



Divestment referendum advances to USG Senate

by The Daily Campus News Section

Editor's Note: This article was written by Liliana French, Jenna Outcalt and John Haslun from The Daily Campus News Section in collaboration with Katie Servas from WHUS.

University of Connecticut students voted 184 to 68 with 10 abstentions to advance a referendum on disclosure of investments and divestment from weapons manufacturers in a Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Internal Affairs meeting on Monday from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

The meeting was moved into a 400-person capacity room due to high expected attendance and over 40 students spoke at the meeting.

The resolution, entitled “An Act Concerning the Passing of the Spring 2025 Referendum to be Released to UConn’s Undergraduate Fee-Paying Student Body,” was written by Jasmine Maggio and read out during the meeting.

It contained questions asking if students would be in favor of disclosure and divestment from military companies and companies which profit from Israel’s military actions in Gaza. It also asked if students would be in favor of disclosure of current ethical investment policies and the creation of ethical investment policies. The referendum would ask if students were in favor of UConn ending “all partnerships and ties” with the military-industrial complex.

USG’s Internal Affairs Committee is responsible for “considering budgets, bills, and resolutions that pertain to the internal funding of USG,” according to Clause 3a of Bylaw VII.

Speaker of the USG Senate Kyle Lowry discussed the process that the resolution would take after its passage in Internal Affairs.

“Recently, we passed a bylaw, which established the procedure for any undergraduate student to author legislation calling

for a referendum,” Lowry said.

Votes must pass in a USG committee, the student senate with a two thirds majority and the governing board, according to Lowry. Only USG senators can vote in the student senate meeting, which will be held on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in SU 330.

Then, the legislation would go to a student referendum via UConncontact, where results would only be released if turnout was at least 15%. The USG judiciary would then certify the results.

In the 2024 undergraduate student trustee election, turnout was 17.5% across all campuses, according to The Daily Campus. Only fee-paying undergraduate Storrs students would be allowed to vote in this referendum.

“The vote would inform USG on how we can advocate on the issue in a way that represents the true will of undergraduate students,” Lowry said.

USG President Lorien Touponse stated that the referendum was not proposed by USG, but that USG votes on issues brought up on their agenda.

“We felt really inclined to try to provide a calm and controlled space to discuss this really tough issue that a lot of students care passionately about,” Touponse said. “I think this is one of the biggest meetings USG’s ever had [...] this room holds a capacity of 400 people, and we’ve pretty much filled it up.”

Touponse and Lowry declined to comment on how they would vote in USG’s governing board if the resolution passed the senate.

Director of Organization Support Services Angelo Montes-Diaz sponsored the resolution.

“It aligns with some of my



Students vote via QR code in a USG Internal Affairs meeting held in McHugh 102 on Feb. 3, 2025. The system allows for votes to be collected and counted efficiently. PHOTOS BY LILIANA FRENCH/THE DAILY CAMPUS

personal beliefs. I think that there were points on both ends that were very, very educational and very, very fundamental to [...] organize a very constructive conversation,” Montes-Diaz said.

The referendum had been previously proposed in an internal affairs meeting held on Dec. 2, 2024, from 7 to 8:41 p.m., but was voted down in the meeting, which had about 25 participants.

Montes-Diaz was present in the December meeting where the resolution was rejected and found it a little overwhelming and disappointing, but liked seeing students use their voices.

“But just having a bunch of students come in and voicing their concerns and voicing what

they felt represented them best and exercising their right as students to come in and vote something down,” Montes-Diaz said. “It was very, very cool to witness that.”

Montes-Diaz also commented on the high turnout at the recent meeting.

“Seeing students actually take part in our undergraduate student government was extremely exciting and I’m very, very happy, just in general, for the students that came in,” Montes-Diaz said.

Resolution sponsor and Asian American Cultural Center Ex-Officio Senator Haritha Subramanian explained that anyone can be part of USG committee meetings. Subramanian said that a USG bylaw allows any student who shows up to a meeting to vote.

“I think this subject matter is pretty simple at the heart of it. Israel is committing a genocide in Gaza,” Subramanian said. “And it’s simply not okay that UConn is complicit in that. All this resolution is really doing is just putting this up to a vote to UConn students.”

Other sponsors included Multicultural Diversity Senator Sam Ramirez, UConn UNCHAIN, UConn Jewish Voices for Peace, UConn Students for Justice in Palestine and the UConn Muslim Students Association.

Students who chose to speak at the meeting were given two minutes each. Undergraduate Dylan Steer spoke at the meeting and wanted a chance for the student body’s voices to be heard.

“This is not a religious issue, but a purely political one,” Steer said. “In the 1980s, students across the United States took a stand against the apartheid government of South Africa.”

Haley Janush used her two minutes to question Maggio, stating that her primary goal of

the document was to delegitimize Israel.

“If you’re just going to badger me to try and get the answers you want then there is no point to this,” Maggio responded.

Troy Sweet, an undergraduate Jewish student, argued that the referendum “does not promote peace but promotes hate.”

Senior Sophia Curran said that the referendum was the best way for students to take action.

“It is not okay to invade other countries or territories, it is not okay to kill people, what is happening in Gaza, is someone much more powerful killing innocent people,” Curran said.

Anti-referendum Jewish and Israeli American student Jacob Levy spoke about the financial implications the referendum would have.

“If [the referendum] were to be passed, there would be legal action,” Levy said. “It also removes key sponsors from the University such as Pratt & Whitney, Teva Pharmaceuticals [...] that would decimate our School of Pharmacy, School of Engineering, and even our School of Law.”

Levy said that passing this referendum as a university would ensure a definite loss of federal funding for UConn programs because Trump “already promised to withhold federal funding from all institutions that pass ‘BDS’ resolutions.”

Following the passage of the resolution, UConn Hillel and Jewish on Campus at UConn posted on Instagram, telling students to contact senators telling them to vote against it. They encouraged students to sign a petition.

UConn Divest, UConn UNCHAIN, UConn SJP and JVP UConn also posted on Instagram, encouraging students to sign a different petition and contact senators telling them to vote in favor of the resolution.



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THE DAILY CAMPUS NEWSLETTER

Judge extends block on pause to federal aid

by **Pierce Colfer**
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A federal judge extended the block on the White House Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) attempts to pause federal grants and loan disbursements on Feb. 3. The judge instated an order against the OMB preventing them from beginning the pause.

U.S. District Judge Loren L. AliKhan authored a 30-page opinion on the matter. In it, she included her rationale for making her

decision.

"[The OMB's] actions in this case potentially run roughshod over a 'bulwark of the Constitution' by interfering with Congress's appropriation of federal funds," AliKhan said. "Because the funding freeze threatens the lifeline that keeps countless organizations operational, plaintiffs have met their burden of showing irreparable harm."

The OMB initially sent out a memo announcing the freeze to all federal aid on Jan. 28, which caused confusion across the country as the scale of the freeze was unclear. It was later clarified by the Department

of Education that Pell grants and individual student loan disbursements would not be affected. AliKhan temporarily blocked the freeze from going through later that day, with her being set to come to a decision the following Monday.

This order comes on top of a similar order from Judge John J. McConnell Jr., which he instated on Jan. 31. McConnell ordered the Trump administration to continue sending federal aid to 22 states, including Connecticut, that filed suit against the administration over the potential freeze. On Feb. 3, the federal government announced

that they had interpreted this order as applying nationally instead of exclusively to the states involved in the suit.

McConnell's order discussed the reason for blocking the federal government from instating the pause.

"Are there some aspects of the pause that might be legal and appropriate constitutionally for the Executive to take? The Court imagines there are, but it is equally sure that there are many instances in the Executive Orders' wide-ranging, all-encompassing, and ambiguous 'pause' of critical funding that are not," McConnell wrote

in his 13-page order. "The Court must act in these early stages of the litigation under the 'worst case scenario' because the breadth and ambiguity of the Executive's action makes it impossible to do otherwise."

In their respective orders, both AliKhan and McConnell identified their decisions as being temporary. Neither order specified for how long it would remain in effect. While these orders are in place, the federal government will be barred from freezing federal grants and loan disbursements.

Concern rises among students as Rec Pool remains closed

by **Tabitha Baker** CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT SHE/HER/HERS tabitha.baker@uconn.edu

After several months, University of Connecticut students still cannot use the Aquatic Center at the Student Recreation Center. The pool is drained and students are not allowed to enter this section of the gym.

Although no specific date of operation had been provided in the past, it was expected that the pool would open in time for the spring 2025 semester, according to The Daily Campus. The Aquatic Center is still unusable. The 25-yard pool is empty and blocked off with yellow chains and signs.

Students were originally informed that the pools would be closed until Dec. 13, alluding to the idea that the pools would be re-opened in time for the start of the spring semester.

According to multiple Student Recreation Center faculty members, there is no definite answer as to when the pools will be re-opened. Rec faculty told The Daily Campus "We don't know anything," when asked when the pools will be opened or what

the cause of the closure was.

