREWEERS ON X

by **Colette Doyle**
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The Huskies have extended their historic winning streak to 10-0 with their win against the University of New Hampshire in Durham, N.H. The Huskies have already surpassed the number of wins from last season, where they ended with an 8-22 record. The team continued to show their dominance and determination,

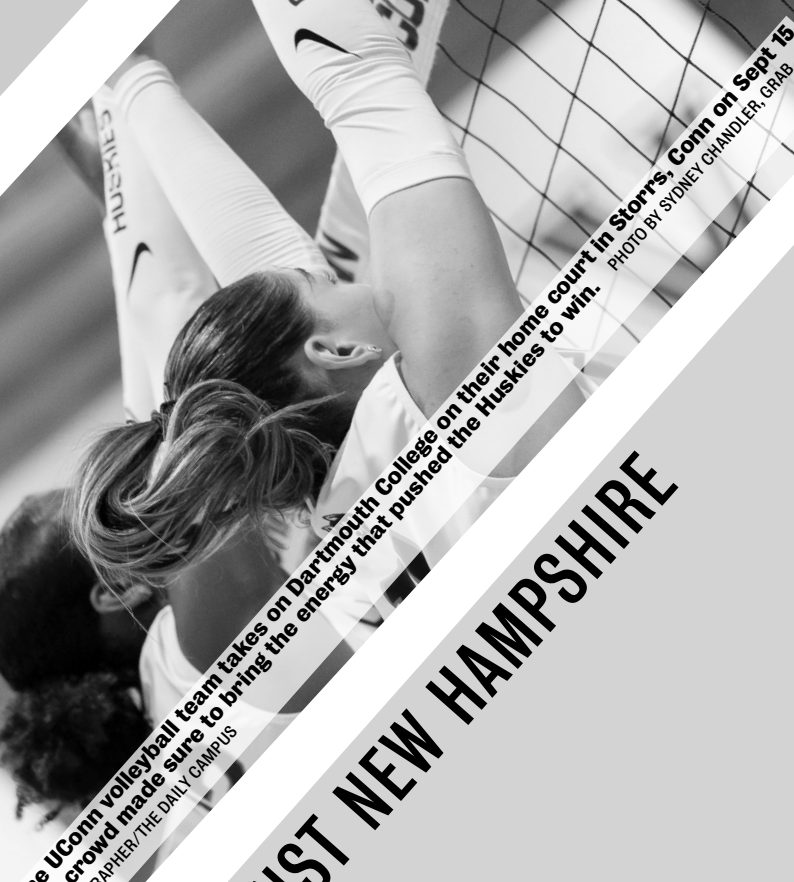
fighting hard and delivering throughout the rest of the game. The Huskies were kept on their toes with a close four sets ending in 3-1.

The team started off strong with the first point of the match being a kill from junior Hanna Tylska. However, the set remained close due to multiple service and attack errors made by both the Huskies and the Wildcats. Sophomore Emma Werkmeister once again proved her value to the team by delivering a service ace early on. This adds to the 23 she has already delivered this season, tying her for fourth place in NCAA Division 1. The Wildcats pulled ahead towards the middle of the set after delivering multiple kills, but the Huskies regrouped and regained the lead after a timeout. The set ended the same way it started with a kill by Tylska. The Huskies finished the first set 25-22.

The second set followed a

similar pattern to the first with both the Huskies and Wildcats staying within two points of each other. The Huskies started the set off strong with a service ace from freshman Grace Maria. However, multiple service and attack errors made by both sides continued to keep the set close. The Huskies gained the lead, catapulted by another kill made by Tylska. The Wildcats attempted to regroup with a timeout. This strategy failed as the Huskies continued to expand their lead in the second set.

