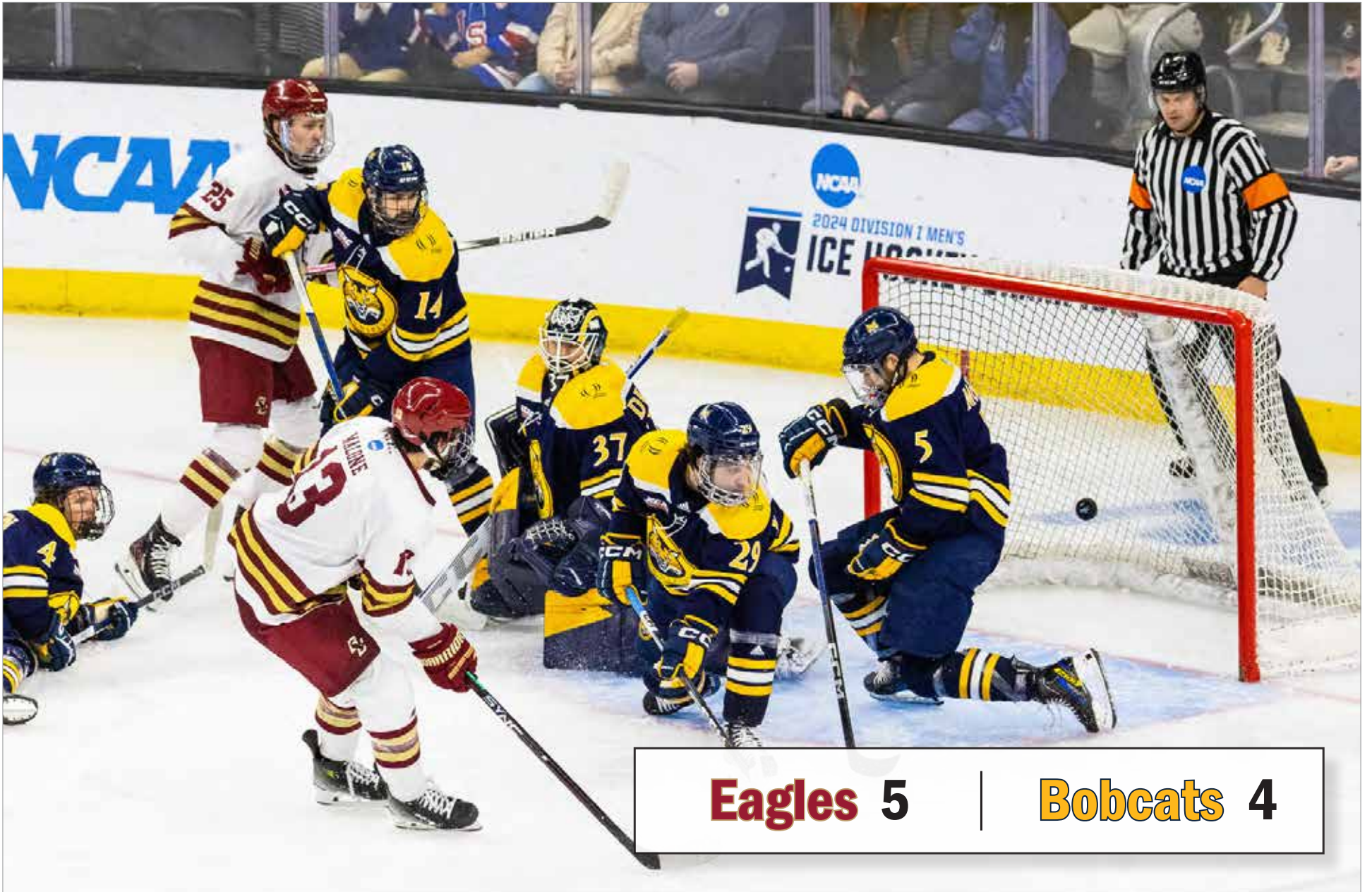


‘BLEEDING NAVY AND GOLD’ Men’s hockey dethroned by Boston College in regional final



Eagles 5

Bobcats 4

TRIPP MENHALL/CHRONICLE

By **CAMERON LEVASSEUR**
Sports Editor

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Hockey is a game of inches.

The one inch No. 9 Quinnipiac men’s hockey let up in the third period gave just enough room for No. 1 Boston College to tie Sunday’s regional final. The one inch the puck trickled away from senior goaltender Vinny Duplessis in overtime was enough for the Eagles to win it, 5-4.

“I’m really proud of these guys,” head coach Rand Pecknold said. “We wanted it ... it’s disappointing right now. I love this group.”

Eagles graduate student forward Jack Malone — who two hours earlier had his game-opening goal called back for a high stick — scored the winner.

“It’s an unbelievable feeling,” Malone said. “If they want to take one away from us, that’s fine. We’ll just try to get it back.”

A scoreless first period devolved into a barnburner. Quinnipiac had the lead three times and BC fought back on each occasion. The Bobcats didn’t trail for a second of regulation, but left the ice heartbroken.

“When you get into overtime, a lot of times it’s just a bounce or a break or this or that,” Pecknold said. “You can’t predict how it’s going to happen, we just got a bad break there.”

That’s the cruel reality of sports. Just shy of a year ago, Quinnipiac ripped a national championship from the grip of Minnesota, storming back from down 2-0 to win in overtime. Now the Bobcats have witnessed things from the other side, watching their dreams of a repeat disappear in a flash.

“The goal from day one when we stepped on campus was (to) defend our crown,” graduate student defenseman Jayden Lee said. “Ultimately, we fell short, but like coach said, I’m just so proud of our group and how far we’ve come since the summer.”

The game started just like Quinnipiac’s regional semifinal win over Wisconsin Friday — the Bobcats controlled the pace of play. They shut BC down in the neutral zone for much of the first period, limiting offensive chances until a surge from the Eagles in the final 10 minutes.

From that point on, Duplessis and BC freshman goaltender Jacob Fowler were the only two forces stopping the game from divulging into full chaos. And less than two minutes into the second, it did.

Still on the power play from a late first period call, sophomore forward Jacob Quillan tipped home a shot from senior forward Travis Treloar to give the underdog Bobcats the lead.

Thirty seconds later, senior defenseman

Iivari Rasanen rifled a point shot over Fowler’s left shoulder and brought the Quinnipiac advantage to two.

But 30 seconds after they doubled their lead, the Bobcats watched BC cut it in half. Eagles sophomore forward Cutter Gauthier drew Duplessis out of position with a fake shot-pass and fed freshman forward Ryan Leonard atop the crease for a power-play goal.

The Eagles tied the game midway through the period, sophomore forward Andre Gasseau beating Duplessis with a one-timer from above the left circle. But Quinnipiac struck right back. Senior forward Christophe Fillion put home a rebound — his second goal in as many games — to put the Bobcats up 3-2.

That lead held for all of two minutes, when Leonard tucked his second power-play goal of the night after a questionable incidental head contact call on Quinnipiac junior forward Collin Graf.

“I thought five-on-five we were the better team tonight,” Pecknold said. “But that’s not the whole game. Special teams are huge and that’s where they were better than us.”

The teams headed into the locker room tied at three, but Quillan — the 2023 Frozen Four hero — stepped up again when the lights were brightest, beating Fowler just 16

seconds into the third period to give Quinnipiac its third lead of the contest.

The score held 4-3 for the next 15 minutes as the Bobcats put on a defensive clinic, denying any opportunities BC created.

Then with under five minutes remaining and St. Paul in sight, they slipped. It was only for a moment — leaving freshman defenseman Aram Minnetian open for an uncontested shot in the slot — but it was enough. Minnetian scored and the Eagles pushed the game to overtime.

Quinnipiac put its foot back on the gas pedal in overtime, generating several chances that, if they were just a few inches left or right, would’ve sent the Bobcats to the Frozen Four.

But they weren’t, and three minutes and six seconds into the extra period, a rebound slipped out of Duplessis’ pads and landed on the stick of Malone.

A game of inches ended with a wide open net, a Malone goal and top-seeded Eagles soaring into the history books. And the 26 motionless Quinnipiac players — on the ice, the bench and in the stands — were left with a phenomenal hockey game, and what could have been.

“The passion was awesome this weekend,” Pecknold said. “They were bleeding navy and gold. I’m just proud of the effort.”

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Underrepresented communities less comfortable at Quinnipiac, climate survey shows

By **CAT MURPHY**
News Editor

A climate assessment conducted last fall indicates that less than a quarter of the Quinnipiac University community is uncomfortable with the campus environment. But the survey data are clear: members of marginalized identity groups are more likely to perceive the campus climate negatively and less likely to feel a strong sense of belonging at Quinnipiac.

As part of a yearlong effort to evaluate Quinnipiac's campus environment, the university partnered with external climate assessment firm Rankin Climate to develop and conduct Quinnipiac's first-ever campus climate survey.

"This project launched with three primary goals: identify successful initiatives, uncover any challenges facing members of our community and develop strategies and initiatives to build on the successes and address the challenges," Chief Experience Officer Tom Ellett said during a March 25 presentation of the survey results, calling the initiative "quite the undertaking by the institution."

The 115-question survey, administered between September and October 2023, analyzed attitudes toward the campus climate through the lens of different identities: racial identity, gender identity, sexual identity, political identity, income status and first-generation status.

Quinnipiac collected more than 3,100 survey responses from students, faculty and staff — a 29% average overall response rate. This figure surpasses many comparable institutions, which have an 18% average overall response rate.

