

THE BASKETBALL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD



Paige Bueckers (right) PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS, Hassan Diarra (left) PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Monday, November 4, 2024

Husky Hoopla

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MEN'S BASKETBALL RANKINGS

UCONN

MARQUETTE



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The Marquette Golden Eagles finished 27-10 last season, including standout wins against Villanova and Providence in the Big East tournament. However, NC State handed Marquette a loss in the Sweet 16, sending them home. Last season, Marquette stood out in the Maui invitational, upsetting No. 1 Kansas. This year, with the help of key returning players including senior Kam Jones (17.2PPG) and senior Stevie Mitchell, who had a season-high 41 minutes against Villanova, will look to go all the way. Junior Chase Ross will also be a key player for the Golden Eagles as his impressive defense provides tough competition for any opposing team. Head coach Shaka Smart is entering his fourth year with the program and will look towards these players to lead the team to a championship victory.



CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

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Connecticut proved all their doubters wrong last season, winning back-to-back national championships in historic fashion. For Dan Hurley and co., the goal remains the same, and the road to getting there is very similar. Despite facing a significant roster turnover like last season, UConn is forecasted to run through the Big East this year in dominant fashion thanks to what Hurley dubs his most talented roster ever. The program expects Alex Karaban, Hassan Diarra and Samson Johnson to step into even more prominent roles this season. After putting together a solid freshman campaign, Hurley anticipates sophomore guard Solo Ball to take a massive leap this season. Don't sleep on the Connecticut bench either, as this program flexes impressive depth up and down the roster, proving they have a plethora of talent to eat solid minutes. If the Huskies can do what they did last season and deal with this significant roster turnover in stride, don't be surprised if they lift trophy No. 7 in San Antonio.

CREIGHTON



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After their second straight Sweet 16 appearance, the Creighton Blue Jays are set up for another successful season. The Blue Jays lost their two top scorers from last season, Baylor Scheierman and Trey Alexander, but they may have found their replacements in the transfer portal. Creighton acquired Pop Isaacs from Texas Tech and Jamiya Neal from Arizona State, who should both be mainstays in the Blue Jay's starting lineup. They will also be returning the remaining three starters from last season. Ryan Kalkbrenner is back for his fifth season and is a favorite to win Big East player of the year. They have a couple of freshmen, Jackson McAndrew and Larry Johnson, who should play solid roles off the bench. Head coach Greg McDermott has yet another strong roster that will be one of the best teams in the Big East.

4 XAVIER

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Xavier was down last year, losing starting forwards Zach Freemantle and Jerome Hunter to injury along with the departure of Souley Boum and Colby Jones. Despite losing Desmond Claude to USC and Quincy Olivari to the NBA, guard Dayvion McKnight will step up in the starting backcourt after proving to be the best facilitator last season, finishing second in the Big East in assist-to-turnover ratio (3.06). The biggest acquisition during the offseason was guard Ryan Conwell, transferring in after spending time at South Florida and Indiana State. Conwell will be vital in the backcourt and in a wing role for Xavier, with his shooting proving to be most effective (40.7% from 3-point range). In addition to the strong backcourt, the Musketeers may have the best frontcourt with Freemantle and Hunter returning hoping to stay healthy this season. KenPom has Xavier as the No. 33 team in the country, but I believe their ceiling is a lot

5 ST. JOHNS

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The St. John's Red Storm finished No. 8 in the Big East conference last year after a tumultuous season during which head coach Rick Pitino frequently criticized his team, saying at one point, "If I said I was disappointed, that would be the understatement of the year." They finished with an overall record of 18-15 but went just 7-13 within the conference. Now, they are showing more promise behind captain Zuby Ejiolor, Utah transfer Deivon Smith and RJ Luis, who is returning after getting two surgeries on his shin. New power forward Ruben Prey, who hails from Portugal, is also expected to contribute significantly for the team. It's also hard to miss Kadary Richmond, who has a real chance at being crowned Big East Player of the Year. It remains to be seen whether Pitino's second season in Queens will be a success, but the pieces are there to have a much better time this year, so they slot in at the No. 5 spot of our rankings.

6 PROVIDENCE

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Kim English's first year with the Friars fell short of expectations as they finished 21-14 and lost to Boston College in the first round of the NIT. However, this year's squad will look different after losing Big East Player of the Year Devin Carter to the NBA draft and Josh Oduro, along with Ticket Gaines graduating. After suffering a season-ending ACL injury last season, senior forward Bryce Hopkins will return to lead the team this time around. Providence was busy in the transfer portal this offseason, bringing in five transfers, headlined by former Chicago State guard Wesley Cardet Jr. who could be a breakout candidate this year. With so many new faces this year, it's difficult to project how they will perform. However, if Hopkins takes another step forward after returning from injury and the transfers quickly adjust to the Big East level, the Friars could be a force to be reckoned with.

7 VILLANOVA

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The Wildcats' record of 18-10 last year placed them smack-dab in the middle of the Big East's pack. However, they showed great promise by knocking Providence out of the Big East tournament and played top dogs UConn and Marquette to nail-biting finishes last year. Even though they have lost two major starters in Justin Moore and Tyler Burton, they still have top scorer Eric Dixon (averaging 16.6 points per game) and Jordan Longino. Both athletes can lead this team with their size and three-pointers. Additionally, rookies Matthew Hodge, Josiah Mosely and Kris Parker all show promise, ranking 70, 82 and 99 respectively in the 247 Sports Composite. They're led by fourth-year head coach Kyle Neptune, who was the assistant coach in Nova's Big East titles in 2016 and 2018. Their size, height and mix of old and new talent will make them a team to keep an eye on this season.

8 SETON HALL

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The Seton Hall Pirates are entering this new year coming off winning the NIT last season. After losing 11 players, the Pirates will return two of their key performers on this year's roster. One of them being their fifth starter graduate guard Dylan Addae-Wusu who is a veteran of the Big East. He averaged 8.6 points and 5.3 rebounds last season. Another huge returner is sophomore Isaiah Coleman, who made the Big East All-Freshman Team last year after averaging 5.4 points and 2.6 rebounds per game. Seton Hall added three freshmen for this upcoming season, but the attention turns to the eight transfers on the new roster. The Pirates were ranked 10th in the Big East Preseason Coaches' Poll. Seton Hall is not expected to have a championship season by any means, but they should definitely be able to defend themselves and stay within the top 50 rankings.

9 BUTLER

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The Bulldogs' 2023-24 campaign was mediocre. They finished 18-15 after a 9-2 start and bowed out of the Big East and NIT tournaments in the first round. On the bright side, Butler is the only team in the Big East to have their top two scorers return from last year: senior forward Pierre Brooks (14.8PPG) and his partner in crime fifth-year guard Jahmyl Telfort (13.9PPG). Both players were also named to the preseason All-Big East second team. The Bulldogs will have a tough season ahead of them as they will have to rely on a group of underclassmen and three incoming transfers to make up the rest of the rotation, missing the presence of Posh Alexander and Jalen Thomas, who led the team in assists and rebounds, respectively, last year. Third-year coach Thad Matta will need to rely heavily on his top two scoring options to carry Butler out of the bottom three.

10 GEORGETOWN

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After an underwhelming 9-23 campaign last season, second-year head coach Ed Cooley and his Georgetown Hoyas are looking to make a splash in the Big East this season. The Hoyas were absolutely plagued by the transfer portal, losing several key players such as Dontrez Styles and Supreme Cook. The lone returning starter for the Hoyas is junior guard Jayden Epps, who was the leading scorer for Georgetown last season, averaging 18.5 points, 2.6 rebounds and 4.2 assists a game with a 39.2% field goal percentage. However, the Hoyas' '24 recruiting class is full of talent, adding nine players to the roster. The addition of 6-foot-10 four-star center Thomas Sorber from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who was the 45th-ranked player in the class of 2024 by 24/7 Sports, is enormous. On top of that, Cooley added four-star shooting guard Kayvuan Mulready, the No. 67 ranked prospect in the class of 2024. With the influx of new talent and the return of their leading scorer, the Hoyas are primed for a solid 2024-25 campaign.

11 DEPAUL

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It's been nearly two decades since DePaul has finished above .500 in conference action, and last year was no different as the Blue Demons finished 0-20 in the Big East and 3-29 overall. While DePaul has remained at the bottom of the conference for the entirety of its tenure and the chances of climbing the ladder are slim, they enter the season with an entirely new calvary and head coach. After firing former head coach Tony Stubblefield in January, Ohio State's Chris Holtmann is now at the helm. However, Holtmann will face unique challenges in Chicago as every squad member is either a freshman or a transfer. Among the transfers is Isaiah Rivera out of the University of Illinois Chicago. Last season, Rivera led UIC in scoring, averaging 14.7 points and 4.2 rebounds per game, and he will likely be key to DePaul's offense. Rivera will be accompanied by 13 other new faces as they begin a season of rebuilding.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL RANKINGS

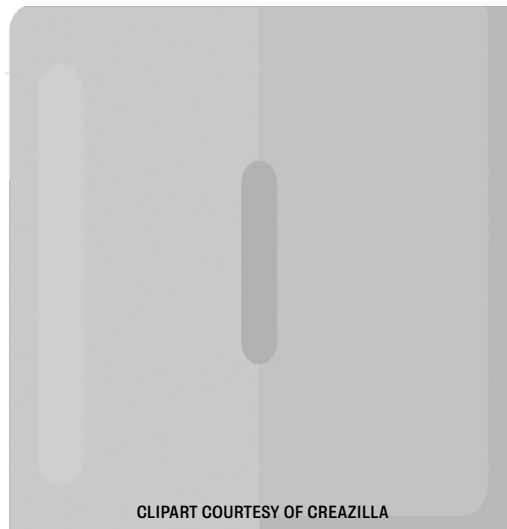
UCONN

CREIGHTON



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Finishing with an impressive 26-6 record last season, the lady Bluejays are nipping at UConn's heels for the top spot as they are fueled by last year's upset loss to Georgetown in the Big East tournament and a knockout second round in the NCAA tournament by a strong UCLA team. Although they lose key 16.8-point scorer Emma Ronsiek, the rest of their starting lineup remains intact and stronger than ever with leading point scorer Lauren Jensen (17.4), top rebounder Morgan Maly (6.5), assist leader Molly Mogensen (4.3) and Mallory Brake, who held her own on the court. In addition, they have solid bench players Kennedy Townsend, Jayme Horan and Kiani Lockett, who all played minutes in most games. They do not need any new players to add to this team's impressive strength and have a strong chance of taking home a Big East title, as well as an impressive run in March Madness this year.



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The 2024-25 season for UConn women's basketball welcomes Geno Auriemma and Chris Dailey's 40th year coaching, as well as the team's mission for redemption. Connecticut defied the odds last season after their roster was plagued by injuries, but their season was cut short in the very last seconds after a Final Four loss against the Iowa Hawkeyes. However, the Huskies roster is locked and loaded this season and ready for their quest for No. 12. The Huskies added four new players to the roster with freshmen all in the ESPN top 15 recruits including Sarah Strong, Morgan Cheli and Allie Ziebell and graduate transfer Kaitlyn Chen from Princeton. As far as returning players, Paige Bueckers is back for her red shirt senior season after averaging 21.9 points per game last season. For the Big East, Bueckers and Strong were named as the Preseason Player and Freshman of the year, respectively.

PROVIDENCE



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Year one under head coach Erin Batth saw an injury-riddled Friars team finish ninth in the Big East with a record of 13-21. This season has a lot of promise for Providence as the young core they've been building continues to develop. Providence returns seven seniors and three graduate students to the roster along with a few underclassmen to fill out the remainder of the squad. Olivia Olson, one of the returning seniors and the Second Team All-Big East honoree, led the team with 13.7 PPG and 8.5 rebounds last year. MacKayla Scarlett is the lone transfer joining the roster after four seasons with Xavier. The graduate student was the leading scorer for the Musketeers the past two seasons, averaging almost 14 points a game in 2024. The 2024-25 season is all or nothing for the Friars, and with the Big East being a 3-bid conference last season, Providence could be dancing come March.

4 VILLANOVA

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Villanova achieved an overall record of 22-13 to finish the 2023-24 season. When it comes to in-conference play, the Wildcats tied with Marquette and St. John's, finishing 11-7. Although Villanova secured the No. 3 seed last season, the squad failed to make it past the quarterfinals. Falling to No. 5 Marquette, the Wildcats' postseason was cut short in a tight 50-48 loss. Entering the offseason, the team felt the wrath of the transfer portal, losing a total of eight players. This year the team will be without three essential juniors, guard Lucy Olsen, guard Zanai Jones and forward Christina Dalce. Leading the team in points, assists and rebounds, the three juniors were the core of success for the Wildcats. Attempting to fill in the missing pieces, Villanova acquired guard Ryanne Allen, guard Bronagh Power-Cassidy and forward Lara Edmanson. In hopes of competing with the top dogs like UConn, a rebuilding year for head coach Denise Dillon is on the horizon.