Red-shirt junior Taylor Pannell was not flustered by the timeout, delivering a kill soon after it. A kill by Tylska once again ended the set. After a



The UConn volleyball team takes on Dartmouth College on their home court in Storrs. Come on Sept 16. The crowd made sure to bring the energy that pushed the Huskies to win. PHOTO BY SIDNEY CHANDLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/ THE DAILY CAMPUS

VOLLEYBALL: THE HUSKIES REMAIN UNDEFEATED AFTER WIN AGAINST NEW HAMPSHIRE

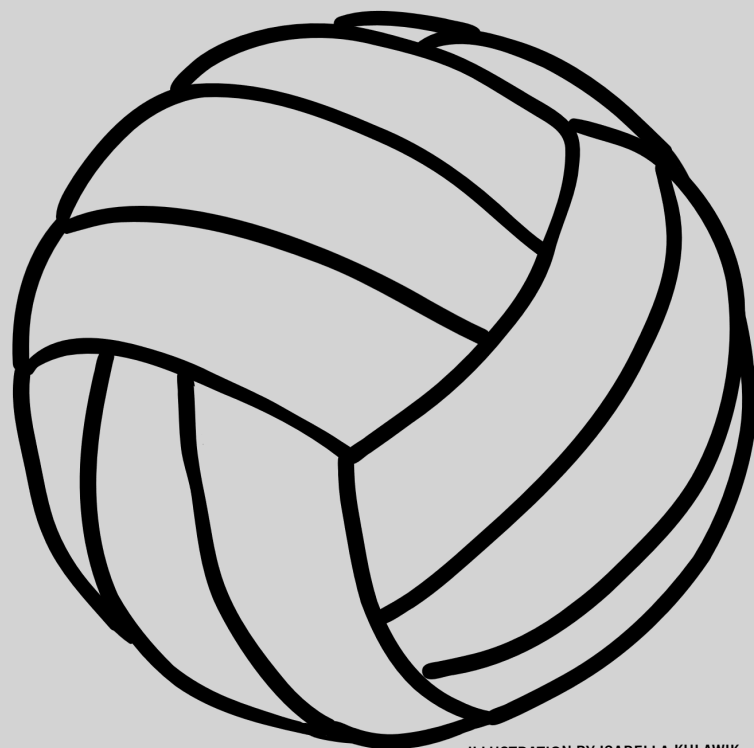


ILLUSTRATION BY ISABELLA KULAWIK, DESIGNER/DAILY CAMPUS

tight start, the Huskies ended the second set 25-21.

The Huskies and the Wildcats remained within a few points throughout the third set but ended with the Huskies falling just short. The Huskies started the set off strong with a kill from junior Doga Kutlu. However, the Wildcats began delivering their own kills, while the Huskies worked hard to fight back. With both the Huskies and Wildcats taking turns delivering kills, the set remained within one point of each other for much of the middle. The Huskies then gained a three-point lead due to a service ace by sophomore Brenna Wyman. However, multiple errors caused their lead to falter and brought them within one point of each other. The

Wildcats then finished out with a kill and won the third set 26-24.

The Huskies were able to end the game with a win in the fourth set. The set started off strong with the first point being a kill by Werkmeister. However, the Wildcats did not give up delivering their own kills, only allowing the Huskies to pull ahead by a few points. Towards the middle of the set, the Huskies gained a seven-point lead with another service ace from Werkmeister. The Wildcats continued to hold on, but a series of attack errors led to the Huskies winning in the fourth set, ending 25-19.

The Huskies once again proved their dominance and showed that they are the team to beat this season. The team served up an impressive array of kills and aces which allowed them to gain their tenth straight win.

Sports

Photo of the Day |



The UConn women's volleyball team play a tough UAlbany at the volleyball center in Storrs Conn. on Sept. 14. The Huskies triumphed 3-2 adding to their undefeated record, making it 8 wins in a row. PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

FIELD HOCKEY:

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY:

UConn Looking for a Rebound Game Against Temple

by Tyler Pruneau
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The University of Connecticut field hockey team will finally be back home in Storrs this Friday at 1 p.m. to face off against Temple University. Temple and UConn have a long history with each other going back 36 years, having clashed in 20 games since. Connecticut's record against them is 14-5-1, with the only tie being from their first match-up in 1987.

UConn had a 14-game win streak starting in 1994 that ended in 2021, allowing Temple to start a streak of their own with three wins. In the last three games, there has been a one-point differential, meaning this match could be a close one. One thing is for sure: both teams are different from previous years, and Temple would need to get themselves together to make it close.

The Owls got hot in their first two games this year, blowing out Queens University of Charlotte and Lock Haven University. But after losing to the University of Virginia 7-0, Temple has found itself in a three-game losing streak, giving them a record of 2-3 for the season so far.

