

# WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## HUSKIES EARN SPOT IN SWEET 16 IN BUECKERS' FINAL GAME IN STORRS



PHOTOS BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR, THE DAILY CAMPUS

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You couldn't have scripted Paige Bueckers' last game in Gampel Pavilion any better. It was sweet like candy.

With a sold-out crowd in the Basketball Capital of the World for a March Madness game, the No. 2 seeded UConn women's basketball racked up a 91-57 win over the No. 10 seeded South Dakota State Jackrabbits to send them to the Sweet 16.

To cap off the guards' last night in Storrs, Bueckers finished the game tying her career-high of 34 points and in addition racked up three rebounds and four assists, closing out the night shooting 14-21 from the field.

"Everything that you all have said about her, and everybody's written about her, it's all true, every part of it," Coach Geno Auriemma said postgame when asked about Bueckers. "So, I wouldn't be able to sit here and add anything to her game, and what she does speaks for itself and testament to her work, to her love of basketball, love being in the gym, to be rewarded, it's just fulfilling."

Despite a fiery finish to the night, it was a slow start

for the Huskies, as the Jackrabbits put themselves up on the board first and held a steady lead until it was a little over a minute remaining in the first frame.

Auriemma used his small ball lineup to his advantage. With players like Ashlynn Shade and KK Arnold at the helm of his squad's defense, it prompted the Huskies to slowly make their way back up.

With a little more than a minute to go, Bueckers laid it in for the Huskies and from there racked up two consecutive baskets to put the Huskies on top with the score 19-14 at the end of the first period.

At the start of the second quarter, the Huskies' momentum flourished. Sophomore

Ice Brady showed tremendous defense for the Huskies, dishing opportunities to her teammates and staying locked in by the boards.

Connecticut propelled themselves to a 16-3 run in the middle of the second frame and Bueckers worked her way up from scoring nine points to put her at 21 points on the game already at the conclusion of the first half.

Coming out of the locker room with a score of 43-28 under the belt, the Huskies continued to dominate. Bueckers continued to shine through-

out the second half and received a standing ovation from the crowd as she matched her career high in points with less than four minutes to go in the game.

Along with Bueckers, players on the squad like Azzi Fudd and Sarah Strong dominated on the court, both notching 17 and 15 points, respectively.

On the defensive side of things, Arnold kept her squad in the game aiding her team and keeping the fast pace of the game.

In total, the Wisconsin native had five steals and two rebounds on the night.

"In order to win at this level, it takes a lot of pieces that come together. And you know, without KK's piece, it means as much as Paige's piece," Au-

riemma said to the media postgame.

In addition to the feisty performance put on by the squad, Bueckers appreciated the crowd in Storrs, who created a stellar environment to play in.

"It truly feels like they're a part of the team in a way they can shift the game and shift the momentum," Bueckers said when asked about the fans in Gampel.

Next up, the Huskies will travel out west to Spokane, Washington for a chance to dominate again in the Sweet 16. They will face the No. 3 seeded Oklahoma Sooners on March 29 for a tip-off of either 5:30 or 8 p.m. The specific time is still to be determined.

The Huskies' mindset going into this game is pretty simple: staying present.

"I'm sure we'll have more time to reflect on as the season when the season is over," Bueckers said. "But right now, we're super focused on the present, but obviously just extremely grateful, and can't really put in the words how much this place has meant to me."

Fans can tune into this matchup on ESPN, as the squad survives and advances their quest for their 12th National Championship.



# School of Business to add 5 university alumni to its ‘hall of fame’

by Patrick Boots  
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The University of Connecticut’s School of Business will induct five alumni business leaders into their “hall of fame” in April. The yearly event commemorates the leadership shown by successful graduates of the School of Business, alongside current student achievements. This year’s ceremony will be held on Friday, April 11 at the Marriott Hotel Ballroom in downtown Hartford.

“Inductees into the School of Business Hall of Fame are amongst an elite group of alumni and are chosen through a rigorous selection process which includes review by the Dean, special committee, and past Hall of Fame inductees,” the School of Business webpage states. “Only 4-5 distinguished alumni are inducted each year out of the over 50,000 School of Business alumni worldwide.”

This year’s inductees are a group of accomplished business executives who each climbed the corporate ladder following their tenure as UConn students. The alumni being inducted are Trisha Bailey, founder and CEO of Bailey’s Medical Equipment and Supplies; Laurie Havanec, retired executive vice president at Aetna-CVS Health John Hodson, president of insurance benefits broker True Benefit; Greg Lewis, retired CFO of Honeywell International; and Robert Skinner, founder and managing partner of wealth management firm IEQ Capital.

Each inductee graduated with a degree from UConn, and all have been powerful forces within community organizations and initiatives in addition to their careers in business.

Inductee Bailey, originally from Jamaica, has been involved with UConn since her graduation in 1999. She serves on the board of directors of the UConn Foundation and has made donations to a number of UConn’s programs. In 2022, Bailey made

the largest yet cash contribution to the Athletics Department to be used to build a new student-athlete performance complex — calling back to her time as a member of UConn’s cross country and track-and-field teams.

“Trisha Bailey is an American success story that has its roots in the classroom and in competition at UConn,” said UConn’s Director of Athletics David Benedict to UConn Today following Bailey’s donation.

The board of trustees lent her name to the project, a major expansion of the Hugh Greer Field House. It’s slated to be called the “Bailey Student-Athlete Success Center.”

Inductees Hodson and Lewis both sponsor scholarship funds for students through the UConn Foundation and are intertwined with education. Hodson served on the board of trustees at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, N.Y. and Lewis acts as a mentor to UConn School of Business students.

“You’ve got to risk something and not be afraid to fail. After all, my opening salvo at UConn was almost crash and burn. UConn is the place where I learned about myself and where I was going,” Lewis said in a 2022 profile with UConn Magazine.

Inductee Havanec graduated from the School of Business in 1982 and the UConn Law School in 1994. She also sponsors a scholarship for female UConn Law students through the UConn Foundation’s “women and philanthropy” arm.

“I have had women who sponsored me throughout my career, who have made me stronger and better and have taken risks on me,” she said to UConn Today after the establishment of her scholarship. “I’m pretty passionate about doing that in my professional, day-to-day work — to make sure I’m sponsoring women.

Inductee Skinner started his career in wealth management just two years after graduating UConn with a degree in po-

litical science in 1993. He later joined the board of directors of the UConn Foundation and was instrumental in fundraising for what is now known as the Werth Family Basketball Champions Center.

“If we are going to be the No. 1 school in America, then we should be the No. 1 school in everything we do, and this building helps us do that,” said women’s basketball head coach Geno Auriemma during the building’s groundbreaking ceremony in 2013.

Skinner chaired the Athletics Campaign Steering Committee responsible for the initial campaign to build the complex, which now offers a wealth of practice and conditioning facilities, team spaces and locker rooms in addition to offices and student-athlete dining and study spaces.

Last year’s inductees included basketball champion-turned-coach Janelle Elliott, the Town of Wilton’s first selectwoman Toni Boucher, insurance and finance executive Mary Jane Fortin, safety development and finance executive Lee McChesney and wealth advisor Randy Siller.

The School of Business’ “hall of fame” was established in 1993 as a means to recognize successful UConn alumni in business fields. Over 150 alumni have been inducted as part of the annual ceremony, according to the School of Business Office of External and Alumni Engagement’s webpage.

The ceremony is black-tie optional and will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 11 at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Hartford, attached to the Connecticut Convention Center on Columbus Boulevard. Members of the public can purchase tickets to the event for \$175 at alumni.business.uconn.edu.