5 ST JOHNS

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The Red Storm are coming off a mediocre season during which they had an overall record of 18-15 and finished third in the Big East. This season, the team will be missing graduate Unique Drake who was a prominent scorer, averaging 18-points per game. Jillian Archer will also be missed as she contributed an average of 7.6 rebounds per game. These losses will be tough for the team; however, the squad also has two key transfer additions. Ariana Vanderhoop, a graduate student from Monmouth, will be a notable transfer as she scored an average of 10.6 points per game last season. Jade Blagrove, a graduate transfer forward from Manhattan who started in all 30 games last season, will also be a key addition. In last season's postseason, the team got to the second round of the Women's Basketball Invitational Tournament but fell short to Toledo. This year, the team will look to improve and go further.

6 GEORGETOWN

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The Hoyas won 23 games last season, reached the Big East title game and received an invite to the WBIT to play in its first postseason in four years. Back for Georgetown is defensive maestro Kelsey Ransom, as well as a litany of transfers and underclassmen bound to have an immediate impact, such as guard Victoria Rivera - a 33-game starter in 2023 - and forward Brianna Scott, who won the conference's Sixth Woman of the Year award last season. Richmond transfer Siobhan Ryan is a consistent three-point shooter looking to evolve under second year head coach Darnell Haney. The Hoyas are a sizable squad who will make do by shooting well from behind the arc and suffocating their opponents on the defensive end of the floor with a physical, board-crashing attack.

7 SETON HALL

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The Seton Hall Pirates are looking to improve upon a middling season in which they struggled in conference play, going 8-10 in the Big East and earned a winning record of 17-15 overall. The team made a bit of a run in the Big East tournament, crushing Xavier in the first round before losing a heartbreaker to Creighton 75-74 in overtime. This year, the Pirates will be without the talents of forwards Azana Baines and Kae Satterfield. Baines especially had a knack for scoring, averaging 14.7 points throughout the season, but not everything is bad news. Guard Amari Wright, who was second in assists per game last year in the Big East, has returned as a graduate student for Seton Hall. The Pirates may also be able to replace the lost talent with the abilities of guard Savannah Catalan, who is set for a bigger role this season after making it to the Big East All-Freshman team in her rookie campaign.

8 BUTLER

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Butler's 2023-24 season can only be described as a struggle. Though it was an improvement from their previous season, the Bulldogs still had difficulty winning games. The squad ended the season with a 6-12 conference record and was eliminated from the Big East tournament in their first game. The team will hope for a better outcome this season as they bring back two prominent players from last year's squad. Graduate student Caroline Strande was an integral part of last year's roster, averaging 15.1 points per game. Another returning player is senior Kilyn McGruff who averaged the second most playing time last year. McGruff is in the top two free-throw-shooters on the team and averaged 5.3 rebounds per game last season. With strong players like this and a coach who has been slowly improving the program over time, the Bulldogs should be looking for a better outcome this year.

9 MARQUETTE

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The Marquette women's basketball team faces a transitional season in 2024-25 under new head coach Cara Consuegra after Megan Duffy's departure. After a 23-9 finish last year and a first-round NCAA tournament appearance, Marquette will be integrating six new players, including transfers Jaidynn Mason, Kennedy Perkins and Jada Bediako. Mason, a former Southern Illinois standout, brings scoring potential but needs to improve efficiency. Perkins, from Syracuse, is expected to be a starter, bringing experience and versatility. Bediako, a Canadian international, will likely start at center and could provide strong rebounding. Attention turns to two junior college transfers, which may have to be the team's pillars this season. Among the players, Olivia Porter brings a solid assist record and shooting ability from Charlotte, Aryelle Stevens adds inside scoring from Gulf Coast State, and Ayuen Akot offers rebounding strength from Frank Phillips College, though her role remains to be solidified, as she only has junior college experience.

10 DEPAUL

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The new year brings promise for the struggling DePaul Blue Demons. The Lady Blue Demons will have a lot to replace this year as the team's leading scorer and the top three out of four rebounders are now gone, as well as a few additional starters. They will return Jorie Allen, as she looks to be a leader come the start of the season and add six new first-year students with the best being the 79th ranked best player in the nation, Angelina Smith. It will be a fresh look for head coach Doug Bruno's team, but they have the advantage of being underdogs and could shock a few teams come the start of the season.

11 XAVIER

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Last year, Xavier had a trying season as they finished 0-18 in the conference, being one of the most challenged teams in college basketball last year as they collected only seven wins. They also had no wins in Big East play which was a big issue for the team and ultimately dropped them to the bottom of the coaches' poll to start this season. The team also lost their three best players to the transfer portal, so it will be shocking if the team wins more games than last year. New coach Billi Chambers will have her hands full as the bar is set low and even a 5-10-win season will be considered a success.

Husky Hoopla

Daily Campus

Staff Picks

MEN'S

PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

RYAN KALKBRENNER, CREIGHTON, SR., C

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR:

LIAM MCNEELEY, UCONN, FR., F

COACH OF THE YEAR:

SEAN MILLER, XAVIER

FIRST TEAM:

KADARY RICHMOND, ST. JOHN'S, GR., G

KAM JONES, MARQUETTE, SR., G

ALEX KARABAN, UCONN, R-JR., F

BRYCE HOPKINS, PROVIDENCE, SR., G-F

ERIC DIXON, VILLANOVA, GR., F

WOMEN'S

PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

PAIGE BUECKERS, UCONN, R-SR., G

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR:

SARAH STRONG, UCONN, FR., F

COACH OF THE YEAR:

GENO AURIEMMA, UCONN

FIRST TEAM:

ASHLYNN SHADE, UCONN, SO., G

AZZI FUDD, UCONN, R-JR., G

LAUREN JENSON, CREIGHTON, SR., G

CAROLINE STRAND, BUTLER, GR., G

KELSEY RANSOM, GEORGETOWN, GR., G

MEN'S BASKETBALL PROJECTED STARTERS

G - Hassan Diarra, Gr. (Connor)

In many ways, Hassan Diarra was an unsung hero of last year's national championship run. While he did not score a plethora of points like his teammates, his contributions were pivotal. Whether it was being a great facilitator, playing hard-nosed defense or leading breaks in transition, Diarra was one of the best sixth men in the country a year ago. With the Huskies losing four players to the NBA, the guard will take on a more prominent role this season. Considering how talented Connecticut is, the program does not need Diarra to take on a sizeable scoring role. His aptitude as a traditional point guard is his strength, which meshes perfectly with the program. When given the opportunity, Diarra can get a bucket from most areas on the floor, making him a threat to the game in many ways.

G - Solo Ball, So. (Connor)

Despite starting 10 games last season for the Huskies and playing solid minutes early in the campaign, Solo Ball fell out of the rotation as a freshman, and we didn't see much of him. Part of it had to do with how intense the competition for minutes was last year, but despite that, Ball is all in on the UConn system. Coaches at UConn for two years have been raving about how good of a shot the 6-foot-3 guard has, which he demonstrated in Connecticut's 102-75 exhibition win over URI. Ball scored 18 points on 7-10 shooting, including 3-6 from beyond the arc. This performance, coupled with the confidence of the UConn coaching staff, makes us confident that Ball will be running with the first unit. The likelihood of Ball making a strong sophomore jump has never been greater.

F - Liam McNeeley, Fr. (Sam)

It's easy to fall in love with a five-star recruit like Liam McNeeley, who brings a more prominent offensive presence than Stephon Castle started with last year. The Huskies lost shooters in Cam Spencer and Tristen Newton, but bringing in McNeeley will help with that as he was shooting over 40% during the EYBL season. The only concern that head coach Dan Hurley has expressed about him is his defense. Not only is his shooting strong, but his frame allows him to finish at the rim in various ways. Expect the star freshman to make an immediate impact on the team's hopes of a third consecutive national championship. McNeeley didn't waste any time showing his offensive game in the team's exhibition against Rhode Island, scoring the game's first points and finishing with 10.

F - Alex Karaban, R-Jr. (Sam)

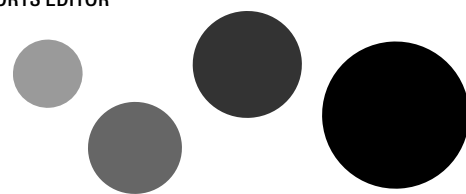
Even though Samson Johnson and Hassan Diarra were on the team for both national titles, Alex Karaban brings the most experience out of the three. He flirted with the NBA, but ultimately decided to return in a new role: becoming the headlining player of the defending champions. Karaban started the last two seasons and is coming off a regular season where he shot at least 50% from the field, 40% from deep and 90% from the free throw line. He's expected to step up after shooting just 31.6% from 3-point range in the final 15 games of last season. Fans should be ecstatic about Karaban in a new role. He's not going to be considered a role player that relies on catch-and-shoot type of shots; his game is expected to expand beyond that.

C - Samson Johnson, Sr. (Sam)

Samson Johnson had a unique path to become the Huskies' starting center this season. He started at power forward at the beginning of the 2022-23 season, but things derailed in the first game. Since then, Hurley and the coaching staff have worked with Johnson to reshape him into a center. That transition is similar to 2004 National Champion Josh Boone, who went from starting at power forward his first year, to eventually center his final year in Storrs. Assistant coach Tom Moore talked about the similar paths between Johnson and 1999 National Champion Souleymane Wane to reach this role. Johnson feasted in the paint last year, shooting 73.5% from inside the arc, according to KenPom. While he is expected to split time with Michigan transfer Tarris Reed Jr., the table is set for Johnson to have a breakout year.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PROJECTED STARTERS

G - Kaitlyn Chen, Gr. (Jake)

Considering Auriemma's efforts to play less small ball and incorporate height into one of the conference's top frontcourts, Kaitlyn Chen is the perfect candidate for the lead distributor role and is a confident lane scorer when coming downhill. The graduate transfer spent four seasons at Princeton and evolved into one of the top players in the Ivy League, and will fit perfectly into Auriemma's offensive scheme.

G - Paige Bueckers, R-Sr. (Avery)

After leading the team to a Final Four last year, the Hopkins, Minnesota native is back for her red shirt senior year. Paige Bueckers is Auriemma's go-to girl when it comes to the starting lineup, having started in all 39 games with the Huskies last year. In her senior campaign, she averaged 21.9 points per game and was the main focal point of the team's offense. This makes it a no-brainer for Auriemma to have her in the starting lineup again for depth and veteran experience.

G - Ashlynn Shade, So. (Avery)

Having started in 33 of Connecticut's 39 games last season, Ashlynn Shade is one of the more experienced players on the very young roster this year. The Noblesville, Ind. native averaged 11 points per game in her freshman season, scored the third most points on the team and was named the 2024 Big East Freshman of the Year. With her dynamic style of play and strength in shots beyond the arc, she'll be an integral part of the starting lineup.

F - Sarah Strong, Fr. (Jake)

The nation's top ranked recruit will more than likely start on opening night considering the injuries to Ayanna Patterson and Aubrey Griffin, making Sarah Strong the second true freshman to start in as many seasons, following Shade. Strong is still finding her identity but has looked impressive in spurts according to Auriemma. If Strong can establish herself in the post, the Huskies will add another dimension to its already multi-faced offense.

C - Jana El Alfy, R-Fr. (Jake)

The Egyptian native has spent two years in Storrs but has yet to play a game for Auriemma, dealing with season ending injuries in one of her first two campaigns. The sizable center will be a focal point on the glass on both sides of the ball as the Huskies look to replace Aaliyah Edwards down low.

Mae Flexer faces Chris Reddy and Alice Leibowitz in state senate race

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Democrat incumbent Mae Flexer faces Republican challenger Chris Reddy and Green party challenger Alice Leibowitz in the 29th state senate district election.

The district includes the towns of Brooklyn, Canterbury, Killingly, Mansfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Windham and some of Thompson.

Leibowitz did not respond to requests for an interview with The Daily Campus and does not have a campaign website. According to the Norwich Bulletin, her campaign priorities include divestment from the military-industrial complex, switching to ranked choice voting and redistricting school systems so all students can attend schools of equal quality.

Reddy spoke about his background as a paramedic before becoming chairman of the Republican town committee.

“My background traditionally was not in politics. I was a paramedic for 28 years in the state of Connecticut,” Reddy said. “I taught EMT classes and paramedic classes for a number of years.”

Reddy said he got into politics in recent years. Reddy said that his job as chairman of the Republican town committee in Scotland, which is in the 29th district, involves identifying candidates for public office and working on messaging.

“I’m the chairman of the Republican town committee in my hometown of Scotland and that’s what kind of led me to get into the senatorial race,” Reddy said. “And when I looked at this year, I recognized that this was a seat that with the right campaign strategy and with the hard work that I put in, that this was a seat that I would be able to win.”