With the Huskies losing their first game last Sunday, they are hungry to bounce back and dominate the game once again. Not everything coming out of Sunday's game was bad; in fact, the team is continuing to climb the ladder in the rankings, coming into Friday's game as No. 14 in the nation. This says a lot about the talent on the team as one loss would usually knock a team further down in the rankings.

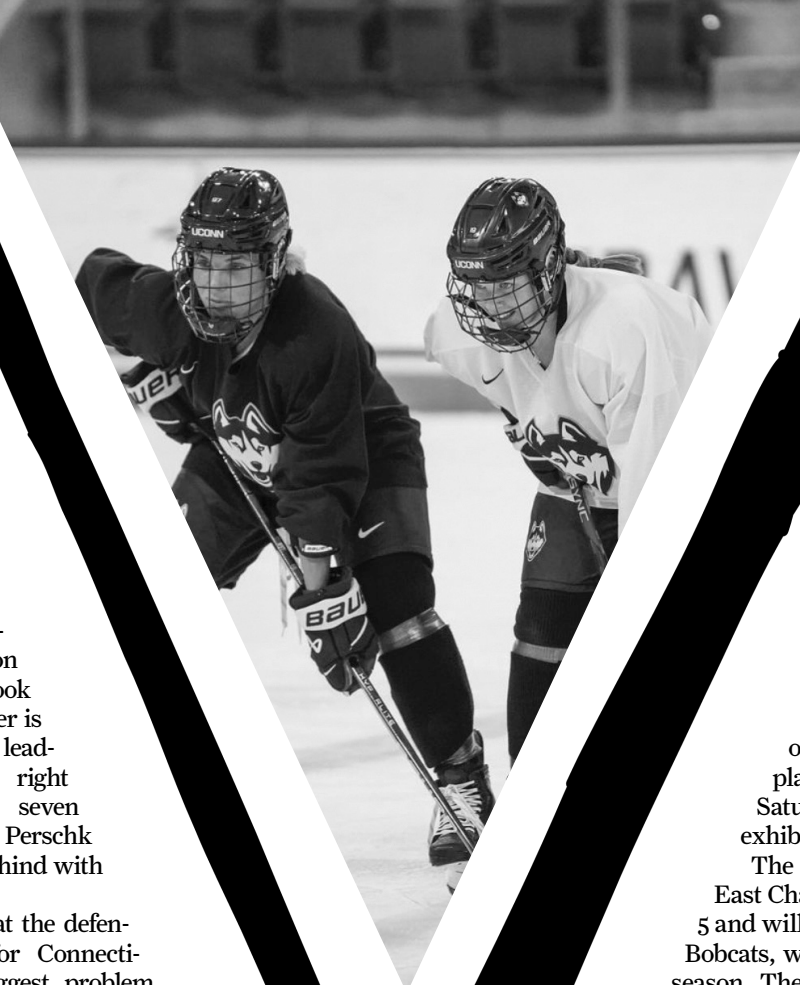
Due to the struggles the Owls are having, this could be an easy game for the Huskies. Several players on the UConn roster will have the opportunity to put up points. The main scorers to watch out for are Juul Sauer, Sophie Perschk, Sophia Ugo and Sol Simone. The two freshmen,

Sauer and Perschk, have been dominating the forward position and do not look to stop. Sauer is the team's leading scorer right now with seven goals, and Perschk is not far behind with five goals.

Looking at the defensive side for Connecticut, the biggest problem on Sunday was letting too many shots by. While Natalie McKenna has been playing phenomenal in the net, she is also the last resort. The Huskies have proven several times to force opponents to take harder shots that have led the shot to not being on goal.

UConn is looking to end a three-year losing streak and get back on track to continue winning. On the other side of things, Temple wants to make a name for themselves. Both teams are coming into this match with a loss on their shoulders, and the winner will be the program that wants it more.

UConn's women's ice hockey team on the rink in their 2023-24 season. The team's overall record this year was 25-8-5. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNWHOC ON INSTAGRAM



Huskies Look to Start Off the Season Strong in Preseason Exhibition Game Against Quinnipiac

by Nicole Caruso
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games for the Huskies and was awarded Hockey East All-Academic.

Also returning is the Huskies' head coach, Chris MacKenzie, who led the team to its first Hockey East Championship.