UConn students, staff and faculty should contact Jillian Comolli at jillian.comolli@uconn.edu for ticket information.



UConn’s School of Business located on the Storrs campus. The program has over 3,000 enrolled undergraduates attending. PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN’S SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

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The Daily Campus

Sudoku

&

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Seven Sisters attendees, historically

6 A third of the UAE?

10 Rock blasters

14 Fast Amtrak train

15 Song for a single voice

16 Bruise

17 \*Japanese hot-pot meal

19 Gobi Desert locale

20 Hash brown base

21 Planet simulated by NASA on Mauna Loa

23 Brief “Spare me the details”

24 “Sorta”

26 \*French chocolate confection

28 \*North African dish made with semolina

33 Bassoon cousin

34 Sleep lab study

35 Subj. for a business major

37 Like a swaddled baby

40 Window sticker

41 Pledge

42 Grace under pressure

43 Minor issue

44 Bit of good fortune

45 One who is often on track?

46 Nabe in L.A. and NYC

48 \*Portuguese hot pepper sauce

50 \*Sichuan noodles

52 Entered an election

53 Medical pen prefix

54 Antarctic floater

57 Son of Daedalus

62 Baloney

64 Event with two headliners, or a description of a restaurant check that includes any of the answers to the starred clues?

66 Duty

67 Crowd sound

68 Philadelphia commuter org.

69 Opposed to

70 JCC alternative

71 Kettle emanation

14

17

20

28

34

40

43

50

53

62

66

69

DOWN

1 Ant-Man partner

2 Diez menos dos

3 Charcuterie staple

4 Idris of “The Wire”

5 Like sextants and tide charts

6 Bonfire residue

7 Wander freely

8 Actress Jessica who co-founded The Honest Company

9 Mint julep liquor

10 “That’s the answer!”

11 “How lovely for you”

12 Of the utmost quality

13 Darken, as wood

18 Meh-worthy

22 Bawl

25 Egg, in Ecuador

27 “Out of the question”

28 Scoundrels

29 Kick off

30 Most mysterious

31 Poseidon, for one

32 Rocky road serving

36 Pet’s human

38 Library patron, e.g.

39 Mel B and Mel C bandmate

42 Leia Organa title

44 More than parched

47 Montreal NHLer, to fans

49 14-Across line

50 Follower of Charlie?

51 Bee-related

55 Word with bed or head

56 Tostada topping, briefly

58 Plan a getaway for, perhaps

59 Malodorous

60 Skin and hair care chain

61 Shut loudly

63 Enjoy Vail

65 Bikini top

By Michael B. Berg

3/25/25

Monday’s Puzzle Solved

I	S	P	Y		W	O	M	B		B	L	A	S	T	
N	C	A	A		E	V	O	O		E	A	V	E	S	
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3/25/25



Level 

1

2

3

4

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	4	1				9	2	
					5			
		8		3		7	1	

Solution to Monday’s puzzle

3/25/25

2	5	6	9	7	1	4	3	8
8	3	7	6	4	2	5	1	9
1	9	4	8	5	3	6	2	7
6	1	5	2	9	7	3	8	4
3	7	9	5	8	4	1	6	2
4	8	2	1	3	6	7	9	5
9	4	8	3	1	5	2	7	6
5	2	3	7	6	9	8	4	1
7	6	1	4	2	8	9	5	3

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [sudoku.org.uk](https://www.sudoku.org.uk).



# CLIPPING. UPLOADS THE CYBERPUNK-THEMED RAP RECORD ‘DEAD CHANNEL SKY’

CLIPPING



by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**  
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Pre-existing fans of Los Angeles’ experimental rap trio Clipping, likely find themselves prefacing to new listeners that the rapper of the project, Daveed Diggs, was in the history-inspired musical “Hamilton” as Marquis de Lafayette and Thomas Jefferson. Enamored by his multiple artistic talents, unknowing fans of “Hamilton” delve into some of the noisiest, disorienting and challenging textures ever rapped on, courtesy of producer duo William Hutson and Jonathan Snipes.

Those who were scared off by the difficult production could be elated by 2025’s “Dead Channel Sky,” released on March 14. Instead of being extremely noisy and challenging when it comes to texture though elements persist, the production opts for electronic-driven sounds inspired by cyberpunk in addition to noise elements that aren’t as jarring.

The lyrics set the audience into a cyberpunk world as a concept album of sorts. The closest thing we had to an album with a similar theming prior to this is 2000’s futuristic album, “Deltron 3030” by Del Tha Funkee Homosapien, Dan the Automator and DJ Koala or maybe Clipping’s own 2016 concept album masterpiece on Afrofuturism “Splendor & Misery.”

Diggs rapping on dial-up noises was probably not on anyone’s bingo card for this year, but that’s what the intro contains. Lyrics such as, “A kilobyte to eat,” “Net is like a street in that it’s still a trap” and “Appetite for detritus” show Diggs’ creativity and playfulness with language. Of course, he has to end the intro with “It’s clipping., bitch” as done with other

albums, but his voice glitches before the rest of the catchphrase could be said.

“Dominator” is a fantastic intro to the world of the album. In this world Diggs highlights a progressive perception of gender with, “A waste of energy debating the mechanical for genitals when gender is so easily programmable, you know that.” Diggs even shouts out circumcised people with the lyric, “Skin is impractical for a dick.”

“Change The Channel” sounds like it came from an action montage in a movie or movie compilation with lively percussion. Diggs’ rapping illustrates even more about the album’s world, with lyrics setting the mood: “Rebar in the nail bed, breast milk in a green vial, wet sheets in the corner, asbestos is best before breakfast.” The piano in the chorus along with the lyrics are catchy even if the lyrics are talking about somebody being dead.

Diggs’ sampling nearly anything he remembers and regurgitating it in eloquent way is admirable. It’s lovely how he can rap extremely thought-provoking lines and then raps, “Biters catch the cool from the metal nuts, deez,” which references a popular video circulated on the internet in 2015.

“Dodger” has one of the best outros in all of music. It’s euphoric with the symphonic stringed instruments, fast-paced drums and Diggs’ frantic rapping. The part where Diggs raps “Justify treason to capture this feeling, has to be love” stood out in particular for its rationalization of the lyrics prior: “The song they used to hum at school with the rules and the reasons to do all the things that you do, in the name of the thing, what the fuck is the shit they sang? / But this man elevates, and it makes it seem insane, asinine, even, assassinate him for what?”

Before that, the chorus being about killing a virus feels like a response to Deltron 3030’s song “Virus,” where that song is about someone who created a technological virus to destroy society.

“Keep Pushing” is interesting for its techno synth and insight into the concept album’s world of drug trade, the chorus being: “And everywhere you go, just keep on pushing dope, however hard it’s been, get up and push again.” The lyric “History is so funny, it’s only writ’ with ink that’s on money” is genius for how history is only written by winners more of the time and especially in antiquity.

“Polaroids” sounds like a conventional Clipping. song; it’s noisy and minimalistic while also being intricate lyrically. The story and description behind the secretary-looking woman who writes interested me, but her memories remain in a box full of polaroids that aren’t wanted according to Diggs. He adds, “Memories are gobos making shadows on the locked present that has been fixed, so it’s best to leave them dead.”

“Welcome Home Warrior,” is extremely relevant for digital denizens who use the internet as a place to escape from harsh realities. Abstract rapper Aesop Rock’s verse was incredible, with the one-liner “weapon-toting soldiers built like Charlie Brown’s Christmas tree” being hilarious.