More than three-quarters of all respondents said they were either "comfortable" or "very comfortable" with the overall climate at Quinnipiac. Only 7% — roughly 219 respondents — said they were "uncomfortable" or "very uncomfortable" with the climate, and the rest said they were "neither comfortable nor uncomfortable."

Here is what the data show, broken down by the three most statistically significant demographics:

BY RACIAL IDENTITY:

The university's climate assessment identified a measurable relationship between racial identity and perceptions of Quinnipiac's campus environment.

More than 80% of white respondents — who accounted for half of the survey sample — said they were either "comfortable" or "very comfortable" with the overall campus environment.

But less than 70% of all non-white respondents said the same.

Black respondents, in particular, were more likely than members of other marginalized racial groups to have a negative perception of the campus culture. Only two-thirds of the 137 Black respondents rated the overall climate positively, with 24% rating it neutrally and the remaining 9% rating it negatively.

Other non-white respondents felt similarly: only 69% of Latino respondents and 70% of Asian and Pacific Islander respondents perceived Quinnipiac's campus climate positively.

Classroom climate comfort levels were consistently higher across all racial groups, with 88% of white respondents, 79% of multiracial respondents and 75% of Black respondents perceiving the in-class climate positively.

However, the survey data also link racial identity with feelings of community acceptance and social connectedness, revealing that white students and staff tended to feel a greater sense of belonging at Quinnipiac than respondents of color.

The results further correlate racial identity and perceived academic success. Case in point, white undergraduate students were more likely than their Latino and Asian and Pacific Islander

peers to perceive their academic performance positively. Among graduate students, white and Latino respondents were more likely than other students of color to perceive their academic performance positively.

More than 30 undergraduate students reported experiencing racially motivated exclusionary conduct, making racial identity the second-most reported driver of bias incidents among this demographic.

BY GENDER IDENTITY:

Quinnipiac's climate survey also found that attitudes toward the campus environment were tied directly to respondents' gender and sexual identities.

The data showed few discrepancies between the attitudes of men and women respondents: 80% of each group said they were either "comfortable" or "very comfortable" with Quinnipiac's overall campus environment, with only 5% of women and 6% of men expressing discomfort or extreme discomfort.

Just 57% of nonbinary and transgender respondents expressed the same level of comfort with the university's climate, though.

In the classroom, 86% of men respondents and 85% of women respondents perceived the climate positively. By contrast, only 59% of nonbinary and transgender respondents reported feeling comfortable with the in-class climate.

The data show that trans-spectrum respondents were between three and three-and-a-half times more likely than men and women to be uncomfortable with the campus culture. They were also considerably more likely than cisgender men and women respondents to seriously consider leaving Quinnipiac.

Nonbinary and transgender graduate students felt a significantly weaker sense of belonging than their men and women counterparts. The survey data also show that gender-based bias incidents accounted for a fifth of all incidents of exclusionary conduct reported by graduate students and about a sixth of those reported by staff.

BY SEXUAL IDENTITY:

The survey data reveal a similar correlation between sexual identity and comfort.

While 80% of heterosexual respondents reported perceiving Quinnipiac's climate positively, less than 70% of "queer-spectrum" respondents — those identifying as gay, lesbian, bisexual, asexual or otherwise not heterosexual — reported the same.

The campus climate assessment further showed that queer-spectrum undergraduates felt a weaker sense of belonging than their heterosexual peers.

Per the survey data, undergraduate students reported experiencing discrimination on the basis of their sexual identity more than any other type of discrimination.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The survey data draw a clear connection between negative climate perceptions and marginalization.

But Gabriel Reif, vice president of Rankin Climate, pointed out during the March 25 presentation that this is more reflective of societal issues than of Quinnipiac ones.

"These are things that are commonly seen in our society, because of institutions that exist that often lead to more challenging experiences for people from underrepresented backgrounds," he said.

Reif further emphasized that the climate survey results are not meant to be viewed as "beating down Quinnipiac."

"This is about identifying the opportunities and making it so that we can make data-driven decisions for where the community can invest resources to help make Quinnipiac a more equitable place," he said.

Ellett said Quinnipiac's inaugural climate assessment is meant to provide the university a "baseline" moving forward. A newly formed "Next Steps" working group, Ellett said, will be using this baseline to develop and implement an action plan designed to address the weaknesses that survey respondents identified in the university's climate.

"If you don't have a baseline ... next time around, you really don't know where you started," Ellett said. "And you need some time when you start to put some interventions in place to be able to then measure whether or not what you put your time and energy into made the most difference."

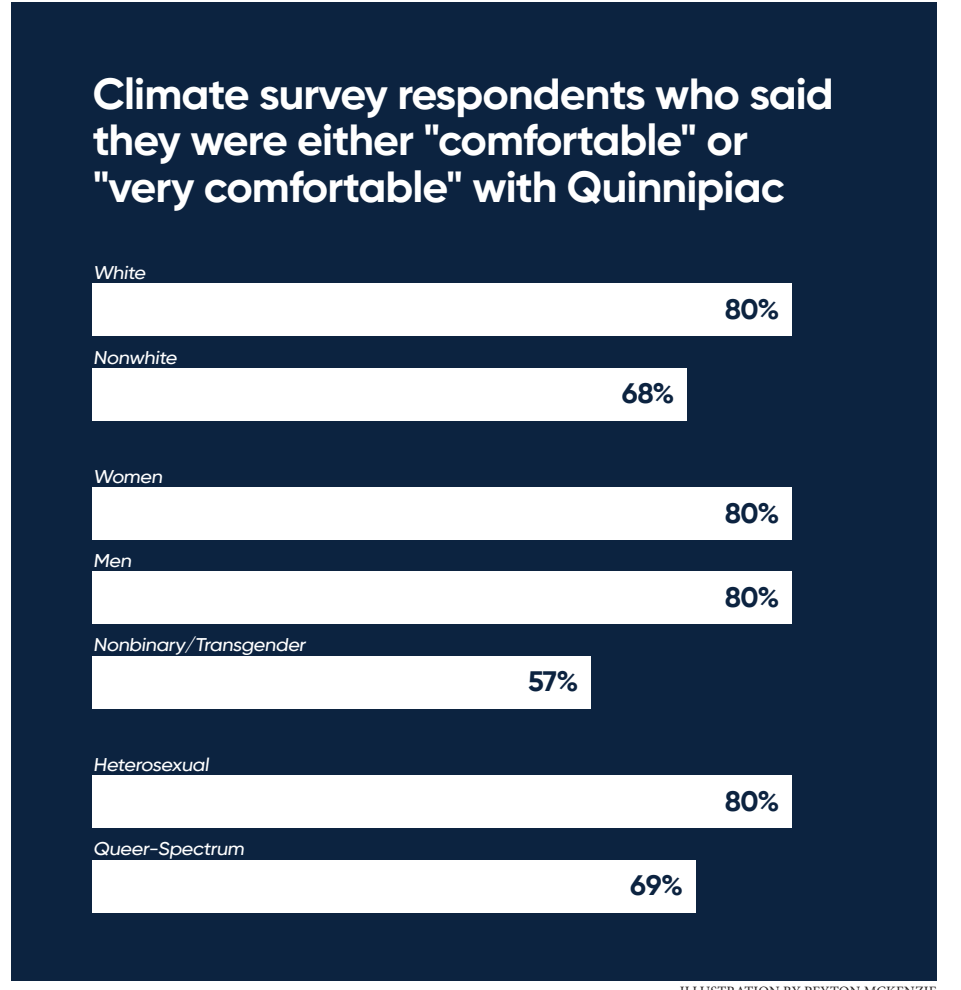


ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

Highest-ranking women of color resign days apart

The associate provost and general counsel are now the 13th and 14th senior administrators to leave Quinnipiac in the past 18 months

By CAT MURPHY
News Editor

Quinnipiac University's two most senior women administrators of color — Khalilah Brown-Dean, associate provost for faculty affairs, and Elicia Spearman, general counsel and vice president for human resources — announced their impending departures this month, bringing the total number of high-level resignations since October 2022 to 14.

Provost Debra Liebowitz on March 18 announced to the Faculty Senate that Brown-Dean, whose tenure at Quinnipiac has spanned nearly 13 years, would be leaving the university April 26 to take a position at nearby Wesleyan University.

"I feel very fortunate that Khalilah has spent the last 13 years sharing her commitment to students, faculty and staff here at Quinnipiac," Liebowitz wrote in an email statement to The Chronicle Thursday. "The institution is

certainly the better for it. She leaves big shoes to fill, and I look forward to all of the impact she will have in her new role."

Quinnipiac President Judy Olian then announced to faculty Thursday that Spearman is also leaving next month to become the Girl Scouts of Connecticut's next chief executive officer.

"I'm very sad to lose Elicia's expertise, wise counsel and creative energy that she brought to all she touched at the university," Olian wrote in the March 28 email. "Yet this new opportunity captures her longtime passion for female mentoring and development."

Spearman, who joined Quinnipiac in 2020 as its inaugural in-house legal counsel, is departing the university on April 3.

"As a Hamden native, it was very enjoyable to work in my hometown and serve as a brand ambassador for QU," Spearman wrote in Olian's email to faculty. "I'll be

rooting for more continued success for all Bobcats. This will be a new and exciting opportunity as CEO of the Girl Scouts of Connecticut — and I'm looking forward to this next step in my leadership journey."

Caroline Park, a partner at law firm Wiggin and Dana who has provided outside legal counsel to Quinnipiac since 2012, will serve as acting general counsel until the university appoints Spearman's permanent successor.

Anna Spragg, associate vice president for human resources, will serve as interim vice president for human resources.