According to University Spokesperson Stephanie Reitz, the closing of the pool was unforeseen and unavoidable, though there are no health or safety concerns.

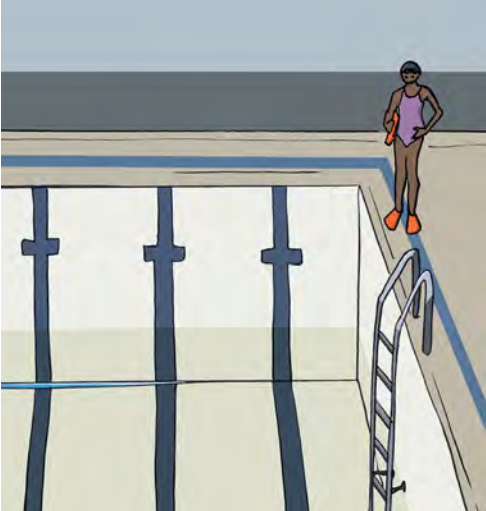


ILLUSTRATION BY KLEA OMERI, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

"The current issue was unforeseen and unavoidable but does not pose health or safety concerns for any of the pool's past or recent users. More information will be shared publicly when appropriate," Reitz said.

Club sports that utilize the pool at the UConn Rec Center have had to host practices elsewhere, according to a previous statement to The Daily Campus

by Reitz.

"UConn Recreation also engaged with our partners in UConn Athletics to address the current situation, and with their assistance, practice for both the Swimming and Water Polo Club Sport Teams resumed[...]," said Reitz.

"I used to use the pool all of the time, but it just hasn't opened and we don't know why," said eighth-semester psychology major Daniel Pond. "It's been open my whole time in college, but now this is my last semester here and I haven't been able to use it."

Though there are still no definite answers, Reitz reassured that the university is working to open the pool soon in a statement to The Daily Campus.

"UConn Recreation has been working closely with UConn Facilities Operations and professional aquatics consultants, but additional work is required before it can be re-opened," Reitz said.

For more information about the UConn Rec Center, visit recreation.uconn.edu.

Animal Science Department expecting 8 baby horses this spring

by **Gianni Salisbury**
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Late nights rounds of checking pregnant horses, helping mothers through the birthing process and raising baby foals. These are just a few of the roles of students who take equine-focused classes in the University of Connecticut's Animal Science Department during the spring.

This spring is no different, as eight foals are expected to be born, with the first one due March 8. Students are largely

involved in the process of breeding, birthing and raising these horses, according to Horse Unit Supervisor Lisa Nulton.

"Our first foal due is March 8, so we're in the last month, and then we have several due the end of March and April. So, the students have started tracking the mares' progress and they handle them three times a week," said Nulton.

Five of the foals to be born will be a Morgan horse

See p. 03



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Animal Science Department expecting 8 baby horses this spring , cont. from p. 02

breed. Nulton explained that UConn has a long history with the breed, having first received them from the state government in the 1930s. Two of these five foals are “embryo transfer babies” and therefore are not being carried by their genetic moms, according to Nulton. As for the other three horses, two of the foals will be a Quarter Horse breed and the other will be a Dutch Warmblood breed. These horses were bred last spring in the breeding farm classes that the department offers. These classes allow students to learn the “general breeding anatomy and physiology of a breeding mare, management of her before any baby is involved, and just getting them pregnant,” according to Nulton. Along with overseeing all of the horses at UConn, Nulton is an academic assistant

in the Department of Animal Science and teaches many classes related to the care and breeding of young horses. She teaches the mare and foal classes, horse training classes and a rehab program for the horses. Currently, Nulton is teaching a mare and foal class in which students are assigned one of the eight pregnant mares to take care of and study throughout her pregnancy and after. The students will also help birth and take care of the foal. “They take care of the mare in full until the end of the semester, they learn everything from anatomy and physiology associated with that process to the basic handling, management and training of those horses,” said Nulton. Throughout the semester, students will handle the horse three times a week. Nulton explained that students will

study the mare's mammary gland development, the shape of their belly, if the baby has dropped and use milk calcium testing to determine when the horse will give birth. The students will also take class time to have discussions about what they have observed. Once students have determined the time frame that the horse will give birth, they will start “foal watching” in which they stay overnight with the horses, according to Nulton. “They're there overnight, and they take shifts of who's sleeping and who's awake, and they give me a call when the mother's water breaks. We come down, and we manage that entire foaling process, and hopefully mom can do it herself, but we're just there in case we need to intervene if there's a complication,” said Nulton. After the baby is born, the students will take care of the foal and finish the semester

by handling them and teaching them how to be horses that have lives around students, according to Nulton. Once the semester ends, Nulton said the foals get to relax and be baby horses. “We let them be babies for the summer. We turn them out with their moms. We still handle them twice a day, but we let them just be in a field with them,” said Nulton. The fall semester allows for students to then train them on manners as the horses grow, Nulton explained. Once the horses reach two or three years old, they then will be sold to people and farms around the country. This allows students to learn how to manage and sell horses as well. “We've had horses just in the last two online sales go to Montana. We also sell horses to Pennsylvania and New Jersey, so they kind of just go all over the place. On the rare occasion,

we'll keep one here or there, and then they'll get raised in our riding program, and then we'll use their genetics back in the breeding program,” said Nulton. Nulton hopes that through this program, the University is preparing students for the hard work that goes into working with horses. “Really, it takes so much hard work to do it right, and to work in this industry. And a lot of these students want to go out and be part of the horse industry. And to do that, they need to learn how much work ethic is required, to be humble and take advice from other people. The more you're willing to learn, the more successful you'll be,” Nulton said. More information on the baby foals or classes offered by the Department of Animal Science can be found on the department's website.

Trump’s executive orders reverse Biden’s environmental protections

by Gretchen Crane
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On Jan. 20, his second inauguration day, President Donald Trump signed six executive orders pertaining directly to the issue of climate change. The first of these executive orders defined Trump's current environmental policy. “In recent years, the United States has purported to join international agreements and initiatives that do not reflect our country's values or our contributions to the pursuit of economic and environmental objectives,” the executive order stated. The international agreement Trump is primarily referring to in this order is the 2015 Paris Agreement, which he with-

drew from the day he took office. Later in the order, Trump claims the agreement had “the potential to damage or stifle the American economy.” Trump ordered that any department that partakes in international energy agreements “henceforth prioritize economic efficiency.” In Trump's second environmental executive order, “Unleashing American Energy,” he revoked 12 of former President Joe Biden's executive orders, hoping to “encourage energy exploration and production,” and that “burdensome and ideologically motivated regulations have impeded the development of these resources,” according to the White House website. This order also included the termination of the Green New Deal and the pause

of funds for electronic vehicle charging stations, asserting that “consumer choice” and “cost-effectiveness” be put before sustainability. This order was supplemented by another, “Declaring a National Energy Emergency,” which claimed the country is in a national energy deficit that can only be remedied by increased “production, transportation” and “refining” of “domestic energy resources [oil],” according to the White House website. The environmentally sensitive state of Alaska was mentioned specifically by the president, as he pushes to “maximize” drilling, mining, overfishing and deforestation there in the third climate executive order, “Unleashing Alas-

ka's Extraordinary Resource Potential.” Funds that the previous administration directed toward protecting Alaska may be reallocated toward intensive extraction of its resources. According to University of Connecticut professor of political science Oksan Bayulgen, this administration is “turning a blind eye to all the [socioeconomically] disproportionate effects of that kind of development.” The primary mechanism the administration is utilizing for this reversion is the withholding of federal funds, according to Bayulgen. “The Trump administration is saying they want to reverse all of the key elements of this historic legislation by basically turning off the faucet...all those

projects will be paused at this point and their future will be uncertain,” Bayulgen said. Bayulgen added that the Biden administration provided “huge government incentives and support for not only clean energy...but also the infrastructure, [and] expediting the permitting process, and there are a lot of challenges in terms of moving these projects forward.” Arduous progress toward a cleaner future is now being reversed, according to Bayulgen. “The Inflation Reduction Act, and Infrastructure and Jobs Act, it was very difficult to pass them,” said Bayulgen. “All that progress that was made in the last decade or so is going to be reversed, and we don't have time for it.”

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PIO CASTELLANO’S ‘A STUDENT’S PRAYER’

AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MUSIC AND SPIRITUALITY

by **Samantha Brody**
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University of Connecticut student Pio Castellano held his senior recital on Saturday, Feb. 1 at von der Mehden Recital Hall. Titled “A Student’s Prayer,” Castellano played four complete works on a piano, with a heavy focus on his personal connections to Catholicism.

According to the program provided at his recital, Castellano “has performed in master classes with José Ramos-Santana, Jarvor Bračić, and Thomas Rosenkranz, and has accompanied singers and other instrumentalists.” Also noted by the program, Castellano sings in the UConn Collegium Musicum and Concert Choir, as well as the St. Elijah Choir at St. Patrick Oratory in Waterbury, Conn.