“Ask What Happened,” is an excellent closer. The beat is eerie and cold at first but develops into something hopeful. The lyric “History and future belong to the one percent” would resonate a lot with those disillusioned with the world. The first step is dialogue and action. Diggs leaves the audience with the introspective “they never wanted to look behind the eyes of a hacker.”

CLIPPING



Rating: 4/5



PHOTOS COURTESY OF @CLIPPING ON INSTAGRAM



# Weatherday returns after 6 years with “Hornet Disaster”

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**  
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Weatherday is by far the most popular output from the Swedish musician Sputnik.

Weatherday’s debut album, 2019’s “Come In,” received a lot of praise from underground music and shoegaze fans for helping revitalize emo rock music. After 2022’s collaborative EP “Weatherglow” with the South Korean shoegazer Asian Glow, a fan favorite for shoegaze fans who love when artists work together, the Weatherday project went silent, and Sputnik focused mainly on their side projects.

However, in 2025, Weatherday released singles for their sophomore effort, “Hornet Disaster,” before dropping the full album on March 19.

The album begins with the titular song, “Hornet Disaster.” The abrasive yet melodic guitar playing is mesmerizing. There are barely any lyrics, but the guitar stole the show anyway.

“Meanie” works incredibly well coming after the previous song. Sputnik’s singing of the lyric, “Don’t come any closer, I cut my nails, and sparkling water, uneasy and frail” is a highlight due to how well it meshes with the instrumental, especially the drums.

“Take Care of Yourself (Paper-Like Nests)” starts off misleadingly with a cheap-sounding indietronica-like instrumental, but it grows and

flourishes into a beautiful, dynamic soundscape.

The guitar melody on “Hug” is heart-wrenchingly beautiful. Two minutes in, the bass temporarily steals the show prior to an excellent guitar solo and then depressive suicidal black metal-like vocal wailing over a wall of sound before the song collapses. This song is simultaneously disturbing and comforting by the end.

“Green Tea Seaweed Sea” seemingly has multiple parts to it. The lyric, “You know blue light isn’t real life, but you take things way too far” stood out for its commentary on the internet, which uses displays that radiate blue light which hinders sleeping.

“Blood Online” has one of the most memorable guitar riffs on the entire album. Furthermore, it explains part of the cover art, which features someone biting their hand and bleeding: “I will do that after I bite fifteen holes in my hand and sixteen more from underneath, I let the blood drip on the screen, I think it makes the words more sweet and genuinely personal.” This glorification of self-harm in the idea of bleeding on technology to make texts more personalized resonated a lot.

“Blanket,” a song about covering in a cold blanket from the attic has a hauntingly beautiful refrain: “When you’re lying I can tell, all you tell is beautiful, cause you speak in cursive, and it cuts like knives, I don’t know what’s on your mind, cause I’m not supposed to ask, when you get so quiet, I prefer the lies.”

The way Sputnik sings, “and it cuts like knives” with the cascading of melody is enjoyable. The synth line is also beautiful.

“Heartbeats” is kind of a lull. It’s not as energetic as the previous songs and doesn’t have an engaging guitar lead. Furthermore, the clapping sounds sound tacky and uncomfortable.

“Cooperative Calligraphy” begins with a short sample clip of the character Sheldon Cooper from hit sitcom “The Big Bang Theory.” The lyric “Got your texts, it’s all cursive” makes one think that the protagonist is experiencing psychosis and is unable to focus on reading. It could be something else, though.

The lyric, “You made it easy to miss you,” could be indicative of a codependent relationship. There is also a reference to the hit indie dream exploration game “Yume Nikki” in the lyrics about pinching your cheek. The main character, Madotsuki, is mentally ill based on her dreams’ content and refusal to go outside her room, thus the reference.

“Heaven Smile” is such a bleak way to end the album despite the sweet-sounding name. Sonically, it sounds like a bit like witch house band Crystal Castles.

Weatherday did an incredible job with this album sonically and thematically. It feels like I was just scraping the surface. Nonetheless, this is what good art is supposed to do according to Cesar A. Cruz: disturb the comfortable and comfort the disturbed.



DRAWING BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DALY CAMPUS





# Life

@dailycampuslife



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## The Backlog: Use the power of Christ and a shotgun in ‘Faith: The Unholy Trinity’

by **Desirae Sin**  
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Hello, and welcome back from spring break. “The Backlog” is still going strong and exploring the world of video games that are considered “works of art.” The last edition felt like forever ago, but now it’s time to conclude March with one of the most creative, terrifying and beautifully made games I’ve seen in a long time. Grab your crucifix and shotgun because we’re going to review “Faith: The Unholy Trinity.”

The survival horror game “Faith” was originally developed and released by Airdorf Games. The first chapter was released in October 2017, and the second in February 2019. In October 2022, the third chapter was released in a combined game titled “Faith: The Unholy Trinity” by New Blood Interactive.

What made “Faith” so unique among players and fellow creators was the retro style of gameplay and design. The game is reminiscent of old Atari titles with a low framerate and simplistic controls. It doesn’t contain hyper-detailed graphics like newer games, but “Faith” is the perfect example of how art is more than the medium.

### Spoilers for “Faith: Chapter 1” beyond this point!

The first chapter of “Faith” starts off with a Catholic priest named John Ward, who returns to an abandoned home in Sterling, Connecticut to finish the failed exorcism of 17-year-old Amy Martin, which happened a year earlier.

Amy had killed her parents and Father Allred, John’s superior, during the failed exorcism. She was incarcerated at a psychiatric facility but escaped, which leads to the start of the game where John returns to finish what he started.

Immediately, it’s obvious to players that demons exist. As John approaches the Martin residence, he’s chased by a white figure with red eyes, crawling on all four limbs. Throughout the woods, there are objects to interact with, but raising John’s crucifix at them exorcises the demon and reveals papers with lore and explanations for what’s going on.

Even though the first chapter is short, there are many endings for players to find. I can’t go into detail about each of the five endings, but there is one where John survives and leaves the forest.

Players must choose not to kill Amy in the end and carry the one-bullet gun with them back to John’s car. There the white figure will attack, and John must shoot it, ensuring it’s injured and eventually gets hit by a truck. This ending, “When Faith Endures,” is the only one I believe leads to the next chapter.

There is a short prologue between the first and second chapters, explaining how after John drives away he crashes his car into a truck and is once again trapped in the woods with a dangerous cult. After various shenanigans and lore discoveries, John can either defeat a demon within a church basement, leave and be attacked by a cloaked woman, or burn a scarecrow and become a demon.

### Spoilers for “Faith: Chapter 2” beyond this point!

The second chapter starts off with a different priest named Father Garcia. He is holding a teenager named Michael Davies captive in his basement and receives an order from a cardinal to release Michael back to his parents. Unfortunately, Michael is not cured, as he’s revealed to be the white figure from the first chapter. Father Garcia attempts to exorcise Michael, but he breaks free, eating a random neighbor and escaping.

After the intro, the player is once again in the shoes of John Ward, who is investigating strange activity in Gallup Cemetery in Connecticut. After being chased by demons including Amy, he finds a hidden cultist sanctuary in the sewers. John is once again attacked by the cloaked woman but meets Father Garcia.

The player must protect Father Garcia with the power of Christ while he recites the 91st Psalm. After winning, it’s revealed that the whole chapter was in John’s dream, but he gets a letter from Father Garcia asking for his help, leading to the third chapter.

### Spoilers for “Faith: Chapter 3” beyond this point!

Chapter three is by far the longest one, so I’ll try to summarize it. John investigates a

clinic that Amy volunteered at, where her possession started. Starting off in the clinic, John is knocked unconscious by a mangled humanoid creature. He traverses the area and escapes by working with a police officer, using his own cross and the officer’s gun.