"As sad as I am to see Elicia leave, she is ascending to a tremendous leadership opportunity, a CEO role, something she has a life passion about," Olian wrote in a March 28 statement to The Chronicle. "Quinnipiac is proud that highly talented individuals can expand their skill set while at our university and are thus positioned for further career opportunities."

The consecutive resignations of the campus's two most prominent women of color did not occur in a vacuum. Rather, they are indicative of an administrative mass exodus that has defined the university's last year-and-a-half.

Quinnipiac has said goodbye to 11 senior administrators over the past 18 months: four vice presidents, three deans, two Title IX coordinators and now the associate provost and general counsel.

Three lower-level administrative officials — the director and associate director of multicultural education and training and the director of recreation — also resigned during this period.

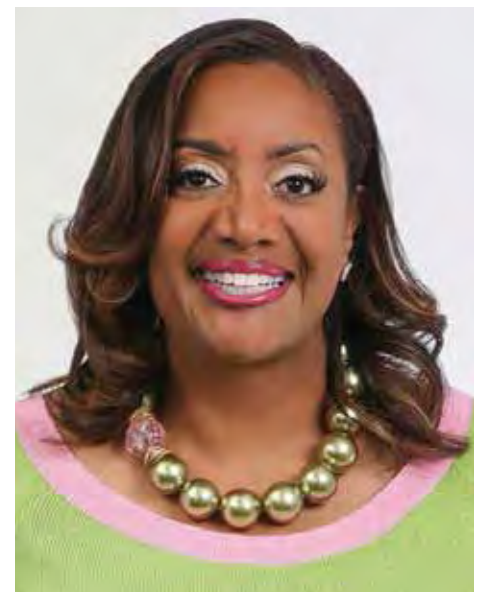
Brown-Dean and Spearman announced their imminent departures just weeks after Quinnipiac made a handful of high-level administrative hires that appeared to buck the monthslong turnover trend.

But taken together, a total of 14 high-ranking Quinnipiac officials, including seven administrators of color, have left the university since October 2022 — the rough equivalent of one departure every five weeks.



COURTESY OF QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

Khalilah Brown-Dean, associate provost for faculty affairs, is leaving Quinnipiac University on April 26 to take a position at Wesleyan University.



COURTESY OF QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

Elicia Spearman, general counsel and vice president for human resources, left April 3 to become the next CEO of the Girl Scouts of Connecticut.

A total of 14 high-ranking Quinnipiac officials, including seven administrators of color, have left the university since October 2022.

Quinnipiac screens 'Connie Cook: A Documentary' to spotlight pre-Roe abortion activist

By BENJAMIN YEARGIN
Managing Editor

In 1965, 21-year-old Sue Perlmut had an illegal abortion. The procedure was sketchy, unsafe and expensive — it cost her \$700 of her \$3,000 annual salary. For context, \$700 in 1965 would be worth roughly \$6,900 today.

"I felt shame because I had to do it illegally," Perlmut said. "I never want another woman to go through an illegal abortion and go through what I went through."

It happened five years before the state of New York legalized abortion, and eight years before the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Roe v. Wade gave women the right to abortion.

In the modern day, where a different term of the Supreme Court has overturned Roe v. Wade, Perlmut and five Quinnipiac University departments presented her film, "Connie Cook: A Documentary," at the North Haven Campus on March 28.

"I'm thrilled to be able to bring this here," said Maya Doyle, associate professor of social work and medical sciences. "Wherever we work in healthcare, we are going to encounter folks facing challenging decisions around pregnancy and parenting."

The film focused entirely on Cook, who was a Republican assemblywoman that represented Tompkins County in New York. She served on the New York State Assembly from 1963-1974, one of three women in the Assembly during that time.

Prior to that, Cook earned an undergraduate and law degree from Cornell University. She also won the Fulbright Scholarship and traveled around Europe for two years, before returning to New York and getting married. She had two children, a boy and a girl.

So why did the department of social work, center for interprofessional healthcare education, the women's and gender's studies department and the two North Haven libraries come together to show this film?

It's because of Cook's legacy of supporting human rights.

In 1970, Cook authored a bill decriminalizing abortions in New York, making them safer and more widely available to women. Former New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller signed it into law that same year.

Three years later, the Supreme Court used the language in the law — most of which was Cook's writing — to rule in fa-

vor of Roe v. Wade.

Cook, who went on to become the first female vice president of Cornell, also advocated for female priests to be ordained and accepted into the American Episcopal Church. She sued the Episcopal Church — and won.

Following the screening, Perlmut and Doyle held a panel to discuss the film and answer questions from those in attendance.

With only 15 people in a room that fits 160 — about half of whom were students — the conversation focused on activism, the state of abortion today, the Supreme Court and Perlmut's approach to making this film.

Even though most students in the room were required to attend the talk for a class, they still got something out of it.

"Abortion is such a taboo topic," said Ty Veloso, a second-year master of social work student. "I want to learn more about abortion rights and women's rights, and how I can help advocate in the future."

Perlmutter spent six years making the film, beginning in 2009 when she attended Cook's memorial service. Cook's story nestled itself inside Perlmut's mind, where it remains 15 years later.

"Usually, when I make a film, I make the film, show the film, promote the film and I move on to the next project," Perlmut said. "I did briefly with Connie Cook, but she kept coming back."

The film was released in 2015, yet Perlmut is still advocating and promoting it today like it is brand new. Quinnipiac was the third college in three days that the 80-year-old had visited to promote "Connie Cook: A Documentary."

"I want to bring this film everywhere," Perlmut said.

She believes it remains important to view amid the current circumstances around bodily autonomy.

In June 2022, the Supreme Court case Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization overturned Roe v. Wade. Across the U.S., 21 states have fully banned abortion with another seven posting partial bans.

Connie Cook's legacy is chock full of accomplishments, but her most resounding accomplishment — her legislation — still makes waves today, not because of its presence, but its lack thereof.

"She keeps me motivated," Perlmut said.

Opinion

Leveling the playing field

How restructuring the NFL would be a game changer for viewers and players alike

By **A.J. NEWTH**
Opinion Editor

Nearly half of the U.S. population watches national-level sports at least once a month, with numbers ringing in at a whopping 161.1 million viewers forecasted for 2024, according to Statista. But I would bet that less than 2% understand the business behind them.

I'm not talking about draft picks, compensation or sports betting. I'm talking about ownership, and how a shift in the way each individual team is custodially organized could improve the U.S. league teams for players, fans and everyone in between. But simply because it means less money in the deep pockets of billionaires like Robert Kraft and Jerry Jones, it's an option that's often swept under the rug.

If you're an NFL fan, you know who the Green Bay Packers are. If you're not an NFL fan and you've seen the movie "Pitch Perfect 2," you know who they are too.

They're not bad on the field, not bad on the stage and excellent when it comes to ownership organization. The Packers are so good in fact, that every NFL team should take a page out of their book — the nonprofit page that is.

The Packers are the only NFL team in the league that is publicly owned by fans. They're owned by Green Bay Inc., a nonprofit corporation, and the shares are held by numerous shareholders, many of whom are residents of Green Bay, Wisconsin, and fans of the team. The Packers are governed by a board of directors and a president elected by shareholders, instead of a family or individual who calls all the shots.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

There are several benefits to being a nonprofit-owned team in the league. For starters, the fans own the team, a cool concept that fosters a unique connection between the team and its community. Fans have a direct stake in the team's success, also keeping the team rooted in Green Bay where it can continue to serve the interests of its fans.

As a nonprofit, the Packers prioritize the long-term success and sustainability of the team instead of generating profits for individual owners or corporations. This focus on financial stability allows the team to invest in its infrastructure, player development and community initiatives without the pressure to maximize short-term profits.

There are certain transparency and accountability requirements for nonprofit organizations as opposed to for-profit ones.

Green Bay's financial statements, governance structure and decision-making processes are more accessible to the public and regulatory authorities, which not only means fans and stakeholders have direct access to what's going on with the team, but also that the Packers remain accountable for their choices.

Wouldn't you like to know what your team is up to and what it's spending money on?

Consumer preferences are changing, and companies and teams alike are observing a difference in the way individuals spend their money. With concerns ranging from climate change to political uprisings, people are careful about what they invest in and which causes they support. If all national league sports teams were as transparent as the Packers and arranged themselves on the nonprofit track, they may even generate more fans.

It's not just the number of fans generated by the team, but the quality of those fans. These fans aren't your average Bills Mafia who are slamming onto tables or Philadelphia Eagles fans who cheer when opposing players get injured on the turf. These are fans who are inclusive and so dedicated to their team that they follow the Packers across the country. They even have a website dedicated to Green Bay fans who are traveling and looking for good spots to eat. The cultivation of such a dedicated, yet respectful, group of fans stems from the ownership of the team being in those same fans' hands.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Great organizations create great fan bases and therefore build legacies. Even non-fans can have admiration for the community the Packers have built. There's always some level of hostility between rival franchises and there's most certainly a difference in goals for each team. Imagine a world where the goals for all sports teams were the same: fostering community, donating to charitable causes and reinvesting in the team in ways that matter.

Feasibility is undoubtedly an issue when it comes to reorganizing the NFL structure, let alone other groups such as the NHL, NBA and MLB. Pulling teams away from the tight grips of their tyrannical, money-hungry owners is its own challenge. If NFL commissioner Roger Goodell read this article, he'd probably print it out just to burn it.