Castellano, a eighth-semester student majoring in music

education and music performance, began his recital by thanking his audience, the von der Mehden staff and videographer. Shortly after, Castellano launched into his first piece of the recital: “Nocturne in B Major, Op. 32, No. 1” by Frédéric Chopin.

Chopin’s “Nocturne” jumps between lighter and darker points, and Castellano jumped with it. When playing a lighter and breezier tone, Castellano sits up straight and rigid and bends over the piano dramatically as the music becomes low and intense. It’s a dichotomy only strengthened when Castellano moves to his second piece of the afternoon.

“Partita No. 2 in C minor, BWV 826” by Johann Sebastian Bach is Castellano’s second piece, and it jumps between moods even faster than the first. “Partita No. 2” is much longer than “Nocturne,” with a total of six movements that Castellano plays in full. The piece is characterized by a dramatic series of calls and

responses, which Castellano moves between masterfully.

After an intermission, Castellano moved to “Rain Tree Sketch No. 2” by Tōru Takemitsu, a short yet deeply eerie piece that stands out against the classical composers that make up the rest of Castellano’s recital. “Rain Tree” is followed by “Piano Sonata No. 21 in C Major, Op. 53” by Ludwig van Beethoven, also called the “Waldstein.” With three movements, the “Waldstein” moves from an energetic tone to a much more solemn and dramatic sound before reaching a bright and triumphant end.

“[‘Waldstein’] was one of the first pieces I studied in college, coinciding with my growth in faith,” Castellano wrote in an email. During the recital he briefly discussed his own interpretation of the piece. Castellano, who is Catholic, sees it as a biblical story, depicting Genesis followed by the suffering of the Lord, and ending with Jesus’s Resur-

rection. Castellano’s connection to religion colors both his prowess and his pieces, bringing a deeper meaning to the name of his recital.

“‘A Student’s Prayer’ is a prayer written by St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron saint of students and of the Catholic Church here at UConn, a community that has been an integral part of my college experience,” Castellano explained. “Growing in my faith has deepened my appreciation for truth, goodness, and beauty, which I believe music uniquely expresses, particularly in its beauty. My faith inspires and compels me to pursue music as a means of reflecting these transcendent qualities.”

Castellano studies under Dr. Angelina Gadeliya, an Assistant Professor in Residence of Piano and Coordinator of Keyboard Studies at UConn. According to her page on the UConn website, Gadeliya lives a “rich musical life as a soloist, chamber

musician, new music expert, and educator.” Her biography also lists various recitals she’s had around the world, including performances in Ukraine, Poland, Mexico and more.

“I am especially grateful to Dr. Angelina Gadeliya, my piano professor at UConn, whose belief in me and my potential has been truly inspiring,” Castellano said in his email. “I began playing piano at the age of five, inspired by my older sister, whom I’ve always looked up to. Studying music in college, both in education and performance, has been an incredible gift, allowing me to deepen my understanding and appreciation of the art.”

The program for Castellano’s recital describes him as “an active member of the UConn Catholic community” who is “most passionate about growing his faith both through his music and daily life.” He is also a member of the Music Student Advisory Council.



Pio Castellano performing his junior recital “Pi(an)o” on March 28, 2024. Castellano performed his senior recital called “A Student’s Prayer” on Feb. 1, 2025.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @UCONNMUSICDEPT ON INSTAGRAM

UConn Waves Its Paws to Officer Tildy



by Maleena Muzio | SHE/HER/HERS | STAFF WRITER | maleena.muzio@uconn.edu

Canine Officer Tildy was wished her farewells on Tuesday, Feb. 4, during her retirement celebration at the Wilbur Cross Building.

Tildy is the University of Connecticut’s oldest and longest serving canine officer, said Chief Gene Labonte, UConn’s chief of police. She served as a mentor to dogs all over the state, as she was the first official facility dog in Connecticut, Labonte added.

Serving a total of seven years, Tildy’s time at UConn began on March 30, 2018, and officially ended Feb. 4, 2025. In dog years, Tildy served a total of 49 years, surpassing the longest serving officer at UConn who served a total of 44, Labonte joked.

Students, faculty, dogs and officers came together to celebrate this milestone for the retiree. A plethora of students could be seen waiting in a line that led outside the building, patiently waiting to join the party.

The event was decorated to cater to Tildy and her fellow officers’ interests. While t-shirts and refreshments, including a bone-shaped cake, were offered to students, goodie bags filled with treats and water stations for the dogs were found in every corner of the room. Each table was embellished with a centerpiece consisting of tennis balls and treats.

Speeches were presented by those closest to Tildy. Her handler, Officer Justin Cheney, explained that his experience at UConn has been greatly shaped for the better by Tildy. Cheney presented a video showing Tildy growing up through the years, with the audible “aww” from the audience every few seconds.

Karla Negron, a second-semester psychology major said, “I think the best part of the event was having all the UConn students coming as one to say bye to the dog that has been here for a while. It is just nice to see how we come as family and a community.”

“This shows the community cares. The dogs help with people’s mental health a lot and they have memories with that,” shared Naisha Rios, a second-semester ACES student.

Tildy’s impact on campus has not gone unnoticed. Kind messages from students filled the pages of her guestbook, with students eager to give her some final words of acknowledgment. Tildy could be found in all her glory wearing a pink retirement sash and receiving lots of love from students.

Madeline Cosker, a second-semester human rights and social work major, said, “I just love Officer Tildy so much; she is my favorite. The

first couple days of school, I was so nervous, and she was just there everywhere I looked to give pets and help.”

In support of their friend, Canine Officer Carter, Canine Officer Jasmine, Jonathan XV, Jonathan XIV and canine officers from surrounding towns attended the event. The dogs walked around happily with their goodie bags hanging from their mouths.

“I absolutely love how so many dogs from different police stations came. I think that is hilarious and amazing,” said Cosker.

At the end of the ceremony, Tildy received her final honors. She was presented with an official retirement badge that all officers receive as well as her retirement ID. The formal changing of the vests occurred, and Tildy’s younger sister, Jazmine, was given her official officer collar, taking her sister’s place alongside Carson.

“I think having the dogs on campus with the police or without them creates a better sense of community and creates interactions between police officers and students, which softens the intimidation,” Cosker shared.

To end her very own party, as crowds of students surrounded her, Tildy left her fans with two final barks of gratitude, almost seeming to say, “Thank you.”

CLIP ART COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Officer Tildy enjoying a snow day. Officer Tildy served the UConn community for over 7 years, officially retiring on Feb. 4th, 2025.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @UCONNPD_OFFICERTILDY ON INSTAGRAM



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UConn’s Internship and Co-op Fair Features Over 50 Employers

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The University of Connecticut’s Center for Career Readiness and Life Skills held the Internship and Co-op Fair in the Student Union Ballroom on Tuesday, Feb. 4. With representatives from over 50 employers based in Connecticut and elsewhere, students were encouraged to share their resumes, dress business casual and have their free headshot taken with the photography service provided.

Organized by Corporate Partner Relations Coordinator Wendy Kopp, the fair offered opportunities for students regardless of major or year from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Additionally, a list of the em-

ployers in attendance and a map of where each employer would be located were provided on Handshake to give students an idea of where to go during the bustling event.

Associate Director of Corporate Partner Relations Lisa McGuire, was there to facilitate the fair. She shared insight about internships within Connecticut and elsewhere. “Internships are offered at large, medium and small companies all over the state— and Northeast, really,” she wrote via email. “They reflect the state’s economy, which generally means financial services and the defense industry and those businesses and services that support them.”

McGuire emphasized the synergistic relationship between students and the employers they intern for.

“Internships provide opportunities for students to learn more about a job and for an organization to learn more about the student,” she stated in an email interview. “Many students enjoy trying out several different internships with different types of organizations, to gain different experiences before starting their full-time career.”

Yashira Fernandes, an eighth-semester student majoring in business management, has found success interning with the Career Center, as well as with CVS Health during the summer as a human resources corporate intern, which she plans to do full-time. “It’s a very competitive process but I think the skills that you learn with the Career Center have helped me and help with the projects I’ve done,” she said.

Fernandes also highlighted the importance of learning presentation skills, “That really was useful for my internship and helped me stand out amongst the other interns.”

Serkan Parcal, a sixth-semester student majoring in analytics and information management, was optimistic about the opportunities presented to him at the fair. “I’m meeting with lots of companies [and] getting to know lots of companies.” Parcal also emphasized the interpersonal aspect of “connecting with people” at the fair, as it allows students to have one-on-one conversations with those who work for and represent a diverse set of companies.

Thatcher Slocum, a fourth-semester student majoring in materials science, initially arrived at the fair with “neb-

ulous expectations.” However, he enjoyed “finding some opportunities with friendly employers,” one of which was RBC Bearings based in Oxford, Conn., a manufacturer of precision bearings along with other aerospace and industrial products, according to their website.

Refreshments and snacks were offered in a separate room along with a resume printing station near the entrance in case a student didn’t bring copies beforehand.