The next day, John goes to New Haven to visit the apartment of his childhood friend, Lisa. She’s been possessed by the demon Alu, and he must exorcise her. There is a possibility that she could die, but if she doesn’t, she reveals that a man named Gary Miller is the cult leader. They plan to recreate what they did to Amy to her brothers, Nate and Jason Martin.

The final destination is a day-care center, where John investigates and finds children’s drawings showing the influences of Gary’s cult. After a hallucinogenic hangover, John awakens deeper in the building and eventually finds that Gary’s goal is to summon the Antichrist. John defeats Gary, shortly after which Father Garcia arrives with a shotgun and opens fire.

In each of the levels, there are three Unholy Trinity bosses to find: the Mother, the Daughter and the Unholy Spirit. If the player defeats all of them, the true endings become available, where John and Father Garcia defeat Gary and Gary’s mother. If all goes well, John is given the chance to fully exorcise Amy so she may rest in heaven, restoring his faith and finishing what he started.

“Faith” is one of the most unique experiences I’ve had in a while. The battles can be quite difficult, but the familiar sound of the text-to-speech voices and old-school sound effects match the environment of late 1980’s Connecticut. The game also uses rotoscoping for various cutscenes, bringing the 8-bit world into reality with real people performing the movements.

This technique adds another unsettling element to the games, yet leaves players horrified at what they’ve witnessed. There are many other aspects to “Faith” that have cemented it as a cult classic of video games, but there’s one thing to take away from it: Connecticut is full of demons and Father Garcia isn’t playing around.

Rating: 5/5



PHOTO COURTESY OF @AIRDORFOFFICIAL ON INSTAGRAM



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**BASKETBALL SEXISM  
GOES DEEPER THAN  
THE LACK OF FUNDING**

On Sunday, the University of Connecticut men's basketball team fell to Florida in the second round of the March Madness tournament. Despite the pain that comes from the end of the UConn men's basketball dynasty, many people are turning to the women's team in hopes that they can bring the glory back to UConn.

While our women's basketball team holds more weight than women's teams do elsewhere, it is never the focus of the season when the men are playing, despite being the winningest Division I women's basketball team. It takes the failure of our men's sports to draw attention to the women. Why must our men fail for our women to be duly recognized?

When the inequality in men's and women's sports is criticized, those defending the system typically bring up the WNBA's failure to create a profit and generate viewership. The WNBA is currently operating at a loss of \$40 million, despite record game attendance and network viewership.

While the NBA owns about 60% of the WNBA and funds many of their operations, the WNBA still has to raise capital from investors like Nike and female politician Condoleezza Rice. The money from these suppliers is not enough to drive effective marketing campaigns or draw meaningful viewership that will bring the league a profit. With these factors in mind, it is easy to pass off WNBA's underperformance as a funding issue, but lurking behind the scenes is a deeply rooted and unconscious societal issue.

Historically and in the modern day, women are valued as performers. We idolize singers like Taylor Swift, Sabrina Carpenter and Lady Gaga. But why don't we idolize female athletes, who are also performing — in a sense — the same way? The answer is simple. They don't dress and act the way we want them to.

When society thinks of a female performer, they imagine glitzy and revealing outfits that highlight their femininity and sexuality. This is why when Billie Eilish exploded into the spotlight, she was questioned about her baggy outfit choices which did not fit the mold of a teen popstar. For the same reason, society wrongly discounts females in sports because they aren't the image of sexuality that people desire.

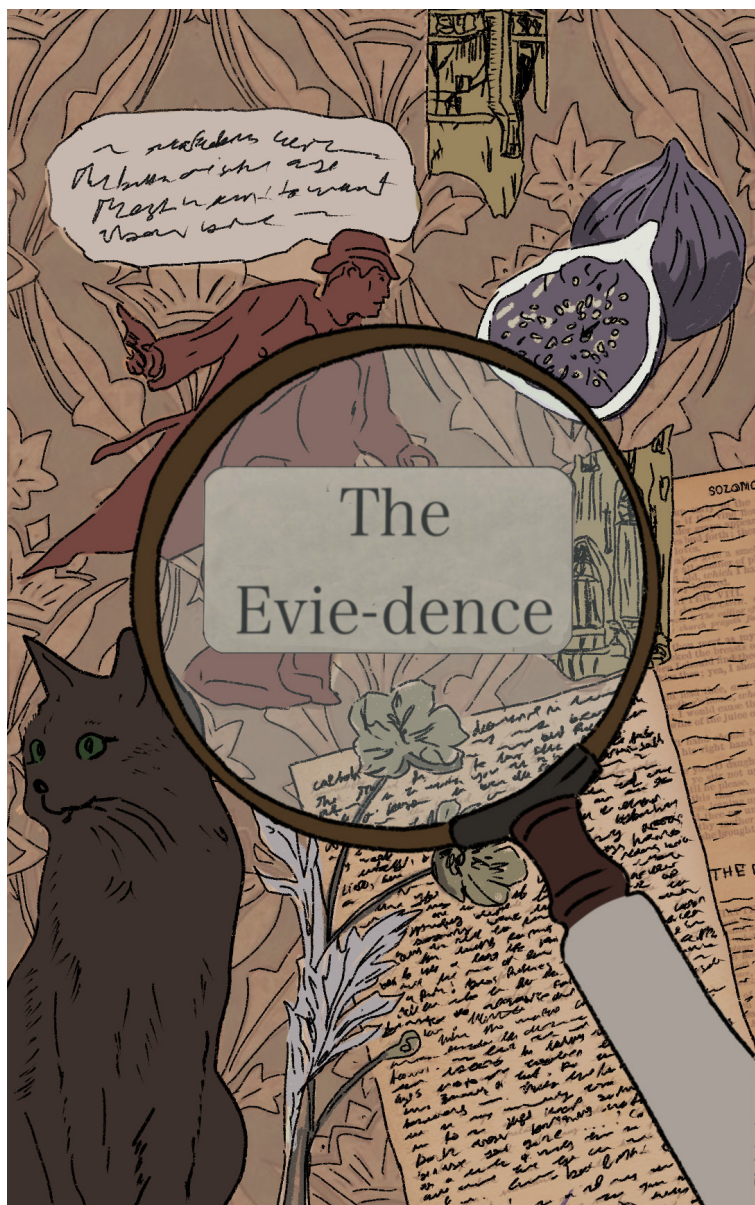
Even when women in sports

aren't looking for it, society finds a way to sexualize them anyway. As two of the leaders in women's National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball, Caitlin Clark and Paige Bueckers helped draw many new viewers to the sport. Even they couldn't escape this phenomenon. Throughout their collegiate careers, their reputation and image has been shaped by TikTok edits sexualizing them and speculating on their sexuality. This shapes the narrative that despite the social change they drive or the skill that they've worked hard to achieve, women will always be valued first by their looks.

Another defense for the lack of viewership in women's sports stems from society's view of the biological difference between males and females. It is not incorrect or sexist to acknowledge that men are biologically built stronger and faster than women. Sometimes this makes games exciting, as viewers can appreciate the feats of the human body. It is incorrect, however, to fail to acknowledge the skills that female athletes possess that men do not.

Women are known to enhance teamwork, prioritize strategy and execute sports with a high level of trained skill. This makes women's sports equally entertaining and impactful. While we can appreciate female athletes for their training to reach their peak level of fitness, we should also recognize what they do for young girls and their emotional development. Watching and participating in team sports helps young girls develop confidence and a taste for teamwork, which they will need as they navigate a society where young women view each other as competition.

