

## UConn SAWEA gathers for Women's History Month event

by Victoria Esteves  
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In honor of March's Women's History Month, the South Asian Women's Empowerment Association hosted their second annual women's panel on Monday, March 24.

The panel consisted of a Q&A portion, audience interaction and communal dialogue. The purpose of this workshop was to foster meaningful and effective conversation through representation and community, said the social justice and empowerment event coordinator Krisha Grigaliunas.

The first panelist was Anushka Shah, a junior allied health sciences major and communications minor at the University of Connecticut. For Shah, empowerment meant finding spaces that made her feel comfortable. She said joining her sorority, Kappa Phi Gamma Sorority, Inc., and becoming a pivotal leader within her sorority early on opened a lot of doors for accepting her identity and letting go of "cultural guilt." Within an academic setting, Shah said that actively searching for and prioritizing opportunities has been an effective way she has advocated for herself.

"Advocating for myself came from also speaking up, and making sure my voice was heard, and that my contributions mattered, and it didn't matter about, like, external validation," she stated. "I think that also comes from kind of letting go of embarrassment or cringe. I think that was what was stopping me from doing certain things."

When facing stereotypes, Shah has found herself dealing with the "Big Three: doctor, engineer, or lawyer." But for her, continuing her studies on the path to becoming a dentist has come completely by her own choice. "I was never the stereotype

of the super smart brown kid that was at the top of her class and had all the answers to the homework," she said. "So for me, this was also about just genuinely working hard and finding opportunities myself...and dismantling that kind of pressure."

The second panelist was international Ph.D. student Alina Ahmed in the philosophy department. Her work focuses on decolonial feminism from a global nationalist perspective. Ahmed was born in Pakistan, where she worked in the development sector and organized political activism. Her views of empowerment come from a dif-

ferent perspective to the neoliberal western conception.

"Empowerment from our culture, with our industries, keeping our epistemes and knowledge systems in mind and not looking to the west for empowerment, because there isn't just one type of empowerment that exists out there," Ahmed said.

Ahmed shared her personal struggles with advocating for herself during her time in the United States.

"Every room I walk into, I have to prove myself that I'm smart enough, or that I'm capable enough... and it just sucks because that's the state of the world



Anushka Shah, Alina Ahmed, Bhoomi Thakore, and Niharika Yellamraju sit down for a panel in honor of Women's History Month. The panel was hosted by the South Asian Women's Empowerment Association (SAWEA). PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

right now" she shared.

When combating these microaggressions, Ahmed said she tries to actively be more straightforward with others when they make assumptions about her place.

"And sometimes, very frankly, just calling it out. Saying, I don't think that was appropriate. I don't think that was a good thing to say," she added.

When asked about common stereotypes South Asian women face, Ahmed commented that the common consensus was that she had to be very quiet, submissive and meek. Ahmed, however, said she is quite the opposite.

"Anyone who knows me knows I have too many opinions and I'm very loud. I don't care about a lot of the ways people perceive me," she said with a smile.

She said her identity as a Shia Muslim has taught her to prioritize justice and seeking equality. Her upbringing drives her to do the research she does with in activism and striving for the pursuit of justice.

The third panelist was associate professor in the department of sociology, Bhoomi Thakore, who researches South Asian representation in media. One of the biggest misconceptions Thakore has actively dismantled is the ideology that all South Asians are in STEM. She said not just South Asians, but many academics of color undergo the misconception that they pursue what

is often referred to as "me-search." Me-search is rooted in the idea that academics of color only pursue research that particularly pertains to their history or identity.

"I think it's highly problematic because it certainly contributes to minimizing the problems that people of color face in society. But it fails to acknowledge the relevance of those kinds of positions of inquiry to everyone," she said.

Thakore also brought up the matter of marginalized groups who need to fight for equal opportunity within the academic field. She explained how these groups are at a disadvantage because they essentially work harder to access the same doors more privileged groups have access to. Her advice is to look into the opportunities that feel the most authentic to the individual and forget about stereotypes and expectations when considering your own path.

Thakore's parents immigrated to the United States in the 1960s and faced all sorts of disparities being part of a small minority group at the time. She describes how her parents tried to assimilate her into American professional spaces.

"Not having an accent, not having that overt mark of 'otherness' or brown ethnicity. But also to be articulate... I think that was something instilled in me from a very early age," she explained.

The fourth panelist was an MFA graduate from Boston University, Niharika Yel-

lamraju. Yellamraju grew up in a more diverse world around the Middle East and lived on her own beginning at age 15. She said she takes great pride in her research as a graduate student

in design and art history.

Yellamraju's family consisted of mainly artists and teachers, which pushed her to continue her education through many postgraduate programs. She described

how she faced the misconceptions of me-search firsthand.

"It's not only design. We talk about philosophy, sociology, representation, STEM even..." she said. "By showing them the scope that we



have, by introducing technology, by introducing interdisciplinary themes into these, was something that kind of worked to break that kind of stereotype people had of us South Asians."

Yellamraju describes her upbringing as strengthened by the women around her. She was able to grow up to appreciate art and her culture through these role models. "One major thing that

helped me be South Asian is not being afraid of running out of ideas," she stated.

Her experiences in many different areas and cultures within the South Asian community fostered her own inspiration for her research.

At the end of the panel, Ahmed stated what gives her hope in uncertain times where women are often forgotten in society: "Community and solidarity, seeing brilliant women

like Dr. Bhoomi just existing."

"The emerging generation of women, especially South Asian women, who are empowered to build this community and lean into this community to hold events like this. I mean, I didn't have events like this growing up. So, I really had a disadvantage, so I think creating a space to have these conversations is a big first step." Thakore concluded.

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## News

# What does the future hold for UConn LEGO robotics teams?

by **Juliana Assis**  
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Since 1998, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) and LEGO Education have partnered to create the FIRST Lego League (FLL) program. On March 19, FIRST released a statement revealing that their partnership with LEGO Education would not be renewed after the 2026-27 season, leaving a UConn sponsored FLL team unsure about their future.

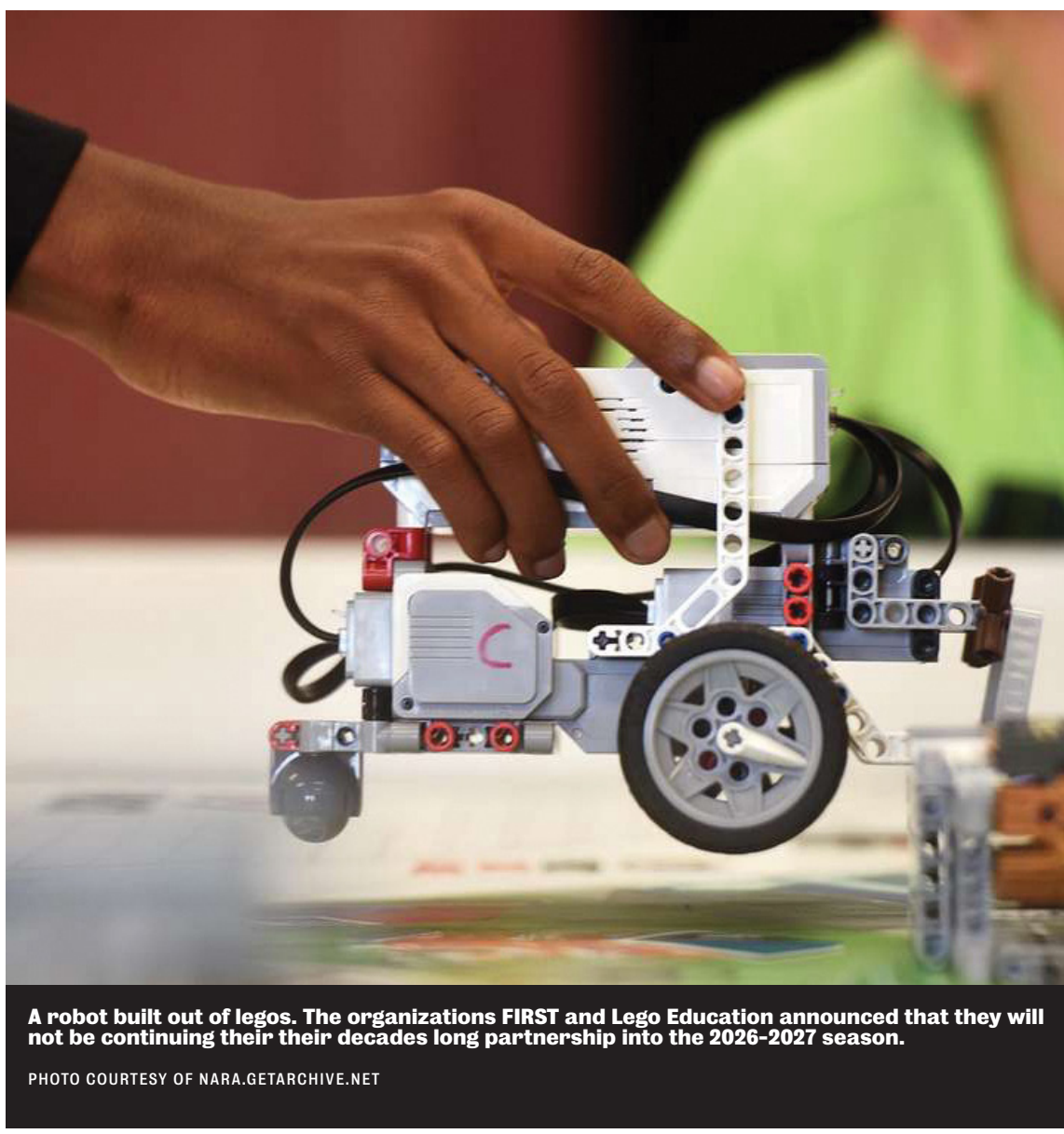
In the FLL program, teams of elementary school children build, code and compete with robots made entirely out of LEGOs.