McGuire recommends students attend the fall fairs, typically held near the beginning of the semester, as larger companies including Traveler’s and Pratt & Whitney often attend them. There will be a career fair held in at Gampel Pavilion on March 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Students speaking with company representatives at the University of Connecticut’s Internship & Co-op Fair on Feb. 4, 2025. The fair provided students with the opportunity to explore what internship options are available to them.

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THANKSGIVING LEFTOVERS!

COMIC AND ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Red Carpet Grammys 2025 Looks: Dressing to impress or to distress?

by Julia Gillego
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The Grammys, like any other red-carpet event, has always been a playground for celebrities to make bold fashion statements and the 67th Annual Grammy Awards did not disappoint, or did it? The star-studded event happened this past Sunday, Feb. 2, at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles. From eyebrow raising fashion disasters to jaw-dropping couture, many celebrities played Dress to Impress in real life. So, let's dive into some of the five-star worthy looks and the one-star attire fits on the red carpet—who stunned, who flopped, and who made us question everything we know about fashion.

Five Star Looks at the Grammys:

To set the stage (or red carpet) off strong, here are some five star looks from music artists who just coincidentally made it onto my Spotify Wrapped playlist.

Chappell Roan:

Upon first glance, most people might find this an utterly confusing look, but this is just another perfectly curated look for the camp and drag-influenced Chappell Roan. Roan stunned the red carpet by wearing a 2003 Jean Paul

Gaultier ball gown. Roan's shameless individuality sets her apart from a lot of today's celebrities and she proudly advocates for the queer community.

Roan's debut appearance at the Grammys was nothing short of 5 stars, showing the world that she truly is a Midwestern princess. Her iconic drag-inspired makeup never fails to turn the eyes of the audience. The white, yellow and light blue fringe headpiece matched with the gloves adds an extra flare to her look. Underneath the frilly gown, Roan wore custom made John Fluevog buckled boots to match.

With Roan's whopping six nominations as a first-time nominee, it is obvious she had to dress to impress. Roan went home with her first Grammy for Best New Artist.

Sabrina Carpenter:

Sabrina Carpenter made her dazzling appearance at this year's Grammys in a custom JW Anderson gown, in a shade of pastel blue resembling a Disney princess or a very fashionable Mattel Polly Pocket doll. Carpenter's whirlwind career, sparking from her roots as a Disney actress to becoming a pop princess, has been nothing short of deserved (or should we say Short n' Sweet?). Draped in Chopard diamonds, she

embodied an effortless yet intentional glamour that many aim for, but few achieve.

Carpenter's two Grammy wins—Best Pop Solo Performance for her hit song 'Espresso' and Best Pop Vocal Album for 'Short 'n Sweet'—were the icing on the cake. This wasn't just a five-star look; it was a coronation.

Olivia Rodrigo:

Here we have a simple, yet elegant look by Olivia Rodrigo, another pop princess in a black vintage Versace gown, decorated with various cutouts and an open back. Rodrigo topped this look off with Tiffany & Co. Jewelry on her wrist, along with earrings and two dazzling rings on both hands.

The self-proclaimed fashion critic within me might have called this dress prom-like upon first look. However, I take it back as the gown not only exuded old-Hollywood glamour but also carried an almost dystopian elegance that subtly connected to The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes, the Hunger Games prequel in which her song "Can't Catch Me Now," was featured. This song was nominated for Best Song Written for Visual Media. It was almost like her stylist knew to emulate the same powerful energy that her song and the film's essence

channels.

One Star Looks at the Grammys:

Kanye West:

We'll start off the flops of the red carpet, particularly strong with the one and only Kanye West accompanied by his wife Bianca Censori. West wore a black t-shirt paired with sunglasses indoors, while Censori rocked, well, her birthday suit? She wore a tight sheer mini-dress that shocked and gave viewers a 'WTF' moment along the red carpet. Before Censori's unwarranted reveal, she was wearing a long black fur coat that maybe she should have kept on.

While the shock factor is nothing new in celebrity fashion, there's a difference between making a statement and looking like you forgot to finish getting dressed. Censori's look felt like the latter.

Gracie Abrams:

Despite my love for Gracie Abrams' music and her rightful nomination for Best Pop Duo/Group Performance alongside Taylor Swift for their song "Us," this bridal look just did not do it for me. Abrams looked elegant as always in this Chanel dress, but the veil gave off runaway bride. Abrams deserved a look that reflected her artistic depth. Instead, this felt more like a lastminute

courthouse wedding than music's biggest night. Maybe her stylist thought the veil was an ironic homage to the many heartbreak songs Abrams has released.

Jaden Smith

Jaden Smith arrived at the Grammys red carpet wearing an interesting accessory paired with a Louis Vuitton black suit and tie. The miniature black house headpiece Smith wore was as necessary as West's sunglasses indoors. Conceptual fashion can be brilliant when done right, but this particular choice felt more like a last-minute attempt at edginess rather than a well-thought-out artistic statement.

Fashion at the Grammys is always a gamble—some celebrities take risks that pay off, while others leave us deeply questioning their choices. This year's red carpet was no exception, with looks ranging from glamorous to downright bizarre. The red carpet remains what it has always been, a stage for creativity, self-expression and sometimes pure chaos. Whether a five-star perfect ranking or a one-star fashion flop, one thing is for sure—this year's lineup of pop princesses and avant-garde rule-breakers ensured that the fashion conversation will continue long after the awards have been handed out.

The beginning of the end for the 'Trump Era'

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President Donald Trump entered office on Jan. 20 with a mandate that he previously did not possess. He was the first president in over a century to have held two non-consecutive terms. The criminal convictions against him were all but dropped. He was voted Time's Person of the Year for the second time in 2024. Everything pointed to personal success and a political comeback for Trump. The facts present this as a time when a man who could seemingly do no wrong swept to power and into the hearts of the American public. This forgets one thing. This was the same person whose unpopularity, mishandling of domestic and global affairs and forcible rebuke of a democratic election result earned him a disgraced ticket out of the White House four years ago. This may be a miraculous revival for Trump and his political allies. However, it is also his office to fail. His fall to take. His responsibility to squander.

Trump and his supporters were emboldened by the idea of a national mandate in his second term. In his first week, the president signed dozens of sporadic executive orders, designed to interrupt the mechanisms of the federal government and 'flood the zone', a term Trump's former White House Chief Strategist, Steve Bannon, coined. Running the executive office in a system of tear-

ing down the establishment is key to Trump's playbook and broader political mindset. The difference is we now have a template to gauge how well this system works in terms of effecting meaningful policy changes. As the response to the COVID-19 pandemic alone could attest, the answer is not very well.

The president has also made a concerted effort to wage war on cultural and racial inclusion with the federal bureaucracy. On the morning of the inauguration, he opined that it would "hence forth be the official policy of the American government that there are only two genders, a man and a woman." Since then, he has tried to put in place legislation to strip DEI from the federal government at every level. This has since prompted multinational brands inclusive of Meta, Amazon and McDonalds to roll back their inclusion policies. Though this may have excited his traditional base of supporters, it is also a quick way to hurt many of the minority voters who put their faith in Trump for the first time on November 5th.

As with the majority of the aforementioned items on his agenda, Trump's foreign policy has been brash and with little room for reflection. Less than 24 hours after Trump was set to bring into effect 25% tariffs on Mexico and Canada, the administration made a full reversal and struck a deal with both countries to pause these for at least 30 days, in exchange for

tighter border enforcement. While this may be seen as a short-term win for the administration, it is likely to only sour relations with Americas closest trading partners and spoil a relationship that has been held in high esteem for decades.

Then there is the president's dismemberment of the executive branch itself. Since coming into office, Trump has fired a total of 14 inspector generals, the irony being that many of these were self-appointed in his first term. On top of this, he has tasked Elon Musk, a figure squarely outside of the administration, to be the man to bring about government efficiency, effectively giving him semi-independence over the fates of the around 3 million people who work in the federal government. If this does not raise alarm bells around the proper management of an institution designed to protect and uphold the principles of the American constitution, then it should.

Trump made a point of stating in his inaugural address that he had learned "a lot" from his first term in office. This time, he appears to be using the reigns of power to strip some of the size of the federal bureaucracy and keep a far more close-knit circle of confidants in its stead.

He seems to be far less considered about the seeking of validation from others, both inside and outside the party, as he does in making decision that can be viewed as a "win" in the eyes of The American public. All signs indicate more cohesive planning



Donald Trump, President of the United States, posing for his photo. Trump's tariff plans were recently halted after discussions with foreign powers. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WHITE HOUSE

around an accession to power than was the case in 2017.

If one thing is clear though, the president has thrown away the rule book on who he keeps in his orbit. After just two weeks of a second Trump administration, it is clear that loyalty to the president is the only currency there is. Whether it is through the swathe of cabinet characters that range from the eccentric to the outright dangerous, or the tech oligarchy within Silicon Valley that he now seems to have inordinate sway over, with Sam Altman, Jeff Bezos and Mark Zuckerberg each donating \$1 million to Trump's inaugural

fund. The connection between all these disparate interests is an overt willingness to adhere to the wants and wishes of the new president.