MacKenzie is entering his twelfth season coaching the Huskies and is coming off of a very successful year, during which he was awarded Hockey East Coach of the Year for his contributions to the team's success.

Connecticut will have to watch out for the Bobcats' returning players who stood out on the team last year. One of them is graduate student Kendall Cooper, who will serve as the captain for the Bobcats this season. Cooper appeared in all 37 games and led the Bobcat defenders in scoring with 11 goals. Sophie Urban is another player the Huskies should look out for. The returning graduate student appeared in all 37 games last year and contributed to winning faceoffs for the Bobcats.

Although this game will serve as a preseason exhibition, looking ahead, the Huskies are favored to finish first in the Hockey East preseason poll, which came out on Monday.

In addition, the Huskies are ranked No. 9 in USA Hockey's preseason poll, with the Bobcats right behind them as No. 10.

With contributing factors of the returning lineup from last year and the strong leadership from their head coach, the game against the Bobcats will have fans looking to see if the Huskies can maintain their rapport from last season.

The Huskies will host the Bobcats this Saturday at the Toscano Family Ice Forum, with the puck drop set for 4 p.m.

The University of Connecticut's women's ice hockey team is getting ready to start their season off at home as they play Quinnipiac this Saturday in a preseason exhibition game.

The 2023-2024 Hockey East Champions went 25-8-5 and will face off against the Bobcats, who went 25-11-1 last season. The Huskies were the No. 1 seed last season, which contributed to their success in winning the Hockey East Championship for the first time in program history.

The Huskies faced the Bobcats once last year in the Nutmeg Classic where Quinnipiac won 4-2.

However, this time around, the Huskies will look to flip the scoreboard in their favor with the help of some crucial pieces.

Some of UConn's key returning players include Tia Chan, Jada Habisch and Ashley Allard, all of whom were included in last year's All-Conference selections.

Senior goalie Chan had an impressive season last year. She played in 24 games and made a total of 642 saves.

Habisch returns to the program as a graduate student, where she will do her best to continue contributing to the scoreboard as she did last season. She scored 17 goals across the season for Connecticut.

Allard had a standout freshman year. She appeared in all 38

The UConn women's field hockey team facing off against Cornell University on Sept. 6. The game ended with a final score of -1. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ILLUSTRATION BY ISABELLA KULAWIK, DESIGNER/DAILY CAMPUS

Soccer:

WOMEN'S SOCCER: THE HUSKIES BEGIN BIG EAST PLAY WITH A ROAD FIXTURE AGAINST ST. JOHN'S

by **Nahum Valiente**
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The UConn women's soccer team will begin Big East play on the road against St. John's University on Sunday as they look to top the conference standings this season.

It has been a successful campaign so far for the Huskies as they enter conference play with an impressive 6-1-1 record. While starting the season with a draw and a loss was not ideal for Connecticut, the program has not looked back since and has dominated the competition. In their most recent game, they blew out Texas A&M 6-0 in a match marking the most goals scored at home since their matchup against DePaul in 2006. However, this success in attacking their opponents' defense was just not seen in this game. In the last six games, UConn has outscored their opponents 16-2.

The Red Storm has also made a great effort so far at the conference. They enter the match with a 5-1-2 record and own a two-game winning streak. Their last loss came in their road game against Yale where they lost 1-0. In St. John's most recent match, the Red Storm were able to hold off the Penn side who scored late in the half and were coming close to equalizing. The Johnnies remain undefeated at home so far and hope to continue this record as they host the Huskies.

Chioma Okafor, the junior from Blantyre, Malawi, leads the Huskies with six goals. Not to mention two games where she has recorded a brace; Okafor has been a key player for UConn's offense. Even though

she came up short of recording a goal, she still contributes to goal opportunities, which was seen with her one assist in the Texas A&M fixture. Okafor has also been critical for the Johnnies in her ability to create shots on goals for the Huskies. In two matches alone, she recorded five shots on goals in each, and currently has created 20 of those opportunities so far this season.

Defense will be key for the St. John's program if they want to answer to UConn's stellar offense. Senior Athina Sofroniou of Dix Hills, N.Y., brings much-needed versatility that the Johnnies need. Her defending abilities have been crucial to the team, only conceding three goals so far in the season. Additionally, Sofroniou in the midfield has created many scoring opportunities for the Red Storm offense. So far this season, she is fourth in the Big East in assists and surely has her eyes set on more.