Additionally, every season, teams are presented with a real-world problem that they are asked to engineer a solution to. Teams must present these solutions as well as their robot design to judges for the chance to win awards and advance in the competition. This program provides early access to STEM education, robotics and engineering concepts.



**Caption: UConn's FIRST organization at the FIRST Tech Challenge. Lego Education will no longer partner with FIRST for the 2026-27 season.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN FIRST ON FACEBOOK



**A robot built out of legos. The organizations FIRST and Lego Education announced that they will not be continuing their decades long partnership into the 2026-2027 season.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF NARA.GETARCHIVE.NET

According to the FIRST website, participants in the FLL program “gain real-world problem-solving experiences, helping today’s students, families, and educators build a better future together.” Additionally, through FLL, “students apply their STEM skills to friendly competition, engaging in research, problem-solving, coding, and engineering.”

The Tolland County Robotics Foundation (TCRF), founded by UConn student Youssef Macary, is a local nonprofit that the UConn FIRST student organization supports through mentorship and volunteering. TCRF is home to 8 FLL teams.

Amanda Billingslea, junior mechanical engineering major, president of UConn FIRST and TCRF FLL Challenge Coordinator said she was saddened by the news. She has been an active member of the FIRST community for nine years, acting as a student, mentor and volunteer.

“It’s genuinely sad news across the FIRST community. FLL was the first introduction to STEM and engineering for so many people,” she said. “I’ve been involved both as a student and a mentor at this point, and I’ve seen the positive impact it has on kids.” Billingslea said that

FIRST will struggle to replace this program due to logistical obstacles.

“The foundation of the program has remained the same every year, but with a new game, theme and goal,” she said. “It will be more difficult for FIRST to create an entirely new program outline and background in the same time frame.”

Additionally, this news could alter how current FLL teams will operate in the future.

According to Billingslea, “LEGO will be creating a new program to replace FLL, but teams must consider if it’s worth investing in all new technology and restructuring their teams as well as the way they compete.”

Over 15 companies sponsored FLL teams and programs for the 2024-25 season, including Apple, Google and The Boeing Company.

“It’ll be interesting to see how these companies adjust their sponsorships and if they continue to sponsor at all,” Billingslea said.

Billingslea said TCRF will “continue operating as normal for the upcoming season.”

“We’ll see if or when FIRST comes out with a new program if it makes sense for our teams to invest in,” she said.

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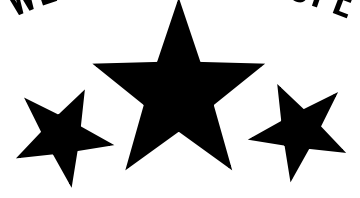
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Games

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



by Maleena Muzio

**Mar. 22 to Mar. 28**  
Welcome back to the weekly horoscope! This horoscope is based on predictions made by AstroStyle or astrostyle.com. Keep reading to hear what to expect as the week unfolds.

**Overview**  
Be prepared to clear obstacles in your way. Perseverance and drive will be needed for the road ahead. Hard work and even teamwork will lead you to where you want to be.

**Aries**  
**March 21 - April 19**  
If your emotions have overwhelmed you lately, take a step back before making impulsive decisions.

**Taurus**  
**April 20 - May 20**  
Invest in your network — not necessarily your finances.

**Gemini**  
**May 21 - June 20**  
Ditch the outdated version of yourself and prioritize change.

**Cancer**  
**June 21 - July 22**  
Silver linings and connections will become clear. A person or situation may be connected to various aspects of your life for a purpose.

**Leo**  
**July 23 - Aug. 22**  
Reclaim control and begin taking the steps to manifest your goals into reality.

**Virgo**  
**Aug. 23 - Sept. 22**  
Lessons can be learned even from tough or confusing situations.

**Libra**  
**Sept. 23 - Oct. 23**  
Try something new! Allow yourself to leave room for change.

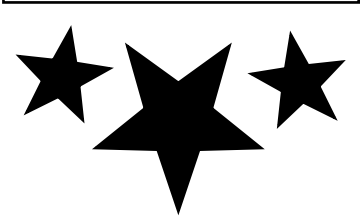
**Scorpio**  
**Oct. 24 - Nov. 21**  
Take a deep breath. Stress is temporary and will be gone soon.

**Sagittarius**  
**Nov. 22 - Dec. 21**  
Sit with your thoughts and feelings before moving forward with a major decision.

**Capricorn**  
**Dec. 22 - Jan. 19**  
Don't be afraid to ask for help with endless tasks! Prioritize and cut that to-do list down.

**Aquarius**  
**Jan. 20 - Feb. 18**  
Use clear and direct language when having an important conversation.

**Pisces**  
**Feb. 19 - March 20**  
Time to let go! Lift some weight off your shoulders — maybe decluttering or cutting a bad relationship off.



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## Life

## 'Steel Ball Run' debuts on Netflix



Snap shot from the new Netflix series "Steel Ball Run". JoJo's Bizarre Adventure's first episode released on Netflix on March 19.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @HANAJINEWS ON INSTAGRAM

by Max Muller

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If someone tried to get me to watch anime a few years ago, I probably would've laughed in their face, but over spring break my favorite animated show, "Jojo's Bizarre Adventure," released a 47-minute special episode promoting the upcoming season. The new episode is full of energy that will keep viewers engaged, and doesn't end on a cliffhanger, meaning it can be enjoyed by itself before the rest of the season gets released.

"Jojo's Bizarre Adventure" is a unique series because each season starts with a new cast and a fresh storytelling style. For example, the series begins in 1880's England with a vampire-hunter plotline, but its sixth part takes place almost entirely in a Floridian prison.

While I do recommend watching the previous six parts of "Jojo's Bizarre Adventure," it isn't required because the story of "Steel Ball Run" takes place separately from the rest of the series. In fact, the storyline runs parallel to the first part of the original continuity, meaning that new viewers might have an even better viewing experience than long-time fans.

"Steel Ball Run" starts in the Wild West of 1890's San Diego and is inspired by other stories of the same genre.

The director, Yasuhiro Kimura, said in an interview that he "watched the Red Dead Redemption 2 trailer over and over again." The inspiration shines through during a duel where the series' iconic color shift takes on the color palette of the game's poster to emphasize the violent Wild West theming in the scene.

The story of "Steel Ball Run" is focused on five main characters and their progres-

sion in the fittingly named "Steel Ball Run," a cross-country horse race directed by promoter Steven Steel. The special takes time before the race to introduce three main characters including Sandman, a disgraced Native American who seeking to redeem himself to his tribe by winning the race on foot, Johnny Joestar, a former racer who is bound to a wheelchair until meeting another

lead character, Gyro Zeppeli.

Johnny watches as Gyro duels another man in the street, using a mysterious power to fight with steel balls instead of a gun. Johnny catches up with Gyro, and upon touching the steel balls, Johnny is momentarily able to stand up from his wheelchair. Johnny spends the rest of the episode preparing for the race to prove he is worthy of learning more about the man's power.

The best character in the show, Poco Loco, is only introduced halfway into the race portion of the episode, when he wakes up late and realizes he missed the start. Luckily, Poco Loco's special ability is extreme luck, and even when other riders are specifically targeting him, he is able to push through and secure a spot in the first five racers.

While the special seeks to cover a large chunk of the source material, it has a great pace that accelerates into the final scene cleanly, leaving viewers with a satisfying finish to the episode rather than ending on a cliffhanger.