Trump has far less consideration around the validation of others and far more preoccupation with getting what he wants from the office. He sees this as creating a 'Golden Age' of prosperity for the country. With 14 days gone and 1,461 to go, the veneer around this is already starting to wear thin. Though it is a new beginning for Trump, it may very well be the beginning of the end for an era that will work to be forgotten more than it is remembered.



UConn students walking to evening classes as the sun starts to set in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 4, 2025. Campus was windy and students were bundled up throughout the day. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Why is Hillel bringing an anti-LGBTQ Christian nationalist to campus?

by **Nathan Henault**
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“Dudes can’t be chicks, period. This trans agenda is pure evil, and disgusting” writes Kirby Calhoun, a campus organizer for Christians United for Israel, on his Instagram story just days before speaking at an event sponsored by UConn Hillel on Feb. 5 at 6 p.m.

Calhoun’s social media feed is littered with praise for Donald Trump, appeals to American exceptionalism, Christian Nationalist preaching and the assertion that “church is essential, and marriage is between a man and a woman.” UConn Hillel will partner with Huskies for Israel to bring Calhoun to speak on campus.

For “the Center for Jewish Life,” claiming to embrace “all kinds of Jewish”– supposedly including LGBTQ Jews – an alliance with a staunchly anti-LGBTQ Christian Nationalist seems downright bizarre.

Christians United for Israel, commonly abbreviated “CUFI,” is the largest Zionist organization in the country – if not the world – self-reporting over 10 million members, outnumbering the total Jewish population of America. Its leadership and membership draw from America’s white Evangelical

Christian right, the primary support base of Trump’s MAGA movement. Some two-thirds of white Evangelicals support or sympathize with Christian Nationalism, a movement seeking to force the American government to bend the knee to the Christian church. As Sarah Posner writing for MSNBC states, “At the heart of Christian Zionism is not a love for Israel but rather Christian nationalism.”

What bridges the gap between Christian Zionism and Christian Nationalism is often dispensationalist theology, the belief that God will bestow favor on America for supporting the State of Israel, which Christian Zionists dangerously believe is synonymous with Jews. Others look to Christian doomsday prophecy, believing that the success of the State of Israel is essential to bringing about armageddon, the end of days in which Jews and Muslims alike will either accept Christ or be annihilated.

Concern for the wellbeing of Jews – or anyone other than white Evangelical Christian Americans – is a non-factor, and it shows.

“God sent Adolf Hitler to help the Jews reach the promised land,” said pastor John Hagee, founder and current national chairman of CUFI, in a 1999 sermon. He wouldn’t apologize for this unambiguously pro-Hitler statement

until nearly a decade later in 2008, years after he founded CUFI. As for the State of Israel’s genocide of Palestinians in Gaza, Hagee thinks that a peace deal bringing an end to the onslaught would be the work of the actual Anti-Christ – an Anti-Christ he believes will be a “half-Jew homosexual”. Support for Hitler’s extermination of Jews and the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza converge at the bewildering crossroads of Christian Zionism.

So why is Hillel bringing an anti-LGBTQ Christian Nationalist to campus? What does “the Center for Jewish Life,” an antisemitic pastor and an anti-woke crusader have in common? Unquestioning support for the State of Israel.

Organizations like Hillel, which tend to frame themselves in liberal terms, are forging an unholy alliance with the fascist right to defend the state of Israel at all costs. This alliance stands to hurt us all.

UConn Hillel has willingly become just one small part of a much larger Christian Nationalist project, one that simultaneously peddles antisemitism while claiming to be the defender of the Jews.

For example, after Trump’s right-hand man Elon Musk made a pair of Nazi salutes – which the ADL wasted no time defending – and string of Nazi jokes, Trump told Jewish Americans “I will be your defender, your protector and

I will be the best friend Jewish Americans have ever had” as he promised to deport international students involved in last year’s pro-Palestine student protests. The Heritage Foundation, the same group that created Project 2025, also made a Christian Zionist companion entitled Project Esther for adoption by the Trump administration. It simultaneously claims to “combat antisemitism” while blaming “American Jewish complacency” and Jewish philanthropist George Soros for anti-Americanism.

Meanwhile, these same Christian Nationalists who UConn Hillel supports have bigger plans: A nation where women “are only meant to be mothers and bear children,” so says Hagee. A nation without the “disgusting” and “evil” “trans agenda,” and where “marriage is between a man and a woman,” so says Calhoun. A nation without Jews – after all, Hagee believes that Israel is “the only home God ever intended for the Jews to have” and who are we to question his God? A world without Palestinians, whose deaths are so essential to the Hagee’s Christian Zionist project that any attempt at peace would surely be the work of the Anti-Christ.

We must not sit idly by. Do not make the mistake of overlooking events like these and thinking to yourself “this doesn’t affect



Kirby Calhoun’s Instagram story speaking on their thoughts about transgender people. Calhoun is speaking at a UConn Hillel sponsored event on Feb. 5. PHOTO COURTESY OF @KIRBY_CALHOUN ON INSTAGRAM

me.”An injury to one is an injury to all, so the century-old solidaristic slogan goes. Our freedom is intertwined, from UConn to Palestine, from the Jewish struggle against antisemitic Christian Nationalists to the Queer struggle for autonomy and so much more. When our institutions fail us, it’s on us to forge a new path forward – together.

Roundtable: What’s your reaction to the Grammy Awards this year?

Last week, the Recording Academy held the 67th Annual Grammy Awards. As always, there was heated debate about the winners and losers, many great performances, some very weird fashion choices on the red carpet and so much more celebrity drama. So, for this week, the Opinion Section gives out their biggest reactions, surprises, and hot takes following one of pop culture’s biggest nights of the year.

Patrick Minnerly, Weekly Columnist:

This year’s Grammys paid a lot of attention to the devastating Los Angeles fires, so of course there would be some twists. It was certainly interesting to see Taylor Swift leave the Grammys empty-handed, but it was also completely justified, because to be honest “The Tortured Poets Department” didn’t resonate with me in the way her other albums have. Did Cowboy Carter deserve to win Album of the Year? Maybe not, but the win seemed to be the Academy’s way of apologizing to

Beyonce for snubbing her so many times, so unfortunately everyone else was collateral damage. It was gratifying to see Chappell Roan get her flowers as Best New Artist, and for Sabrina Carpenter to win Best Pop Album. No comment about Kanye and his girlfriend Bianca Censori’s...ground-breaking...wardrobe choices.

Amber Greene, Contributor:

For the first time in a while the Grammys gave awards to people who were doing something different and not what was popular and people did not like it. Album of the year was one of the most heavily contested awards, with many on TikTok arguing that Billie Eilish’s “HIT ME HARD AND SOFT” should have won over “Cowboy Carter”. The popularity of Eilish’s album had fans assuming she would win, however it was not completely out of the box for a pop singer, or even a Billie Eilish album. “Cowboy Carter” was at the top of debates since the day it came out with people questioning if it was even country at all. This

contest continued for months and for those who did not listen all the way through did not understand.

Athena Brown, Contributor:

Taylor Swift lost every single award and I am happy about it. Now I’m no Swift hater, but I also don’t love when another “Taylor’s Version” comes out to knock a new artist off the charts or sweep another awards ceremony. Swift is extremely talented, and her music wildly and rightfully popular, but she is also quite the crafty businessman. Her newest album felt cramped, and honestly underserving of being called the best of any category. So, it made me happy to see artists like Doechii and Chappell Roan win their respective awards. It is also so funny that Kendrick Lamar won so many awards for rap beef. Drake is never recovering from that. A MINOOOOOOOOOORRRRRR.

Raegan Skelly, Contributor:

I, for one, love award shows, and the Grammys are no different. I was elated to see Chappell

Roan win Best New Artist and Sabrina Carpenter take home two awards. My main issues weren’t with who won what awards, but the ceremony itself. Only presenting nine awards in a nearly four-hour ceremony is ridiculous. The time periods between each award being presented felt like an eternity each time. I was also sad to see that Best Pop Solo Performance yet again fell into the pre-show ceremony; I would’ve loved to see Carpenter’s reaction to winning her first Grammy for “Espresso.” My main hope for next year’s Grammy ceremony is that they debut a new host; five times in a row for Trevor Noah is too many. An award show can only be dominated by a host when they are the highlight of the night, think of Ricky Gervais or Tina Fey and Amy Poehler at the Golden Globes. Trevor Noah just doesn’t command the stage in the slightest and I would love if he stopped begging me for money.