Overall, the Huskies hold an 18-8-2 advantage over the Johnnies. UConn also has a better record in road games against the Red Storm 7-4-1. The last time these programs met was last season in Storrs, where UConn left the match victorious 2-1. St. John's is looking to avenge that loss and start the season with a win while UConn hopes to continue to steamroll through the competition.

The Huskies' Big East opener is set to kick off at 1 p.m. at Belson Stadium in Queens, N.Y. The match is available for streaming on FloSports.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



PHOTO BY SAHANA GANESH, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



MEN'S SOCCER: NO. 25 HUSKIES TO OPEN BIG EAST PLAY AT DEPAUL

by **Sam Calhoun**
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It has been a long time coming for the UConn men's soccer team (5-0-1), who entered the United Soccer coaches' poll for the first time since 2019 on Monday as the No. 25 team in the nation. After a successful start to the season, the Huskies will start facing Big East opponents, beginning with a road trip at DePaul University (2-3-1) in Chicago this afternoon.

Connecticut is coming off of a three-game win streak, each resulting in a 2-1 final score. Those opponents included Central Connecticut State University, Siena College and Dartmouth College. UConn goalkeeper Max Kerkvliet was named to the Big East Weekly Honor Roll on Monday. The conference noted his combined nine saves against Siena and Dartmouth, including a career-high seven last week against the Big Green. It is the second time this season that the redshirt freshman from Houston, Texas had his name mentioned in the weekly accolades.

According to the preseason poll, DePaul was projected to finish last in the Midwest Division of the conference. Villanova was the only team with fewer votes than the Blue Demons. According to Massey Ratings, DePaul is ranked 139th in the country, while Connecticut is 31st.

DePaul midfielder Noeh Hernandez was named to the conference's weekly honor roll two weeks ago. The sophomore from Bridgeview, Ill. subbed on and tallied a goal and an assist in the second half against Wright State.

In their most recent outing, the Blue Demons lost 3-2 at home against Mercyhurst. In that game, Hernandez scored the opening goal for his second of the

season. Graduate student Logan Finnegan scored just minutes later in a penalty kick opportunity. Despite their 13-12 edge in shots, they came up short against the Lakers.

Finnegan, a forward transferring in from Indiana University-Indianapolis, leads the team in goals with three through six games. Sophomore forward Keagan Pace leads the team in assists with four, including one against Mercyhurst.

The Blue Demons have heavily relied on goalkeeper Santiago Davila, who has appeared and started in every game up to this point. The senior from Wauwatosa, Wis. allows two goals on average, with a save percentage of .613.

Today's game will complete a four-game homestand for DePaul, which began with a tie against St. Thomas, a loss to Drake and a win over Wright State.

Despite the differences between current teams, the matchup history is a 3-3 tie. Both schools met for the first time in 2007, with the Blue Demons picking up wins in back-to-back years. To wrap up their meetings in the old Big East, Connecticut shut them out twice, with both games held at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium in Storrs. Since the Huskies joined the new Big East, each program has picked up a win, with DePaul winning at home in 2021 and the Huskies winning in a shutout the year after. UConn is looking for their first ever win at DePaul.

After today's game, UConn will return home to host Fairfield University on Tuesday night. The Blue Demons will also face a nonconference foe from their respective state, visiting Loyola Chicago the same night. Connecticut's next Big East opponent is Seton Hall on Sept. 28. On the same day, DePaul will host Xavier.

Today's Big East opener will kick off at 3 p.m. at Wish Field in the Windy City. The game is available to watch live on FloFC.

Football:

UConn looks to bounce back at home with crucial showdown against FAU

by **Connor Sargeant**
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After losing a razor-close showdown at Duke 26-21 last Saturday, the UConn football team is heading back home to Rentschler Field this weekend. The Huskies will first host Florida Atlantic University in the first of a six-game homestand.