After the first week of being released, "Steel Ball Run" has earned a 9.8 out of ten rating on IMDb. The high rating is maintained even after fans of similar shows review-bombed the episode.

This is especially impressive because the original manga tops almost any chart that it's counted separately from the rest of the series, meaning that a lot of fans of the series, myself included, came into the special with high expectations.

Unfortunately details on exactly when the rest of the series will be released are still vague, and when asked about the release of more episodes, the show's director Kimura said "I want to see it soon, too! When will it be? I don't know."



A poster for the new series "Steel Ball Run" on Netflix. "Steel Ball Run" is part of the "Jojo's Bizarre Adventure" universe though it can be watched independently.

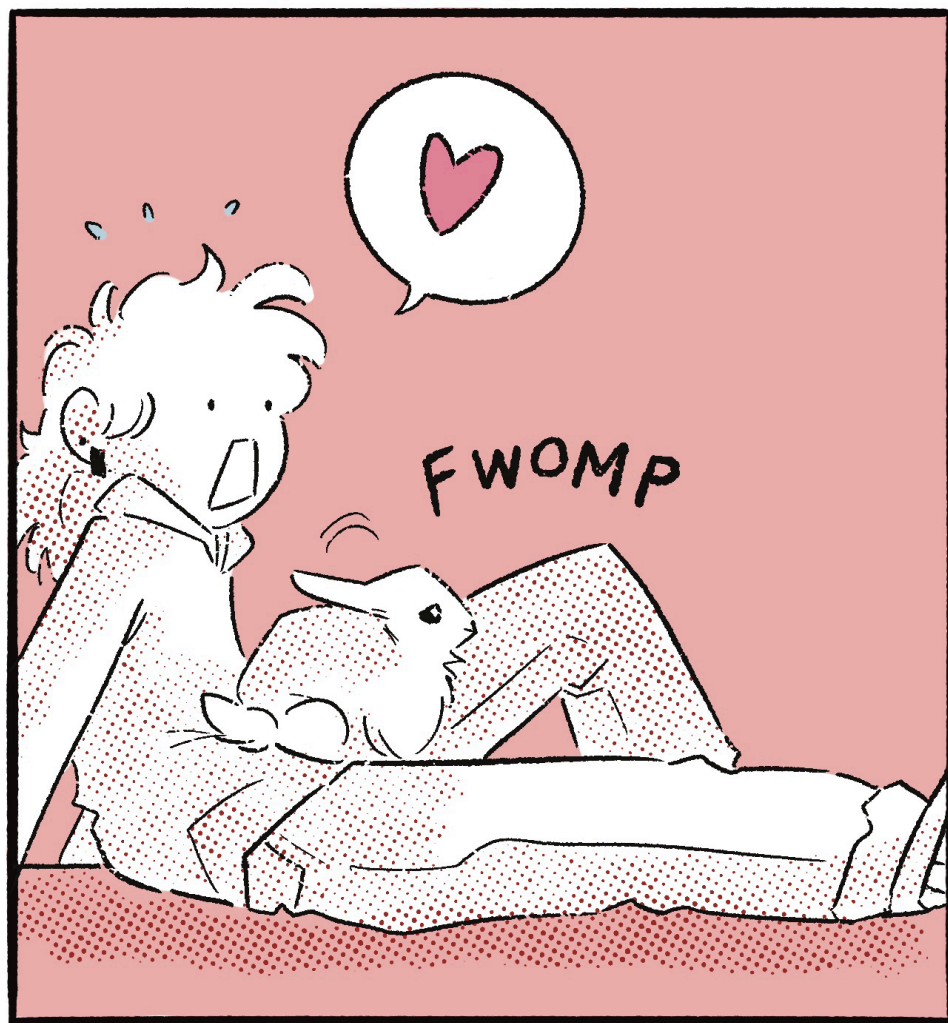
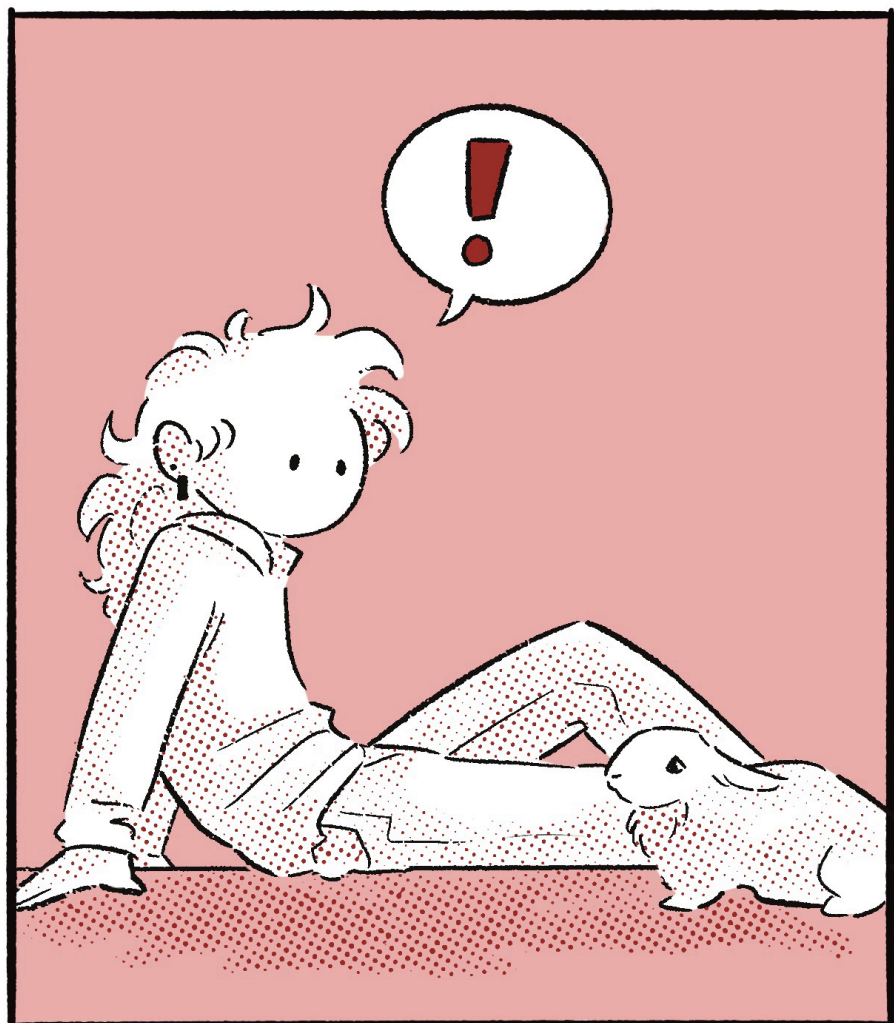
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# Life

# COMICS



CARTOON BY SAM HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## THE PULL LIST: 'SPIDER-MAN' SWINGS BACK INTO FOCUS

by **Samantha Brody**  
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Hello and welcome back to the Pull List, a weekly round-up of everything new and exciting within the world of DC Comics. This week, we'll be taking a look at some recently released titles, evaluating some big announcements and briefly dipping our toes into Marvel to discuss "Spider-Man: Brand New Day."

First off, we'll cover my personal pick for this week. It's a light week right now for my own list, but there are some interesting titles in the mix today.

The most important book to consider is "Superman/Spider-Man #1" — this one-shot book continues the DC/Marvel tradition of regular crossover events and looks to be a fun ride. This title has several well-known writers and artists attached, with a headlining story written by Mark Waid and illustrated by Jorge Jimenez.

The rest of the book will include accompanying stories featuring Lois Lane, Mary Jane Watson, Jimmy Olsen, the Punisher, Power Girl and many more. The long list of writers and artists includes powerhouses like Matt Fraction and Tom King, although the increased amount of content means the book will be running for \$7.99, with variant covers at \$8.99. It's certainly a jump from standard pricing, but hopefully the book will be worth the cost.

Now that we've already mentioned Marvel's favorite web-slinger, it's time to dive into the recently released trailer for "Spider-Man: Brand New Day."

The new trailer picks up from the events of "Spider-Man: No Way Home," in which Tom Holland's Peter Parker asks Benedict Cumberbatch's Dr. Strange to erase his identity from the minds of the world after his name and face are broadcasted. This effectively eliminates Peter's entire world, as now no one, including best friend Ned (Jacob Batalon) and girlfriend Michelle "MJ" Jones-Watson (Zendaya), remembers who he is.

The trailer showcases a depressed, struggling to survive Peter Parker in his early 20s. For those who aren't well-versed in Spider-Man lore, it may be surprising to hear that many fans are overjoyed at the prospect of a miserable Peter.