Noa Climor, Social Media Outreach Coordinator

Honestly, I was thrilled with the Grammys this year. Doechii, the third woman to win Best Rap Album (the other two being Lauryn Hill and Cardi B), gave an incredibly powerful speech and one of the best performances that evening, cementing herself as a powerhouse of an artist and someone to keep an eye on. Chappell Roan, who won Best New Artist, was genuinely one of my favorite artists this year, and I’m proud of her speech and how strong she was in delivering it, especially on this stage. “I told myself if I ever won a Grammy and I got to stand up here in front of the most powerful people in music,” she said, “I would demand that labels and the industry profiting millions of dollars off artists would offer a livable wage and healthcare, especially to developing artists.” She ended by saying, “Labels, we got you, but do you got us?” I think Beyonce winning Album of the Year was justified, as she said in her speech, “It’s been many, many years.”

Brocedes: From best friends to enemies

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From loud engines and grid girls to the rise of Sebastian Vettel, 2010s were a wild time for Formula One. But there was one thing F1 fans remember more than anything: the rise and fall of Brocedes. Brocedes was not just an idea, but a long-standing friendship between Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg that came crumbling down all too soon.

Rosberg and Hamilton come from very different backgrounds. Rosberg was born in Germany and now lives in Monaco, while Hamilton was born and raised in England. Rosberg grew up wealthy- his dad, Keke Rosberg, had an F1 career himself. Hamilton grew up less fortunate, with his dad working multiple jobs. They became friends almost instantly due to their childhood rivalry in karting. They were joined at the hip during race weekend and were always intensely competitive, with former F1 driver and competitor Robert Kubica saying, “They would even have races to eat pizza, always eating two at a time.”

Their friendship strengthened even more when getting a seat for Mercedes Benz McLaren, where Hamilton eventually won the title with Rosberg following in second place.

Although they raced together in karting, Hamilton and Rosberg got to F1 at separate times Rosberg in 2006 with Williams and Hamilton in 2007 with McLaren. How their careers panned out early on was also completely different. Hamilton finished second in the 2007 F1 Championship while Rosberg finished ninth. In the following year, Hamilton finished first in the 2008 F1 Championship, while Rosberg finished

13th. From 2009 to 2012, Hamilton stayed with McLaren and never finished below fifth in the standings. Rosberg, on the other hand, who moved to Mercedes in 2010, finished at least ninth in the standings between that time. Both continued to be very good friends throughout that time, but that would all change in 2013 when Hamilton moved to Mercedes.

In 2013, Hamilton moved to Mercedes. Everyone thought it would be like old times with the lifelong friends on the same team. Instead, the opposite happened.

In 2014, Hamilton and Rosberg had much success, with Hamilton finishing first in the championship with 11 wins and 16 podiums and Rosberg finishing second with five wins and 15 podiums. That season, the tension burst open when in the Bahrain Grand Prix, Rosberg used the Mercedes banned engine mode to

give himself a power advantage over Hamilton. Then, two races later, Hamilton used the same banned engine mode to keep Rosberg at bay in the closing laps of the race. Two weeks after that in Monaco, Rosberg caused a yellow flag after securing first in qualifying to deny Hamilton of a final lap. After finishing second in the race, Hamilton proclaimed that he and Rosberg were no longer friends. The rivalry had finally broken their bond. A couple more scuffles throughout the season confirmed that the pair were no longer friends.

The 2015 season was more of the same as Hamilton placed first and Rosberg placed second at the Australian Grand Prix. At Malaysia for round two, Rosberg again took a somewhat dirty tactic by obstructing Hamilton of the racing line during his final qualifying lap, but it did not matter as Hamilton secured pole po-

sition. However, this season was not that close. Hamilton took the championship with three races left, and Rosberg took second with a 50-point gap to third place Sebastian Vettel.

However, in 2016, things changed drastically as Rosberg won the season's first four races, building a 43-point gap to Hamilton. Everything was looking up for Rosberg until race four: the Spanish Grand Prix. On the opening lap, Rosberg's car entered the wrong engine mode due to an issue on the formational lap causing Hamilton to be faster than him coming out of lap three. When Hamilton went to overtake, Rosberg sent him onto the grass making Hamilton lose control and crash, sending both out of the race. On Rosberg's YouTube channel, you can watch his video which he edited on “How to Master the Spanish GP” on F1 2020 where in the first 20 seconds he

makes a “funny” reference to the 2016 crash with Hamilton.

Four races later in Austria, Hamilton was catching up to Rosberg in the final laps, when a mistake by Rosberg set up Hamilton for an outside line overtake on the German. But as Hamilton went in for the turn, Rosberg kept going and they collided. Rosberg, who was leading the race, fell to fourth place and Hamilton took the win. Toto Wolff, the Mercedes team principal, was furious. He called them into a meeting and threatened to use team orders to keep them at bay.

Heading into the final race, all Rosberg needed was second place to secure the championship at Abu Dhabi, which he achieved. Rosberg later recalled during the final race of the 2016 season, he had so much anxiety that all his stomach could handle were Frosties, the same cereal he and Hamilton ate when they were karting. Just five days after securing his dream by winning his first ever championship, he retired. When asked about his long-time friend and teammate retiring, Hamilton said “the sport will miss him, and I wish him the best.” And just like that, the rivalry was over.

Hamilton went on to win four consecutive championships, tying him with Michael Schumacher for most wins of all time with seven. Rosberg went on to become an analyst for Sky Sports F1. Since Rosberg retired, he and Hamilton have rekindled their friendship, with Rosberg defending Hamilton during some rough patches the past couple of seasons. Rosberg even came out and said that every Christmas, Hamilton sends his kids a box full of gifts. They say time heals wounds and ‘The Silver War’ is a perfect example.



Rosberg and his childhood friend Hamilton had an intense rivalry nicknamed “The Silver War.” Rosberg leads during the United States Formula 1 Grand Prix at Circuit of the Americas on Sunday, October 25th, 2015.
IMAGE COURTESY OF DAVEWILSONPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Deadline Drama: Fox to Spurs, LaVine to Kings in Three-Team Deal

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Not even 24 hours after one of the biggest trades in NBA history, the Sacramento Kings agreed to send star De’Aaron Fox to the San Antonio Spurs with the Chicago Bulls being a third team in the deal. Sacramento received Zach Lavine, Sidy Cissoko, 3 future first-round picks and 3 future second-round picks. Unlike the Luka Dončić trade early Sunday morning, NBA fans had an inkling this was coming.

News broke that Sacramento made Fox open for trade ahead of Thursday’s trade deadline. NBA sources stated his preferred destination was San Antonio. San Antonio hit a grand slam in this deal by not having to give up key names like Devin Vassell, Jeremy Schohan or rookie sensation Stephon Castle, the former UConn Husky who is a top candidate for the Rookie of the Year. Castle is averaging 12 points per game, which is second among all rookies

in the league. Philadelphia 76ers’ Jared McCain is first in points; however, he suffered a season-ending torn meniscus just 23 games in. With this trade, Fox gets to team up with French phenom, Victor Wembanyama, creating a lethal duo.

A speedy guard along with a freak athlete center, who is going to stop the Spurs? Three-point shooting might.

San Antonio is a bottom-ten team in three-point shooting and adding De’Aaron Fox surely will not help their case. Fox is a 33% three-point shooter for his career, which is subpar for a point guard in the modern NBA era.

The potential starting lineup for the Spurs: De’Aaron Fox, Stephon Castle, Devin Vassell, Harrison Barnes and Victor Wembanyama.

This potential starting lineup pushed veteran Chris Paul to the bench. The 39-year-old is in his 20th season and could not fit better in San Antonio, being a great mentor for the 21-year-old Wembanyama. San Antonio, with a record of

21-25 position themselves just two-and-a-half games out of a play-in spot. They hope this trade can launch them into a top ten seed.

On paper, Sacramento received a good deal: three first round picks, one of which being from Charlotte. Do not get your hopes up, Kings fans. That 2025 pick is in the top 14 protected and as of Feb. 2, the Hornets hold the fourth worst record in the league. Unless Charlotte can somehow make a miracle playoff push, the Kings will not end up with said draft pick. Instead, it will be conveyed into two second round picks. The two remaining picks have a bit of value, but surely not enough to be a top five pick.

Let us not forget that Zach LaVine is a bonafide star, averaging 24.6 PPG shooting 45% from beyond the arc and is reuniting with former Bull, DeMar DeRozan after just half a season apart. The only issue Sacramento must deal with is his hefty contract, having to pay LaVine over \$90 million for the next two years.

The potential starting

lineup for the Kings: Malik Monk, Zach LaVine, DeMar DeRozan, Keegan Murray and Domantas Sabonis.

LaVine fits well by having chemistry with DeRozan and these two will be the main ball handlers with Monk as the 2nd or 3rd option. It will be exciting to see how LaVine and Sabonis operate together on the offensive side of the ball. Sacramento is not looking to win now, with two of their key starters LaVine at 29-years-old and DeRozan at 35. With a handful of picks now in their arsenal that (hopefully) have value, the future is in the eyes of Sacramento. The Kings sit at 10th in the Western Conference with a record of 25-24, just half a game from falling out of the play-in tournament.

