



THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SINCE 1896 • VOLUME CXXIX, NO. 3

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Research Paused at Avery Point after Federal Stop-Work Order



UConn's Avery Point campus in the fall foliage. This campus teaches over 400 undergraduate students.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UCONN AVERY POINT

by Kevin Guinan

HE/HIM/HIS

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

kevin.guinan@uconn.edu

A study at the University of Connecticut's Avery Point campus measuring the impact of wind turbines on marine life is on pause after the energy project Revolution Wind was ordered to stop, according to a project manager.

Environmental samples used for the study are not being collected after the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management issued a stop-work order to the Swedish developer of Project Wind, Ørsted. BOEM's reason for stopping the almost-completed renewable energy source was to protect national security interests, according to the order published by The Daily Caller.

The decision to stop collecting the environmental samples used in the study was made after a meeting between the Con-

nnecticut Initiative on Environmental Research of Offshore Wind and Ørsted, according to the CIEROW Project Manager Paola Batta Lona.

"The stop-work order issued by the [BOEM] for the Revolutionary Wind site is unfortunate and disruptive to ongoing research; we hope that there will be a resolution in the near future," said Lona.

Revolution Wind is not the only offshore wind project where approved plans were walked back or scrapped entirely. Empire Wind, which is located south of Long Island, was issued a stop-order from the BOEM on April 16, 2025, alleging that the approval process was rushed. On May 20, the project was allowed to resume, according to AP News. Administration officials are skeptical that New York Gov. Kathy Hochul agreed to approve any new gas pipelines for the continuation of Empire Wind, according

to the New York Times, but she denies these claims.

In a New England Council webinar about the regional impact of the stop-work order, the president of an energy industry consulting firm spoke about how close Revolution Wind was to completion. Richard Levitan, the president of Levitan and Associates, said the stop-order of Revolution Wind was more comparable to the decommissioning of the completed Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant in 1994 than the turmoil at Empire Wind.

"Years from now, following this dormancy period, will these developers who have taken write-offs, taken their impairment charges, come back to complete the facilities that they have presently?" Levitan responded when asked about how much hope there is for Revolution Wind, considering how Empire Wind was resumed.

Abandonment of wind en-

ergy projects due to developer frustrations could negatively impact marine life that is being studied at Avery Point through the CIEROW; a wind energy end-of-service guide shows that unused turbines have an environmental impact that can be partially mitigated.

The research conducted at Avery Point through CIEROW had just begun when the fall 2024 semester started, according to The Daily Campus. The research was funded by a \$1.25 million grant awarded by Revolution Wind's developer Ørsted.

For more...

dailycampus.com

@ The_DailyCampus

Twitter: The_DailyCampus

Facebook: The Daily Campus



HEARING DOUBLE | PAGE 6
Living the dream



GIVE ME THE MINI | PAGE 7
Or give me death



DROPPIN' DIMES | PAGE 12
Don't be surprised when LSU wins

WE ARE NOT THE
DAILY DIGEST

News

UConn adds track, pickleball, and basketball courts to revitalize recreational space behind North Campus.

by Gianni Salisbury

SHE/HER/HERS

STAFF WRITER

gianni.salsbury@uconn.edu

UConn adds new track, pickleball and basketball courts to revitalize recreational space behind North Campus

The University of Connecticut Facilities Operations and Student Recreation Center worked on a new outdoor activity space adjacent to North Campus this summer.

The \$500,000 project, which was a collaboration between Facilities Operations, the Rec Center and Campus Housing, included revitalizing the recreational space behind North which previously included a basketball court, a baseball field, tennis courts and abandoned hand ball courts.

The new space replaced the basketball courts with a multipurpose space and moved the new basketball court where the abandoned handball courts used to be. The project also replaced the softball field located next to the basketball courts with a one-sixth-mile track. All are now open for student use and can be used at any time. The new name for the space is North Rec Park.

The current tennis courts will be replaced this fall with pickleball courts, according to the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Cynthia Costanzo. Construction is awaiting approval but is expected to begin soon.

"Pickleball courts are really big right now and we think students will really love using them. We already have other tennis courts for students to use on campus so we thought we should add something new," Costanzo said.

The space hadn't seen any renovations or updates in 15 years, and the basketball and tennis courts had many cracks. According to Nathan Bedard, a facilities manager for UConn, if the courts were left unrenovated they would have reached a state of unusability.

During the renovations, overgrown brush was cleared, and a new drainage system was added to ensure there's no flooding. OOzeball, UConn's annual mud volleyball tournament, is held in the field by the courts; the new system will keep the land manageable during the event, according to Bedard.

"All the water runs off from Charter Oak down that hill. So, the utilities team improved the drainage up there so that the park area won't get soggy," Bedard said.

The new multipurpose area has many uses, according to Costanzo, so the Rec Center hopes to hold outdoor exercise classes there.

Recreation, Residential Life and the Fine Arts department are also collaborating on a mural project for the space as well. The



UConn's north campus dining hall. This dining hall is open until 7:15 p.m. at night on the Storrs campus.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GETARCHIVE.NET

24 by 16 feet walls that had been used for the hand ball courts will be used for the mural. According to Bedard, Residential Life "set up a program where students can submit drawings, and then they'll do a process and award

somebody the ability to paint their mural on one of the walls."

The project is meant to improve the experience of the thousands of students that live in the north part of campus, according to Bedard. Costanzo stated that

UConn is moving toward making North and Northwest dorms exclusively first-year student housing.

"This space will be nice for students in those communities," Costanzo said.

Free dorm items to be given away at Horsebarn Hill

by Pierce Colfer

HE/HIM/HIS

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

pierce.colfer@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut's Office of Sustainability and Community Outreach will be giving away free dorm items at Horsebarn Hill between Thursday and Saturday from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The event will be held at 3107 Horsebarn Hill Rd and will include "used dorm room items like storage, microwaves, and mini-fridges," according to an email from the Office of Sustainability.

Graduate student Caroline Keary, the zero waste coordinator at the Office of Sustain-

ability, talked about how the event will be run.

"Anyone who's in need of an item for dorm accessories... they can come to our office down by Horsebarn Hill, and our interns and volunteers will help you find the items and show you what we have available, and you'll be able to take it away for free," Keary said.

Students will need to bring their UConn student ID card to take any items. Keary encouraged students to bring a friend if they intend on taking any large items, as there will not be any options for item transportation.

The items were collected at

the end of the 2025 spring semester as a part of the Give and Go program, "an initiative hosted by Community Outreach intended to divert waste from landfills by providing students moving out with an easy and accessible way to donate the items they no longer need rather than throwing them out," according to the program's website.

The Give and Go program was hosted annually from 2009 to 2019, but went on hiatus at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program was revived in 2024 and has continued to be held annually since then.

This is the first year that the

items collected from the Give and Go program will be offered back to UConn students, according to Keary.

"Before [this year], we gave it to community partners... and the community at large, because a lot of it was random items that students wouldn't necessarily be able to use," Keary said. "We're proud that we have things that we can give back to the students, especially those who need it."

The items will be given away on a first-come, first-served basis, according to Keary.

"It's going to be first-come, first-serve, so if we don't have items to make it to Saturday, then we won't be open Sat-

urday," Keary said. "It really just depends on turnout... if you definitely need something and want something, try to get there on Thursday; that would be your best bet."

Keary talked about the Office of Sustainability's goal with the event.

"We want to give back to students and be here for the student body as much as possible," Keary said. "I've seen first-hand... how exciting it is to be able to give people things that would have otherwise gone to waste, and it's really important because, if you're going to throw something away, why not just give it to someone who needs it?"

The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 1,500 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at DailyCampus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers.

Thanks for reading.

Want to advertise in print or online?
businessmanager@dailycampus.com

Corrections and Clarifications:
Send Corrections to EIC@DailyCampus.com

Wednesday, September 3, 2025
Copy Editors: Jada Hernandez, Emily Ferguson and Colbi Loranger

News Designer: Sophia Ayoub
Life Designer: Taylor Levine

Sports Designer: Camille Kiang

Opinion Designer: Colbi Loranger

Photo Producer: Nicolas Rodriguez

Karla Perez, Editor-in-Chief
Connor Lafferty, Managing Editor
Hayden Cromer, Business Manager
Ky'Lynn Monts, Digital Editor

Colbi Loranger, Associate Managing Editor
Isabella Kulawik, Associate Managing Editor

Sarah Vial, Associate Digital Editor

Jenna Outcalt

News Editor

Pierce Colfer

Associate News Editor

Bridget Bronsdon

Sports Editor

Avery Becker

Associate Sports Editor

Connor Sharp

Photo Editor

Emma Meidinger

Associate Photo Editor

Dan Stark

Life Editor

Sam Brody

Associate Life Editor

Tomas Hinckley

Opinion Editor

Patrick Minnery

Associate Opinion Editor

Samantha Hass

Artist Editor

Lillian LaFemina

Associate Artist Editor

Noa Climor

Outreach/Social Media Coordinator

Kayden Lynch

Associate SMOC

Karla Guerrero

Circulation Manager

Valley Publishing Company

Derby, Conn.

Prefer to read our content online?

Check out our newly redesigned website at dailycampus.com and follow us on social media.

Instagram · The DailyCampus

Facebook · The Daily Campus

Twitter · The_DailyCampus

Want to write, photograph or draw for The Daily Campus?

The Daily Campus welcomes writers, photographers and artists of all backgrounds, interests, majors and levels of experience. To get involved, it's as easy as attending section meetings on Sunday nights, all at the Daily Campus building, (1266 Storrs Road) or reaching out to an email below:

Opinion (Meetings at 5 p.m.)

opinion@dailycampus.com

News (Meetings at 5 p.m.)

news@dailycampus.com

Life (Meetings at 6 p.m.)

life@dailycampus.com

Sports (Meetings at 7 p.m.)

sports@dailycampus.com

Photo (Meetings at 9 p.m.)

photo@dailycampus.com

Artists (Meetings at 9 p.m.)

artists@dailycampus.com

For more information about getting involved as an editorial, business or digital employee:

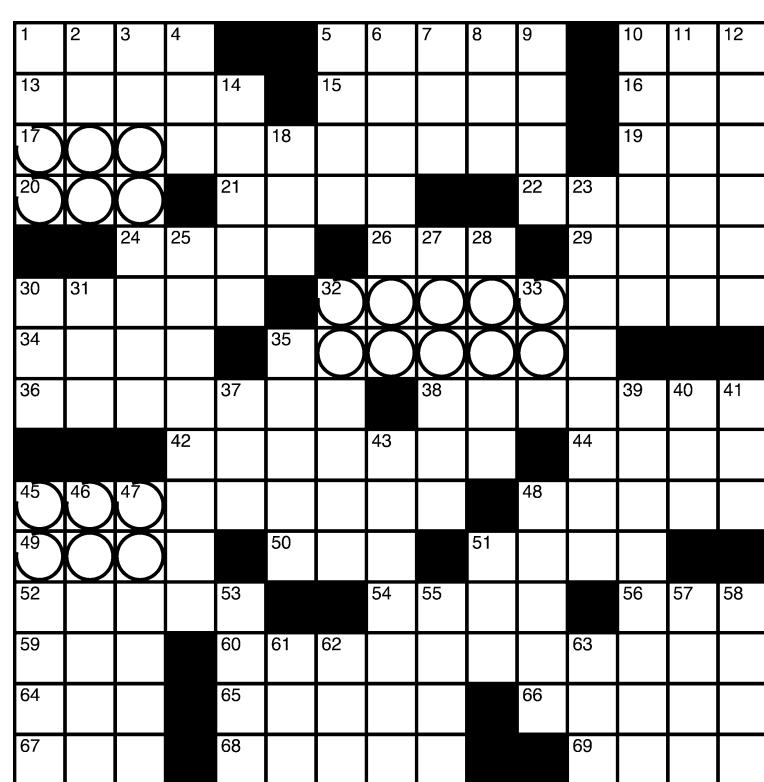
Editorial · managingeditor@dailycampus.com