The first three movies of Marvel's take on Spider-Man

(which we'll call the "Home trilogy") depict Peter as a teen in high school, navigating regular problems like crushes and homework alongside his duties as Spider-Man.

While the Home trilogy is a fun depiction of Spider-Man, it's not how the comics have typically gone. Often, Peter is in his adulthood and struggling to pay rent, hence his stint as a photographer for the Daily Bugle to try and make a bit of money. This new movie appears to remain a little truer to the spider's comic book origins, which has many fans excited.

The film's trailer stresses the idea of evolution, and if Peter waking up in a webby cocoon is anything to go by, it seems he's experiencing some form of spider-puberty. It seems likely that he'll develop a form of organic webbing, instead of chemically synthesizing his webs in a lab. Some fans have also speculated that this film will signal the arrival of Venom in the MCU.

Another huge question for the film is actress Sadie Sink, best known for her role as Max Mayfield in Netflix's "Stranger Things." Sink's casting was announced weeks ago, but her role is yet to be confirmed. Fans have guessed she may be a new version of MJ, mutant Rachel Summers or maybe a redheaded Gwen Stacy, but currently it's most likely that she'll be playing Jean Grey, who first appeared in "X-Men #1" in 1963 and possesses telekinetic and telepathic powers.

If Sink as Jean Grey is confirmed to be true, it's possible her extrasensory powers will be used to repair the minds of Ned and MJ.

For myself, I only hope the new Spider-Man film stays grounded. In the Home trilogy, Peter was often assisted by the much more superhero-savvy Iron Man, which takes away from Spider-Man's traditional role as a lone hero fighting the odds. So far, it seems "Brand New Day" will feature a much more isolated Peter, which will hopefully push his character growth.

Speaking of growth, DC Comics has now officially begun the "Next Level" initiative this month. The second act of DC All In will feature plenty of new titles to help refresh this chapter of DC Comics.

This past week saw three new titles in the form of "Batwoman #1," "Lobo #1" and "Deathstroke: The Terminator #1." Two villains!

I've been waiting some time for Kate Kane's glorious re-

turn to Batwoman, and this #1 seems to set Kate up for a great run. While the issue by itself doesn't have much action or plot, it does set up plenty of intriguing story threads that we may see Kate follow, such as the mysterious death and subsequent haunting of her sister Beth.

The new Batwoman series seems to be a gothic horror story with plenty of cultish religion thrown into the mix. There isn't much to go off yet, but Kate's new journey looks to be right up my alley.

"Lobo #1" is a stark departure from Batwoman. The character of Lobo has been confirmed to be featured in the upcoming "Supergirl" movie so it's unsurprising that DC made the decision to start a solo run for the main man himself. "Lobo" leans into the character's co-

medic side and makes plenty of meta jokes accompanied by crass humor and absurd character designs. It looks to be fun, but not a heavy investment.

"Deathstroke: The Terminator #1" is an action-heavy book with some insight and development for Deathstroke, also known as Slade Wilson. Without getting too into the weeds, issue one sets up Deathstroke to be broke, friendless and on a quest for revenge, so it should be a pretty interesting ride for the world's greatest assassin if you're into the intrigue.

Deathstroke's solo run arrives as DC begins a reboot of the "Titans" series, renaming it to "New Titans" with issue #33. This newest book changes the team's line-up, resetting the roster and introducing some new blood.

Issue #33, without delving

into spoilers too much, reveals some faults of the current Titans team and introduces the New Titans as the solution. This new team is made up of Jon Kent as Superboy, Stephanie Brown as Batgirl, Yara Flor as Wonder Girl and Kid Devil. Interestingly, the cover of the book also features Terra, who is not depicted alongside the New Titans team in the actual issue.

It's unclear if the two teams will merge or if the New Titans will act as a replacement, but my personal prediction is that the New Titans will take over the series and the current Titans will act more as mentors and occasional cameos. It's also possible that we'll see some appearances from other young superheroes, such as Cassandra Cain's Batgirl or Jeffrey Holt's Fairplay.



Tom Holland in the first trailer for "Spider-Man: Brand New Day." The movie is set to release July 31, 2026. PHOTO COURTESY OF @WENS\_CAMERA\_ROLL ON INSTAGRAM



# Opinion

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# In Response to Timothée Chalamet: Is it curtains for ballet and opera?

by Gianna Cassino | WEEKLY COLUMNIST | SHE/HER/HERS | gic23015@uconn.edu



Dune actor Timothée Chalamet has spent the past few weeks under fire for “taking shots” (his words) at the ballet and opera industries in an interview with *Variety*. Long story short: Chalamet stated that he wouldn’t work in an industry that “needs to be kept alive”, and artists of all disciplines instantly pushed back. His statement has led to widespread online discourse on the cultural relevance and worth of these industries. Although he definitely could have been kinder, Chalamet isn’t completely incorrect. Two of the world’s oldest live art forms are criminally underappreciated by younger generations. I am of the firm belief that opera and ballet are not only alive and well, but worthwhile pastimes for those of all ages. An awful PR move for Chalamet turned out incredibly beneficial for marketing teams of the indus-

tries he’s attempted to tear down. Chalamet’s statement has brought the opera and ballet communities together at the forefront of the online pop culture sphere in unprecedented ways. Theaters throughout the world have seized their added spotlight as an opportunity to show off their incredible stars and design teams on social media, tagging Chalamet or mentioning him in shady captions. Some, like the Seattle Opera, have even begun offering discounted tickets using Timothée’s name as a coupon code. Ironically, Chalamet belittling these industries for being underappreciated by younger generations has brought them further into the minds of those that ignored them. Younger audiences respond incredibly well to snarky, personality-based marketing (the official Wendy’s twitter account speaks volumes). United against a common enemy, opera and ballet companies have a unique opportunity to rebrand their marketing voice as something relatable, modern and witty — all things they’re perceived as lacking. The potential to engage with new audience segments is a groundbreaking step towards shattering myths and misconceptions. Speaking of the ability to rebrand as an industry, this discourse sits upon the ever-present question of why young people aren’t inclined to consume ballet or opera. Two detrimental assumptions are killing interest: perceived dullness and inacces-

sibility. Some operas and ballets are indeed slow-paced and centuries old. However, both art forms have evolved significantly with the times and feature distinct genres. There are absurdist, dream-like ballets and operas that feel like edge-of-your-seat reality TV broken up by song. Centuries-old classics in the public domain mean anything is fair game, from modern pop-culture references to improvised jokes. Directors want their shows to be fun to perform and watch — they’re eager to breathe the new life into old works. Of course, I can’t guarantee that you’ll fall in love with every ballet on the planet. It simply might not be your thing, like how table tennis isn’t mine. However, generalizing an entire form of media before engaging with it yourself could stop you from discovering a genuine interest. Furthermore, to say that these art forms are inaccessible would be blatantly incorrect. The mass impression of utter boredom attended solely by old-timey elites in suits and evening gowns is far from reality. Younger generations have a place in both performing and engaging with opera and ballet. Theaters across the country have begun offering discount codes in the wake of the Timothée scandal, and the New York City Ballet offers \$30 rush tickets for those between the ages of 13 and 30. Theaters want young people in the audience. There’s no pressure to dress a certain way or come from a certain status or to have extensive back-

ground knowledge on the history of the show you’re attending. Art is useless if it isn’t open to be viewed by all. Even if you can’t make it to New York, never fear! The University of Connecticut’s music program is staging an opera this weekend right on campus. Featuring a talented cast of majority UConn undergraduate students, it’s the perfect convenient and affordable introduction to opera. Further information can be found on the UConn music department’s website and Instagram. Shameless plug aside; everyone should attend an opera and ballet at least once in their lifetimes. In a world prioritizing short-form digital content, witnessing longer live performances is a refreshing way to reset the mind and temporarily escape from the outside world. It sounds cheesy, but chances are you’ll see the world a little bit differently after every live performance you engage with.

## Opinion

Photo of the Day | Sunshine



Students at the UConn Storrs campus enjoy the sun on March 24, 2026. The beginning of spring has brought warmer temperatures, allowing students to do more activities outside. PHOTO BY PARKER MEYERS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# ‘Good Enough’ Is Even Better: Why gen-eds should be pass/fail

by Tamara Segal | STAFF WRITER | SHE/HER/HERS | tamara.segal@uconn.edu

This week marks the beginning of course selection for the upcoming semester, and with it comes the (often begrudging) search for a gen-ed class to fill out your schedule.

Now, the University of Connecticut claims that their general education requirements boast benefits, like exposing students to diverse ideas and allowing them to discover new interests. Unfortunately, this is rarely the case.