Flexer spoke about her legislative priorities and her representation of students at the University of Connecticut, Eastern Connecticut State University and Crown Valley Community College.

“I represent more college students than any other legislator and I take that responsibility really seriously,” Flexer said. “I’m really proud of the work that I’ve been able to do fighting for funding for public higher education in Connecticut.”

Flexer said that she was a student at UConn when she first ran for office.

“Fighting to make sure that Connecticut keeps public higher education affordable is something that’s been a top priority and it’s something that’s been a battle the entire time I’ve served in the state senate,” Flexer said.

Flexer spoke about the decrease in state funding to UConn as a percentage of UConn’s budget.

“It’s frustrating to me that, you know, public support for the University of Connecticut, for example, has gone from 50 percent of the cost to attend UConn 35 years ago or 30 years ago was paid for by the state of Connecticut,” Flexer said. “And now that number is less than 25 percent.”

Flexer said she was working to move things in the opposite direction and wanted to return to 50 percent of funding for public universities in Connecticut. Flexer also spoke about reproductive healthcare and domestic violence. She said UConn students came to her and Representative Gregg Haddad regarding accessibility to reproductive healthcare on campus.

“I was proud to work with those students and Representative Haddad last year to pass a bill that puts in place permanent requirements for access to reproductive healthcare on all of our college campuses across the state of Connecticut,” Flexer said.

Flexer also highlighted domestic violence as a top priority.

“I have been very focused as a legislator on issues surrounding violence against women,” Flexer said. “I’ve done a lot of work in the area of domestic violence and sexual violence.”

Reddy said that voters he spoke to prioritized affordability in Connecticut.

“The big things that they are concerned about, the number one thing by far is the affordability in Connecticut,” Reddy said. “If you look at virtually any of the lists of cost of living, cost of rent, cost of housing, utilities, even the price of gasoline and diesel, and then in relation to consumer goods, these are things that are really concerning people right now,” Reddy said.

Reddy cited data from the Yankee Institute regarding revenue sources in Connecticut.

“I do think that Connecticut is a very large, onerous bureau-

cracy to a lot of taxpayers,” Reddy said. “Right now, there’s 360 sources of revenue for the state, interconnected through taxes, fees and licensing. The lowest 200 of them bring in only about [0.15 percent] of total revenue in the state of Connecticut and many of these programs in fact cost the state money.”

State Senate majority leader Bob Duff sent an open letter to UConn President Radenka Maric in August asking UConn to increase enrollment to 40,000 students. Both Reddy and Flexer voiced opposition to Duff’s plan.

“I want to make sure that any expansion that UConn would consider in undergrad and graduate population would be one that considers what they’re doing to the quality of education they’re providing for each student and to make sure that that level of education is maintained,” Reddy said.

Flexer said that Duff did not notify her prior to sending the letter.

“Senator Duff put together a letter that he did not talk to me about before he did it,” Flexer said. “He put together a proposal that has serious impacts for my district. And the contents of his letter are not something I support.”

Reddy and Flexer commented on the potential cuts to approximately 245 academic programs at UConn.

“I think that it’s unfortunate that we can’t maintain the diversity of the programs that are offered at UConn,” Reddy said.

Reddy said he supports more state appropriations to

UConn.

“The 29th district, this is UConn country. This is where UConn calls itself home,” Reddy said. “Financial support from the state is important, it not only helps out UConn to continue growing as a university, but also it helps out the town of Mansfield in the way of the [Payment in Lieu of Taxes] funds.”

Flexer said that some members of Governor Ned Lamont’s administration view cuts to public higher education as the best fiscal policy for Connecticut. She is a member of the Higher Education Sustainability Advisory Board, which is looking at funding for all institutions of public higher education in Connecticut.

“That includes the OPM secretary [Jeffrey Beckham]. It was his initiative that created this board that is supposed to be looking at these issues,” Flexer said. “He comes to the Board with this scarcity mindset and believes that institutions like UConn have a lot of space and a lot of money that can be cut back.”

Flexer said she disagreed with Secretary Beckham and disagreed with cuts to majors.

“He’s one of the main drivers of this conversation for cutbacks at UConn and therefore the kinds of conversations that are happening directly on campus right now with faculty, staff and students cutting back majors, cutting back programs, cutting back academic disciplines all across the university,” Flexer said.

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News

EcoAthletes: The organization urging Americans to “Vote Climate” this election

by Gabe Duffany

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With the 2024 general election mere days away, environmental advocacy group EcoAthletes is partnering with high-profile sportspersons, including WNBA player Napheesa Collier, urging citizens to “vote climate” for candidates whose platforms prioritize sustainability.

Boasting nearly one hundred partner athletes in the United States alone, EcoAthletes was founded by Green Sports Blog creator Lew Blaustein in 2020 to educate sports fans about the threat of climate catastrophe.

“Athletes are the most influential humans on the planet, and that’s not just me talking,” explained Blaustein. According to a 2020 study conducted by researchers from Wake Forest University, the activism of professional athletes can greatly shift the perspective of fans on the issues they champion.

Although athletes were shown to be highly effective in mobilizing public opinion, Blaustein noted that prior to EcoAthletes, sportspersons with high visibility were hesitant to voice their stance on environmental issues.

“I would ask them, ‘why are you not talking about climate change while you’re doing beach cleanups and e-waste recycling drives and etc.?’” said Blaustein. He said their response was, “Too science-y, too political and too hypocritical.”

Despite efforts to bring high-profile athletes into the discus-

sion on climate change, many feared receiving backlash regarding their own carbon emissions, heightened due to frequent flights to sports venues.

“I felt like there needed to be an organization that helps athletes who are environmentally-minded and climate-minded get off the sidelines and into the climate game,” concluded Blaustein.

One of EcoAthletes’ foremost advocates is former UConn women’s basketball star and 2024 Olympic gold-medalist Napheesa Collier, whose recent successes as a forward for the Minnesota Lynx have made ‘Phee’ a modern legend.

“It’s such a pivotal time right now for our global climate and through voting, you’ll help put the people in office who are going to make those decisions,” emphasized Collier.

Approached by Blaustein in her rookie season, Collier noted that her climate anxieties rose as she realized that damage to the planet was slowly becoming irreversible.

“I started thinking about the future and what that would look like for my daughter. It may not be the end of my world, but it could be the end of hers,” said Collier. “The U.S. is one of the largest contributors to global emissions, so I think it’s kind of our duty to be able to be up to date on that and vote accordingly.”

In explaining their organization’s mission, Blaustein and Collier emphasized that EcoAthletes’ campaign for a healthier planet did not begin with the election, and it will not end after the votes are counted.

“Keep reaching out to your

elected officials even after you vote.” said Collier. “Voting is the first step, and then holding them accountable.”

Alongside the Vote Climate initiative, EcoAthletes hosts various sustainability-oriented programs to connect professional athletes with fans under the shared mission of green activism. Efforts such as the Clothes For Good Campaign mobilize pro sportspersons around the world in reusing and recycling apparel and avoiding ecologically harmful waste.

Speaking on her experiences as an EcoAthlete champion, Collier commented, “We do a basketball camp for kids in our community, so in Minnesota, and then we do climate education afterwards. The youth is something that I’m really interested in, and what I naturally gravitate towards.”

EcoAthletes additionally recognizes the importance of reaching out to members of the college community, with UConn middle-distance runner Caroline Webb being a partner to the organization.

Speaking on EcoAthletes’ recent Collegiate Cup initiative, Blaustein explained, “Champions on campuses across the nation sign up their teammates, friends and family, and urge them to work out. That exercise is converted into an environmental currency that funds carbon reduction projects, specifically methane capture. The school that exercises the most on aggregate wins the Cup, but the climate is the big winner.”

“Caroline will work to bring UConn onto the 2025 Collegiate Cup podium,” said Blaustein.



McDonald’s receipt leads to arrest



by Samantha Brody

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A recent purchase at a Windham McDonald’s resulted in the arrest of 22-year-old Makayla Joann Poirier-Vaughter of Uncasville, Connecticut. Poirier-Vaughter was arrested on Oct. 14 on three separate charges of sixth-degree larceny, possessing receipts from illegal use of a credit card and third-degree identity theft.

In the state of Connecticut, sixth-degree larceny is theft of goods whose values total less than \$500.

“The investigation began on Sept. 22, when a resident of Mansfield City Road reported that his vehicle had been broken into and his wallet was taken,” according to the news website Patch. “Images from a home surveillance system showed a woman break-

ing into the vehicle at 4:24 a.m.”

According to Patch, the individual’s debit card began processing transactions at multiple locations, including the Windham McDonald’s. State police matched the security footage to footage of the original theft, and Patch noted “It showed a woman similar to the one on the home surveillance system in a Lincoln pickup up food and the name on the McDonald’s App for that purchase was noted as ‘Makayla,’ according to a warrant.”

Police located Poirier-Vaughter’s Lincoln and found a McDonald’s receipt with the name “Makayla” in the car, leading to her arrest.

Poirier-Vaughter was released on a \$50,000 court-set bond according to her arrest report and appeared in Rockville Superior Court on Oct. 28.

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Content Campaigns: YouTube and the 2024 election

by Benjamin Lassy

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A constantly growing phenomenon has affected all elections since Barack Obama's first term began in his successful 2008 campaign: YouTube, the largest video sharing platform.

Every day, there is more content uploaded to YouTube alone than the average human could ever watch in their lifetime. For context, that's around 720,000 hours of video added to the platform every day — about 80 years' worth of content. That's not factoring in streaming platforms, livestreams and so much more produced and available for consumption every day.

Amidst the exponentially growing media pool that is slowly drowning all of us in reductive content, votes in the 2024 United States elections are about to be counted. As important as this election is, how can anyone — especially voters — learn about the current state of U.S. politics through media when doing so successfully is like finding a needle in a haystack?

Well, a curated list is a start, and last week, the Life Section published a piece laying out an assortment of great podcasts

for voters to use to dive into unbiased, or at least in-depth dialogues. Kamala Harris appeared on "Call Her Daddy" and Donald Trump appeared on "The Joe Rogan Experience," both rapidly accruing millions of views. It was in reading this, and seeing those podcasts, that I realized the immense impact that YouTube is having on the campaign trails for both candidates.

In the first few hours of uploading on Oct. 25, Trump's interview surpassed 30 million views. It now has 45 million.

One of the top comments by @catoftruth1044 reads: "Podcasts are officially more important than traditional media now." That comment alone has 331,000 likes.

Harris' interview on "Call

Her Daddy" has over 700,000 views on YouTube, and many more on Spotify, the podcast's main platform.

There is something surreal when you add up these viewership statistics and factor in the wide variety of content that both candidates have been in. Internet

per-

sonal-

ity Logan Paul interviewed Trump on his "Impulsive" podcast, and then unsurprisingly, a few days before the election, Paul endorsed Trump's ticket. That video currently has 6.7 million views. We are amidst an unprecedented cycle of content creation that far exceeds the typical coverage seen in previous decades.

Harris has been on some-

thing of a "Media Blitz" the past few weeks leading up to the election, including a Fox interview (on YouTube), an iHeartRadio appearance as well as the "Call Her Daddy" interview.

It's a serious effort, and other interviews such as her discussion on the Howard Stern Show have accumulated millions of views.

In the end — or rather what is just the beginning of YouTube's impact — over a quarter of Americans use YouTube as a news source, a critical chunk of voters that could easily sway election results.

So, the candidates themselves have clearly seen the potential in the platform, or at least their campaign teams have. There is often something strange about seeing both candidates' dialogue captured so plainly, without any script or security around them (though there is probably some secret security just out of frame). You see Trump in fairly plain lighting, removed from a cheering audience. In the Harris interviews, you see professionalism that is often lost when looking at her ral-

lies from the perspective of a distant onlooker.

There is something exciting about the potential for YouTube to raise a new generation of interviewers, though I admit that Paul's "Impulsive" sets a pretty low bar. Rather than working your way up through a centralized media corporation, you can find an audience on a platform like YouTube, and if you retain a large enough audience, politicians may realize that you are, in a sense, a mini-swing state. When millions of Americans rally behind a content creator, a politician can't ignore that block. A successful interview can sway the minds of millions overnight and hopefully with future generations of — hopefully younger — political candidates, interviews will be more frequent, less structured and more intimate than ever.

I want to conclude on this note: For Americans frustrated by the two-party system, the lack of dynamic candidates, and the inaccessibility of U.S. politics, YouTube, or content sharing, may be a bottom-up solution that can reinvent the ways in which we interact with representatives. The future may look grim, but with politicians at our fingertips, maybe there's a light at the end of the tunnel.

Spill your guts at home with

'Olivia Rodrigo: GUTS World Tour'

by Noa Climor

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Pop your popcorn and gear up for the ultimate concert experience with the best seat in the house. "Olivia Rodrigo: GUTS World Tour" premiered on Netflix on Tuesday, Oct. 29. The show, filmed in Los Angeles at the Intuit Dome, is now available to all fans (with a Netflix account) and is filled with the most energetic performance from Olivia, her dancers, band and even Chappell Roan, who was featured as a surprise guest at one of the shows. The duo sang Roan's hit "HOT TO GO!" together, which was an incredibly fun watch.