So how can we give females in sports the recognition that they deserve? We need to change the narrative around women's sports. For every exciting buzzer beater in a men's game, there is a female equivalent. Point out the positives that women's sports bring to a community. Recognize female leaders for their hard-earned skills, rather than their perceived sexual value. Actively choose to watch women's sports and share them with those around you. The values that drive the current inequality are deeply engrained in society and in each of our mindsets, so it is time to take an active role in dismantling this structure and giving women the attention they deserve.



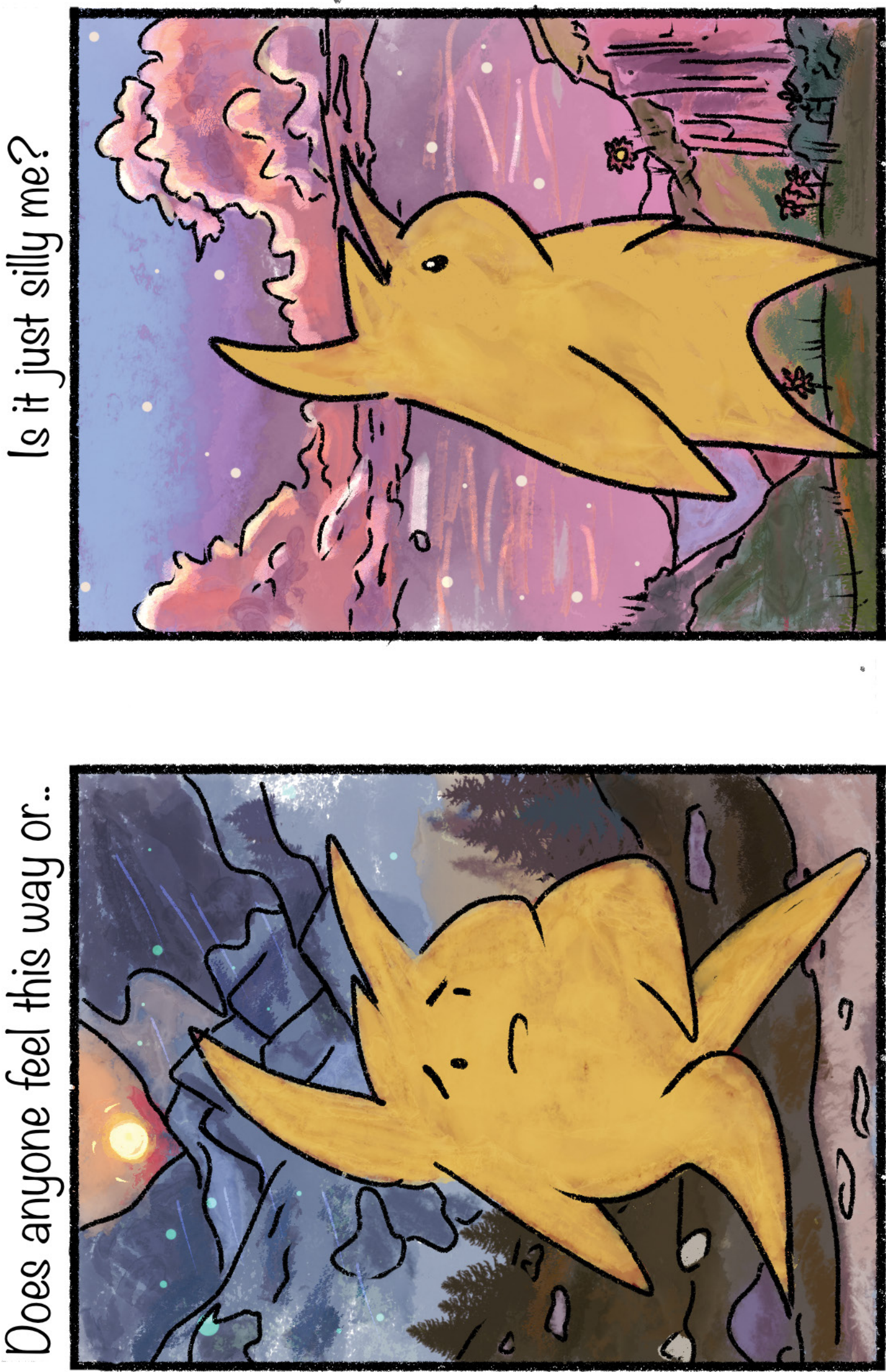
LOGO BY LILLIAN LAFEMINA, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Photo of the Day | Celebrating a hard fought season



Despite losing in the second round, UConn put up a strong performance in the NCAA tournament. They went out against the No. 1 Florida Gators in a 2 point loss.  
PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Does anyone feel this way or..

Is it just silly me?

COMIC OF THE DAY

Jason J. Sampson, Contributing Artist



# Men’s Club Lacrosse: Huskies fall in weekend series

**by Jake Loomis**  
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The UConn men’s club lacrosse team took a trip down to Georgia for two top 20 games, in which they would play the Tennessee Volunteers and Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets. Tennessee came into their matchup with the Huskies at a record of 5-2, with key wins over James Madison University and Auburn. For Georgia Tech, they came into the game versus Connecticut at 7-3 with key wins over Florida State and Tennessee who they beat 15-10. The Huskies would come into the weekend fresh off a win in their first game versus Bridgewater State.

In the first game versus Tennessee, the Huskies got off to a fast start as they scored back-to-back goals to set the tempo. However, this lead lasted a short time as Tennessee got going fast. They rattled off two goals to tie the game in the first and then responded with two more to close out the quarter. In the second they added on two more to push their lead to four going into the half.

After the half, the Huskies came out with a bit of juice, and they were able to get two goals to go in the frame. Tennessee, just like in the first, would respond as they put up three goals to push their lead to now five. In the fourth, it was more of the same for the home squad as they racked up three more goals to push them to a commanding victory. In the end though, Tennessee would end up on top with the score 12-7.