Business · businessmanager@dailycampus.com

Digital · digital@dailycampus.com

ACROSS

- Moves like a rabbit
- First film critic to win a Pulitzer Prize
- Serving water in a dribble cup, e.g.
- Keep away from
- Squabble
- "Sorry, but it's ___ from me"
- Consciousness-raising discussions
- Pt. of USNA
- West ___: Williams-Sonoma subsidiary
- Wags
- Edge along
- Library patron
- Start of a cycle?
- God whose chariot is pulled by the goats Tangrisnir and Tanngnjostr
- Always trying to get one's way
- Checkmate symbol
- Mideast leader
- Volcanic depression
- Entered quickly
- Brought (up) from the past
- Tamagotchi, e.g.
- Penne ___ vodka
- Member of the Syncopated Ladies, e.g.
- Squirrel away
- Tennis icon Arthur
- Communication sys. at Gallaudet
- Musical note part
- The first "M" of MGM
- Spot in the agua
- Genetic letters
- "___ Maria"
- "Let's hope so!," or what is found in this puzzle's circled letters
- Hi-___ image
- Maui neighbor
- Bones at the bases of spines
- Works at a studio
- "Get Smart" role
- Take from the top



By Beth Rubin & Owen Bergstein

9/4/25

DOWN

- Critter that moves like a rabbit
- Like some hand mirrors
- Chappell Roan genre
- Certain sib
- The right way to go on a map?
- City near Bath
- Nwodim of "SNL"
- Become messy, as mascara
- Model Holiday
- Leader who was nominated for, but never won, a Nobel Peace Prize
- Like grandfather clocks
- Rule
- decimal system
- Polite address
- "We're on!"
- Surfer who rips
- Steering option
- Like neon
- Pay-___-click
- Thurman of "Red, White & Royal Blue"
- Loses it
- "Black-ish" father

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	H		H	A	M	P	E	R		M	A	C	E			
G	O	A		A	P	O	L	L	O		A	T	O	M			
R	B	I		S	T	E	A	M	C	L	E	A	N	S			
E	A	R	L	S		S	T	O	K	E	S						
E	D	S	E	L	S		S	E	T	T	L	E	D				
							T	I	E	U	P		T	O	R	E	R
A	M	Y	S		C	I	T	I		F	I	T	I	N			
G	A	L		A	H	E	A	D	O	F	T	E	N				
A	N	I	M	E	S	O	O	T		M	U	S	E				
I	G	N	O	R	E		L	I	L	A	C						
N	Y	G	I	A	N	T		S	E	L	E	C	T				
S	T	A	T	E	M	O	T	T	O	S		R	Y				
A	I	D	E		E	T	R	A	D	E		A	S				
C	M	O	N		L	E	S	S	O	N		P	E	T			

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 9/4/25

35 Aetna rival 47 Acidity check

37 ___ de los Muertos 48 Huge

39 Campy genre supporters, in

40 Aboveground slang

trains

41 Morse mark 51 ___-mo

43 Image on 53 Ark. neighbor

Louisiana license

55 Short routine

plates 57 Makimono layer

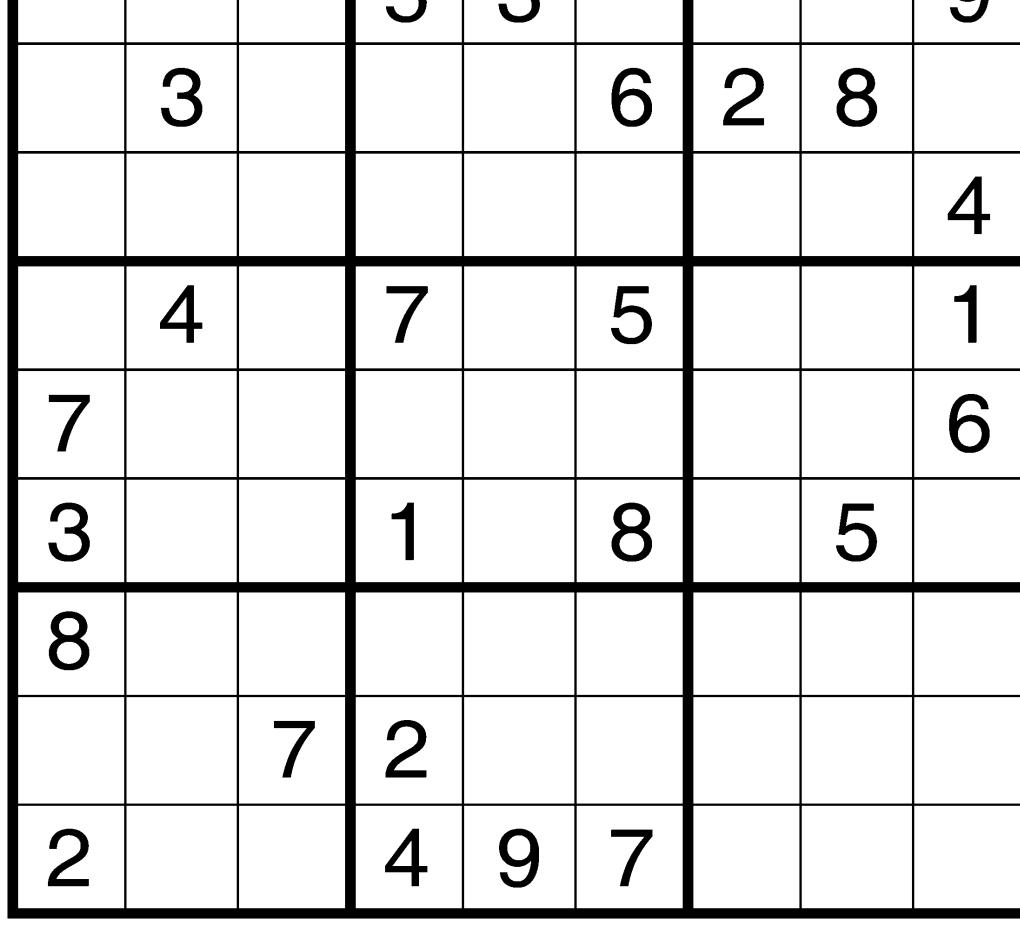
58 Scott of

"Severance"

61 Really bug

62 "I, for ___ ..."

63 Had the job of

Level **1** **2** **3** **4**

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

9/4/25

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

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.

CLASSIFIEDS

Policy: Classifieds are non-refundable. Credit will be given if an error materially affects the meaning of the ad and only for the first incorrect insertion. Ads will only be printed if they are accompanied by both first and last name as well as telephone number. Names and numbers may be subject to verification. All advertising is subject to acceptance by The Daily Campus, which reserves the right to reject any ad copy at its sole discretion. The Daily Campus does not knowingly accept ads of a fraudulent nature.

Daily Campus Crossword & Sudoku

Tweed Sugar dazzle with 'After Awhile,' 'Zebra'



Tweed Sugar performing at the Central Connecticut State University Battle of the Bands on May 8, 2025. The rock band recently released two new singles.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @TWEEDSUGAR ON INSTAGRAM

by Dan Stark

HE/HIM
LIFE EDITOR
daniel.stark@uconn.edu

Tweed Sugar has quickly established themselves as one of the leading groups in the Storrs music scene. The four-piece rock band – featuring lead singer and rhythm guitarist Lorin Pellegrino, lead guitarist Brennen Ravenberg, bassist Sebastian Rodriguez

and drummer Sean Byington – recently released two new singles, "After Awhile" and "Zebra." The songs are the first releases with the band's current lineup and mark the first Tweed Sugar release since 2022, and both were well worth the wait.

The first single, "After Awhile," came out on Aug. 7 and opens with a light guitar riff before being joined by the rhythm section, with Byington's subtle ghost notes on

the snare drum keeping the song moving. The verses keep this laid-back groove before a quick crescendo ushers the song into its chorus, which is played with both emphasis and restraint by the quartet. Ravenberg's guitar solo after the second chorus is beautifully melodic and not overplayed. All of these elements combine to make a song that's meant to be listened to driving around sunset.

Pellegrino's lyrics speak to

the pressures of college life and reflecting on the simpler times of childhood. We see this particularly in the second verse, where he reflects on an old imaginary friend and a lunchbox he lost when he was young before returning to thinking about his current stress.

The chorus' opening line, "If I could escape all of this sound, maybe the world would stop spinning around," evokes a feeling that many college students can relate to. Often times, it's tough to drown out the negative energy and the stresses of life. His delivery of the lyrics is superb. You can really hear him longing for an escape, especially when he hits some high notes during the final chorus.

Though the song comes from a dark place, there's a subtle optimism there that makes the listener remember that they're not alone and that they too can find a way to achieve peace in the hustle and bustle of college life.

The band's second new single, "Zebra," came out on Aug. 28, and features a much darker energy than "After Awhile" from the jump. The opening guitar riff, which sounds like it's played in a lower tuning, leads into rapid-fire hi-hat rolls from Byington that launches the song into its main

menacing state.

The band is in absolute lock-step throughout the song, playing the shifting riffs without missing a beat with each other. It's a heavier grunge-inspired song, but there's still a lot of groove to it, particularly in the funky instrumental bridge. There's no true guitar solo, but the riffage is intense throughout.

The lyrics are ambiguous but are delivered with a sinister intensity from Pellegrino. He utilizes the lower register of his voice during the verses before jumping up an octave for the choruses, where his vocals evoke those of Dexter Holland from The Offspring. The chorus' line of "hold your breath and count to three, pose a threat so it seems like it's ruining my life, but I always knew" is one that could be interpreted a few ways. The way I see it, he's talking about some sort of personal struggle and trying to work through it.

The contrast of "After Awhile" and "Zebra" show the band's multiple strengths and ability to combine genres in a way that no other bands in the scene right now are doing. There are rumors swirling of an upcoming bigger release by the band, and given these two singles, there's a lot for fans to be excited about.



Tweed Sugar performing at the Central Connecticut State University Battle of the Bands on May 8, 2025. The rock band recently released two new singles.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @TWEEDSUGAR ON INSTAGRAM