To say that I am a massive fan of Rodrigo is an understatement. I have been listening to her music for so long, and I couldn't have been more excited to experience the "GUTS" tour again. I know that many fans could not get tickets, so I think it's beautiful to provide access for everyone and have the show filmed.

Another incredible thing Rodrigo has done is create Fund 4 Good, a global initiative supporting women and girls. The fund "supports reproductive rights, prevents gender-based violence and champions girls' education." According to EIFoundation.org, a portion of the proceeds from all ticket sales at the "GUTS" world tour has gone towards the fund.

Now, onto the concert. The film opens with Rodrigo cheering and running up to her team as the iconic "GUTS" candles on the screen melt (once the candles are melted, it's a sign that the show is about to begin). They're singing "It's the last show" and hyping themselves up, which was so cool to see, as these were the last two shows of the tour.

"Let's make LA and Netflix our fucking best," says Rodrigo, and trust me when I say that they most definitely do. A short clip shows Rodrigo running "behind the scenes," which gets the crowd so incredibly excited, and boom, the

lights go on, and "bad idea right?" is the first song of the evening.

Rodrigo is magnetic, immediately grabbing your attention with her vocals, stage presence and charm. It's undeniable that she is meant for the stage, and even through the screen, you see just how electrifying her performance is.

We jump into "ballad of a homeschooled girl," which is anything but a ballad; it's a rock song that brings out the hyped-out energy from Rodrigo and the crowd. One thing I noticed is that while you can hear people singing along, you can listen to Rodrigo's music loud and clear for most of the film, which, again, is just so cool, since it provides the perfect at-home-watching experience.

Rodrigo interacts with her band, the dancers and the crowd in the most beautiful and touching way. It is evident how much she cares about her music and the people involved. "Tonight is very special, and I'm really grateful you're here," says Rodrigo before flowing into the first single we heard from "GUTS:" "vampire."

Here's a fun fact for you, dear readers of the Daily Campus: not only was Rodrigo my top artist on Spotify last year, but I listened to "vampire" 538 times (no, I promise that I'm not joking). The crowd is singing along so loudly, and I was too (and shout-out to my family that heard me scream along from the living room).

"You said it was true love, but wouldn't that be hard? / You can't love anyone, 'cause that would mean you had a heart / I tried you help you out, now I know that I can't / 'Cause how you think is the kind of thing I'll never understand," sings Rodrigo. This bridge is probably one of my favorites (evidently) because it is so well-structured (thoughts on trust bridges, anyone?), and with how loudly everyone is singing along, the crowd at the Intuit Dome agrees.

This is just the beginning of the show, and its visuals, singing and energy are truly breathtaking. We immediately have "traitor," a song from Rodrigo's debut album,

"SOUR." Rodrigo's dancers go on stage during this song. It was hard to take my eyes away from them, since they moved to the music as if they were born to dance to it. Every one of the dancers is so incredibly talented, and the choreography meshes with Rodrigo's heart-wrenching music so well that you'd think it was written with them in mind.

At the end of "traitor," Rodrigo walks off stage momentarily, and we see her band shine. This is a film review, and I will say this: I felt the vibe of the "GUTS" tour deep in my bones throughout the show, even at home. I know I am speaking as a die-hard Olivia Rodrigo fan, but I genuinely believe this is one of the best concert films I have seen.

Rodrigo then plays the piano while singing "drivers license," also known as the song that started it all. She is alone on stage for this song, but the energy never leaves. The crowd still passionately sings along, knowing every single word. Rodrigo, who was an actress before focusing on her music career, proves herself to be a star with her stage presence. Even alone, the lights shine bright on her, and they never leave.

As much as I want to include every part and every moment of the show in this article, I cannot, so I will write this: The rest of the show is just as beautiful as the beginning. The set is just so Olivia and it is clear that her blood, sweat and tears were poured into the "GUTS" world tour. She shines so bright, and her dancers, band and everyone who worked on the tour add so much to it. There are gorgeous outfit changes, more incredibly fun choreography and, most importantly, Olivia Rodrigo.

"Olivia Rodrigo: GUTS World Tour" is out on Netflix, and I sincerely promise that even if you haven't heard a single Olivia Rodrigo song, you won't be sorry that you watched it. So go ahead, spill your guts (metaphorically, please) and enjoy an out-of-this-world performance you will never forget.



No Skips: Achieving James-ception with James Blake

by James Fitzpatrick
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Hi all! Welcome back to No Skips, where I choose an album every week that I deem to have no skips and give my commentary on it. James Blake's self-titled record from 2011 is groundbreaking for its reflections on popular genres at the time such as dubstep, and for officially launching one of the most influential producers of the 2010s. Whether you know his name or not, you've likely heard Blake's contributions to the work of Travis Scott and Metro Boomin, along with the buzz around his recent collaborative record with Lil Yachty.

Sounding like Justin Vernon during his features on Ye's "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy," Blake gives listeners an idea of what they're getting into during the intro track, "Unluck." The brilliant use of Auto-Tune is a sign of the times before its over-implementation made the tool oversaturated. He produced the entire record, and his production capabilities are admirable from the beginning with this pulsating and complex beat.

"The Wilhelm Scream" is often lauded as the album's best track and

rightfully so. Looking into information about this record led me to find that this impassioned track covers a song by Blake's father, James Litherland (yet another James). He was part of the band Colosseum, whose prog-rock style may have influenced this song's progression from fragmented vocals to a bunch of noise.

Keep in mind this record is primarily electronic, though "I Never Learnt to Share" utilizes electric guitar. The composition is drawn out as more instruments are added to the loop, including different takes of Blake's voice — and yes, the human voice is an instrument. The song reaches a fulfilling climax during the last minute that could've fit right on Porter Robinson's "Spitfire," also released in 2011.

"Lindisfarne I" is an interesting experiment with vocoded vocals. I'll maintain the man knows how to use Auto-Tune, though this stripped-back acapella would've been better without the vocoder. I'll let it slide since "Lindisfarne II" follows and improves on the foundations of the previous track. It's bizarre that this is the only two-parter on the record since

it drags out one of the weaker melodies for over five minutes, though the repetition of "Beacon don't fly too high" is angelic.

"Limit to Your Love" brings more of the human element to the record since Blake's voice is mostly unfiltered and the song's melody is largely led by a piano. The lyrical content is dominated by "There's a limit to your love," which is augmented by the lines, "Like a waterfall in slow motion" and "Like a map with no ocean." The aquatic imagery here could've been complimented by something reminiscent of the sounds on Ichiko Aoba's "Windswept Adan." I should also cover that album in this column, but I don't have enough time left at this university.

"Give Me My Month" keeps the pleasantness of piano ballads going, though "To Care (Like You)" may be the most emotional track on the record. Blake's strained singing leads into an incredible vocal loop, and his trademark higher-register delivery makes its foray. The final minute hints at some sort of build-up that never arrives; yet I'm unsure if a climax would've fit the song's vibe. This is definitely one for if you're in your feels.

"Why Don't You Call Me"

is pretty somber and is the last interlude-esque track that takes us into the final two tracks. "I Mind" is quite the head-bobber despite Blake's formula of stopping and resuming the track's momentum. The vocal samples must go through an entire scale's worth of notes as Blake simply sings the track's title at the forefront a handful of times.

The simple backdrop on the outro track, "Measurements," gives the various mantras Blake sings a chance to shine. Out-of-sync vocal takes in multiple pitches give the illusion that he's backed by different vocalists, but it's just him. In a landscape where it's be-

coming more standardized to sanction the creation of songs to tens or hundreds of people, it's always impressive when someone like Blake helms all aspects of his music-making.

I may be over-exaggerating the quality of this record as Blake has honed his craft since his formative years, but I've always had a soft spot for it. Furthermore, it came out on my eighth birthday, and while I was stuck exclusively listening to my mom's Pandora radios back then, I must've been destined to encounter this fellow James and write a retrospective review of his self-titled record 13 years later.



BONES, the self-proclaimed 'Graveyard Prince,' mourns life with 'CADAVER'

by Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab
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Content warning for depictions of violence and mental illness.

BONES has been one of the most prolific rappers in recent memory as a pioneer of the modern emo rap movement. His music isn't for the faint of heart due to his edgy lyrics, but some of his songs have an oddly comforting quality to them.

It can be daunting to listen to his entire discography as there can be a lot of mediocre music to sift through; he is a quantity-over-quality artist. Luckily though, as a whole project, his new mixtape "CADAVER" isn't as middle of the road. It's a solid effort from the Howell, Michigan rapper.

The title track serves as an ominous intro to the project, with a somber piano and a distorted vocal sample in the background. It certainly sets the mood for what's to come.

Producer Kill's production on "GraveyardFM" is phenomenal. The dark soundfont of the melody pairs extremely well with BONES' old-school Memphis rap-style vocals. The song then repeats as a sped up,

higher-pitched version before slowing down and deepening at the end.

"TheBlairWitchProject," named after the 1999 experimental horror movie, has BONES screaming about how violent he is with the cherry of depression on top of the murderous sundae. The triplet flow is entrancing even if it's been done to death already.

BONES judges somebody else for being reckless and stunting with their money, flexing as if they're rich when they're actually struggling financially on "October31st." It's funny to imagine BONES rapping "stupid dog" instead of "stupid dumb" because of the character Eustace's catchphrase from "Courage the Cowardly Dog," a horror show for younger audiences on Cartoon Network. It would certainly fit the title of the song considering that Oct. 31 was Halloween.

Other than that, the vocal inflection halfway through was such a good touch, making the song even more fun to listen to. BONES proclaims himself to be "the lord of paranoia," which is such a cool nickname to have. The final lyrics of the verse, "From the soil to the cradle, I've been living in reverse / Rap-

pers armed and they dangerous but only in their verse," are both great in their own ways. Many rappers flaunt being violent in their lyrics but it's usually just a front to look cool for the most part.

BONES raps a lot of depressing lyrics as someone with mental illness, but "HandbookForTheRecentlyDeceased" is one of the grimmest songs from him in recent memory. The lyrics paint the picture of his depression and loneliness vividly, "How many days I wanted death / how many nights that I done cried? / Everyone gonna leave me anyway, so it is I I shall rely / How many times I had to lie to my motherfuckin' self? / Just to shield me from the damage that the truth might inflict." Rap at its best is a form of eloquent self-expression, and BONES demonstrates that here.

"DeadGirl (Interlude)," which breaks the usual theme of BONES not using the spacebar to write his song titles, sounds like it could be in a horror movie with the eerie sample and the intimidating drums. The booming bass is incredible as well. It's funny how the cowbells sound like a high-pitched plucked instrument though. It's an odd inclu-

sion, though it's understandable considering BONES' musical influences use those same instruments. The interlude could have been a full song if BONES rapped on it instead of talking in a low-pitched voice like a radio DJ.

"BlackLungs&YellowTape" begins with a sample of a news broadcast talking about how in Howell, Michigan, where BONES is from, there is "an unknown man committing various acts of violence." The lyric "Lungs pitch black, how the fuck could I be racist?" is questionable as to what he's trying to say, but it's the effort of being an anti-racist that probably counts.

"LiveLeak," named after the former shock website where graphic videos of deaths and injuries were shared, goes hard with the cowbell sounds. "Chain him up like he got signed and now your ass can never leave" is a proclamation of BONES being an independent artist without a label.

"BloodOnMyBoots" has BONES flaunting how violent and fashionable he is at first, but in the second verse he begins with lamenting with the lyrics "Fucked in the head, can't act right / I must've been the worst in my past life," which references how

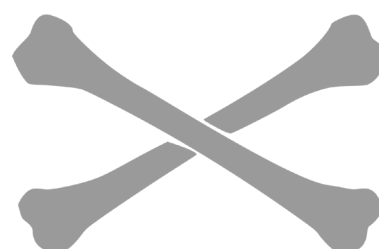
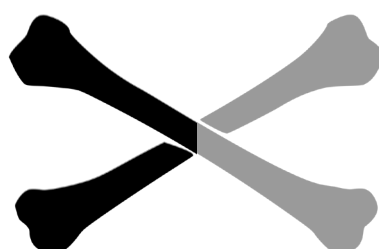
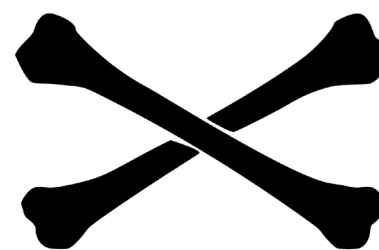
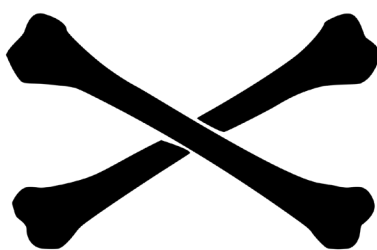
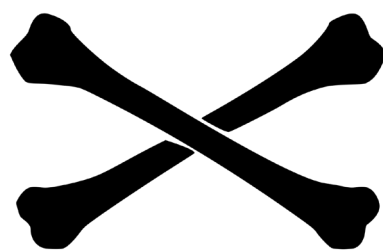
in the theory of reincarnation people are reborn and put in situations which reflect how they were in the life prior. The repetitive chorus is super catchy, though.