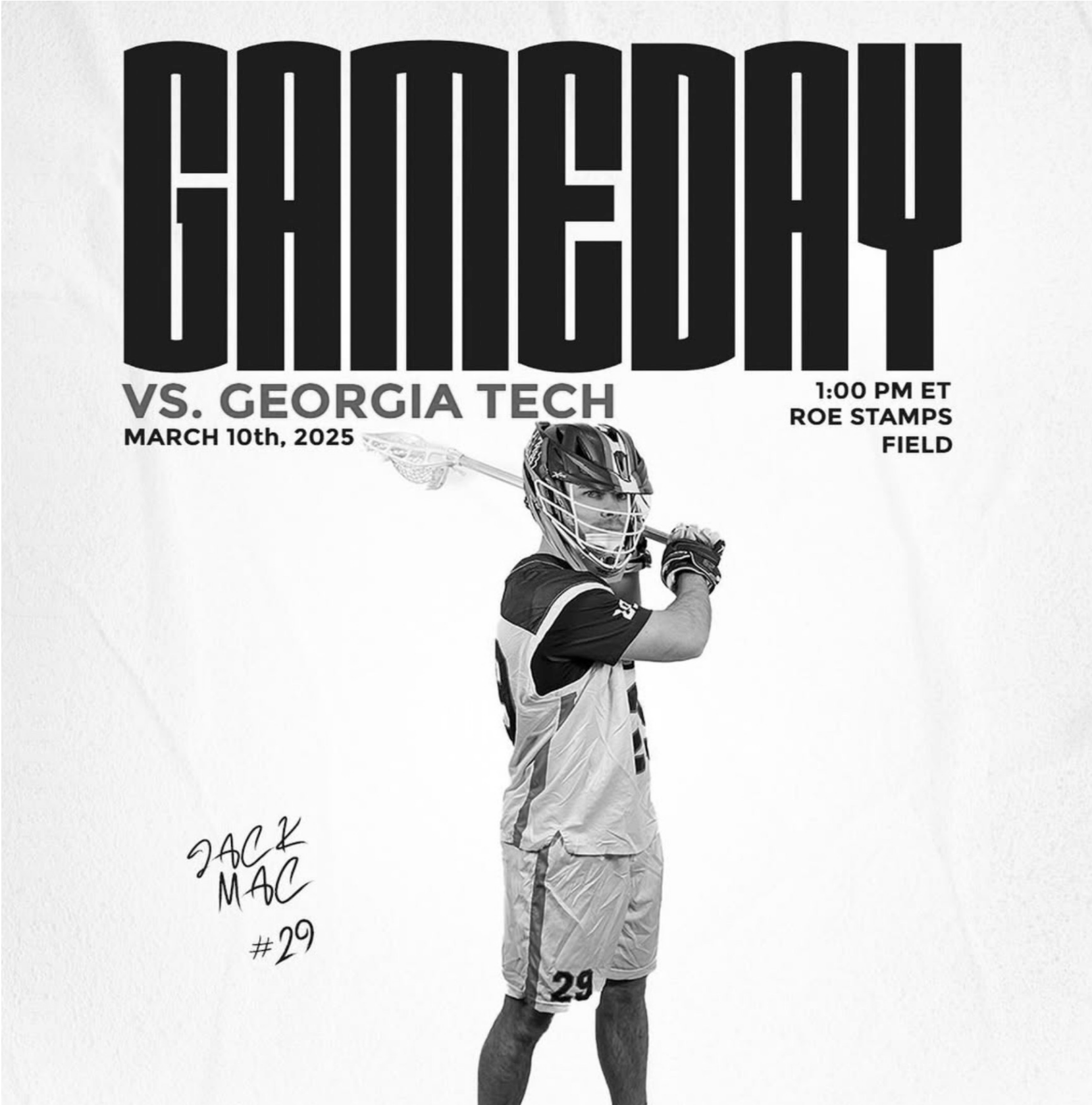
The Volunteers were led by Mason Cain who had a monster game with three goals and three assists to total six points overall. In the win, Tommy Rudo also had two goals for the

squad along with an assist. In net, Kyle Conklin was solid as he let up seven goals on 25 shots to net a 72% save percentage on the day.

For the Huskies, they were led by Jack McIerney who slotted home three goals in the loss while providing two assists. Mason Smutney also had two goals in the loss. Both goalies got a shot in this one as Noah Lounge and Harrison Slade both played. Lounge had 13 saves on 19 shots while Slade let in six goals on 10 shots.

In the second battle of the weekend, the Huskies were set to face the tougher opponent of the weekend in Georgia Tech. The Yellow Jackets were a very senior-heavy roster so this one would be tough for the less-experienced Huskies. Tech got out to a fast start as they rattled off six goals in the first and five in the second to start the game. They were truly dominating the possession battle as they held Connecticut to minimal scoring chances and only two goals in the first half.

In the second half, the game trend continued as Georgia Tech pushed their lead further with two goals in the third and another two in the fourth. The Huskies would add one more in the third however this would show to be a disappointing day for the team overall. Tech was led by Andrew Belli, Pierce Quarles, and Joseph Rose who all had three goals in the win. Brooks Baro tossed three assists in the win also. Georgia Tech featured three goalies in the blowout, however, starter Peter Zagrobelny played well as he allowed in one goal on eight attempts. UConn goals were scored by Thomas Pino, Jake Saldutti, and Colin Hersom. Lounge allowed nine goals on fifteen shots in the loss.



Pictured is Jack McIerney, who helped lead the UConn Men’s Lacrosse team on March 10. UConn lost to Georgia Tech by 12 points. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @UCONNMLAX ON INSTAGRAM



Photo of the Day |



UConn’s Husky mascot flexing on the competition before the women’s game. The game ended with the Huskies winning by over 60 points. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# THE WEEKLY POWER PLAY:

## DO THE WASHINGTON CAPITALS HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN IT ALL?



LOGO BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

**by Nicole Caruso**  
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Back in 2018, the Washington Capitals won their first Stanley Cup with the help of Tom Wilson, T.J. Oshie, John Carlson and of course, Alex Ovechkin. However, after their successful 2017-2018 season, the Capitals have not had the best of luck in the post season. The team exited the playoffs in the first round in the 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 season; and missed the playoffs in 2023 and lost again in the first round in 2024.

Now, the Capitals appear to be turning things around, as they currently sit at the top spot in the league, and Ovechkin is on the cusp of beating out Wayne Gretzky’s NHL goals record.

Ovechkin netted his 888th goal on Thursday night to help lead the Capitals to a 3-2 victory against the Philadelphia Flyers. In addition, this win secured the team a play-off spot, while making Ovechkin just seven goals short of surpassing what some may call an unattainable milestone.

Ovechkin was drafted first overall in 2004 by the Capitals and has continued to make an impact on the team over the course of more than 20 years. His awards include the Conn Smythe Trophy, several Hart Memorial Trophies and the Calder Memorial Trophy in 2006 signifying his place as the NHL’s top rookie. These are just a few of the awards won by Ovechkin and one of his most

prideful accomplishments may be achieving all of this with the team that he was drafted by. With any sport, but especially hockey, trades happen frequently and for many different reasons but the fact that Ovechkin has remained a committed member of the Capitals makes his milestone towards surpassing 894 goals even more memorable.

With just 12 regular-season games left for Ovechkin and his team, the journey to surpassing Gretzky’s milestone is coming close to an end, Ovechkin’s teammates remain confident that he can get the job done.

In an interview with NHL.com, fellow teammate Brandon Duhaime stated, “I think everyone knows that he can do it, and there’s no kind of extra pressure or anything for him. “He’s a great hockey player, and he always finds the right areas to get his shot off. I think he’s just focusing on it game-by-game and so are all the players.”

As for Ovechkin, he remains calm and treats each game like he normally would. “We’re just going out and playing and just playing all together, and whatever kind of happens, happens is, I think, the mentality of this room.” Ovechkin elaborated in an article from NHL.com, that he takes things game by game and sees what happens.

I think it is safe to say that Ovechkin is putting up quite the performance in the most recent games for the Caps. He has nine goals in the last 13 games, contrib-

uting to the teams’ wins in eight of their last nine games.

Ovechkin’s run towards surpassing this milestone has positively affected the team according to their head coach Spencer Carbery: “...there’s no question as a coach I feel like this chase and the energy around it hasn’t been a distraction or a hindrance to our group. It’s been a massive benefit.”

The Capitals are certainly a strong team this season that has the potential to go all the way. To name a few of the stand-out players on the squad, right-winger Tom Wilson is behind captain Ovechkin in goals scored this season (31) compared to Ovechkin’s 35 goals. Wilson also leads the team in power play goals. Centers Dylan Strome and Aliaksei Protas are consistent face-off winners allowing them to strike on the opposing teams goal constantly. Defensemen John Carlson and Jakob Chychrun are key parts of the team’s penalty kill and are consistent at keeping the puck out of their own zone.

The goalie duo of Logan Thompson and Charlie Lindgren have also had tremendous success this season with Thompson producing a .917% save percentage and Lindgren with .901% save percentage.

In the next few weeks, the Capitals should be a team every NHL fan has their eyes on as their strong leadership and dominant players make them a more than contending team for the Stanley Cup.