While some are quick to point to the scoreboard, which was not in Connecticut's favor last weekend, there were many positives from that matchup that can be applied to this weekend. The first thing that fans will want to be on the lookout for this Saturday is what the offensive dynamic will look like; after all, Cam Edwards was a force to be reckoned with in Durham, N.C. The Norwalk native had 106 yards on 21 runs, taking one of those in for a score. This was a performance in the making for Edwards. While the sophomore running back has had shining moments in the Huskies' first two games, he only ran the ball 11 times. Watch to see how Edwards gets started early in this one, as the Owls' run defense got torched in the first two weeks of the season. FAU surrendered 179 and a whopping 405 yards rushing to Michigan State and Army, respectively.

Nick Evers is another player who is a threat with his legs

and could provide a crucial spark to the UConn offense. The sophomore signal caller returned to action last week after sitting out a week with an injury. While his passing stats weren't the most eye-popping, he provided embers that could spark into solid, sustained offense this week against FAU.

Evers finished with 60 yards on the ground, including one burst for 23 yards. With the Owls being as susceptible as they are to the run game at times, watch out for all the different ways Jim Mora and the rest of the UConn coaching staff will try and scheme Evers' ability to pick up chunks of yards on both designed and broken plays. Not only will Mora and his staff certainly employ the running game for this matchup, but the air attack will likely be in full force, especially with how well Skyler Bell has performed up to this point.

Bell had an unbelievable two-game stretch to kick off the Huskies' campaign. The junior started his UConn career in impressive fashion, gaining 246 receiving yards on just seven catches. However, against Duke, Bell was clearly schemed for and as a result, it took the Bronx, N.Y. native a bit to get going but when he did,

he set Connecticut up nicely. Bell finished with seven catches for 58 yards, including one 22-yard snag in the third quarter that put UConn in the red zone for the first time all night.

Connecticut's matchup against the Owls is expected to be uncomfortably close, with FAU coming in as two-and-a-half point favorites. Despite this, Bell is a

gamechanger for the program. Even though he only had 58 yards receiving a week ago, he accumulated those yards when UConn needed it most and set up scoring drives. If Bell can get loose and succeed like he did in the first two weeks of this season, it will open up the entire playbook for Connecticut and make it even easier for Edwards to break off big runs.

Bell has the potential this weekend to add yet another highlight to his ever-growing reel, and if he does, it could become difficult for the FAU secondary to sustain.

The Owls are coming off a solid 38-20 win against the Florida International Panthers, and there were some aspects in this game that, if they carry over, could spell trouble for UConn. Zuberi Mobley is a player that Connecticut fans will want to keep tabs on this week. Similar to Edwards at Duke, Mobley feasted on the run defense a week ago. The Miami native accumulated 134 yards and three touchdowns in 20 rushing attempts. One of those scores came on a 72-yard rush where

Mobley turned on the jets and could not be caught. While the Huskies' run defense has gotten progressively better as the season has passed, don't be surprised if FAU calls Mobley's number early and often to create sparks for his side. Not only will Mobley play a significant role in the run game, but the Owls as a whole are very committed to the running attack. In their matchup against FIU, quarterback Cam Fancher had 14 carries, 64 yards and a score a week ago. Not to mention junior running back CJ Campbell Jr. carried the rock nearly 20 times, picking up over 60 yards and finding the back of the endzone for his troubles.

The battle in the trenches between the FAU offensive line and UConn defensive line is crucial to both programs' success, and the team that dominates this will have a massive advantage over its opponent.

No doubt UConn fans feel heartbroken over last week's nail-biting loss, and after this week, UConn nation may not have any more nails to bite. This matchup is expected to be close, and the Huskies will need to play well on both sides of the ball in order to win.

UConn will have their home crowd behind them this weekend, as kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. in East Hartford, Conn.