Organizational change is arguably one of the hardest types of change. It's difficult to get a huge group of individuals



MIKE MORBECK/FLICKR

Enthusiastic Green Bay Packers shareholders sport their 'OWNER' labeled cheesehead hats during a game on Dec. 28, 2014.

with their own opinions to agree on one set structure to apply to teams across the country. People also typically fear that change means they're losing something of value, or that they won't be able to conform to new rules and regulations.

Despite all the challenges and differences in opinions, with the right approach there's a high chance for a shift this large to be achieved. The best strategy for achieving this is called masterful change, where top leaders (owners of each team and high positions in the NFL franchises) spend time engaging with each party and invoking change, supporting each team as they find their own path to nonprofit success.

Eventually, if every NFL team transitions to a nonprofit model and are all on the same page, there is opportunity for restructuring other parts of the league, like concussion protocols and tackle regulations. Where previous owners may have been quick to get their star player back in the spotlight following injury, a nonprofit structure could allow teams and fans to have more decision-making power, which can help with injury prevention and healing time.

The NFL team owners tend to take precedence over the Players Association when rule changes are made, including a recent approval to eliminate the hip-drop tackle. Shouldn't the athletes actually participating in the game have a larger say in illegal rule-making, not the owners who sit and profit off of games, injury or not?

DOES IT REALLY WORK?

It's difficult to trust this idea when there's only one NFL team doing it. Who's to say the entire league wouldn't fall apart if each team shifted to the nonprofit structure? As a matter of fact, Green Bay isn't the only franchise that's taken on this initiative, it's working for plenty of leagues — overseas in Europe.

Soccer teams Manchester United, Liverpool and AFC Wimbledon are among a long list of teams who have successfully transitioned to nonprofit, fan-owned structures. The results? For most teams, nothing but positive.

Teams found that fan ownership allowed

for democratic decision making, community connection and sustainability. By reducing reliance on wealthy investors, fan ownership promotes financial stability for the club, mitigating the risk of debt or mismanagement.

Clubs are also protected from exploitation by external investors and their increased transparency and accountability leads to more engagement, fan loyalty and a larger emphasis of building an impactful legacy for the surrounding community.

The U.K. is not the only country to take on this model. Germany's Bundesliga — its professional soccer league — is deemed one of the most fan-friendly leagues in Europe, in part to the teams in the league have been mostly fan-owned since 1998.

It's a concrete execution of the nonprofit model, proving that the NFL would likely have endless success and opportunities if it took power away from wealthy owners and put it in the hands of fans instead.

ASA FAN, WHAT CAN I DO?

Truth be told, there's not much that individual fans can do, especially from the comfort of their couches, remote in hand. I can't — in good conscience — recommend you stop watching your favorite teams and stop supporting them by buying their merchandise, because such an ask is simply unreasonable.

I could tell you to start petitions, garner support online and rally fans across the country. I could ask that you spread this information to others in hopes that some big change really does occur, but again, that's no small feat.

This is just another example of how large the gap is between the organizations and the fans. We have no real power or say when it comes to helping our teams or changing the way they're run unless we can get enough people to stop supporting a team to the point that they're forced to listen — that would mean getting hundreds, maybe even thousands of people to care, which is unlikely.

So there's not much you can do to help. Unless you're a Green Bay Packers fan, in that case, you could just knock on your neighbor's door — they're probably a partial owner.

“Great organizations create great fan bases and therefore build legacies. Even non-fans can have admiration for the community the Packers have built.”

— **A.J. Newth**
OPINION EDITOR

Opinion

TikTok's color analysis trend is ruining self-perception

By **AMANDA MADERA**
Copy Editor

Since when did people begin to care about the colors they wear?

Every time I open TikTok, there's always some form of a color analysis video on my "For You" Page. Whether it's a professional color analysis video or a creator asking for input on what "season" they are, I can never escape it.

As someone who's been on TikTok since the app rebranded itself from Musical.ly in 2018, I can't help but notice how shallow and self-absorbed the platform has become over the last six years.

The usage of filters has become a lot more prevalent now that they're more than just ways to enhance facial features. With the rise of interactive filters, content creators use these to reach their audiences.

Within the last month, I've seen a lot of people use filters with an array of colors that pertain to each season. As they put the colors to their face, they ask their audience to help them determine what shades they should be wearing in order to avoid looking "washed out."

However, this is not a new trend. While it was invented in the 1800s, seasonal color analysis has been popular since the 1980s. Many believe that it's not about swearing off certain colors completely, but finding which shades compliment you.

These trends are just harmful to society overall, but a lot of them are directed toward young women. All of these niche topics to worry about begin to pile up and cause un-

necessary insecurities.

I only see women using these filters, not men. This trend is just another way to control women's appearances and find ways to make them more "appealing" to the eyes of others. The more we give in to these trends, the more we perpetuate harmful stereotypes and judgements.

Color analysis has seen a resurgence because it's being integrated into the fashion industry again. People are taking into consideration which colors make them look "good," and which colors don't do them any favors.

I'm all for wearing what you're comfortable in, but this defeats the entire purpose. If you like a color, wear it. You don't need social media to dictate what you look good in.

Don't even get me started on how stupid it is to get a professional color analysis done. Why would you hire a professional to tell you what you can and can't wear? Are you going to get a completely new wardrobe if they tell you you've been wearing the wrong colors your entire life?

Not only that, but people are flying to other countries to meet with these specialists.

Color analysts are just capitalizing on people's insecurities. How can you make a living telling people what they should and shouldn't be wearing?

People preach that shaming others for what they wear is wrong, but will pick apart someone's wardrobe and say that certain colors make them look "old."

Reducing people to what they wear is immoral. It also subconsciously teaches you to

beat yourself up over your appearance.

The gold versus silver jewelry feud has also been going on for a while. As someone who switches between gold and silver jewelry often, it doesn't matter whether you're a "gold girly" or not. Wear whatever metal you want to — or both.

Depending on your hair color, eye color, undertones and skin tone, it's no secret that some colors are more flattering than others. But seasonal color analysis shouldn't be something to swear by. This is just another way to obsess over your identity.

Restricting yourself from wearing certain colors is just harming your freedom of expression. It's one thing to want to look good, but that's achievable by wearing any color. You

shouldn't have to limit yourself to be seen as attractive by the public.

Take it from me, someone who has obsessed over every little detail about their life constantly. It took me a while, but I finally realized that if I'm always worrying about how I look or how other people perceive me, I was never going to be happy.

It doesn't matter which colors make your eyes pop. It doesn't matter which shade of green goes with your hair. Life is too short to worry about whether you should wear bright colors or not.

So, throw on whatever clothes make you feel comfortable. Confidence is what makes you look good, not a certain hue.

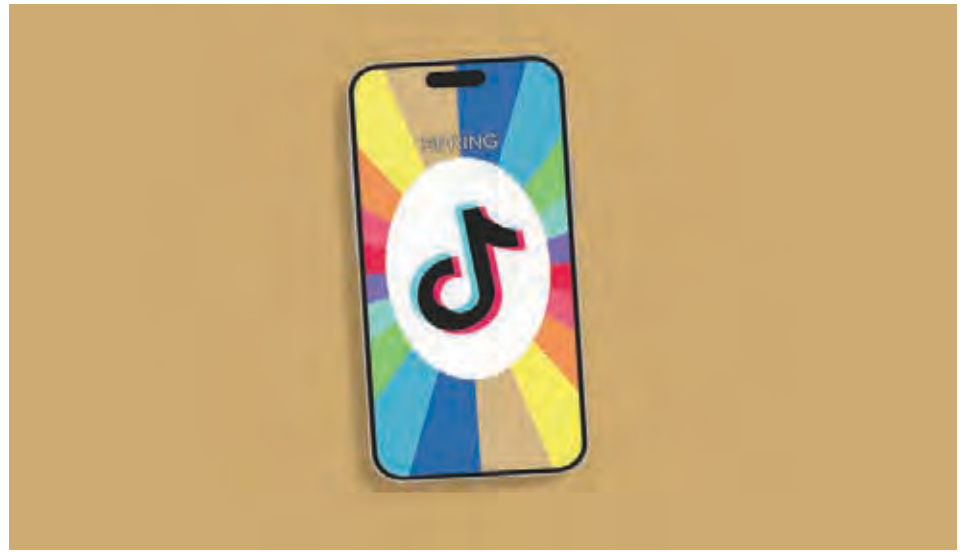


ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

Why the slicked-back style is here to stay

By **EMILY ADORNO**
Associate Multimedia Editor

In the ever-evolving world of fashion and ideal beauty standards, there's a hairdo that's evolved into the "it girl" style: the slicked-back.

This isn't just a way to wear your hair; it's a bold declaration of sophistication and it's quickly become part of my identity.

The slicked-back hairstyle — any way of pulling back hair and slicking it with some form of gel or other product — isn't just another fleeting trend; it's an institution, celebrated across decades by icons. It's a style that can fit whatever aesthetic it needs to and reigns supreme as a versatile hairstyle for anybody. However, not everyone is on board with hair's newest do.

Some critics dismiss the slicked-back look as one that won't flatter their face. Many

say it makes them look bald or that it can make other features stick out too much. For that, I say that there is no right way to wear your hair. If you like the look then wear it and don't criticize others for expressing themselves with their hair.

All hair types and face shapes are beautiful and can be equally accentuated with a slicked-back style, per Rossano Ferritti — a famous Italian hairstylist. If you think otherwise, it's likely that social media has created that perception for you.

Hair should be used as a way to express yourself. Just look at celebrities like Sofia Richie Grainge and Bella Hadid rocking the slicked-back on the runway, and even in the streets of their favorite cities. These stars don't just wear the style; they embody it, showcasing their own personal flare and its adaptability.