"FoDa94" sounds like it was produced in 1994 Memphis in the best way possible. The retro-inspired production suits BONES' rapping super well.

"TrespassersWillBeShot, SurvivorsWillBeShotAgain" features the lyric "Wanna be me 'cause you dumb as a bitch, but ignorance bliss / Bitch I wish I was you," which reflects on how miserable BONES' life is with his mental illness despite being famous and successful as a rapper.

"FoundFootage" has another sample of a news reporter talking about violence in Howell, Michigan before BONES' starts rapping. The booming 808 looms over BONES' lyrics, though it's a bit lackluster compared to how the album began.

His album cover is a grainy picture of a graveyard, and he themed this project that dropped on Halloween after the concept of death. Still, it's oddly comforting. Cesar A. Cruz once said that art is meant to disturb the comfortable and comfort the disturbed, after all.



3.5/5



Life

@dailycampuslife

This Week In History: Nov. 3 - Nov. 9 “How to treat submechanophobia.”

by Benjamin Lassy | HE/HIM/HIS | LIFE EDITOR | benjamin.lassy@uconn.edu

I think I may have submechanophobia. The very thought of being submerged underwater in a solid metal casket loaded with explosive torpedoes chills me to the core. And yet, for Adolf Hitler, submarines were part of his foolproof plan to dominate the British Isles.

There’s a lot of irony in naval warfare. First, in order to beat the Allies through starvation in World War II, Germany had to control the waters; but to beat the Allies through dehydration, they would have to control the land. Second, though Britain controlled the seas, they only really controlled the water’s surface, so all Hitler and the Germans had to do was sink a little deeper. Therefore, to achieve Nazi domination of the world’s oceans, Hitler poured state efforts into U-boat manufacturing.

Hitler’s deadly subsmeribles sunk over 2,000 ships and 14.5 million gross tons of cargo. Those statistics indicate the German submarine program was a staggering success, though thankfully not enough to turn the tides of the war for Germany. Thousands of submarines served in the German Kriegsmarine, patrolling the seas like a disturbed nest of wasps.

Now, you may be wondering: What happened this week in history? Was a ship sunk? Didn’t that happen nearly every day of the war? Well, for the latter question, yes. Given that roughly 20,000 ships were sunk during the course of the war — and the war lasted roughly 2,000 days — that’s approximately 10 ships sunk per day of the conflict.

For the former question, a lot happened this week in history, but most remarkably, two men tested their solution to the U-boat scourge.

The story begins in 1942, with tonnage loss reaching staggering heights as the U-boat disruption of Allied merchant convoys went into full effect (it would finally climax in 1943). Two Americans, Henry J. Kaiser and Howard Hughes, brainstormed a way to avoid the U-boats entirely. I’d imagine their thought process went something like this:

The sting of a submarine comes from its ability to sink to undetectable depths (at least in 1942), and strike the weak underbelly of merchant ships when they least expect it, right? They are successful because they go lower than any destroyer or battleship that the Allied fleets possess. So, what if there was a flying submarine? A flying boat that could simply fly laps around (and above) any submerged vessel?

With a design process now in mind, Kaiser and Hughes set to work on circumnavigating the U-boats. They conceived of a large — scratch that, gargantuan — wooden plane, one capable of fitting a ton of people in it. Actually, that’s a low estimate: one capable of fitting around 50 tons of people in it.

The plane, named after both designers as HK-1, went into development throughout the war, though

the process was tough due to material rationing for the war effort. Kaiser dropped out of the partnership with Hughes in 1944, and that was likely a smart move. Wartime energy just couldn’t be devoted to a project as large and unlikely to be successful as what Hughes now took to calling the H-4 Hercules.

And yet, only a few years later, the H-4 Hercules under-

went a

feats in American history. Hughes was in the cockpit, controlling his creation alongside co-pilot David Grant, who later commented on the ordeal, “If there is anything close to my heart, it is that airplane.”

Journalists — unfortunately no Daily Campus correspondents — and other passengers were on board as well, and “The Spruce Goose” took its 319-foot 11-inch wingspan to the skies, albeit only rising a comfortable 25 feet above the sea for about 30 seconds before gently dipping back to the surface.

The eccentricity of Hughes’ (and for a time, Kaiser’s) project had yielded a magnificent product: a wooden plane that could carry entire battalions over the heads of none-the-wiser U-boat commanders. No doubt the buzz of eager media correspondents and stunned onlookers elevated the flight into something of American mythology; though, the plane is very much real and preserved today.

The long history of “The Spruce Goose” is preserved at the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum in McMinnville, Oregon. Hughes passed in 1976 after preserving his creation at his own expense; it’s likely that, as the museum website

mentions, Hughes was “perhaps dreaming of a second flight.”

I am still stunned by the actual size of this 300,000-pound plane. Until 2019, “The Spruce Goose” was the largest plane ever made. That’s a record 72 years unchallenged. The current record holder also cheats a little. Called the Stratolaunch jet, it essentially is two planes in one whereas the good old goose still looks like one behemoth of a plane. Regardless, Hughes’ plane still holds numerous records as outlined on the Evergreen Museum website.

With the successful flight of “The Spruce Goose,” would the design philosophy really allow for transport of personnel and cargo across the Atlantic to relieve the ensnared British Isles? Well, in one word: no. As fortunate as it was that World War II ended in 1945, the fortunes of war industry businessmen, including Hughes’ aerospace company, were soon worsening. In a series of court cases, the legacy of money-draining and quite insane projects such as “The Spruce Goose” caused noble, or perhaps stingy politicians to condemn the efforts and men behind them as wasting valuable wartime assets.

In the end, Hughes would soar out of the court cases relatively unscathed. Nevertheless, I am amazed nobody attempted to sue for false advertising: “The Spruce Goose” is actually made of a special type of birch plywood. Still, I have a cure for my submechanophobia: boldly take to the skies in the world’s largest wooden airplane instead of sinking (a second time) to the depths of the ocean floor in a U-boat.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

name change and took to the skies, allowing the spirits of American ingenuity to soar. This week — well, actually weekend in history — in history, on Nov. 2, 1947, “The Spruce Goose” takes its first and only flight at Long Beach Harbor in California. Over the next few days, it would enter the history books as one of the greatest engineering

CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

‘Songs of a Lost World’ The Cure’s harsh take on reality

by Nick Sorokobi
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The Cure, an English rock band whose music has captivated audiences worldwide for nearly four decades and whose songs helped to shape the pop culture landscape of the 1980s, released their latest album on Friday, Nov. 1, titled “Songs of a Lost World,” their first album in 16 years since the release of 2008’s “4:13 Dream” and their 14th studio album overall.

Like most of the band’s previous work, “Songs of a Lost World” features elements of gothic and post-punk rock, reflecting the group’s previous material from their heyday from the ’80s. In addition, their incorporation of modern-day production techniques and a renewed sense of artistic exploration showcases a strong blend of nostalgia and contemporary innovation. Robert Smith, who serves as The Cure’s co-founder and lead vocalist, composed every track listed on the album and is also the only constant member of the group. This is the second time he has been the sole composer

found their way into the spotlight almost 45 years ago. And although many of The Cure’s previous songs have addressed subject matters such as pain, sadness and isolation,

this is represented in “I Can Never Say Goodbye,” which Smith wrote as a tribute to his late brother Richard, who died suddenly in the mid 2010s and whose death had a profound impact on him.

Another tune, titled “All I Ever Am,” Smith expresses the difficulty he finds in living in the present

mo - sic website Uncut, Smith says he finds it harder to write songs about death now that he’s older. “Our songs have always had that element of a fear of mortality. I’ve kind of wrestled with it since I was like eight years old. But as you get older, it becomes more real.”

Another example of the bleak undertones being cast in the album is heard in the lead single “Alone”; just by the title, one can already comprehend that the track is going to serve as a heart-rendering tune. It features a three-minute-long introduction in addition to a set of despondent lyrics, including “This is the end of every song that we sing / The fire burned out to ash and the stars grown dim with tears.”

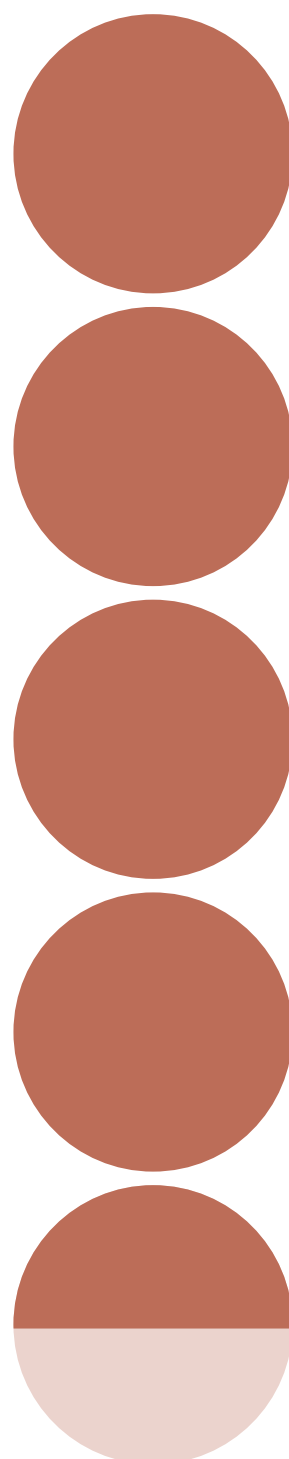
Despite the range of melancholy songs, the band has released throughout their decades-long career, The Cure’s music continues to generate great acclaim. “Songs of a Lost World” has been met with acclaim by organizations including The Irish Times, The Guardian and the music aggregator website Metacritic.

While some might find the band’s macabre melodies on the album and in general too dark for the ear, one can agree that the group’s musical material has continued to leave a lasting impact on audiences worldwide.

4.5/5



PHOTO COURTESY OF @THECURE ON INSTAGRAM, PAPER TEXTURE COURTESY OF PKGAM ON DEVIANTART
ment: “My weary dance with age / And resignation moves me slow / Toward a dark and empty stage / Where I can sing the world I know.” In a recent interview conducted with mu-





Opinion

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Keep it out the family: Brother love triangles have got to go

by Raegan Skelly | CONTRIBUTOR | SHE/HER/HERS | rcs23008@uconn.edu

In the romance genre, sibling-related love triangles have become a staple. This trope isn't new, dating as far back as Louisa May Alcott's classic 1868 novel "Little Women." The resurgence of this trope has led to its domination in the 2000s. The 2020s have been even more marketable for this dynamic, whether it's Prime Video's "The Summer I Turned Pretty" or Netflix's "My Life With The Walter Boys." Despite its prevalence, this trope needs to be abandoned.

In the current streaming era, these sibling-related love triangles, which typically feature two brothers and one girl, have increased in popularity. These shows are also heavily favored by their streaming platform, garnering early renewal announcements and lots of advertising. Prime Video renewed season two of "The Summer I Turned Pretty" before season one even premiered, which is a rare occurrence for any streaming show these days. Netflix, a company notorious for early cancellations, renewed "My Life With The Walter Boys" just 12 days after the first season aired.

You could be thinking, maybe these shows are of immense quality—lock-ins for award season—but you'd be wrong. I had a rough time watching "My Life With The Walter Boys." The acting at times can be uncomfortable to watch; despite that, the show made Netflix so much money so fast that they had no choice but to renew it. These romance shows' biggest success is always commercial. This doesn't necessarily make every show or movie incorporating this trope bad and undeserving of awards; it just means that they aren't what the academies are looking for. Awards are very important to networks and stream-

ing services, because the more acclaimed something is, the more people are interested. Shows with this brother trope are almost immediately successful, maybe due to the intensified drama that comes with it, since families are also getting broken up over a relationship between two high schoolers (that never look the age they're supposed to be portraying).

Despite the popularity of these shows, this trope should be questioned, with the most obvious issue being that it's just plain weird. Dating someone your sibling has already dated will only make for an uncomfortable dynamic. Not only awkward for the ones dating each other, but awkward for the whole family. Imagine every time you hang out with your boyfriend, your ex-boyfriend is also there. It's a situation that can never go well, especially if the relationship ended on a negative note. It is also not a good way to bond with the in-laws if you've already broken up with one of their kids.