# Baseball: Huskies notch 5-3 record on spring break stretch in North Carolina

by Ava Inesta | STAFF WRITER | SHE/HER/HERS | [ava.inesta@uconn.edu](mailto:ava.inesta@uconn.edu)

During spring break at the University of Connecticut, the UConn baseball team went on their annual eight games in 11 days stretch. In that week, the Huskies went up against Campbell, Duke, North Carolina and UNC Greensboro, all in North Carolina.

The week started in Buies Creek, N.C. at Campbell on Friday, March 14. In the series opener against the Fighting Camels, the Huskies secured the 6-5 win at Jim Perry Stadium. Redshirt sophomore LHP Oliver Pudvar had the start for UConn and earned his second-straight victory with 6.0 innings of one run ball and he posted a career-high in strikeouts with eight. In the fourth inning, the Huskies scored all six of their runs with 11 batters coming to the plate.

Sophomore Tyler Minick and junior Ryan Daniels led the inning with back-to-back singles and both came around to score after junior Grant MacArthur hit a double to take the 2-1 lead. UConn extended their lead on a bunt base hit from junior Aidan Dougherty that was thrown down the right field line to graduate student Bryan Padilla. The inning continued after graduate student outfielder Sam Biller hit an RBI single to make the score 4-1. To push the lead to 5-1, freshman Connor Lane hit an RBI safety squeeze and then Minick finished the offense of the inning with an RBI single to right field, putting the Huskies up 6-1 over the Fighting Camels.

Senior Brady Afthim came in for relief and earned his first save of the year, his ninth of his career by recording the six final outs of the game. Campbell got the bases loaded with two outs and Afthim allowed a ground out to second base to seal the 6-5 victory in the first game of the spring break stretch.

The Huskies continued the series against Campbell on Saturday with a double header. In the doubleheader, after having the lead in both games, the Huskies were not able to get the job done and were swept by Campbell, leading them to lose the weekend series. In game one, UConn led 6-5 as they entered the bottom of the eighth inning, but they ultimately fell 7-6 in 10 innings against Campbell. In game two of the day, the Huskies led the Camels 5-1 entering the bottom of the sixth inning. Freshman LHP Cayden Suchy made his first career start

for the Huskies and he did not allow a hit until the fifth inning of the game. Dougherty drove in a pair of runs, graduate student Beau Root hit a two-run single in the sixth inning. However, Campbell had an offensive explosion with a six-run inning and the Huskies were not able to make a comeback. Campbell secured the 8-5 win and they clinched the series victory which closed out the weekend.

With off days on Sunday and Monday, UConn traveled over to a different area of North Carolina for two mid-week matchups. On Tuesday, March 18, the Huskies took on Duke in Durham, N.C. at Jack Coombs Field.

In the game against Duke, UConn scored a season-low two runs on four hits. Senior Matt Garbowski and redshirt freshman Rob Rispoli produced a pair of RBI singles. In Durham, redshirt freshman Kyle Peters tossed a career-high 1.2 innings and redshirt freshman Frank Spirito IV pitched a career-high 1.1 innings with his first career strikeout. UConn had no offensive spark and fell to Duke 12-2 on Tuesday.

However, on Wednesday, March 19, the Huskies continued their trip and wound up in Chapel Hill, N.C. to face off against No. 17 UNC and earned a Top 25 victory at Boshamer Stadium.

The UConn pitching staff held North Carolina's offense to one run on just six hits. The lone run of the game came from UNC's Kane Kepley on a lead-off home run. Pitching kept the Huskies in control and ahead of the Tar Heels in this matchup.

After the Tar Heels attacked first, the Huskies responded with a two-out, two-run single from Padilla in the second inning to take the 2-1 lead. UConn added to their lead with a pair of sacrifice flies by MacArthur Lane in the third running. Freshman Gabriel Tirado notched his first career RBI with a bases loaded walk in the same inning.

The Huskies' defense was strong with the pitching and on the field. The UConn bullpen combined for 8.0 shutout innings with junior Evan Hamberger (2.0 IP), sophomore Sam Hutchinson (2.2 IP), junior Greg Shaw III (2.0 IP) and Afthim (1.1 IP) to shut down the Tar Heels offense. As for the field, the Huskies turned a pair of

double plays and got big moments from Minick to end Carolina's rally in the sixth inning.

Root registered his first career multi-hit game with a four-hit day at the plate for the Huskies in their 5-1 victory over No. 17 North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

For their final destination of the spring break week, the Huskies headed over to Greensboro, N.C. to face UNC Greensboro at UNCG Baseball Stadium. In the series opener on Friday, March 21, Pudvar had the start in the circle for UConn and pitched his career-high 7.0 innings. The redshirt sophomore from Vermont became the first UConn pitcher to record double digit strikeouts this season with 10 total.

Freshman Anthony Belisario and Root brought in the first run of the game to equalize the score. In the fourth inning, the Huskies took the lead after graduate student Caleb Shpur reached first base on a bunt single, stole second base and then scored on an infield single by Padilla. The UNC Greensboro first baseman missed the ball, but by that time, Shpur was already halfway to home plate and scored easily. In the eighth inning, Minick added an insurance run with an RBI single, Root scored and made the score 3-1. Shaw III came out of the bullpen in the eighth frame and threw for a pair of strikeouts in a 1-2-3 inning. The Huskies closer Afthim continued the pitching with two strikeouts in a 1-2-3 frame in the ninth inning to record his third save of the season. In the pitchers duel, UConn secured the 3-1 victory in the opening game of the series against UNC Greensboro.

The series against UNC Greensboro resumed on Saturday, March 22 and the HookC captured their third straight win. Suchy started game two for the Huskies and posted a career-high 7.0 innings. He allowed one unearned run and struck out a career-best nine batters which eventually led to his second win of the season.

The offense showed up with a

four-run fourth inning. Minick hit his seventh home run of the season to get UConn on the board first 1-0. MacArthur doubled, then Belisario plated MacArthur with an RBI single to center field. Belisario finished the game with his second-straight multi-hit game of the weekend series. Shpur finished the inning's offense with a two-run triple on two outs which just passed the dive of the UNCF right fielder in the right field corner. In the eighth inning, the Spartans made it a 4-2 game, but Rispoli hit an opposite field home run to get the Huskies lead back to three runs, 5-2. That was Rispoli's second home run of the year. Afthim came in to close out the game and he registered the five final outs to seal his third-straight save for the Huskies. UConn clinched the series on day two with the 5-2 victory against UNC Greensboro.

For the final matchup of the 11-game stretch in North Carolina, the Huskies closed out their weekend in UNC Greensboro on Sunday, March 23. The Huskies rallied from a 4-0 deficit to earn the 6-4 win against UNC Greensboro at UNCG Baseball Stadium.

The Huskies headed into the fifth inning tracking 4-0 to the Spartans. Shpur beat out a ground ball that looked to be an inning-ending double play, but he beat the throw to first base and

got UConn on the board. Minick continued to cut UNC Greensboro's lead with a RBI double in the sixth inning. The Huskies posted a four-spot to take their first lead of the game in the seventh inning, Tirado launched his first career hit which was an RBI double that made it a one-run game. Root earned UConn their first lead of the day with a two-run single to make it a 5-4 game with the Huskies ahead. Biller added an RBI single in the same inning.

After the offense flourished, the UConn bullpen posted 4.2 shutout innings. Sophomore Sean Finn pitched 2.0 shutout innings which included an immaculate inning in the sixth frame. Shaw earned his first save after recording the final six outs of the game. UConn earned their fourth-straight victory with the 6-4 win over UNC Greensboro and also secured their first series sweep of the season. After the eight-game stretch in North Carolina, the Huskies won five games, lost three and their record now improves to 10-11 on the season.