The real magic of the slicked-back is its adaptability. Keep it looser and pull some pieces out in the front, or add something personal to it like a bow or a braid. These styles are meant to make you feel good, so play with it to your liking and ignore the judgment from others of how you chose to present yourself.

This is not just a look for greasy hair days or for lazy people. Slicked-back styles remain superior because they cater to a broad spectrum of tastes and preferences and can be worn in a variety of ways.

The nonrestrictive look showcases a variety of hairdos all fit for any occasion as well. Wearing your hair to work and transitioning to go out with friends can be hard to do with limited time. Any polished sleek look can be as formal or casual as it needs to be without missing a beat.

Unlike styles that fit a restrictive mold for certain hair textures and face shapes, slicked-backs are able to keep your personality shining while remaining flattering.

Whether you have unruly curly hair like me, pin-straight hair or somewhere in between, there is a slicked-back style waiting to elevate your look no matter what others think you should do instead.

Long, thick braids or neat half-up half-downs are not meant for every hair type. Having long hair is a lot to maintain and not everyone has super thick hair. These styles restrict people from being able to participate in the hair trends that they think are cute. It can be upsetting to try a style that does not

work as well for your hair type. However, the slicked-back is a staple look, has multiple style options and can transform any aesthetic. It works for any occasion.

The appeal of a slicked-back for me isn't just about expressing myself. The hairstyle gives me a feeling of authority. It makes a bold statement and shows personal expression all while exuding confidence. The clean lines and polished finish of the slicked-back convey an attention to detail that makes the wearer feel unstoppable.

For centuries, people — especially women — have had to adapt their hair to fit the molds of society and their culture. For many women, hair impacts their confidence and a change in hair can mean a change in their life. Diving deeper into what hair truly means to people can help us understand why we shouldn't judge others based on how they choose to express themselves.

Trying out a slick style to see how you feel in it can help you change up your look. It is a versatile hairstyle for anybody and a great way to put some personal expression into your hair. We as a society need to stop diminishing others' confidence and let people wear their hair how they please.

The slicked-back is more than just a way to wear your hair; it's an expression of your true self and it can be a statement of confidence and elegance. Whether you like it or not, the style is not going anywhere and I will continue to wear it as a way to make me feel good about myself.



ILLUSTRATION BY KATERINA PARIZKOVA



Arts & Life

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY THE ARTIST'S MANAGEMENT

The Student Programming Board announced on March 27 that Flo Rida will headline Wake the Giant on Sunday, April 14 at the M&T Bank Arena.

It's going down for real Students count down to Flo Rida's Wake the Giant announcement

By **JACKLYN PELLEGRINO**
Arts & Life Editor

Students gathered in the Carl Hansen Student Center Piazza on March 27 as they watched the minutes tick down to find out the headliner of Wake the Giant on April 14.

At approximately 1:45 p.m., people screamed as the countdown hit zero and students found out that Flo Rida was going to headline Student Programming Board's annual concert.

Jennifer Moglia, WQAQ general manager and Chronicle staff writer, wrote in a statement to The Chronicle that it is such an honor to help make such a huge event happen.

"I grew up listening to a ton of Flo Rida's music and still blast 'Where Them Girls At'

in the car with my roommates today and I'm sure a ton of other students can relate to that," Moglia wrote. "It's sure to be a fun night full of nostalgia and energy — how could you not love Flo Rida?"

Moglia, a senior media studies major and hospitality director for Wake the Giant, is also looking forward to making Flo Rida and his team feel right at home in Hamden.

The Student Programming Board posted several possible headliners on Instagram just days before the announcement event, such as Tate McRae, JID and, of course, Flo Rida. This gave students the opportunity to guess who the artist was going to be in advance.

Many students guessed correctly that Flo

Rida was going to headline the show, but some had other ideas in mind.

"I hope it's Tate McRae... but I feel like it's going to be what we're not expecting because everyone is expecting it to be her," said Tiffany Soriano, a first-year marketing major. "I feel like they're going to switch it up on the last second."

Areli Hernandez, a first-year psychology major, came to the announcement event because she was looking forward to the big reveal.

"I thought it was going to be Flo Rida just because I thought it would fit the college vibe," Hernandez said.

Other students weren't too sure who the artist was going to be, but still wanted

to come to the event to find out and have a good time.

Katie Spedalle, a senior psychology major in the 3+2 master of social work program, said she came to the event because she had time, wanted to hang out with friends and wanted to see if there was any fun merchandise.

"I really have no idea," Spedalle said before the announcement. "I'm going to say Tate McRae."

No matter what your guess was, undergraduate students can buy tickets on Friday at 12 p.m. to see Flo Rida perform at M&T Bank Arena. Floor tickets are \$25 and stand seats are \$20.



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Cake was available to students to enjoy as they waited in anticipation for the Wake the Giant headliner announcement.



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

After the announcement, senior media studies major Hannah Mall shows how excited she is for Flo Rida while she enjoys some cake courtesy of the Student Programming Board.

Beyoncé lassos in a classic with 'Cowboy Carter'

By **ZOE LEONE**
Arts & Life Editor

"This ain't a Country album. This is a 'Beyoncé' album."

These were the words Beyoncé Knowles-Carter used in a March 19 Instagram post to describe her newest album, "Cowboy Carter," which released March 29. After the first listen to the 27-track album, it's clear that truer words have never been spoken.

While "Cowboy Carter" is the second part of "Renaissance"'s beginnings, the album actually came to fruition after Beyoncé's experience performing with The Chicks at the 2016 Country Music Awards. She was met with serious backlash, from those who paid no attention to the performance to critics and artists alike claiming that the singer didn't have a space in country.

The world of country made it clear that they were not welcoming her. So she made it even clearer that she didn't need their permission to step fully into the genre.

This message of empowerment and reclamation is clear from the first track, "AMERICAN REQUIEM," a clear letter to the country genre and the nay-sayers that tried to keep her out. With lyrics like "Can you stand me? / Can you stand with me?" paired with a twangy guitar, Beyoncé introduces listeners beautifully to the album ahead.

The next track, "BLACKBIRD," is a powerful continuation of the themes explored throughout this new era. The song is a cover of "Blackbird" by The Beatles and Beyoncé's vocals are goosebump-raisingly good.

The meaning behind the song is about much more than stellar singing: Paul McCartney revealed in a 2018 interview that he wrote the song about the experiences of Black women

in the U.S. during the Civil Rights Movement, which makes the "Cowboy Carter" version even more powerful.

Beyoncé is joined on the track by Tanner Addell, Brittany Spencer, Tiera Kennedy and Reyna Roberts — four Black female country artists — and their incredible talents only serve the track's overall message: they are here to stay.

And thus begins the set-up of "Cowboy Carter," much like the classic country song set-up of storytelling through song, the album does the very same throughout the hour and 18 minute run-time. Each grouping of songs bleeds into the next, creating a journey of the artist, following her beginnings, her relationships, her losses and her power.

Beyoncé pays incredible respect to country throughout the album, proving that she clearly did her research. Not only are country legends like Willie Nelson and Dolly Parton featured throughout the album, but "Cowboy Carter" makes incredible usage of the country classics — from the emotional ballad to songs that make you want to throw on your cowboy boots and line-dance.

Parton's involvement on the album is a bright spot. The legend — who's been wanting Beyoncé to cover one of her classics for years — orates intros to several songs on "Cowboy Carter," including the much-awaited cover of "JOLENE." With altered lyrics and enhanced instrumentals featuring R&B elements, the homage to one of country's greatest is nothing short of a classic in its own right.

That's also one of the strongest elements of "Cowboy Carter" and what cements the album as a Beyoncé original; the use of genre-bending

components pay respect to the music that not only made the singer a household name, but Black music as a whole.

There's a diverse mix of genres highlighted, from Italian opera ("DAUGHTER," one of the album's most impressive, features Beyoncé singing the famous aria "Caro Mio Ben") to classic rock ("I MOST WANTED," which features Miley Cyrus, interpolates "Landslide" by Fleetwood Mac). But there are perhaps no outside genres as respected throughout the album as R&B and hip-hop.

"TYRANT" features a hip-hop beat that lies beautifully beneath classic country elements, like a sizzling violin and tell-all lyrics, to create a truly excellent duet of genres.

Similarly, "YA YA" — which is undeniably one of the best tracks on the album — is an ode to the musicians of the Chitlin Circuit, which was a series of venues throughout the South that provided Black musicians with a platform during the height of segregation. Through a sample of "These Boots Were Made for Walking" and a pounding rock guitar, Beyoncé tells the story of American music that's often swept far under the rug.

However, the project has just as many moments of pure, country fun as it does groundbreaking music revelations. "BODYGUARD" is one of the album standouts and is guaranteed to be replayed for days. Its sultry guitar and smooth-as-honey vocals make it an instant earworm and the

perfect sexy country hit.

As a whole, "Cowboy Carter" is a true triumph of music, made by an artist who clearly respects her peers and the history of the genres she works in just as much as her ability to break records. It's an album with longevity, sure to be referred to as a triumph in the world of country for years to come. It's equal parts homage to the deep history of country and Black musicians as it is musical excellence, the only good part of the end of the album is the promise of "Act III" soon to come.

After all, not many artists can enrich themselves so wholly and so successfully in a new genre. But then again, most artists aren't Beyoncé.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX KENDALL

The dark truth of Hollywood celebrity conservatorships

By **KRYSTAL MILLER**
Associate Arts & Life Editor

Early-2000s Hollywood stars were not complete without rhinestones, glamor and chunky blonde highlights glistening on stage. Behind the celebrities known for their performances of upbeat songs and comedy sketches, was a darker struggle with mental health.