The underlying issue of this sibling-oriented love triangle trope is this separation of families during a rough time in their lives (spoilers ahead for both "The Summer I Turned Pretty" and "My Life With The Walter Boys"). For instance, in "The Summer I Turned Pretty," brothers Conrad and Jeremiah both get involved with their family friend Isabelle (nicknamed "Belly") during their mom's cancer relapse and soon after her passing. This back-and-forth with Belly leads to a rift between the brothers, with her being a common argument topic between them throughout the second season. In what is arguably one of the hardest struggles to go through—the loss of a parent (or in Belly's case, a maternal figure)—this family can't even find comfort in each other anymore.

In "My Life With The Walter Boys" Jackie has moved in with the Walter family after her entire family was killed in an accident. Jackie starts dating one of the Walter boys, Alex, shortly after her revival, but the season ends with her cheating on Alex with his older brother Cole. This causes Jackie to leave the Walter family and go under the care of her uncle, uprooting her life yet again in a short time. Jackie left right after she was starting to find her groove with the family and her new life, but this love triangle ruined the "found family" she had settled into.

People love to discuss "homewrecking" in relation to popular movies or television shows, typically as a way to vilify female characters or the third party, instead of focusing on the person who actually cheated. In the romance genre, the real "homewrecking" issue isn't a couple cheating on each other with a third party, but someone dating a set of siblings and causing a permanent rift in their relationship. Again, this isn't placing blame solely on the non-sibling of the triangle; we should also be judging the second sibling in the picture, because betraying not only the "bro code" but the "sibling" code is reckless.

These shows can be good in a way; they're an addictive type of drama, but there is no world where you can convince me they should stay. This matters because these shows romanticize the destruction of familial relationships. They want you to focus on romance and buy a "Team Conrad" or "Team Jeremiah" shirt, instead of thinking about what they've lost. This trope sets a dangerous precedent for those who might end up trying to emulate the characters, valuing teen love over family.

Stop pretending to care about the environment

by Amber Greene | CONTRIBUTOR | SHE/HER/HERS | amg23053@uconn.edu

In this day and age, we are all aware that we need to take conscious steps towards a greener Earth by doing our part. It should go without saying that contributions to sustainability should actually be real, right? But in the world of views and business ventures, many big brands and influencers can hint at doing their part while in reality not doing anything at all.

One of the influencers who is most guilty of this performative environmentalism is YouTuber-turned-businessman Mr. Beast. Mr. Beast's two popular brands, Feastables and Lunchly, attract younger audiences with their showiness and constant giveaways. One of the Feastables' branding techniques is that it tastes better (and therefore, is better) than Hershey bars; however, unlike Feastables, Hershey is actively trying to reduce their plastic use. Meanwhile, Feastables is more worried about things on the sales front. Additionally, Mr. Beast's most recently launched brand Lunchly contributes to the problem of plastic waste in a more extreme way.

In theory, most of Lunchly packaging could be recycled, as long as the child who is consuming the meal takes the time to wash out the Prime bottle, candy wrapper and container. But out of the 15% of all used plastic that is collected, only 9% ends up in recycling facilities. Plastic usage cannot be canceled just by throwing it into recycling. Soiled plastic is not recyclable. Even after plastic is washed, it still must be carefully sorted by its number. Recycling should realistically be a last resort to reducing and reusing plastic materials, but this has not been the case in our society. Plastic usage has become so widespread that it would take eliminating all plastic packaging to make a real impact. Mr. Beast has yet to make this move, but his significant carbon footprint doesn't end there.

To an average viewer, these giveaways are entertaining. I would have even called myself a fan a few years ago; however, things have gotten out of hand. Aside from giveaways, Mr. Beast has gone as far as to blow up houses, hydraulic press cars and crash trains all for entertainment. The amount of waste produced in videos like these adds to the carbon emissions produced on the regular, with no real purpose. It is already a problem, but an even big-

ger one that he is very much aware of.

In a Team Trees video, Mr. Beast pledged to plant a tree for every one dollar raised, claiming to be conscious of the terrible condition that the Earth is in due to climate change and deforestation. The video gained traction and raised over 21 million dollars and planted 20 million trees. Mr. Beast received a lot of credit for this environmentally-conscious act. However, planting trees does not do much if you are the reason why more trees need to be planted in the first place. This video was posted in 2019, and since then Mr. Beast's videos have only gotten more environmentally destructive with no other similar initiatives, whether performative or not, to "reverse" his impact. Unfortunately, his is not the only brand to put on this eco-conscious facade when it comes to plastic and carbon emissions.

Influencers, and even the biggest brand names, are guilty of claiming to care about the environment when in reality, they are the problem. But with brands who want to make a difference, their efforts are also more performative than anything. In 2018, Starbucks claimed to phase out plastic straws by introducing their "sippy cup" lids, which eliminate the need for a straw. This initiative came with the hope of removing straws worldwide by 2020. If you walked into a Starbucks today, you would see that the straws are still very much present, and the changing of lids was a step to only seem green, when they truly weren't.

Other big name companies, like Coca-Cola, who have a commitment to recycle their plastic bottles all into new ones by 2050 have not lived up to their promise. Coca-Cola still remains one of the top plastic producers in the world and does not plan on eliminating their plastic bottles because they are too popular among consumers.

Influencers have taken the "just because you can, does not mean you should" mentality to a new level by trying to undermine their destruction of the climate with a few eco-conscious actions here and there. Greenwashing is all too present in a society when it is way too late to pretend to care about the environment. Holding brands accountable is much more important when they know all too well how to cater to an increasingly aware world.

A stopped clock is right twice a day

by James David Donahue | CONTRIBUTOR | HE/HIM/HIS | james.donahue@uconn.edu

I have an issue with the logic and goals of contemporary atheism despite not being a theist myself. I believe it can be stubbornly unproductive and anti-intellectual, though well-intentioned. This may seem oxymoronic, because the figures who advance the type of atheism to which I refer are mostly scientists and therefore intelligent. A recent debate between evolutionary biologist and vocal atheist, Richard Dawkins and psychologist and right-wing internet personality Jordan Peterson demonstrated many of my thoughts. Upsettingly, I found myself frustrated by Dawkins and agreeing with Peterson. Don't go spreading this around. The debate doesn't redeem Peterson, nor is this article tacit approval of what he says and does. But in the context of this debate, Peterson's perspective is more productive and Dawkins' is quite myopic.

Peterson claims the "scientific enterprise is motivated by the axiomatic presumption that truth tends towards a unity... that it's predicated on the notion that there is a logical order that's intrinsic to the cosmos, that that fundamental

order is good, that it's intelligible to human beings and that discovering that order, and aligning ourselves with it, makes for life more abundant." That is, science has its origins in the Enlightenment and is contingent on an objectivity that isn't quite possible. This, like theism, is a metaphysics rather than the absence of metaphysics. Science is successful despite this partly by being endlessly iterative rather than dogmatic: If new evidence disproves a scientific theory, the theory will be changed to account for it.

Dawkins claims moral questions are not in the domain of science but doesn't say what they are in the domain of. Yet he insists religion is the wrong domain (by himself taking moral stances) and therefore implies a correct, self-evident domain exists and might follow from the scientific enterprise. His arbitrary use of moral concepts and highly specific terminology like "virtue" with seemingly no awareness of how deeply rooted in and derived from theology those concepts are, undermines that implication.

At one point in the conversation, there is a dead-end dis-

agreement about dragons. Peterson talks about dragons as real, archetypal and representative of certain socio-psychological mechanisms. Dawkins says he deals with facts not symbols; Predators are real, so why say dragon instead of predator? The problem is linguistic: Predator doesn't refer to a particular; it is a category, a collection of properties that can be applied to many things. Not everything we consider a predator will contain every property in the category of predator. The line is difficult to demarcate. Predator is ultimately no more factual than dragon. You can't "find" a dragon but neither can you "find" the metacategory of predator itself. Dawkins agrees that for science to proceed, it must first accept a few preconditions. These preconditions are productive for science, but they are a detriment to theological conversation.

The vocal atheist links the value of religion to its truth where truth is understood to be the literal, historical, biological, empirical factuality of a text. Dawkins is obsessed with a conclusive answer to whether Cain and Abel "really

existed," which implies a specific type of truth and a value that depends on it. This is a false premise. Moderator Alex O'Connor points out there is fair cause to conclude that believing in something factually untrue may be useful in evolution: If I always run away believing every rustle in the bushes is a tiger, my life will be saved the one time it actually is.

It's also a privileged position only possible to have in this moment of history. In the historical epoch of these stories, in the communities of the Ancient Near East for example, "belief" isn't in the vocabulary, so factualness was irrelevant. It was about customs: To be an Israelite one need simply to live in the land and observe the customs; belief is incidental. Narrative structures human understanding and permits things like civil society. This is why fiction can feel truer than non-fiction. This is why para-social relationships with the characters on "Friends" activate the same parts of the brain as "real-life" social relationships. I say that atheism can be anti-intellectual because the preoccupation with this truth-value presents a closed system. Because Dawkins won't accept Peterson's answer (I don't know, maybe, it doesn't matter), and since no one possibly could answer the Cain question empirically, he is prevented from considering the

more profound truthfulness of the archetype, meme or even the literary prowess itself.

Dawkins says Dostoevsky was a literary genius and the authors of "Genesis" were not. Putting aside the absurdity of this claim, "Crime and Punishment" was written in a time where the metacategory of fiction existed. When Peterson asserts that one could've observed Raskolnikov—his properties materially manifest in many people in Russia at that time—and is therefore no more or less "real" than Cain, Dawkins remains hung-up and I don't get why. Suppose we could prove two brothers named Cain and Abel existed and inspired the author, or the story was wholly fictional, by one author, by many, or that an author was divinely inspired to write something no mortal otherwise could. What then? And how ridiculous! Can we explain from a materialist view where precisely Dostoevsky got his ideas? Even when an author writes a "purely invented" story, he doesn't do so in a vacuum but draws on every single person, place or thing he has ever observed both consciously and unconsciously and so the "purely invented," from this perspective, is always rooted in the empirical!

For more of the story visit DAILYCAMPUS.COM

Sports

Women's Basketball: Bueckers' perfect first half the catalyst in UConn's 50-point victory over Fort Hays State

by Jake McCreven
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STORRS, CONN. — Red-shirt senior Paige Bueckers shot 8/8 from the field, made three triples and scored 19 first half points as the second-ranked Huskies defeated D-II Fort Hays State, 89-49 on Sunday afternoon.

The Huskies stretched the lead throughout the entire second half, leading by as many as 47 points with 2:57 left in the fourth quarter, as Bueckers - 27-9-2 - sat most of the final period along with freshman forward Sarah Strong.

The Huskies drew first blood after Kaitlyn Chen sliced through the Tiger defense and into the lane for her first (unofficial) points as a Husky. Bueckers scored her first basket after Chen forced a turnover that resulted in a fast-break score, and the Huskies opened the game

with a 10-0 lead 5:04 into the first quarter.

The Tigers missed the first eight team attempts from the field but got on the board after Avery Lowe hit a mid-range jumper, and the Tigers ended the first quarter on an 11-5 run over the course of the final four minutes.

Jana El Alfy saw her first game action as a Husky midway through the first quarter, substituting in for redshirt sophomore Ice Brady. The Egyptian native was given an opportunity to score right away, but the pass was picked off and the Tigers took it the other way. El Alfy was strong on the offensive glass, nabbing four offensive rebounds - and nine total - over the course of her 11:42 of game-time, but found herself in foul trouble early, picking up four total personal fouls and two over the course of 10 seconds.

"We have to be smarter about how we manage our fouls, you know, and we just

commit some silly ones," Auriemma said post-game. The team picked up 18 fouls, with El Alfy and Brady both notching four a piece.

After a 1/8 start from behind the arc, the Huskies ended the first half shooting 63% (5/8) from three, which was started after Bueckers took a step back jumper as the shot clock expired to put the Huskies up 18-11.

After freshman Allie Ziebell got on the board on her fifth attempt from three, the Huskies began a dominating 24-3 run to end the first half. Sophomore Ashlynn Shade buried a triple from the corner and scored from under the backboard following a Tiger turnover to widen the gap to 31-17. Strong then swiped the ball and ran coast-to-coast to widen the margin to 18, and took a Chen pass to the basket on the following possession to break open the game at the end of the first half.

Bueckers scored the final five points of the half as the

Huskies ended on a 17-0 run over the course of the final 4:13, shooting 9/11 from the field and holding the Tigers to under eight shots on the basket.

Shade started the second half scoring with a pick-pocket-turned-layup on the other end, and after Bueckers muscled down a rebound, Shade scored again under the hoop. The Huskies were strong on the glass all afternoon, outscoring the Tigers 42-18 in the paint and out-rebounding Fort Hays State by 20 boards.

On the next possession, Bueckers then found Strong at the top of the key with a behind the back pass, who swung it to Chen on the opposite wing and then to Shade in the corner in an impressive display of cohesion.