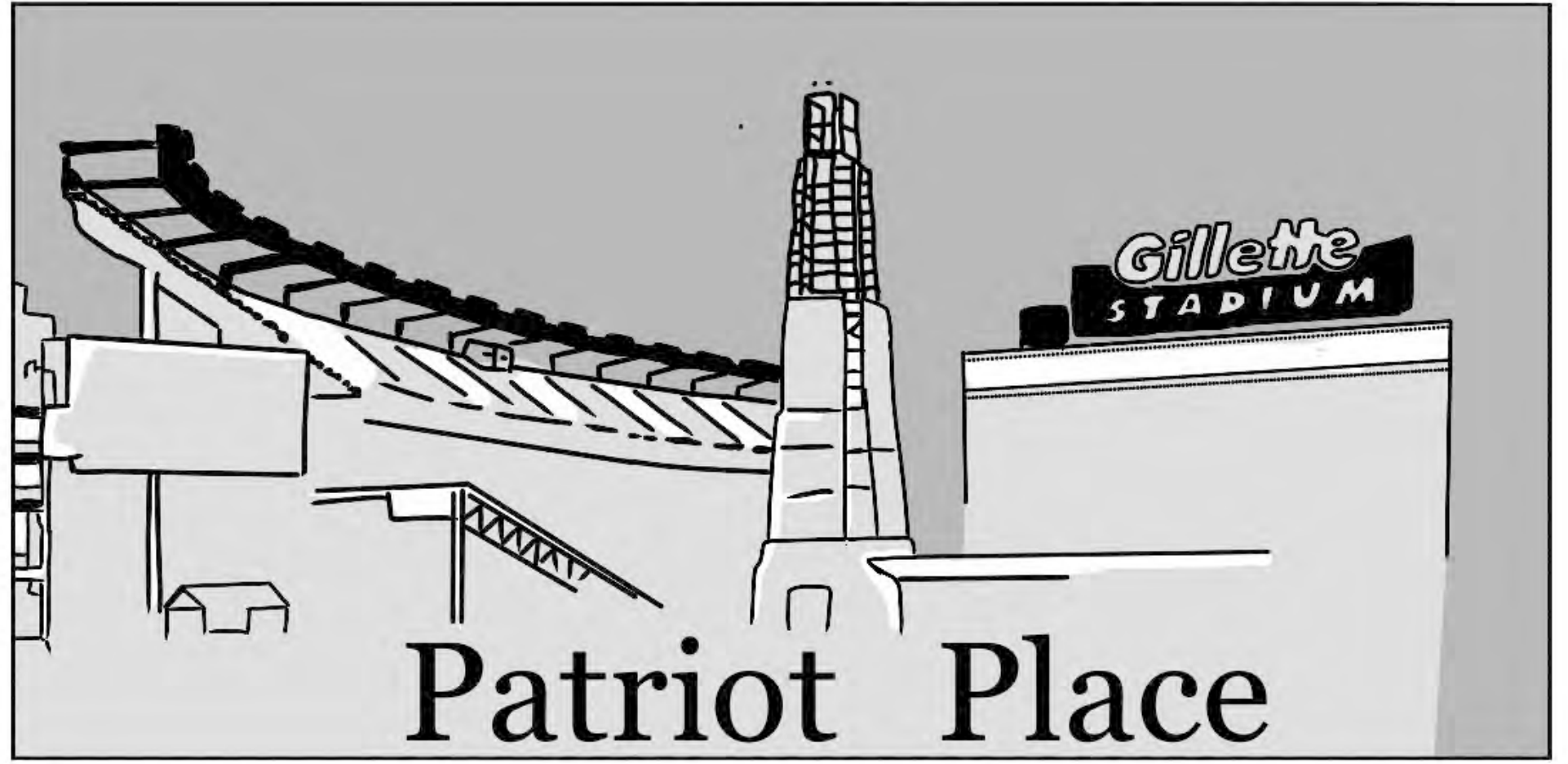
The potential starting five for Chicago consists of Josh Giddey, Coby White, Ayo Dosunmu, Patrick Williams and Nikola Vucevic.

Chicago is looking upon someone else to step up after the departure of Zach LaVine. The Bulls can use some sharpshooting from

Kevin Huerter. Huerter, who is in his seventh season fell out of the Kings rotation and looks to get more minutes in the Windy City. Zach Collins and Tre Jones do not bring too much to the table to make an impact for the Bulls. Ayo Dosunmu has big shoes to fill if he wants to push the Bulls back to .500 basketball. This team is young and needs a few more years to develop. If the Bulls ride with this lineup for the next three years or so, they can see themselves in a true playoff spot for the first time since the 2022 season. The Bulls are 21-29 and in tenth place in the Eastern Conference with a game of breathing room ahead of Philadelphia.

With the trade deadline looming, we can expect more drama. Jimmy Butler is a name to keep an eye out for, as he wants to be traded from Miami. The Heat organization has suspended Butler indefinitely as he is refusing to contribute to team related activities.

The trade deadline is Thursday at 3 p.m.



Patriot Place: What offensive free agents should the Patriots retain and let walk?

by Graham Wilker
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The New England Patriots' offense was amongst the worst in the league this past season, ranking 30th and managing 17 points a game. They were one of only nine teams not to reach the 20-point mark. In today's NFL, offense is king; each of the top 10 scoring units this year made the playoffs, while the worst 10 now have top ten picks. While the unit as a whole was poor, we will discuss some bright spots the team should retain for the upcoming season and some New England should let go.

Retain: QB Jacoby Brissett

Jacoby Brissett returned to New England this offseason after being shipped off to Indianapolis due to an impressive rookie campaign in 2016. While Brissett has never been an awe-inspiring starter, he's managed some impressive performances throughout his career as a spot starter. Brissett began the season with five straight starts but was eventually benched for Drake Maye following a 1-4 start. He was mediocre in a very conservative Alex Van Pelt offense, in which he posted

just two touchdowns and one interception on the season. Nonetheless, a win over the Jets in Week 8 saw Brissett throw for 132 yards and a key two-point conversion following an incredible back foot throw to Kayshon Boutte, a huge play that led to the eventual game-winning touchdown. Brissett proved to be what he's been in the past: a capable backup and mentor.

Contract Prediction: Returns, 1 Year | \$4M

Let Walk: RB JaMycaal Hasty

JaMycaal Hasty had an interesting season. Aside from returning kicks, he hardly saw any action and was firmly the RB3 behind Rhamondre Stevenson and Antonio Gibson. However, during Maye's debut, he flashed, catching five balls on as many targets for 49 yards and a touchdown. He only took 20 carries in the season and never showed anything in the run game. Hasty will find a home elsewhere, but the Patriots should move on to someone new.

Contract Prediction: Departs, Veteran Minimum Deal Elsewhere

Retain: TE Austin Hooper

Austin Hooper made a name for himself in his At-

lanta days when he signed but hasn't had much production since then. While he wasn't as explosive as he was during his 75-catch season in 2019, he thrived in the TE2 role behind Hunter Henry, recording a high in yards (476) since the 2019 season, and catches (45) since 2020, along with three touchdowns. Coach Mike Vrabel worked in Cleveland last year, Hooper's former team. While he is aging, I'd expect the Cleveland semi-connection and 2024 prediction to be enough to sway Vrabel into keeping the 30-year-old around.

Contract Prediction: Returns, 2 Years | \$7M

Retain: K Joey Slye

The addition of Joey Slye in the offseason was celebrated not for his name, but for his position. Over the past few years, the Patriots' kicking game has been horrendous, and it all peaked with 2023 fourth round pick Chad Ryland. Despite not being perfect, Slye had a very sound year. He was 25/26 on extra points, 79% on field goals and even sunk a 63-yard kick, just four yards shy of breaking the record for the longest ever. The only significant error from Slye was a missed 25-yarder against the Colts. Aside from that, mistakes

were seldom. While I'm sure the Patriots will meet with kickers come draft time for the sake of due diligence, I have no problem offering a multi-year deal to Slye.

Contract Prediction: Returns, 2 Years | \$5.5M

Restricted Free Agents (RFAs)

Restricted Free Agents are players with exactly three accrued seasons in the NFL. A team can choose to "tender" a player or offer them a one-year contract with one of three values: a first-round tender, a second-round tender or an original-round tender. These tenders are of varying values, usually in the range of \$4M, \$2M and \$1M respectively. The team has only one offensive player who fits this mold: Lester Cotton.

G Lester Cotton

While re-signing Cotton is easy and something that wouldn't shock me, part of me expects Vrabel to start fresh regarding fringe players and bring in his own crop of guys. Cotton played just 7% of the snaps on a team with the worst offensive line in football, so he's not likely to move the needle in either direction.