Rating:
5/5

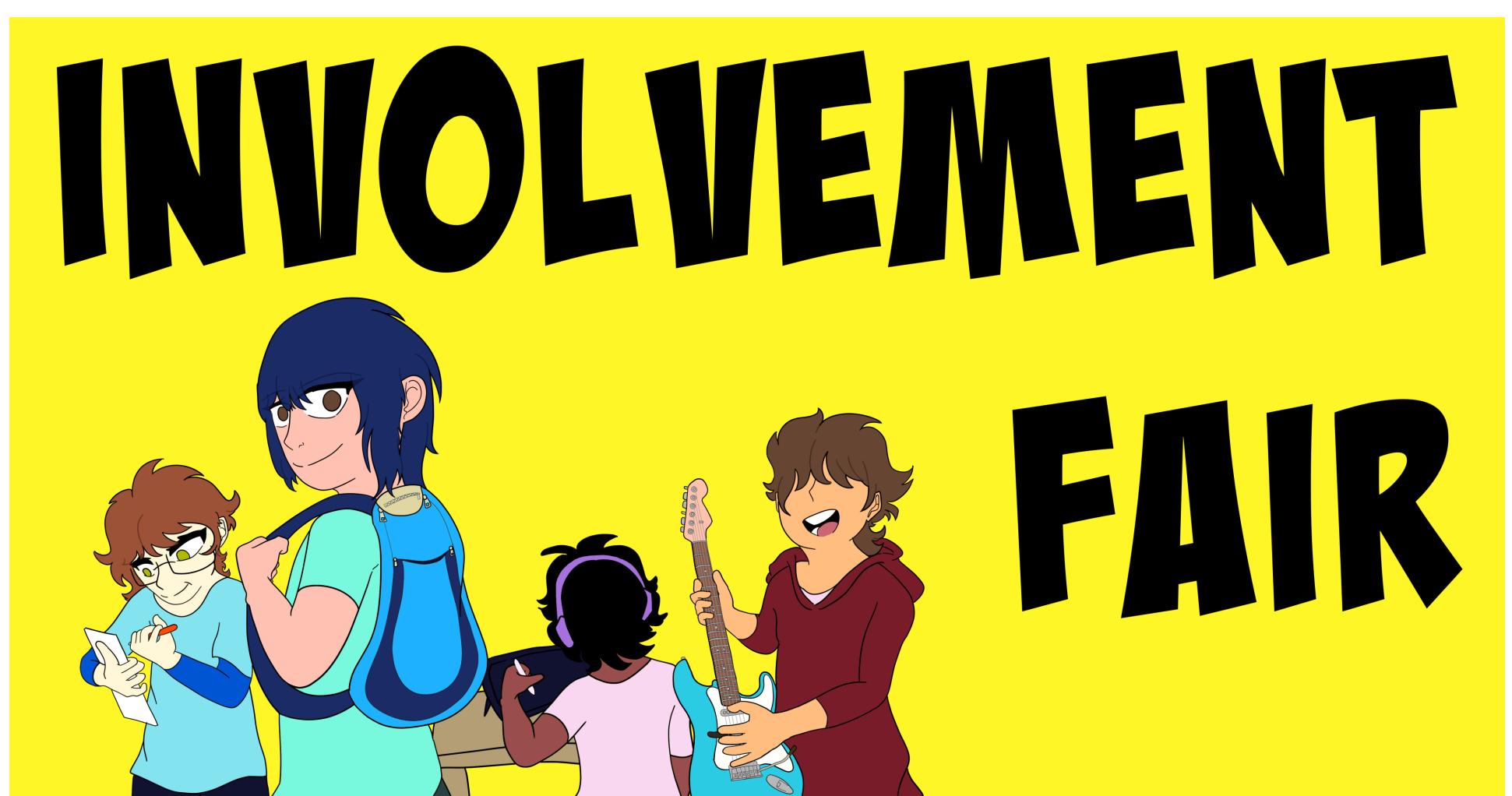


ILLUSTRATION BY SETH WALLEN, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UCONN'S ANNUAL INVOLVEMENT FAIR OFFERS SOMETHING FOR ALL

by Thaddeus Sawyer

He/Him
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
thaddeus.sawyer@uconn.edu

Fans of Pokémon GO, bee-keeping, and Harry Styles came together on Wednesday, Sept. 3 as clubs focusing on those interests and more were featured at the University of Connecticut's annual Involvement Fair.

The fair, put on by UConn Student Activities, saw Fairfield Way lined with hundreds of tables and posterboards from the 500-plus clubs registered for the event. Club representatives and students attending the fair looked to tents and umbrellas to block out the sun, but the warm weather did nothing to limit the turnout. The street was packed shoulder to shoulder as students made their way around the fair.

The clubs were arranged by category. These categories included academic, environment and agriculture, sports and gaming, student governance, and more. With so many featured clubs, organizations had to get creative with finding ways to attract the attention of potential new members.

Some clubs enticed students by offering free food. Many gave out candy such as Dum Dums or Jolly Ranchers. The

Red Cross Club had a cooler full of ice pops. Different international clubs had food and candy from the region they were representing. The Latinos 4 Change club offered a donut to anyone who agreed to follow them on Instagram. Other clubs, especially motorsports organizations, took the route of trying to catch people's attention visually. The UConn Car Club had a BMW and an Infiniti on display. The UConn Formula SAE took a similar approach, displaying multiple vehicles that they themselves had built in front of their table. The UConn Motorcycle Club caught the attention of passersby by revving the engines of multiple motorbikes.

With so many people crowding Fairfield Way, some clubs chose to use height as an advantage to draw attention. The UConn Men's Crew team used a long oar with a QR code stuck on the front to go above the crowd. Many clubs by the Rowe Center for Undergraduate Education stood on top of a small wall to be seen better. A member of the Costume Club held a sword that stood over six feet tall. One of the busiest tables at the event was the Concrete Canoe Association. Each year, the club constructs a canoe out of concrete that they eventually race in an interscholastic competition in April.



Students explore opportunities to get involved at the Fall 2025 Involvement Fair on Sept. 3, 2025. Hundreds of clubs lined Fairfield Way looking for new members. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR

Amelia Martin, who is the graduate advisor for the club, stressed that inclusivity is an important focus for the club.

"We don't discriminate based off of major," Martin said. "You don't have to be an engineer to join the engineering club. We have freshmen doing all of the activities off the bat with everyone." Martin added that there are no dues to join the club, noting that she believed these qualities were a big reason why so many students were interested in learning more.

"We just want to have more members," Martin said. "A lot of people don't know that we exist." Martin added that a main goal of the club is to allow people to have as much fun as possible. The club also had a small replica of the canoe that they will build on display as a visual aid.

In addition to academic organizations, the fair also featured clubs tailored to special interests. Included amongst these were the Cheese Club, Steak Club, Garfield Club and Rubix Cube Club. Avery

Hogrefe, a computer science engineering major who is entering his seventh semester at UConn, was at the fair representing the Bad Movie Club.

"We find the worst movies we can and make fun of them. It's just fun," Hogrefe said, who joined the club in his first semester of freshman year.

"I think these clubs are a good way to have fun," Hogrefe said, adding that his club was a good way to get exposed to new things that may not be found elsewhere on campus.



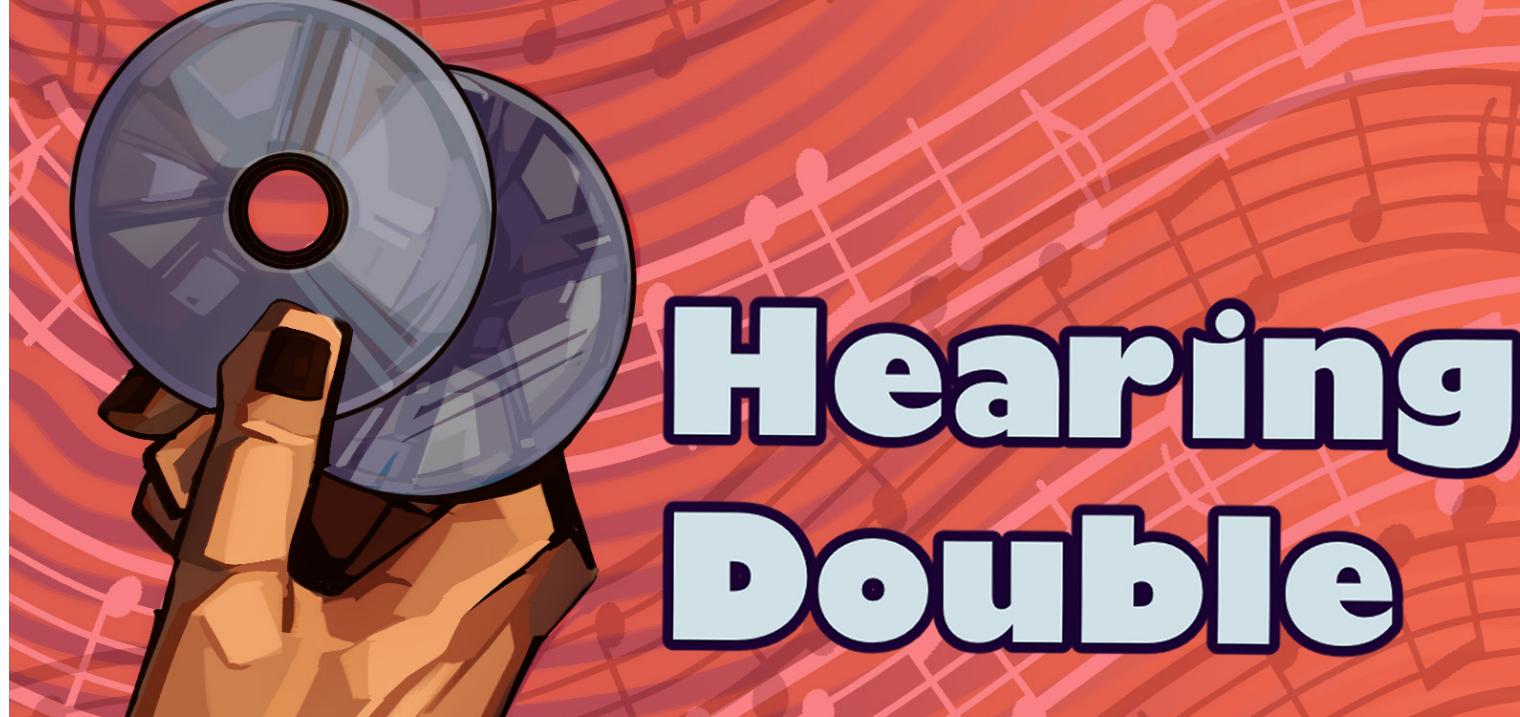
Students explore opportunities to get involved at the Fall 2025 Involvement Fair on Sept. 3, 2025. Hundreds of clubs lined Fairfield Way looking for new members.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Daily

Life

LOGO BY ESHITHA RAO, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Hearing Double

Living the Dream

by Jenna Outcalt

SHE/HER/HERS
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
jenna.outcalt@uconn.edu

Hello, and welcome to Hearing Double, where I compare and contrast two unrelated songs of the same title and decide which song does the title the most justice!

Get ready for a discussion about rock icons, relationship issues and good old mortality. Today's matchup: "It's My Life" by Bon Jovi or Talk Talk.

Starting in chronological order, we have the 1984 song by British band Talk Talk. This song had a big resurgence in the U.S. when No Doubt, the pop band led by Gwen Stefani, covered it in 2003, giving it more upbeat tones and modern instrumentation. The song centers on the themes of autonomy and power reclamation.

The verses indicate a relationship where the singer is unsure of their partner's commitment and questions how sensible it is to be in their relationship. Lyrics like "one half won't do" imply the partner could be seeing someone else at the same time.

However, when the chorus takes over, the singer, whether Stefani or Talk Talk's Mark Hollis (also one of the writers of the song), focuses on what they are sure of: they can take control of their own life.

The chorus declares, "It's my life, / don't you forget. / It's my life, / it never ends." Despite their dicey love life, the singer pronounces that they have control over their future.

Furthermore, they're extending this control to a feeling of immortality. Pay attention, because this will become a point of contention when the song goes head-to-head with Bon Jovi.

Being in charge of their own love life and destiny is how the singer finds their personal power and security. The chorus is underscored with music that is more energetic than the relatively mellow verses which chronicle the relationship.

Between its short, to-the-point lyrics and upbeat instrumentation, the song glorifies the invulnerable feeling of being in charge.

Meanwhile, Bon Jovi weaves a different triumphant tale of seizing the moment in his 2000 anthem.

This song's tone could almost be described as aggressive compared to Talk Talk's peppy hit. It immediately declares that "this ain't a song for the brokenhearted" and establishes the singer as someone who isn't just going to lie down and take what life throws at him.

Bon Jovi also dedicates the song to the "Tommy and Gina who never backed down" in a fantastic callback to his hit "Livin' on a Prayer." I'm always a fan of little Easter eggs like this, but this one has some significance. After all, the point of Tommy and Gina's story is one of staying on your feet in a world that wants to bring you down.

We won't get too deep into the meaning of a completely different Bon Jovi song, but even for those unfamiliar with "Livin' on a Prayer," it's easy to see that Tommy and Gina rep-

resent the everyman dealing with the challenges of making their way in the world. The setup allows listeners to imagine themselves as a protagonist figure as the song evokes strength in the face of hardship.

The most obvious divergence in Bon Jovi's message from Talk Talk's message is the explicit reference to mortality. Where Talk Talk says life never ends, Bon Jovi says he "ain't gonna live forever." That's why he uses the song as a call to action to "live while [you're] alive."

This message comes off less optimistic, but it extends that same feeling of autonomy invoked by Talk Talk beyond romance, to all of life. Bon Jovi also finds power in reclaiming control, but he's invoking the image of braving the slings and arrows of life with his fists clenched and head high. Life doesn't last forever, so we have to know what we want, and we have to go after it.

What the songs have in common is a sense of reclaiming personhood and determination. What's different is exactly what we are determined to get through and how we view life in the meantime. While it's important to keep a hold on your identity and feel confident in a relationship, Bon Jovi takes a more holistic view of taking hold of life and recognizing that it doesn't last forever.

While Talk Talk created an excellent song that I greatly enjoy, I think the determined message in Bon Jovi's song is the one that we can cling to while we try to live our limited lives to the fullest.

Winner: Bon Jovi

Daily

Opinion

The Daily Campus

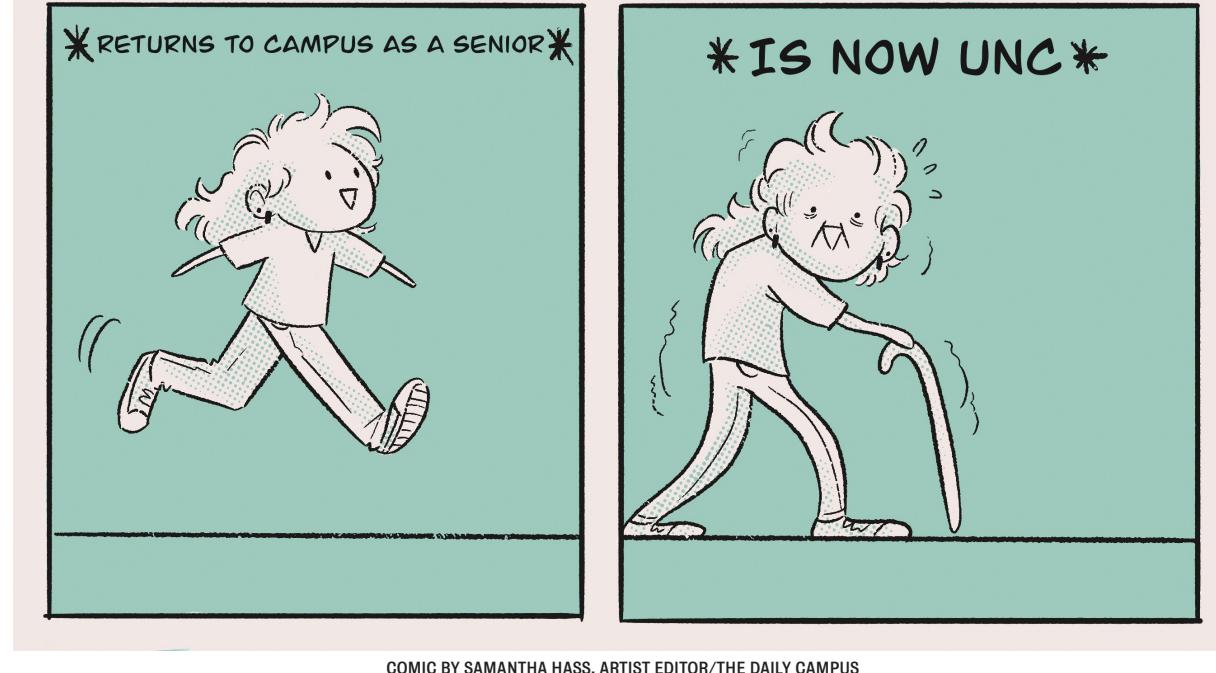
EDITORIAL BOARD:

Karla Perez.....EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Tomas Hinckley.....OPINION EDITOR

Patrick Minnerly..ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed by individual writers in the opinion section do not reflect the views and opinions of The Daily Campus or other staff members. Only articles labeled "Editorial" are the official opinions of The Daily Campus.



COMIC BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



by Alexander Renzulli | CONTRIBUTER | HE/HIM/HIS | alexander.renzulli@uconn.edu

Aug. 28, 2025 will forever be "a date which will live in infamy," as Former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt put it, or how I, more recently and importantly, put it when I awoke scornful on that fateful morning. For this was the morning in which the New York Times' Mini Crossword Puzzle was shackled and bolted behind a paywall and a subscription. "The Mini," as it is often and commonly referred to, is a staple of teenage procrastination sessions and a classic justification to stay up a little later after extending the Duolingo streak. The game, typically conformed to a square or rectangular shape, is derived in the same logic as any other crossword you may find in a newspaper, but it takes on a smaller size with words that typically never exceed six letters. The game progresses in difficulty as the week marches from Monday (which is, allegedly, the day with the easier clues) to Sunday (when I usually give up). For casual players, the aim of the game is to complete the puzzle by typing in words that correspond to given clues into the allotted squares. In the competitive scene, the aim is to rifle through each clue and solve the puzzle in as little time as possible. This goal, evidently, becomes difficult when you are subjected to pay \$1.99 a month to play and are a college student unwilling to cough up the dues. I, myself can

(or should I say could) complete the game in under 30 seconds, so my opinion on this is perhaps the most valid of them all.

Enraged, betrayed and antagonized were words I could use to describe my aforementioned morning, but surprised would not be one. See, the impetus behind the NYT's choice is not particularly obscure, as it is indubitably a thinly veiled excuse for the cooperation to indulge in some beautiful acts of capitalism. Pink Floyd puts it best: "Money, it's a gas. / Grab that cash with both hands and make a stash."

Besides, the NYT's actions simply fall in line with the now-normalized tragedy of paywalling things once they have been thoroughly enjoyed. In the contemporary age, music online has become effectively impossible to listen to without either suffering through a barrage of advertisements or paying an obscene amount of money (which I already mentioned college students do not have) per month. And for what? Just so a musician can get paid a hundredth of a penny? Don't even get me started on sports. I can't watch America's favorite pastime of baseball unless I've purchased MLB TV. And not once in the past five years have I ever heard someone sit down and say, "Let's make a Quizlet for the test," ever since they decided to get greedy. Once a religious part of school

studying, and a pretty effective tool for memorizing terms and subjects, now stands as an obsolete memory. It almost feels like these big companies want us to find alternative mediums for their products.

You would think that since the British tried taxing our stamps 260 years ago, the American common folk would have learned not to take egotistically corporate nonsense from anybody anymore, but I fear "we the people" have lost our rebellious roots somewhere along the way.

It should be noted that this article is not made with outright malice towards the Times itself, as I appreciate its existence is a constitutional safeguard from a dismantled democracy. Should, however, the New York Times capitulate to the will of its avid game community? Certainly. The cries and conversations I heard and had myself in Whitney Dining Hall alone are enough to make one think "the NYT was big brother himself." The people are asking, "If first this, what is next?" Perhaps Strands will go? Spelling Bee? That one Domino one, that I barely understand? Suddenly all semblance of education is gone, the world is set on a slippery slope to the destruction of our entire society and it's all the New York Times' fault.

Huskies, I am angry, more so, I am concerned. The future of our collective fun is in shambles.



Pop group Katseye posing in an advertisement for the "Better in Denim" campaign from Gap. The international girl group has members from the Philippines, South Korea, Switzerland and the United States. PHOTO COURTESY OF @KATSEYEWORLD ON INSTAGRAM

Katseye Has Good Jeans:

Why Katseye won the jean war

by Amber Greene

CONTRIBUTER | SHE/HER/HERS | amg23053@uconn.edu

Katseye breaks from the norm of girl groups of the 2000s and 2010s who were hand-picked to fit the concept and "look" of a cohesive group.

Then, in what seemed like a direct clap back, Katseye released their jeans ad with Gap. The international girl group was formed in the summer of 2024 and since then their popularity has only bloomed. The group is not only beloved for the member's personalities, but that they are a representation of six ethnically diverse performers from the Philippines, South Korea, Switzerland and the United States. Katseye breaks from the norm of girl groups of the 2000s and 2010s who were hand-picked to fit the concept and "look" of a cohesive group. This usually consisted of four to six members, all of which fit a mold. This meant all members were from one particular race, with similar body types

and the only differences were the meticulously curated personalities of each girl.

Gap used their differences to make the most of the online slander against American Eagle. The ad features all six members dancing to Kellis' hit song, "Milkshake," bringing an altogether more upbeat mood and showcasing the message that, even with their different and individual styles, Katseye can still be a cohesive group. They represent everything American Eagle did wrong with their ad, gaining over 8 billion impressions across social media platforms and the Gap website.

Katseye is redefining beauty standards and showing their audiences that anyone can have good jeans, and that theirs might be better.

Although the ad was carefully choreographed, filmed

and styled months before, the timing of releasing it sends an important message. Katseye is a group to look up to and represents a direct opposition to the reason why ads like Sweeney's are even acceptable to put out today. It struck back against the message of pushing one standard of what girls should look like and whose genes are best.

As the country and the world push others to pick one of two extremes, whether it be raging liberalism or borderline Nazism, it is refreshing to see Katseye's unprecedented rise. With only two EPs released, the group is still relatively new, however, with several collaborations with brands like Monster High, Glossier, Lush and now Gap, they are proving that the model for girls doesn't just look like one person. The success of their ad also reveals how important diversity is when it is constantly being threatened. Katseye is redefining beauty standards and showing their audiences that anyone can have good jeans, and that theirs might be better.

Genes determine the traits that a person acquires from their parents. Jeans are a universal type of pants made from denim. Up until this summer, the two had little correlation other than being homophones. Now they are known to have started the biggest online controversy of the summer.

Since then, the ad has received praise from President Trump, who says as long as Sweeney is a registered republican, "I think the ad is fantastic."

In late July, American Eagle announced their partnership with actress Sydney Sweeney, claiming that those who buy American Eagle Jeans will have great jeans. In this ad, Sweeney, a white actress with blonde hair and blue eyes, flaunts her jeans saying they are blue and from American Eagle. The ad was

paired with the tagline "Sydney Sweeney has great jeans/genes" and was set up so that either word could fit. This rightfully rubbed a lot of people the wrong way, since it insinuated that to have good genes people should look like her. It garnered attention online with discourse that the ad was clearly not just about the jeans they sell, but purposefully choosing Sweeney to wear them and make the play on words.

Since then, the ad has received praise from President Trump, who says as long as Sweeney is a registered republican, "I think the ad is fantastic." This furthers the impression that the ad and company support republican ideas and promote the supremacy of an Aryan race. Other than dissecting her political affiliation and what some are calling the "downfall" of Sweeney, who has shifted from being a typical actress to one known for accepting brand deals centered around the male gaze, this ad outwardly supports ideas synonymous with a 1940s Germany.

Photo of the Day | A sunny afternoon



UConn students enjoy the sunny day in Storrs, Conn. on Sept. 3, 2025. The perfect weather allowed students to spend time outside throughout the day. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Patrick's Politics:

Trump's summer of militarization is an attack on America

by Patrick Minnerly
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR
HE/HIM/HIS
patrick.minnerly@uconn.edu

What do the cities of Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Los Angeles, and Chicago have in common? They all have Democratic mayors — and they are all places where President Trump has sent in or promised to send in federal troops. This militarization of city streets, ostensibly to stop crime and rioting, represents an escalation of Trump's authoritarian tendencies, and it signals a war on his own people.

The test case for federal boots on the ground in American cities was Los Angeles, where both the National Guard and Marines were deployed in June after protests against Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrests. This was not the first time Trump authorized the use of the National Guard in his two terms; troops were ordered to go to Washington, D.C. in the aftermath of the George Floyd protests in 2020. In the case of Los Angeles, the decision was made without the request of California's governor, Gavin Newsom, and was declared illegal by a federal judge on Sept. 2.

More than simply flouting the law, however, Trump was throwing down the gauntlet: protests would be met with federal repression of the very people the government is supposed to protect. Although the troops were only supposed to protect ICE agents and government property, the recent ruling on Trump's deployment noted that the National Guard had violated the Posse Comitatus Act, which states that members of the US Army cannot carry out law enforcement activity except in specific circumstances.

The federalization of Washington, D.C. in August was the next rung on Trump's authoritarian ladder. Trump placed the District's police and law enforcement

under federal control and sent in the National Guard to combat "out of control" crime, even though violent crime in the city reached a 30-year low in 2024. This development means that our nation's capital is being patrolled by soldiers, who were recently authorized to carry weapons, simply for the purpose of reducing a nonexistent crime wave. There was little reason for federal troops to be used and activated, and the unnecessary nature of the deployment should not be swept under the rug.

Baltimore and Chicago are the most recent cities to pass into Trump's crosshairs. In threatening to send troops to those areas as well, Trump is laying bare the pattern of targeting Democratic-run cities, while using the myth of rampant crime to back it up. Should Trump follow through on these promises, he would have the green light to act just as oppressive, perhaps more so, as he did in L.A. and Washington. The path has already been laid; while there was inflamed opposition to the military deployment in Los Angeles, and much consternation when the National Guard came to Washington D.C., the promised operations in Baltimore and Chicago will just be more incidents on the assembly line of controversies. Members of the military stationed in America's cities is a twisted new normal.

Washington D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser confirmed this when she authorized the indefinite extension of cooperation with federal authorities on Sept. 2; while just five years ago she protested the use of the National Guard in the capital, now she has capitulated. This precedent is one Trump will be eager to extend; beyond the localized instances of Trump's military deployment, he has also announced the creation of "specialized" National Guard units across the country to rapidly deal with potential crime in any city.

In Los Angeles and Washington D.C., we see the classic authoritarian promise of peace and security in exchange for the rights of the people. In the face of the L.A. protests, Trump and his allies played up sporadic riots and violence to justify military involvement, ignoring American laws and rights in the process. In Washington D.C., The Trump administration has claimed that the National Guard deployment has lowered crime significantly, supposedly giving the District's residents more security to go about their lives. However, the military sent in caused many people, especially immigrants, to fear for their safety on the streets. ICE arrests in the Washington D.C. area have surged in the past few weeks since Trump's takeover of the city.

The sounds of past authoritarian leaders echo in the words and actions of Trump; dictatorial societies have always relied on the support and use of the military to quell questioning of the regime, often using crime as an excuse to crack down on civil liberties. In Latin American countries such as Honduras and Guatemala, power-hungry leaders justified the loss of rights by touting their crime statistics — a tactic that current El Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele, who Trump has worked with on deporting undocumented immigrants, has used to great effect. The issues of crime and violence are the cover with which Trump can achieve his undemocratic dreams.

Militarizing the country and sending in troops to American cities is a grave abnormality that cannot be ignored. When the guns of our own army are pointed at residents, we know that a war on America has begun — not from a foreign adversary, but from Trump and his administration themselves.



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Paper Boy Sam

How to combat the storm in your head:
Step one: make pasta

Step Two: Eat Pasta



Comic by
Jason J. Sampson

Associate Artist Editor



MEN'S SOCCER: UCONN WELCOMES CENTRAL CONNECTICUT TO MORRONE FOR THURSDAY NIGHT DUEL

by Tyler Lato

HE/HIM/HIS
STAFF WRITER
tyler.lato@uconn.edu

The UConn men's soccer team (2-0-2) looks to remain unbeaten on Thursday night in welcoming their in-state rival Central Connecticut State University (0-1) to Morrone Field (Storrs, Conn.). This marks only the third time the two programs have ever faced each other, with the Huskies winning the previous two games by narrow margins.

UConn is fresh off a convincing 5-1 victory over Manhattan on Thursday night where the Huskies overcame an early one-point deficit to score five unanswered goals, cruising past their out-of-conference opponents. Scoring for the Huskies included senior Charlie Howard, red-shirt-sophomore Sabri Hanni, senior Austin Brummett, graduate student Balthazar Saunders and senior captain Nicolas Tomerius.

Keep an eye out for freshman midfielder and Beacon Falls, Conn. native Preston Alessio to make a big impact against the Blue Devils. The former 2024 Connecticut Boys' Soccer Gatorade State Player of the Year recorded his first collegiate multi-point game versus Manhattan with two assists, making a statement in his debut.

Defensively, sophomore goalkeeper Kyle Durham has turned the heads of UConn fans, recording a career-high seven saves against the Jaspers. His brick wall-esque play has no doubt been a huge factor in the Huskies' early-season success.

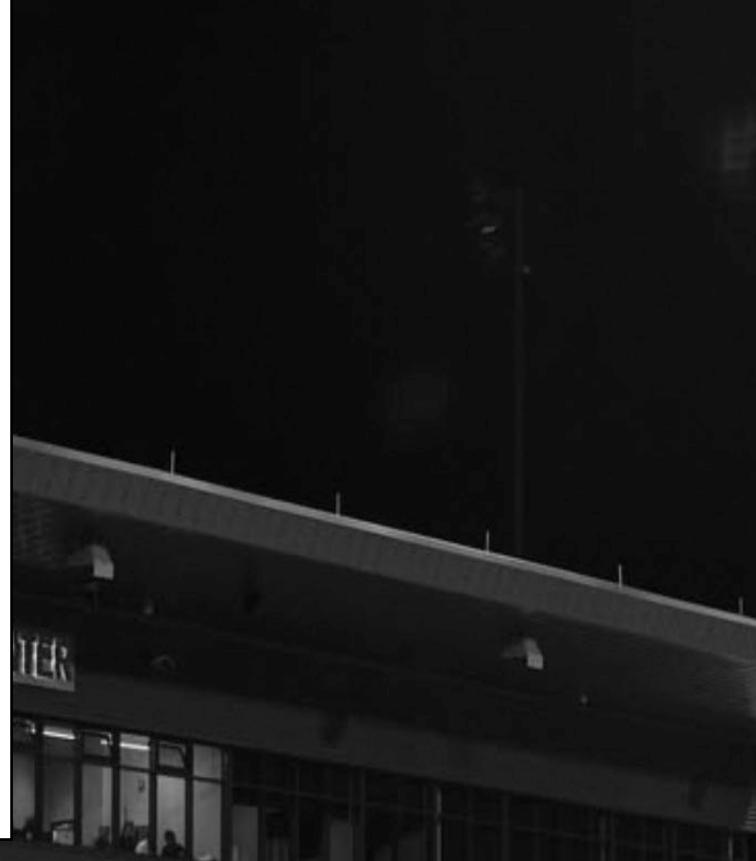
Their opponents are led by third-year head coach David Kelly, who guided the Blue Devils to a 1-17-1 season in 2024. Despite winning only one game, there are many reasons for Central Connecticut fans to be optimistic in 2025, as the team returns several players from last season who gained much-

needed experience.

Defenseman Trevor Rau is back for his third season after a solid 2024 campaign with the Blue Devils. The Plainville, Conn. native started 13 games and was a major contributor to Central Connecticut's defensive efforts in nearly every contest. Look for a surge in productivity from Rau this season as he continues to garner more collegiate experience.

The Blue Devils are also fortunate to have landed Class of 2025 goalkeeping prospect Christian Torres (Meriden, Conn.) in their arsenal, who should undoubtedly turn some heads in the Northeast Conference. In his collegiate debut, Torres recorded a whopping nine saves, establishing his alarming presence for an otherwise struggling program.

Kickoff is slated for 6 p.m. at Morrone Stadium in Storrs. The match can be watched live on UConn+.



UConn men's soccer plays against UMass on Aug. 24, 2025. The game was played at Morrone Stadium.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNSOC ON INSTAGRAM

VOLLEYBALL: UCONN LOOKS TO REMAIN UNDEFEATED AS THEY MAKE HOME DEBUT

by Julia Sasso

SHE/HER/HERS
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
julia.sasso@uconn.edu

The UConn volleyball season returns with the Huskies building on the success from last season. The program ended last season with 26 wins, a program high, as well as an undefeated non-conference record.

The Huskies kept this momentum going as the 2025 season began. They stand undefeated with a 3-0 record after sweeping Lehigh and Fordham and beating Binghamton 3-2 at the Bearcat Classic in Vestal, N.Y. last weekend.

UConn will now return to Storrs for their home debut

at the Top Dogs Tournament, where they'll face the University of South Dakota, Ball State and Colgate University over the next three days.

The Huskies retained most of their 2024 roster including senior Emma Werkmeister, graduate student Doga Kutlu and junior Grace Maria, who were essential in the program's 2024 Campaign.

Werkmeister led the team with 51 service aces and ended the season second with 311 and 375 points despite missing six games due to injury in early October.

Kutlu ended the season as the assist leader, with 1263, and second in service aces.

Maria ended the season third with 51 service aces and 242 digs. Both athletes were named to the Bearcat Classic All-Tournament Team after leading the Huskies to an undefeated weekend.

Connecticut will start the tournament against the South Dakota Coyotes on Thursday, Sept. 4. This is the first time the programs face one another. Despite starting their season with a loss, the Coyotes were able to come back and win their last two games against Montana State and Prairie View A&M.

Next up, the Huskies will

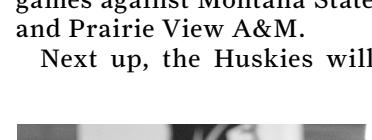
take on another first-time opponent, Ball State, on Friday, Sept. 5. The Cardinals started their season on the back foot with a 1-2 record. They are coming off two consecutive losses against the University of Minnesota and California Polytechnic State.

Lastly, UConn will take on Colgate for the fourth time in program history on Saturday, Sept. 6. Connecticut currently holds a 2-1 record against the Raiders with a two-game winning streak. This will be the first time the Huskies will face Colgate at home. The

Raiders ended last season with a 19-11 record and started the season with mixed results as they stand with a 2-1 record after the UNC Classic.

Connecticut will be hoping to extend their undefeated record and build on the improvements from last season.

All matches will take place at the UConn Volleyball Center. The Huskies will start the tournament facing South Dakota at 6 p.m. on Thursday, followed by Ball State at 4:30 p.m. on Friday. Lastly, they'll take on Colgate on Saturday at 3 p.m. All matches will also be available on UConn+.



UConn volleyball versus Butler University on Nov. 3, 2024 at the UConn volleyball center. The Huskies dominated the entire match with a final score of 3 sets to none.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn volleyball versus Butler University on Nov. 3, 2024 at the UConn volleyball center. The Huskies dominated the entire match with a final score of 3 sets to none.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn volleyball versus Butler University on Nov. 3, 2024 at the UConn volleyball center. The Huskies dominated the entire match with a final score of 3 sets to none.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn volleyball versus Butler University on Nov. 3, 2024 at the UConn volleyball center. The Huskies dominated the entire match with a final score of 3 sets to none.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn volleyball versus Butler University on Nov. 3, 2024 at the UConn volleyball center. The Huskies dominated the entire match with a final score of 3 sets to none.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn volleyball versus Butler University on Nov. 3, 2024 at the UConn volleyball center. The Huskies dominated the entire match with a final score of 3 sets to none.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn volleyball versus Butler University on Nov. 3, 2024 at the UConn volleyball center. The Huskies dominated the entire match with a final score of 3 sets to none.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn volleyball versus Butler University on Nov. 3, 2024 at the UConn volleyball center. The Huskies dominated the entire match with a final score of 3 sets to none.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn volleyball versus Butler University on Nov. 3, 2024 at the UConn volleyball center. The Huskies dominated the entire match with a final score of 3 sets to none.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn volleyball versus Butler University on Nov. 3, 2024 at the UConn volleyball center. The Huskies dominated the entire match with a final score of 3 sets to none.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn volleyball versus Butler University on Nov. 3, 2024 at the UConn volleyball center. The Huskies dominated the entire match with a final score of 3 sets to none.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn volleyball versus Butler University on Nov. 3, 2024 at the UConn volleyball center. The Huskies dominated the entire match with a final score of 3 sets to none.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn volleyball versus Butler University on Nov. 3, 2024 at the UConn volleyball center. The Huskies dominated the entire match with a final score of 3 sets to none.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn volleyball versus Butler University on Nov. 3, 2024 at the UConn volleyball center. The Huskies dominated the entire match with a final score of 3 sets to none.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn volleyball versus Butler University on Nov. 3, 2024 at the UConn volleyball center. The Huskies dominated the entire match with a final score of 3 sets to none.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Photo of the Day | Enjoy every moment



UConn men's football plays against CCSU on August 30, 2025. UConn defeated CCSU and won the game.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

HOW THE BLUE JAYS WENT FROM ROCK BOTTOM TO PLAYOFF CONTENDERS

by Ryan Lombardi

HE/HIM/HIS
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
ryan.lombardi@uconn.edu

Entering 2025, the Toronto Blue Jays seemed like they were on the brink of collapse. They were coming off a disappointing 74-88 campaign and faced lots of uncertainty throughout the roster. The biggest question centered around star first baseman Vladimir Guerrero Jr., who was set to become a free agent after 2025. As the season neared, extension talks were going seemingly nowhere, leading to growing speculation that he would be traded. Most projections had the Blue Jays finishing last in the AL East, and few considered them a playoff threat.

The first true bright spot for Toronto came on April 7, just two weeks into the season, when the Blue Jays reached an agreement with Guerrero, locking him up for 14 years and \$500 million. The deal was the largest in Blue Jays history, signaling that the organization still believed in its core. Despite the deal, their other offseason moves felt underwhelming for a team intent on competing. Their biggest addition was right fielder Anthony Santander, fresh off a 44-home run season in Baltimore. Beyond that, the club traded for Gold Glove second baseman Andrés Giménez, and signed veterans Max Scherzer, Jeff Hoffman and Yimi García to bolster the pitching staff. They were solid, low risk moves, but not the type that would fix a roster that regressed across the board last year.

The season started as expected for Toronto, with the team hovering around .500 for most of the first half. Guerrero's production dipped a bit, the rotation was inconsistent, and the offense couldn't seem to come

up with a clutch hit when they needed to. Santander struggled offensively for months before suffering a shoulder injury in May that's kept him sidelined since. By late June, the Blue Jays sat at 42-37 and looked like they could never quite string together wins. But then, everything changed for Toronto. They finished out the first half winning 13 of 17 with the help of a ten-game winning streak, headlined by a four-game sweep of the Yankees, to claim first in the AL East. The Jays cruised to 14 games over .500 headed into the break, with momentum fully on their side.

A major part of Toronto's dramatic turnaround has been key offensive players having bounce back seasons. Former UConn Husky George Springer has been one of the team's biggest storylines, flipping the script from 2024 to have a career year in his age 35 season. Springer's hitting over .300 with 26 home runs, and his .946 on-base plus slugging is the third best in baseball. Bo Bichette has returned to form, leading the league in hits and posting a .310 batting average, the third best in the majors. Meanwhile, Addison Barger has emerged as an important contributor to the Toronto offense, breaking out as a serious lefty power bat with 18 home runs and providing versatility across the field.

On the pitching side, unexpected names have stepped up. Left-hander Eric Lauer, who hadn't pitched a full season since 2022, quietly posted a 3.32 ERA and stabilized a rotation alongside Kevin Gausman, José Berrios and Chris Bassitt. Relievers like Brendon Little and Yariel Rodríguez became reliable arms in the bullpen. Behind them is a solid defense with Daulton Varsho continuing to be among the

top center fielders and Alejandro Kirk providing significant value behind the plate.

At the trade deadline, the Blue Jays had a clear focus on strengthening their pitching staff. They picked up relievers Seranthony Dominguez and Louis Varland, plus first baseman Ty France for added depth. Toronto also acquired former Cy Young winner Shane Bieber, who was in the late stages of recovering from Tommy John surgery. This gamble paid off early on, with Bieber looking like his prime self after striking out nine in his Blue Jay debut.

Blue Jays fans are more excited about their team than they have been in nearly a decade. Toronto hasn't won a playoff game since 2016, suffering three separate wild card sweeps since then. Ticket sales at the Rogers Centre have surged to near franchise highs, turning the stadium into one of the most hostile environments for opposing teams. As a result, the Blue Jays have been dominant in Toronto, boasting the best home record in the majors by a wide margin.

However, that momentum has started to stall in the past few weeks. The Blue Jays are just 5-5 in their last ten, with many pointing to the bullpen's sudden collapse as a key reason. Since the All-Star break, Toronto's relievers have been among the worst in baseball, posting an ERA of over five in that span. This has cost them numerous games in late innings down the stretch. As a result, Toronto's once-comfortable lead in the AL East has quickly shrunk to just two and a half games, and with the Yankees and Red Sox facing significantly easier schedules, the Jays' grip on the division is beginning to slip. The Blue Jays' upcoming series in the Bronx, followed by a late September matchup against the Red Sox, could decide the division.

The 2025 Blue Jays have already surpassed expectations, turning what many believed was a wasted core into a team that controls its own playoff destiny. Now sitting atop the American League, Toronto has the makings of a playoff threat, but they must first navigate their bullpen struggles and a tightening division race. Whether they rise or fall down the stretch, against all odds, meaningful baseball is back in Canada.

WOMEN'S SOCCER: HUSKIES PREPARE FOR A MID-WEEK DOGFIGHT WITH YALE



UConn women's soccer faces Quinnipiac in an exhibition match at Marrone Stadium on March 30, 2025. UConn controlled the game, securing a victory.

PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS

by Matt Dimech

HE/HIM/HIS
STAFF WRITER
rwq24001@uconn.edu

NEW HAVEN, Conn.

— Nutmeg State bragging rights are on the line as the University of Connecticut women's soccer team travels south to take on Yale University on Aug. 23.

The Huskies (1-2-1) have dominated the matchup historically, boasting a 21-4-1 all-time record over the Bulldogs (2-1). Each of their last four meetings were decided by just one goal, with each team winning two games apiece.

In their 2024 meeting, UConn came out on top with a final score of 2-1. Fourth-year Chioma Okafor netted two first-half goals to put the game out of reach for the Bulldogs.

Despite also holding the head-to-head record advantage on the road, UConn has struggled when playing Yale as the away team in recent games. The Huskies have been unable to emerge victorious over their three matchups at Reese Stadium since 2000, according to the UConn athletics website.

The last time UConn was able to take down the Bulldogs on the road was nearly 30 years ago, when the Huskies came away with a 2-0 victory in October 1995, according to the UConn athletics website.

UConn has gotten off to a shaky start in its non-

conference slate, having not logged a game in the win column since their home opener against Stony Brook University. On top of that, Connecticut has not managed to find the back of the net since their 2-1 loss to Texas A&M University on Aug. 23.

The Huskies (1-2-1) have dominated the matchup historically, boasting a 21-4-1 all-time record over the Bulldogs (2-1). Each of their last four meetings were decided by just one goal, with each team winning two games apiece.

In their 2024 meeting, UConn came out on top with a final score of 2-1. Fourth-year Chioma Okafor netted two first-half goals to put the game out of reach for the Bulldogs.

Despite also holding the head-to-head record advantage on the road, UConn has struggled when playing Yale as the away team in recent games. The Huskies have been unable to emerge victorious over their three matchups at Reese Stadium since 2000, according to the UConn athletics website.

The last time UConn was able to take down the Bulldogs on the road was nearly 30 years ago, when the Huskies came away with a 2-0 victory in October 1995, according to the UConn athletics website.

UConn has gotten off to a shaky start in its non-

conference slate, having not logged a game in the win column since their home opener against Stony Brook University. On top of that, Connecticut has not managed to find the back of the net since their 2-1 loss to Texas A&M University on Aug. 23.

The Huskies (1-2-1) have dominated the matchup historically, boasting a 21-4-1 all-time record over the Bulldogs (2-1). Each of their last four meetings were decided by just one goal, with each team winning two games apiece.

In their 2024 meeting, UConn came out on top with a final score of 2-1. Fourth-year Chioma Okafor netted two first-half goals to put the game out of reach for the Bulldogs.

Despite also holding the head-to-head record advantage on the road, UConn has struggled when playing Yale as the away team in recent games. The Huskies have been unable to emerge victorious over their three matchups at Reese Stadium since 2000, according to the UConn athletics website.

The last time UConn was able to take down the Bulldogs on the road was nearly 30 years ago, when the Huskies came away with a 2-0 victory in October 1995, according to the UConn athletics website.

UConn has gotten off to a shaky start in its non-

conference slate, having not logged a game in the win column since their home opener against Stony Brook University. On top of that, Connecticut has not managed to find the back of the net since their 2-1 loss to Texas A&M University on Aug. 23.

The Huskies (1-2-1) have dominated the matchup historically, boasting a 21-4-1 all-time record over the Bulldogs (2-1). Each of their last four meetings were decided by just one goal, with each team winning two games apiece.

In their 2024 meeting, UConn came out on top with a final score of 2-1. Fourth-year Chioma Okafor netted two first-half goals to put the game out of reach for the Bulldogs.

Despite also holding the head-to-head record advantage on the road, UConn has struggled when playing Yale as the away team in recent games. The Huskies have been unable to emerge victorious over their three matchups at Reese Stadium since 2000, according to the UConn athletics website.

The last time UConn was able to take down the Bulldogs on the road was nearly 30 years ago, when the Huskies came away with a 2-0 victory in October 1995, according to the UConn athletics website.

UConn has gotten off to a shaky start in its non-

conference slate, having not logged a game in the win column since their home opener against Stony Brook University. On top of that, Connecticut has not managed to find the back of the net since their 2-1 loss to Texas A&M University on Aug. 23.

The Huskies (1-2-1) have dominated the matchup historically, boasting a 21-4-1 all-time record over the Bulldogs (2-1). Each of their last four meetings were decided by just one goal, with each team winning two games apiece.

In their 2024 meeting, UConn came out on top with a final score of 2-1. Fourth-year Chioma Okafor netted two first-half goals to put the game out of reach for the Bulldogs.

Despite also holding the head-to-head record advantage on the road, UConn has struggled when playing Yale as the away team in recent games. The Huskies have been unable to emerge victorious over their three matchups at Reese Stadium since 2000, according to the UConn athletics website.

The last time UConn was able to take down the Bulldogs on the road was nearly 30 years ago, when the Huskies came away with a 2-0 victory in October 1995, according to the UConn athletics website.

UConn has gotten off to a shaky start in its non-

conference slate, having not logged a game in the win column since their home opener against Stony Brook University. On top of that, Connecticut has not managed to find the back of the net since their 2-1 loss to Texas A&M University on Aug. 23.

The Huskies (1-2-1) have dominated the matchup historically, boasting a 21-4-1 all-time record over the Bulldogs (2-1). Each of their last four meetings were decided by just one goal, with each team winning two games apiece.

In their 2024 meeting, UConn came out on top with a final score of 2-1. Fourth-year Chioma Okafor netted two first-half goals to put the game out of reach for the Bulldogs.

Despite also holding the head-to-head record advantage on the road, UConn has struggled when playing Yale as the away team in recent games. The Huskies have been unable to emerge victorious over their three matchups at Reese Stadium since 2000, according to the UConn athletics website.

The last time UConn was able to take down the Bulldogs on the road was nearly 30 years ago, when the Huskies came away with a 2-0 victory in October 1995, according to the UConn athletics website.

UConn has gotten off to a shaky start in its non-

conference slate, having not logged a game in the win column since their home opener against Stony Brook University. On top of that, Connecticut has not managed to find the back of the net since their 2-1 loss to Texas A&M University on Aug. 23.

The Huskies (1-2-1) have dominated the matchup historically, boasting a 21-4-1 all-time record over the Bulldogs (2-1). Each of their last four meetings were decided by just one goal, with each team winning two games apiece.

In their 2024 meeting, UConn came out on top with a final score of 2-1. Fourth-year Chioma Okafor netted two first-half goals to put the game out of reach for the Bulldogs.

Despite also holding the head-to-head record advantage on the road, UConn has struggled when playing Yale as the away team in recent games. The Huskies have been unable to emerge victorious over their three matchups at Reese Stadium since 2000, according to the UConn athletics website.

The last time UConn was able to take down the Bulldogs on the road was nearly 30 years ago, when the Huskies came away with a 2-0 victory in October 1995, according to the UConn athletics website.

UConn has gotten off to a shaky start in its non-

conference slate, having not logged a game in the win column since their home opener against Stony Brook University. On top of that, Connecticut has not managed to find the back of the net since their 2-1 loss to Texas A&M University on Aug. 23.

The Huskies (1-2-1) have dominated the matchup historically, boasting a 21-4-1 all-time record over the Bulldogs (2-1). Each of their last four meetings were decided by just one goal, with each team winning two games apiece.

In their 2024 meeting, UConn came out on top with a final score of 2-1. Fourth-year Chioma Okafor netted two first-half goals to put the game out of reach for the Bulldogs.

Despite also holding the head-to-head record advantage on the road, UConn has struggled when playing Yale as the away team in recent games. The Huskies have been unable to emerge victorious over their three matchups at Reese Stadium since 2000, according to the UConn athletics website.

The last time UConn was able to take down the Bulldogs on the road was nearly 30 years ago, when the Huskies came away with a 2-0 victory in October 1995, according to the UConn athletics website.

UConn has gotten off to a shaky start in its non-

conference slate, having not logged a game in the win column since their home opener against Stony Brook University. On top of that, Connecticut has not managed to find the back of the net since their 2-1 loss to Texas A&M University on Aug. 23.

The Huskies (1-2-1) have dominated the matchup historically, boasting a 21-4-1 all-time record over the Bulldogs (2-1). Each of their last four meetings were decided by just one goal, with each team winning two games apiece.

In their 2024 meeting, UConn came out on top with a final score of 2-1. Fourth-year Chioma Okafor netted two first-half goals to put the game out of reach for the Bulldogs.

Despite also holding the head-to-head record advantage on the road, UConn has struggled when playing Yale as the away team in recent games. The Huskies have been unable to emerge victorious over their three matchups at Reese Stadium since 2000, according to the UConn athletics website.

The last time UConn was able to take down the Bulldogs on the road was nearly 30 years ago, when the Huskies came away with a 2-0 victory in October 1995, according to the UConn athletics website.

UConn has gotten off to a shaky start in its non-

conference slate, having not logged a game in the win column since their home opener against Stony Brook University. On top of that, Connecticut has not managed to find the back of the net since their 2-1 loss to Texas A&M University on Aug. 23.

The Huskies (1-2-1) have dominated the matchup historically, boasting a 21-4-1 all-time record over the Bulldogs (2-1). Each of their last four meetings were decided by just one goal, with each team winning two games apiece.

In their 2024 meeting, UConn came out on top with a final score of 2-1. Fourth-year Chioma Okafor netted two first-half goals to put the game out of reach for the Bulldogs.

Despite also holding the head-to-head record advantage on the road, UConn has struggled when playing Yale as the away team in recent games. The Huskies have been unable to emerge victorious over their three matchups at Reese Stadium since 2000, according to the UConn athletics website.

The last time UConn was able to take down the Bulldogs on the road was nearly 30 years ago, when the Huskies came away with a 2-0 victory in October 1995, according to the UConn athletics website.

UConn has gotten off to a shaky start in its non-

conference slate, having not logged a game in the win column since their home opener against Stony Brook University. On top of that, Connecticut has not managed to find the back of the net since their 2-1 loss to Texas A&M University on Aug. 23.

The Huskies (1-2-1) have dominated the matchup historically, boasting a 21-4-1 all-time record over the Bulldogs (2-1). Each of their last four meetings were decided by just one goal, with each team winning two games apiece.

In their 2024 meeting, UConn came out on top with a final score of 2-1. Fourth-year Chioma Okafor netted two first-half goals to put the game out of reach for the Bulldogs.

Despite also holding the head-to-head record advantage on the road, UConn has struggled when playing Yale as the away team in recent games. The Huskies have been unable to emerge victorious over their three matchups at Reese Stadium since 2000, according to the UConn athletics website.

The last time UConn was able to take down the Bulldogs on the road

COLETTE'S COMMENTARY: FORMER HUSKIES CONTINUE TO DOMINATE IN THE WNBA

by Colette Doyle
SHE/HER/HERS
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
crd23003@uconn.edu

The WNBA is no stranger to UConn alumni with 14 former Huskies currently playing in the league. In total, the UConn women's basketball program has drafted 50 players into the league, the most of any college program. This season, the former Huskies have dominated, stumbled and shifted in the league.

The season started off strong with former Husky Paige Bueckers getting drafted No. 1 to the Dallas Wings. This made Bueckers the sixth Husky to get drafted first overall. Bueckers has had a historic rookie season with the Wings. She has averaged 18.9 points, 3.8 rebounds, 5.3 assists and 1.6 steals per game. These stats put her in fifth for points, seventh for assists and ninth in efficiency in the league. She is also ranked fourth in minutes per game, averaging 33.5 minutes. She was also the only rookie named as a starter for the WNBA All-Star Game. Bueckers recently made history by breaking the league rookie scoring record against the Los Angeles Sparks where she scored 44 points. This made it her 29th game of scoring in the double digits, the most double-digit scoring game in a rookie season. She also became the first player in league history to score over 40 points while shooting at least 80% from the field. Despite Bueckers dominance on the court, the Dallas Wings have struggled, falling to a 9-32 record.

WNBA veteran Napheesa Collier, who graduated from UConn in 2019, has continued to be a dominant force on the court ever since. She has averaged 23.5 points, 7.5 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 1.7 steals. These

stats put her first for total points, ninth for rebounds and fourth for steals per game. Collier was named All-Star captain this season and broke the All-Star Game scoring record. Collier formed a Husky packed team for the All-Star Game as captain, including Bueckers and Breanna Stewart. Collier recently had a stumble in the season due to an ankle injury that caused her to miss seven games, but she came back stronger and scored 32 points. Collier's impressive skill set has made her a front runner for MVP of the league this season. She has also been an asset in the Minnesota Lynx's impressive 32-8 record.

Stewart, a 2016 UConn graduate, has proven to be an asset for New York Liberty. Stewart came into the season with confidence after her essential role in Liberty's championship last season. She has averaged 18 points, 6.5 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 1.4 steals per game. These stats put her in seventh for efficiency. The Liberty started the season off with a strong 9-0 but have since struggled, partly due to Stewart missing 13 games with a right knee bone bruise. Even though Stewart's stats for the season are lower than prior seasons, her dominant return against the Connecticut Sun, where she scored 19 points, displayed her importance to the team.

UConn 2024 graduate Aaliyah Edwards has made a move this season by joining other former Huskies on the Connecticut Sun. Edwards previously played for the Washington Mystics but was traded to the Connecticut Sun in early August. She was traded after her role on the Mystics declined after facing a back contusion in training camp. Edwards joined three former Huskies on the team: Tina Charles, a 2010 graduate; Bria Harley, a 2014



Aaliyah Edwards who plays for the Connecticut Sun. PHOTO COURTESY OF @AALIYAHEDWARDS_24

graduate; and Olivia Nelson-Ododa, a 2022 graduate. Nelson-Ododa previously played with Edwards and formed a formidable frontcourt for the Huskies, which the Sun may look to replicate.

UConn 2025 graduate Kaitlyn Chen has also made her WNBA debut. She was initial-

ly drafted by the Golden State Valkyries, but was waived days before the official season started. Chen was brought back on to the Valkyries in June, signing an emergency hardship contract due to players leaving for the FIBA EuroBasket tournament. Chen came back to the WNBA in a

game against Dallas that included Bueckers, her former teammate.

These former Huskies have all continued to dominate in the WNBA despite some challenges along the way. The rest of the season will continue to provide matchups against former Huskies.

LATO'S LENS: WEEK 1'S BIGGEST UPSETS, TOP PERFORMANCES, AND A MUST-SEE MATCHUP IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL

by Tyler Lato
HE/HIM/HIS
STAFF WRITER
tyler.lato@uconn.edu

This past weekend, the 2025 college football season started off with a bang by showcasing one of the greatest slates of season-opening matchups the sport has ever seen. Viewers alike were glued to the couch over the entirety of the weekend, enthralled by the sheer volume of heavyweight matchups unfolding in front of their very eyes. The best thing is that it was only week one. Without further ado, you know the drill — here are

week one's biggest upsets and top performances, along with a preview of this week's game of the week.

BIGGEST UPSETS

No. 3. Ohio State 14, No. 1 Texas 7

Although it's tough to call it an upset, the matchup between the top-ranked Texas Longhorns and the defending national champion Ohio State Buckeyes was one of the most anticipated games of the 2025 season. Why? Not only was it a duel between No. 1 and No. 3 in the nation and a rematch of last year's College Football Playoff semifinal, but also because of Arch Manning, who had finally earned the

role of starting quarterback for the Longhorns after two years backing up now-Miami Dolphins signal-caller Quinn Ewers.

The nephew of NFL Hall of Fame quarterbacks Peyton and Eli Manning, Arch entered college football as the top recruit in the class of 2023, with many touting him as the best quarterback prospect of all time.

Now, insert the Ohio State Buckeyes into the equation.

Led by redshirt freshman quarterback Julian Sayin, the Buckeyes combined timely offense with a stout defensive effort, including a massive goal-line stand in the third quarter, to oust Manning and the Longhorns by a score of 14-7. Although star wideout Jeremiah Smith was held at bay, Carnell Tate came up huge, hauling in a

spectacular 40-yard touchdown catch in the fourth quarter that ultimately won the game for Ohio State. Sayin finished his first career start completing 13 of 20 passes for 126 yards and a touchdown. Not too shabby for a freshman debut in arguably the biggest game of his life.

No. 10 Miami 27, No. 6 Notre Dame 24

A rematch of the famous 1988 "Catholics vs. Convicts" game had college

football junkies drooling when they saw this week one matchup between tenth-ranked Miami and 2024 CFP runner-up Notre Dame on the schedule.

Miami quarterback Carson Beck, a Georgia transfer, entered the game as a major question mark after a subpar 2024 season with the Bulldogs. He struggled with accuracy throughout the year, most notably in a stunning 41-34 loss to Alabama in week five.

This time, however, Beck showed why he's still considered one of the nation's best. The redshirt senior led the No. 10 Hurricanes past the No. 6 Fighting Irish in a 27-24 slugfest, completing 20 of 31 passes for 205 yards and two touchdowns.

Kicker Carter Davis sealed the win with a 47-yard field goal with 2 minutes and 17 seconds left in the fourth quarter, propelling the Canes past the Irish.

Florida State 31, No. 8 Alabama 17

The unranked Florida State Seminoles were among college football's worst last season, stumbling to a 2-10 finish after opening the year ranked in the top ten. With his job on the line, Head Coach Mike Norvell made some moves over the offseason,

hiring longtime coach Gus Malzahn as offensive coordinator and landing former Boston College quarterback Thomas Castellanos from the transfer portal.

Norvell's heroics couldn't have worked out better, as the Seminoles stunned No. 8 Alabama with a 31-17 victory in front of nearly 70,000 fans at Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee, Fla. Castellanos led Malzahn's offense with 230 all-purpose yards — including 152 through the air and 78 on the ground — and a touchdown. On defense, Eric Little Jr. recorded

a career performance with nine total tackles, leading a defensive unit that held the Crimson Tide to just 17 points the whole game.

TOP PERFORMANCES

John Mateer, QB (Oklahoma)

John Mateer accounted for 416 yards of total offense, including four touchdowns, in Oklahoma's week one 35-3 victory over Illinois State.

Justice Haynes, RB (Michigan)

In his Michigan debut, Justice Haynes rushed for 159 yards and three touchdowns on 16 carries to oust the New Mexico Lobos 34-17 at home.

Dani-Dennis Sutton, DE (Penn State)

During No. 2 Penn State's 46-11 rout of Nevada, defensive end Dani Dennis-Sutton led the Nittany Lions' defense with two forced fumbles and a sack, spending much of the day in the opposing backfield.

Game of the Week

No. 15 Michigan (1-0) at No. 18 Oklahoma (1-0): Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

The SEC-Big Ten debate is as polarized as it gets right now, and there's no better way to settle it than with a matchup between No. 15 Michigan and No. 18 Oklahoma. As I mentioned earlier — and throughout much of last season — Sooners quarterback John Mateer is no joke, dangerous both on the ground and through the air. On the other side, Michigan true freshman Bryce Underwood, a five-star quarterback recruit in the class of 2025, has become the talk of the Big Ten after torching New Mexico for 251 passing yards last week. I believe this matchup is everything as advertised, solidifying its spot as the 'Game of the Week.'

Lato's pick: Michigan



Our 4th rushing TD today goes to GAVIN SAWCHUK! Gavin Sawchuk - Running Back highlight photo from FSU vs. Alabama, 08-30-25. PHOTO COURTESY OF @FSUFOOTBALL

Daily

Sports

DROPPIN DIMES: DON T BE SURPRISED WHEN LSU WINS THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



by Matt Dimech

HE/HIM/HIS
STAFF WRITER
rwq24001@uconn.edu

The roar inside Memorial Stadium was deafening on Saturday night as the big cat showdown between LSU and Clemson entered halftime.

Clemson held a 10-3 lead and had stifled the visiting Tigers offense. Head coach Dabo Sweeney held a 151-11 all-time record when leading at halftime. A defeat for LSU would mark the sixth consecutive opening game loss, which would have been the longest drought in program history.

The last time the Tigers had won their season opener was in their 2019 National Championship run.

While the game was over in many fans' minds, the Bayou Bengals were not going to give up.

LSU clawed its way back into the game. The Tigers' defense slammed the door in the second half, holding Clemson scoreless, while quarterback Garrett Nussmeier led the comeback on the offensive end. He led an 11-play 73-yard drive late in the game, throwing an eight-yard touchdown to Trey'Dez Green, to claim a 17-10 victory in Death Valley.

LSU didn't just escape Saturday with a win; they delivered a performance that revealed a new identity and catapulted them into the national championship spotlight.

LSU has been defined by its offensive fireworks under Head Coach Brian Kelly with the likes of Jayden Daniels and Malik Nabers who are now making waves in the NFL. Since 2022, LSU has the seventh-highest points per game offense in FBS.

"We've had offenses here the last few years that could move the football, we needed to complement it with a defense that could stand the test," Kelly said.

The Tigers' defense is ranked No. 52 in points allowed per game since Kelly's hiring and has long been the criticism of his coaching tenure.

On Saturday, Kelly and LSU flipped that narrative on its head.

His defense looked like a unit designed to dominate the game, unlike the serviceable defenses of the past. Clemson's 10 points marked the lowest home offensive output for the team since 2010.

They blitzed quarterback Cade Klubnik on 56% of his drop backs. Despite being a seasoned college quarterback, Klubnik looked overwhelmed by the Tigers' pass rush. Klubnik completed just 19 of his 38 passing attempts as well as throwing a costly interception.

The Clemson ground game didn't fare any better, mustering just 31 rushing yards, with their longest gain only garnering 7 yards.

LSU bolstered their defense in the transfer portal bringing in 18 players. 12 of them were four-star prospects, eight which lined up on the defensive side of the ball.

One of those was Virginia Tech transfer Mansoor Delane, who stood out in the Tigers' secondary on Saturday. On eight targets he allowed just one completion, while snagging the critical interception in the third quarter. The performance earned him a grade of 81.4 from Pro Football Focus.

In the age of high-powered offense in college football, defense still wins championships. The past three seasons, the national championship has been won by a team with a top five defense. LSU is beginning to look like the next program to follow that blueprint with its performance on Saturday night.

For all the emphasis on the LSU defense, Nussmeier is still the captain of this ship.

Throughout the offseason

there were reports of Nussmeier dealing with abdominal issues and knee injuries and he was even limited in practice leading up to Saturday. Nevertheless, he still made the start.

Clemson came into Saturday boasting the best defensive line in college football, led by edge rusher T.J. Parker and tackle Peter Woods. Parker and Woods are both expected to go within the top 15 picks of the NFL draft in the spring.

Nussmeier spent the night under siege, forced to throw in less than 2.5 seconds on 31 of his 38 pass attempts. Unlike Klubnik, Nussmeier handled the pressure with poise, completing 66.6% of those passes. He recognized the rush and was able to neutralize it with his anticipation.

The biggest indicator of Nussmeier's command over the offense was his ability to trust his reads and throw his receivers open. With an average time to throw of just 2.14 seconds, he consistently delivered the ball before his targets had even come out of their breaks.

Nussmeier completed his last 11 pass attempts, nine of which came in the fourth quarter. He totaled 232 passing yards in the game with a 73.2 completion rate.

His performance has boosted him to the highest odds to win the Heisman Trophy at plus-800 according to ESPN Bet.

LSU delivered a statement on Saturday that reverberated across college football. This wasn't just about beating Clemson, or snapping an opening-day losing streak, it was about redefining a program. The combination of a truly lights out defensive unit and a quarterback who thrives under fire is the foundation that national championships are built on.

One game never decides a season, but LSU made one thing clear: they are not just contenders this season.

They're coming for it all.



Aaron Anderson - Wide Receiver, highlight photo from LSU vs. Clemson, 08-30-25.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @LSUFOOTBALL

TYLER'S TAKE: TOP NFL TEAMS THAT COULD BOOM OR BUST THIS YEAR

by Tyler Pruneau

HE/HIM/HIS
STAFF WRITER
tyler.pruneau@uconn.edu

Quarterback changes occur every year, with 10 franchises facing a new shot-caller in the 2025-2026 season. However, not everyone will succeed. In this week's edition of Tyler's Take, I discuss possible boom or bust teams before week one kicks off.

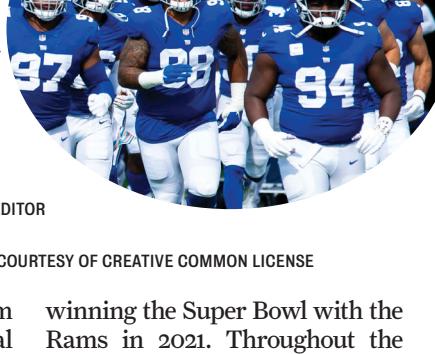
Miami Dolphins, Boom:

Since hiring Mike McDaniel as head coach on Feb. 6, 2022, the Miami Dolphins have transformed greatly. In the 2022 offseason, the team traded for star wide receiver Tyreek Hill and signed free agent running back Raheem Mostert to a one-year, \$3.125 million contract.

With the "offensive guru" calling plays, Hill caught a career-high 119 receptions, totaling 1,710 yards, while Mostert rushed a personal best of 891 yards, in the 2022-2023 stretch. McDaniel's magic clearly helped the Dolphins, appearing in back-to-back playoffs (2022-2023, 2023-2024), but losing both in the wildcard round.

Year after year, the franchise faces injuries, prohibiting the squad from reaching its full potential. From 2020-2024, the starting quarterback, Tua Tagovailoa, suffered four concussions, sidelining him for 11 games.

The 27-year-old is a focal point teammate in the offense, as he topped the NFL in passing yards in the 2023-2024 run, throwing 4,624 yards throughout all 17 matchups. Without a fully healthy



New York Giants taking the field at MetLife Stadium. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMON LICENSE

Tagovailoa, the Dolphins struggled, owning a 3-8 regular season and 0-1 postseason record from 2022-2024.

Defensively, problems may arise after not re-signing cornerback Jevon Holland and trading seven-time Pro Bowler Jalen Ramsey to the Pittsburgh Steelers. In return, the franchise reacquired cornerback Minkah Fitzpatrick and inked Rasul Douglas, who could fill the gaps.

If the team can stay undamaged in 2025, paving the road to the Super Bowl is possible, as McDaniel enters year four and is sitting on the hot seat.

Seattle Seahawks, Bust:

Over the 2025 break, the Seattle Seahawks explored the market after departing with Geno Smith (quarterback), D.K. Metcalf (wide receiver) and Tyler Lockett (wide receiver). Following a career-high performance with the Minnesota Vikings in 2024, recording 4,319 yards and 35 touchdowns, Sam Darnold signed a three-year, \$100.5 million deal, replacing

Smith. A few days later, the team landed former NFC-West rival Cooper Kupp, filling the receiver room.

This seems as if the Seahawks won in the offseason, but it's not all sunshine and rainbows, as risks come with signing the two stars. In the Vikings' 2024-2025 season finale, the Detroit Lions' defense pressured the 28-year-old, forcing a pair of sacks and interceptions.

The former Southern California Trojan faced challenges gaining momentum, completing 18 of 41 attempts, totaling 166 yards and zero touchdowns. A week later, the same story was written, after falling to the Los Angeles Rams, 27-9, in the first round of the NFL playoffs.

For Darnold, needing a strong offensive line is a must, which the 2014 Super Bowl champions lack. In PFF's 2025 offensive line rankings, the team placed No. 30, allowing the second-highest pressure rating last year (34.5%).

Looking at Kupp, the 32-year-old hasn't played a full slate since

winning the Super Bowl with the Rams in 2021. Throughout the years, the 2017 third-round pick endured recurring ankle sprains, which cost him five matchups in 2024. Additionally, the veteran strained his hamstring, resulting in four missed clashes in 2023.

With an 80% chance of reinjuries, keeping Kupp on the field will be tough.

New York Giants, Boom:

Similar to McDaniel, the New York Giants head coach Brian Daboll could get fired, owning an 18-31 record since 2022. After being thrown away last year by releasing starting signal-caller Daniel Jones on Nov. 22, the quarterback room needed remodeling.

During the NFL downtime, the franchise signed quarterbacks Russell Wilson (one-year, \$21 million), Jameis Winston (two-year, \$8 million) and drafted Jaxon Dart in the first round.

With new gunslingers, winning should come easier. With the Steelers, Wilson hurled 2,482 yards, visiting the endzone 16

times within 11 starts. Behind the 36-year-old, Dart showcased a promising future in three pre-season games, connecting 32 of 47 passing attempts for 372 yards and three touchdowns.

A problem the team faces is offensive line struggles, placing No. 28 in PFF's 2025 offensive line rankings. Last year, the Giants experienced just over a 26% pressure rating, allowing 48 sacks.

Las Vegas Raiders, Bust:

They say defense wins championships, but in the grand scheme of things, defense provides offensive opportunities. The Las Vegas Raiders ended the 2024-2025 year ranked No. 15 defensively and No. 27 offensively. With quarterback issues, the team faced challenges moving the chains, scoring six points just 30 times.

Owner Mark Davis fired former head coach Antonio Pierce and hired Pete Carroll on Jan. 24, 2025. To add on, the franchise parted ways with Gardner Minshew II and traded for Geno Smith, inking him for a two-year, \$85.5 million contract.

With the Seattle Seahawks in 2024-2025, Smith threw 4,320 yards for 21 endzone appearances and 15 interceptions. The veteran finished No. 21 in quarterback rankings.

Like the Seahawks' linemen, the franchise placed No. 23 in offensive line standings, allowing a 35.8% pressure rating. If the offensive front continues struggling, the 34-year-old could topple.