In most college students’ minds, the word “gen-ed” is synonymous with waste-of-time. While that’s not necessarily right, it’s not entirely wrong either. There are many underappreciated virtues of general education classes, not the least of which is encountering new modes of thinking and perspectives you’d never considered before, yet the typical general education program still leaves much to be desired. One thing that could greatly improve it would be the option for students to place gen-eds on pass/fail.

Pass/fail is a grading method where a student either receives a “pass,” meaning their performance was satisfactory, or a “fail” which speaks for itself. However, unlike typical courses, grades for these classes don’t count towards your GPA, so a “pass” won’t bring you down the way a “C” could. Currently, the majority of schools only allow students to request courses to be taken pass/fail under limited circumstances. Yet at certain schools, the policies are much more open. Brown Uni-

versity, for example, allows undergraduate students to take any course pass/fail — even courses that count toward their major.

Now, the University of Connecticut claims that their general education requirements boast benefits, like exposing students to diverse ideas and allowing them to discover new interests. Unfortunately, this is rarely the case. More often, students are fearful of tanking their GPA and instead opt for

Meanwhile, many students certainly have genuine interests that they would love the chance to pursue. Some might even elect to challenge themselves with upper-level classes that require more advanced coursework if only the burden of aiming for perfect performance were lifted. If students could take general education courses as pass/fail, it would substantially reduce the pressure they’re under.

Furthermore, contrary to the common fear in academia, this

and harder for teachers and administration to prevent. The truth is that those who are determined to slack off will find ways to do so no matter what. Instead, what we must focus on is how modifying the grading system will enable students who actually want to challenge themselves intellectually to escape the looming fear of grades and focus on learning.

It is just as silly to fear that students’ performance wouldn’t be as impressive with this grading scheme. Although a poor grade in a gen-ed clearly looks bad, it’s not as though the specific gen-eds themselves are what impresses employers or admissions counselors. Rather, it is the breadth of knowledge and skills that students gain through these classes, which is impressive. Empowering students to take more liberties with their plan of study would only enhance these repertoires.

Education should be about exploration, and it’s a shame to see so many students sacrifice that in an attempt to feign perfection. Yet in this society which holds perfection as a standard, universities have a clear opportunity to take a step in the right direction.

Education should be about exploration, and it’s a shame to see so many students sacrifice that in an attempt to feign perfection. Yet in this society which holds perfection as a standard, universities have a clear opportunity to take a step in the right direction.



Students busy studying in the Homer D. Babbidge Library at the UConn Storrs campus. This week marks the start of class selection for the fall semester.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SCARLETT DOYLE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

so-called easy-A’s even if they find no meaning in these classes. When they find no meaning, learning ceases: their focus shifts towards getting the work done, getting an A and getting the class far out of their sight at the end of the semester. Few could blame them when grades are exceedingly (and perhaps excessively) influential in job placement, and even more so, in applying to graduate school.

policy would not encourage students to slack off their work or abuse its leniency — at least not any more than the current one does. After all, the term “easy-A” is not a new one. It is not a new trend for students to choose the classes that are easiest to pass, and when that’s not possible, to find ways to cheat. With the advent of AI, offloading tasks has only become easier, more widespread,

# WILKER'S WEEKLY:

## POST-FREE AGENCY MOCK DRAFT SEES LIONS AND JETS TRADE UP (MOCK DRAFT 2.0)

by **Graham Wilker**  
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**1.1 | Las Vegas Raiders: QB Fernando Mendoza, Indiana**

It's only a matter of time until the Heisman winning National Champion is the first name called.

**1.2 | New York Jets: ED Arvell Reese, Ohio State**

Despite having linebacker versatility, Reese will play on the edge as a top five pick. He had 6.5 sacks with the Buckeyes last season.

**1.3 | Arizona Cardinals: ED David Bailey, Texas Tech**

Bailey, who had 14.5 sacks with the Red Raiders last season, would be a nice way to jump start Mike LaFleur's rebuild, while it's also been rumored Josh Sweat wants out of Glendale.

**1.4 | Tennessee Titans: RB Jeremiyah Love, Notre Dame**

With Calvin Ridley returning for 2026, running back is the most glaring need for Tennessee.

**1.5 | New York Giants: OG Francis Mauigoa, Miami**

Jaxson Dart looks to be the future in New York, so protecting him should be priority 1. Andre Thomas and Jermaine Eluemenor are sound bookends, but Mauigoa helps build the interior.

**1.6 | Cleveland Browns: WR Carnell Tate, Ohio State**

The Browns need a quarterback, but there aren't any viable options at No. 6. Instead, preparing for their future QB by adding a weapon like Tate could be a sound idea.

**1.7 | Washington Commanders: LB Sonny Styles, Ohio State**

The Commanders' second level has struggled for the last few years, as Bobby Wagner is far from the player he once was. Styles has all-time athleticism and missed one tackle all year.

**1.8 | New Orleans Saints: WR Jordyn Tyson, Arizona State**

Kellen Moore is an offensive mind, and if it wasn't for a laundry list of injuries, Tyson would figure to be a lock for the WR1.

**1.9 | Kansas City Chiefs: CB Mansoor Delane, LSU**

The Chiefs lost both starting cornerbacks, and they have their pick of the litter at No. 9. Delane conceded a 40% completion rate and didn't allow a touchdown all year.

**1.10 | Cincinnati Bengals: SAF Caleb Downs, Ohio State**

Derwin James, Kyle Hamilton, Caleb Downs. Elite talents slip at safety due to the nature of the position, and the Bengals happily take advantage.

**1.11 | Miami Dolphins: ED Rueben Bain Jr., Miami**

Keeping a player in state? Try in city. Bain had 9.5 sacks for the Hurricanes, and despite major concerns surrounding arm length, new HC Jeff Hafley grabs a top talent.

**1.12 | Detroit Lions: OT Monroe Freeling, Georgia**

Trade: DET trades Pick 17 (1) and Pick 50 (2) to DAL for Pick 12 (1) and Pick 92 (3)

After parting ways with Taylor Decker, the Lions have a void at left tackle. Freeling could go even higher than No. 12 given his athletic traits, and Dan Campbell's squad trades up to account for their biggest need.

**1.13 | L.A. Rams: WR Makai Lemon, USC**

The Rams ran 13 personnel (3 TE) 16% more than the next team because they didn't have a third receiver. Lemon fixes that issue.

**1.14 | Baltimore Ravens: C Spencer Fano, Utah**

Fano to center is a popular trend of late, and the Ravens just lost Tyler Linderbaum.

**1.15 | Tampa Bay Bucca-**

**neers: TE Kenyon Sadiq, Oregon**

The Buccaneers opt to replace Mike Evans with an athletic freak of a tight end.

**1.16 | New York Jets: SAF Dillon Thieneman, Oregon**

Aaron Glenn had two top safeties in Detroit, and pairing Thieneman with Minkah Fitzpatrick emulates that.

**1.17 | Dallas Cowboys: CB Jermod McCoy, Tennessee**

Trade: DET trades Pick 17 (1) and Pick 50 (2) to DAL for Pick 12 (1) and Pick 92 (3)

The Cowboys need cornerback help, and McCoy was spectacular in 2024 before missing all of '25 with a torn ACL.

**1.18 | Minnesota Vikings: SAF Emmanuel McNeil-Warren, Toledo**

After cutting Harrison Smith, the Vikings need to find a replacement.

**1.19 | Carolina Panthers: LB C.J. Allen, Georgia**

Christian Rozeboom needs upgrading if the Panthers want to retain their division crown.

**1.20 | Dallas Cowboys: DT Caleb Banks, Florida**

The Cowboys are moving to a 3-4, so adding a 6-foot-6, 330-pound nose tackle would do them a world of good.

**1.21 | Pittsburgh Steelers: QB Ty Simpson, Alabama**

Mike McCarthy was reported to have been brought in for his ability to develop quarterbacks. Whether Aaron Rodgers returns or not, Simpson could be the long-term starter.

**1.22 | L.A. Chargers: OG Vega Ioane, Penn State**

The Chargers continue their offensive line rebuild.

**1.23 | Philadelphia Eagles: WR Omar Cooper Jr., Indiana**

Whether A.J. Brown stays or goes, the Eagles can do better than Hollywood Brown at WR3.

**1.24 | Cleveland Browns: OT Caleb Lomu, Utah**

The Browns possibly landed their WR1 and left tackle for the next decade in the same draft.

**1.25 | Chicago Bears: ED Akheem Mesidor, Miami**

Other than Montez Sweat, no Bears edge defender eclipsed five sacks last year.

**1.26 | Buffalo Bills: DT Peter Woods, Clemson**

Ed Oliver played four games last year, and T.J. Sanders had only one sack. Buffalo needs more interior pressure.