After sophomore Qadence Samuels' and El Alfy's first points, the Huskies led by 31 points with just under a minute and a half remaining in the third. Samuels broke through in the fourth quarter, scoring 10 points

and nabbing five rebounds in a hardy effort off the bench.

The Huskies outscored Fort Hays State by 14 points in the fourth quarter, spearheaded by tough defensive interior play and a strong effort from inside the arc on offense.

Although redshirt junior guard Azzi Fudd was seen warming up with the team, she did not log any playing time. Along with Fudd, Morgan Cheli (Fr.), Caroline Ducharme (R-Jr.), Ayanna Patterson (R-So.), Aubrey Griffin (R-Sr.) and KK Arnold (So.) all did not play. Auriemma said postgame that he is confident that Fudd will be back for the opener against Boston University on Thursday and that holding her out of today's scrimmage was merely precautionary.

The No. 2 ranked Huskies open the regular season this Thursday in Hartford, hosting the Boston University Terriers in the XL Center to start coach Auriemma's 40th season at the helm in Storrs.



UConn women's basketball takes on Fort Hays State in an exhibition game at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024. The Huskies took a win, ending the game 89-49. PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Ice Hockey: Huskies and Catamounts split thrilling weekend series

by Tyler Lato
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This weekend, the UConn men's ice hockey team played in a two-game series against their fellow Hockey East foes, the Vermont Catamounts. Both teams displayed gritty defenses, amazing goalie play and relentless effort, forcing both games to be decided in overtime.

On Saturday, the Huskies heart-breakingly dropped game one of the weekend series to the Catamounts in overtime by a score of 1-0. The Catamounts, previously holding a 0-3-2 record, traveled to the XL Center in search of their first win of the season, defeating their Hockey East foes in overtime fashion to secure a much-needed morale boost.

Defensively, both teams played stellar from start to finish, making it nearly impossible for each other to find the back of the net for the entirety of the game. Despite outshoot-

ing Vermont 20-8 after the first two periods of the game, UConn was still unable to score a single goal. Vermont goaltender Axel Mangbo recorded an impressive 30 saves, shutting down the Huskies offense.

The lone goal of the game came from Vermont senior forward Joel Maata, sneaking a goal past UConn goaltender Tyler Muszelik with only 59 seconds left in overtime. Despite letting up the only goal of the game, Muszelik recorded 18 total saves, keeping the Huskies in the game the entire night.

The next day, the Huskies got revenge on the Catamounts, defeating them in overtime at the Toscano Ice Forum by a score of 6-5. Unlike the defensive drowsiness displayed in the previous game, both teams' sticks lit up, finding the back of the net on multiple occasions.

Isaak Walther, assisted by Mateo Dixon, scored the game's first goal to kick off the opening period for Vermont. A few seconds later, Daniel Sambuco

tacked onto the Catamounts' lead with another goal to score 2-0.

However, the Huskies quickly responded with three consecutive first-period goals to obtain a 3-2 lead over the Catamounts after one period of play. Two of the three goals came off the stick of freshman sensation Ethan Gardula, while the other was netted by Everett, Washington native Kaden Shahan.

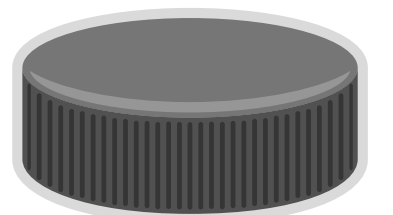
In the second period, Vermont's Blake Steenerson made things interesting by netting his first goal of the game to knot things up at 3-3. This was the only goal scored in the second period, setting the stage for a wild finish.

Early in the final period, UConn's Shahan found Ethan Whitcomb open to score his second goal of the season, giving the Huskies a 4-3 lead. This lead was rather short-lived, as Vermont's Massimo Lombardi slapped one in shortly after to tie things up at four goals apiece. With a little more than six

minutes left to go in the game, UConn's Tabor Heaslip hit an impressive short-handed goal to give the Huskies a 5-4. Suddenly, Colin Kessler shockingly poked in a controversial last-second goal as time expired to send the game into overtime for the second time in two days, bringing the score to 5-5.

In overtime, both teams battled fiercely, struggling to find the back of the net for the first couple of minutes. At last, Tristan Fraser netted the game-winner with 46 seconds to take down the Catamounts in stunning fashion, capping off a memorable and intense weekend series.

The Huskies (5-3-1) will travel to North Andover, Massachusetts next weekend to take on another Hockey East foe, the Merrimack Warriors, in another weekend series. Game one will be played on Friday at 7 p.m. in Merrimack, while the Warriors will travel south for game two at the Toscano Ice Forum at 3:30 p.m.



CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA



CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA



The UConn Huskies faced UVM at the Toscano Family Ice Forum on Nov. 3, 2024. The Huskies secured the OT victory with a final score of 5-4. PHOTO BY VON LINDENTHAL, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

Photo of the Day | Let the games begin



UConn women's basketball takes on Fort Hays State in an exhibition game at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024. The Huskies took a win Sunday, ending the game 89-49. PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Soccer: Senior night results in another 0-0 draw

by **Avery Becker**
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STORRS - On Saturday afternoon, for the last regular season game and senior day, the UConn men's soccer team took on the No. 13-ranked Akron Zips to a scoreless draw.

Before the match, the team honored senior players Scott Testori, Greg Maclean, Jalen Commisong and Michael Suski, as well as student manager Steven Hu for all of their hard work and determination towards the program.

UConn had offensive ball possession for the majority of the first half, leading with five shots on goal compared to Akron's two.

However, the defense on both teams is what ultimately carried this match.

Making his eighth shut-out of the season, red shirt

freshman goalkeeper Max Kerkvliet was the catalyst for the Huskies in this tough matchup against the Zips and the nation's leading scorer in forward Emil Jaaskelainen.

Throughout the duration of the game, there was only one shot on goal, which came from the Zips in the second half in one of both teams' chances at a game-winning goal. However, Kerkvliet kept

the ball out of the box to keep UConn's chances of winning alive.

"Overall, from the front to the back I thought we played defensively. We knew coming in that he was the guy [Jaaskelainen] we had to slow down." Chris Gbandi said in an interview when asked about the team's defense. "I thought we did a decent job at that, but this game was our

season all year; we play well against good teams, we just couldn't find a way to get that goal to break the dead lock."

Along with Akron's chance at a game-winner, Connecticut had one as well, but due to Zips' persistent defense, they would be shut out from the box as well, with the final score result being 0-0.

With another scoreless draw, it is the Huskies' fifth

of the season and their sixth tie of the season. That is the most they have ever had in their record since their 2015 campaign.

Next up, Connecticut has their eyes set on the Big East tournament.

"I think we're a tough team to play against, we've played every single team in terms of the top half of the Big East, and we've done well, so now it's just trying to find a way to win the game," Gbandi said on the Big East tournament that is on the horizon. Gbandi touched on how confident he is in his team and how they can progress through the post season.

Heading into the tournament, the Huskies are sitting at the No. 7 seed and will take on Providence next Saturday at 7 p.m. in Rhode Island.

If Husky fans wish to tune into the match, they can do so by streaming it on ESPN+.



UConn men's soccer playing against Akron on Nov. 2, 2024. The game ended in a 0-0 draw after a hard-fought overtime. PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Ice Hockey: Huskies sweep Holy Cross

by **Patrick Minnerly**
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The UConn women's hockey team brought out the brooms against Holy Cross, defeating the Crusaders 2-1 at home on Friday and pitching a 2-0 shut-out the next day after traveling to Worcester, Mass. The sweep leaves the No. 10 Huskies undefeated in Hockey East conference play at 5-0 with a 6-4 record overall.

On Friday, the first period began with a shot on goal for UConn's Jada Habisch, but it was saved by Holy Cross goaltender Abby Hornung. From there, the teams traded shots until the Huskies were given a huge advantage by two consecutive penalties on the Crusaders, putting UConn in a very favorable 5-on-3 situation a little more than halfway through the period. The Huskies were unable to capitalize, however, as a flurry of shots went wide, were blocked or were captured by Hornung, leaving the score 0-0 after the power play.

After that, momentum began to turn towards Holy Cross, as Habisch was whistled for tripping at 15:52 in the period. A few seconds later, defenseman Maya Serdachny was also called for a penalty, and suddenly Holy Cross had their own 5 on 3 advantage. This led to a series of great opportunities for the Crusaders, and those chances culminated in a goal by Emily Crovo on the power play, her sixth of the season,

giving Holy Cross a 1-0 lead.

In the second period, UConn was looking to tie the game, but once again their efforts were denied, despite another power play given to them at 14:12. At the same time, Holy Cross also didn't get much going, attempting just six shots in the period. Heading into the second inter-

mission, the Crusaders still held a slim lead.

Holy Cross maintained a power play into the third period after Riley Grimley was called for boarding with 50 seconds left in the second. However, they only managed two

shots on goal, which were both saved by Huskies goaltender Tia Chan, who made 16 saves in the game overall. UConn continued to pile on shots throughout the third, seeking to get on the board, and eventually their patience paid off at 15:40 in the period. After shots by Habisch and Ava Rinker, Connecticut's

just a few minutes left in the period. Neither team was able to break the deadlock in regulation, as UConn's last buzzer-beater attempt by Meghan Duchesne-Chalifoux was saved, and the game went to overtime. In overtime, a shot from Holy Cross' Hannah Deck

out well with the first four shots on goal, including two by Serdachny, putting immediate pressure on Hornung, who served as goalie in back-to-back games for the Crusaders. This pressure quickly led to a breakthrough for UConn, as junior forward Kyla Josifovic scored at 3:50, assisted by Grimley. This would prove to be the deciding goal on the day, as UConn goalie Megan Warrener kept the Crusaders off the board for all three periods, making 15 saves.

In the second period, Connecticut tacked on another goal with an effort by Murdoch on a power play, which counted as the fifth goal for the freshman forward. Things went smoothly for UConn the rest of the way, as Holy Cross was largely unable to mount an effective comeback. A few chances came for the Crusaders in the final minutes of the third period as they went with an empty net, but every close effort was saved by Warrener, and the game ended in a dominant 2-0 win for the Huskies.

Next, UConn will face Northeastern in Hockey East conference play on Nov. 8 and 9. The first game will be played at home on Friday at the Toscano Family Ice Forum, while the second on Saturday will move to Northeastern's territory in Boston, Mass.

Holy Cross, who dropped to 4-5-1 after the two losses to Connecticut, will host Vermont next weekend on Nov. 9 for a single-game series.



UConn women's hockey playing against Holy Cross on Nov. 2, 2024. UConn defeated Holy Cross 2-1 in an intense overtime. PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

leading scorer Claire Murdoch broke through and finally put the puck past Hornung, who had stuffed them for so long. Hornung made 36 saves in total as she worked to stave off the UConn onslaught, but now the game was tied at one all with

was blocked by Habisch. Alexia Moreau's effort went wide before Ashley Allard of the Huskies scored the game-ending goal to secure a thrilling 2-1 victory.

In the second game of the weekend, Connecticut started

Field Hockey: Huskies named Big East regular season champions after 3-1 win over Old Dominion

by **Jackson Crainich**
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The No. 10 UConn Huskies field hockey team traveled to Norfolk, VA to face off against the Old Dominion Monarchs.

Coming off a loss the previous Sunday to a very good Syracuse squad, Connecticut came into this matchup looking to bounce back and finish their regular season with a win in conference play.

The matchup winner would ultimately decide who is crowned as the Big East regular season champions, as both squads came into the game with a 5-1 conference record.

Connecticut opened up the scoring early, as freshman Sophie Perschk cashed in on a second chance opportunity to put the Huskies up 1-0 eleven minutes into the game.

In the second quarter, UConn struck again, as Perschk found freshman teammate Juul Sauer for the goal, putting Connecticut up 2-0 early on in the matchup. Not long after, the Connecticut lead grew to three, as senior Madi Herb found the back of the net on a second chance opportunity.

However, the Monarchs responded quickly, as freshman Amelie Zielcke scored off an assist from teammates Frederique Zandbergen and Rina Tsioles, cutting the Connecticut lead to two.

The rest of the game was a defensive matchup, as the UConn defense locked down the aggressive Monarch offense that was trying to make a comeback, and Connecticut prevailed with a 3-1 victory, being crowned the Big East Regular Season Champions

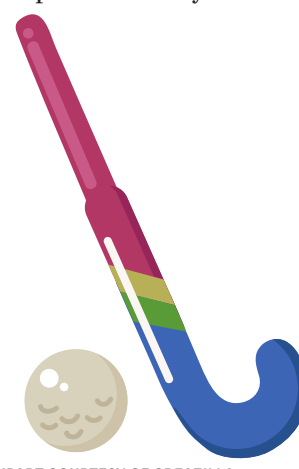
for the first time since the 2020-21 COVID-19 season.