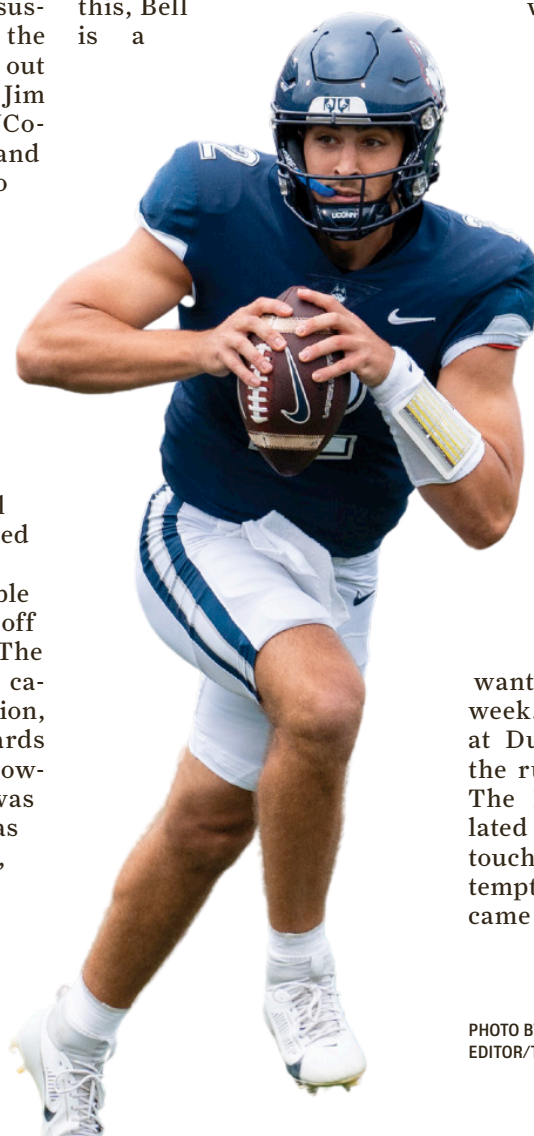


PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

Player greets Asst. Coach Ashley Buschgans at a game. The team has prepared this past fall for the first game of the season on Sunday Sept. 22. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNSoftball ON INSTAGRAM

SOFTBALL

by Patrick Minnerly | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | patrick.minnerly@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut softball team begins the fall 2024 season on Sunday, Sept. 22 against Adelphi, playing a doubleheader starting at noon. These games will be the first two of eight in the exhibition slate, meaning that they won't count in the spring standings. Connecticut is led by head coach Laura Valentino, who is entering her sixth season at the helm. Under her leadership last year, the team finished with over 30 wins for the third season in a row for the first time since 1995-1997, and made it to the Big East Tournament before falling to Villanova and Creighton. Valentino is joined by assistant coaches Mackenzie Keyes,

Giselle Juarez and Ashley Buschgans, who is the most recent addition to the coaching staff. This year, the Huskies' roster is headlined by senior outfielder Lexi Hastings, who was awarded Big East player of the year after posting a whopping league-leading .500 batting average, 37 hits and 16 stolen bases. The other outfielders include junior Kaitlyn Kibling, who boasts a 65-game error-less streak dating back to 2023, sophomore Kaitlyn Breslin and freshman Bella Cruz. Moving to the infield, senior third baseman Rosie Garcia is coming off a successful year, accumulating a team-

high 10 home runs in 48 starts. Juniors Kaiea Higa and Savannah Ring, sophomores Caylee De Meo and Rayah Snyder and incoming freshman Cat Petteys round out the rest of the infield. Utility player Haley Coupal, a junior, also adds to the lineup. Connecticut's starting catcher is junior Grace Jenkins, who achieved all-Big East second team honors last year with a .344 batting average and 40 runs batted in. The other catchers on the roster

are more sophomores Sarah Blaskiewicz and freshman Heidi Barber. The UConn pitching staff features graduate student Payton Kinney, who posted 12 wins with a 2.33 era and 113 strikeouts in 18 starts last season. The staff is bolstered by junior Hope Jenkins, who put up impressive numbers at the plate in 2024 while making 18 pitching appearances. Freshmen Stella Kiemele and Amber Bretton look to make an impact in their first year of pitching. The Huskies' opponent, Adelphi, is coming off of a 34-21 season in

which they advanced to the NCAA Division II tournament, eventually losing to Wilmington University in the East Super Regional. The Panthers are a team in transition this year, as new head coach Katie Apostolopoulos was appointed on Sept. 16, replacing the outgoing Carla Campagna. They also recently added two transfers from Division 1 programs. Julianna Sanzone, previously of Stony Brook University, looks to add pop to the lineup, while Drexel transfer Alison Hoppe adds to the pitching staff. Hoppe, a sophomore, pitched four complete games last year for Drexel with one no hitter.

KICKS OFF FALL EXHIBITION GAMES WITH DOUBLEHEADER AT ADELPHI

ILLUSTRATION BY ISABELLA KULAWIK, DESIGNER/DAILY CAMPUS