Singer Britney Spears and actor Amanda Bynes were among the most popular celebrities put under court-ordered conservatorships in the last two decades. Their conservatorships left their family members in charge of their finances and personal affairs.

Conservatorships are legal arrangements that allow courts to appoint a person to control the financial, medical and personal affairs of an individual deemed incapacitated, whether because of mental illness or some other reason.

In Spears' case, she was involuntarily placed under a conservatorship. Spears' conservator from ages 26-39 was her father, James Spears. Until 2019, attorney Andrew Wallet was also co-conservator. Spears' behavior was called into question after she shaved her head, attacked the paparazzi with an umbrella and locked herself in a room with her child, Jayden Federline, to avoid handing him over to her father.

Spears has since gone on to say that her father abused her, and did not allow her to see her friends or speak about what was going on. Spears also claims that her father tried to control her body image, forced her to take medication and go on tour. She was not in control of getting remarried or having children. In 2021, Spears pressed charges against her father for conservatorship abuse.

In California, where the conservatorship was placed, the court reviews cases one year

from establishment then every two years after. To end a conservatorship, the court must receive a petition for termination and make an official court order to end the arrangement.

It should be easier for celebrities to end a conservatorship if they choose to do so, because it is their body and their money. There should also be more evaluations to decide whether the conservatee is capable of making decisions on their own rather than every two years.

Especially if the celebrity is getting treatment for their mental health, there should be some reconsideration. People deserve to be in charge of their own medical care.

It can be difficult for people to leave a conservatorship because the conservator is the one managing their money. Not only does the conservatee need money to file for the end of the conservatorship, but there is also

the fear that the conservator will exploit their finances in retaliation.

A conservator is typically paid for their services and legal fees, so they are likely not going to want the arrangement to end. A conservator can also take advantage of the star to earn more money because they can control how much the performer works. The celebrity also has to go through the stress of multiple court appearances and defending their position in front of their conservator.

In Bynes' case, there were several incidents that led up to the conservatorship, including Bynes being charged with driving under the influence, a hit-and-run incident and throwing a marijuana bong out of a high-rise building.

Her mother Lynn Bynes served as her conservator from ages 27-35. Her parents told the court they were concerned for the health of

their daughter and wanted to control her medical care and finances. But Bynes has told the court she was not happy with the cost of her medical treatment because she was not seeing a therapist who took her insurance.

In contrast to Spears, Bynes' parents supported her ending the conservatorship and she did not allege abuse. Bynes was also temporarily engaged, but if she ended up wanting to be married, her mother would've needed to approve it during the conservatorship. Although this is a better outcome than Spears, Bynes has not spoken out much about what happened.

With both celebrities being placed under conservatorships for mental health reasons, it is clear that there needs to be more done to help child stars navigate the industry and get the help they need when they are struggling. If their families had tried to intervene before the celebrities made such public mistakes, there might have been steps that could've been taken before legal action.

Although it is not only celebrities who are placed under conservatorships, it is important to have more precautions because of the higher stakes involved. The celebrities' money, fame and power is on the line when there's another person in charge of what they can do. This is also not a long-term solution because it's not directly fixing the root of why the conservatorship was created in the first place.

It should never be the case that people aren't given the chance to choose what they are eating or who they are talking to on the phone. Those are basic civil rights everyone should be entitled to no matter the circumstance. Although both celebrities are free now, there still needs to be reform in the justice system to prevent situations like these happening in the future.



THE HEART TRUTH/FICKR/GLENN FRANCIS/WWW.PACIFICPRODIGITAL.COM/PHOTOILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

Keeping up with the Krafts: Apple TV+'s 'The Dynasty' is a bumbling football soap opera

By COLIN KENNEDY and ETHAN HURWITZ

When describing the Apple TV+ documentary series "The Dynasty," Tom Brady said it best.

"I'm not going to allow other people to take away from something so special," Brady said.

Directed by Matthew Hamachek, "The Dynasty" covers the historic 20-year run of the New England Patriots. Based on Jeff Benedict's book of the same name, the series focuses on the relationship between former head coach Bill Belichick, Brady, team owner Robert Kraft and their eventual fall from grace.

Unfortunately, "The Dynasty" is too much like "Keeping Up With The Kardashians" and not enough like the love letter that every player and coach who contributed to six Super Bowl titles deserved.

While the series is clearly a top-quality

product, and very well-reviewed — it currently has a 100% Rotten Tomatoes score — it has one glaring problem.

It wasn't made for either the fans of the team or those who enjoy football.

Instead of telling the story of the most dominant football team in the history of the NFL, Hamachek focused more on the franchise's scandals and evolving off-the-field incidents. More often than not, the series spun the negativity toward Belichick, making Kraft and Brady come off as the glistening heroes of New England's football excellence.

And look, did the Patriots' 20-year run have some major scandals? Yes (allegedly). Should the series spend time covering said scandals? Yes. But to spend entire episodes on some of these scandals is a disservice to what many consider the most dominant team in professional sports.

The Spygate scandal — where the Patriots were allegedly filming opposing

teams from undisclosed locations in 2007 — justifiably received a full episode to dive into those details. That being said, a dramatic recreation of now-Vice President of Football Business Robyn Glaser carrying a hammer — mimicking when she was told by the NFL to destroy the tapes — was drastically over the top.

Could that have happened? Sure, but at the same time, it's not a mid-day soap opera.

Another scandal that received a whole episode was the saga of former tight end Aaron Hernandez. To devote an entire episode to someone who only suited up for three seasons was undoubtedly a questionable decision.

In 2013, Hernandez was arrested and found guilty of the murder of Odin Lloyd and was charged with two other murders, which he was found not guilty of. Kraft and Belichick didn't deserve a single ounce of the blame for Hernandez, yet the dramatics of "The Dynasty" sure lead you to believe they do.

Episode 6 reveals that Hernandez came to Belichick before his arrest, requesting a trade to a West Coast team because his family was "in danger." Being the uber-talented player that he was, Hernandez wasn't traded and continued playing for the Patriots until his 2013 arrest. The documentary's talking heads heavily implied that trading Hernandez could have prevented Lloyd's murder. Kraft even goes as far as to blame himself — and to an extent, Belichick — for Lloyd's death.

"We messed up on this one," Kraft said. "And for those of you who feel pain, I apologize."

By focusing on the scandals, Hamachek missed the whole point of what made the Patriots great — winning football games. The series entirely skipped over the 2003 and 2004 Super Bowl victories — which included

a 21-game win streak — and multiple MVP seasons from Brady. Instead, backup quarterback Matt Cassel received an entire episode dedicated to him.

At no point were Matt Light, Troy Brown, Kevin Faulk or Vince Wilfork — all members of the Patriots Hall of Fame — given a second of airtime, despite being some of the most crucial players in team history. Instead, the screen was filled with Bon Jovi, Rupert Murdoch and a New Jersey policeman.

Take legendary safety Devin McCourty's comments for example. As a three-time Super Bowl champion and a member of the Patriots' All-Dynasty team, he has more of a leg to stand on than most when it comes to the inner workings of the franchise.

And yet, McCourty publicly expressed disdain on his podcast, saying how he felt "duped" and "that (out of) everything that we all gave to the 20 years that it encompassed, they only hit anything that was negative."

The worst of all is the final thing the viewer sees as each episode comes to a close: "Kraft Dynasty LLC" — a company that was set up to protect the footage in the episodes. While there's no concrete proof that the Krafts were aware of how the series was slanted, it gives off the impression they had some say in what made the final cut.

The question "The Dynasty" tried to answer was, "Was Belichick or Brady more responsible for the Patriots' success?" The real answer it failed to consider was that they couldn't have done it without every player, coach and employee who stepped foot in 1 Patriot Place over the last two decades.

It's a shame "The Dynasty" couldn't deliver the story they deserved. Maybe one day that story will come, but until then, the six Lombardi trophies will speak for themselves.

"There's nothing significant in life that can be accomplished as an individual," Brady said. "It's always about the team."



BROOK WARD/Flickr/ALEXANDER JONES/Flickr/NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/WBUR/Flickr/BERNARD GAGNON/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/PHOTOILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

Shane Gillis: From cancellation to comedic dynamo

By BEN BUSILLO
Staff Writer

In February 2024, comedian Shane Gillis made his return to Saturday Night Live to host, capping off a historic comedic comeback. Gillis was fired from the show in 2019 before he even got a chance to step onto the stage, and he has since climbed the ladder from the abyss of scrutiny to become one of the biggest comedians in the world.

But how?

In today's current climate, it's very hard to be a comedian, especially when your act consists mostly of outrageous and brazen jokes. You have to constantly be careful of keeping your balance on the tightrope of political correctness.

Shane Gillis fell off of the tightrope.

After Gillis was hired for the 45th season of Saturday Night Live in 2019, a clip from his podcast surfaced online from a year prior. Gillis was seen using an anti-Asian slur during a string of sarcastic comments in a conversation with his co-host Matt McCusker. When these clips were dug up, "Shane Gillis" immediately trended number one on X, then known as Twitter. Gillis was bombarded on social media and users called for consequences from NBC, the station that airs SNL.

He eventually issued a begrudging apology for his comments in a now-deleted post on X and said that he is "a comedian who pushes boundaries," adding, "I'm happy to apologize to anyone who's actually offended by anything I said."

NBC would go on to fire Gillis only five days after he signed onto the show.

In response to Gillis' firing, many conservatives rallied around him, and painted him as another victim of cancel culture and the "woke mob." Gillis disagreed with this narrative and respected SNL's decision to let him go.