Coming off a difficult 2023 campaign, the Huskies relied on their star players. Sauer and Perschk played major roles in the Huskies' offense this season, leading the team in points and both having twelve goals on the season which also led the team. Perschk also had eight assists, second on the team behind junior Sol Simone, who finished with eleven.

In conference play, Sauer was tied for first in the conference in points and goals, while Perschk was tied for first in goals during Big East play as well and senior Sophia Ugo came in third in assists, with Simone right behind her in fourth.

Finishing the regular season with a strong 15-3 overall record and 6-1 in Big East play,

the Huskies now look to make a push at the national tournament. But first, their focus is on the Big East tournament, where they will travel to Providence, R.I. next week to take on Liberty in their semi-final matchup. The winner of that will go on to face the winner of Old Dominion and Temple on Sunday.



CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA



CLIPART COURTESY OF CERAZILLA



The UConn field hockey team versus Liberty on Oct. 27, 2024 at the George J. Sherman Family Sports Complex. It was a hard fought game, with the Huskies coming out on top with a game-winning goal in overtime. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

McCreven's Mashup: Your guide to the opening night of college basketball – top games, best players and top headlines

by **Jake McCreven**
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Tonight's the night.

The college basketball season tips off today in Indianapolis as Indiana University Indianapolis (IUPUI) hosts Indiana University-Columbus, ending a 209-day streak of no college basketball. Pair that with the meat of the college football season, and swiftly the apex of college athletics has arrived.

Below are the seven college basketball games tipping off on Monday that have the most pop – the most draw, the most at stake – complete with a top storyline, players to watch and where to watch.

No. 8 Baylor @ No. 6 Gonzaga – 11:30 p.m., ESPN2

Storyline to know: A rematch of the 2021 National Championship game pits two top 10 teams against each other on opening night.

Norchad Omier was a valuable muscle during Miami's Final Four run two seasons ago, and now begins his tenure as a Bear against Graham Ike in the frontcourt as two explosive top 10 teams battle on night one. The Bears' roster is arguably more talented, with Jeremy Roach, VJ Edgecombe, Jayden Nunn and Langston Love all set to contribute on major levels, but Gonzaga returns more to a team that ended last season on a tear through the WCC and went to the Sweet 16 in Ryan Nembhard, Graham Ike and Nolan Hickman.

Player to watch for GU: Ryan Nembhard

Player to watch for BU: Norchad Omier

No. 13 Texas A&M @ UCF – 7:00 p.m., ESPN+

Storyline to know: The highly-ranked Aggies saunter into Orlando, Fla. and meet a sneaky Knights team chock full of talent.

The Aggies' No. 13 rank is tied for the highest preseason rank in program history, as coach Buzz Williams returns three starters and many sparkplugs off the bench to form one of the most talented rosters in the SEC. Wade

spect as fuel ahead of showdown with Longhorns in Vegas.

In American parlance, "what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas." For the Buckeyes, avenging last season's head-scratching and oftentimes frustrating con-



UConn men's basketball shook the cobwebs off against URI in an exhibition match on Oct. 14, 2024. The Huskies take the win in a big second half with a final score of 102-75. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Taylor IV and late-bloomer Manny Obaseki are a fierce backcourt duo who will need to match up with the talented group of Darius Johnson, Jordan Ivy-Curry and Jaylin Sellers in what should be a high-octane, high-scoring game in Orlando.

Player to watch for TAMU: Wade Taylor IV

Player to watch for UCF: Jordan Ivy-Curry

No. 19 Texas vs.* Ohio State – 10:00 p.m., TNT/truTV

Storyline to know: The unranked Buckeyes use a lack of re-

ference performance – featuring wins against Purdue and losses to Michigan – will be a top priority. The Longhorns return little but added a bevy of talent through the portal, including the physical Arthur Kaluma (Kansas State) and talented Jayson Kent (Indiana State) to form a board-crashing attack capable of competing in the SEC.

Player to watch for UT: Tramon Mark

Player to watch for OSU: Aaron Bradshaw

Missouri @ Memphis –

8:00 p.m., ESPN+

Storyline to know: A cat fight in Memphis features two teams desperate for respect following disappointing 2023 seasons.

The (Missouri) Tigers' eight wins in 2023 were their lowest since 2017, with the defense cratering and offense sputtering in most key moments in SEC play. Luckily, Tamar Bates is back after an effective shooting season, and Dennis Gates worked the portal well. Memphis reloaded via the portal with many backcourt stars, including PJ Haggerty (Tulsa) and Tyrese Hunter (Texas) to form an impressive nucleus of scoring. Both teams slid in 2023 and will look to start 2024 with a respected win.

Player to watch for MIZ: Mark Mitchell

Player to watch for MEM: Tyrese Hunter

Vermont @ UAB – 7:30 p.m., ESPN+

Storyline to know: Two conference juggernauts showdown in Birmingham on night one.

Double-double machine Yaxel Lendeborg was one of the best defensive rebounders in the country last season as the Blazers waltzed into the NCAA Tournament for the second time in three seasons. Vermont has won the America East seven of the last ten years, establishing itself as a mid-major steamroller. UAB is the frontrunner in the AAC while Vermont opens 2024 yet again atop the AEC. A must-watch match-up is the front court – particularly the rebounding – of Vermont against the powerful Lendeborg.

Player to watch for UV: Shamir Bogues

Player to watch for UAB: Yaxel Lendeborg

Saint Louis vs.* Santa Clara – 3:00 p.m., YouTube

Storyline to know: A rebuilt and repurposed Billikens team will get a shot at well-respected

Santa Clara on night one.

The giant-killing Broncos gathered wins against Gonzaga, Oregon and Stanford last season but struggled with consistency against outclassed opponents. The return of elite forward Adama Alpha-Bal was a huge get for coach Herb Sendek, who will look to build around the lanky senior. The Billikens retooled the entire roster following a mediocre 2023, poaching Josh Schertz from Indiana State and with him gamechangers Robbie Avila and Isaiah Swope. Saint Louis has a more talented roster, but consistency is key if the Billikens wish to breakthrough in a top heavy Atlantic-10.

Player to watch for SLU: Robbie Avila

Player to watch for SCU: Adama Alpha-Bal

McNeese State vs.* South Dakota State – 6:00 p.m., YouTube

Storyline to know: Two mid-major powerhouses duel in Sioux Falls to open the season – Will Wade begins year two in Lake Charles.

Both teams carried momentum into March as possible upset candidates before getting handled by higher-seeded foes. Both teams return storied head coaches that are coming off conference championship seasons. Both teams will be eager to start 2024 with an impressive win. The Cowboys return more – and arguably more talent – in Southland POTY candidate Christian Shumate and dynamic guard Javohn Garcia, but the Jackrabbits have been notorious throughout the Summit League for making a lot out of a little. The front court battle will be a good one, especially considering how dominant the Cowboys were on the blocks last season.

Player to watch for MSU: Christian Shumate

Player to watch for SDSU: Oscar Cluff



Sports

Football: UConn protects the Rent one last time in 34-27 win over Georgia State

by **Connor Sargeant**
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Despite coming off a 3-9 2023 campaign where seemingly nothing went right, the UConn football team has surpassed expectations for this season, clinching Bowl eligibility this past week in their 34-27 win over Georgia State. This is the second time in his three seasons that head coach Jim Mora has accomplished this feat. This win also marks the final home game of the year for the Huskies after finishing an excellent 6-1 in East Hartford, Connecticut. This also signals the end of the program's six-game homestand.

In the past three weeks, a prevalent theme for the program has surrounded its offense. The scoring and overall consistency on that side of the ball have dissipated from what they were in previous weeks, yet in those matchups, the defense shined and made game-winning plays. However, last Friday, it was the offense that stole the show, although the defense did have a large effect on the outcome of this game.

In football, there's getting off to a fast start, and then there's the start that the Huskies got off to. The Connecticut defense forced a quick three-and-out, and a fair catch interference set UConn up nicely near midfield. On the first play from scrimmage, Mel Brown found a hole on the left side and took a run for 52 yards, all the way to the Georgia State seven-yard line. One run and a bootleg pass to Louis Hansen later, the Huskies were up 7-0.

On the next Georgia State drive, the Huskies' run defense forced an early Panthers third and eight. However, quarterback Zach Gibson did an excellent job of being elusive, avoiding the pressure and scrambling for the first down. This became a reoccurring theme for not only this half but the game as a whole. The redshirt senior finished his afternoon with eight rushes for 24 yards. While these stats aren't the most eye-popping in the world, most of these were scrambles that kept drives alive for the Panthers; regardless, UConn battled.

On the next Connecticut offensive drive, the program clicked on all cylinders. Whether quarterback Nick Evers found Brown in the flats or Durrell Robinson broke off a solid run, the Huskies made solid offensive efforts on its second drive. They drove for 59 yards before a pair of incompletions, and a scramble from Evers later set up a 42-yard field goal from Chris Freeman; suddenly, the program had a quick 10-0 lead and looked to keep the foot on the gas.

Despite the hot start early on for UConn, Georgia State battled back.

The Panthers' passing attack was in full force for their third drive of the night, as it took less than two minutes for the program to get into Connecticut territory. A crucial play ensued later in the series, as Petey Tucker took a dump-off for 14 yards to the UConn 25. However, those in stripes slapped senior defensive back Rante Jones with a questionable unnecessary roughness call, putting the Panthers in the

red zone for the first time all night. From there, Gibson threw a perfect back corner ball to junior wide receiver Ted Hurst for the score. After that, Georgia State was in command of this matchup.

The Huskies were looking to respond strongly on their following offensive sequences, as not only was the rushing attack in order; but Evers did a great job at finding his receivers, and this wasn't limited to inside the pocket. The sophomore signal caller had some plays that broke down, meaning Evers had to get creative and try to make some magic, and he did that, finding Shamar Porter on the sidelines for an excellent third and 13 conversion. However, things took a turn for the worse shortly after. Robinson had a carry at midfield but lost the football, and the Panthers recovered near midfield. However, the UConn defense limited the bleeding to only a field goal, meaning we had a tied ball game on our hands.

A crucial moment of Friday's contest came on Georgia State's following offensive sequence, as the program had a chance to tack on some late points. However, UConn defensive back D'Mon Brinson found himself in the perfect position for the interception. The junior also tacked on 20 yards on the return, placing Connecticut in field goal range and allowing Connecticut to reclaim the lead at the end of the half.

The second half was similar to the first 30 minutes, as a 46-yard run from Cam Edwards set the Huskies up nicely. A few plays later, Skyler Bell did an excellent

job at drawing a pass interference call, putting the Huskies within the five and in prime position for Robinson to punch it in for his first score of the night. This seemed to be the turning point in the night as the Huskies began to pull away. After conceding a field goal and trading punts, thanks to the rushing attack between Evers, Edwards and Brown, the program found the back of the endzone yet again thanks to the legs of their quarterback.

The signal caller's scrambling game was prominent all night. Evers' nine carries for 25 yards did a good job of moving the ball downfield, although this alone was not what won the program this game.

The Huskies' biggest break came at the beginning of the fourth quarter, as Georgia State backup quarterback Christian Veilleux threw an interception to Malik Dixon-Williams. On Connecticut's first play from scrimmage, Brown took a run to the house for a 31-yard touchdown.

Brown had his hands all over this contest, finishing with that score and 138 yards rushing. Edwards also accumulated 88 yards of his own on the ground. Both running backs expressed that the preparation leading into this contest helped them perform at this level and that the big runs they did have were similar to how those runs went down in practice.

Despite the program's running success, the Panthers made it a much closer contest than the Huskies would have liked, thanks to Freddie Brock's 55-yard rushing touchdown and

Gibson's scrambling score. However, too much time had come off the clock. Georgia State made it a one-score game, although there were less than two minutes left, meaning they needed an onside kick.

Kicker Braeden McAlister booted as good of an onside kick as the Panthers could have hoped for; the ball took a perfect spin off of wide receiver Shamar Porter's leg before it traveled 10 yards, meaning a dog pile ensued. Players from both sides fought at the bottom of the pile to come up with the rock. However, it was UConn's Jackson Harper coming up with the football, despite not initially possessing the ball. Now, the game plan for the Huskies was simple: Bleed the clock. However, Connecticut hit a roadblock early on. The Panthers forced the program into a fourth and one. UConn could have opted for the 40 plus yard field goal into the wind and make it a two possession game or go for it and get the first down to win the game. Mora opted for the latter, and it paid off, as Edwards made the line to gain, sealing Connecticut's sixth win of the season.

Friday's victory was massive for the program, as UConn is eligible to compete in a bowl game. However, as everyone from Mora to Edwards has noted, this doesn't guarantee the Huskies a bowl match, and they will need to continue to compete in the three games they have left on the road.

Connecticut's next test is against UAB on Nov. 7 on the road in Birmingham, AL.



UConn football versus Georgia State on Nov. 1, 2024 at Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler field. It was Senior Night for the Huskies where they fought hard and were able to win with a final score of 34-27. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS