



Massage center opens in Downtown Storrs next week

by Sara Bedigian
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Ledgebrook Massage Center will relocate to 1244 Storrs Road on Sept. 15, moving from its previous location at 12 Ledgebrook Drive in Mansfield, Conn.

The family-owned practice opened in Mansfield four years ago and is moving to Downtown Storrs to improve accessibility for people with mobility challenges and adhere to ADA compliance, according to co-owner Nicole Luckey.

While the primary reason was to improve accessibility, Luckey said being closer to the student community at the University of Connecticut is also something they wanted to explore. UConn and Eastern Connecticut State University students will receive a \$10 discount every visit.

"I think just being effective, safe and professional is something that we're hoping that student population will benefit and appreciate from," Luckey said.

"This setting is unique being right on campus in the student population. So, I think it's going to be something that we're going to learn about too once

we get more involved with the university," co-owner Aaron Shea added.

Ledgebrook is a medical and therapeutic massage practice, but Luckey said she does not want people to be scared off because of that term. While they offer a variety of medical treatments for people following surgeries or with cancer, the center also offers general therapeutic practices and traditional deep tissue massages.

"Massage therapy is very dynamic, and it can be used for just about anybody. There are benefits for everyone," Shea said.

While Shea said they love working with their long-term clients, the purpose of their practice is to be the first couple of steps in each patient's healing journey.

"We're educating clients about their body and things that they can do on their own," Shea said. "We're always ready to answer questions for people and to really create a massage therapy session that fits their needs."

Shea and Luckey, both of whom have deep roots in Mansfield and graduated from E. O. Smith High School, are licensed massage therapists and medical massage practitio-

ners. Luckey is also a certified lymphedema therapist.

Luckey said she is looking forward to working with the student population on esthetic massages and other immune-boosting benefits, which can help people with sinus issues or headaches.

Since Ledgebrook is a medical practice and often interfaces with other practitioners and patient care teams, Luckey and Shea are thinking about offering internship opportunities in the future, allowing students to see both the clinical and administrative side of their operation.

"We are moving into a much larger space, so we have a lot of room to grow," Shea said.

The center will be holding an open house ribbon cutting event on Sept. 18 from 4 to 6 p.m. for the public to meet the therapists, ask questions and see massage chair demonstrations. Additional discounts will be offered to those booking appointments.

Ledgebrook is currently only appointment-based, but as they increase their staff, same-day availability may be more common, Luckey said. Appointments can be booked using their website or by calling the practice at 860-341-5910.



LEDGEBROOK
MASSAGE
CENTER



Ledgebrook Massage Center's building with five rooms neatly labeled. The center claims to offer a safe and effective alternative to pain management. PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEDGEBROOK MASSAGE CENTER

Stay Informed with UConn Alert: Test to occur Tuesday

by Patrick Boots
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UConn Alert, the emergency notification system at the University of Connecticut, will be undergoing a start-of-the-year test at approximately noon on Tuesday Sept. 9. All campuses and the UConn Health system will be participating in the system test.

"In the event of an emergency that poses an immediate threat to one of our campus communities, the UConn Alert system will be activated," the UConn Emergency Management webpage states. "The system... may also be utilized to notify the UConn community of impacts to business operations, including weather closings and significant class schedule alterations."

When a UConn Alert notification is sent, email and telephone messages will be sent to all students, faculty and staff, with posts appearing on alert.uconn.edu and the university's social media channels. Audible tones from outdoor sirens located on the main campus will also be included in the test.

Students should verify that these messages were received during the test and update their information if needed, Emergency Management notices said.

"All official UConn email addresses are auto-enrolled into the system," the program's sign-up guide states. "Students' email addresses and phone numbers are pulled from the Student Administra-



LOGO COURTESY OF @UCONNSAFETY ON INSTAGRAM

tion System. Each semester, students must update their emergency contact information prior to registering for classes."

While the program was originally limited to students, faculty and staff, UConn Alert is now available to parents and visitors. Outside phone numbers can text "UConnALERT" to 888-777 to receive text notifications.

Two special text channels, "UConnGAMEDAY" and "UConnGAMPEL," also allow fans to receive alerts in conjunction with athletic contests at Rentschler Field in East Hartford and Gampel Pavilion, respectively.

"There is no charge for the [text notification] service, but your mobile provider's messaging and data rates may apply," per the program's frequently asked questions page.

Gene Labtone, associate vice president for university safety, and Michael Kirk, interim vice president for university communications, sent out the announcement of this year's system test.

"Thank you for your cooperation during the exercise and your support of public safety initiatives at UConn," said Labtone.

The UConn Alert system was established in 2007 as an extension of the university's "Code Blue Alert" systems for on-campus hardline phones and kiosks.

The State of Connecticut, lo-

cal governments and other institutions also have emergency notification programs in conjunction with the national-level alerts which are rebroadcast. Weather forecasts and vital information is available through the National Weather Service's New York and Boston stations, in addition to the forecasts provided by local radio and television stations.



Students studying at the Homer Babbidge Library. The library along with all other UConn facilities will be included in the test. PHOTO BY SCARLETT DOYLE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/DAILY CAMPUS

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Breaking down their performance in August.

WE ARE NOT THE
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News

Adventure Park at Storrs releases autumn calendar

by Jenna Outcalt

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The Adventure Park at Storrs, a zipline and climbing park at 2007 Storrs Road, announced its lineup of events for the fall of 2025 on Thursday, Sept. 4.

Park Manager Jesse Pasacreta said the park is a great place to “tap into the aesthetic of New England fall.”

“It’s just a good time of year and a good space to kind of feel out fall,” Pasacreta said. “It’s a season that really highlights both the beauty of New England in general and the kind of adventure and sense of adventure that we foster here at the park.”

He also emphasized the ideal weather this time of year.

“I think the perfect climbing weather is kind of what we have now,” Pasacreta said.

The park’s Glow in the Park events will be every Saturday night through Oct. 25, according to a press release of the fall calendar.

“Glow in the Park transforms the forest into a glowing wonderland, where guests climb and zipline under dazzling lights set to themed playlists ranging from 70s Disco to Singalong favorites,” the press release said.

Next Saturday, Sept. 13, Glow in the Park will have a Y2K theme, according to the park’s website. The event is from 5 to 9 p.m. and costs \$49. A ticket includes two hours of climbing along with 30 minutes for harnessing, a safety briefing and practice.

When October comes, Glow in the Park events will have a Halloween theme each Saturday. Pasacreta said there will be Halloween decorations, spooky music and Halloween items for sale.

“We’ll have Halloween decorations, we’ll play spooky music, we will have a bunch of Halloween items for sale and it will be lit up in a festive kind of way,” Pasacreta said.

In addition to Glow in the Park, the park will also hold the Monster Ball on Friday, Oct. 31, Halloween night. The Monster Ball is a climb for participants at least 18 years old from 7 to 11 p.m.

“We’ll play theme music, we’re going to see if we can have some themed vendors, then we again decorate the park with a lot of different Halloween decorations, some scary, some not, some just to get you in the mood for the holiday,” Pasacreta said. “Then we light the park up. It’s an at-night event, so the whole park is lit up by both regular lights and glow lights



Park visitors holding a banner to celebrate the park opening for fall. The park is located at 2007 Storrs Rd, Storrs, Conn. PHOTOS COURTESY OF @THEADVENTUREPARKATSTORRS ON INSTAGRAM

to fit the ambience.”

Falls at the Adventure Park also include Firepit Fridays, where visitors can enjoy a firepit every Friday evening through Oct. 24.

On Sunday, Sept. 21, the park will host the Iron Squirrel challenge, where parkgoers can attempt to take on all nine of the park’s courses in one day for bragging rights and the title of “Iron Squirrel.”

From Oct. 3 to Oct. 30, climbers can also partake in the “eyeball” scavenger hunt, where fake eyeballs about the size of ping-pong balls can be found throughout the courses and traded in for a treat from the park’s store.

Pasacreta highlighted the student discount that the park offers as well. He said students can show a student ID or use the code STUDENT15 online to get 15% off on their tickets to the park.

The Adventure Park includes a playground for children from ages three to six. According to the press release, the park also offers free access for non-climbing spectators.

A full schedule of fall events and tickets can be found on the park’s website.



A patron on one of the many zip lines the Adventure Park at Storrs has to offer. The park has released their calendar for the autumn season. PHOTOS COURTESY OF @THEADVENTUREPARKATSTORRS ON INSTAGRAM

The Daily Campus

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Monday, September 8, 2025

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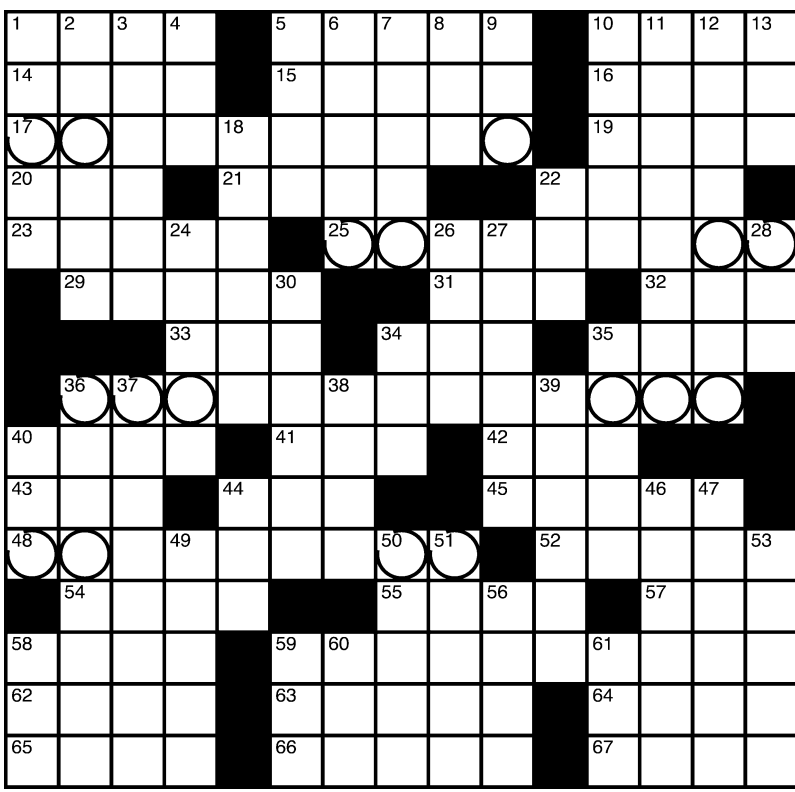
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ACROSS

- 1 Feel sore
- 5 Caution light color
- 10 Tuts
- 14 More than dampen
- 15 Ballet-inspired fitness class
- 16 Mimics
- 17 Sweet apple cultivar from Minnesota
- 19 "As ___ on TV"
- 20 TV series pts.
- 21 Is inquisitive
- 22 Pedometer unit
- 23 Seattle WNBA team
- 25 Enjoy a clothes-free swim
- 29 Move stealthily
- 31 Statler and Waldorf, e.g.
- 32 Short way to go?
- 33 "Omg, I just got it!"
- 34 Boca Raton's st.
- 35 Chrysalis
- 36 Common Banksy technique
- 40 Landlocked Asian country
- 41 Key in a keyboard combo
- 42 Laverne of "Orange Is the New Black"
- 43 Little trickster
- 44 Letters before an alias
- 45 Really long stories
- 48 Buttery cookie made with citrus zest
- 52 V-sign sentiment
- 54 Linus's sister
- 55 Grain in 26-Down
- 57 Male offspring
- 58 Party thrower
- 59 House of Pain hit that begins "Pack it up, pack it in," and a description of each set of circled letters
- 62 Pop singer Sands
- 63 Thin woodwinds
- 64 Go back and forth, in a way
- 65 Religious offshoot
- 66 Curt
- 67 Vehicle with runners



By Amie Walker & Amanda Rafkin

9/9/25

Monday's Puzzle Solved

A	L	S	O		H	O	Y	A		P	E	T	A	L
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D	E	E	R	E		S	P	I	T		M	E	M	E

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- 3 "MMMBop" boy band
- 4 Scrape (by)
- 5 Pre-K song subject
- 6 Stains
- 7 Rapid
- 8 Hosp. areas
- 9 Sales agt.
- 10 Delicious
- 11 Complete as fast as possible, as a video game
- 12 "Young ears are listening"
- 13 Fig. exposed in some data breaches
- 18 World's largest manufacturer of musical instruments
- 22 ___-Caps candy
- 24 Raises, as kids
- 26 Savory breakfast cake of South India
- 27 Subtle distinction
- 28 Chicken pot pie vegetable
- 30 Inuit boats
- 34 Avocado's abundance
- 35 ___ cut: cropped style

- 36 Marriage equality anthem by Macklemore & Ryan Lewis
- 37 Taylor Swift genre
- 38 Make an itinerary, say
- 39 Tall hat
- 40 Short, for short
- 44 "___ ideas?"
- 46 Like a situationship
- 47 Light fixture on a wall
- 49 Group of eight
- 50 "My knight in shining ___!"
- 51 Singing ability, informally
- 53 Came to a close
- 56 Guitar protector
- 58 "___ making a list ..."
- 59 Scribble (down)
- 60 Purple yam
- 61 Photo ___

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

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Solution to Monday's puzzle

9/9/25

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

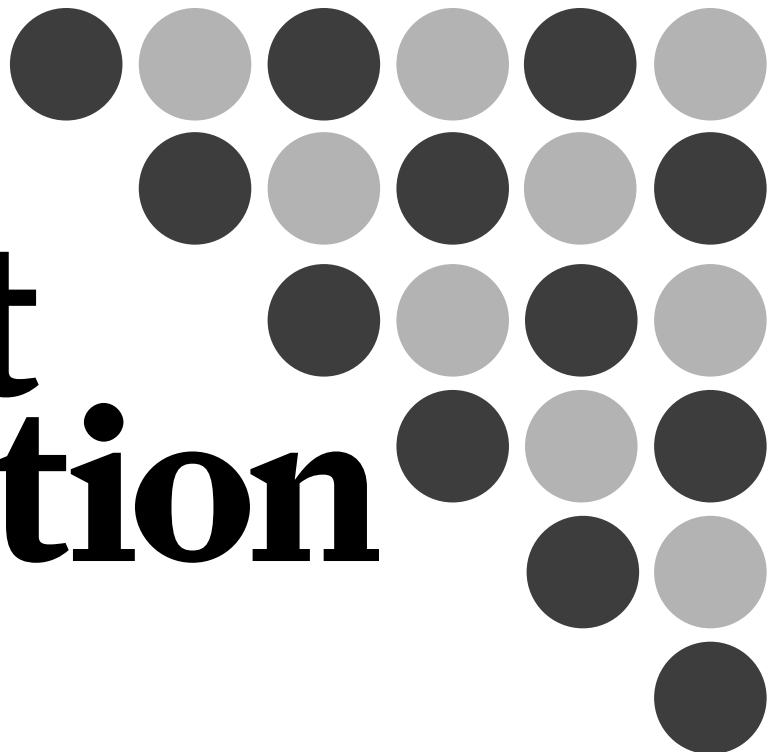
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk.

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Life

Your Connecticut Transportation Roundup


 SUMMER 2025


An Amtrak train passing through Guinea Station, Va. Amtrak runs lines all over the United States and portions of Canada. PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

by Patrick Boots
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The summer months are often characterized by outdoor fun, time off from work or school and getting back to the simpler things. Hearing the Beach Boys, the quintessential summer group, sing “Round, round get around, I get around,” reminded me that a report on changes to Connecticut’s transportation scene was in order.

CT Rail and Metro-North Fare Increases

In July, the Connecticut Department of Transportation announced at a press conference that rail fares in the state would increase by 10%, administered in two doses, by 2026. The first, a 5% increase, went into effect on Sept. 1.

“These fare increases will help maintain existing rail service levels by keeping the same number of trains on the schedule for our customers,” CTDOT Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto told the press.

The increase affects customers on all three of Connecticut’s rail lines. A complete one-way journey on the Hartford Line, from New Haven to Springfield, now costs \$14 — up from \$13.25. On the New Haven Line, a one-way ticket from New Haven to Grand Central has grown to \$19.25 off-peak and \$26 peak.

However, students using their U-Pass to travel in-state will be unaffected, as those rides remain free. For travel to New York, the fare from Greenwich to Grand Central now costs \$11 off-peak and \$15 peak — a small increase from the former \$10.50 off-peak and \$14.25 peak fare. (Why two prices? Check out the Daily Campus’s guide on train travel for the scoop on off-peak vs peak fares.) The second 5% fare increase will go into effect on July 1, 2026.

Amtrak Unveils “Next-Gen” Acela

Aug. 28 saw the maiden voyage of new equipment on the Acela Express service, a high-speed train which travels between Boston and Washington, DC. It makes two stops in Connecticut: New Haven and Stamford.

The original Acela trains went into service in 2000, going at a relatively fast 150 miles per hour. After a 2016 federal purchase, French manufacturer Alstom built 28 “Avelia Liberty” trainsets for Acela use, with an initial improved speed rating of 160 miles per hour. If infrastructure improvements on the Northeast Corridor are completed, the new trains could achieve 186 miles per hour.

The “speed factor” is partially inhibited in Connecticut and New York because the route has more curves and shoreline bridges, plus the trackage is owned by and shared with the MTA. (It’s always been a saga.) Next-Gen Acela speeds will likely top out between 85 and 100 miles per hour in Connecticut, according to Amtrak.

“Next-Gen Acela is more than a new train — it’s an evolution of travel,” said Amtrak President Roger Harris in the new service announcement in August. The new trains were originally expected to start service in 2021.

The passenger cars used on the first-generation Acela are still in use but will most likely be converted for the Northeast Regional service eventually.

Acela does not feature coach class and is not eligible for use with U-Pass.

Under Construction: New Stations and Improvements

A number of Connecticut train stations are getting rebuilt and improved.

All six stations on the Wa-

terbury Branch will see major station projects as part of a \$140 million state program: new stations are being constructed in Naugatuck, Beacon Falls, Seymour, and Ansonia — and the historic station buildings at Waterbury and Derby-Shelton are being refurbished alongside similar platform enhancements. They’re expected to be open in 2027.

The new stations will feature long, covered high-level platforms, improved shelter space, real-time messaging, ticket VTMs and improved accessibility. Most Waterbury Branch stations were originally built as temporary facilities with little more than a small bus shelter; the new stations will be located at the current sites except for Naugatuck, which is being relocated to a central downtown location.

Windsor Locks, on the Hartford Line, will also enjoy a new station — to be open very soon. Years in the making, the new Windsor Locks station will include a single high-level platform and amenities in line with other stations on the line, at a site south of the current park-and-ride — closer to downtown. Designs to add a light rail link to Bradley International Airport from the new station have also started being conceived.

The current station is the smallest in Connecticut.

Minor projects to New Haven Line stops Darien, East Norwalk and Greenwich — plus New Haven Union Station — have progressed at various stages. Plans to add transit-ori-

ented development, improve retail and parking space are being discussed and proposed.

WRTD and CT Transit Bus Service Updates

The Windham Region Transit District announced some minor adjustments to local bus service, including moving the stop at Ash and Foster Streets on Route 674A and a new stop at the Standard at Four Corners apartment complex for Routes 675 and 676. The adjustments follow significant changes to WRTD routes in March.

WRTD will also publish notifications, such as specific route cancellations, on their Twitter page.

A number of CT Transit service changes have gone into effect as of Aug. 24. Many bus routes have added or enhanced their services.

Of regional note is a change to Route 918, which has discontinued the on-street bus stop at the corner of Main and Bank Streets in favor of a stop at the nearby Windham Intermodal Transportation Center. The change also affects Peter Pan’s Hartford-Providence bus, which makes an additional stop at UConn.

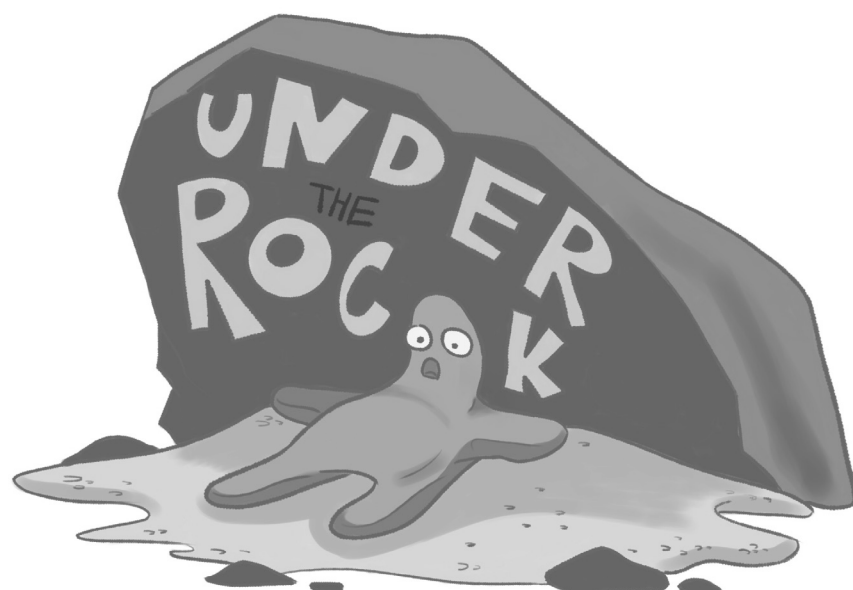
Five buses were discontinued but were accommodated by changes to other routes or pre-existing companion services.

More information about CT Transit’s service changes can be found on their webpage. Other bus agencies may have also announced changes to their services, so be sure to check the relevant company’s channels.

Happy Travels

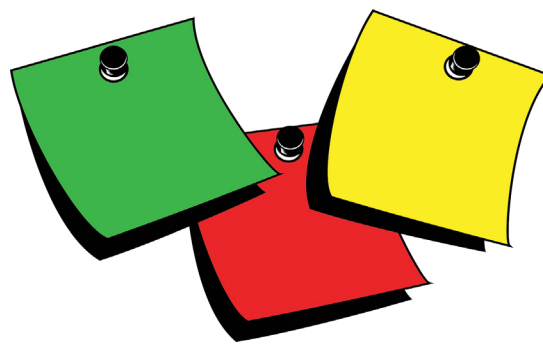
As more transportation news breaks, we’ll keep you covered. Hopefully you can get to where you need to go! If you haven’t already, check out the Daily Campus’ transportation guides too.

Bonus: The Beach Boys wrote a lot of songs about surfing, cars and other topics. Eight of their car-themed songs mention specific models. “In My Car” from 1988’s Still Crusin’ is maybe my favorite off that list.



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Study Tips



from an experienced procrastinator.

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**
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School work can get overwhelming quickly. We've all seen the study tips posted on bulletin boards and HuskyCT resource tabs. Unfortunately, many of those tips were written by people who already had strong studying habits to begin with. As helpful as color coding your notes may be, some of us struggle to even start with reading assignments in the first place.

As someone who has struggled with procrastination since middle school, here are some of the tricks I have found to get the work done and maintain good grades even when procrastination does get the best of me.



PHOTO BY GONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

1

Get out of your dorm

No one can argue the convenience of lying in bed trying to finish up some schoolwork before pushing it off to the side to go to sleep. However, it can be hard to separate relaxation and work when they happen in the same environment. Try to find a spot or two around campus where you

still feel comfortable and relaxed but that you can dedicate as an area for just studying. Whether it's the library, a green somewhere or even the lounge in your building, finding a workspace separate from where you relax can help get you in the right mindset to study.

Find a new way to get the information

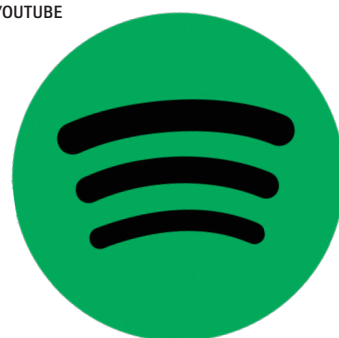
There's no doubt that it can be discouraging to open a PDF for a reading assignment to realize that there are 30 slides containing two pages of text each. It can be boring to stare at a screen of tiny words on a plain white background, especially when it's for a class in which the subject doesn't interest you.

Instead of putting off the reading, find a different or potentially quicker way to access the text. Many

books have audiobooks available on YouTube for free or in subscription services like Spotify or Audible. For texts assigned from textbooks or online articles, Speechify offers a way to have the text converted into audio. Depending on how much time you have and how quickly you comprehend information, increasing the speed of the audio can also make it easier to stay focused.



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LOGOS COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

3

Avoid taking study breaks mid assignment

Study breaks are important for avoiding burnout and maintaining overall focus over long study sessions. However, taking 10 seconds to check a notification on your phone often turns into 20 minutes of doom scrolling. Instead, commit to putting your phone away at the beginning of each assignment and to seeing an en-

tire assignment through before taking a break. This will prevent extra fatigue from setting in and will keep you from having to repeatedly return to the same assignment.



IMAGE COURTESY OF STOCKVAULT

Move your due dates ahead

One of the biggest problems with procrastination is not leaving yourself enough time to finish an assignment once you actually start it. A way to guard against this is by planning to do an assignment the day before it is due.

It isn't easy to break the pattern of procrastination, but you can limit its negative effects by planning for it. This strategy can help to replicate the pressure of having an assignment due that moves many people to start the work without any of the immediate potential consequences of not being able to finish on time.



IMAGE COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM

CLIPART COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS



Life

Food Fight:

does The Coop fly above its competition?

This semester, the University of Connecticut has welcomed The Coop as a new addition to its lineup at the Student Union. The Coop is located in the main hallway of floor one in the Union and serves similar options to the former restaurant One Plate, Two Plates, which closed last year.



Students waiting outside The Coop located in the UConn Student Union. The Coop just recently opened for the fall 2025 semester. PHOTO BY COLIN MITCHELL, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/DAILY CAMPUS

by Maleena Muzio
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While I cannot say that The Coop is really any different than the former One Plate, Two Plates, I can say I am glad UConn's chicken tenders have their own restaurant. The tenders deserve to have their own space, instead of being shoved into the corner of the Union Street Market like they were last semester.

The menu consists of chicken tenders, crispy chicken wraps and french fries. Unfortunately, the menu is fairly small, with only two different flavored wraps offered — barbeque and honey mustard. Rest in peace to the chicken burgers and salads that were once offered at One Plate, Two Plates.

Being a celiac myself, The Coop is one of my favorite plac-

es to eat on campus strictly because of the gluten free chicken tenders. While they are not exceptional, they are good, and that is good enough for me. The chicken tenders and fries flex pass meal is my go-to whenever I am in a rush to eat.

That brings me to possibly the best thing about The Coop — flex pass meals. In my time at UConn, the chicken tenders, both at One Plate, Two Plates and the Union Street Market, could only be bought with points or real dollars, so this addition is a huge plus.

The flex pass meal gets you a "small," which is three chicken tenders, french fries and a drink of choice. Flex passes cannot be used on the wraps, but that is not a huge loss anyway. In my opinion, the wraps are not worth spending points on, especially not the gluten-free ones.

The wrap is essentially just chopped up chicken tenders with lettuce, cheese, tomato and sauce. No thanks.

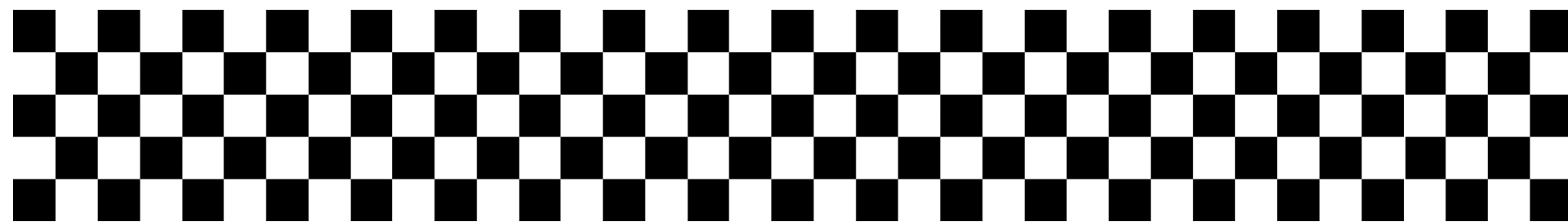
However, I would still call The Coop one of UConn's better off-brand restaurants and probably the best in the Student Union. Those chicken tenders and the speed at which they are prepared are really the new restaurant's saving grace and they're seemingly the most popular item.

The location of The Coop is also optimal. Separated from the chaos and congestion of the other dining chains, students are able to enjoy their chicken without the traffic which was present at the Union Street Market last semester. The Student Union is also relatively close to most students' classes, positioned in the center of campus.

With more redeeming quali-

ties than negative ones, I can deem The Coop as a good place to eat on campus. If you are gluten free like me, you will probably be a little more partial to it than most just because of the options offered. If you have not already tried the flex pass meal, I highly recommend it! Or if you are feeling bold, you can go for the larger option and get six tenders and fries. Luckily the new size options allow for more customizable meals, so choose whatever suits you best!

RATING: 3.5/5



by Maanya Pande
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Although the loss of One Plate, Two Plate was hard for some, the arrival of The Coop has been an excellent replacement. Not only has it brought back a daily option for chicken

tenders, but it also offers a flex pass meal, which increases the options for students with meal plans.

At The Coop, you can get small or large chicken tenders with fries or a wrap, which comes with a gluten-free option. Additionally, the flex pass meal consists of three chicken tenders, fries and a Dasani water bottle or a fountain drink. Although the menu is relatively small, it appeals to a lot of the community on campus. The line is wrapped around the corner nearly every day, so its success is non-arguable.

Another redeem-

ing quality of The Coop is the efficiency and speed at which the food is served. Though the lines are long, they don't take too much time to actually get through, a factor that is most appreciated by students.

Personally, The Coop is a refreshing option for food, because I'm not a vegetarian but I don't eat beef for religious reasons. This means that the arrival of Bear's Smokehouse was not the best option for me, since there are limited non-beef options there.

This expansion of food options at the Union is particularly helpful during that awkward 45-minute period between classes when most of the dining halls are closed. The dining hall

is always packed during that time, and the addition of The Coop has helped to spread the crowds of students and faculty throughout the Union.

Despite all these positive impacts and factors regarding The Coop, the location does pose a limitation for student organizations on campus. Located at the end of the Student Union Mall level, The Coop takes over a space that was utilized by student clubs in the past. Many organizations, especially cultural ones, would use the serving station space to hold food and drink fundraisers. Because The Coop is used in that space, limited in their options for these kinds of fundraisers. For example, the

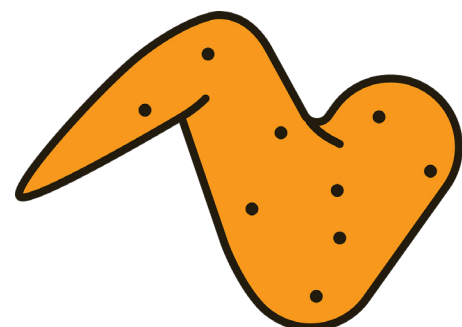
sorority Delta Phi Omega held a Dubai Chocolate Strawberry fundraiser in that area last semester.

Overall, the positives much outweigh the negatives of The Coop. Students have more selections for food at the Union. Additionally, the quality and efficiency of The Coop make it my personal favorite of the dining options at the Union.

RATING: 4/5



CLIPART COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS





Opinion

The Daily Campus

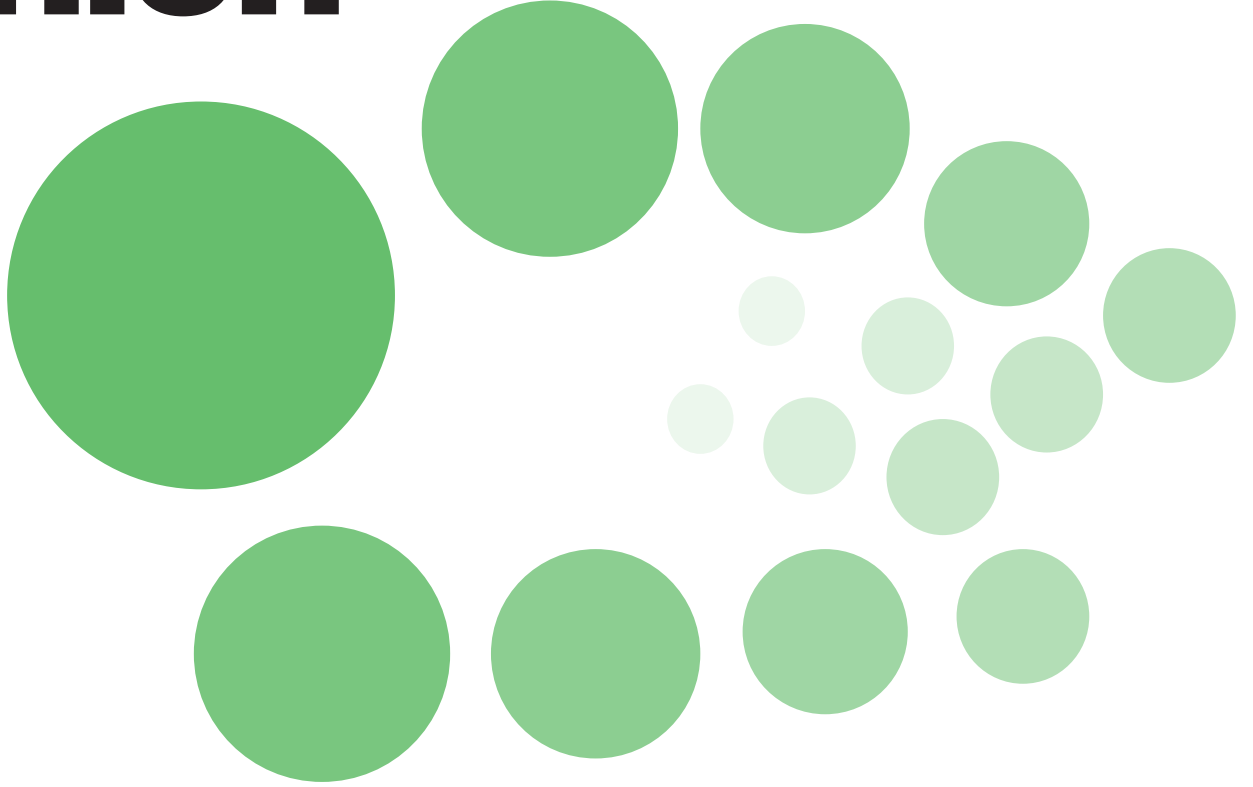
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Persistence in Our Resistance: Why Gaza Needs Us Now

by **Linda Allatene**
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Football cheering wasn't the only yelling coming from the Pratt & Whitney Stadium on Aug. 30. As fans gathered for the match between the Central Connecticut State University Blue Devils vs. the University of Connecticut Huskies in East Hartford, some students and community members took time to make their voices heard for another reason. Hosted by 21 organizations from within UConn and around the state of Connecticut, protesters assembled at the entrance of the stadium to speak out against Israel's ongoing assault on Gaza.

As the first protest within the community so far this academic year, this was a necessary reassertion of the community's opposition to the genocide at a critical moment where we, as students and youth, must be more vocal and persistent in our resistance.

Protesters gathered at the entrance at around 10 a.m., hours before the game was scheduled to start at 2 p.m. The turnout was approximately 25 participants which was less than expected, but unfortunately consistent with a trend of lower attendance at recent protests across Connecticut. Despite the smaller crowd, morale was high and voices were made louder to compensate for the fewer number. Demonstrators held signs such as "No More Wars for Profit" and "Israel stop bombing children... we'll stop demonstrating," which were displayed near traffic lights to spread their message to passing bystanders. Organizations like Healthcare Workers for Palestine, Veterans for Peace and UConn MSA appeared with posters, keffiyehs and courage to combat UConn and its Foundation's shameless investments in this genocide.

Protests surrounding UConn have been a result of Radenka Maric and her administration's unwavering support and relations

with their companies that directly aid the mass ethnic cleansing of Palestinians. UConn's direct ties with defense contractors such as Pratt & Whitney and Lockheed Martin made this game's location a direct target. Rentschler Field was previously owned by Pratt & Whitney, who plays a large role in the genocide by supplying military aircraft and equipment used by the Israeli Defense Force. This inevitably raises serious questions on where our university's morals and ethics truly lie.

These demonstrations within the community began long before, defined by opposition to Israel's occupation of Palestine, dating back to the 1900s. The near-total annexation of Palestinian land, particularly the Gaza strip, has unfolded with such a level of violence that people have been forced to take to the streets to revolt.

Global waves of protests have emerged in response to Israel's unjustifiable claim that their actions have been a result of self-defense. This resistance shows no stopping, including right here at UConn's season opener.

Protesters gathered at the entrance at around 10 a.m., hours before the game was scheduled to start at 2 p.m. The turnout was approximately 25 participants which was less than expected, but unfortunately consistent with a trend of lower attendance at recent protests across Conn. on October 7, resulting from opposition to Israel's occupation of Palestine, dating from the early 1900s. The near-total annexation of Palestinian land, particularly the Gaza strip, has unfolded with such a level of violence that people have been forced to take to the streets to revolt. Now, global waves of protests have emerged in response to Israel's unjustifiable claim that their most recent wave onslaught and starvation have been a result of self-defense. This resistance shows no stopping, including right here at UConn's season opener.

Activism surrounding the Is-



Protesters gather outside of Pratt & Whitney Stadium during the UConn vs CCSU football game. Many organizations came together to host this event. PHOTOS BY JIM BRASILE, VETERANS FOR PEACE CONNECTICUT

rael-Palestine genocide has been ongoing at our university, especially from student organizations like Hillel and Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP). Over the past year, SJP has maintained an active presence, aiding in Palestinian marches across CT and organizing study-ins in the Student Union and Babbidge Library. They have also co-hosted promi-

nent voices like Norman Finkelstein — the son of Holocaust survivors and a Jewish scholar who has publicly condemned Israel's actions in Gaza as genocidal.

There is a serious issue when society shifts from justifying why innocent lives shouldn't be killed to justifying why they deserve the right to live. There is a serious issue when denial persists, even

though no atrocity in history has ever been documented to this extent. And, most of all, there is a serious issue when society refuses to condemn the killing of a child simply because the word 'Palestinian' comes before it.

A person I deeply respect once said at a protest that it doesn't matter whether you were there on Oct. 7, 8 or any of the days that followed, what matters is being here now. Seeing the protestors gather, even in small numbers, was a reassurance and a reminder that the battle isn't over, even if the army isn't as large. Moving forward, there are plans to hold vigils at all the UConn home games for the rest of the season.

To anyone reading this who still holds an ounce of humanity, I appeal to you: use your voice. Speak a truth so rooted in justice that when the right side of history prevails, you can say you were part of it. As famine has been officially declared on the Gaza Strip, there is now an immediate responsibility and need for us to speak out.

So, for now, whether it's on UConn's campus, in the streets of New Haven or all the way over in Washington, D.C., the movement should never rest until the ones truly suffering can rest. If that means bringing the protests to the gates of a football game, so be it.



Opinion

Photo of the Day | Working through week three



A focused student competing in a game of pool at the Student Union Game Room in Storrs, Conn. The game took place on Monday, Sept. 8, 2025.

PHOTO BY NATHAN GALICINAO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

BEING WEIRD OR CRAZY DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A **BAD** THING

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**

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I never viewed being “weird” as a bad thing until coming to UConn and hearing the general rhetoric against weirdness all around this campus. Now, the fear and reality of being perceived as weird for acting and dressing in ways that are most comfortable for me make me dread going outside when I don’t have the mental bandwidth to be self-confident. I know there are others who feel similarly and are too afraid to be themselves due to the judgmental atmosphere. For all of our sakes, we need to build a better campus culture by collectively working to promote inclusivity for people who may not fit into certain molds of conforming and complicity.

Around UConn, you’re likely bound to hear someone in earshot calling someone or something else “weird” or “crazy.” These are terms so ingrained in our cultural vocabulary that they’re difficult to stop using in a negative light. But what do these terms mean historically so that we know how to move forward with the usages of these words?

“Weird” used to mean “fate” or “destiny” in old English, but Shakespeare popularized the term as to mean “supernatural.” Then, the word became a synonym for words like “unnatural” or “uncanny” and eventually became pejorative and negative to some.

The word “crazy” is comparatively less optimistic. It used to just be a verb: craze, meaning something along the lines of “to break.” Then the term evolved into “crazy,” meaning “physically sick.” Then it became “broken.” In the 1600s, however, the term became used for those with mental illness, which has now become the primary definition of the word. It then took on the use of defining and persecuting mental illness along with other ableist terminology. These words have a certain baggage to them that normalizes oppressing people who don’t fit in to the neurotypical and “mentally stable” mindsets.

The mentally ill and neurodivergent have consistently been persecuted in history. This targeting survives not only physically, but rhetorically and societally today. In the past you would casually hear a mental health profession refer to someone else as “crazy” or an adjacent term for a divergent mental condition in the mental

hospital as a demeaning term. Avoiding the use of these terms doesn’t change the atrocities inflicted on these groups in the past, but we can only strive to be better than our ancestors. It starts with actions led by knowledgeable intentions.

It’s not only the word choice, though. It’s also the inability to understand that there will be people who are different from you with different mindsets, capabilities and interests. At the very least, we need to be more conscious and constructive with our judgments instead of going through the popular motions.

Weirdness is a lonely and isolating virtue. It shows that you defy the grain, the social norms, and that you’re an individual rather than someone who conforms. Self-expression may be cathartic, but being shunned for showing authenticity leads many people to become insecure, lonely and depressed. It’s disgusting how so many are willing to hate without trying to come to an understanding.

There have been studies that have shown how approximately half of young adults in Gen Z don’t feel a sense of purpose in what they do. This leads to a sense of detachment within many people in Gen Z for others. I am of the belief that this apathy for our own lives feeds into this apathy for others and vice versa. It’s easier then, to want to see others suffering instead of critically thinking, tolerating and treating people like they matter. This lack of open-mindedness is toxic, unguided and inaccessible.

Self-confidence and mental stability seem to be delicacies in Gen Z. Resources to Recover, a mental health awareness and support organization, noted the mental health crisis in Gen Z. They were not the first to realize this. People are also increasingly impulsive to judge others instead of even making an attempt to see many of the nuances and angles that any one situation has. I somewhat attribute this to the combining of political and social media cultures requiring information to be on demand and creating this distinct “us versus them” mindset without looking rationally. It’s important to learn about struggles beyond your own, which ultimately makes you a more open-minded and empathetic human being.

There are many weird people out there who may or may not also be mentally ill or “crazy,” but that is far from a bad thing. We are kindred spirits. Although we can’t change the past, we need to build a better



Students explore opportunities to get involved at the Fall 2025 Involvement Fair. Hundreds of clubs lined Fairfield way looking for new members. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

future for people like us: one where we can be accepted for everything we represent and continue to challenge the status quo together. This world is sickeningly isolating and now more than ever we need to build community. Take it from me, UConn:

it’s a good thing to be weird and it doesn’t automatically make you a bad person. You think and do things distinctly and uniquely. You aren’t afraid of expressing what the typical person would be conditioned to think is “flawed.” To the

typical people: hearing a non-conformer out might open your mind to other perspectives you may not have thought about before. Isn’t that valuable to you in an institution that supposedly prioritizes open-minded education?

COMIC OF THE DAY



BY NOA CLIMOR

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH COORDINATOR

The March to April: ACC Basketball Preview Part I

by Jake McCreven

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The Atlantic Coast Conference's slump the past four seasons has sent five teams to the Final Four (the most out of any league during that span) and eight to the Elite 8, while simultaneously producing 31 NBA Draft selections and a National POTY.

Yet the conference has been marred in mediocrity, subject to wide-stream criticism for its painfully average overall finishes and its tournament team's premature exits come March.

The conference hasn't finished with a ranking higher than fifth at KenPom since the COVID-stricken 2020 season (fourth). It hasn't claimed a national title since Tony Bennett and the Virginia Cavaliers won it all in 2019. That's before COVID, or, let me rephrase, pre-historic.

Its ever-so-slow dilapidation can be characterized by the fall of its middle-tier programs; Virginia, Louisville, Florida State, Notre Dame and Miami combined for 14 NCAA Tournament bids from 2016-2019. They've made the tournament a combined five times since 2022.

The conference's supposed solution? Fatten up. It swelled to 18 teams last year, welcoming Cal, Stanford and SMU. None of them made the NCAA Tournament, as the ACC sent a measly four teams to the big dance - the SEC nearly quadrupled that number.

Coaching Changes

Three veteran coaches stepped down at various points last season.

Virginia's Bennett most notably retired three weeks before the Cavaliers' opener, citing the state of college basketball for his abrupt departure.

Jim Larranaga guided Miami 448 wins, a Final Four in 2023 and a No. 5 finish in the 2013 AP Poll, resigning in mid-December with 54 more wins than any other coach in program history.

Florida State's Leonard Hamilton stepped down after 23 years at the helm in Tallahassee. He retired with double the

amount of wins than any other Seminole coach and eight of the program's 18 NCAA Tournament appearances.

That's a lot of history heading out the door. In fact, the conference has hired 14 new head coaches since 2021 - replacing 10 national titles and 32 Final Fours.

Ryan Odom (UVA), Jai Lucas (Miami) and Luke Loucks (FSU) are the apparent heirs at their respective programs.

Odom, who's coached all over the Division I landscape, landed his first "Power" conference job with the Cavaliers. Since he took over Charlotte in 2014, Odom sports a career record of 201-117, reaching the NCAA Tournament three times. He's off the heels of his best coaching job, guiding VCU through a thorny A-10 conference by claiming its regular and post season titles.

Lucas landed his first head coaching gig this spring after the Canes tapped him from Duke, which had promoted him to associate head coach in 2023. Lucas is revered as one of the country's premier recruiters.

Loucks spent four years at Florida State as a player before jumping to the NBA level, where he has elevated in role each year since 2016. Loucks won two NBA championships during his time in Golden State and immediately ushering in a winning pedigree.

A fourth coach, Kevin Keatts (NC State), was fired. After bringing the Wolfpack to the Final Four in 2024, Keatts notched the second-lowest win total of his coaching career in 2025. The Wolfpack finished 12-19, winning just five conference games while stumbling to a 16th place finish in the ACC.

The Wolfpack went to the mid-major level in search of his replacement. McNeese State's Will Wade was poached after - or, maybe, before - the Cowboys' win over Clemson in the NCAA Tournament.

Wade brings in winning experience at the collegiate level, previously heading LSU during its stretch of three NCAA Tournaments in four seasons. He's made it to March the last four years he's coached, winning

two games in that span.

Transfer Portal and Recruiting

Duke spearheaded the national recruiting trail, edging Houston's four-prospect class (95.4) to finish with Rivals' top-ranked group (97.2). Linchpin Cameron Boozer is a projected top pick in the 2026 NBA Draft and was Jon Scheyer's top get. The Blue Devils have finished with a top two recruiting class every year since 2014, according to Rivals' industry ranking system.

SMU and Notre Dame also finished with top 10 classes nationally. The Mustangs finished with four four-stars while the Irish welcome three of their own, respectively.

NC State (No. 12), North Carolina (No. 15) and Miami (No. 21) finished with top 25 classes. It's the Tar Heels' lowest finish since 2021 (Rivals).

Syracuse led the conference in the transfer portal according to On3 Sports. Florida State finished second, welcoming seven new faces to Tallahassee. NC State used the portal the most, receiving commitments from eight players. Virginia and North Carolina finished at the bottom of the conference, with UVA suffering 11 portal exits under its regime change.

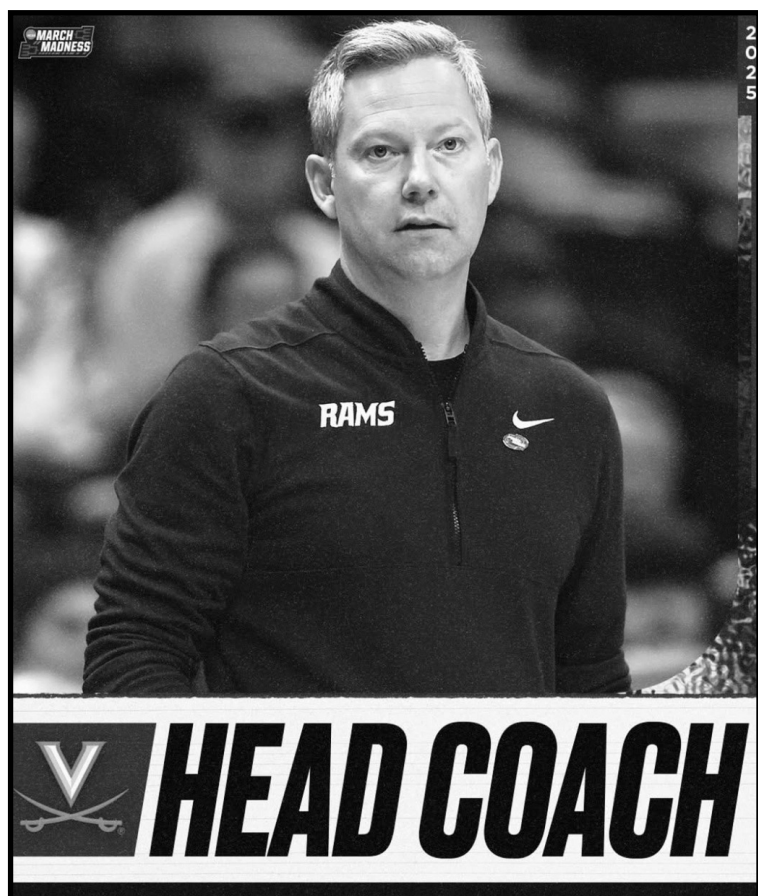
As is the case with every conference in college basketball, there are transfers to keep tabs on. Here are a few that could make a run for an all-conference team: Darrion Williams (TTU to NCST), Henri Veessaar (UA to UNC), Carson Towt (NAU to ND), Tre Donaldson (UM to Miami).

All-Conference...

First Team: G Markus Burton (Notre Dame), G JJ Starling (Syracuse), G Mikel Brown (Louisville), F Cameron Boozer (Duke), F Darrion Williams (NCST)

Second Team: G Isaiah Evans (Duke), G Braeden Shrewsbury (Notre Dame), G Donald Hand (BC), F Nick Davidson (Clemson), F Carson Towt (Notre Dame)

Freshman Team: G Dame Sarr (Duke), G Mikel Brown (Louisville), F Shelton Henderson (Miami), F Cameron Boozer (Duke), F Caleb Wilson (UNC).



Ryan Odom, the new head coach for the University of Virginia. Odom was previously the coach for Virginia Commonwealth University's Rams. PHOTO COURTESY OF @MARCHMADNESS ON INSTAGRAM



Coach Leonard Hamilton at a basketball game. Hamilton stepped down after 23 years of coaching Florida State University's Seminoles. PHOTO COURTESY OF @OSCEOLADAILY ON INSTAGRAM

THE FANTASY FORECAST

by Chase Cassidy

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The first of 18 weeks in the NFL's 106th season have come to an end, which either means you can brag to your friends that your Fantasy Football team is undefeated, or the doubts of that first-round pick are starting to creep in. Either way, you're looking to bump up the win column this week and luckily, you've come to the right place.

Dos and Don'ts

Whether it's a friend group, family, resident hall, staff or random league you find yourself in, coaching a Fantasy Football team is difficult. Making the right calls and executing them with perfect timing requires a great deal of focus and determination. However, here are a few quick tips to help you on your journey to glory and triumph.

Don't panic! Week 1 is often filled with blowouts and upsets, so if you got crushed by someone who seems like a Fantasy guru, it's okay - these things happen. Do make sure your bench is healthy, all your starters are active for this week, and that you're checking on their status daily.

Don't make any blockbuster trades yet, as the season has just rolled out and anything can happen in the NFL. Do look at the free agency and see if anyone has foolishly dropped a player too valuable to be left on

waivers.

Don't cut the guy you thought was going to drop 20 this week - and the players are now getting used to being under the lights. Do read up on practice reports to see who is catching the coach's eye and who's taking a back seat for the upcoming week.

Start, Bench, Cut

This week was filled with a lot of ups and downs in usual Week 1 fashion. While some players excelled on the gridiron, others seemed to have dropped the ball (no pun intended). Heading into Week 2 here are three quarterbacks that should either be started, benched or cut from the roster based on their performance this past Sunday.

Let's start with Harbaugh's "half beast, half man," Justin Herbert. Facing off against the AFC champion Kansas City Chiefs, Herbert threw for 318 yards, making 25 completions in 34 attempts. The sixth-year veteran looked like Philip Rivers in Sao Paulo while leading the Chargers to a 27-21 victory. This week, he'll look to continue that undefeated record against the Las Vegas Raiders, who just gave up a 287-yard performance by New England Patriot Mac Jones. If Justin Herbert is one of the few quarterbacks on your roster, it would be wise to have him start when he steps into Allegiant Stadium. His three-touchdown performance against the Chiefs is a promising sign.

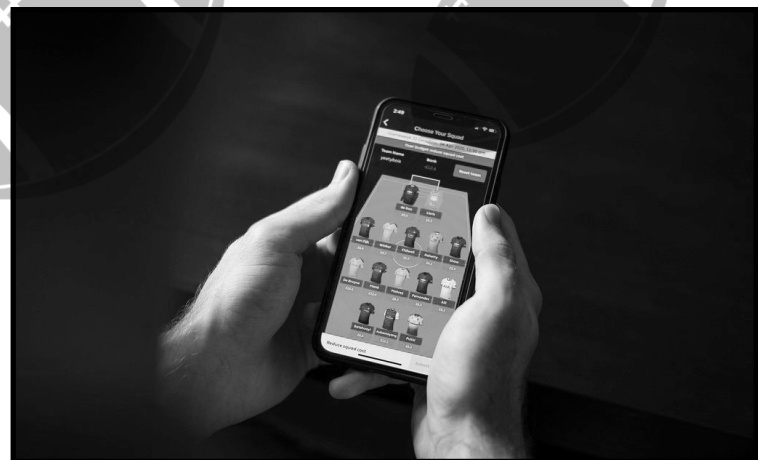
Moving from the west coast

to the east, you'll find seasoned pro Russell Wilson struggling in the Meadowlands in his 14th year as an NFL quarterback. Throwing for the New York Giants in a crushing 21-6 loss against the Washington Commanders, Wilson finds a "let's ride" into the bench category for Week 2. Managers of Fantasy Football teams should look for other options, as the former Seahawk legend threw for 168 yards with a 45.9% completion rate. Wilson truly showed his age this Sunday as he completed zero touchdowns and only racked up 11.12 Fantasy points. As he looks to face the hungry Dallas Cowboys this Sunday in AT&T Stadium, Fantasy coaches should put #3 on the back burner. Giants rookie Jaxon Dart might even see the field for the first time this season too, making Russell Wilson even less desirable.

To wrap things up, we head down to the Carolinas and find Bryce Young, who continues to display a weak performance. To open the season, the Carolina Panthers battled against Trevor Lawrence and the Jacksonville Jaguars. Young threw for 154 yards and completed a low of 18 passes on 35 attempts. The former Crimson Tide quarterback has struggled to make a statement in his NFL journey, and this past performance is living proof. Costing the Panthers two turnovers, Young lost 26-10 to begin the season 0-1. For those who held onto hope that things would turn around for the third year Panther, it isn't looking

so swell as the Panthers will face Budda Baker and the Arizona Cardinals this week in the Grand Canyon State. If Bryce Young is one of your quarterbacks, it's time to release him

to the world of waivers and survey for another backup. To recap, start Herbert, bench Wilson, and cut Young if you want to succeed this Sunday. Best of luck Huskies.



A person utilizing a fantasy football app on their mobile device. Fantasy football first emerged in 1962. PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR



The Carolina Panther's Bryce Young at a football game. Young was first drafted by the NFL in 2023. PHOTO COURTESY OF @BRYCEYOUNG ON INSTAGRAM

Sports

Photo of the Day | Field Hockey



UConn women's field hockey secure a home opener win against Brown on Sept. 7, 2025. Winning with a 3-2 score, the Huskies start the season with a 3-1 record. PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

THE GOAT YARD: THE REEMERGENCE OF CHARLIE CONDON

by Thaddeus Sawyer
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If you've been to a Yard Goats game over the past few months, you probably noticed Colorado Rockies top prospect Charlie Condon. It's hard not to notice the 6-foot-6 first baseman. The 22-year-old slugger had an August to remember with the Goats, hitting six home runs in 25 games and putting up an OPS of .998. That kind of heater at the plate has sparked talks that a promotion to Triple A isn't too far off for Condon.

Condon was picked by Colorado third overall in the 2024 MLB draft. Getting selected would probably have been a long shot when Condon joined the Georgia Bulldogs as a walk-on in 2022. Redshirting that year to work on adding muscle to his then 6-foot-5-frame, Condon first saw the field for Georgia in 2023. The redshirt freshman burst onto the scene with one of the greatest freshman seasons in school history. As Baseball America's Freshman of the Year, he won the team's Triple Crown with a .386 average, 67 RBIs, and 25 home runs.

Condon's 2024 follow up was one of the greatest seasons in college baseball history. The righty slugger set the BBCOR bat era-record with 37 home runs and slashed an astronomical .433/.556/1.009. Condon won just about every award a college baseball player can receive, winning the Golden Spikes and Bobby Bragan Slugger Award and receiving the Dick Howser Trophy.

After tying the record for the highest draft bonus ever received with a payout of 9.25 million dollars, Condon was assigned to the High-A Spokane Indians. Despite being less than two months removed from the final game of his historic season with the Bulldogs, the wheels fell off for Condon over a month's worth of games with Spokane. Over 25 games, Condon put up an OPS of just .518 with only one home run while striking out in 31 percent of his plate appearances.

"I was dealing with a hand injury that I played through that first year of pro ball," Condon

said in an interview with FanGraphs. "That's just baseball, man. It's part of the learning experience, and you have to be able to accept failure and take the positives out of it."

The second-year pro had to wait for a chance to rebound, as he fractured his left wrist in March during spring training. Upon his return to the instructional leagues, he initially only played defense. Condon fell down multiple prospect rankings, as Baseball America slid him from 16 to 52, while FanGraphs dropped him out of their top 100 entirely. When Condon did get back in the batter's box, however, the results were reminiscent of the slugger the Rockies hoped they would get at third overall.

Condon tore through the Arizona Complex League to earn a promotion back to Spokane. This time, Condon was one of the better players in the Northwest League. He was fourth in hits and third in walks for the month of June and cut his strikeout rate down to 21%, earning himself a trip to the All-Star Futures Game and a promotion to Double A Hartford to begin July. There was an adjustment period over Condon's first month at the Double A level, as he got on base at only a .295 rate in his first month. Yet again, Condon showed his ability to rebound. He crushed the ball in August with a triple slash of .289/.409/.589. He also has two home runs in six games to start September.

"The margin for error gets a lot smaller (at the Double A level)," Condon said in an interview with MLB.com. "Just being able to stick to your approach and really trust in that and not get away from it because, if you do, it'll show."

Condon has quickly become a fan favorite among Yard Goats fans. Both kids and adults at Dunkin' Park can be found lining both ends of the dugout trying to get a signature or photo from Condon, who is known to be generous with his time. It isn't uncommon to see a fan walking around wearing a Georgia jersey with Condon's collegiate number 24 on the back. A photo from early in his Yard Goats tenure was featured on the cover of the August edi-

tion of the team's souvenir program.

"This is the gold standard here, it's always a good crowd," Condon said in the MLB.com interview. "To have this as home and to have these fans out here every night, we're lucky," he said. Condon also added that having the fans there makes it more fun to come to the park every night to play.

Condon may not be with Hartford for much longer, as the team's regular season ends this week with a road series against the Richmond Flying Squirrels. A promotion to Triple A could soon follow. That could change if Hartford finishes within the top two of the Eastern League Northeast standings, a position which they currently sit 3.5 games back of. For a team that will need a strong week in Virginia to make a late playoff push, they couldn't ask for a more levelheaded player to be at the center of that effort.

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

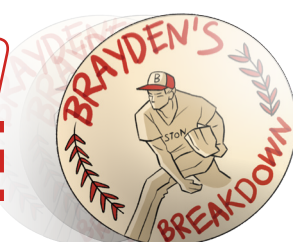


Players high five at a Yard Goats game. The Goat's Charlie Condon hit six home runs in 25 games across August. PHOTO COURTESY OF @RLEEPRODUCTIONS ON INSTAGRAM



The Yard Goat's Charlie Condon on a baseball field. Condon had an OPS of .998 for August. PHOTO COURTESY OF @CHARLIECONDON24 ON INSTAGRAM

BRAYDEN'S BREAKDOWN: BOSTON RED SOX SUMMER RECAP



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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So much has changed since the last edition of Brayden's Breakdown where I previewed the summer ahead for the Boston Red Sox. The team has revamped and rejuvenated themselves into a playoff spot with a month to go in the regular season. A turbulent season will culminate in a huge stretch of games against the division leading Blue Jays, the archrival Yankees and a very good Detroit Tigers team.

As I recap the Red Sox summer, I will also look back on some of the comments and predictions I made in the summer preview.

Let's start with Rafael Devers and his dramatic departure

from Boston. After a rocky off-season and a historically slow start to the season, Devers was traded to the San Francisco Giants on Father's Day. Since the trade, the Giants have fallen to 72-71 after acquiring Devers with a 41-31 record while the Red Sox own one of the best records in the league since the trade. Both the Red Sox and Devers had different ideas about the future of their partnership, and the trade has proven to be a positive for both teams. Despite his teams struggles, Devers has been raking since August started and has become a first baseman for San Francisco. The Red Sox have had their own individual success and seem to have moved past the drama to try and win a World Series.

The trio of Roman Anthony, Marcelo Mayer and Kristian

Campbell was a hot point of discussion during the spring. At the time of my last article, Campbell was doing well in the majors while Anthony and Mayer were in Triple-A. The tide has completely shifted as Campbell has been in Triple-A since June, Mayer played decent before a season-ending wrist injury and Anthony was playing exceptionally well before a recent oblique injury sidelined him for possibly the rest of the season.

Credit to Chief Baseball Officer Craig Breslow and manager Alex Cora for handling the situation well with all three players. The future of the team looks very promising.

The pitching staff had an up and down first few months, but they have really found their groove. Aroldis Chapman is having the best season of his illustrious career at age 37. He has not allowed a hit since July, his ERA is creeping under 1 and he is 29 for 31 in save situations. The Cuban flamethrower, who also signed an extension for next year with the club, will receive Cy Young votes for his unreal season.

Garrett Crochet will likely lose the Cy Young to Tarik Skubal, however his efforts this season have given life to the Sox pitching staff. Crochet leads the league in strikeouts and innings pitched while maintaining a 2.67 ERA. He has been amazing all season with only a few rough starts and there is no one else Red Sox fans would rather have in the first game of a playoff series.

Alongside Crochet, Brayan Bello and Lucas Giolito have really stepped up as second and third starters. The trio has been dominant since June and has continuously set the game up for the backend of the bullpen. Pitchers like Garrett Whitlock, Justin Wilson and trade deadline acquisition Steven Matz have locked up the back of the bullpen in Boston.

The bats have been good for the most part with free agent acquisition Alex Bregman being

a highlight in the lineup. The former Houston Astro was solid before his quad injury and has remained solid since returning at the all-star break. Trevor Story has finally produced a healthy season in Boston. Story has 23 home runs, 88 RBIs and he is a perfect 27 for 27 in stolen bases.

In my previous article I questioned if Carlos Narvaez could sustain decent play for the whole season, I was wrong. The catcher is hitting .247 while also playing the best defense a Red Sox catcher has played in years.

Other lineup mainstays like Jarren Duran and Willyer Abreu have been great this year, but Abreu went down with a calf strain in August and his return is still TBD. Duran is not exactly his monster 2024 self, yet his hustle and continued defensive improvements kept him off the trade block at the deadline and ensured his spot in the new look Red Sox.

Defense has been inconsis-

tent, which has been the theme for the past few years. The Sox lead the league in errors with 0.74 per game. One defender who has not been inconsistent is Ceddanne Rafaela. The centerfielder, who also occasionally plays second base, provides a highlight almost every night in the outfield. He has also been the clutch player on the team, hitting the only two go ahead homeruns in the ninth inning for Boston all season. Caddy will have huge at bats in the postseason and will no doubt come in clutch like he has all season.

The last two players I want to highlight are Nathaniel Lowe and Romy Gonzalez, who have provided timely hits for the Red Sox the past month and will be vital in October.

Fall is coming and the 79-65 Red Sox will be battling for a playoff spot. If October comes around and they are still in the mix, expect anything and everything to happen at Fenway just like it has since 2004.



Player Trevor Story at the Red Sox vs Arizona Diamondbacks game. Story debuted for the MLB in April 2016. PHOTO COURTESY OF @REDSOX ON INSTAGRAM



Player Ceddanne Rafaela at the Red Sox vs Cleveland Guardians game. Rafaela has been playing for the Red Sox since Aug. 2023. PHOTO COURTESY OF @REDSOX ON INSTAGRAM

THE PUCK DROP: NHL HOLDS ANNUAL ROOKIE SHOWCASE

FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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Every young up-and-coming hockey player dreams of getting drafted to the National Hockey League and having their very own Upper Deck trading card.

31 prospects from the NHL had both of those dreams come true last week in Arlington, Va. when they gathered for the annual rookie showcase.

This group of future NHL players had the chance to participate in filming various videos for EA sports, have their photos taken for their very first Upper Deck card as well as other promotional content for the league.

"Me and my buddies would always trade cards and do all that stuff. I mean, I know a lot of guys were really into it. I was definitely into it, and I'd trade. But it's pretty cool to see you on a first card. I mean, so surreal," Matthew Schaefer said in an article for the NHL, "you would never think that maybe one day you'd be there, when you're a young kid, and then it becomes real."

Schaefer, a 6-foot-2 defenseman, was drafted first overall this past June by the New York Islanders and is expected to make waves in the organization.

Along with Schaefer, TJ Iginla, son of former NHL player Jarome Iginla and a 2024 NHL draft pick for the Utah Mammoth, had the opportunity to take in the showcase as well.

Iginla said in an article for the NHL that instead of collecting the trading cards, the forward

enjoyed collecting autographed items, stating that they are timeless.

Just like Iginla, Ryan Leonard, who was drafted by the Washington Capitals in 2023, did not collect trading cards as a child either, but said that seeing his own trading card felt surreal.

These types of events are perfect for these young players to meet other rookies from the league, before the season officially starts and they start playing with the veterans from their respective teams.

The players had the chance to interact with each other on-and-off the ice as well as open different packs of cards with one another.

"Just seeing my card from last year, it just puts a new and different perspective that it's kind of here now," Leonard said to the NHL, "it's a lot different than growing up and you're collecting or seeing people's cards. But now you're kind of a part of it, which is really cool and honoring."



ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF CREAZILLA



NHL rookie TJ Iginla who was the NHL draft pick for the Utah Mammoth in 2024. TJ is the son of former NHL player Jarome Iginla. PHOTO COURTESY OF @NHL ON INSTAGRAM



Matthew Schaefer, the number one NHL pick, at the annual rookie showcase in Arlington, Va. Schaefer was drafted first overall by the New York Islanders this past June. PHOTO COURTESY OF @MATTHEW.SCHAEFER48 ON INSTAGRAM



Sports

HUSKIES IN THE PROS: BREAKING DOWN THE HUSKIES' PERFORMANCES IN AUGUST

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Paige Bueckers:
Paige Bueckers became the 10th WNBA player to win Rookie of the Month three consecutive times. In August, the 23-year-old averaged just over 20 points, nearly 4 rebounds and 5 assists within 31 and a half minutes per game. Against the Los Angeles Sparks on Aug. 20, the former Husky contributed 44 points, shooting 13 of 17 (76.5%) attempts from the field and draining all four tries from deep. This not only solidified the most points scored so far in the 2025 stretch but also tied the rookie record for most points scored. Additionally, Bueckers joined Caitlin Clark as the second first-year player to reach 500-plus points, 150-plus assists, 100-plus rebounds and 50-plus steals in a campaign. As players start receiving All-WNBA First Team votes, seeing the guard make the list should come as no surprise. The reigning National champ is the only player who ranks top 10 in points per game, assists per game and steals per game. As the 2025 regular season concludes, BetMGM favors "Paige Buckets" for Rookie of the Year.

Napheesa Collier:
Napheesa Collier suffered an ankle sprain against the Las Vegas Aces on Aug. 2, sidelining her for seven clashes. The 28-year-old's MVP-caliber run resumed on Aug. 24 versus the Indiana Fever, where she topped the team with 32 points and nine boards. The forward knocked down 9 of 13 (69.2%) shots from within the paint and nailed two of three (66.7%) attempts from downtown. The forward not only bounced back from injury but also passed Sylvia Fowles for the fourth-most points accumulated in franchise history, with 3,491 points. To add on, the former Husky leads the Minnesota Lynx with 23 and a half points, 7 and a half rebounds and nearly 2 steals per contest. Despite enduring several injuries this year, Collier is still the runaway favorite in the MVP race, per BetMGM.

Breanna Stewart:
Similar to Collier, Breanna Stewart sustained a right knee bone bruise on July 26, resulting in her missing 13 meetings. The reigning WNBA champ returned on Aug. 25 versus the Connecticut Sun, dropping 19 points, burying just four of 10 (40%) two-point-

ers and botching a pair of shots from beyond the arc. Most of the 31-year-old's points emerged from the free-throw line, cashing in 11 of 13 (84.6%) attempts. With three matchups remaining, "Stewie" averages 18 points, 6 and a half boards and 3 and a half assists per game.

Gabby Williams:
Gabby Williams logged 10 and a half points, 4 rebounds and nearly 4 assists in August. The 28-year-old continues leading the Seattle Storm with just over two steals per face-off. Williams struggled from all ranges versus the Sparks on Sept. 1, making just 4 of 8 (50%) field goal attempts and mishandling all four deep shots. The same story carried into Friday night's battle against the New York Liberty, contributing 7 points, 5 boards and 3 assists. The forward cashed in just two of seven buckets from within the perimeter, sinking one of two tries from downtown. The Storm plays their season finale contest versus the Golden State Valkyries on Tuesday at 10 p.m.

Aaliyah Edwards:
The Washington Mystics traded Aaliyah Edwards to the Connecticut Sun on Aug. 7. With the Mystics, the forward posted a little more than 6 points, nearly 3 and a half rebounds and just under half an assist per meeting. Since the new beginning, Edwards registered 5 and a half points, 3 and a half boards and dishing out about half of an assist per game from off the bench.

Kaitlyn Chen:
The Golden State Valkyries waived Kaitlyn Chen on May 14, then re-signed her on June 15. The off-the-bench guard faced challenges shooting, knocking down just under a point and averaging nearly eight and a half minutes per clash in August.

Honorable Mention:
The WNBA inducted Sue Bird and Mia Moore into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on Saturday.

Bird played for the Storm for 19 years, recording a little under 12 points, two and a half rebounds and slightly over five and a half assists. The 13-time WNBA All-Star also won four championships with the team (2004, 2010, 2018, 2020).

Moore played for the Lynx for eight years, dropping nearly 18 and a half points, close to 6 boards and a little over 3 assists per contest. With the franchise, Moore won four championships (2011, 2013, 2015, 2017).



Paige Bueckers and Napheesa Collier warming up for the WNBA all-star game. Bueckers became the 10th WNBA player to win Rookie of the Month three consecutive times. PHOTO COURTESY OF @PAIGEBUECKERS ON INSTAGRAM



Breanna Stewart visiting former husky Sue Bird's state in Seattle Wa. Sue Bird graduated from UConn in 2002. PHOTO COURTESY OF @NYLIBERTY ON INSTAGRAM