**1.27 | New York Jets: CB Aveion Terrell, Clemson**

Trade: SF trades Pick 27 (1) to NYJ for Pick 33 (2), Pick 103 (4), and Pick 140 (4)

The Jets move up to make a third first round selection after not nabbing a single interception last season.

**1.28 | Houston Texans: OG Kady Proctor, Alabama**

The Texans need to protect C.J. Stroud in what will be a pivotal year for his future as the starter.

**1.29 | Kansas City Chiefs: WR KC Concepcion, Texas A&M**

Rashee Rice has played 12 games in the last two seasons, and Travis Kelce will likely retire after this season.

**1.30 | Miami Dolphins: CB Brandon Cisse, South Carolina**

The Dolphins add physicality and athleticism after selecting Bain at No. 12.

**1.31 | New England Patriots: ED Keldric Faulk, Auburn**

Mike Vrabel opted for 280+ pound Dre'Mont Jones over the pass rush of K'Lavon Chaisson, and Faulk checks the size box on the edge.

**1.32 | Seattle Seahawks: CB Colton Hood, Tennessee**

Seattle lost Riq Woolen and Coby Bryant in free agency, so replacing their presence in the defensive backfield will be key.



Fernando Mendoza, a quarterback for the Indiana Hoosiers lunges with the ball. Mendoza is anticipated to be the first pick in the 2026 NFL draft.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @FERNANDOMENDOZA INSTAGRAM



Arvell Reese, a linebacker for Ohio State University, projected to be the second or third pick in the 2026 NFL draft. Reese has played for the Ohio State Buckeyes since 2023.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @ARVXLL ON INSTAGRAM

## Sports

## Photo of the Day | Basketball



A close up of an NCAA March Madness basketball. The UConn Huskies played the Syracuse Orange at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. on March 23, 2026, winning with a final score of 98-45. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# ELLIOT' WEEKLY TIP-OFF: INSIDE THE BRACKET, BREAKDOWNS OF THE SWEET SIXTEEN

by **Elliot Koplas**  
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And then there was none. The final perfect brackets have fallen after Tennessee upset Virginia on Sunday afternoon, but with upsets brewing, the anticipation could not be higher. After four days of the tournament, we went from 64 teams to just 16. Teams are continuing to dance into the next round, and these upcoming matchups are some of the best.

On March 26, the West and South regions will play their matchups for a shot at the Elite Eight. Purdue will face the lowest seed remaining in the tournament, Texas, in San Jose, Calif. The Boilermakers won the Big Ten after beating top ranked Michigan and have continued their success into the tournament. They defeated Queens in the first round 104-71 and then UConn 79-69 in the round of 32.

As for Texas, they qualified for the first four and had to defeat NC State before meeting up with BYU in the first round. They defeated the Cougars 79-71 despite AJ Dybantsa's 35 points. In the round of 32, the Longhorns took down Gonzaga 74-68 to pull off yet another upset. Their offense comes with all sorts of weapons with a different player leading in scoring in each game of the tournament so far. The versatility of the roster is one thing teams hate to matchup against since shutting down their offense has become much more difficult.

The biggest shocker in the tournament happened when Iowa took down the defending champion Florida in Sunday's round of 32 games. The Hawkeyes took the lead late thanks to an Alvaro Folgueiras clutch 3-pointer with 4.5 seconds left. The final minutes in the game went back and forth between the two after Iowa had a comfortable lead halfway through the second half. They were able to stay with the Gators and send the defending champions home knocking out the first one-seed of the tournament.

Their opponent will be Nebraska in a familiar Big Ten showdown. The two teams have split meetings this season, winning their respective home games. The Cornhuskers took down Troy and Vanderbilt so far in this tournament and are hoping to add rival Iowa to the list. Iowa won the first meeting at home 57-52 before losing the final game of the season on the road to Nebraska 75-84

in overtime. Fans should expect more of the same coming down to the wire in a tight matchup with the pressure of March and the tournament resting on players' shoulders.

Arkansas will face Arizona in a battle between two offensive heavy programs. The Razorbacks won the SEC tournament and are now averaging 96 points per game so far in this tournament. The Wildcats also won

so far in this tournament. The Cougars have won both their games by an impressive 31 points, and the Fighting Illini have won their games by an average of 28 points. With both these teams showing no signs of struggle so far, this matchup will be a good test when they face another dominant program.

On March 27, the second half of the Sweet Sixteen will take place with a slate of legendary pro-

played flawless defense against the Jayhawks, forcing turnovers as they struggled to inbound the ball and break the press.

The Blue Devils have had slower starts in both games this tournament after going down 11 against Siena in the first round. This marked the largest lead by any 16 seed over a one-seed at the half in tournament history. Duke eventually found their groove and defeated Siena by six. In the

ly dominant programs in the tournament will meet when Alabama takes on Michigan. This game might just have 200 points scored with Alabama averaging 90 so far and Michigan averaging 98. Alabama's defense has been slightly better than Michigan's holding teams to below 70. Both squads rely on scoring, which should make this one of the highest scoring games of the tournament.

Two more legendary coaches will meet in the east region when Tom Izzo and Dan Hurley's squads take the court.

Michigan State had a comfortable first-round win over North Dakota State before facing Louisville. Michigan State led the game for over 30 minutes, showing their dominance and consistency to keep the lead. This consistency was a problem UConn had for the first half against UCLA when they struggled to find their rhythm. Shots eventually started to fall for Alex Karaban and Braylon Mullins as they combined for 44 of UConn's 73. The Huskies are hoping for more shots to drop in their matchup with the Spartans as falling behind early could put them in a world of trouble.

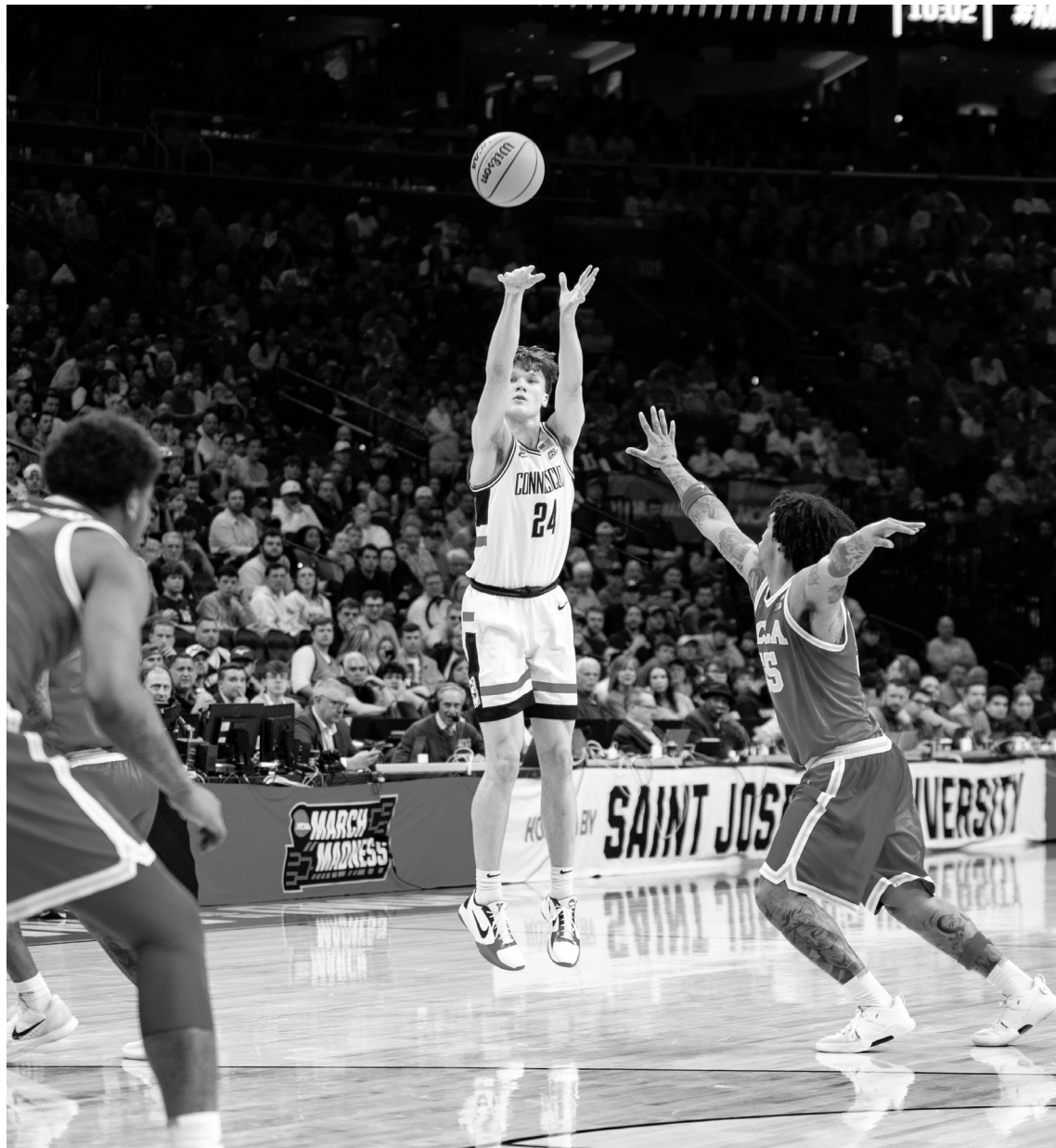
The final game on display will be between Tennessee and Iowa State. The Volunteers defeated Miami OH in the first round comfortably before upsetting Virginia to knock out the final perfect bracket. The Vols have been led by Guard Ja'Kobi Gillespie, who has averaged 25 so far in this tournament and scored about a third of his teams' total points.