Exclusive Rights Free Agents (ERFAs)

Exclusive Rights Free

Agents are players with an expired contract and fewer than three accrued seasons. These players must sign the ERFA tender (a one-year, sub-million-dollar deal), if the team offers it to them. The Patriots have a few players that fit this description:

WR JaQuae Jackson

C Ben Brown

OT Demontrey Jacobs

While re-signing these players is very easy, given the new coaching staff coming in it seems unlikely any of the three will return. JaQuae Jackson has a chance given his pre-season injury, but I'd wager Vrabel would rather have an additional roster spot. PFF ranked Ben Brown the 54th center from a pool of 64 eligible players, while Demontrey Jacobs's 38.4 score slotted him in at 138/141 offensive tackles. The team is likely better off looking for other players in these roles next season. I'd predict all three leave in free agency.

There's no doubt this squad has much catching up to do if they want to take the next step next year, and making decisions regarding retaining players is the first order of business. While I'd expect a handful of players to return, don't be surprised to see an offensive overhaul.

Lato's Lens: Biggest upsets, top performances and must-see matchups in men's college basketball

by **Tyler Lato**
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If I had one word to describe the past week of college basketball, it would be spectacular. Once again, the men's college basketball rankings have been shaken up after several shocking upsets across the board. We're halfway through the season now, so the next couple of weeks are undeniably crucial for teams vying for an appearance in San Antonio. With all said and done, you know the drill: Here are some of the greatest upsets, top performances and must-see matchups for this week in NCAA men's college basketball.

Greatest Upsets
No. 25 UConn 77, No. 9 Marquette 69

UConn's most recent upset win is extraordinary for a number of reasons. Despite committing 25 total turnovers, the No. 25 Huskies waltzed into Wisconsin and pulled off a stunning road upset win over the ninth-ranked Golden Eagles. Phenom guard Solo Ball continued his breakout season for the Huskies, scoring 25 points while snagging 11 rebounds. What's most impressive is that Ball shot seven-for-nine from the three-point line, being merely automatic. His draft stock is sure to shoot up, which

makes it exciting to see how he'll perform the rest of the season.

Arkansas 89, No. 12 Kentucky 79

Arkansas Head Coach John Calipari knew his return to Kentucky's Rupp Arena would be emotional, especially coaching against the dominant program he built in Lexington for over a decade. However, it was Calipari that got the best of his former team on Saturday night, defeating the No. 12 Wildcats in upset fashion. Arkansas' Adou Thiero, who followed his head coach from Kentucky to Arkansas for this season, led the charge for the Razorbacks. Thiero accounted for 21 points and eight rebounds, contributing immensely to the Razorbacks' statement win.

Kansas State 80, No. 3 Iowa State 61

Once again, Kansas State finds itself on Lato's Lens after another impressive upset win. After knocking off No. 23 West Virginia in the previous week, the Wildcats stunned yet another ranked team, knocking off No. 3 Iowa State in blowout fashion. Star junior guard Dug McDaniel recorded an impressive 20 points, five assists and two rebounds for the Wildcats, while Coleman Hawkins, Max Jones, David N'Guessan and David Housen also recorded double-digit point to-

tals. On the other hand, Iowa State has another crack at beating the Wildcats in their last regular-season game in early March.

Top Performances
Blake Harper, Howard

Despite Howard's 80-79 overtime loss to Hampton, freshman guard Blake Harper delivered a sensational performance. Harper scored a whopping 35 points and complemented his point total with three rebounds and three assists. Though 35 points is very impressive, the fashion in which Harper did so is rather remarkable. He hit 20 of 22 free throws, accounting for nearly two-thirds of his point total.

Ace Bailey, Rutgers

Five-star high school prospect Ace Bailey shocked the nation last year when he announced his commitment to Rutgers, a school that isn't necessarily known as a college basketball powerhouse. With that being said, the things that Bailey did during his freshman campaign at Rutgers have been incredible. In the Scarlett Knights' 79-72 win over Northwestern, Bailey lit up the scorer's book, dropping 37 points, knocking down five of his eight three-pointers taken. He also grabbed six rebounds and blocked three shots, terrorizing Northwestern the whole game.

Brice Williams, Nebraska

In the unranked Nebraska Cornhuskers' second ranked win in a row, Brice Williams proved yet again why he's one of the best players in the Big 10 after scoring 28 points, seven rebounds and six assists. Williams helped the Huskers improve to 14-8 on the season after the win against the No. 16 Oregon Ducks, making a case for a birth in the NCAA Tournament come March. Williams is certainly a player to keep an eye out for in the remainder of the season, averaging 19 points, four rebounds and 2.7 assists.

Must-See Matchups
No. 12 St. John's at No. 19 UConn: Friday at 8 p.m.

All I can say is what a night for Big East basketball! In an instant classic, the No. 12 St. John's Red Storm will venture eastward for a ranked in-conference matchup against the No. 19 UConn Huskies. After a rough first season under the helm of Head Coach Rick Pitino, the Johnnies have risen from the ashes this season, leading the Big East with a 10-1 conference record. With rumors that star freshman Liam McNeeley may return for the Huskies, there's another major stipulation for this week's matchup: It'll be two-dollar beer night in Storrs, which will play right into the hand of Dan Hurley's squad.

No. 6 Florida at No. 1 Auburn: Saturday at 4 p.m.

The SEC has been a college basketball powerhouse lately, accounting for nine of the top 25 spots in the current AP poll. In this matchup of SEC heavyweights, the No. 1 Auburn Tigers are looking to keep the train rolling against the No. 6 Florida Gators. Although Auburn has been dominating the competition, they will have to prepare for Florida's Walter Clayton Jr., who is averaging 17.8 points, 3.3 rebounds and 3.8 assists thus far this season. Defending their first-place ranking will be no easy task for the Tigers.

No. 20 Arizona at No. 13 Texas Tech: Saturday at 10 p.m.

Star NBA prospect Caleb Love has catapulted the Arizona Wildcats back into the top 25 after several explosive performances last week, scoring 27 in their win over rival Arizona State and 22 in their upset over No. 3 Iowa State. It's no joke that the Wildcats will be serious contenders come tournament time. On the other hand, Texas Tech has had a huge season themselves, boasting a 17-4 record with several blowout wins, including a 70-54 romp of Arizona earlier this season. Everyone knows that it's not easy to beat the same team twice, especially Arizona with a red-hot Caleb Love.

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Sports

Men's Golf: UConn defeats Creighton and Xavier at first Big East matchup of the season

by Nicole Caruso
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The UConn men's golf team came out swinging to open their spring season with a 6-1 win over Creighton and a 4-3 win over Xavier.

The Huskies escaped the cold Connecticut weather and traveled to sunny West Palm Beach, Fla. for their first Big East matchup of the season.

Alongside the Huskies were Xavier, Marquette, Butler, St. Johns, Villanova, Creighton and DePaul, who also competed.

UConn continued its success at this event from last year, when the team went 3-0 against Butler, Creighton and Seton Hall.

The Huskies dominated early on to ultimately to secure a 6-1 win. In the first match, senior Ray Dennehy won against junior Grant Feldman and this success continued in the following two matches with the Huskies taking the wins.

In the first match, UConn senior Eric Boulger fell to Creighton's freshman Henry Kuehne. Despite this, UConn went on to win the next two matches, moving them into the second round against Xavier. The Musketeers won in the first round against DePaul, 6.5-0.5.

In the second match, UConn's Dennehy was up first against sophomore Ray Filter. This match resulted in a tie as both golfers followed a similar scorecard across the match. Dennehy had 24 pars in his match placing him in 5th place amongst all players.

In the second matchup, junior Connor Goode faced off against junior Carson Bellish where Bellish took the win. On the fifth hole, Bellish, got it in three whereas it took Goode five putts. Despite this, Goode and Bellish went on to be even with the rest of the holes, but Goode fell just short in the end, resulting in a loss for the Huskies.

Sophomore Bradley Sawka turned things around for the Huskies against his

opponent, freshman Kellen Dean, resulting in a two-up win. Sawka had consistent three and four putts while Dean struggled to keep his momentum going, resulting in several five and six putts, costing him the win.

Both the veteran Huskies and newcomers had successful wins in their matches. Senior Eric Boulger took the fourth match win against sophomore AJ Wilhelm of the Musketeers, as did freshman Matthew Costello with his win against junior Zach Burton.

In the last match, freshman Caden Blanchette fell to senior Mason Witt. Despite this, the combination of strong matches throughout the day led the Huskies to the overall win to keep their winning streak alive.

Xaiver did have strong performances though, with freshman Kyle Smith coming in first place with ten birdies and his teammate Kellen Deed right behind him in second place with nine birdies.

Looking at the other teams, Butler had a standout performance as three of their players ranked first amongst tournament stats. Freshman Johnny Creamean came in first with two Eaglesplus and senior Henry Quinn with 27 pars, tied for

first place with Creighton freshman Jacob Kutner.

In terms of the other scores, Marquette defeated Butler with a score of 5-2 and Creighton dominated against DePaul with a score of 5-1. St. Johns and Villanova ended in a tie of 3.5-3.5.

Looking ahead, the Huskies will travel to Dorado, Puerto Rico for the Dorado Beach Collegiate which will take place from Feb. 23-25.