But Gillis showed that he wouldn't let this debacle dictate how his career would pan out.

Gillis' first special, "Shane Gillis: Live in Austin" was released the year after his firing from SNL. Gillis funded the whole special out of his pocket and uploaded it to his sketch comedy channel, Gilly and Keeves. The special has amassed close to 26 million views. Its success served as a sign of growth in Gillis' career, and that he should be trusted by his fans and insiders in the industry.

Gillis' audience mostly consists of conservative men, who he constantly rips on. In his most recent special, Gillis jabs at the hypocrisy of pro-gun advocates and the unseriousness of Donald Trump's speeches. To offset these political punches, Gillis makes plenty of jokes that inadvertently pander to the conservative demographic.

Today's young right-wingers aren't concerned about Gillis' opinion on free market capitalism, but about how he attacks political correctness through his material. Because of these underlying tones in his act, people on the left are quick to label Gillis as a conservative. However, on numerous occasions he has stated that he is not a Republican.

Gillis often satirizes the nationalist views of the far right and parodies conservatives by transforming himself into a "rah-rah hell yeah 'murica'-type character. In his most recent

special, he claimed the U.S. was the greatest country ever, and then immediately admitted that he's only been to three countries. He then said that Americans giving up their guns to try to prevent mass shootings is "gay."

Gillis' legacy will surely be interesting to see play out, to see him rise from a guy who at one point was at rock bottom. Being fired from a gig like Saturday Night Live (considering the circumstances that he was fired) is 99% of the time going to end your career, especially in today's unforgiving social climate. Gillis' climb from being canceled to being on top of the comedy world serves as a case study for future comedians

who find themselves in such a situation.

Not only is his comeback a case study, but an inspiration and a lesson to many. Gillis ate his punches and moved on. He never complained about his firing or blamed it on "wokeness." He simply acknowledged his mistake and worked his way back to the top.

When now-SNL host Gillis walked onto the stage to perform his stand up monologue, he joked to the audience that "I probably shouldn't be up here."

I disagree.

Gillis is one of the funniest comedians out there. His parody and satire are simply unmatched by any newcomer today.



ILLUSTRATION BY TRIPP MENHALL

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**Based on 7 planned visits, inclusive of screening. Some participants will be asked to complete additional visits. These will be compensated at a rate of \$300 each.*

This study involves:

- 7 visits to the PCRU, about 2-4 hours each, over 7 months
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Study Number C5561001



/PfizerClinicalTrials





PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Sunday's NCAA Regional Final between Quinnipiac and Boston College drew 5,835 fans to Amica Mutual Pavilion in Providence, Rhode Island.

Debate between neutral vs. on-campus games renewed in 2024 NCAA Regionals

By **MICHAEL LARocca**
Opinion Editor

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — In 2023, a No. 1 seed and a fortunate geographical draw in the NCAA Tournament allowed Quinnipiac to turn Total Mortgage Arena in Bridgeport, Connecticut, into “Hamden South.” It was as close of a home-ice advantage the Bobcats could hope for, considering the NCAA has held its regionals at neutral sites for over 30 years.

The posted attendance for Quinnipiac's regional final matchup against Ohio State in 2023 was 4,557, nearly 1,000 more than M&T Bank Arena's maximum capacity of 3,625, but far less than Total Mortgage Arena's hockey capacity of 8,412.

For years, the college hockey world has argued about whether NCAA Tournament games before the Frozen Four should be held at on-campus sites instead of neutral arenas. The central argument for both being that on-campus sites would make for more exciting fan environments while neutral sites will keep competition fair.

“If you follow (X) or any other social media outlet, there's a lot of talk about that,” Wisconsin head coach Mike Hastings said. “I remember the days when they were on campus, and then now having the regionals where they're at, I'm open to discussion.”

Amica Mutual Pavilion, the host of the Providence Regional where Quinnipiac played as a No. 3 seed, holds over 11,000 people in its hockey configuration. The sheer mass of seats makes it a

much more difficult space to fill, but all participating fan bases did the absolute best they could.

The regional saw attendance numbers of 6,988 for the semifinal games and 5,835 for the final. Solid numbers, but far from a sellout, and still less than the average attendance of the facility's primary tenant — the AHL's Providence Bruins (7,608).

The semifinal, however, only drew just under 100 more people than the average Boston College game at Conte Forum (6,895), where the games would have been held if the top seeds were allowed to host the regionals.

With the caravans of Bobcats and Eagles, along with fans of Wisconsin and Michigan Tech descending upon The Renaissance City, the combined attendance in Providence was the highest of the four tournament regions (12,823).

“(The fan turnout) was excellent, I thought it was great tonight,” Quinnipiac head coach Rand Pecknold said after the victory over Wisconsin on Friday. “It was a great crowd for game one, so I was really happy with the attendance tonight.”

It was also nearly free from the slight controversy seen in the other three regions regarding the on-campus vs. neutral site debate.

From teams playing in a 2,500-seat arena in Maryland Heights, Missouri, to teams like Boston University and Denver playing thousands of miles away instead of closer to home, the 2024 NCAA Tournament was not exempt from this annual discussion.

“I see the arguments to both,” Pecknold said.

“But honestly, I like the regional setup. I think it's good to have neutral sites. I do see some arguments as to the other side of it.”

Others, like Hastings, only care about seeing college hockey grow.

“This is about as exciting as sport, as you can see live as any other sport that I've been able to go and watch,” Hastings said. “I can tell you this, whether we were at home in front of 15,000 people, very exciting. When we're on the road, and the place is sold out, it's exciting.”

“The guys just want to play, they want to play in that type of environment. So for me, I'm open to discussion on what is best for the student-athlete and what we can do to continue to progress our sport.”

But for the fans, the people actually choosing to attend these matchups, it depends on a wider range of personal preferences.

There are fans like Michael McGurrate, a 2022 Quinnipiac graduate, who traveled to see the Bobcats in Allentown, Pennsylvania, in 2022 and in New Hampshire in 2023.

“Anywhere in the states (the Bobcats play), I'll go,” McGurrate said.

Then there's some like Maddy Poston, a 2020 Michigan Tech graduate and current Boston resident, who saw

the Huskies' Providence Regional draw as an opportunity to attend the game.

“I was just thrilled that they were going to come out to Providence because it's so close,” Poston said. “I wanted to come and see them play again.”

So while the decision for on-campus vs. neutral regionals may affect the fans the most, it ultimately comes down to the decisions made by coaches across the country. And for Quinnipiac fans, Pecknold's choice is set.

“There's negatives to both and there's positives to both, but my vote every year is to stay with the regionals.”

Regardless, it didn't matter this year, and despite how the Bobcats fared on the ice, the 2024 Providence Regional made for one of the more memorable experiences — the national championship in 2023 notwithstanding — the Quinnipiac community has seen in years.

Jacob Quillan signs two-year deal with Toronto

By **CAMERON LEVASSEUR**
Sports Editor

Quinnipiac forward Jacob Quillan has signed a two-year, entry-level contract with the Toronto Maple Leafs, the team announced Monday night.

The deal — which carries an average annual value of \$875,000 — begins with the 2024-25 season. Quillan will join Maple Leafs' AHL affiliate — the Toronto Marlies — on an amateur tryout agreement for the rest of the season. The Marlies have nine remaining regular season games and currently sit in a playoff spot.

Quillan's defining moment at Quinnipiac

came in the 2023 national championship game. He scored the game winner 10 seconds into overtime against Minnesota, clinching the Bobcats' first national championship in program history. He scored a program-record five goals in that NCAA Tournament, including two against Michigan in the national semifinal en route to being named the Frozen Four's Most Outstanding Player.

In three years at Quinnipiac, Quillan totaled 93 points in 116 games, including 46 as a junior this season, earning him All-ECAC Second Team

honors. He scored two goals in the final game of his career in Hamden, a 5-4 overtime loss to Boston College in the Providence Regional Final on March 31.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Junior forward Jacob Quillan celebrates after scoring the OT winner against AIC on Oct. 13.

Tennis programs 'just happy' to have true home courts

By **ALEXANDRA MARTINAKOVA**
News Editor

Since April 2021 — when the university demolished its tennis courts to build the Recreation and Wellness Center — Quinnipiac tennis teams have played at the North Haven Health and Racquet Club, approximately 10 minutes by car and about an hour's walk from the Mount Carmel Campus.

Last season, the women's tennis team went undefeated in the MAAC and raised the conference trophy. The men's team followed them to the tournament, but lost in the semifinals despite a 4-2 record in the conference. Unfortunately, no one was there to see either of the teams dominate.

It took more than two years, but Quinnipiac University officials replaced more than 20% of the North Lot parking lot with six brand new tennis courts over the summer, to the dismay of many commuters but the delight of the players.

It wasn't an easy road. The Hamden Zoning Board of Appeals blocked the construction of the courts at the original planned location due to the height of the 50-foot light poles, prompting Quinnipiac to withdraw its application in November 2021.

In May 2022, the university officials applied

to construct the courts on the North Haven Campus, however due to the pushback from the residents about the potential light, noise and traffic consequences, they withdrew that application as well six months later. So North Lot it was.

But it didn't come without issues. Some players complained about the courts being slanted. Sal Filardi, vice president for facilities and capital planning, said the university was aware that the work done to the tennis courts "did not meet our expectations" and that the last two courts, five and six, were the worst.

University officials raised these concerns with the contractors before the painting process.