Iowa State faced a setback in the first half of the first round against Tennessee State when their All-American star, Joshua Jefferson, landed awkwardly on his left ankle in the opening minutes. Jefferson did not return and did not play in the next round against Kentucky. The Cyclones adjusted to this change and ended the first half 31-30 before exploding into the second half, scoring 51 points and beating the Wildcats 82-63.

Seasons will be on the line later this week with trips to the Elite Eight on the table. Sweet Sixteen matchups tip off, and the margin for error continues to dwindle. The final teams have shown they have what it takes to advance, but the madness is far from over.

This next weekend will show who the real title contenders are and if they will do what it takes to win.

What teams will continue to dance?



Braylon Mullins shooting a basket in a winning game against UCLA. The Huskies will face the Michigan State Spartans on Friday. PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

their conference tournament defeating Houston for the Big 12 crown. They defeated LIU and Utah State so far and are hoping to advance to the Elite Eight for the first time since 2022 where they lost to Houston. Expect an offensive heavy game with lots of points scored.

The nightcap on Thursday will be between Illinois and Houston. Both have cruised into the Sweet Sixteen and have not been tested

grams taking the court.

St. John's will take on Duke in a bloodbath after both programs won their respective conference tournaments. The Red Storm defeated Northern Iowa comfortably in the first round before needing a buzzer beater layup to knock off Kansas in the round of 32. Dylan Darling was the hero for the Johnnies with the final second bucket being his only two points of the game. Rick Pitino's squad dis-

second round TCU gave the Blue Devils a run for their money in the first half with Duke only leading by four. Again, the second half team led by Cameron Boozer took flight and outscored the Horned Frogs by 19 in the following half.

These two legendary coaches meeting this early in the tournament is rare, but the east region has shown to be one of the toughest.

Perhaps the two most offensive-

# BRAYDEN'S BREAKDOWN: WHO TO TARGET IN YOUR FANTASY BASEBALL DRAFT

by **Brayden Gorski**

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Opening Day in Major League Baseball is upon us and with that comes a new season of fantasy sports.

Fantasy baseball is a little bit different from other sports. With most teams only having one day off a week, you need to be sure you are drafting the right players for your lineup. One wrong draft pick and it could cost you the season.

There are players like Shohei Ohtani, Aaron Judge and Cal Raleigh who will deservedly be top picks because of their outstanding seasons in 2025. However, what you do after the first round is even more important than your first selection.

Here are five players to keep an eye on when you are drafting.

## Junior Caminero

Expect the star third baseman to pick up right where he left off in the World Baseball Classic. Caminero had 7 hits and 3 home runs in 6 games for the Dominican Republic. He will be the focal point of Tampa Bay's offense this season and will try to live up to the massive expectations that he set last year. In his first full MLB season, the 22-year-old slugged 45 home runs along with 159 hits and 110 RBIs. The only issue is his strikeout rate. Caminero struck out 125 times and only walked 41 times. Despite that, his home runs and other hits should make him a first or second round pick this

fantasy season.

## Roman Anthony

Speaking of WBC success, Roman Anthony was a last-minute replacement for Corbin Carroll and made an instant impact for Team USA.

Anthony had 7 hits, including a game winning homer against the DR in the semi-final.

nals.

It will be his first full season in the majors after playing 71 games last season. Anthony had an on-base percentage of .396 and his ability to get on base gives his fantasy owners a few easy points every game. He had more hits than games played, a feat he could

repeat in a full 162 game season.

## Jacob Wilson

Wilson is another promising second year player who will try

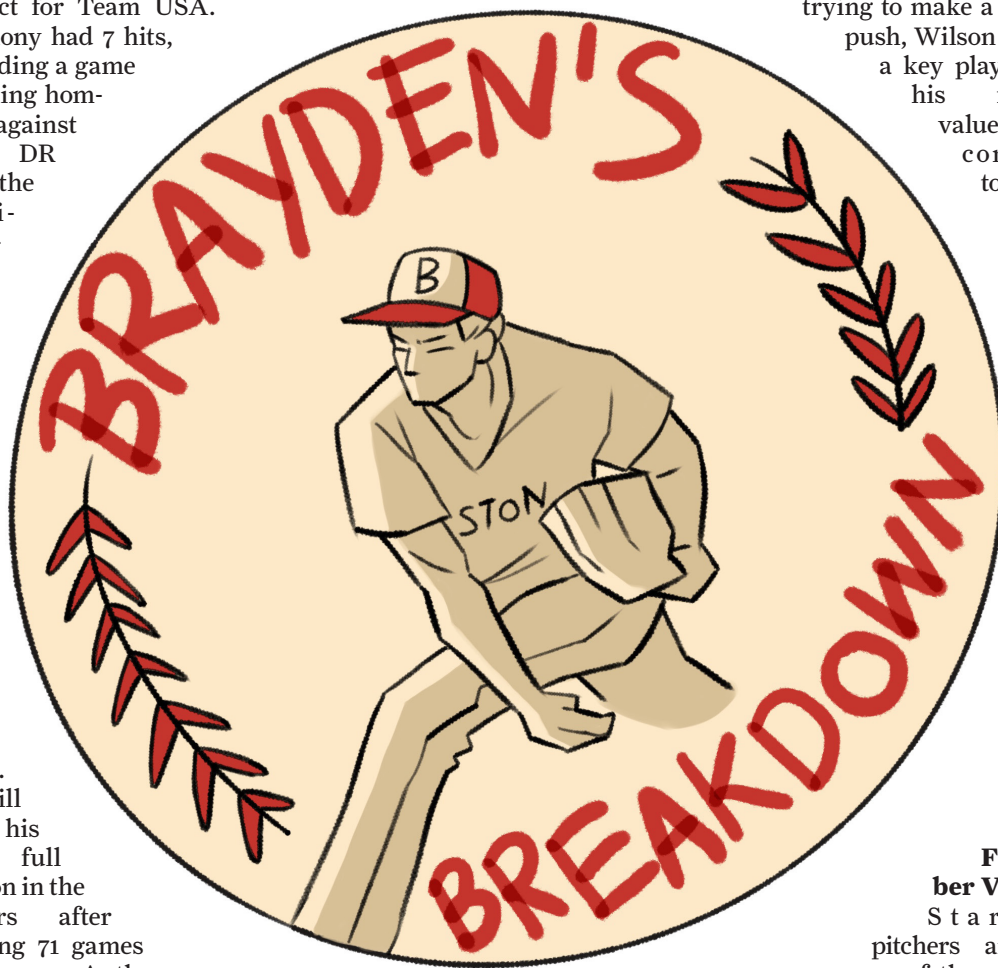
year. His .311 average was tied for second best in the league. Wilson is a low risk, high reward player who will be available in the middle of most drafts.

With the young Athletics core trying to make a playoff push, Wilson will be a key player and his fantasy value will continue to rise in 2026.

Crochet, but the rest of the field is up for debate. Framer Valdez departed from the Astros in the offseason to team up with Skubal in Detroit, something that will benefit him. Valdez had a rough year last season, but has some pressure taken off him starting after Skubal. He does not have to be the number one guy and carry the load for a pitching staff like he had to do in Houston for some years. Valdez had a sub 3 ERA in 2022 and 2024 and his strikeout numbers usually are near 200 per season. He has pitched over 175 innings in each of the last four seasons, making him a reliable option for fantasy. The native of the Dominican Republic should have a bounce back year in the Motor City.