The UConn baseball team will be back in action on Tuesday, March 25 to face off against Boston College at 3:05 p.m. at Elliot Ballpark in Storrs, Conn. The game will be available to stream live on UConn+ and on the radio on Fox Sports Radio 97.9 FM.

UConn baseball defeats LIU at home on Oct. 6, 2023 with a final score of 9-6 over a 12-inning game. The Huskies will take on their next game against Boston College on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/ THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Where does UConn MBB go from here?

by Thomas Buckley | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | [thomas.2.buckley@uconn.edu](mailto:thomas.2.buckley@uconn.edu)

Last night, the Huskies' hopes of winning three-straight National Championships were shut down by the Florida Gators in a heartbreaking 77-75 loss. Liam McNeeley's three pointer at the last second to bring the score within two points shows just how close and valiantly they played against the tough Florida team.

With their season now in the books, one looming question remains: Where does UConn men's basketball go from here? Will they continue to make appearances in March Madness or is this the early signs of their inevitable fall from grace?

This season for the Huskies was a roller coaster. They started out struggling against opponents they should've beaten, but found a way to pick it up as the season went on. The story of freshman McNeeley has been excellent, with him establishing himself as the team's clear-cut best player. However, this wasn't the same team as last year, not even close. It's tough losing four future first-round NBA draft picks that helped lead you to a National Championship, but that's largely the reason why last season was so special. With former Huskies like Donovan Clingan, Tristen Newton and Stephon Castle, UConn ran through the competition to the point where it

almost wasn't fair. It's tough to lose four future NBA players, but the best college basketball programs know how to replace talent when the time is right. While this year's team was far from terrible, it still felt like a spark was missing from a team that just last year ran circles around everyone. Now, Karaban and Samson are likely going to declare for the draft, which leaves coach Dan Hurley in an interesting situation with his current roster.

McNeeley and Solo Ball are most likely going to stay another year to improve their skills and use up all their eligibility, but the rest of the roster will be a big question mark heading into the offseason. We're slowly starting to see the slow dismissal of almost all the guys that brought them back-to-back national titles, and while it was bound to happen eventually, it doesn't feel as if there was a plan for what would come afterwards. There's no question that UConn's reputation has increased tenfold with the two national championships in 2023 and 2024, which will play a big role in the recruitment process. While it might be easier to attract top prospects because of it, it's impossible to know whether they can reach the same heights as the players that brought them

to the top of college basketball. That's not to say it can't happen, but it's certainly a gamble. They don't even have to be future NBA lottery picks necessarily, so long as they can adjust to playing under Dan Hurley and his system, the Huskies will continue to be a regular face in the NCAA Tournament and could make a deep push if they play their cards right.

Even though the status of the future roster will be in question, what's not in question is how Dan Hurley will get the best out of his players and give them a chance at being great by putting them on one of the biggest stages in college basketball. Hurley has more than proved himself as being one of the best coaches in the game right now. His emotional press conference after the loss against Florida says it all. He puts his heart and soul into the program and has expressed thankfulness and gratitude towards players like Karaban and Johnson for "changing his life." His passion, energy, mentality and competitiveness spills over to his roster as well, and the results are self-evident.

Back-to-back national titles and almost single handedly earning UConn the nickname "the basketball capital of the world." However, with three key players all but confirmed to

leave the team before the start of next season, Hurley's going to have to retailer and adjust his roster quite a bit to remain competitive and vigilant against tougher opponents.

At the end of the day, it's all about replacing talent. McNeeley is a perfect example of a freshman that showed he could take over a game whenever needed, and after the stellar season he just had, it's exciting to see how he's going to look next year with a full season under his belt. Ball has been proving himself to be one of the most exciting players on their roster. Electric with a killer outside shot, he's definitely a name to look out for. The most important thing for Hurley at this point is to find the right players to put next to Ball and McNeeley if they plan on leading the charge next year.

Whether they end up becoming future NBA draft picks or not, surrounding those two guys with the appropriate roster feels like the next move for Hurley and the college recruiters, and while it might be difficult, it's not impossible. But like UConn fans have learned to appreciate over time, it's hard to count out Dan Hurley. Even in the game against Florida, the team played with hearts of champions and proved why they always have a chance with him running the show.



# Who deserves MVP?

Shai

Jokić

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Shai Gilgeous-Alexander is the most valuable player in basketball. It really is as simple as that. What Nikola Jokić is doing right now cannot be understated, averaging a triple double is not an easy feat. Nonetheless, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander is better. Looking at the stats, SGA plays. The Oklahoma City point guard has played 67 games, one of only three top 20 scorers to hit that mark (Anthony Edwards and Tyler Herro) making his 33/5/6 average even more impressive: He averages more points in less minutes than Jokić. Furthermore, he leads the league in plus minus. The tendency of MVP candidate guards to not play defense is broken with Shai: he averages as many blocks as the 6'11" center, and more steals per game.

While Jokić's numbers regarding efficiency may seem slightly better on the surface, that's not entirely the case: Shai is entrusted to take more shots from beyond the arc which leads to a slight defect in three-point percentage. He takes 1-2 more than Jokić does per game, while being still being more effective at the line by 10%. Given each team's number two (Jalen Williams and Jamal Murray) having shockingly similar numbers, let's look at each team's third scoring option. Michael Porter Jr. ranks 50th in PPG, while Christian Braun (66th) and Russell Westbrook (86th) also contribute with 15 and 13 a game respectively. Ranked 106 th, Aaron Wiggins is the third most effective scorer in Oklahoma City, meaning that options three, four, and five for Denver would be top three scorers next to SGA and Jalen Williams. With 12 games to go, SGA's Thunder already clinched the one seed in the West, with Jokić and company 14 games behind in the W column. Think what you want — maybe for you Nikola Jokić is the best basketball player on the planet. That's not the name of the award. MVP: Most Valuable Player. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander is the most valuable player in the NBA.

Nikola Jokić is in the midst of an MVP season, a feat that's truly awe-inspiring. His average of 29.1 points, 12.8 rebounds and 10.3 assists is nothing short of remarkable. He's second in assists per game, trailing only Trae Young, and third in rebounds per game, behind Domantas Sabonis and Karl Anthony Towns. If he maintains these numbers, he could become the first player in NBA history to average 10 rebounds and 10 assists while committing less than four turnovers. This is not just generational stuff: it's historical.

When it comes to the MVP discussion, advanced statistics carry a lot of weight. For instance, the ON/OFF Ent rating reveals the significant impact of Jokić's presence on the Nuggets. Without him, they struggle with a -10.9 rating, but with him, they soar to a +12.2 in net rating. That's a staggering +23.2 swing.

In comparison, Thunder's net rating is still positive without SGA (+5.7) and with him (+16.6, a net swing of +10.5). Jokić's absence is truly felt. He's also achieving statistical feats we've never seen before — like his 30 points, 20 rebounds and 20 assists against the Suns, a performance that's never been matched in NBA history.

The Denver Nuggets squad has been much more inconsistent, especially this year with the team banking on Jokić's generational play. Despite the team's ups and downs, Jokić has consistently delivered outstanding performances, demonstrating his ability to carry the team. His offensive prowess is better than before, compared to the likes of 2021 Kevin Durant, and he's one of only three players to put up at least 28 points and 10 assists in a season; the others being Russell Westbrook and James Harden.

The only argument against him is voter fatigue — his success and level of play are so constant and expected that people have become numb to success. He's won 3 MVPs up to this point, and he's on track to win again. However, it's important to note that voter fatigue should not detract from Jokić's exceptional performance this season, which clearly sets him apart as a top MVP candidate.