Hard tennis courts should have a one degree slope. The concern was that these courts are sloped at five degrees, which Filardi said was not true. He said there are some ridges on the last two courts. Though Filardi called them "playable" he mentioned that it would be better not to have a competition on those courts.

But because the teams play six singles matches, that is impossible. However, some players are happy with them regardless.

"I love them," senior Dominique Yeo said. "They fit my style well. I'm so happy with them."

The courts feature eight light poles which

allow the players to continue their matches late into the day, a feature that's already paying dividends. Freshman Finn Burrige's game against Siena last Saturday ended after 7:30 p.m.

Along the sides, windscreens adorned with Quinnipiac logos provide little protection against the harsh winds, since the courts have no other protection from trees or other buildings. While rain is enough of a reason to pause or end a match, wind isn't.

"It was extremely windy," said women's head coach Paula Miller Saturday. "It got up to like 35 (mph) and that's extremely difficult."

The teams also still use their old plastic scoreboards. However, some players are simply glad to have the home advantage back.

"I'm just happy to have courts, I'm not gonna complain about them, so they're awesome," senior Shaurya Sood said, who started his career at Quinnipiac playing on the original Mount Carmel Campus courts.

The teams got some practice time on the new courts in the fall but it wasn't until their MAAC season started that they returned to them.

But the Bobcats stepped out on the new courts and showed that they were worthy of them. The men's team has played four opponents

on the courts so far, two in the MAAC, easily cruising past all of them. The women's team had their home opener on Saturday, winning a 4-2 battle against Siena.

The tennis season is short and there aren't a lot of matches left. The women have two home games left on April 11 and 14, against Bryant and Niagara, respectively. The men's team will join them in the fight against Niagara at their last home date.

On days that the two tennis teams do not have a match scheduled, the courts are open for recreational use. They are open from 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. from Sunday to Thursday and an additional hour on Friday and Saturday.

Filardi declined to answer any additional questions about the total costs, construction process, the lost parking spaces or any additional inquiries.

Even though this season nears the end, Quinnipiac tennis teams will finally have a home court to return to. Now, the players and coaches hope to share it with the rest of the university.

As the men's head coach Brian Adinolfi said, "you can't miss them, it's the courts right in the middle of the parking lot."



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

The Quinnipiac men's tennis team debuted the newly installed courts in North Lot with a 6-1 win over Holy Cross on March 12.

Nationally-recognized men's lacrosse on track for first conference championship in half a decade

By **MICHAEL PETITTO**
Staff Writer

Quinnipiac men's lacrosse placed fifth in the MAAC preseason coaches' poll in January. Fast forward three months and the Bobcats are one of the best teams in not only the MAAC but the entire country.

As of publication, Quinnipiac is No. 34 nationally in RPI and was at one point No. 20 in the Inside Lacrosse Media Poll. The Bobcats — who have won eight of their first nine games — have already surpassed their win total from last year.

One of the many reasons the Bobcats have done so well to start the season is senior midfielder Ryan Donnery. The offensive game-changer has already surpassed his career high for points this season, but for him, it's more about the team's success rather than individual.

"Every game matters when you're in the MAAC," Donnery said on March 30. "We're

still a hungry group, we take it game by game and we're trying to just win as many as we can."

The success of the team means a lot to Donnery. And after the Bobcats defeated Mount St. Mary's just a few days after a loss to Manhattan, the victory was that much sweeter.

"I think we got our confidence back," Donnery said. "I've been saying all year that we're still hungry, we got a great group of guys and we're all shooting for a MAAC championship to come through Hamden."

On top of a stellar scoring game, Quinnipiac has seen pristine passing as well. Senior midfielder Steven Germain's presence is felt on the field whether he's stuffing the stat sheet or not. The team captain has 13 assists through nine games, an average of around 1.5 assists per game.

But Germain's impact goes beyond the box score — the midfielder's passing ability allows the offense to flow — which results in open

players and easy goals.

"I think we just have guys that understand what we're trying to do," head coach Mason Poli said on Feb. 17. "They understand how we're trying to coach and our philosophies, they're really buying into that team-first mindset."

With just four games left in the regular season, the Bobcats are likely to make the playoffs. They are currently second in the MAAC and made the postseason last year with a worse record. For the team itself, it's championship or bust.

Following a loss in the first round of the playoffs to Marist, Quinnipiac looks to go far in the postseason. And it has the players to make a run, reflected in its 8-1 record.

On defense, junior goalie Mason Oak is manning the trenches. The netminder is currently leading the entire nation with 14.89 saves per game.

Quinnipiac returned all 10 of its top leading

scorers from the prior year and has been rolling on offense every game of the season, scoring double-digit points in each contest.

"It's amazing the confidence he brings to the defense," Poli said Saturday. "He just gives momentum to the defense, and on top of that his outlet ball is able to create some offense. So having Mason has just been phenomenal."

Oak now has two MAAC Defensive Player of the Week honors under his belt and is on the watchlist for the 2024 Tewaaron Award, given annually to the best of both men's and women's lacrosse players across all three divisions.

"We all just have to keep our heads up," Oak said on Feb. 17. "We got to stay on top of it and we can't let anything stop us."

The awards are great, but as the team prepares to go down the stretch there is only one piece of hardware on the mind for Quinnipiac: a MAAC championship trophy.

Sports

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'We've just got to play better baseball'



TYLER RINKO/CHRONICLE

Identity issues plague Bobcats in early-season slump

By **AMANDA DRONZEK**
Associate Sports Editor

There's something to be said about a team that sets a program record of 30 wins in a season. But it also raises concern when that same team is off to a 6-18 start just one year later.

So what's happening with Quinnipiac baseball?

MAAC coaches ranked the Bobcats No. 2 in the preseason poll, but they certainly haven't lived up to those expectations, sitting at the bottom of the conference at 0-6.

"We've just got to play better baseball," head coach John Delaney said after being swept by Rider on March 22.

Things looked pretty bleak when Quinnipiac lost every game in its opening series against Liberty from Feb. 16-18. The Bobcats let up 36 runs in 27 innings and put up a third of that offensively.

Then again, the Flames play in Conference USA against much stronger competition, so it's not entirely shocking that the Bobcats were in over their heads.

However, the squad had a pair of two-game winning stints, the first being Presbyterian on Feb. 25 and Merrimack on March 2. The latter was the Bobcats' home opener on their new turf field.

Junior infielder Dominick Proctor's walkoff single quarterbacked Quinnipiac to a 5-4 win. The Bobcats went on to win the series, besting the Warriors on March 3 and then Delaware five days later.

But besides a few spurts of life in the box and on the mound, Quinnipiac has seen much better days on the diamond.

"Our guys, we expect them to rise up, rise up to the moment," Delaney said. "It always feels like when the moment (of opportunity) happens in the eighth or the

ninth it's the biggest moment in the world, but the reality is those moments happen in the first or the second inning also.

"Our job is to not rely on the moment of the backend (of the game), we have to do a better job in those moments in front of the game."

The Bobcats have been swept four times in less than two months, the first being Liberty. Then it was William & Mary from March 15-17, followed by reigning conference champions Rider a week later. And finally, the Bobcats dropped three in a row to Siena this past week.

Additionally, Quinnipiac's earned run average through 24 games has been subpar, to say the least. The Bobcats have a combined 7.49 ERA, their strongest reliever being senior righty Evan Jasek, who sports a 3.65 ERA through 12.1 innings.

On the other side of the totem pole is junior righty Mason Ulsh, a predicted rising star for the Bobcats in 2024. In 30 innings pitched, Ulsh's batting average against is .359, higher than eight of Quinnipiac's starting nine batters. Senior third baseman Sebastian Mueller is the exception, with a .379 average.

Before opening day, Delaney said the Bobcats wouldn't be a team with four or five starters in the rotation. Quinnipiac was going to utilize every aspect of the bullpen to get through games, averaging four to five pitchers in each contest. However, this strategy hasn't been successful.

The pitching staff was most recently celebrated in Quinnipiac's 4-0 shutout against URI on March 26. Eight Bobcats combined to silence the Rams' offense to just two hits, but it wasn't enough momen-

tum to carry into the Siena series.

Then there's the bats. Offensively, there's just something missing. Last season, the Bobcats hit .304, with almost every starter averaging above .250. Now, that statistic represents Quinnipiac's winning percentage rather than its batting average.

At this point in the year, the drive to survive should kick in. But Quinnipiac's schedule just keeps getting stronger, as it's set to battle top MAAC teams like Niagara and Fairfield down the stretch.

"We can't expect to win games just by showing up like it's just not a thing," Delaney said.

But like most teams in a rut, there is still a silver lining. For Quinnipiac, it's three senior bats — catcher Keegan O'Connor, center fielder Jared Zimbardo and Mueller.

Mueller leads the team offensively, batting .379 as mentioned with an OPS of 1.017. O'Connor and Zimbardo are on his heels, both currently batting .337. Despite recent struggles for the Bobcats as a whole, these names continue to perform individually.

It's obvious that Quinnipiac isn't the same team from last season and it's imperative to improve, specifically on the bump. Good pitching fires up a quiet offense, and that's where the Bobcats need to hone in on to turn around a disappointing season.

"It's an identity thing," Delaney said about scoring with runners on base. "Each player's gotta know what their identity is and what type of player they are and realize how to be productive in those spots."

The Bobcats continue the search for their identity Wednesday at 3 p.m. against Yale, aiming to snap a three-game skid and snag a fourth home win.

But for now, it appears the grass isn't much greener for Quinnipiac, even on turf.



GEORGE MADDALONI/CHRONICLE

Sophomore catcher/first baseman Christian Smith is fourth on the Bobcats with 68 putouts.