## Pete Fairbanks

Even though you should have as many starting pitchers as possible, it is always nice to have a reliable reliever on your roster. Aroldis Chapman was putting up championship winning numbers down the stretch in his first year in Boston. So, in Pete Fairbanks' first year in Miami, expect similar results. Fairbanks is averaging 25 saves per season the past three seasons and his strikeout numbers are also solid. He appeared in a career-high 61 games last season for a fourth-place Tampa Bay Rays team. If the young Marlins want to contend this season, they need Fairbanks to deliver in clutch situations. Expect him to be the closer for a Marlins team that won 79 games last season.



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Framer Valdez

Starting pitchers are the name of the game in fantasy baseball. They rack up the most points and can pitch once or twice a week depending on the schedule. The obvious top picks are Tarik Skubal, Paul Skenes and Garrett

to build off his successful 2025 campaign. He had 151 hits and only struck out 39 times last

# 2026 MLB STANDINGS PREDICTIONS: AMERICAN LEAGUE

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**

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With the MLB season set to officially start tonight as the New York Yankees face the San Francisco Giants, here are my predictions for the American League division races.

## East

### Blue Jays

Toronto captures a second straight division title. The 2025 AL champions upgraded their rotation by signing Dylan Cease and added Tyler Rogers to the bullpen, creating depth on the pitching staff.

Despite the loss of Bo Bichette, the Blue Jays received production from so many utility-style players last season that, even if a few take a step back, there should be plenty of hitting to sustain last year's success. Add in all-star Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and well-rounded Japanese import Kazuma Okamoto and the Jays should be just fine.

### Yankees

The Yankees didn't do much beyond re-signing players, bringing back Cody Bellinger and retaining Trent Grisham via the qualifying offer. Ben Rice should see an improvement on his stat page after suffering from being one of baseball's unluckiest hitters last season. Still, the lineup remains largely the same.

The rotation improves with the acquisition of Ryan Weathers (despite a horrid spring, 11.08 ERA over 13 innings) and the return of Ger-

rit Cole, plus a full season of Cam Schlittler. However, the bullpen, on paper, appears markedly worse after both Devin Williams and Luke Weaver defected from the Bronx to Queens to pitch for the Mets.

The lineup is the same, and the pitching staff overall didn't clearly improve.

In short, the gap between the Yankees and Blue Jays grew this offseason. The Yankees are one Aaron Judge injury away from missing the postseason.

### Red Sox

It was a peculiar offseason for the Red Sox, who made plenty of additions but lost Alex Bregman after seemingly cementing his role as long term leader with the Rafael Devers trade.

Willson Contreras and Sonny Gray are fine pickups. Ranger Suárez is a fantastic two behind Garrett Crochet in the rotation. Still, that may not be enough to make up for the loss of Bregman.

### Orioles

Baltimore finishes just behind Boston in a close call. Pete Alonso is the big pick up, but Taylor Ward brings another 30-plus home run bat.

The rotation still falls short, but Chris Bassitt is another good signing. Trevor Rogers maintaining his breakout and Kyle Bradish returning strong in his first full season back from injury would give them postseason potential.

### Rays

The small-market Rays re-

turn to Tropicana but can't recapture a winning record. Tampa Bay is always game for a surprise, but the lineup only got weaker.

## Central

### Tigers

Detroit went all out in improving their rotation, bringing back living franchise legend Justin Verlander as well as signing Framer Valdez, who pitched from A.J. Hinch before Hinch's firing. Combine that with Cy Young, favorite Tarik Skubal, the ever-solid Casey Mize and Jack Flaherty, and you're looking at a top five rotation in the AL.

The improved staff should allow them to avoid the division title slipping away for a second straight season.

### Royals

You can never count out a team with both the league's best shortstop, Bobby Witt Jr. (7.1 WAR led all shortstops), and four playoff-caliber starters. The additions of Matt Strahm, Nick Mears and Alex Lange should be a big bullpen booster.

A bona fide starting outfielder at the trade deadline would go a long way in overcoming the Tigers for the division.

### Guardians

Cleveland's two biggest strengths remain Manager Stephen Vogt and José Ramírez. Though the Central in both leagues generally has increased parity due to the surplus of small market status, the Guardians can't afford to wait and make their

move as they did last season.

## White Sox

Chicago quietly had one of the most successful offseasons in baseball. Using the money freed by the Luis Robert Jr. trade, the Pale Hose surprisingly won the Muntaka Murakami bidding with a short-term deal and brought in set-up man Seranthony Dominguez.

With a pair of young catchers in Kyle Teel and Edgar Quero leading the way alongside slugger Colson Montgomery, the White Sox possess an exciting young lineup for the first time in a while.

## Twins

Following the 2025 deadline fire sale and Pablo López's season-ending UCL surgery, Minnesota's outlook is bleak. The Twins have a long way to go before showing they're serious about winning again.

## West

### Mariners

Seattle repeats after electing to keep the band together after a Championship Series run, essentially swapping out Jorge Polanco for super-utility man Brendan Donovan.

The Mariners have maybe the strongest rotation depth in baseball and as scary a top of the order as there is in Cal Raleigh, Julio Rodríguez and Josh Naylor.

The M's have the potential to win the most games in the AL.

### Rangers

After trading for MacKenzie Gore, Texas now features an imposing one-two-three

punches of any rotation with Nathan Eovaldi and Jacob DeGrom. The real question is health. Both Gore and Eovaldi missed time in 2025, as did star shortstop Corey Seager and outfielders Wyatt Langford and Evan Carter. If healthy, Texas could push for a division title.

## Athletics

The recent loss has taken the luster off a genuinely great lineup.

Young stars Jacob Wilson and Tyler Soderstrom earned extensions. Nick Kurtz enters his first full season as a top first baseman, while designated hitter Brent Rooker and catcher Shea Langeliers are widely considered top 10 hitters at their positions.

The rotation keeps the A's from fully breaking out of a rebuild, but an argument could be made for one to pick their offense over Texas'.

## Astros

Houston continues to regress after missing the playoffs for the first time in eight years last season. The addition of Japanese starter Tatsuya Imai is interesting but merely replaces Framer Valdez in the rotation rather than being a real addition.

## Angels

A perennial division bottom feeder, the Halos again come in last after not doing much to improve their outlook.

**Best record:** Mariners

**Worst record:** Angels

**Surprise:** Athletics

**Under-performer:** Guardians



# Sports

# BASEBALL:

## HOOK C LOOK TO CONTINUE WINNING STREAK IN GAME AGAINST QUINNIPIAC

by Nicole Caruso  
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The Huskies will face Quinnipiac this Wednesday following a weekend sweep in California.

UConn played in a double-header on Sunday, with a 7-5 win against San Diego State and an 8-0 shutout victory against San Jose State.

Junior Tyler Minick had a standout game with a pair of home runs which put the Huskies ahead in the third inning. Cam Righi followed suit with a homerun of his own to add to the scoreboard.

Left-handed pitcher Oliver Pudvar pitched six innings for the Huskies, and Greg Shaw III later got UConn out of a bases-loaded, no-out situation to keep the Aztecs from scoring more runs.

Junior right-handed pitcher Charlie Hale earned his first save of the year, closing out the game with a scoreless ninth. Hale then started the Huskies second game of the day against San Jose State. He pitched six innings and allowed only three hits.

It was a scoreless five innings for both teams until UConn went on a hitting mission, scoring all eight runs during the sixth inning. San Jose State made a few errors across the inning, allowing the Huskies to take full advantage.

Minick got the scoring started with a two-run single and Maddix Dalena had a strong hit to left center field which brought in two runs.

Paxton Meyers secured the Huskies second shutout of the season, allowing zero runs in the final two innings, sending UConn back to Storrs with a win.

Quinnipiac (7-13) won their most recent game against Manhattan University 9-3, despite losing the weekend series 3-1.

Outfielder Caden Williamson leads the Bobcats in runs (17) and hits (27). Teammate Jack Balcer has a .310 batting average and is behind Williamson in hits (22). Quinnipiac's weakness this season has been in the bullpen with all their pitchers having high ERAs.

Senior right-handed pitcher Nick Balcom leads the Bobcats pitchers in games played but holds a 0-5 record. Senior Matt Alduino currently has a 2.77 ERA and J.C. Francone with 4.11. All three made appearances in the weekend series against Manhattan University and can be expected to play against UConn this Wednesday.

UConn will need to attack Quinnipiac's pitching early on as Quinnipiac has a trend of scoring in later innings which often results in wins.

Huskies will face off against the Bobcats on Wednesday at 3:05 p.m. If fans are unable to make it to Elliot Ballpark in Storrs, Conn., they can watch the game on ESPN+.



UConn men's baseball team takes on New Haven at Elliot Ballpark on Wednesday, March 3. UConn won 9-4.

PHOTO BY PARKER MEYERS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

